

celebrations • society • stars

On the Town

GIRLS INC. OF GREATER SANTA BARBARA



From left, Sarah Stokes, board president of Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara; Anne Luther, co-chair of the 25th anniversary luncheon; speaker Debra Martin Chase, Emmy-nominated television and film producer; and luncheon co-chair Caroline Thompson.



From left, Perri Harcourt, Ann Marie Powers, Jeris Rovsek and Joanne Holderman were among the original founders of the One Hundred Committee at the 25th anniversary of the luncheon to provide scholarships for after-school enrichment programs and summer activities for members of Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara.

IT ALL STARTS AT HOME: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

One Hundred Committee celebrates 25 years

For the 25th anniversary of the Girls Inc. One Hundred Committee luncheon, 450 women and men were under the tent at Lotusland to raise funds for scholarships and enrichment programs.

It was a look back filled with justifiable pride. Many changes have occurred in the world, but one constant has been the loyalty and dedication of these women in helping girls to be ready for the future. Girls Inc.'s motto is to inspire all girls to be "strong, smart, and bold." The goal is for them to be in good health (strong) and equipped with education (smart), ready to take on the challenges of life (bold).

Co-chairs of the outstanding luncheon and celebration were the strong, smart and bold Anne Luther and Caroline Thompson. The entire cost of the benefit was already raised by this duo to ensure that every dollar from it went to scholarships and programs for girls. Bravo!

Debra Martin Chase, Emmy-nominated television producer, was the speaker. Past speakers have included Barbara Bush, Oprah Winfrey, Maria Shriver, Betty White, Florence Henderson and Dionne Warwick.

No live auction here; a unique raffle system was used where guests could drop their tickets into a glass bowl for a specific item or trip they wanted.

A video, tenderly produced, directed and written by Marilyn Gillard, with Blair Madigan as cinematographer, discussed Girls Inc. and featured members in the program. KEYT news anchor Paula Lopez recalled her time as a girl with the organization.

Sponsors included Margo and Jeff Barbakow, Bui and Herb Simon, Diane and Selby Sullivan, Susan Caine, Eileen Mielko, Virginia and Tim Bliss, Amy Mayfield, T.J. Locker, Stina Hans, Elsa Atwill, Sheila Zimmerman, June Kjaempe, Mary Ellen Tiffany, Leslie Ridley-Tree, Connie Percy, Kisa Heyer, Susan Keller with her mother Helen Baker, Nancy Wall, Dee Dee Barrett, Terry Ryken, Nancy Lessner, Judy Pesce and Diana MacFarlane.

Firestone, Robert and Dolores Cathcart, Angelique Davis, Bob and Dolores Hanrahan, Congresswoman Lois Capps, Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider, Bob and Patty Bryant, Ed Heron, Nancy Ann and Dr. Robert Failing, Sharol Siemens, Marge Petersen, Ruth Kovacs, Earl and Leslie Armstrong, Kathy Kerstiens, Sue Collins, and architect Ken Radtkey.

POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

The "Putting Kids First" event to benefit Police Activities League honored Officer Kent Wojciechoski, who founded PAL 10 years ago with only \$2,500. Last year, it served 1,600 youth through involvement in six elementary school basketball teams; four junior high school sports teams (especially soccer); and a Youth Leadership Council that works with the Explorer Post.

The annual fundraising event had to be changed in a record three days from the Courthouse Sunken Garden to the armory on Canon Perdido Street because of weather

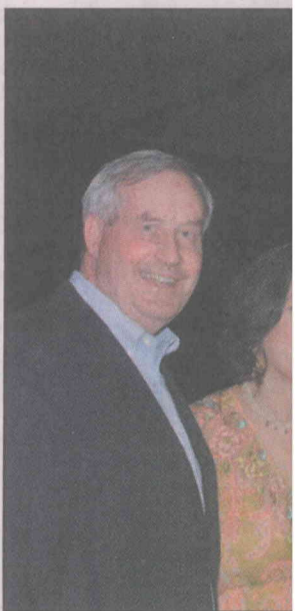
concerns. There was easy parking and plenty of room, and the committee worked to make the party area beautiful by covering every wall, floor to ceiling, with blue drapes. During the cocktail hour, there was a popular silent auction; dinner followed as did a fun live auction, where everyone seemed to join in the bidding.

The highlight was when guests were bidding just to help (for nothing in return except a good feeling). Chad Dreier said he'd offer \$25,000 if someone would match the amount and Ralph Iannelli did just that, asking guests to, in turn, match their \$50,000. At the end, the challenge raised \$110,000. Peter Hilf wanted to do something about the van used to pick up kids at school and transport them to the games, so he gave money for a new van and added another \$10,000 for gas. Others joining in included: Richard and Marguerite Berti, Craig and Laura Case, A.C. and Gunn Moore, Kandy Luria Budgor, Iya Falcone, Anne and Michael Towbes, George and Shari Isaac, Pamela and Bradford



Lorraine D. Wilson

HONOR KENT V



From left, Chad Dreier, honoree; Erin Wojciechoski, wife of Kent; and Ginni Dreier, who, with "Putting Kids First" benefit.



Former Police Activities League honoree in 2005, and, standing, honored in 2008, Leatrice L. continue to be supporters a

