



## Old Spanish Days Fiesta Opens with Rite of Spring

# La Primavera

By JEANETTE CASILLAS / CASA

**SURROUNDED BY THE SOUNDS OF MARIACHI** and his family, El Presidente Tim Taylor opened *La Primavera* (The Spring) Banquet of Old Spanish Days, at the El Paseo Restaurant on Friday, May 30th.

"Viva La Fiesta! Viva La Comunidad," said Taylor as he officially greeted the 250 patrons and supporters. He explained this year's theme for Fiesta was a remembrance of Old Spanish Days' celebrations. "It was a way for the community to get together as well as recognize people in the community," Taylor explained.

*La Primavera* includes the official introduction of El Presidente and the Spirits of Fiesta, as well as the unveiling of the poster and pin.

The Spirit of Fiesta, Jessica Marquez was chosen from an array of young woman dancers competing to portray the visual representation of Fiesta. Wearing a blue traditional flamenco dress stamped with yellow flowers and ruffles she stood poised amongst the tables of patrons. Then with great emotion and expression on her face she waved her fan and swayed her shawl as she performed her first official dance of 2008 Old Spanish Days.

For this year's pin El Presidente Taylor wanted to honor his ancestor Benjamin Foxen, who among many accomplishments, built a schooner in what was a bay where the airport now sits. The pin is a carved sculpture of *La Goleta*, that schooner, in the waters off Santa Barbara with the Santa Ynez Mountains serving as a backdrop and three

sea birds flying with the ship.

Taylor introduced the winner of the 2008 Fiesta Poster, Kimberlee Haggin Rossi, a Santa Barbara based graphic artist. The poster contest was open to community members that were interested in participating. After reviewing 40 entries, Rossi's was chosen. The poster portrays a dancer (Olivia Pintor) at the Mission, viewed from the parapet of the Mission, swirling and twirling her shawl. "I am not a painter or traditional illustrator... I studied several Fiesta Posters of the past and felt that the Flamenco

dancer was the one consistent image that symbolized Fiesta," stated Rossi.

Michael Mendoza Past President and Master of Ceremonies asked for a moment of silence in honor of the late Father Virgil Cordano. "We will miss his spiritual

guidance, but we know he is looking down on us... *Viva Father Virgil!*," Mendoza shared. With the absence of Father Virgil at this year's Fiesta celebrations, Father Alonso de Blas led the room in prayer.

Executive Vice President, Michael Dominguez thanked the sponsors, as well as SB Mayor Marty Blum, City Council Member Iya Falcone, and Roger Estevez who were in attendance, among others for making Old Spanish Days Fiesta possible. Danna McGrew of Bartlett, Pringle & Wolff, LLP, an OSD Fiesta sponsor shared that "it is a pleasure to work with OSD... We are celebrating our 60th year as sponsors and 84 years of Fiesta."

After a dinner buffet Spencer the Gardener took the stage, inviting guests to fill the dance floor.



Michael Mendoza, 1998 El Presidente and Ellen Harte, 1995 La Presidenta



Tim Taylor, Olivia Pintor, and Kimberlee Haggin Rossi, 2008 Poster Winner



Seth Streefer, President of Mission Wealth Management with John Britton; Danna McGrew; Scott Hadley, Managing Partner; and Ilene Sheridan of Bartlett, Pringle & Wolff, LLP



Brenna Alexandra and Michael Dominguez, 2nd Vice President



Joe Blum and SB Mayor Marty Blum



Back: Mario Borgatello; Judy Borgatello; Joanne Funari, Event Co-Chair, and Denise Sanford. Front: Denise Herrera with Betty and Anthony Borgatello

"El Paseo is a beautiful venue and it was great that they were able to accommodate OSD this year," shared Barbara Carroll, who Co-Chaired with Joanne Funari.

For more information call 962-8101 or visit [www.oldspanishdays-fiesta.org](http://www.oldspanishdays-fiesta.org)



Debbie Aceves, Tim Aceves, and Roger S. Aceves, City of Goleta Mayor Pro Tempore and 2001 El Presidente



Iya Falcone, SB City Council Member; Clay Dickens, 2004 El Presidente; and Sally Dickens



2008 Old Spanish Days Fiesta Poster by Kimberlee Haggin Rossi



Ester Serna Bartlett



Diana Vestal; Jessica Marquez, 2008 Spirit of Fiesta; Marge Romero; and Susan Parent



Standing: Josiah Jenkins. Sitting: Karen Jenkins, Tina Pankau, Synora Pattillo, and Sam Pattillo