

celebrations • society • stars

# On the Town

## IT'S BACK...



Seated are Mario and Peggy Borgatello, named the honorary El Presidents by their grandson, Anthony Borgatello, the 2009 El Presidente, standing behind with his wife, Betty, La Primera Dama (First Lady) at the La Primavera celebration held at the Santa Barbara Carriage and Western Art Museum.



Los Padres Outfitters catered the La Primavera event. Volunteers included, from left, Barbara Carroll; Denise Sanford of Business First Bank; Graham Goodfield, owner of Los Padres Outfitters, with his fiancée, Hannah Stucken Schneider, and his mother, Marilyn Goodfield.



From left, Anthony Borgatello, 2009 El Presidente, with Joanne Funari, second vice president of Old Spanish Days and president of Business First Bank, and Scott Hadley of Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf, the major presenting sponsor.

## FATHER O'MAHONY RETIRES



From left, Father Maurice O'Mahony, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church since 1997, with parishioners Mariel Jarchow, Angie Ferraro and Martin Bell, the co-chairs of the luncheon to honor Father O'Mahony as he retires.

## La Primavera heralds Fiesta

One of the privileges of being elected El Presidente of Old Spanish Days is you choose the honorary El Presidents. Cheers went up when Anthony Borgatello, 2009 El Presidente, announced his grandparents, the beloved Mario and Peggy Borgatello, were his choice.

La Primavera is the springtime celebration that heralds the coming of Fiesta. This year, it almost didn't happen because there was no money in the budget. Generous sponsors rounded up the needed funds and businesses helped through donations. The lively party was held at the Santa Barbara Carriage and Western Art Museum. There was dancing to the music of The Mobile Homeboys, barbecue food by Los Padres Outfitters, and ample colorful drinks.

This is a time for past El Presidents and La Presidentas to be honored; among them were: Jim McCoy, Tim Taylor, Roger Aceves, Kelly Magee, Christie Gallagher, Kris Kallman, Scott Burns, Roger Perry, Ellen Harie, Herb Barbis and Nick Katzenstein.

More longtime supporters dancing and talking were: first vice president Michael Dominguez, second vice president Joanne Funari, vice president Bibi Moezzi and Kathryn McKee, emcee Skip Stecker, Matt Miller and fiancée Andria Ross, Marcia and Ed Levnik, Donna McGrew, Ricardo Castellanos, Erin Gruffy de Garcia, Jennifer Jimmerson, Stephanie Petlow, Debbie Oquist, Roger Durling, David Edelman and Bobbi Cederfelt, who is also helping with the Goleta Fiesta celebration Thursday at Stov House.

Among the sponsors represented were: Boone Printing; Katie O'Reilly Rogers; Cord Perreira; Cottonwood Canyon Vineyard; Cumulus Broadcasting; MarBorg Industries; Deckers Outdoor; Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf; and Les Carroll, representing KZSB AM 1290, the News-Press radio station.

### OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

Father Maurice O'Mahony has retired after 42 years as an ordained priest and 12 years as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Montecito. A luncheon held at the church marked the occasion. There were jokes and tributes as the more than 250 parishioners reminisced over the past years.

Because Father O'Mahony will be living nearby in retirement and continue as pastor emeritus, there wasn't much sadness, rather, laughter filled the room. Chris Toomey gave the best tribute, saying, "During your time with us, you officiated at more than 200 marriages, 340 baptisms, 115 funerals and hundreds of parish finance and council meetings. However, it is your gentle humor, of the most authentic Irish tradition, that has made your leadership and friendship so enjoyable to so many of us."

A new laptop computer was presented to Father O'Mahony from parishioners as well as airline tickets to Dublin. Mr. Toomey said, "God bless you, Father, and always, top of the mornin' to you."

### OPERA SANTA BARBARA

Box seats for the opening-night performance of a new opera, "Sequence on a Wet Afternoon," at the Granada was just one of the auction items enticing supporters of Opera Santa Barbara to attend the black-tie celebration. The high bid went to three patrons: Luci and Richard Janssen, A.C. Moore, and John and Deven Demourkas. "A Night at the Paris Opera" was the theme for the benefit that followed last year's successful "Night at La Scala"; both were perfect settings.

Fred Sidon was the honorary chairman — deservedly so, because he had the vision when he

was president, along with Sandra Urquhart, in bringing truly fine opera to Santa Barbara.

Board president Peter Bertling has carried on the tradition along with board members Duncan Mellichamp, Judith Smith, Joan Rutkowski, Simon Williams, Richard Aberle, Ida Rickborn, Sarah Chrisman, Dan Reicker, Nicholas Di Napoli, Bill Bannas, Christopher Carroll, Eric Ottmann, Marilyn Bernstein, Maris Andersons, Nancy Golden, Louise Gayford, Simon Williams, Jayne Meiselmeyer and Mary Penny.

Dolly and Andy Granatelli love opera so Andy agreed to be auctioneer with Tom Snow; they received a big response for items associated with opera, including Granada opening-night box seats and a vodka evening hosted by Opera Santa Barbara music director Valery Rykkin.

The event was held in the La Pacifica Ballroom of the Coral Casino Beach and Cabana Club and the five-course dinner gave a wonderful leisurely feel to the evening. In between courses we heard performances of favorite opera arias by Deborah Domanski and Mark Walters.

Opera supporters there included: Robert Weinman; Irma and Merrle Jankovic; T.J. and Bill Locker; Ann and Michael McCormick; Sue and Riley Bechtel; Ruth and Alan Heeger; Marilyn and Dr. Wallace Van de Ver; Steve and Chrystal Clifton; Maria and Matt Nichols; Anne and Michael Towbes; Terry Ryken; Leni Fe Bland; Herb and Elaine Kendall; Wayne and Barbara Smith; Paul and Felice Hartloff; Jean Rogers; Sandra Brown; Brit Hill; Bob Sorich and Betty Lang; Dr. Greg Dahlsen and Nan Burns with her daughter, Tricia Dixon; and Sue and Tom Parker.

At the close of the magic evening, a well-deserved tribute was given to Steven Sharpe, general director of Opera Santa Barbara, who keeps juggling all the many parts of a successful nonprofit agency.

### CALM DESIGN SHOWCASE

This is the final week of the 2009 CALM Design Showcase house, with tours 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday benefiting the nonprofit dedicated to preventing and eliminating child abuse in Santa Barbara County.

Since June 3, the Design Showcase has also offered a trunk show, opportunities to meet the landscape designer (the next is noon to 3 p.m. today) and interior designers (noon to 3 p.m. Saturday), and more.

Another special event, "Celebrity Chef Evening of Indulgence," was held at the design home, Casa Raboles, a knoll-top hacienda that has been taken down to the studs and renovated. Featured was "Top Chef" Fabio Viviani, a finalist on the popular Bravo TV show, assisted by business partner Jacopo Falleni.

The cooking demonstration made, among other things, caprese with heirloom tomatoes and pesto dressing) was filled with questions from the audience and quips back and forth about Italian food. The men in the audience especially loved it.

Cecilia Rodriguez, executive director of CALM, thanked those involved in the Design Showcase. "This event would not be possible without the dedication and support of hundreds, including the generous homeowners who moved out of their home for eight months, interior and exterior designers, contractors, architect, volunteers and donors — and for that we are so grateful," she said.

The co-chairs of this adventure were Meredith Scott and Susan Day Hosea. The search for the home to potently renew and redecorate takes a lengthy time and time to redecorate, especially this year with the Jesuita Fire. If you go, you will understand the Herculean effort of all involved and the loyal support for the work of CALM. Tickets are available by calling 953-2370, ext. 140.

## OPERA ZINGS



From left, Sarah Chrisman, board treasurer of Opera Santa Barbara, with Riley and Sue Bechtel and Roger Chrisman at the benefit, "A Night at the Paris Opera."



From left, Opera sponsors Steve and Chrystal Clifton, who provided the Palma Wines, and Marta and Matt Nichols of Brothers' Restaurant at Matt's Tavern

## CALM HELPS KIDS



Meredith Scott, left, and Susan Day Hosea, the co-chairs of the CALM Design Showcase, which is open for tours Wednesday through Sunday through June 28 to benefit the nonprofit's work to prevent child abuse.



"Top Chef" finalist Fabio Viviani, left, voted Fan Favorite, and business partner Jacopo Falleni demonstrated their cooking skills for a crowd of CALM supporters at one of the special events for the month-long Design Showcase.

Photography by Lorraine D. Wilson/News-Press