

# Santa Barbara Historical Museum La Fiesta del Museo

By **Jacqueline Dyson** / Special to CASA

**A**S CAPT. RICHARD HENRY DANA observed in his historic journal *Two Years Before the Mast*, Santa Barbara truly knows how to throw a party!

The winning recipe to Fiesta success must include generous measures of fun, food, fashion, music, and dance!

Holding to that lively tradition, the 66th Annual Santa Barbara Historical Museum Fiesta was a great success.

The romance of Old California unfolded as troubadours strumming Spanish guitars greeted arrivals, and spread into the picturesque Spanish courtyard where Committee Co-Chairs Missy De Young and Robin Schutte extended welcomes all around.

St. Barbara, Diana Replogle-Purinton, a vision in white, added a touch of legend to the festivities.

Inspired by this year's Old Spanish Days theme *Tribute to Tradition*, El Presidente Anthony Borgatello presented the 2009 Fiesta Poster, selected from an Edward Borein original oil, to the museum's Executive Director David S. Bisol and benefactor Si Jenkins.

Lavish costumes abounded among the 300 guests. Recalling the blended cultural heritage of early Santa Barbara a kaleidoscope of fashion was on display from Spanish Don tuxedos, silver medallions, lace mantillas and embroidered shawls with flirty fringe, to Western ranch gear.

Among the bedecked: Patrick and Missy de Young; Charles and Barbara de L'Arbre; Debby and Roger Aceves; J.J. Hollister; Diana Hull; John Woodward and Gerry Shepherd; Edgar and Janet Sands with their extended family; Eleanor Van Cott; Gwen Stauffer, wearing Madame Ganna Walska's Fiesta dress; Jim and Erin Graffy de Garcia.

Inside the museum, the Silent Auction buzzed with activity. Large portraits of early families in the neighboring exhibit seemed to gaze from the walls (and listen?) to spirited conversations of the bidders. "If Walls Could Speak!"

Later in the party, stationed at the refreshing fountain, after dinner catered by The Hitching Post, Auctioneer Charles de L'Arbre led the "Lively" Auction for prizes ranging from an original oil painting by Ralph Waterhouse *Veranda of the Historic Adobe*, to Penthouse Dinner at the Museum, a week in the Dordogne Valley, Fernald Mansion Dinner, or star-gazing in Hawaii at the W.M. Keck Observatory.

The fun continued into the night with vivacious State Street Ballet alumnae Breanna Chandler and Jillian Weber dancing under the stars to the music of the Jeff Elliot Band to the applause of one and all.

*Viva la Fiesta!*



Gail Gelles



Sandy Power



Charles de L'Arbre



J.J. Hollister, El Presidente 1992



Diana Hull



Patrick De Young



Diane Waterhouse



Si Jenkins



David Hull and Susan Neuman



Jack and Karen Byers



Richard Croft and Mary Ellen Tiffany



Philip and Colleen Kirst



Roger Willmon and Virginia Castagnola-Hunter



Kum Su Kim and Jayne Menkemeller



Michael Redmond and St. Barbara 2009 - Diana Replogle-Purinton



Charlie Sands; Edgar and Janet Sands; Carol Sands; Eric Sands and Will Dowling; John Sands; David Sands; and Neil Sands



Riley and Dacia Harwood



David and Sharon Bradford and artist Ralph Waterhouse



Jocelyn Smith and Brett Moore



Susan Painter, Judith Johnson, and Chris Hall



Missy De Young and Robin Schutte, Committee Co-Chairs



Gerry Shepherd and John Woodward



David S. Bisol, Edgar Sands, Anthony Borgatello, El Presidente; Debby and Roger Aceves, Mayor of Goleta



Mary Penny; Joy Holman; Joe Cole; Eleanor Van Cott, President, Historical Museum; Gwen Stauffer; Vivian Leslie, and Pat MacKinnon

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