

News Summary



ATTENTION:

Sara Wacker

YWCA San Diego

October 21, 2011

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Viva la Rome! for next Las Patronas Jewel Ball — Passeggiata!

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO

The ladies of Las Patronas will celebrate Rome and la dolce vita at the 66th annual Jewel Ball, christened "Passeggiata!" by Chair Elaine Murphy and her committee. The fundraising spectacular, set for Aug. 4, 2012, at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, will translate into an evening stroll that begins in the piazzas of an Italian town. "Couples will head out, strolling arm in arm, greeting others along the way, for a stylish evening with friends."

Murphy said the Roman-inspired theme is a nod to the sophisticated styles of the late 1950s and early '60s as portrayed in films like "Roman Holiday."

"The décor will have an elegant mid-century Italian style, set against a backdrop that resembles the famous ruins of Rome," she said.

Las Patronas kicked off its 2011-12 year at a luncheon Oct. 12 at La Jolla Country Club, where in addition to revealing the new ball theme, eight new members were welcomed by active and advisory members.

The new members, invited to a six-year term, are Lisette Farrell, Michelle Kearney, Michelle Lanuti, Alison Lee, Corinne Lynch, Sherry Macelli, Kathryn Munoz and Leigh Plesniak.

Another highlight of the luncheon was the announcement by 2011 Jewel Ball Chair Sue Wagener that proceeds from the Sapphire Ball exceeded \$600,000.

This money will fund major grants to: The Arc of San Diego to purchase a passenger van with a wheelchair lift; the Family Health Centers of San Diego, Inc. to fund dental operatory treatment chairs for the Logan Heights Family Health Center; Friends of The Riford Center to renovate classrooms; La Jolla Playhouse to retrofit lighting

Jewel Ball Proceeds

- 2011 Sapphire: \$600,000 +
- 2010 Heart + Soul: \$781,187
- 2009 Silk & Spice: \$872,426
- More at: www.laspatronas.com

in the Mandell Weiss Theatre; Mountain Health and Community Services, Inc. for an X-ray processing and digitizing unit; REINS Therapeutic Horsemanship Program to buy a tractor and loader to maintain; San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation to purchase 33 VHF radios to support field operations; San Diego Food Bank Corporation to purchase a forklift to transport food for distribution within the warehouse;

San Diego Junior Theatre for a digital sound system for the Casa del Prado Theatre in Balboa Park; Scripps Mercy Hospital Chula Vista to acquire vital sign monitors with mobile stands for in-patient hospital use; UCSD Shiley Eye Center to buy a tricastor broadcasting system for use in their macular degeneration outreach program; YWCA of San Diego County to buy a telecommunications system for domestic abuse and homeless shelter residences and hotline.

An additional 25-plus organizations will receive smaller grants from Sapphire within the coming months.

Since its inception in 1946, Las Patronas has donated more than \$15 million to some 1,000 charitable institutions in San Diego to enhance the quality of life in the community. The funds distributed are generated through yearlong fundraising efforts and the annual presentation of the Jewel Ball.



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Lisa D'Angelo scoots through the luncheon on a Vespa. PHOTOS BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO



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Claudia Johnson, Kim Alessio and Megan Heine



Barbara Doren and Charlene Rights



Pat Marsch, Sue Wagener, Sallie Warren, Elaine Murphy, Cathy Carroll and Erin Wyr



DeAnna Andrews and Caroline Nierenberg



New members Michelle Kearney and Corinne Lynch