

Santa Barbra Rape Crisis Center:

Chocolate de Vine

By JEANETTE CASILLAS / CASA

CHOCOLATES AND WINE were a great pairing at the Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center's third annual *Chocolate de Vine* fundraising event at Island View Nursery last month.

"This year's venue provided a unique space for the event and was generously donated by the owners," shared Elsa Granados, SB Rape Crisis Center Executive Director.

The lush greenery and exotic tropics throughout served as a beautiful backdrop where

local chocolatiers and wine makers provided their premium wines and delectable chocolates for guests to sample.

"It was exciting and impressive to see the various chocolate sculpture presentations," shared Granados.

The evening included a live

and silent auction as well as a judged competition of chocolate creations. Live entertainment was provided by Hip Brazil, who put the crowd in a swinging mood.

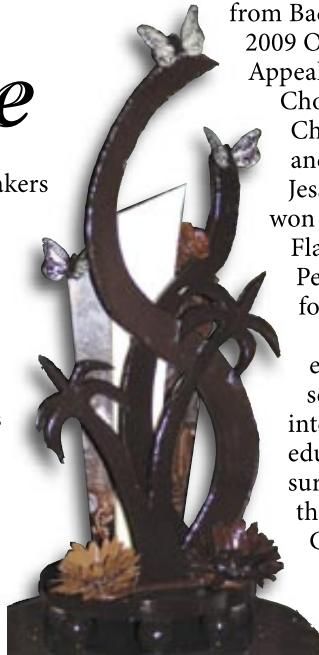
Judging the contest was Jason Vishnefske, Master Chocolatier and Owner of Santa Barbara Chocolate; Maya Schoop-Rutten, Owner of Chocolate Maya; and Nancy Oster, Writer, Teacher, and Baker.

Out of nine participants, three took home the five awards that were handed out that night. Renaud Gonthier from Renaud's Patisserie & Bistro won 2009 Best Tabletop Presentation; Ben Galang

from Bacara Resort & Spa won 2009 Outstanding Flavor/ Appeal and the People's Choice Award for his Chocolate Desserts; and Jessica Foster from Jessica Foster Confections won 2009 Outstanding Flavor/Appeal and the People's Choice Award for her Chocolates.

"Proceeds of the event will support services for crisis intervention and education as well as assist survivors of assault and their loved ones," noted Granados.

For more information about the Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center call 963-6832 or visit www.sbrapecrisiscenter.org.



Sylvia Hendlin and Ben Galang, 2009 Chocolate Desserts- Outstanding Flavor/Appeal & People's Choice Award Winner



Ken Alison; Chris Jones; Cristl Michelon, SBRCC Board of Directors President; **Raul Vasquez**; and **Sharon Jones**.



Renaud Gonthier, 2009 Best Tabletop Presentation Winner



Jill-Marie Carre and Jean-Michel Carre of Chocolats du CaliBressan



Judge **Jason Vishnefske**; **Jessica Foster**, 2009 Chocolates- Outstanding Flavor/Appeal & People's Choice Award Winner; with Judges **Maya Schoop-Rutten** and **Nancy Oster**



Susan Jordan and Elsa Granados, SB Rape Crisis Center Executive Director



Ellen Goodstein, Legal Aid Executive Director and **Sean English**, SBRCC Emcee



Rebecca Kleinmann; Geoff Green, The Fund for SB Executive Director with his wife **Seraphim Albrecht**

See more **Photos by Priscilla** at santabarbaraseen.com
Contact her at priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com • (805) 969-3301