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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 eight years ago.

## Connors Par for the Course

It has been quite a year for former Number-One tennis player **Jimmy Connors**, who has been blazing a trail golfing at the Montecito Country Club.

The 62-year-old former racketeer, who won eight Grand Slam singles titles, including five U.S. Opens, two Wimbledon, and one Australian Open, hit consecutive holes-in-one in consecutive weeks in April last year.

Now, just a year later, Jimmy has scored his third hole-in-one on the club's fifth 189-yard fairway, having previously aced the 153-yard 14th and the 171-yard 17th, all par three holes.

"It's pretty extraordinary and has never happened in the eighteen years I have been here," says club pro **Scott Johnson**. "But for a man who works as hard at his game as Jimmy, he deserves it. It's miraculous."

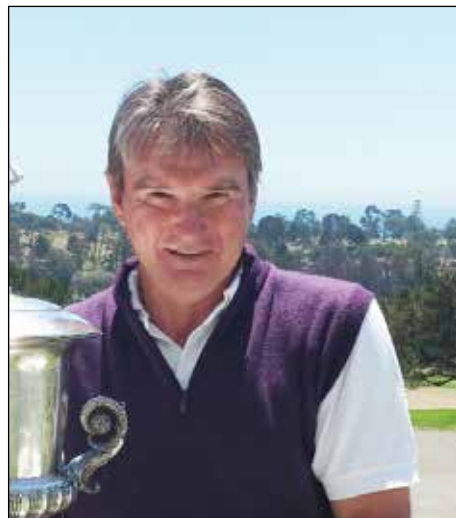
Jimmy, a longtime resident of our rarefied enclave, has a single-digit handicap and plays the lush course, with its sweeping views of the Pacific, regularly.

"There's only one hole left for him to conquer and that's the eighth, which is 108 yards," adds Scott.

But Jimmy has still got quite a way to go to beat the club's record holder, retired nonagenarian urologist **Ernie Blakey**, who has amassed a record of 18 holes-in-one on the links.

"He always likes to boast he's had more holes in one than grandchildren!" laughs Scott.

Given the club has 400 members and it is normal practice for the golfer hitting the hole-in-one to buy drinks for everyone, Jimmy wasn't too much



Tennis ace Jimmy Connors bags his third hole-in-one in a year

out of pocket.

"Members can buy insurance for a nominal five dollars to cover such possibilities," adds Scott.

### No Kidding

For the past few months, as I've recounted here, TV talk-show host **Ellen DeGeneres** and NBC *Today* anchor **Matt Lauer** have been feuding.

However, the ongoing video war between the two 57-year-old hosts appears to have come to an end.

With one final joke – involving a naked, dancing Lauer – the daytime stars made up and even raised some money for charity.

"In the spirit of the Daytime Emmys, Ellen and I are here to announce that we are officially ending our prank war," Lauer explained in a video at

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## MISCELLANY (Continued from page 6)

the beginning of the awards ceremony, not far from Ellen's studio at Warner Bros. in bustling Burbank.

Although both pranksters promised the feud had ended, the pledge was immediately broken when the video showed Lauer ripping off his suit.

Underneath, viewers got a glimpse of toned abs, lacy underwear, and stockings held up by garters.

Even his nipples were adorned with tasseled pasties.

It was, of course, not really Lauer's body that immediately began shimmying in the video, but the effect was quite impressive.

"Matt, please! This is a dignified celebration," Montecito resident Ellen protested with mock concern. "Oh my God, pull it together!"

The video was more than just a silly joke, as Lauer and Ellen soon revealed that he had promised to donate \$1,000 of his own money to charity every time an Emmy winner thanked him in a speech that night.

"Remember, if you win, please pick me!" the network anchor begged with one final shake of the tassels.

Many of the celebrities took him up on his offer through the rest of the night.

*Entertainment Tonight* host **Nancy O'Dell** even upped the ante by thanking Lauer three separate times during her acceptance speech for Outstanding Entertainment News Program.

The feud between Ellen and Lauer began with a rather odd video shown on her show in which he supposedly showed his love for the film *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

Ping pong balls, billboards, and more got in on the continuous war in the ensuing weeks.

### *Mother's Daze*

The Baltimore mother filmed dragging her teenage son home from a riot has told how she was stunned when Montecito's most famous resident TV mogul **Oprah Winfrey** called up to congratulate her.

**Toya Graham**, 42, was hailed as

"Mom of the Year" after being caught on camera clobbering her 16-year-old son, **Michael**, pulling off his ski mask and chasing him during the violence.

But the single mother was almost lost for words when the talk-show legend called her up at home to offer support.

"My oldest daughter was actually on the phone," says Graham. "She was like, 'Ma, Oprah wants to talk to you,' and I couldn't hear exactly everything she was saying because I was like, 'Oh, my God! Oh my God!'"

"She actually took the time out to give me a call, just to say, 'I understand why you did what you did.' She talked about how she understands as a parent, as single mom, what I was faced up against," she told the TV show *Inside Edition*.

"I just wanted to thank her for taking the opportunity to call me, because I don't feel like a hero or anything like that. I just love my son," she concluded.

She told a show on CBS that she "just lost it" when she saw her son at the riots carrying a rock and walking toward police officers.

"I recognized those baggy sweatpants and we made eye contact. I was saying 'How dare you do this?'"

"He's my only son and at the end of the day, I don't want him to be **Freddie Gray**," the man whose death in police custody led to the metropolitan mayhem.

"Is he a perfect boy? No, he's not. But he's mine."

### *Keepin' the Faith*

Actor **Michael Douglas** has revealed that his son's newfound interest in Judaism has brought religion back into his life.

The Oscar winning star, who used to live in our rarefied enclave with then wife **Diandra**, said that **Dylan** – his son with Welsh actress **Catherine Zeta Jones** – had "brought a lot of spirituality into our household" after he asked to have a Bah Mitzvah.

As a result, Michael, 70, son of 98-year-old acting legend **Kirk**

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Writer Amy Penn's charming new book on the New York celebrity hangout Elaine's (photo by David Lominska)

**Douglas**, another Montecito resident, has rediscovered his faith late in life and was recently awarded the Genesis Prize, often referred to as the Jewish Nobel Prize.

In an NBC interview, Michael said his father, who is Jewish, was "over the moon" that Dylan, 14, wanted to embrace his faith and "couldn't believe it."

Michael recently revealed in an opinion piece in the *Los Angeles Times*, as I recounted here, that Dylan, wearing a gold Star of David neck chain, had experienced anti-Semitism for the first time after a man insulted him while they were on a family holiday together.

"The irony is my father is Jewish, my mother is Protestant. And I married Catherine, who is Catholic.

"With our son just from going to school and meeting a couple of Jewish friends, on weekends he would go over to their house and they would have a Friday night Sadr.

"Six months later, he said, 'I want to have a Bah Mitzvah.' We were touched. Not to say, Kirk was over the moon. He couldn't believe it.

"So we did it, we're extremely proud of it. As a result, he's brought a lot of spirituality into our household."

*Start Spreadin' the News*

New York restaurateur Elaine Kaufman was larger than life.

Her eponymous eatery at 88th Street and Second Avenue didn't have the best food, but it certainly had the most glittering crowd.

The bustling boite, which opened in 1963 and closed after Elaine's death at 81 from a pulmonary disorder in 2010, was packed nightly with prominent New Yorkers, including **Woody Allen, Mia Farrow, Joseph Heller**, Norman Mailer, George Plimpton, Mario Puzo, Jackie Kennedy Onassis, **Sally Quinn, Tom Wolfe, Gay Talese**, as well as stars such as **Clint Eastwood, John Lennon, Mick Jagger**, Luciano Pavarotti, **Elaine Stritch**, and Eli Wallach.

Very often, when I was working for the ABC show *Prime Time Live*, she would allow correspondent **Judd**

**Rose** and I to tape segments in the eatery.

It was also noted for its Oscar night, where visiting Hollywood stars and other bold faced names congregated to watch the Academy Awards ceremony.

As well as a big body, Elaine also had a big heart, and it is nice to see an old Manhattan friend, **Amy Penn**, who I met when she was assistant to diminutive New York Post society columnist, Eugenia Sheppard, has now immortalized her in a charming new book *Elaine's: The Rise of One of New York's Most Legendary Restaurants from Those Who Were There*.

The book features an entertaining foreword by nonagenarian columnist **Liz Smith**, who I've known since she wrote for the *New York Daily News* in 1978 when I was gossip columnist on **Rupert Murdoch's** newly launched *Star* magazine, as well as amusing anecdotes from a number of old friends, including **Richard Johnson**, who headed the *New York Post's* Page Six column for many years, Greek scribe **Taki Theodoropoulos** and snapperazzi legend **Ron Galella**, the bane of Jackie Kennedy Onassis's life.

Amy, who used to be a member of the Santa Barbara Polo Club, has evoked a lot of fond memories of a wonderful time past.

*Hey, Hey for the Monkee*



Linda Jones ex-wife of the late Monkee, Davy Jones with his favorite horse, Zar, a rescue after a life on the racetrack

After reading my story about the forthcoming auction at New York's Hard Rock Cafe on Saturday, May 16, of the late Monkee Davy Jones's memorabilia, his Santa Barbara-based first wife, **Linda**, calls.

Linda, who moved to our Eden by the Beach from L.A. in 1974 with the couple's two daughters, **Talia** and **Sarah**, tells me of a foundation the girls set up after Davy, a keen equestrian, died at the age of 66 after a heart attack in Stuart, Florida, in 2012.

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"It helps take care of 14 rescue horses he accumulated," says Linda, who amicably divorced the TV star in 1975.

"He had become a jockey during the years after the Monkees, which was a lifelong dream, and rode several of his own horses in races, even winning a few of them. He never sold his retired racehorses, choosing instead to care for them in addition to several other horses he rescued who were destined for the knacker man."

The Davy Jones Equine Memorial Foundation is funded by his many fans, with the motto Keep Calm and Ride On.

The website is djemf.com.

*Spreading Pollan*



(From left): Nancy Ransohoff, speaker Michael Pollan, Leslie Ridley-Tree and Kurt Ransohoff at the Granada dinner (photo by Kimberley Citro)

For the past 25 years Berkeley-based **Michael Pollan** has been writing *New York Times* best-selling books and articles about the places where nature and culture intersect – food, agriculture, health and the environment

One particular tome *The Omnivore's Dilemma* was named one of the 10 best books of 2006 by both the *Times* and *The Washington Post*.

A contributing writer to the *New York Times Magazine* since 1987, Michael, who was named one of *Time's* 100 most influential people in 2010, made his fourth visit to our tony town to appear at the Granada, part of the UCSB popular Arts & Lectures series, and give his fascinating take on life.

Before his talk, major supporters gathered in the McCune Founders Room for dinner prepared by chef **Michael Hutchings**, which included organic breast of chicken with Tuscan

kale braised in olive oil and wild rice pilaf.

Among those noshing *au natural* were **Lynda Weinman and Bruce Heavin, Doug and Marnie Margerum, Leslie Ridley-Tree, Thomas and Blue Caleel, Robert Weinman, Kurt Ransohoff, and Celesta Billeci.**

Food for thought, indeed.

*Let's Hear It for the Girls*

It couldn't have been a more perfect day when Girls Inc.'s One Hundred Committee hosted its 30th annual scholarship lunch at the Santa Barbara aerie of **Chad and Ginni Dreier**, just a tiara's toss from KEYT's TV studios.

The Biltmore-catered event, chaired by **Leslie Cane Schneiderman**,

attracted 260 guests and raised around \$200,000 for the nonprofit that helps 1,200 girls annually.

Last year, \$220,000 was handed out in scholarships.

Guest speaker was entrepreneur and philanthropist **Priscilla Presley**, fetchingly attired in a Pucci dress, while **Amber Ortiz** conducted the auction, which included a trip to Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee, a Pebble Beach getaway and a dinner for 10 in the private dining room at Trattoria Mollie.

Basking in the sunshine were **Hiroko Benko, Victoria Hines, Kristi Newton, Carole Ridding, Jelinda DeVorzon, Mireille Noone, Sandi Nicholson, Leslie Ridley-Tree, Sheryl Lowe, Thomas Rollerson, Diana MacFarlane, Genevieve Reitman, Eva Guerrand-Hermes, Bui Simon, Melinda Mars, Caroline Thompson,**



(From left): Lynda Weinman, speaker Michael Pollan and Bruce Heavin (photo by Kimberley Citro)



A court-appointed Special Advocates Team at the helm: Terreyll Bunn, Arlene and Milt Larsen, Marge Kozaki, Pat Aptaker, CASA past president Janet Garufis, auctioneer Andrew Firestone, Vicki Edwards, Shari Guifoyle, Jenade Scott, and Teresa Sat (photo by Priscilla)



At the Casa By The Sea pre-dinner reception are co-chairs Jennifer Smithwick and Robyn Parker, with guitarist Chris Fosse, dancer, Theresa Kuskey-Nowak, and sponsor Kenny Kahn from the Santa Ynez band of Chumash Indians (photo by Priscilla)



Gathered at the Impulse Advanced Communications table are Dave Clark, Impulse president; Sabrina Papa, showing a Depeche Mode-signed guitar, Ari Garcia and Jasmine Brant (seated), Lee Carlander and David Magid, with Tony Papa, president of the CASA board (photo by Priscilla)

**Doreen Ladin, and Jennifer Smith Hale.**

The night before, **John and Connie Percy** hosted an intimate cocktail soiree at their Montecito home, with guests including **Nina Terzian, Jeff and Hollye Jacobs, Tom and Eileen Mielko, and Tom and Kathy Dunlap.**

*Foster Funds*

A record 260 guests turned out for CASA's (Court Appointed Special Advocates) nautical-style gala at the Bacara raising around \$175,000 for the charity, which advocates for foster youth.

The boffo bash, co-chaired by **Robyn Parker and Jennifer Smithwick**, was emceed by the ubiquitous **Andrew Firestone.**



Tony Papa, president of the CASA board; Kim Colby Davis, CASA executive director; and guest speaker Francine Kelly of the Children's Council for CASA (photo by Priscilla)

Auction prizes included a cruise on the 60-foot yacht Zaca, the second largest sailing vessel in the marina, a stay in Lake Tahoe, a VIP visit to Ellen DeGeneres's TV talk-show studio in Burbank, a trip to New Orleans, a stay at the Four Seasons in Costa Rica, a five-day stay at a Fairmont hotel or resort in the U.S. or Canada, and Depeche Mode souvenirs, including a signed guitar, donated by **Martin and Kerilee Gore**, raised a whopping \$61,000.

**Todd Venture** wielded the gavel.

Checking out the bustling party were **Janet Garufis, Sabrina Papa, Judy Egenolf, Milt and Arlene Larsen, Patty Santiago, Tom and Christina Frisina, Kim Davis, Hildy Medina, Pat Aptaker, Jennifer Burnett, Pati Kern, Kristin Kirby, Mer James, and Marisa Demourkas...**

### Feeling Sporty

Santa Barbara Polo Club kicked off its 104th year in grand style when fans packed the stands to watch what promises to be one of the most colorful seasons ever.

Under new president, Texan tycoon **John Muse**, 17 teams involving 70 international players and more



Trustees Justin Klentner and Wesly Ru (photo by Priscilla)

than 380 high-priced ponies, will be involved in the Sunday games, with Gulfstream Aerospace, the world's premier business jet company, as title sponsor for the Gulfstream Pacific Coast Open, the biggest polo competition on the Left Coast – not to mention one of the biggest trophies in the sport at nearly six feet high.

It is the company's first major sponsorship in the U.S., says **Charles Ward**, Texan head of promotion at the



SBP&RC trustee Chuck and Margarita Lande, Monique Rodriguez, event coordinator, with Bilo Zarif (photo by Priscilla)



Having fun are Mindy and Chris Denson, Rick Sears, polo referee; player Paige Beard and Victoria Firestone (photo by Priscilla)



SBP&RC Allison Hansen, event director; on the club's sun deck with actress/model Kelly Dowdle, polo player Jonathan Burrows, and model/actress Shannon Decker (photo by Priscilla)



Angie Antwan of Maserati USA perched against a 2015 Grand Turismo Convertible Maserati with Kerry Lloyd Markowitz, Kristen Springer, Craig Springer at the driver's door, and Paige Hope of Maserati North America, with Charles Ward, Idea Works, Inc. managing partner and a 2015 Grand Turismo Maserati (photo by Priscilla)

lush Carpinteria facility.

As I've already noted, Italian car maker Maserati has also chosen the club as the only U.S. stop on the Maserati 20-goal polo tour in September, and owners of the luxury autos are being given complimentary tickets through dealerships. The newest models will also be on display every Sunday, as they were this past weekend.

"This newest group of sponsors far exceeds any prior year by a wide margin," says Charles, who spends his summers in Montecito.

I also hear that dashing **Nacho Figueras**, the **Ralph Lauren** Polo model who has visited Santa Barbara a number of times and is a frequent co-player with **Prince Harry** on the East Coast, may well be a major regular later in the season playing for bil-

lionaire **Tom Barrack's** team, Piocho Ranch, named after his 1,200-acre spread in Santa Ynez.

Tom, who founded Colony Capital, also famously bought the late Michael Jackson's 3,000-acre Neverland ranch.

A sizzling season, indeed...

### Fresco Air

A mélange of magnificent millinery was out in force when Angels Foster Care of Santa Barbara held its fourth annual Al Fresco Afternoon on the Riviera on the impeccably manicured lawn at the Biltmore.

The charity, which is on target to place its 200th baby in a home in nine years, had 220 guests, helping raise around \$80,000 for the cause, founded by **Meichelle Arntz**.

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Angels Foster Care Baby Balloons waiting to be placed by co-chairs Shannon Neels, Marsha Kotlyar, with Meichelle Arntz, founder and director of Angels Foster Care, and Stephanie Smillie (photo by Priscilla)



Before the gathering at the Four Seasons Biltmore are co-emcee Ali Azarvan, Kristy Marks, Saks fashion commentator with Santa Barbara Saks GM Tracey Greene, supporter Susan McMillan, and co-emcee Tom Adams (photo by Priscilla)



At the refreshment lawn cart are "Friends of Angels" Sue Bickett, Karen Earp Biltmore manager, with Jennifer and Sean Hecht (photo by Priscilla)



Nancy Casey, Roxie Solakian, MB&T president and CEO Janet Garufis, and Suzie Schomer shown with their baby balloons (photo by Priscilla)

Events co-chairs were **Stephanie Smillie**, **Shannon Neels**, and **Marsha Kotlyar**, who also received the Volunteer of the Year award.

**Ali Azarvan** and **Tom Adams** emceed the bash, while the 12-year-old Sangham Foundation, run by **Sean** and **Jenny Hecht**, was also honored.

Guests supporting the non-profit event, which featured a Saks Fifth Avenue fashion show, included **Alix Mattingly**, **Janet Garufis**, **Holly Murphy**, **Eileen Mielko**, **Kathleen Cooper**, **Diana MacFarlane**, **Tiffany Jaeger**, **Shannon Decker**, and **Nancy Kogevinas**.

*Dancing the Night Away*

UCSB Arts & Lectures held its last event of the current dance season with the New York-based Dorrance Dance

Company at the Granada.

The eight entertaining troupe members, under founder **Michelle Dorrance**, accompanied by five talented instrumentalists, brought the art of tap dancing to a whole new level during the frenetic hour-long intermission free show *The Blues Project*.

The performance came about through Dorrance, who also performed in the show *STOMP* for four years and studied under **Savion Glover**, working with acoustic guitarist **Toshi Reagon** on a project called *Celebrate the Great Women of Blues and Jazz*.

Two musical standouts were violinist **Juliette Jones** who joined the dancers on stage and drummer **Allisson Miller**, who gave **Ringo Starr** a run for his money.

A wonderful end to a great season...



Brian Kerr, PAL program officer; Ginni Dreier, friend of PAL; John Van Donge, board president; honorees Patricia and James "Jim" Stretchberry (photo by Priscilla)



SBPD sergeant Mike McGrew, with Friends of PAL Bob Bryant, Leatrice "Lee" Luria, and SBPD chief Cam Sanchez (photo by Priscilla)

*Child's Play*

Montecito Country Club was packed for the 12th annual Police Activities League "Putting Kids First" party, which attracted 215 guests and raised around \$200,000.

The 16-year-old charity honored minister **James Stretchberry** and his wife, **Patricia**, while **David** and **Helene Winters** and **Randy** and **Amy Clark** co-chaired the bustling bash, and president **John Van Donge** played auctioneer, with items including a day in the life of a police sniper, an epicurean barbecue for 100, a shopping spree at Bryant & Sons, a day with the SWAT team and K9 units, and a cruise on **Charlie Munger's** Channel Cat.

Silent auction items included a

Tiffany Atlas watch and a black-and-white photo of 1965's match between **Sonny Liston** and **Muhammad Ali**, signed by The Greatest.

Guests included **Chad** and **Ginni Dreier**, **Lee Luria**, **Scott Reed**, police chief **Cam Sanchez**, **Janet Garufis**, **Dana Newquist**, **Keith Berry**, **Richard Auhll**, **Ralph Iannelli**, **Kent Wojciechoski**, and **Michelle Hillman Meyering**.

*Grin and Bear It*

The only masked character missing when the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation hosted A Masked Affair at the Santa Barbara Club was the Lone Ranger.

The event, formerly known as Saks & The City, brought in 200 guests,



(Front row) Brandon Salgado, Cristian Martinez; (back) Michelle Meyerling, PAL development coordinator; Cindy Marin, Kent "Wojo" Wojciechoski, Citlalin Lopez, Pablo Macias, and Miguelangel Solis (photo by Priscilla)



Admiring the Tiffany jewelry are Larry Larson, Martha Smidjen, PAL leader Richard Auhll, and Chelsea Valenzuela of Tiffany and Co. (photo by Priscilla)



Dashing auctioneer John Palmiteri, with co-chairs Julie Ringler and Betty Noling (photo by Priscilla)

raising \$150,000 for the charity.

**Donna Barranco Fisher**, chaired the facial fete, while auction prizes included a surf package with former world champion surfer **Shaun Tomson**, a backyard party at the home of rocker **Kenny Loggins**, a VIP visit for two to the Ellen DeGeneres talk show in Burbank, and a diamond ring from Montecito bling king **Daniel Gibbings**.

Checking out the garden gala were **Stan and Betty Hatch**, **Billy Baldwin**, **David Edelman**, KEYT anchor-reporter **John Palmiteri**, **Michael and Lacy Taylor**, **Holly Pepper**, **Makayna Chater**, **Vanessa Decker**, **Monique Montgomery**, and **Cynthia Murphy**.



Keynote speaker Robert Kennedy Jr. and his wife, Cheryl Hines, with Kira Redmond, Channel Keepers executive director; Frankie and Angel Martinez, president and chairman Deckers sponsor (photo by Priscilla)

*Keynote Kennedy*



On their way to the silent auction tables are Amanda Lee, Jennifer "Jenny" Hecht, and Cate Stoll (photo by Priscilla)

Award-winning author **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** was the keynote speaker at the Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's 15th annual Blue Water Ball in the Deckers' rotunda in Goleta, co-chaired by **Betty Noling** and **Julie Ringler**.

Kennedy is the founder and president of the Waterkeeper Alliance, which has spawned a network of more than 240 local waterkeeper organizations protecting two million square miles of watersheds across the globe.

"Over the past year, we've succeeded in compelling some of the south coast's worst polluters to clean up and worked successfully with public agencies and other stakeholders to enforce and strengthen policies to protect our waterways and aquatic habitats," says



Enjoying the evening out for an important cause are Ivana and Andrew Firestone with Laura Capps and her husband, Bill Burton (photo by Priscilla)

executive director **Kira Redmond**.

More than 240 guests helped raise in excess of \$120,000 for the charity, and guests flowing in included emcee, the ubiquitous John Palminteri, Andrew and **Ivana Firestone**, **Laura Capps**, **Lila Trachtenberg**, **Lauren Tarkeshian**, **Chandler and Daphne Williamson**, **Jim and Ann Collins**, and **Tom and Nancy Aossey**.

*Strings Attached*

Santa Barbara Museum of Art's Mary Craig Auditorium was packed when Canada's New Orford String Quartet performed a thoroughly entertaining program of Haydn, Beethoven, and Canadian composer

**Tim Brady**, closing the museum's current concert series.

The seven-year-old foursome, a revival and continuation of the defunct Orford Quartet, consists of violinists **Andrew Wan** and **Jonathon Crow**, cellist **Brian Manker**, and violist **Eric Nowlin**.

Haydn's Quartet in G Major kicked off the concert followed by electric guitar player Brady's thoroughly contemporary "Journal."

Beethoven's quartet in A minor wrapped the event.

The perfect musical sandwich...

*Out of Bounds*

Senator **Hannah-Beth Jackson** was

certainly on the rampage against the NFL when she spoke at the seventh annual Rape Crisis Center's Chocolate de Vine event at the Rincon Beach Club in Carpinteria.

"I am quite appalled at the National Football League and the example it sets to younger people, by seeming to take no action when top players are accused of rape," she blasted. "They seem to even reward them by making them top picks!"

Around \$40,000 was raised for the Santa Barbara charity with 225 guests, including district attorney **Joyce Dudley**, **Larry Crandell**, KEYT weather girl **Meredith Garofalo**, and **Elsa Granados**, checking out the wares from 11 chocolatiers and nine vintners, and the auctioneer **Alice Williams** selling off a week in Fiji and a trip to Disneyland.

One of our tony town's sweeter events.

*Stately Charlotte*

The announcement on Saturday that **Prince William** and his wife, **Kate**, were now parents of a new princess, **Charlotte Elizabeth Diana**, would have come as no surprise to readers of this illustrious organ.

My column, which came out a full three days before the **Duchess of Cambridge** gave birth in the Lindo Wing at St. Mary's Hospital in London, stated the baby would be "a girl, I am reliably informed."

Talk about a womb with a view!

Sightings: Actress **Dyan Cannon** and **Jennifer Grant**, her daughter by the late actor Cary Grant, shopping at the Garden Market on Santa Claus Lane...Singer **Neil Young** with **Willie Nelson's** sons, **Lukas** and **Micah**, at the SLO Brewing Company...**Carol Burnett** noshing at the Pierre Lafond Wine Bistro

Pip! Pip!

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

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