

Junior League of Santa Barbara

A Great Gatsby Affair

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

GATSBY HIMSELF WOULD HAVE ENVIED the Junior League of Santa Barbara's Third Annual Literacy Gala held this year at the Coral Casino. The Gatsby-themed event – which came complete with a Rolls Royce in the driveway – was host to a boisterous group of guys and gals dressed to the nines in feathers and fringe. They gathered on the anniversary of the publication of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* to celebrate literacy and raise funds toward the new Children's Library space at the Santa Barbara Public Library.

"We all have a stake in ensuring that children and families have a wonderful, thriving library where children can learn, explore, and grow," said Jennifer Guess, Junior League President. "The entire community must play a role in making our dream come true, ultimately ensuring our children today have access to the fundamental resources and support necessary to become the future leaders of our tomorrow."

Beginning with a silent auction on the patio by the sea, guests sipped high balls and Limosas, the evening's signature cocktail, before moving into the ballroom for a formal dinner and presentation. Master of Ceremonies Andrew Firestone welcomed everyone to the event before turning the microphone over to Irene Macias, Library Director, who presented a proclamation to Guess on behalf of Mayor Helene Schneider to mark the Junior League's 85th anniversary.

"Youth literacy is an issue very close to my heart," said Macias. "It's incredibly heartening to see so many people turn out to champion youth literacy in our community."



Ivana and Andrew Firestone, Master of Ceremonies; Sarah de Tagyos, Woman of the Year; Jennifer Guess, Junior League President; and Kristi Horton, Junior League President Elect

While guests leisurely enjoyed a decadent, four course dinner, Sarah de Tagyos, the Junior League's 2010 Woman of the Year, was honored for her professional accomplishments and personal commitment

to philanthropic ventures. De Tagyos is former President of the AT&T Foundation and Chief Operating Officer for AT&T's global Public Relations division. Since retiring to Santa Barbara in 2000, de Tagyos has quickly emerged as a leader in several local organizations, including the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara, The Children's Project Foundation, and the Assistance League of Santa Barbara.

"I believe there is nothing more important in this world than family," said de Tagyos. "My dad knew about the honor you're bestowing on me this evening and was very proud. I told him it was really a tribute to him and to my mom. They provided the safe and loving nest from which I could fly."

The evening finished with dessert and a live auction. "The funds we

raised go directly towards supporting our League's mission, our programs and services, and towards making this dream of a new Children's Library come true for our community," said Guess. "We couldn't do it alone."

For more information, contact the Junior League of Santa Barbara at 963-2704 or visit www.jlsantabarbara.org.



Sarah Rosenblum, Library Services Manager; Irene Macias, Library Director; and Myra Nicholas, Library Services Manager



Brooke Dias and Laura Greene



Junior League of Santa Barbara Literacy Ball committee: Rebecca Young, Jamie McKnerney Weaver, Kelly Mitchell Gamble, Co-Chair Lynda Ramirez, Co-Chair Erin Griffin Kossen, Kara Gaston, and Kendra Munoz