

Santa Barbara Assistance League

Celebrating 60 Years of Service!

By **Amanda** and **Richard Payatt**
Special to CASA

ATTENDING the Assistance League's Sixtieth Anniversary Open House, on Sunday, April 6th, was like visiting with an old friend. Everybody is comfortable and welcoming. Ease is what is so amazing about the Assistance League. They make everything look easy. Yet, the work that they do is all done by volunteers who are all committed to a myriad of operations under the umbrella of the League. Last year alone, the Santa Barbara chapter of the Assistance League's volunteers shouldered 44,000 hours of work. But this anniversary open house was an excuse to leave off the work for a day, and to have a party. It was also a chance to show off the League's diversity of programs to the city of Santa Barbara.

The facilities of the League were jumping, with charming and lively volunteers proudly describing the numerous and wonderful philanthropic programs with which they were involved. Other members were leading tours of the thrift shop, workrooms, and the Operation School Bell areas. The thrift shop, full of lovely things, is a principal source of funding for the League. It is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am to 3pm and Saturdays from 10am to 1pm. The thrift shop is on Veronica Springs Road, just off of Las Positas.

The Ukulele Lulus set the tone for the party with cheerful energetic music. The Ukulele Lulus are a very,



The balloons, the music, the children... what a celebration.

very, very, large group of Assistance League members. They sing and play ukuleles around town at events like the Music Academy's May Madness and for parties at the Hillside House. One normally has to go to a ukulele convention to see this many delightful players!

Gracing the party were

teenaged members of the Assisteens Auxiliary, modeling prom dresses from the Teen School Bell: *Operation*

Prom Dress program. An extension of Operation School Bell, they lend high quality formal dresses to local teens that need them to participate in school



Joan Kidder, Past President; **Ann Hammond**, President; **Peggy Blasingame**, Past President (when the thrift shop was first opened)



Susan Enges, Past President and **Lene Shuff**, President Elect



Cookbook Co-Chairs: **Lynn Wells** and **Charlene Heinz**



Assisteens: **Nina Topinko** and **Kevin Casey**



Some of the *The Ukulele Lulus*

dances. These dresses are gorgeous! The League also helps with shoes, accessories, and makeup.

Champagne and wine were dispensed by a host of generous bartenders, and there were loads of tasty and delicious snacks. The food was supplied by the same Assistance League members that created the *Savor Santa Barbara* cookbook; so it was not a feast to be missed!

If you did miss the event, at the very least, you can pick up the award-winning community cookbook at the League's thrift shop, or at most local bookstores. In addition to the wonderful recipes, it is full of beautiful photographs and trivia about our lovely city, making it a great gift.

For more information call 687-9717 or visit www.assistanceleaguesb.org



Models/Assisteens: **Mary Stilwell** and **Amy Ransohoff** "We're proud to work with the organization."



Marshall anticipates the cotton candy.

Photos by **Marshall** and **Richard Payatt**