

Junior League of Santa Barbara: Literacy Ball

Once Upon a Time...

By **ERIN J. SMITH** / CASA

LIKE CINDERELLA AND HER MAGIC PUMPKIN, the Santa Barbara Public Library was transformed into a fairy-tale delight on Saturday, March 7th during the Junior League of Santa Barbara's second annual Literacy Gala "Once Upon a Library Night: A Child's Dream..."

"We're so lucky to be the beneficiaries of the Junior League's wonderful generosity," said Irene Macias, Director of the Library. Proceeds from the event benefit the Junior League's efforts to improve youth literacy in the community. The Junior League is partnering with the Library and the City of Santa Barbara to renovate the children's area of the Central Library, which was transformed into a ballroom



Gala Committee Members **Jenna Motola**, **Lynda Ramirez**, **Anne Yungling** (Chair), **Caroline Vance** (Co-Chair), and **Erin Griffin Kossen**

complete with DJ and dance floor for the special night.

The more than 300 guests were

treated to wine, cocktails, and a buffet dinner where guests sampled delectable goodies provided by cosponsors including Elements Restaurant and Bar, Via Maestra 42, Melting Pot, Xanadu French Bakery, and Ventura Limencello. Attendees were also enticed to participate in a live auction by the smooth-talking emcee, John Palminteri.

As part of the evening's festivities, Meredith Scott was honored as the 2008/2009 Junior League's Volunteer Woman of the Year. "Every year we seek out a special woman in Santa Barbara who embodies the mission of the Junior League by promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community," Martha Townsend, Junior League President, told the onlooking audience.

Scott fits the description—and then some. She is currently Board President of Child Abuse Listening Mediation (CALM) and active with several volunteer-driven organizations such as the



Meredith Scott, Junior League Woman of the Year, and **Rachel Steidl**, 2007/2008 Junior League Woman of the Year



Pegeen White, **Joanie Grissom** (Junior League Board Member), **Robert Grissom** (Cox Communications), **Pam** and **Jan Greben**



Jennifer Guess, Junior League President Elect; **Martha Townsend**, Junior League President; **John Palminteri**, Emcee; and **Helene Schneider**, Council Member

Assistance League, where she's involved with Operation Prom Dress, and the Women's Fund. She's a retired elementary school teacher and felt right at home in the library: "Thank you to the Junior League. I admire the work you are doing for literacy. My parents are avid readers and reading is one of my favorite pastimes. When I was a teacher, watching the light go on in a child's eye when they learned to read was my greatest joy."

Rachel Steidl, last year's Woman of the Year recipient, was on hand to present Scott with the award.

The Junior League has had an influx of new members joining their ranks these past few years, including more than 50 this past year alone—a testament to the

success of their on-going, volunteer-led efforts.

For more information on becoming a member or to find out more about the Junior League of Santa Barbara, call 963-2704 or visit www.jlsantabarbara.org.



Myra Nicholas, **Dane Venaas**, **Allison Gray**, **Irene Macias**, and **Gwen Sangster** of Santa Barbara Public Library.



Junior League Members **Karla Smith**, **Brooke Jacobs**, **Rebecca Young**, **Alycia Anthony**, **Kimberly Greene**, and **Kate Taggart**