

## SB Historical Museum

# Holiday Magic

By **Jeanette Casillas** / CASA

**A NOSTALGIC EVENING** full of holiday cheer transported old and young alike to the Renaissance era for the annual magical holiday celebration at the Santa Barbara Historical Museum this last weekend.

“This party has become a tradition and signature event of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum,” shared Marlene R. Miller, First Vice President, SHM Board. “Although we consider it to be one of our fundraising events, it is more of a way to show our appreciation to our members and friends for their support.”

The Merrie Wreath Consort, dressed in authentic Renaissance attire, lined the entrance of the Museum and greeted guests with a merry selection of songs. Once inside, guests entered the main gallery to enjoy the current exhibit on view, *Treasures: Recent Acquisitions to the Permanent Collections*, a silent auction, and a small carousel brought out for the occasion.

While the children rode on the carousel, parents and other arriving guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and Bridlewood wines while perusing the silent auction table. Slowly guests started to make their way to the large tent that covered the Museum's courtyard. Red and purple hues lit up the elegantly decorated tent where guests mingled around fire pits in a lounge area and children and some adults satisfied their sweet tooth at a candy bar.

The dinner provided by SBB Gourmet Catering started with a Drunken Lobster Salad and was followed by a savory entree of Juniper Berry and Mulled Red Wine Beef Short Rib with gold potato puree.

As dinner concluded, the lights were dimmed and a magical evening ensued. First the Rudenko Dance Company's sugarplum fairies took to the floor; soon after, members of



Rudenko School of Dance's **Alyssa Mueller** as the Sugar Plum Fairy



**Mia Hill** and children enjoy the snow with **Father Christmas**



**Susan Fuhrer**; **Eleanor Van Cott**, President, SHM Board; and **Don Fuhrer**

the Merrie Wreath Consort walked in with sparklers leading the way for Father Christmas who with a wave of his wand made it snow.

“The highlight of the event is always seeing the excitement in the children's faces when Father Christmas appears,” noted Miller.

The evening continued with entertainment by the Area 51 band. Everyone jumped from their seats and on to the dance floor.

“This year's party went off without a hitch,” shared Eleanor Van Cott, Honorary Chair and President, SHM Board. “The Museum's staff did such a great job organizing it. They make me look good!”

For more information call 966-1601 or visit [www.santabarbaramuseum.com](http://www.santabarbaramuseum.com)



**Ingrid Cali** and **Marlene R. Miller**, 1st Vice President, SHM Board



**Ralph MacFarlane** and **Diana MacFarlane**



**Michael Redmon**, SHM Director of Research; **Astrid Hammett**; **Robert Maxim**; **Patty Maxim**. (front) **Larry Hammett**, 2nd Vice President, SHM Board; **Marla Miller**; and **Paul Larson**



The small carousel was a big hit with the children