

## Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation

## An Evening of Laughter and Love

By **Jeanette Casillas** / CASA

**A SPECIAL NIGHT FILLED WITH LAUGHTER AND LOVE** paid tribute to iconic actress, comedian, singer, dancer, and best-selling author Carol Burnett. Emmy Award winning actress and comedian Jane Lynch presented Burnett with the special honor at the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation's (TBCF) 6th Annual Fall Fundraiser, *An Evening of Laughter and Love*, which took place at the Lobero Theatre.

"We believe that laughter is a great healer and this year's event honoring Carol Burnett, one of the funniest and most generous people on the planet, offers the right prescription," shared Marni Rozet, TBCF Executive Director. "While raising much-needed funds, this unique event helped us to continue building community awareness about the organization during a fun and poignant

evening of laughter and love!"

Dennis Miller, Emmy Award-winning comedian and television personality served as Master of Ceremonies. Montecito resident, actor, and writer, Billy Baldwin led the live auction which included one item that was concealed in a briefcase that was handcuffed to his wrist, only to be revealed at the time of the auction.



**Margo Barbakow**, event co-chair and **Jeff Barbakow**

The evening began with a pre-show reception held at the Lobero courtyard where guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres from Pure Joy Catering and perused a variety of raffle items.

Once inside, Miller introduced the lineup of comedians that included Melissa Peterman, best known for playing Barbara Jean on *Reba* and Gareth Webb, who is considered one of the best emerging comics.

Later, Baldwin took the stage with the briefcase in tow. The key was in the hands of Isabella Mireles, a 6-year-old cancer survivor and past TBCF recipient. The



**Nikki Katz**, TBCF Founder and Program Director; **Fiona Stone**, event co-chair; **Gareth Webb**; and **Marni Rozet**, TBCF Executive Director



**Jane Lynch** and **Billy Baldwin**, event auctioneer

case was opened to reveal a "Navy SEALs Package," which included a weekend in San Diego with tickets to Sea World, a tour of the Coronado Navy SEAL Facility, and dinner with esteemed members of the Navy SEALs.

"The event was extremely successful financially, and very well received," shared Margo Barbakow, event co-chair. "My personal highlight of the evening was knowing that we paid fitting tribute to Carol Burnett with the production, and that we raised a lot of money for Teddy Bear, which was Carol's great wish and why she accepted the invitation to be honored."

For the past five years the Teddy Bear's annual fall fundraising event has been a luncheon, however, this year, Executive Director Marni Rozet solicited the help of Margo Barbakow and Fiona Stone and the event committee, to do something original, different, and fun. "Change is good - an adventure - progress," shared Barbakow of the change. "There are many, many fundraising luncheons in this town. An evening of comedy was new, exciting. And the privilege of honoring Carol Burnett merited a big, splashy event!"

The event raised over \$200,000 that



**Jane Lynch**, Tribute Presenter; **Carol Burnett**, Honoree; **Dennis Miller**, Master of Ceremonies



**Milt Larsen**, **Jo Landis Shields**, **Florence Henderson**, **Sheila Hunt**; and **Heidi Becker**



**Shawn Montgomery**; **Lorena Chevez**; **Lisa Loiacono**; **Debbie Kass**; and **Margaret Coheld**

will help provide financial and emotional support to families of children who have cancer living in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo counties.

For more information call 962-7466 or visit [www.teddybearcancerfoundation.org](http://www.teddybearcancerfoundation.org).

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