

Montecito Hope Ranch Republican Women's Club

# An Old West Fiesta

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

**C**OWBOYS AND COWGIRLS, SENORITAS AND CABALLEROS all rallied in support of the Montecito Hope Ranch Republican Women's Club at a recent fundraiser hosted at the Santa Barbara Carriage and Western Art Museum.

"I think everyone enjoyed dressing up," said Rita Rink of the Republican Women's Club. "Everything was all decked out in early California style and everyone really enjoyed being in the carriage house."

Around 100 guests enjoyed a traditional California-style dinner and entertainment by Talia Ortega Vestal and Daniela Zermeño, 2009 Junior Spirit and Spirit of Fiesta. Auctioneer Kris Kallman conducted a spirited-but-congenial bidding war for two vacation packages offered by resorts in the Santa Ynez Valley and a variety of uniquely designed jewelry. Co-chairs for the annual fundraiser were Deb Oquist, Tricia Dixon, and Toffee Leftwich.

Led by President Gwat Bhattacharjie, the Montecito Hope Ranch Republican Women's Club awards \$1,000 scholarships to deserving young people in the community. Recent scholarship recipients are Jeff Churchman, a senior at Santa Barbara High School, who received the Margaret Straight Scholarship; Gabriela Murillo, a junior at UCSB, who



Back row: **Deb Oquist**, Event Co-Chair; and **Peter Georgi**, Manager of the Santa Barbara Carriage and Western Art Museum. Front row: **Tricia Dixon**, Event Co-Chair; **Mike Stoker**, Republican candidate for 35th Assembly District; and **Toffee Leftwich**, Event Co-Chair.



**Bob Kallman**; his daughter, **Carol Kallman**, and **Anthony Borgatello**, El Presidente of Fiesta.

received the MHRRWC Scholarship; and Tracey Cooper, a junior at Westmont College, who received the Gertrude Calden Scholarship.

The Montecito/Hope Ranch Republican Women's Federated unit meets 3rd Friday of the month at 11:30am at the Montecito Country Club. For more information, contact Rita Rink at 687-0514.



**Barbara Burgess**, **Ron Nolan**, and **Gabriela Murillo**, recipient of a MHRRWC scholarship.



**Low Venegas**, his mother, **Mrs. Venegas**, and **Nina Venegas**



**Dee Dee Barrett** and **Terry Ryken**



**T.J. Locker** and **Elisa Steffan**

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