

Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara

Women's Philanthropy Luncheon

By **Jeanette Casillas** / CASA

WOMEN OF VALOR who have set an example and provide leadership and motivation to others are honored annually at the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara's (JFGSB) Women's Philanthropy Luncheon. This year the 27th annual event took place at Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort and featured 1972 Munich Olympian Karen James.

"The luncheon is an annual gathering of Santa Barbara men and women that dates back nearly 30 years," shared Nancy Friedland, JFGSB Communications Coordinator. "Attendees have the opportunity to connect and participate in the power of women's philanthropy."

James, a resident of Vancouver, began her international career as a competitive swimmer at age 12 when she traveled to Israel in 1965 for the Maccabiah Games. Just seven years later, she represented Canada as a swimmer in the 1972 Munich Olympics where eight Palestinian terrorists infiltrated, kidnapped, and murdered eleven Israeli athletes and coaches. James is now a businesswoman active in education and real estate. She is a member of the Jewish Federations of North America's National Women's Philanthropy Board of Directors and has served as chair of the Vancouver Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign as



Jamie Sully; **Karen James**, 1972 Munich Olympian and National Women's Philanthropy Board Member; **Judy Foreman**, Past President, Women's Division; and **Maya Sully**.

well as its Women's Philanthropy Division.

"James' experience as an Olympian at the 1972 Munich Games and her involvement in Vancouver's and North America's Jewish Communities, resonated very deeply and personally with attendees at the luncheon," shared Friedland.

The Luncheon is one of the annual fundraisers that support the Jewish Federation's rescue, relief, and rehabilitation services in the Santa Barbara County, in Israel, and throughout the world. Locally the Federation is known for its flagship programs: The Jewish Family Service's Senior Schmooze Room, Art at the JCC, Santa Barbara's Jewish Festival, and Portraits of Survival. The Federation's fundraising goal for 2011 is \$1 million; more than \$500,000 has been raised to-date.

For more information call 957-1115 or visit www.jewishsantabarbara.org.



Mary Ellen Tiffany, Montecito Bank & Trust; **Roberta Catalinotto**, Jewish Agency for Israel; **Michael S. Rassler**, Executive Director of JFGSB; **Janet Garufis**, President and CEO of Montecito Bank & Trust; **Lauren Katz**, Board President of JFGSB; and **Naomi Western**, Jewish Agency for Israel.

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