

# Girls Inc. Celebration Luncheon

By **Devon Pettengill** / CASA

**OUTSTANDING WOMEN AND GIRLS** were at the heart of this year's Girls Incorporated of Greater Santa

Barbara Celebration Luncheon, which took place at Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort on February 5th.

"For over 50 years, Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara has inspired girls to dream of luminous futures and empowers them to make their dreams

come true," shared Executive Director Monica Spear. "This is possible because of the tremendous support of our community and, specifically, through the contributions of our community's women, who so enthusiastically share their life experiences and serve as role models for girls."

The eighth annual event was a celebration of the recently published book, *More Letters from the Heart*, which features words of encouragement from local women and girls. The book is a sequel to *Letters From the Heart*, published in 2001.

The event's honored speakers were three of the book's contributors: Santa Barbara Poet Laureate Perie Longo, chef and restaurateur Mollie Ahlstrand, and community volunteer Marilyn Gevirtz.

Two girls, Madison Lewandowski and Natryyce Robinson, gave speeches entitled "Dear World," sharing their feelings about being a girl and about their experiences with Girls Inc.

In addition to contributing authors and editors, attendees including members of the community from community leaders and businesspeople to girls and their parents.

A raffle for a pendant donated by Nihsima and Saks Fifth

Avenue, and a one-night stay in the Canary Hotel Presidential Suite gave attendees the opportunity to further support Girls Inc. Copies of *More Letters from the Heart* were also for sale.

"Women and men alike are buying copies of the book for themselves and for others, including their sisters, mothers, grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters, and friends," Spear shared. "*More Letters from the*



Left to Right, Event Speakers: **Perie Longo**, **Mollie Ahlstrand**, and **Marilyn Gevirtz**



Left to Right: **Natryyce Robinson**, **Madison Lewandowski**, Executive Director **Monica Spear**, Mayor **Marty Blum**, **Sarah Stokes** and Co-Chair **Susan Gulbransen**

*Heart* makes a perfect gift for those you love and want to give a book that celebrates women, girls, and the future."

For more information on Girls Inc., call 963-4757 or visit [www.girlsincsb.org](http://www.girlsincsb.org).



Left to Right: **Jo Thompson**, **Paulette Callahan**, **Joyce Dudley**, Judge **Denise De Bellefeuille**, and **Liana Campos**.

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