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**FREE**

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*The Voice of the Village*

**WEEKLY**

SEEN AROUND TOWN

by Lynda Millner

## Celebration Luncheon

Celebrating women and girls with their two books, "Letters from the Heart" and "More Letters from the Heart," was the theme of the Ninth Annual Girls Incorporated of Greater Santa Barbara luncheon. It was a sunny day by the sea and Coral Casino was a perfect venue.

Board president **Sarah Stokes** welcomed the sell-out group of 350 using



Girls Inc. speaker **Kathy Ireland** with her mom, **Barbara** the Girls Inc. motto, "This room is full of strong, bold and smart women." The event chair **Alison Brainard-Sydney** and executive director **Monica Spear** thanked major sponsors - Deckers Outdoor Corporation and Hutton Parker Foundation - on behalf of the girls and their families.

The classic **Betty Rosness**, a retired advertising executive and author who gave out copies of her book "The Carpenter's Daughter" to each guest, was the first inspirational speaker. She joked, "I told them I don't do speech-

es anymore. It makes me nervous. Also every ninety days something else falls off." She mentioned that she has worked with 29 local non-profits and the Hutton Foundation has given to all. She asked the question, "What is your space on earth worth?" After marrying the same man twice and having four children, she knew their relationship wouldn't work. Upon leaving she reinvented herself and went on to a career and volunteering.

One of the Girls Inc. scholarship moms **Elva Cosio** and her two daugh-



Girls Inc. Luncheon Chair **Alison Brainard-Sydney** with executive director **Monica Spears** and board president **Sarah Stokes**

ters **Cielo** and **Catalina Ortega** told us how grateful they were that the girls could continue attending even though **Elva** had some hard times financially. As **Catalina** shared, "Girls Inc. makes me feel happy when I'm sad." **Elva** had been a latchkey kid and didn't want that for her daughters. The hope is there will be enough scholarship money so no one is ever turned away.

**Kathy Ireland** who is a wife, mother, Sunday School teacher, and chief designer and CEO of **Kathy Ireland**

Worldwide (a billion-dollar business whose products are sold in over 50 countries) spoke of what she has overcome in her life. Here are a few examples: At age 11 she answered a *Santa Barbara News-Press* ad for a news carrier, "Are you the best boy for the job? No, I'm the best girl for the job." Her dad told her to give 110 percent. "If they want the paper in the driveway, put it at the doorstep." She was named Carrier of the Year for three years.

During her international modeling



Girls Inc. inspirational speaker **Betty Rosness** with board member **Sudi Staub**

career someone said, "You have a voice that could kill small animals." You should hear her now as she speaks in low resonant tones that can be heard in the back row. When she wanted to start her design company with a pair of socks, they said it couldn't be done. But she did it anyway and her company now sells 45,000 collaboratively-designed fashions, home items, jewelry and more. She ended with, "All that you give is all that you get, so give it all you've got."