

Court Appointed Special Advocates

Rocked the Polo Club

By JEANETTE CASILLAS / CASA

A ROCKIN' BENEFIT AND AUCTION hosted by the Court Appointed Special Advocates (C.A.S.A.) rocked the Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club last week. It was a night for advocates and supporters to party like rockstars and raise awareness about C.A.S.A.'s mission to provide a trained volunteer to advocate for abused and/or neglected children in the court system.

"It was a fun night full of generosity and music," shared Prudence Sternin, event chair. "We had a great response. People stepped up to paddle and the wait staff donated their tips."

The evening started with cocktails at sunset. Then guests moved inside the decorated tent for a delectable dinner catered by La Fond & Pampered Palate Fine Catering.



Ellen Rockne, vocalist; Michele Neely, Board of Directors President; McCailey Contreras, vocalist; and Rene Hamatti, pianist

Following introductory remarks by Honorable Arthur Garcia, Laura Nunes took the stage to share her story of success.

"When I got into foster care it was the end of one life and the beginning of another," Nunes began. "Little did I know that so many doors were about to open. But it took someone like my C.A.S.A. worker Sally to help me see that." Nunes who credits her C.A.S.A. advocate for steering

her in the right direction is half way through a degree in psychology and works as a Police Officer for the Department of Defence at the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar.

"Laura's speech was effective, eloquent, and moving," shared Sternin. "It summarizes what we are doing at C.A.S.A."

C.A.S.A. also acknowledged Rincon Broadcasting with the Light of Hope award for the strong support they have shown the organization over the years. Executive Vice President and General Manager, Keith Royer, accepted the award.

The night ended with a performance of *For Good from Wicked*; a live auction led by Sean Kelly; and a Napa Valley Wine Country Raffle. Following the auction, guests hit the dance floor and rocked out to the tunes of Area 51.

For more information call 845-8364 or visit www.sbcasa.org.



Featured speaker Laura Nunes and Honorable Arthur Garcia



Prudence Sternin, Event Chairwoman; Roy Martinez, Bard Member and his wife Toni McDonald



Bill Pessa, Emcee from K-LITE; Kim Davis, CASA Executive Director; Lin Aubuchon, Emcee from K-LITE; and Keith Royer of Rincon Broadcasting



CASA Advocates: Rafael Reynoso; Claudia Jayne; Jolene Colomy; Maisee Thao; Pam Greben; and Ernesto Paredes



Tammy Thibault; Melinda Goodman; Mary Ellen Tiffany; Sean Kelly, Auctioneer; Linda Wilson; and Marla Philips

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