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Please Join Us For A Shopping Event to Benefit
Angels Foster Care of Santa Barbara
Kick Off Party Is On
Thursday, April 26th from 4pm - 8pm



The Shopping For Angels Event Is
Thursday, April 26th thru Sunday, April 29th
20% of All Sales Will Be Donated To Angels Foster Care



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support the fire and rescue response teams and keep critical water and communications infrastructure functional," adds Lewis, who was speaking at a lunch at the San Ysidro Road home of uber philanthropist **Sara Miller McCune** hosted by **Rinaldo Brutoco**, founder and president of the World Business Academy, which is campaigning to replace nuclear and fossil fuels.

"In the event of long-term outage caused by any one of a multitude of threats to the local energy system, community microgrids will provide resilience, keeping the lights on and the doors open at critical and priority facilities, supporting the community," says Brutoco. "Relying on Southern California Edison's outdated and vulnerable grid leaves the region vulnerable to outages during extreme weather events.

"California's regulatory agencies are finally realizing that a clean energy future begins now, not tomorrow – so now is the time to act."

Among the energized guests were **Judi Weisbart, Berna Keiler, Dan Cerf, Deanna Dehlsen, Evan and Pat Aptaker, Julianna Friedman, Independent publisher Marianne Partridge, Nancy Brown, Judy Foreman, Lee Lysne, and Mike Weissman.**

Stay tuned.

Having a Ball

The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse's 32nd annual Amethyst Ball at the Ritz-Carlton Bacara was a real gem!

The socially gridlocked bash attracted around 350 glamorously garbed guests and raised more than \$500,000 for the 68-year-old charity, which has an annual budget of \$5.6 million serving more than 8,600 people with 23 programs for youth and adults.

The gala honored the staff of the local ABC affiliate, KEYT-TV, for their partnership with CADA for more than 20 years – which hosted its first Mission for Mentors in 1997 – and its tireless and vital reporting through the Thomas Fire and Montecito debris flow, was co-chaired by **Anne Towbes, Diana MacFarlane, Holly Murphy, Dana Mazzetti, Susan Neuman, and Betsy Turner.**

The cavernous ball room was again magnificently decorated by Montecito event whiz **Merryl Brown** for its Twistin' at the Ritz theme, with '60s rocker **Chubby Checker & the Wildcats** and **Dishwalla** performing.

The tireless **Andrew Firestone** conducted the auction at breakneck speed, including a trip to Seville, Spain, for \$10,500 and "an unparal-



Eric Burdon of The Animals and the legendary Chubby Checker in command of the stage performing for patrons of CADA'S Amethyst Ball "Twistin' at the Ritz" (photo by Priscilla)



Amethyst Ball honorees are KCOY,12, KEYT 3 and KKFx 11; news teams Scott Hennessee, anchor; Jim Lemon, news director; Jeff Martin, Creative Services director; Beth Farnsworth, anchor; C.J. Ward, anchor; Mark Danielson, general manager; shown with first responders Bill Brown, SBC sheriff; Barney Melekian, SBC undersheriff; and KEYT3's Joe Buttitta, anchor/producer (photo by Priscilla)



Donor Carol-Anne Lonson, owner of the Alpaca Farm with an alpaca toy, and winning bidder Diana Dodds for a prize with 10 guests for a champagne welcome, tour, hike, and five-course dinner (photo by Priscilla)



Andrew Firestone, auctioneer extraordinaire, and winner to twist with Chubby Checker, Michael Romero, grandson of Diamond patrons Colleen Barnett and Mike Taylor (photo by Priscilla)

led party” catered by local restaurateur **Dario Fulati** and winemaker **Doug Margerum**, with entertainment by Dishwalla, at the mountaintop home of singer **Alan Parsons** and his wife, **Lisa**, which was snapped up for \$25,000.

Men’s committee co-chair **Peter Hilf** donated \$70,000 to the cause, while **Merryl** contributed a \$10,000 check.

A silent auction featured a ski vacation in Utah, a week’s stay at the Joshua Tree desert retreat of rocker **Eric Burdon**, eight days in Thailand, and a seven-day Caribbean trip to a choice of Antigua, St. Lucia, Panama, Barbados, and the Grenadines.

Among the tony throng at the socially gridlocked beano were **Catherine Remak**, **Bob Murphy**, **Terry Ryken**, **Barry** and **Jelinda DeVorzon**, **Ralph MacFarlane**, **C.J. Ward**, **Beth Farnsworth**, **Joe Buttitta**, **Stacey Sakai**, **John** and **Hazel Blankenship**, **Chuck** and **Margarita Lande**, **Larry Gosselin**, **Roberto Van Geenen**, **Craig** and **Amy Zimmerman**, **Dan** and **Caroline Encell**, **David Edelman**, **Chris** and **Mindy Denson**, **Lori Luhnnow**, **Richard Weston-Smith**, **Bob** and **Patty Bryant**, **Virgil Elings**, **Paul** and **Jane Orfalea**, **Michael** and **Nati Smith**, **Allen** and **Anne Sides**, and **Eric** and **Nina Phillips**.

No, Thanks

Montecito Oscar-winning actress **Natalie Portman** has found herself in the middle of a political firestorm after canceling a visit to her native Israel to receive the famed Genesis Prize.

Portman, 36, said she did not feel “comfortable” taking part in the Jerusalem ceremony in June hosted by the Genesis Prize Foundation and dubbed the Jewish Nobel Prize, with a \$2 million award.

She said recent events which she found “extremely distressing” contributed to her decision, just days after the European Union called for an official investigation into Israel’s use of live ammunition against Palestinian protesters on the Gaza border.

The foundation, which has previously given the award to former Montecito resident **Michael Douglas**, ex-New York mayor **Michael Bloomberg**, and violinist **Itzhak Perlman**, says it is now canceling the ceremony.

“We feel that Ms. Portman’s decision will cause our philanthropic initiative to be politicized, something we have worked hard for five years to avoid,” it said in a statement.

Home Improvement

Actor **Michael Imperioli**, who rose to fame in the TV show *The Sopranos*,



Michael Imperioli selling Victorian manse (photo by Dale Weber Photography)

has put his Victorian Santa Barbara home on the market for \$2.649 million.

Michael, who is garnering good ratings in his new ABC-TV comedy *Alex, Inc.* with **Zach Braff**, bought the 2-story 3,000-sq.-ft. home six years ago for \$1.635 million and has done major renovations.

The 5-bedroom, 5-bathroom property boasts a library, hardwood floors, and crown moldings.

Remain CALM

It was a very in-tents occasion when CALM – Child Abuse Listening Mediation – hosted its 32nd annual celebrity authors lunch at Fess Parker’s DoubleTree, which, as of

April 22, is now the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort.

As the ballroom was not ready as promised because of a multi-million-dollar renovation, the tony oceanside hostelry paid to erect a large marquee in the hotel’s rotunda to accommodate the 500 guests at the fancy fete, co-chaired by **Becky Cohn** and **Carolyn Gillio**, which raised around \$100,000 for the popular charity which prevents, assesses, and treats child abuse and family violence, with 4,518 clients served last year.

Three best-selling authors, including former ABC-TV gossipeuse **Rona Barrett**, writer of *Gray Matters*, former London barrister **Simon Tolkien**, grandson of *The Lord of the Rings* creator J.R.R. Tolkien, who wrote the Doubleday novel *No Man’s Land*, and *New York Times* bestselling writer **Lisa See**, with her work *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, were interviewed by *Entertainment Tonight* veteran **Tom Weitzel**, **Dianne Dixon**, and **Ruta Lee** at the bustling bibliophile bash emceed for the eighth year by the ubiquitous **Andrew Firestone**.

Other authors at the event included **Danya Belkin**, **Melissa Broughton**, **Guy Clark**, **Kent Ferguson**, **Steven Gilbar**, **Betsy J. Green**, **Gail Kearns**, **Lindsey Moran**, **Denise Woolery**, **Lida Sideris**, and **Elizabeth Stewart**.

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