

# C.A.S.A.: The Magic of Motown

## A Bridge Over Troubled Waters

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

**OH WHAT A NIGHT!** The Court Appointed Special Advocates (C.A.S.A.) benefit and auction on April 18th was a night for advocates and supporters to rock the Biltmore's Coral Casino in psychedelic style. "Tonight is all about joy and celebrating the faith and goodness of C.A.S.A. volunteers," said Maria Long, Executive Director for C.A.S.A. "What a wonderful outpouring of support."

The evening began outside on the deck of the Coral Casino as guests enjoyed cocktails and sunshine while delighting in each other's '60s and '70s themed costumes.

Following introductory remarks by Honorary Chair Fred Benko, Ashlei Brown gave

a moving testimony to the personal support C.A.S.A. has provided for her. Although she was a foster child and in and out of homes and schools, Brown is currently a straight A student in college. "I'm stronger and more stabilized because of C.A.S.A.," said Brown. "So many doors have opened. You've given me the strength and empowerment to grow."



**Samuel and Patricia Bonds** (Duke Ellington School of the Arts)

Over dinner, the smooth-talking John Palminteri hosted a live auction. Auction items included an exclusive tour of the Dreier Museum, a private party on the Condor Express, and a flight aboard an authentic 1955 US Navy T-28 aircraft. The event was co-chaired by Leslie Von Weisenberger and David Beard, and event sponsors included the Wood Claeysens Foundation, El Prado Hotel, Montecito Bank & Trust, Business First Bank, and the Dreier Foundation.

The underlying theme for the event was "children supporting children" and as a special treat, attendees enjoyed a performance by the Duke Ellington School of Performing Arts based in Washington D.C. "It's a joy to be here," said Samuel Bonds, Show Choir Director. "I'm certain this is something these young people will remember for the rest of their lives." The 20 multi-talented students put on a fantastic performance revue of the Motown hits, including favorites by the Supremes, the



**Patricia Durham, Kum-Su Kim, and David Alvarez**



**Leslie von Weisenberger, Event Chair; David Beard, Event Chair; and Tracy Beard, Event**



**Steven Aviña** (C.A.S.A. South County Case Manager), **Kristen** and **Nicholas Pope**, and **Allyson Boyington** (C.A.S.A. South County Lead Case Manager)



Back: **Scottie Ortiz** (C.A.S.A. Board Member), **Joe** and **Linda Maloney**. Front: **India Reynolds** and **Keandra Garner** (Duke Ellington School of the Arts)



**Michelle Neely Saltoun** (C.A.S.A. Board President) with **Bruce Stevens** and **Ginny Maloco** (C.A.S.A. Board Members)

Temptations, Stevie Wonder, and the Four Tops. They closed with a beautiful ballad of *Bridge over Troubled Water* and a Whitney Houston melody that included *Greatest Love of All*.

Following the performance, attendees got their go-go on and danced the night away to their favorite Motown hits and music by DJ Michael Smith.

To find out more information on becoming a C.A.S.A. volunteer, call 845-8364 or visit [www.sbcasa.org](http://www.sbcasa.org).



**Paula Michal** with **Keith** and **Lorraine Reichel**