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**MONTECITO MISCELLANY**

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail, and was an editor on New York Magazine. He was also a national anchor on CBS, a commentator on ABC Network News, host on E! TV, a correspondent on the syndicated show Extra, and a commentator on the KTLA Morning News. He moved to Montecito ten years ago.

**Lowe's Fowl Play**

Montecito actor **Rob Lowe** is reaching for the skies! He has a new role as colonel Harland Sanders in a astronaut-themed TV commercial for KFC's Zinger chicken sandwich.

*The West Wing* thespian, 53, says he met the famed chicken pioneer, who died in December 1980, as a child.

"My grandfather was the head of the Ohio chapter of the National Restaurant Association in the 1960s and took me to meet the colonel when I was a kid. It was a big deal."

Rob says his participation in the ad acts as "a nice homage to both Colonel Sanders and to my grandfather."

The *Parks and Recreation* star, who's also appeared in controversial DIRECTV ads, as I chronicled in this illustrious organ, is the latest famous face to play the founder of the inter-



Rob Lowe's latest TV role national fast food chain.

Others to portray the colonel's famed person include **Norm Macdonald, Billy Zane, George Hamilton, Darrell Hammond, and Jim Gaffigan.**

In the ad, Rob is dressed as the colonel in a spacesuit at a news conference hyping the launch of the sandwich into space.

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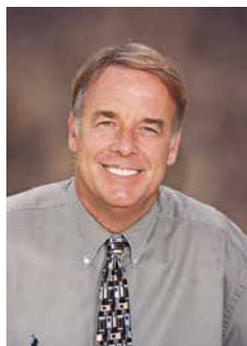
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**MISCELLANY** (Continued from page 6)

The camera pans across the reactions of viewers at home in all surroundings taking in the historic happening.

“The time has come to explore beyond our known horizons,” says Rob, “to push KFC’s spicy crispy chicken to new heights.”

At the end of the ad, Rob says in a lower voice: “KFC Zinger, the best chicken sandwich on Earth. And soon, in space.”

Not quite Oscar worthy, but deliciously lucrative.

*Seeing Green*

Horsepower of a different kind was on display at the White on the Green party at the Santa Barbara Polo Club to mark the culmination of the United Boys & Girls Clubs Rally 4 Kids, a two-day 300 mile trip with 50 cars, including Lamborghinis, Ferraris, Aston Martins, and a positive plethora of Porsches, which wended its way to Avila Beach and Lompoc.

The popular four-year-old event, with 260 guests at the Carpinteria club on a perfect evening, was expected to raise \$225,000 for the nonprofit’s outreach program, which enables youngsters in less affluent areas to attend the clubs.

It was also announced that a new Michael and Anne Towbes Award, in memory of the late Montecito philan-

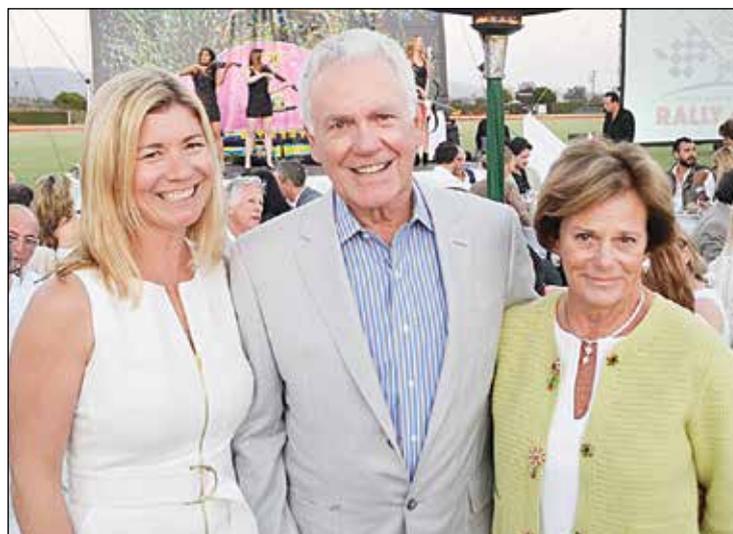


Welcoming the sponsors, participants, and supporters to the “White on the Green” party at the Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club are VP of development Carla Leal and CEO Michael Baker flanked by the “walking vines” (photo by Priscilla)

thropist Michael Towbes, had been established, with the first winners being Monte and Maria Wilson, the rally’s co-chairs. Inveterate car collector Michael Hammer, suitably enough, was the title sponsor, with the ubiquitous Andrew Firestone auctioning off an Aladdin’s cave of items, including



Participating in the UBGC 2017 rally are drivers, navigators, and guests Karla Blackwell, sponsor Tom Parker, Hutton Parker Foundation; Michelle Kobashi, Bill Leitar, Anda Ashkar, Eloy Ortega, president, and Randy Barnes in front of Rally 2017 co-chairs Maria and Monte Wilson’s 2004 Ferrari Challenge Stradale (photo by Priscilla)



The Henley family UBGC activists are Julie, Jeff, who is chairman of UBGC National Board and Chair of UBGC Advisory Board, and Judy Henley (photo by Priscilla)

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On stage are navigator and driver Lisa and Tim Couch receiving their "Roads Scholars" trophy from sponsor Michael Hammer for achieving overall goals (photo by Priscilla)

a Viking river cruise on the Rhine or Danube for \$5,000, Ferrari pit crew membership for a weekend for \$3,250, and an exotic car day at the Petersen Museum in Los Angeles for \$3,200.

Michael Baker, chief executive officer, declared it "The best rally ever!" as four litesome lovelies, Bella Strings, a classical quartet, entertained, a bathing beauty poured champagne from a giant martini glass, and two giant stilt



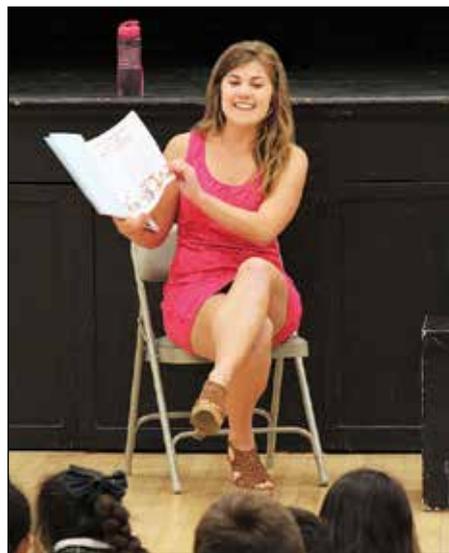
Enjoying the evening are Randee Brookins, Corvette "Ed" and Melinda Wittwer, Cecil Kyte, Michael Armand Hammer, presenting sponsor Armand Hammer Foundation; Misty Hammer and Mark Alfano; and sitting are Mike Brookins, John Alfano, Marco Diaz, and Andrea DeRosso with the Bella Strings performing on stage (photo by Priscilla)

walkers, clad in ivy, strutted around the bustling bash.

Among the supporters turning out for the fun fest were **Bruce Heavin, Misty Hammer, Tom Parker, Mark Alfano, Alicia St. John, Chad and Ginni Dreier, Katrina Carl, Debbie Saucedo, Larry Ellison, Brenda Blalock, Robert Lieff, Dana Hansen, and Alex and Maria Mertens.**

*One for the Books*

Author **Brielle Kelley** is enjoying the sweet smell of success with her first book, which involves a skunk



Author Brielle Kelley launches first book

with self-esteem issues.

The colorful work, *The Little Skunk Who Was Afraid to Stink*, with illustrations by **Mark Wayne Adams**, took the 22-year-old, who hails from Denver, Colorado, 12 months to put together in English and Spanish, with all proceeds donated to children's charities, including a school in Ecuador and another in Guyana, where she will be teaching in due course.

Brielle, who won the Moonbeam book award for inspirational chil-

dren's literature, is now busy with another bi-lingual work, she told me at a bijou book bash at Tecolote, the tony tome temple in the upper village. "It's a butterfly saga about the challenges of changing and growing up."

*Ball Haul*

The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse's 31st annual Amethyst Ball at the Bacara was a real gem!

The bold-faced name-filled bash attracted 385 glamorously garbed guests and raised around \$400,000 for 67-year-old CADA, which has an annual budget of \$5.6 million serving more than 8,600 people with 23 programs for youth and adults.

Event co-chairs **Anne Towbes, Diana MacFarlane, Holly Murphy, Susan Neuman, and Betsy Turner** reprised last year's roles and pulled out all the stops to make the cavernous ballroom a copper kingdom of chiffon with gold starburst imagery, with Montecito event whiz **Merryl Brown** making a real "Oh, What a Night," a delightful lookback at the 1950s and '60s with the Los Angeles-based **Frankie Valli** and the Four Seasons tribute band **Walk Like A Man** rocking the ritzy hostelry.

The ubiquitous **Andrew Firestone** conducted the auction, which featured a \$10,000 shopping spree at bling king **Bob Bryant's** State Street emporium, a week's stay in Oahu, Hawaii, including airfare, and an alpaca ranch tour in Carpinteria with dinner for 10 guests.

Two alpacas were brought on stage for the big moment, but one unfortunately disgraced itself by urinating during the bidding frenzy.

A silent auction at the beano, whose male co-chairs were **Bob Bryant, Bob Fuladi, and Peter Hilf** with **Richard Weston Smith** as emcee, featured a **Katy Perry**-signed guitar, a ski vacation for 10 in Utah, an 11-day wild-life cruise to the Galapagos, a seven-day Caribbean trip to a choice of Antigua, St. Lucia, Panama, and the

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Tessa Flanagan, Marty and John Daly (photo by Isaac Hernandez)



Lisa and Alan Parsons with Ed and Sally Stonefelt (photo by Isaac Hernandez)



Mark Findley, Jenny Strait, Cynder Sinclair, and Dennis Forster (photo by Isaac Hernandez)



Le Bal Masqué co-chairs Amanda Twining, Kerri Boeddeker, Theresa Borgatello, Celene Borgatello, and Brenda Rosales (photo by Priscilla)



Holly Murphy, Diana MacFarlane, Sue Neuman, and Betsy Turner (event co-chairs) (photo by Isaac Hernandez)

Grenadines, and the presidential suite at a resort in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Among the tony throng at the socially gridlocked beano, which was dedicated in memory of the late **Michael Towbes**, were **Catherine Remak, Bob Murphy, Patty Bryant, Joyce Dudley, Susan Keller, Terry Ryken, Alan and Lisa Parsons, Ellen Goodstein, Jelinda DeVorzon, Mireille and Natalie Noone, John and Hazell Blankenship, Janet Garufis, Ralph MacFarlane, Wendy McCaw, Robert and Robin Fell, George and Laurie Leis, Rich Block, David Edelman, Arthur von Wiesenberger, Robert and Christine Emmons, Peter and Gerd Jordano, Ed Stonefelt, Brian Hill, Fred Brander, Ken Rife, Marlene Bennett, Paul and Jane Orfalea, Mark and Alixe Mattingly, Mara Abboud, Bruce Heavin, and Lynda Weinman, and Steve Thompson.**



Le Bal Masqué frame capturing Marymount Board of Trustees president Kirk Borchardt and his wife, CeCe, in their portrait on the *Chateau des Fontaines* estate (photo by Priscilla)

*Big Masqué on Campus*  
Candelabra and chandeliers abounded when the 75-year-old Riviera school, Marymount, threw a Le Bal Masqué masquerade gala at Chateau des Fontaines, the charming Montecito estate of **Travis and Amanda Twining** and **Alastair and Ann Winn**, which attracted 240 guests, raising \$350,000 for the 239-student, 10-acre campus.

The French fest was co-chaired by **Matt and Kerri Boeddeker, Brian and Celene Borgatello, Derek Carlson, and Theresa Borgatello, and Paul and Brenda Rosales.**

Auctioneer **Joe Rexin** from Lake Elsinore was in fine form selling lots including a seven-day stay in Costa Rica, a ski vacation in Mammoth, a weekend getaway in Monterey on a private jet, and a week's stay in Oahu, Hawaii.

Guests enjoying their *Phantom of the Opera* moment included **Kirk Borchardt, Andrew Wooden, Doug and Andrea McFarling, Alexandra Dunn, Burton and Iona Tripathi, Andrew and Ashley Kirk, Christopher and Elizabeth Palme,**

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Marymount School supporters Mario and Judy Borgatello, David and Louise Borgatello, Jay Williams, and Amanda Thomas at the gala (photo by Priscilla)

**Monesh and Namita Patel, Michael and Alexis Weaver, Rick and Adele Hubbard, Brian and Drea Dowdy, and Paul and Julie Gunderson.**

A most illuminating soirée.

*Power Lunch*

The Amazons were out in force when Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara hosted its 32nd annual scholarship lunch at Bella Vista, the sprawling Summerland estate of polo playing hotel magnate **Pat Nesbitt**.

The sold-out totally underwritten event, chaired by **Melody Taft**, attracted 250 guests and was expected to raise more than \$200,000 toward the organization's financial assistance program, which helps 400 youngsters participate in after-school and summer camp programs.

**Gretchen W. McClain**, former NASA chief director of the International Space Station, urged girls to "focus on the positive" and "let nothing get in the way" during the STEM: Science Technology Engineering Math-themed event held in a capacious tent erected on Pat's personal polo field and catered by the Biltmore.

**Geoff Green** of the City College Foundation conducted the auction, which included a private Lotusland cocktail party that raised \$3,000, and a Paso Robles wine getaway snapped up for \$3,200.

Among the guests tucking into the chilled corn and cauliflower bisque and confit chicken, Napa cabbage, and cress salad, served on black felt table cloths covered in mathematical symbols, were **Barbara Ben-Horin**,

**Stina Hans, Jelinda DeVorzon, Arlene Montesano, Ursula Nesbitt, Paige Beard, Anne Towbes, Chad and Ginni Dreier, Janet Garufis, Belle Hahn Cohen, Hollye Jacobs, Eileen Mielko, Val Montgomery, Bill and Lois Rosen, Kevin and Katie Frank, Jean Schuyler, and Gwen Stauffer.**

*Curtain Call*

Opera Santa Barbara celebrated the end of its latest successful season at the Granada with one of Italian master Giacomo Puccini's lesser performed works, *La Rondine*, featuring one of the most famous arias in the world of opera, *Chi il bel sogno di Doretta*.

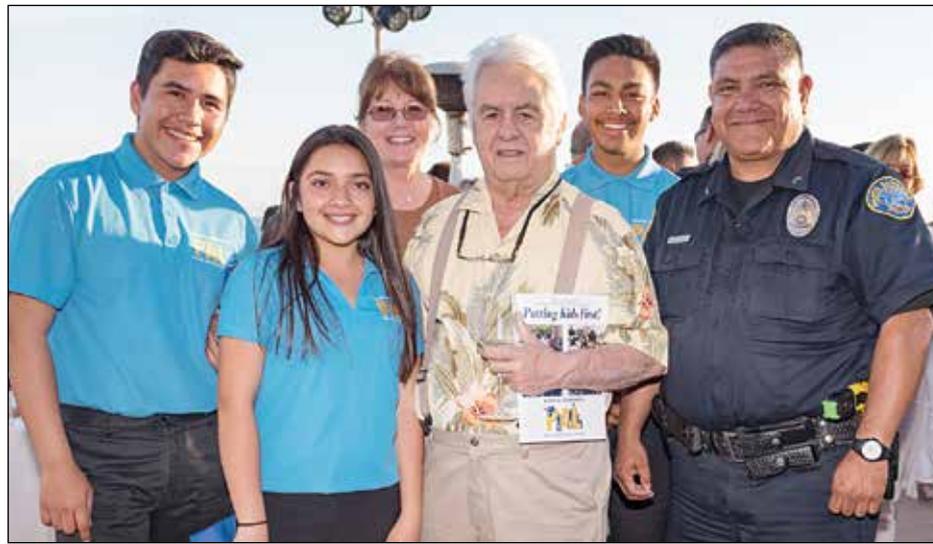
The lavish three-act Belle Epoque production, staged in Paris and Nice, featured soprano **Karin Wolvetton** and tenor **Adam Diegel** as the star-crossed lovers, while a secondary romance featured another soprano, **Elizabeth Kelsay**, as her maid and tenor **James Callon** as the poet Prunier, with the orchestra conducted by artistic director **Kostis Protopapas**.

The 1917 work, which premiered in Monte Carlo because of World War 1, is an absolute delight of period intrigue full of exuberance and effervescence.

*PAL-ing Around*

The Pacific had some competition when a sea of blue descended on the Coral Casino for the 14th annual Santa Barbara Police Activities League (PAL) Putting Kids First! gala, which raised \$100,000 supporting after school programming, leadership

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PAL supporters Richard and Marguerite Berti with officer Adrian Gutierrez and PAL Youth Leadership members Alan Salgado, Maryines Reynoso, and Francisco Arroyo (photo by Martin Alexander)



Officer Adrian Gutierrez, honoree captain Ed Szezyler, chief Lori Luhnnow, Kent Wojciechoski, PAL executive director Michelle Meyerling, officer Craig Burleigh, officer Christina Ortega, and officer Beth Lazarus (photo by Martin Alexander)

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Peter Hilf, Youth Leadership Council members Maryines Reynoso and Alexis Mendez, police explorer post Gloria Catalan, and SBPAL founder Kent "Wojo" Wojciechoski (photo by Martin Alexander)

training and summer camps for more than 1,000 local youth annually.

The 200-guest bash, which honored **Ed Szeyller**, the first executive director of PAL in 1999, featured an auction conducted by founding officer **Kent Wojciechoski** and board president **Mark Magid**, for prizes including a trip on **Dana Newquist's** antique fire truck and a children's party for 15, a day in the life of a sniper, a crime scene dinner for 10, a diamond and silver pendant from local jeweler **Tuan Truong**, and a sculpted glass dish from **Ginni Dreier**.

Among the tony throng were police chief **Lori Luhn**, executive director **Michelle Hillman Meyering**, **Bryan Kerr**, **Aaron** and **Kandy Budgor**, **Chad**, **Doug** and **Hanna Dreier**, **Peter** and **Alexis Hilf**, **Peter** and **Gerd Jordano**, **Susan Bennett**, **Janet Garufis**, **Riley** and **Dacia Harwood**, **Barry** and **Norris Goss**, and **Craig** and **Laura Case**.

*All Smiles*

Although it sounded like a dental convention, the Music Academy of the West's Hahn Hall was a most pleasant experience when **Roomful of Teeth**, an eight-year-old Grammy Award-winning octet from Massachusetts sang a wide variety of a *cappella* works.

The concert, the last in UCSB Arts & Lectures Up Close & Musical series, co-sponsored by **Robert Weinman**, featured works by **Caroline Shaw**, **Eric Dudley**, **Brad Wells**, **Caleb Burhans**, **Toby Twining**, **William Britelle**, and **Rinde Eckert**.

Fangs for the memory.

*Pennies from Heaven*

A mélange of magnificent millinery swept over the impeccably manicured lawn of the Biltmore when Angels Foster Care of Santa Barbara held its sixth annual Al Fresco Afternoon on the Riviera.

The 11-year-old charity, which has



Meichelle Arntz (founder of Angels) and Leanne Schlinger (event committee and donor)

placed 217 babies and had 101 adoptions, had more than 200 guests helping raise more than \$90,000 for the cause.

Event co-chairs were **Peggy Hodson** and **Sheri Mardiat**, while my *Journal* colleague **Erin Graffy** and radio host **Catherine Remak** emceed the boffo beano.

The Volunteer of the Year award went to **Nick Salvesen**, who has led successful fundraising campaigns, while the MVP award went to **Holly Murphy**, owner of the La Arcada gift boutique, Coast 2 Coast, the "visionary" behind the popular event.

Guests supporting the lunch, which also helped raise \$10,000 – two \$5,000 gifts – toward a matching grant for a hybrid vehicle for social workers, included founder **Meichelle Arntz**, **Karen Earp**, **Ivana Firestone**, **Janet Garufis**, **George Leis**, **Belle Hahn Cohen**, **Mindy Denson**, **Gina Tolleson**, **Monica Babich**, **Mary**

**Reynolds**, **Annie Williams**, and **Diana MacFarlane**.

A tableside fashion show featuring Angels Foster Care mothers, with clothes from **Diani**, **J. McLaughlin**, and **Whiskey x Leather**, also added color to the bash.

*A Real Eye-opener*

On a personal note, I mark the passing of **Harry Brown**, founder of SEE International, a charity that provided free eye surgeries around the globe, at 86.

An international traveler, including South Africa, India, and Afghanistan, he moved to our Eden by the Beach in 1971 and founded SEE – Surgical Eye Expeditions – in 1974.

The nonprofit has since provided vision care to more than 3.8 million people, including surgeries for glaucoma and cataracts, restoring sight to

around 500,000 people.

The group has also held weekly clinics in Santa Barbara for low-income individuals since the 80s.

A true humanitarian, with great vision, who left an indelible mark.

Sightings: Political pundit **Dennis Miller** at Starbucks...**Tanya Thicke**, wife of the late actor **Alan Thicke**, noshing at the Fish House...Rocker **Kenny Loggins** checking out Ca'Dario

Pip! Pip!

Readers with tips, sightings and amusing items for Richard's column should email him at richardmin@verizon.net or send invitations or other correspondence to the *Journal*.

To reach Priscilla, email her at priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com or call 969-3301