

Braille Institute Auxiliary of Santa Barbara

Look for the Silver Lining

By JEANETTE CASILLAS / CASA

WITH A TOUCH OF ELEGANCE and in celebration of the silver anniversary of the Robert Skene Invitational Polo Match & Benefit Luncheon, Braille Institute supporters and polo aficionados gathered at the Polo Club field on Saturday, August 2nd.

"I'm always amazed to see how people are generous with their time by volunteering to put together such a successful event," Sandy DeRousse, Braille Institute Auxiliary of Santa Barbara Event Chairman shared about the event. "Over it's 25 years the benefit luncheon has raised over \$2.3 million."

Robert Skene's wife Elizabeth and son Curtis continue to support the Braille Institute polo benefit that the late Skene started 25 years

ago. The proceeds from the benefit luncheon will be directed to programs and services for students of the Braille Institute of Santa Barbara Regional Center.

The afternoon included a three course meal, silent and live auctions, a raffle, and a

polo match exhibition. One of the live auction items was a hand-woven basket made and donated by Braille Institute student Adelaide Ortega. "Adelaide's basket went to the highest bidder, Robert Manon for \$1,000," continued DeRousse. "The donation was a token of Adelaide's appreciation and a gesture

that shows how grateful she is to the Institute."

The polo players in the exhibition match received glass trophies donated by Clarrisa and Wesley Ru, 2008 President of Santa Barbara



Curtis Skene, Javier Novillo Astrada, Elizabeth Skene, and Ambassador Glen Holden



Luis Escobar; Mike Azzaro; Joel Baker; Justin Klentner; Auxiliary President Carol Wenzlau; Curtis Skene; Lyndon Lea, Ruki Bailleiu, Javier Novillo Astrada, and Matt Gonzales



Event Chairmen **Sandy DeRousse** with Event Co-Chair **Lida Light-Blue**



Doris Alexander, Jean Von Wittenburg, John Johansen, Marie Morrisroe, Glenn Hopkins, and Kirsten Peterson Johansen



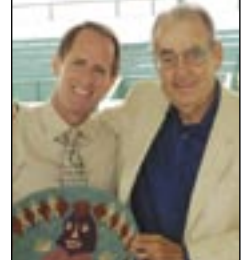
SB Polo Club Events Director **Andy Smith**

Polo & Racquet Club for their participation in the event.

The Braille Institute of SB is a private, non-profit organization funded primarily by individual gifts, foundation grants, and bequests. The Auxiliary of SB was formed by community members who support the effort of blind and visually impaired individuals living full, independent lives. For information call 682-6222 or visit www.brailleinstitute.org



Clarrisa Ru and Geannie Sheller Holden holding silver vase orchids



Director of the Braille Institute of SB **Michael Lazarovits** with **Robert Manon**

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