

Santa Barbara Museum of Art A MAGICAL MYSTERY ART TOUR

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

UNDER THE GAZE OF THE MASTERS, attendees at the *Mystery in Masterpieces* fundraiser earlier this month enjoyed an evening of revelry and mystery sleuthing. Hosted by the Santa Barbara Museum of Art Women's Board, the interactive event drew around 170 people.

"I love art, and I love Santa Barbara. The two together equal the Santa Barbara Museum of Art," said Mary Garton, SBMA Women's Board President. "The Women's Board is a fabulous way to combine the two things I love most."

Funds raised during the event will support the museum's art education programs for underserved youth as well as future acquisitions and exhibitions for the museum.

Organized by a committee led by Co-Chairs Harriet Mosson and Carol Sysel along with Lois Rosen as Vice President of Fundraising, the evening began with a private Director's Reception for VIP donors.

Following was a cocktail reception and silent auction in the Ludington Court. A buffet

dinner created by the Four Seasons Biltmore was served in the Preston Morton and Ridley-Tree galleries. The menu included fresh salads and handcrafted sushi with a salmon, shrimp, and halibut brochette, prime beef tenderloin, or portobello mushroom Wellington for the main course. After dinner was served, clue sheets were handed out to a crowd ready with magnifying glasses in hand to decode the clues.



Cindy Hadidian, Second place, and **Kathleen Waltrip**, Grand Prize Winner



Carol Sysel and **Harriet Mosson**, event Co-Chairs

Over the past ten years, Clue Masters Jamie Fleming, John Jensen, and Gary Krueger have created beguiling clues based on artwork hanging in the museum. They have produced a similar event at LACMA for the past 18 years. A natural with words, Fleming bases his clues on visual cues, creating catchy puns that everyone can enjoy deciphering – even those who don't know that much about art.

"How many events can you hold that both men and women ages 20 to 80 can enjoy?" said Garton. "It's just so much fun! In addition to the challenge of the hunt, we get to enjoy the variety of art that we have in this town."

Mystery sleuths were given 45 minutes to comb through the galleries for clues. Winners

were determined based on the fastest times and most correct answers.

Clues were revealed to hoots and hollers as guests realized the right answers. The Grand Prize, a two-night stay and unlimited golf at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, went to Kathleen Waltrip, who missed only one with a time of 30 minutes. Cindy Hadidian came in second and was awarded a Bryant & Sons watch and a stone necklace created by Janet Wolf.

"I hope everyone had fun," said Fleming. "It's a great experience every year working with the SBMA Women's Board. They put together a wonderful evening in a beautiful setting. I'm always delighted to see everyone glued to their clue sheets."

Museum hours are 12–5pm, Wed through Sun. For more information, call 893-2951 or visit www.uam.ucsb.edu.



Jamie Fleming, Clue Master; **Mary Garton**, President, SBMA Women's Board; **Larry Feinberg**, Director, SBMA



Gwen Baker, incoming Women's Board President



Liliyan Cuttler, Women's Board Member, and **Nancy Patchen**, Women's Board Sustainer



Jill Finsten, SBMA Director of Special Projects for the Study of Art and Culture, and **Sigrid Toye**, Women's Board Publicist



Greg and Debbie Tice, **Diane and Ralph Waterhouse**, **Rick Banks**, and **Christina Ramirez**



Karen Kolb, **Susan Seitz**, **Mitsuko Felton**, **Harry Kolb**, and **Diana Sandner**



Michaela Morgan, **Judy LaSpada**, and **DeAnna Wassom**



Carol and Stephen Olson, **David and Rande Winitzky**, **Deanna and Bill Major**, and **Barbara Chornyak**