



LIFE • STYLE

by Judy Foreman

Ms Foreman, a Santa Barbara freelance writer, has been covering fitness, beauty, health, fashion, new businesses and lifestyle trends for the Journal since 1998.

Shining Anniversary for Girls Inc.

On Thursday April 29 Girls Incorporated of Greater Santa Barbara will gather at the iconic 37-acre Lotusland created by Madame Ganna Walska in the foothills of Montecito to celebrate their 25th year "100 Committee" anniversary spring luncheon.

The much anticipated One Hundred Committee Luncheon continues to be the largest single source of funding for the Girls Inc. scholarship program, which includes its downtown Santa Barbara location and new Goleta Valley state-of-the-art program center that together serve over 1,200 girls each year. The 100 Committee has been instrumental in raising millions of dollars over the past 25 years, providing scholarship funds for thousands of local young girls ages 4 1/2 to 18 years of age.

The Scholarship Fundraising luncheon was begun 25 years ago by three Santa Barbara friends: Peri Harcourt, Joanne Holderman and Jeri Rovsek. They envisioned one hundred women contributing one hundred dollars to attend a luncheon at a special residential property, inviting a motivational speaker and donating all the proceeds towards summer and year round after-school programs. The 25-year-old vision to "inspire all girls to be

strong smart and bold," started in someone's backyard with all the food being homemade by the committee; this year it will be gloriously hosted by Lotusland. Girls Inc. has the honor of being the first non-profit, other than Lotusland itself, to hold an event on the property.

"How very fitting it is to be able to celebrate this 25th year milestone luncheon, hosted in one of the most beautiful gardens and estates in the world owned by a woman who exemplified, strong, smart and bold!" says 2010 co-chair **Caroline Thompson**.

Setting the stage for this memorable event, the 2010 committee members decided to let the Lotusland gardens shine in the décor limelight by keeping a simple color scheme of black and white, with a punch of Girls Inc.'s red logo. The Santa Barbara Four Seasons will serve a three-course lunch, complemented by Monterey County Chardonnay and Syrah from Bridlewood Estate Winery. Following the luncheon, all guests will be invited to stroll through the gardens on a self-

guided tour.

A sampling of this year's unique raffle items include a balloon ride in Santa Ynez with celebrity pilot **Julian Nott** followed by a champagne breakfast, a beautiful piece of jewelry from **Carole Ridding's** Silverhorn, an Ojai Valley Inn and Spa getaway, a Northern Trust Open 2011 Golf package, Hotel Cheval and Cass Winery weekend in Paso Robles, exclusive

and "The Cheetah Girls." Her company, Martin Chase Productions, has been affiliated with the Walt Disney Company for over seven years. She has received multiple honors for her work including acknowledgment by *Savoy* and *Essence* magazines.

To celebrate 25 years of women helping girls, the 100 committee will honor 25 scholarship alumni recipients including local KEYT anchorwoman **Paula Lopez**. Among the local scholarship recipients will be **Lydia Hall**, a make-up stylist and co-manager at Coast Village Road's Cos Bar. Ms Hall was six years old when she began attending Girls Inc. "My mother was a single parent and she worked full time to support me. The Westside neighborhood kids were getting into trouble and Girls Inc. filled the void that was missing for both my mom and me. It provided my mom with much needed day and after school care and most importantly the confidence that her daughter was in good hands of people who cared," she said.

Co-chairs **Anne Luther** and **Caroline Thompson** both concur it is an honor to be involved in an organization dedicated to the growth and development



The faces of Girls Inc., which hosts its 25th annual 100 Committee luncheon at Lotusland on April 29

of young women. Tickets to attend the April 29 event are available beginning at \$175 per person for general admission. Other options include \$1500 for godparent sponsorship and patron tables for \$1500. Raffle tickets to help support the fundraiser are available for \$25 per ticket or \$75 for four.

For more information about attending the event or purchasing a raffle ticket, please contact **Zohe Felici** at Girls Inc. of Greater SB at 963-4757 ext 16. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.girlsincsb.org.

In addition to a luncheon and raffle, two-time Emmy nominated television producer **Debra Martin Chase** will be the keynote speaker. Ms Chase has focused her career mainly on projects about girls and young women. She is the producer of several popular movies including "The Princess Diaries," "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants"



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