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MONTECITO MISCELLANY

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail, and was an editor on New York Magazine. He was also a national anchor on CBS, a commentator on ABC Network News, gossip on The Joan Rivers Show and Geraldo Rivera, host on E! TV, a correspondent on the syndicated show Extra, a commentator on the KTLA Morning News and Entertainment Tonight. He moved to Montecito 12 years ago.

Having a Royal Ball



Belle Hahn surrounded by her consorts Greg Wilson, Steve Thompson, and John Maienza at the Royal Ball (photo by Priscilla)

Crowns and tiaras were de rigueur when Santa Barbara's Pacific Pride Foundation hosted its 6th annual sold-out biennial Royal Ball at the Rosewood Miramar.

A record 425 guests partied the night away in the crystal chandelier-hung ballroom, magnificently decorated as a Platinum Palace by Montecito event wizard **Merryl Brown**, raising around \$450,000 for the charity's various programs.

As servers brought out a pile of eclectic canapés, partygoers, dressed in a variety of colorful and creative costumes, quaffed wine and champagne.

The fun fest, co-chaired by **Lynn Brown** and **Justine Roddick**, featured Los Angeles deejay **Alex Merrell** and an entertaining boy band, Elevate, who sang from a repertoire of **Elton John**, George Michael, and Queen songs, accompanied by an energized dance quartet.

A silent auction featured trips to Palm Springs, Mexico, and Hawaii, and first-class roundtrip tickets to

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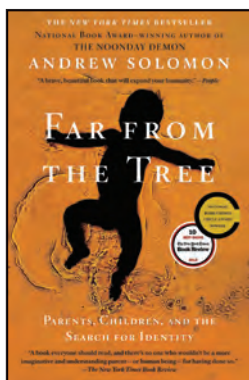


John Frishpaw, Catherine Remak, Rod Lathim, John Savrnach, and David Alvarez at the Rosewood Miramar (photo by Priscilla)

National Book Award-winning Author

Andrew Solomon in conversation with Pico Iyer

Thu, May 16 / 7:30 PM / UCSB Campbell Hall



Andrew Solomon, author of *Far From the Tree*, blends reflection, decades-long research and personal experience to create portraits of the human condition. In his most recent book, *Far and Away*, Solomon turns to his travels during the past 25 years to offer thought-provoking angles on his enduring themes of life, death and outsiderhood – and the dignity to be found within every one of them.

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Royal Ball attendees are dressed to impress (photo by Priscilla)



Kam Kooper, gala co-chairs Lynn Brown and Justine Roddick, and Howard Hawks (photo by Priscilla)

New York for a three-night stay at the Carlyle Hotel, another tony hostelry in the Rosewood collection popular with the Royal Family.

KEYT-TV weather guru **Alan Rose**

conducted the "ask" part of the program, which raised more thousands for the worthy cause.

Just 48 hours later my erstwhile *New York Magazine* colleague, **Anna Wintour**,



David Bolton, Carolyn McCall, Jeff Barbakow, speaker Luis Oviedo, and Emilio Vallafranco (photo by Priscilla)



Kevin Casey, Leslie Ridley-Tree, David Lacy, and John Casey inside the Rosewood Miramar ballroom (photo by Priscilla)

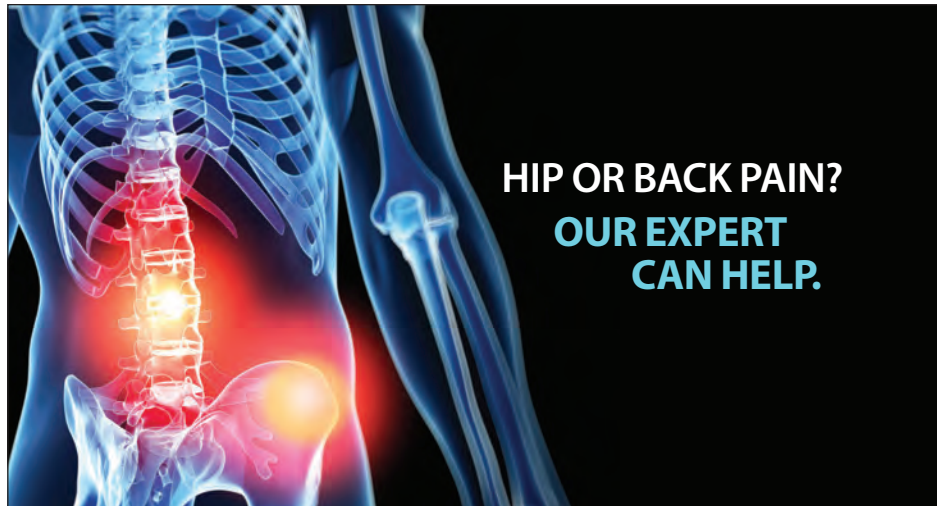
longtime editor of *American Vogue*, hosted her annual \$35,000 a ticket Costume Design Institute gala at Manhattan's Metropolitan Museum, with the theme Camp: Notes on Fashion, which I used to attend regularly in the '70s and '80s when it was run by two of the Big Apple's grand dames, the late Pat Buckley and Nan Kempner.

As to which of the events was the most camp remains to be seen.

Among the heaving hoard at the Left Coast event were **Colette Schabram**,

Leslie Ridley-Tree, John Daly, Mara Abboud, Kevin Marvin, Rod Lathim, George Leis, Catherine Remak, Jeff and Margo Barbakow, Fred Brander, Barbara Ben-Horin, Mindy Denson, Mimi deGruy, Roger Durling, Dirk and Debbie Etienne, Doug and Marni Margerum, Pat and Ursula Nesbitt, Tom and Karla Parker, Thomas Rollerson, Gina Tolleson, Steve and Caroline Thompson, Bruce Heavin

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Ursula Nesbitt, Arlene Montesano, and Lisa Douglas with Pat Nesbitt, emcee Alan Rose, and Bryce Corcoran (photo by Priscilla)



Royalty in their private cabana are Pieter and Peter Crawford Van Meeuwen with Wendy Haworth, Nicole LaMotte, Dave Yocum, and Jill Rode (photo by Priscilla)

and **Lynda Weinman, Harry and Judi Weisbart, Bryce Corcoran, Scott Harcourt, David Lacy and Bryan and Lisa Babcock.**

An absolute blast...

Centennial Celebration

Film legend **Kirk Douglas'** family turned out en masse when his wife of 65 years, **Anne**, celebrated her 100th birthday at his Beverly Hills estate.

Anne, who met the 102-year-old Montecito actor while he was filming the Vincent van Gogh movie *Lust for Life*, wore a floral Dolce & Gabbana dress, a gift from her husband, for the occasion, thrown by her stepson Oscar-winner **Michael Douglas** and his Welsh actress wife **Catherine Zeta-Jones**.

The Douglas clan turned in full force for the fun fête, including sons **Peter and Joel**, and grandchildren **Cameron, Kelsey, and Jason**.

Other luminaries included film moguls **Jeffrey Katzenberg** and **Ron Meyer**, **Leo and Grega Daly** from Washington, *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In* producer **George Schlatter** and wife

Jolene, local interior designer **Corinna Gordon**, and Kirk's Montecito neighbors, **Aris and Ilene Demetrios**.

Kirk, who will mark his 103rd birthday in December, serenaded Anne with a rendition of Cole Porter's 1936 classic "I Got You Under My Skin," which became a signature song for the late crooner Frank Sinatra.



Kirk Douglas' wife, Anne, marks her century with family



Liz Christen, Maria Sorosky, and Dawn Rademacher at the lunch to honor Lions Sight and Hearing Center (photo by Priscilla)



Lions Club's John Pace presenting the Volunteer of the Year award to John Fowler (photo by Priscilla)



Speaker Julian Davis with Robert Poulin, Steven Ido, and Robert Kolarczyk at Mulligan's Cafe (photo by Priscilla)

For Sale

Aussie songbird **Olivia Newton-John**, 70, is selling her 12-acre Santa Ynez Valley home of the last four years, for \$7.7 million.

The sale comes just months after listing her 135-acre equestrian estate in Byron Bay, New South Wales, for \$3.9 million.

The four-bedroom, five-bathroom 4,450 sq ft Valley property also has a separate two-bedroom guest house, and a four-car garage.

Olivia is currently battling her third breast cancer bout in 30 years.

Honoring a Visionary

John Fowler really made a spectacle of himself when he was presented

with the **Jim Stanley Memorial Award** as Volunteer of the Year at a 14th recognition lunch for the Lions Sight and Hearing Center at Mulligan's Cafe at the Santa Barbara municipal golf club.

John, who was presented with the coveted trophy by former president **John Pace**, has been running the 55-year-old nonprofit's glasses recycling program, with 11,800 spectacles donated last year, many of them from the charity Direct Relief.

The popular program also offers free glaucoma and hearing screenings, as well as a cell phone recycling and eye donor programs.

Guest speaker was Ridley-Tree Cancer Center oncologist and hematologist **Julian Davis** who spoke about ocular melanoma.

Among the supporters were **Robert Avery, Geoff Banks, Rabindra Braganza, Joseph DiBartolomeo, Rick Feldman, Gregory Chase, Douglas Jacobson, George Primbs, and Michelle Meinzer.**

Haute Chocolate

The Rape Crisis Center, now renamed Standing Together to End Sexual Assault (STESA), threw its 11th annual Chocolate de Vine event at the Greek Orthodox Church, attracting more than 250 oenophiles and chocoholics, raising around \$50,000 for the worthy charity that has an annual budget of almost \$1 million.