

The Junior League of Santa Barbara

American Girl Fashion Show

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THE LOVABLE AMERICAN GIRL CHARACTERS AND THEIR INSPIRING STORIES, the Junior League of Santa Barbara celebrated youth literacy at their annual American Girl Fashion Show and Tea Party fundraiser held at Fess Parker’s Doubletree Resort in November.

“This event was a great opportunity to support young girls to be all they can be and to develop their confidence while also promoting literacy,” said Jennifer Guess, Junior League of Santa Barbara President. “Because each doll has their own book, the event was a perfect match for our mission. It’s become such a fun tradition, and it’s exciting for us to be a part of special moments like these in the lives of young girls.”



Sahara Castro

Led by co-chairs Susan Glancy and Erin Beck, the team of twelve committee members organized five tea parties and five fashion shows over the two-day event with nearly 1,000 tickets sold.

The main ballroom at the Fess Parker Doubletree Resort was transformed into a festive tea party with delicious treats prepared by Executive Chef Kirk DeLong, complete with menu items named for popular American Girl characters such as Kirsten’s Back Swiss Quiche or Kit’s Open Face Turkey Tea Sandwich. While guests sipped

their tea and sampled the goodies, the 150 local girls who participated in the fashion shows were matched up with their American Girl look-a-like. They waited patiently amidst the hustle and bustle backstage for their turn to walk the runway. Local high school girls and Junior League volunteers including Lilinoo Gale, Brittany Bratcher, Megan Kooyman, Amy Watson, Amanda Wells, and Kristen Cummings narrated the fashion show, telling the American Girl stories chronologically through history while the young models showed off their dolls and dresses.

Funds raised during the event go toward ongoing Junior League projects including the renovation of the children’s area of the Santa Barbara public library.

“In Santa Barbara County alone, 20 percent of all elementary school children currently read below grade level,” wrote Guess in the program notes. “The Junior League of Santa Barbara hopes our youth literacy efforts help change statistics like these.”

For more information on the Junior League, call 963-2704 or visit www.jlsantabarbara.org.



Front: **Jennifer Hall**, AGFS Committee; Middle: **Elaine Mah**, AGFS Committee; **Susan Glancy**, Co-Chair American Girl Fashion Show; Back: **Jennifer Guess**, Junior League President; **Joie Horton**, Sustainer Chair AGFS; **Dana Zertuche**, AGFS Committee.



Santa Barbara American Girl Fashion Models and their dolls: Front: **Alexia Askew**, **Grace Gau**, **Carleigh Ornelas**, **Sydney Shalhoob**, **Hayden Shinn**; Back: **Katelon Eagen**, **Nina Moore**, **Amy Lefly**, **Kate Allison**, **Lily McWhirter**, **Emma Habaker**, and **Arin Pieramichi**

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