

The Santa Barbara Historical Museum

*Believe That It Will Be Magical*

By Richard, Amanda, and Marshall Payatt  
Special to CASA

**T**HE SANTA BARBARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM CONTINUED ITS TRADITION of *Remember The Magic* holiday parties, on December 5th. It was yet another triumph. Thanks are always due to the inspired museum director David S. Bisol, and energetic returning co-chairs Diane and Ralph Waterhouse

for their firm vision to create a holiday party that reaches out to families, not just to adults. The event is so successful that we overheard parents saying that this party has already become a holiday tradition for their children.

The evening began at the door with the music and spirited singing of the Merrie Wreath Consort. The Consort, garbed in Renaissance costumes sang and played instruments to greet the guests as they arrived.

Once inside the door, the main gallery featured the museum's latest show of early Twentieth century paintings, curated by Marlene Miller. As the parents and grandparents took in the gorgeous artwork or tempting silent auction, their delighted children rode on the museum's wonderful miniature carousel, set up in the gallery as a special treat for the party. This old fashioned entertainment was built by famed carousel maker William Dentzel in 1923, and donated by William and Marion Dentzel in 1989.

This year the courtyard was done up under a North Pole fantasy tent with a shimmering combination of silver, clear crystals, white feathers, clustered disco balls, and bright blue lighting. It felt like one of those glittering Art Deco clubs in which Fred Astaire and Ginger

Rogers danced. And, speaking of dancing, the Jeff Elliott Band began to play as soon as the guests arrived. The children, dressed in the most darling holiday outfits, immediately began to dance around, leading the way for the rest us. All evening long, music and laughter resounded as families danced together under the fantastic lights and chandeliers festooning the museum courtyard.

Off to the side, a holiday cocktail lounge was set up with tall fire pits to warm chilly hands while folks sipped tasty pomegranate margaritas. Nearby was a Wine Tasting Lounge hosted by Bridlewood. Their Tasting Room manager, Shane Koblis, charmed with his knowledge of the winery's latest releases while participants relaxed comfortably on sofas around a

large low fire pit. Bridlewood also provided the wine to accompany the tasty sit down dinner under the tent. The meal, catered by SBB Gourmet Catering, was another treat: a lovely salad followed by well-prepared steaks and ravioli mingled on a plate of winter vegetables and luscious sauce.

As dinner concluded, the lights went down, and the Rudenko Dance Company's sugarplum fairies took the floor. They swooped and swirled about to the choreography of Stacey Hill, and the music of composer Danny Troob. Then, accompanied in procession by the Merrie Wreath Consort, Father Christmas arrived on the dance floor. As always he does, Father Christmas waved his arms and, magically, snow began to fall. He handed out stuffed toys to the children as they ran about in the snow. Laughing and giggling, the children jumped up, trying to catch the snowflakes. Their joy

filled the entire place with the warmest glow of the holiday spirit. Just wonderful! After Father Christmas left the stage, the children stayed on the dance floor. The dancing continued long into the evening, as did the jovial conversation and overall good will.

*Happy Holidays!*

The Santa Barbara Historical Museum is located at 136 East De La Guerra Street and open Tues-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 12-5pm. For more information call 966-1601 or [www.santabarbaramuseum.com](http://www.santabarbaramuseum.com).



Janet Sands and Ed Sands, Trustee



Emilia and Elena Thomas



Claire, Ralph, and Diane Waterhouse



Alice and George Krebs



Bridlewood Wine Tasting Lounge - Shane Koblis, Tasting Room Manager



Nancy Shobe and Dacia Harwood, Museum Staff



Marlene Miller, Curator of the current gallery exhibition



Trustee Don Fuhrer, Susan Fuhrer, Miny Willmon, and Roger Willmon



Merrie Wreath Consort



The Sugar Plum Fairy



Father Christmas, the Sugar Plum Fairies, and the Children in the Snow

Photos by Richard, Amanda, and Marshall Payatt