

It's all about the children at Marymount's annual fundraiser. . .

A Night At The Races

By Kerry Methner / CASA

AFTER THE DAY'S RACE WAS OVER, a sophisticated crowd gathered at the Santa Barbara Polo Club for another kind of race altogether - a race to see who could support the children and "family" of Marymount. There weren't any horses to bet on, just parent after parent, excited to see each other and talk with pride about their little ones at the annual fund-raiser co-chaired by **Mo Chambers** and **Jan Gomez**.

Participants arrived in wide brimmed hats, heels, and summer suits and dresses reminiscent of the Triple Crown races, one of which had taken place that day in Kentucky.

Ample time was allowed for a social hour when guests viewed auction items and purchased cupcakes at \$100 a shot - some of which contained prize tokens to be discovered later. Prior to the event, **Kristin Vemo** lead the way as on-line silent auction chair. The school's first on-line auction, it earned \$25,000.

The 24-person event committee ensured that there was something of interest to everyone, while all of these parents, grandparents, and friends of Marymount were enjoying a *Night At the Races* that was just beginning.

Celeb parents dotted the crowd such as **Sheryl** and **Rob Lowe** (who later was Master of Ceremonies). Pro Volley Ball Player **Dax Holdren** and wife **Jennifer**, also proud parents, added glamour.

Celeb benefactors also dotted the crowd - most motivated to sustain a school that emphasizes providing unique opportunities for each child to blossom.

Triple Crown Sponsors included **Cunningham Parris Construction**; the **Ianelli Family**; and **Ursula Krebs** and **Patrick Nesbitt**. Other sponsors were the **Chumash Casino**; the **Riney Family**; the **Blair Family**; the **Fazio Family**; **Tisha Ford**; the **Griffin Family**; **Helistrand**, **Jimenez Nursery**; **Marborg Industries**; **Louis and Lauren Troiani**; and the **Swift Family**.

The talented **Brooke Rye** was responsible for the evening's commemorative program cover, designed around the theme.

Thanks to **Frank Ramirez**, event designer and planner, a chandeliered

tent was soon open and guests took their seats for a scrumptious meal that began after Head of School **Deborah David** introduced her "darling husband" Episcopal priest **Ron David**, who offered an invocation.

Next came, what everyone was anticipating, the school DVD, a visual record of the year including nearly every one of the school's faces, K to 8th, a portrait of the Marymount family.

Spearheaded by **Sandy Shields** and **Renee Gignac** the premiere of the DVD was a high point of the evening.

Rob Lowe and auctioneer **Donna Anderson** were up next, and, with the help of spotters including the *Two Toms*: **Tom Brennan** and **Tom Pickett**, grew the evening's total to over \$335,000 for the school and its programs.

For information about Marymount of Santa Barbara visit www.marymountsb.org.



Andrea McFarling, Director of Development



Bill Parris



Heather Melchiori



Gary Messineo, Athletic Director



Elizabeth Stewart



Cyndi Wilson



Nancy Shinn, Cupcake Winner & Exec. Secretary



Frank Ramirez, Event Designer, Planner



Susan and Greg Lowe



Renee Gignac, Deborah David, and Sandy Shields



Kay Schofield and Kamala Parris



David and Mo (Co-Chair) Chambers, with Jan (Co-Chair) and John Gomez



Tom and Catherine Pickett



Ralph and Melissa Iannelli



Nancy and Jim Swift



Brooke Rye with Marymount alum (1973) Erin Graffy de Garcia



Steve and Anna Tetherow



M.J. and Joe Riney



Dax and Jennifer Holdren



Rob and Sheryl Lowe



Head of School Deborah and Ron David



Mark Melchiori, Rob Lowe, and Chris Blair



Heidi Blair with Alan and Tanya Thicke

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Contact her at priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com • (805) 969-3301