

celebrations • society • stars

On the Town

Zoofari Ball is spot-on

The theme for the 27th annual Zoofari Ball was "Spots and Stripes," and I would be lion if I did not say the crowd went ape over the theme.

Each year, the Santa Barbara Zoo sets the theme for its very popular fundraiser, and the crowd cannot wait to dress accordingly: "Surfing Safari," "Out of Africa," "Animalennium," "Midnight at the Oasis." When unleashed, baby boomers go all out for this benefit — they trade black tie for black tiger.

The Zoofari Ball features a posh setting on the grassy knoll overlooking the Pacific, with over-the-top decor and table settings, all accented by outrageous costumes.

A silent auction awaited guests amid drinks and hors d'oeuvres, and the zoo's popular CEO, **Richard Block**, who has been ruling the roost since 1998, greeted guests.

The happily ubiquitous **George Leis**, president of Platinum Sponsor Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, surveyed the scene of several hundred patrons, including: **Kelly Magne, Brian King, Chuck and Stephanie Slosser, Larry and Lori Nufer, Tab Hunter, sponsor John Woodward, Peggy Wiley, Wilson Quarré** and longtime supporters **Ralph and Diana MacFarlane**.

The two "Tails Tables," bought last year at auction by **Cyndee Howard and Ginni and Chad Dreier** for seating this year, are served dessert first and have their own private bar! The Crawford clan was at the "Head Table" and snapped it up again for next year. Members included **Peter Crawford, Pieter van Meeuwen,**

brother **Tom Crawford** and sister **Sue Adams**.

At the other "Head Table" I saw my friends **Milt and Arlene Larsen**, owners of the Magic Castle, who had brought the L.A. A-list with them: film critic **Leonard Maltin** and songwriter **Richard "Mary Poppins" Sherman**. The Larsens donated a hotly contested Magic Castle auction package.

Board and committee member **Mindy Denson** and husband **Chris** hosted a table that included **Dani Johnson** of Orion Expeditions, who donated a luxury cruise for 2013, which was won by Platinum Patron **Leslie Ridley-Tree**. The Lindblad Expeditions Galapagos Islands cruise, donated by Robertson International Travel, went to committee member **Kirk Martin**.

Other sponsors in attendance were Montecito Bank & Trust founder **Michael Towbes** and his wife, **Anne**, and **Sue Parker** from the Hutton Parker Foundation with son **Jess** and his wife, **Robin**.

Plenty of party animals were ready to horn in on the dance floor, moving to Motown. Zoofari committee member **Carol Kallman** had been decorating the hilltop all day but still had enough energy to hit the dance floor in style with husband **Don Barthelmess**.

Each year, attendees receive a Zoofari medal bearing the theme and date. A favorite tradition is to sport one's Zoofari attendance medals. Longtime supporter and Platinum Patron **Terry Schwartz** had clipped all the medals onto his hat. "My neck hurts!" he playfully complained. Wife **Sue** said, "Next year, we'll need to get you a sash!"



Erin Graffy

Lorraine Wilson is on an extended leave of absence for health reasons. We look forward to her return.



ERIN GRAFFY / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

From left, Irish lass Eimear Fhlatharta with her uncle and aunt, Steve and Maggie Wordell, guests of Zoofari sponsor Wood-Clayssens Foundation. Respected internationally, the Santa Barbara Zoo has been repeatedly recognized as one of the best small zoos in America.



Honorary chairs Robin and Brian Kopeikin were inspired by the over-the-top affluent '80s to portray "Fat Cats." The Zoo's "Cats of Africa" exhibit is designed to accommodate lions in groupings similar to those in the wild and its "Amur Leopard" exhibit, featuring a father-daughter pair of Amur leopards, educates the public about this endangered species and attempts to preserve it.



Longtime Zoofari committee members, from left, Betsy and Chip Turner and Leigh and Paul Cashman could fit right in with the "African Veldt" exhibit, which covers more than an acre in the zoo's 30-acre park.



From left, safari guy Bryan Uhrig, nature boy Scott Slater and "Tarzan" Matt Bazzani with tigress Laurie Amirpoor assist John Dixon in looking for the "gorilla his dreams."

AWC-SB, ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY



THOMAS KELSEY/NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

From left, Kathleen Barry, board member and past president of the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Association for Women in Communications; Dr. Nancy Leffert, Antioch University president; Dr. Lynn Jones, AWC-SB president; and Dr. Lois Phillips, AWC-SB founding president and board member emeritus, were among the approximately 50 people at a reception Aug. 28 on the Antioch rooftop in Santa Barbara. The event celebrated the new partnership between AWC-SB and the university, where the chapter will now hold meetings, workshops and other programs.



Attending the joint Antioch University and AWC-SB reception were, from left, Mandana Mirabrishami, who provided the event's cookies; Rochelle Zanini; Jennie Jacobs; and Laura Ericson.



At the reception were, from left, Ellen Gonda; Rachil Willig, event chairwoman and AWC-SB board member; Ellen Reid, AWC-SB member; Bonnie Hope, the DJ providing music; and Shanti Pincock.

JEWISH FEDERATION WOMEN'S DIVISION



NIK BLASKOVICH/NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Founding ladies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara Women's Division are, from left, Jeri Eigner, Irma Jurkowitz and Betty Sanders. They were among the 150 people at L'Dor V'Dor (From Generation to Generation), the division's multigenerational women's garden party Aug. 26 at Montecito resident Julianna Friedman's home, where women and their daughters and granddaughters gathered.



Attending the multigenerational party were, from left, Jennifer Vogel, reception committee member; Julianna Friedman, host; and Dale Nissen, a founding lady of the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara Women's Division and committee member.



From left, Barbara Greenleaf, multigenerational party committee member; Lauren Katz, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara; Adele Rosen, party chairwoman; and Jane Honikman of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society's JewishGen Special Interest Group, who was the guest speaker.