

SEEN AROUND TOWN

by Lynda Millner

Presidio Birthday Party



Russell Clay Ruiz, co-chair
Debbly Aceves, executive
director Jarrell
Jackman,
board presi-
dent Terease
Chin, Mike
Hardwick
portraying
Governor Neve,
and Diane Soto
Ruiz

This was an evening that will linger long in the memories of the 90 of us who were lucky enough to attend the swank 223rd birthday party of the founding of El Presidio, now El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park on Canon Perdido Street. One of the soldados present in costume was a ninth-generation Santa Barbaran **Russell Clay Ruiz**, whose ancestor had been a soldier in our Presidio.

Pearl Chase led the founding of the Trust for Historic Preservation in 1963. It is because of this group that the Presidio is being reconstructed along with the completed Casa de la Guerra where *Jose de la Guerra* lived with his family. As executive director **Jackman** said, "We have made 100,000 adobe bricks and we will make more."

The grounds were alive with the sound of music, flags flying, and period costumes. Guests mixed and mingled during cocktail hour with Spanish hors d'oeuvres passed by folk dancers in colorful skirts and tops. Then it was time for the red carpet treatment. As we filed into the chapel for a four-course dinner by Montecito Country Club chef **Michael Blackwell** and **David Reardon**, our arrival was announced to the whole room. Rather like being "Queen for a Day." The candlelight dinner table setting was magnificent with more than 600 candles burning, many in four-foot high silver candelabras. The guy responsible for all that candlelight and much more was dinner chair **David Bolton**.

Board president **Terease Chin** welcomed all and thanked the 13 board members present, plus the many sponsors like Hutton Parker, Montecito Bank & Trust, and Hollister & Brace. **Craig Makela** led the paddle raise and auction. He struck gold with a donation of \$25,000 from **John Poucher**. If matched there would be \$25,000 more



For 50 years, Chapel set for a candlelight dinner



Ms Millner is the author of *The Magic Makeover*, *Tricks for Looking Thinner, Younger and More Confident - Instantly*. If you have an event that belongs in this column, you are invited to call Lynda at 969-6164.

and it was. The evening netted about \$100,000, which goes a long way to helping with their current campaign. As we left after my favorite Spanish dessert, flan, we were given a gorgeous coffee-table book titled *Mission Memoirs*, mission note cards and a diary of William E. P. Hartnell, who was Visitador General of the Missions of Alta California in 1839 and 1840.

Some of those "royal" guests were Jerry and Helene Beaver, Janet Garufis, Roger Durling and Dan Launpach, Missy and Patrick De Young, Mary Louise Days, Bob and Susan Tuler, Jo Beth Van Gelderen, and Lois Erburu.

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Presidio dinner chair David Bolton, Lina and John Paul Beltran, with co-chair Keith Mautino

Baile de California director Diana Replogle-Purinton and her dancers Lisa Fukunaga, daughter and mother Lea and Debbie Fedaleo



This dinner was followed the next day with two more events calling the whole weekend the Rancho Roundup. There was music, dancing, the presentation of this year's Saint Barbara, a re-creation of the city's founding day ceremony first held April 21, 1782, and much more.

The two Rancho Roundup co-chairs who deserve a million kudos are **Keith Mautino** and **Debby Aceves**. What a way to celebrate Santa Barbara's birthday! As Flavia says, "Sweet memories are woven from the good times."

at KEYT-TV when he was a teenager. Besides playing throughout southern California, he is remembered and loved as a piano bar artist. He lives with wife, **Susan**, and their grand piano.

Emcee **Andrew Firestone** who is always so well prepared told us, "Transition House has served approximately 400 people each year, with 60 percent being children belonging to families that need a second chance. Seventy-five percent of them found homes because of Transition House and many found jobs."