



1268 Coast Village Road, Montecito, CA 93108
Manager: Rosa Maria Klaus (805) 565-1300

MONTECITO MISCELLANY



by *Richard Mineards*

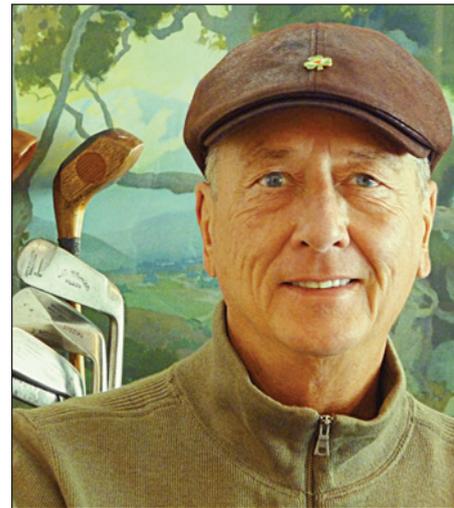
Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail before moving to New York to write for Rupert Murdoch's newly launched Star magazine in 1978; Richard later wrote for New York magazine's "Intelligencer". He continues to make regular appearances on CBS, ABC, and CNN, and moved to Montecito five years ago.

The Golf Man

Oscar winning screenwriter **Barry Morrow** is a retro golfer! Montecito-based Barry, who co-wrote the 1988 drama *Rain Man*, starring **Dustin Hoffman** and **Tom Cruise**, eschews the latest highly priced graphite designs that purportedly improve your fairway play and add yards to your drive, in favor of an eight club bag of hickory stick clubs, some made a century ago.

Barry, 63, who plays off a handicap of ten with his ancient equipment, started walking the fairways 14 years ago as a way to exercise, buying the latest, not to mention, expensive equipment.

"I had bought a \$500 driver, but it didn't seem to work any better than my \$400 one, despite having a graphite shaft and being designed by major golf experts and scientists," explains



Screenwriter Barry Morrow with his historic golf clubs (Photo credit: Hal Dahl)

Barry.

"I was playing the game, not buying it!"

As luck would have it, Barry had

MISCELLANY Page 22 ▶

Dentistry goes beyond your smile...



Sleep

Why go to a dentist to get a good night's sleep? Dr. Weiser provides relief from bite problems, snoring issues and sleep apnea through a comfortable, affordable device that fits like a retainer.



Cosmetic

Customized porcelain veneers
Zoom in office teeth whitening
Invisalign "the clear braces"
Safe removal of mercury fillings
Laser dentistry for optimal gum health

Dr. Mark T. Weiser • 805.899.3600 • 1511 State Street
www.Boutique-Dental.com

two ancient hickory clubs hanging on his office wall and thought he'd try them out, breaking one in the process.

"I was told you have to use low compression balls, given the original golf balls, called 'featheries,' were filled with goose feathers in hand sewn leather, which would now cost more than golf equipment to make.

"High compression balls go further, but, as I found out, break old hickory shafts." Fortunately, low compression balls are still manufactured.

"They worked well, felt good and sounded good," says Barry. "It is a soft, satisfying sound. I was terrible at first. They are heavier and movement is slower, but the ball goes straighter. I just got better and better at it."

To keep up his old equipment collection he started checking out garage sales, thrift stores and Craigslist, but then discovered e-Bay.

"It was the Mother Lode!" he laughs, having bought dozens of clubs from the site over the past decade for anything from \$10 to \$100.

"I generally carry between six to eleven clubs with me, depending on the course and the competition, after refurbishing them and putting on new grips. I give them away as quickly as I make them because I want others to play with the older equipment.

"Many of my friends are afraid of

hickory shafts. They say, 'I can't play with the best equipment, why should these make me any better?'"

Barry says old equipment adds a certain romance to the game, which started in Scotland in the Middle Ages.

"Every club has a maker's 'cleek' mark, as well as the owner's. I've studied the history of the marks over the years and identified one from Nairobi, Kenya, that was implicated in a famous murder in the colonial crowd, known as the Happy Valley Club, a hundred years ago. It is a potpourri of history."

But playing with older equipment has certainly improved Barry's game. "I play slower and my swing has definitely improved, although when I'm traveling I use new equipment because of the practicality of it."

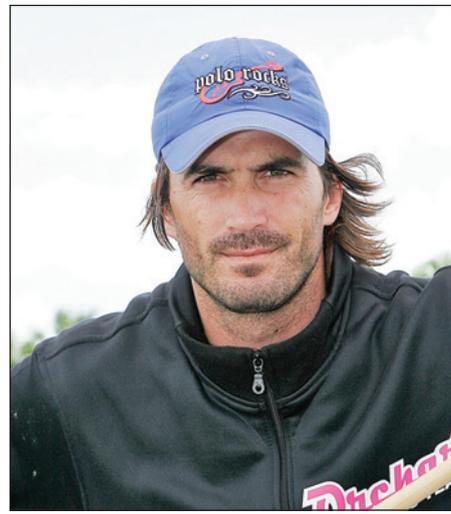
He also likes to try out different courses, but says he is a regular at Sandpiper and La Purisima in Lompoc.

Barry, a longtime advocate for mentally challenged individuals – he based Hoffman's character in *Rain Man* on a person who lived in Santa Barbara –, is now busy working on his next project, which he describes as "a golf movie."

Surprise, surprise...

Another Appearance for Adolfo

Argentinian polo ace **Adolfo Cambiaso** will be back in the saddle at the Santa Barbara Polo Club this summer, his third consecutive high goal



World's top polo player, Adolfo Cambiaso, back at SB Polo Club for third consecutive year

season at the impeccably manicured Carpinteria facility, I can exclusively reveal.

Adolfo, 37, universally considered the world's number one player, was a huge success when he made his first visit here in 2010, playing for Texan tycoon **John Muse's** Lucchese team, which carried off the coveted 101-year-old Bombardier Pacific Coast Open trophy without losing a single match.

"John wants a 'three-peat' really badly and Adolfo is clearly key to that," says my mole with the martini. "Winning the first time was a dream come true, but getting the Triple Crown would be quite incredible and obviously be the highlight of the club's one hundred and first season, like

Prince William's visit was last year for the centennial."

I got to know Adolfo, dubbed "the Pele of polo," quite well when John, a Dallas-based entrepreneur, hired my dulcet tones to narrate a DVD chronicling the championship season with his team, including local player **Jason Crowder** and Hobe Sound, Florida, pro **Andres Weisz**.

Adolfo, who is married to one of South America's top models, **Maria Vasquez**, and was the youngest player ever to be awarded the top-10 goal status at the age of 19, rarely plays the same tournament twice, let alone three times, so getting him back for the top-rated 20-goal series is quite a coup, not only for John, but also the club.

"It's going to be top notch polo at its very, very best!" gushes new club manager, **Bob Puetz**. "Adolfo will dominate the fields as he and his team mates defend their two-time title. Many people say he's the best to ever play the game.

"When you compare him to the other ten goal players, he should be rated thirteen goals! That's how good the guy is. He is to polo what **Michael Jordan** was to basketball.

"It's going to be awesome to see how the other pros strategize to neutralize him, which is the only chance



What is a Short Term Stay?

- A chance for your parent to live short term in a community enjoying activities, prepared meals, 24/7 care, safety, transportation and new friends. They may just want to stay.
- A break for you to rest, recharge and enjoy visiting with your parent instead of dividing your time between caring for your loved one and the rest of your life.
- A safe, comfortable home to recuperate from a post-surgery hospital stay with all the help needed to get healthy again.

All in a Day's Work

Back in the day, Mom was a virtual powerhouse of activity – Dad called her a force to be reckoned with. Of course as kids, we didn't think it was any big deal for her to have a full time job, cook and clean for the family, get five kids ready for school every day – makes me tired just saying it.

Now the equation is flipped and I am the adult child taking care of her and all of my other responsibilities.

If you are caring for a parent, full or part time, you deserve a break too. It's important for caregivers to recharge and

reconnect with your spouse and kids – slow down, breathe.

Ægis Living is the trusted senior living company, known for the finest care, the most delicious and nutritious cuisine, all in loving environments where seniors enjoy planned activities and socializing all day long.

Short-term stays and respite programs can be custom made to your family's needs. These respites allow caregivers the break they need.

Please call the Ægis Living near you to find out how we can help.

≡ ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE ≡

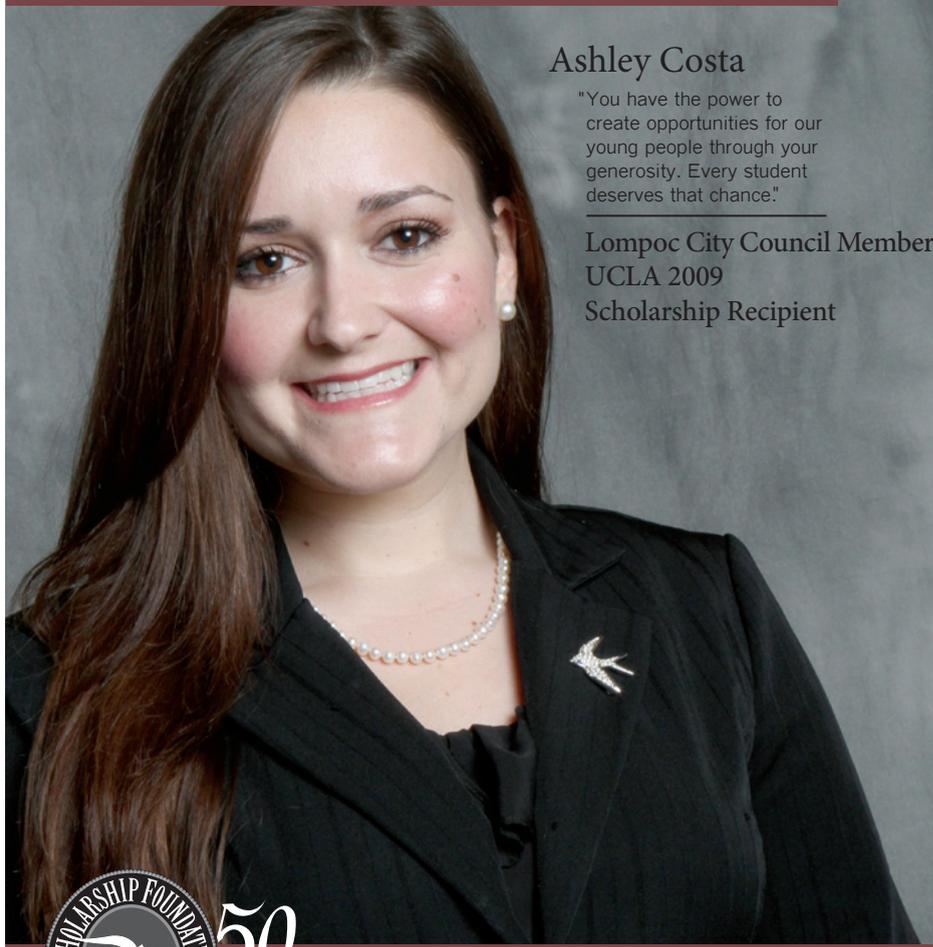
Ægis Living

We're the people who make life better.

Ægis of Ventura
4964 Telegraph Road
Ventura, CA 93003
805-290-4571
AegisofVentura.com

RCFE #565800683

EDUCATION = OPPORTUNITY



Ashley Costa

"You have the power to create opportunities for our young people through your generosity. Every student deserves that chance."

Lompoc City Council Member
UCLA 2009
Scholarship Recipient



SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION OF SANTA BARBARA

Creating opportunity, transforming lives... one scholarship at a time
805.687.6065 • www.sbscholarship.org

World-Class Whale Watching Year Round on the All-New **CONDOR EXPRESS**

■ Santa Barbara's **ONLY** year-round whale watching tours



- 75 Foot Quad Jet, Hydrofoil Assisted Catamaran designed to provide a stable and comfortable ride at cruising speeds of 30+ knots
- USCG certified for up to 149 passengers
- Large walk-around and upper sun-decks
- Full-service bar and galley
- Luxuriously teak paneled cabin with booth seating for 68 people
- Professional experienced crew

AVAILABLE FOR:

- Dinner & Party Cruises
- Island Excursions
- Private Charters
- Whale Watching
- Weddings

SEA LANDING

301 W. Cabrillo Boulevard, Santa Barbara, Ca 93101
805-882-0088 or toll-free 1-888-77WHALE
condor99@silcom.com • www.condorexpress.com

MISCELLANY (Continued from page 22)

they'll have to beat this Lucchese team. Besides Adolfo, Lucchese has another ace in its pocket with **Santi Torres**, one of America's top players, who is a Santa Barbara product."

It's going to be a truly sizzling summer...

Billionaires Breeze into Bacara

Santa Barbara Airport suffered major private jet gridlock earlier this month and now it is all explained.

The latest issue of *The Economist* reveals 35 billionaires, including **Bill Gates**, **Warren Buffett**, **Ted Turner**, and their spouses flew into our Eden by the Beach for a behind-closed-doors meeting at the Bacara Resort to help each other become better philanthropists.



Bill Gates, one of America's many billionaires who gathered at the Bacara to talk philanthropy on a major scale

It was the second meeting for the group, which also included **Elon Musk**, a founder of PayPal and **Pierre Omidyar**, the founder of eBay – both in their 40s – after last year's debut in Tucson, Arizona, held under the auspices of Giving Pledge, launched by Microsoft's Gates and Berkshire Hathaway's Buffett in June 2010, to encourage America's billionaires to make a public promise to give away at least half of their considerable wealth.

So far eighty-one people have signed the pledge, a total that has, says *The Economist*, surprised the two principals, "given all the reasons that might have been found not to do so."

The signatories range in age from 28 to 96, with one of the youngest, **Mark Zuckerberg**, 28, a no-show, as he was busy touting the initial public offering of Facebook, the firm he co-founded, which valued it at \$104 billion, as well as, just 24 hours later, tying the knot with his longtime girlfriend, **Priscilla Chen**, in Palo Alto.

Each pledge signatory is required to explain why they signed, with Buffett describing the letters, many of which are inspiring examples of the American dream "81 Gospels of Wealth" – a reference to the essay, "The Gospel

of Wealth," written by 19th century steel magnate, Andrew Carnegie, who inspired 81-year-old Buffett's own giving, along with that of Gates.

A glittering list of power players, indeed...

DeGeneres' New Digs

Having just offloaded one of the most expensive properties in Beverly Hills, former Montecito resident **Ellen DeGeneres** has opted to downsize her living arrangements.

Following the sale of her \$49 million, 9,200-sq-ft three-acre property to *American Idol* host, **Ryan Seacrest**, the Emmy-winning TV talk show host has purchased a smaller property with her wife, **Portia de Rossi**.

The tony twosome, who tied the knot four years ago, have now bought a more modest mansion valued at \$18 million.



Ellen DeGeneres moves into smaller Beverly Hills pad

The single-story mid-century contemporary home lies on 8,500-sq-ft in the exclusive Trousdale Estates section of Beverly Hills.

Ellen sold her George Washington Smith Mediterranean-style home on four acres in our rarefied enclave to Google tycoon, **Eric Schmidt**, in 2008 for \$20 million, giving her a healthy \$5 million profit after just one year of ownership...

Flower Empower

Given most of the on-air broadcasting staff of KEYT-TV, the local ABC affiliate, were at the Dream Foundation's second Flower Empower lunch, the studio on TV Hill must have been decidedly empty.

The colorful sun-soaked event at the Montecito estate of **Roger and Robin Himovitz** attracted 150 guests and raised \$15,000 for the 18-year-old cause, which delivers 100 bouquets a week to hospices, cancer centers, hospitals and nursing homes.

"It used to be just forty," says **Valerie Banks**, manager of the project. "We've come along in leaps and bounds. It's amazing what flowers can do for people.

"They are gestures of kindness, acknowledging people in the community feeling grief and hardship. It is rewarding at both ends."

Blooms, which are accompanied



Ivana Firestone, Roger Himovitz, Paula Lopez, Alan Rose and Robin Himovitz at the Flower Empower luncheon (Photo by Priscilla)

with chocolate chip cookies – made by Robin – come from a number of sources, including Carpinteria growers and Trader Joe’s, while school students make the cards that go with the bouquets.

The event, co-chaired by **Lynette Hall** and **Shelley Schulte**, attracted a heavenly host of names, including anchors **Paula Lopez** and **Shirin Rajae**, weatherman **Alan Rose** and correspondent **John Palminteri**, **Thomas Rollerson**, **Tom and Eileen Mielko**, **Mara Abboud**, **Lois Rosen**, **Jodi Fishman-Osti**, **Joy Margolis**, **Nina Terzian** and **Barbara Makarechian**.

The lunch also honored the program’s sponsors, **Andrew and Ivana Firestone**, **Harold and Annette Simmons**, and **Angie Redding**...

Oliver!

When you get a veteran actor like **Rob Lowe** extolling its virtues, you know you’re in for a good show.

And so it was when **Janet Adderley’s** supremely talented Santa Barbara Youth Ensemble Theater brought the late **Lionel Bart’s** classic Dickensian musical *Oliver!* to the Lobero for four rip-roaring, energized performances, with a mixture of casts for each.

I caught the final show, which Rob introduced, with two Laguna Blanca students, **Avery Hughes**, son of **Kim** and **Tammy Hughes**, playing the title



Eleven-year-old Camille Umoff after masterfully playing Nancy in Santa Barbara Youth Ensemble Theater’s production of *Oliver!* (Photo by J. Buckley)



The Artful Dodger Alexander Fell with his father, Robert Fell (Photo by J. Buckley)

orphan, and starring as the Artful Dodger **Alexander Fell**, son of **Robert** and **Robin Fell**.

Both youngsters nailed their parts well, with Alexander’s cockney accent and dancing abilities a stand out, while 11-year-old **Camille Umoff’s** role of Nancy well surpassed her 11 years of age.

Los Angeles based choreographer **Melissa Chait**, who drove up the 101 twice a week to put her young charges through their paces, succeeded superbly, with many of dance routines well up to Broadway standard, while **Akina Adderley** conducted the

MISCELLANY Page 32 ▶

GARDEN HEALER

“I HAVE HEALING, PRUNING, AND IRRIGATION SECRETS THAT WILL TRANSFORM YOUR GARDEN INTO A SOURCE OF UNEXPECTED BEAUTY.”

STEVE BRAMBACH

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE / RESTORATION

722-7429

1444 School House Road, Montecito, CA



Coastal/Country living in the heart of Montecito! California Cottage with two additional separate guest residences. Guest studio one has a custom fireplace, living room and privacy. Second guest residence includes an open raised deck under canopy of trees along with cottage styled windows. Recently built custom pool with pebble tec bottom has solar panel heating and convenient electric cover.

\$3,486,000 – Easy showing



Wilson Quarre’

Sotheby’s International Realty

1482 East Valley Road, Suite 44, Montecito, CA 93108

805-680-9747 • wilson.quarre@sothebyshomes.com

www.wilsonquarre.com

DRE # 01415465

INTRODUCING



Flexsteel
America’s Seating Specialist



WHAT’S YOUR STYLE?



Moderately priced American-made upholstery featured in our new Flexsteel gallery.

PTS FURNITURE

HOME AND OFFICE FURNITURE

250 CONEJO RIDGE AVE. • THOUSAND OAKS • (805) 496-4804

OPEN DAILY MONDAY - SATURDAY 10:00-6:00; SUNDAY 12:00-5:00

ptsfurniture.com



Alexander Fell as the Artful Dodger front and center leading an ensemble in Janet Adderley's *Oliver!* at the Lobero (Photo by J. Buckley)

orchestra, the Vintage Playboys from Austin, Texas.

With set designs from **Elisha Schafer**, lighting by **Theodore Michael Dolas** and costumes by Janet, this wonderful production had us all asking for more!...

Coral Casino Royal

The tony Coral Casino was rocking to its foundations when the Pacific Pride Foundation hosted its first Royal Ball, which raised a record \$100,000 for the local charity.

The colorful and unapologetically camp production for more than 450 guests, from Montecito event wizard **Merryl Brown** and Los Angeles party supremo **David Merrell**, was one of the most entertaining and creative bashes in many a year.

It would have made legendary Italian director, Federico Fellini's films, known for their fantasy and baroque images, look positively mundane, with stilt walkers dressed like Marie Antoinette with ornate Versailles-style gowns and gigantic wigs, and a drag queen, dubbed Sparkle, dressed in her own round table, presumably looking for a good knight.

The pulsating pulchritudinous party, with honorary co-chairs **Iron Chef Cat Cora**, and actors **Neil Patrick Harris** and **David Burtka**, was lavishly decorated, with the "royal boxes" positively overwhelmed in silks, satins and showiness, with philanthropist **Leslie Ridley-Tree's** eye catching SR Hogue-designed enclosure swamped in royal purple, with ostrich feather topped finials, four chandeliers and even a personal butler.

Just a tiara's toss away on the oceanside terrace, website entrepreneur **Lynda Weinman** and **Bruce Heavin** held court in an equally extravagant pink and white decorated box from **Camilla Svensson Burns**.

"It really is totally over the top and everyone is just loving it!" chuckled Merryl. "And everyone took note of the dress code – Hot, Gorgeous and Regal!"

David Selberg, executive director of the foundation, which has an annual budget of \$1.6 million, gushed: "This is easily the biggest thing we have ever done. It is really quite incredible and I think will now become an annual staple."

Among those enjoying the majestic magnificence, including flamenco dancer **Timo Nunez** and top L.A. deejay **Derek Monteiro**, were **Leslie Zemeckis**, **Betty Stephens**, **Dwight** and **Tina Coffin**, police chief **Cam Sanchez**, mayor **Helene Schneider**, assemblyman **Das Williams**, **Christopher Pilafian**, **Alan Rose**, **Gina Tolleson**, **Kerrie Kilpatrick-Weinberg**, **Thomas Rollerson**, **Jill Shalhoub**, **Neil Koenigsberg**, **Jonathan Fox**, **Justine Roddick** and **Tina Schlieske**.

It was certainly a most memorable evening of regal enchantment...

Low Lectures

Author **Richard Louv**, best known for his book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*, certainly got back to nature at an al fresco dinner thrown at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History before giving a lecture at the Granada, part of the popular UCSB Arts & Lectures series.

The soiree, hosted by **Elisabeth Fowler**, attracted a throng of nature lovers, including **Natalie Orfalea** – who did the stage Q & A with the San Diego-based writer –, museum executive director **Karl Hutterer**, **Patty MacFarland**, documentarian **John Klein**, **Tony** and **Kyra Rogers**, **Mike** and **Nancy Martz**, and museum trustee **Tracy Kanowsky**.

Celesta Billeci, Miller McCune

Karl Hutterer, Celesta Billeci, Richard Louv and Natalie Orfalea at the Museum of Natural History (Photo credit: Valeria Martinez de Andino)



executive director of the series, says: "We thought Richard, given his subject matter, would like to get back to nature rather than sitting in some stuffy restaurant. The museum backyard is a wonderful setting!"

DirectRelief Soirée

Real estate executive **Greg** and **Elisabeth Fowler** opened the doors of their Montecito manse to host a bash for DirectRelief Women, with a talk from **Hillary Mabeya**, a Kenyan-based surgeon who specializes in childbirth related services.

The doctor, who was visiting California with his wife, **Carolyn**, told the 120 guests at the party, co-chaired by **Kristin McWilliams** and **Kelly Walker**, that nearly all childbirth-related deaths – ninety nine percent – occur in developing countries where access to health services is limited or, in many situations, not available.

The Santa Barbara-based charity is working to ensure 150,000 clean, safe births over the next five years, with the fundraiser helping raise in excess of \$100,000.



Guests at the DirectRelief Women's bash, including (back row) hosts Greg and Elisabeth Fowler, CEO Thomas Tighe, and guest speaker Hillary Mabeya with his wife, Carolyn (Photo by Priscilla)

Guests at the event included **Thomas Tighe**, **Nancy Koppelman**, **Diane Sidon**, **Ivana Firestone**, **Thomas Cusack**, **Karen Davidson**, **Sue Carmody**, **Alex Beauchamp**, **Sean** and **Betty Hatch**, **Mari Mitchell**, **Martha Smilgis**, and **Palmer** and **Susan Jackson**...

Hearts of Hospice

Just 24 hours later it was the turn of real estate investor **Kenneth Slaughter** and his artist wife, **Elizabeth**, to invite 45 guests to their Montecito aerie for a Hearts of Hospice event.

Members of the group make contributions of \$1,000 or more annually to support the work of Hospice of Santa Barbara.

Hospice development director **K.C. Murphy Thompson** described the soiree as a thank you party to launch the initiative, with invitees including **Peter** and **Gerd Jordano**, **Ricardo Calderon**, opera director **Steven Sharpe** and **Mary Ellen Tiffany**...

Barrymore's Bash

With her wedding at her Montecito estate looming large, **Drew Barrymore** has already been celebrating in New

York.

The pregnant actress, who is scheduled to tie the knot with art consultant fiancé **Will Kopelman** on June 2, hosted a glitzy engagement bash for 300 guests, including her *Charlie's Angels* co-star **Cameron Diaz**, on a rooftop in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen.

Drag queen deejay, **Lady Bunny**, spun '80s music, while Drew showed guests her new wine label, with waiters pouring Barrymore 2011 Pinot Grigio to accompany the dinner, which included wild salmon, spicy shrimp, smoked ricotta-roasted tomato crostini and filet of beef on brioche.

Stay tuned...

Camerata Conclusion

Camerata Pacifica wrapped its 22nd season at the Music Academy of the West's Hahn Hall on a high note.

The program had to be changed after violinist, **Catherine Leonard**, injured a finger, with Beethoven's Variations in F Major with cellist **Ani Aznavoorian** and pianist **Warren Jones** kicking off the show, followed by Jones and flutist **Adrian Spence** performing Poulenc's

Flute Sonata and the world premiere of **Jake Heggie's** "Soliloquy."

The dynamic duo were then joined by violist **Richard Yongjae O'Neill** for Durufle's Prelude, Recitatif et Variations.

The concert wrapped with Faure's Piano Quartet in C minor with **Ara Gregorian** on violin.

A memorable and enjoyable season...

Sightings: Actress **Diane Lane** shopping at the CALM antiques show at the Earl Warren Showgrounds... The New York Philharmonic, America's oldest symphony orchestra, taking over the State Street eatery, opal, before performing at the Granada... **Rob Lowe** and **Christopher Lloyd** in the Lobero audience for the Santa Barbara Youth Ensemble show *Oliver!*

Pip! Pip! for now

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