

On the Town

'Good Fortune' rich in history

Transition

You will successfully honor Santa Barbara's Asian-American heritage.

That very well could have been a fortune given to the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation leading up to its recent fundraiser held at Casa de la Guerra.

"Good Fortune," as the event was called, recognized to great success the important role Chinese and Japanese communities played in Santa Barbara during the 19th and 20th centuries. Back in the day, just off State Street, was a vibrant Chinatown on East Canon Perdido Street. Jimmy's Oriental Gardens restaurant was the last visible sign of that time. The building has since been sold to the Trust for Historic Preservation, which is dedicated to protecting, preserving and restoring historical sites in Santa Barbara County.

The evening event, chaired by Terease Chin, celebrated the Asian-American culture through music, dance and food in the Casa courtyard. The invitation was intriguing, encouraging us all to wear clothes that would honor the days "that were"; many women

wore exotic embroidered coats and jackets.

Guests, including sponsors Helene and Jerry Beaver, Elliot and Mary Brownlee, Sandra Chan and Gary Yoshimura, Mary Louise Days, and Jarrell and Michele Jackman, were treated to a taiko drum performance by Togen Daiko and dancing by Sino West's Vicki Wang and Dragon Sun. Pan-Asian cuisine was provided by Lorraine Lim Catering.



Lorraine D. Wilson

Event committee members pulling it all off included Debby Aceves, Liane Duffy, Keith Mautino, Shamus Murphy, M. Kay Van Horn, Akiko Wade, Helen Wong and Zohe Felici.

Longevity and Prosperity awards were given to Montecito Bank & Trust and

Union Bank for their generous gifts to the foundation. Others who gave more than they were asked included Eve Murphy, Richard Oglesby, John and Elizabeth Poucher, Suzanne and Joe Schomer, and Don and Kay Sharpe.

Artist Yin Ping Zheng offered calligraphy demonstrations, providing guests the opportunity to take smaller pieces home as a souvenir of this prosperous day.

"Anchors aweigh!"

It was the 19th annual Mad Hatter Luncheon, benefiting Transition House. Board President Jim Buckley told the audience this fundraiser marked his favorite day of the year because it helps allow homeless families to move into permanent housing.

Executive Director Kathlee Baushke, who runs a tight ship at Transition House, gave some statistics: more than 300 families with children sought shelter, typically because of job loss, disabilities, sickness or lack of funds. Through Transition House's life skills training programs and counseling, 70 percent of clients are able to secure permanent housing.

Auxiliary members, under the leadership of co-chairs Kathryn Dinkin and Diana White, were responsible for the event, which was held at Bacara Resort & Spa among those in attendance: Kim Kilpatrick-Weinberg, Stefanie Davis, Bert Curtain, Amie Parrish, Monique Littlejohn, Irene Chambers, Carolyn Creasey, Judy Cresap, Barbara Cunningham, Mary Anne Harrison and Beverly Zaleski. Silent auction chair was Darle Amundsen (a huge job!); Anna



LORRAINE D. WILSON/NEWS-PRESS

From left, Bruno Mautino, father of Keith Mautino, with Christina Winters, Keith Mautino, Lynn Brittner, newly elected CEO of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, and her friend, Mary Louise Days at the "Good Fortune" event.



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