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## MONTE ITO 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, host on E! TV, a correspondent on the syndicated show Extra, and a commentator on the KTLA Morning News. He moved to Montecito nine years ago.

#### **Davey's Voice Heard**

Beanie Baby billionaire Ty Warner is adding his business acumen to Davey's Voice, a charity founded last year by Montecito's Gretchen Lieff in memory of a five-month-old Doberman Pinscher puppy who had to be euthanized after being tortured by its 19-year-old Chinese owner, a UCSB student, who served just six months of a one-year sentence in county jail and was later deported.

Ty, who owns the Coral Casino on Butterfly Beach, where Gretchen and her legal-eagle husband **Robert**, are longtime members, has made a Beanie Baby version of the cute canine, which is being sold to raise monies for the organization, with all profits going to the charity,

"Ty is a very private person, and I deeply respect the fact he is honoring the memory of a defenseless, voiceless puppy who was brutalized beyond anything our local vets have ever documented," says Gretchen.

"The world of animal abuse is a new experience for many of us and I welcome anyone and everyone who chooses to join us against the torture of animals. To have Ty Warner as an ally is an extraordinary opportunity for Davey's Voice, the animal community of Santa Barbara County and beyond."

Ty, who also owns the Four Seasons Biltmore and the San Ysidro Ranch, used innumerable images of the puppy to construct the Beanie Baby version.

"A great deal of work and time went into it," says Gretchen. "He wanted to



Davey, the five-month-old Doberman pup who had to be euthanized after being tortured by 19-year-old Duanying Chen



Davey and his soulmate, Cecil the lion, are now Beanie Baby icons

get it just right. He sent two samples with different types of fur, and we used the children of committee members to choose which they liked. The softer fur is more tactile."

Ty also made a Beanie Baby of a beloved 13-year-old African lion,

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#### **MISCELLANY** (Continued from page 6)



(from top left) Davey's Voice founder Gretchen Lieff, Amy Bellomy, Otto Hoffmann. Sam Bellomy, Eva Hoffmann, and Ruby Bellomy

Cecil, that was shot by an American big-game hunter in Hwanga National Park, Zimbabwe, to great outcry in July last. To date, it has sold nearly 250,000 copies.

The new version of Davey also comes with a poem which states: "He was very young and small, And

touched the lives of us all, He asked us if we wouldn't mind, To use his voice to teach, be kind."

Paws for thought, indeed.

Class Acts

commitment to the education of young

TV talk-show titan **Oprah Winfrey**'s

girls in South Africa paid off in a big way earlier this month with the first group of her "daughter-girls" graduation from American colleges.

Tabitha Ramotwala got her degree from Mount Holyoke in Massachusetts as did Noluthando Diomo and Nompumeleo Nobiva, who both attended Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The three young Zulu women were all part of the inaugural class of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls near Johannesburg, and Montecito's most famous resident has not only paid tribute to them, but also gave the commencement address at Noluthando and Nompumelelo's graduation.

It was a busy weekend with Oprah starting her day at Mount Holyoke before flying to Johnson C. Smith, and then later to Spelman College in Atlanta, to watch as another one of her Academy for Girls alumnae got her diploma.

Oprah, 62, worth around \$3 billion according to Forbes, said she had made a promise to the late Nelson Mandela back when her school first opened that she would attend the graduations of the first group of girls.

She not only spoke at the Johnson C. Smith graduation but also received an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

There had been some calls for Oprah to skip the ceremony in response to North Carolina's controversial transgender bathroom law, but she says she never for a second thought about missing the big day.

"I got calls from members of the press asking me if was I going to boycott being here because of North Carolina and y'all's issues," she told the graduating class and their families and friends in her speech.

"And I said,' Listen, anybody who knows me knows I don't believe in or support any law discriminating against anybody, ever. But I will be at J-C."

At that point, the graduating class jumped in and yelled back "S-U,"

according to the Charlotte Observer.

Oprah, who was with her longtime beau Stedman Graham, then told the crowd: "Nothing would keep me from being here to celebrate that promise I made to Nelson Mandela over ten years ago," speaking for 37 minutes without referring to her notes.

She opened the girls-only boarding school in 2007, with 72 youngsters in the first graduating class. Every single one received a full college scholarship.

As part of her promise, Oprah will be there whenever one of them accepts a degree.

You go, girl.

Larry's Legend Grows



Gil Rosas's father-in-law, Larry Matthews (seen here with his daughter Susan Rosas) now oldest

Popular Santa Barbara pianist Gil Rosas's 110-year-old father-ln-law, Larry Matthews, is not only the oldest man in California, but also the United

Just two days after Larry celebrated the big day at his home in Indian Wells earlier this month, America's oldest man, Frank Levingston, passed away, putting Larry into the top spot.

"His good health is certainly a blessing," says Gil. "His most serious medical problem was a root canal several years ago, and his mind is sharp.

"Susan and I took him to his favorite restaurant in Palm Desert, Cafe De

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#### **MISCELLANY** (Continued from page 18)

Beaux Arts, and he ate heartily. And he still lives in his own home, with the help of caregivers. I treasure our long-running gin game and his endless supply of Irish jokes."

Katy Cannes Do

Santa Barbara warbler **Katy Perry** and British actor beau **Orlando Bloom** landed quite the invitation at last week's Cannes Film Festival.

Russian oligarch Roman Abramovitch invited the tony two-some on board his \$2.5 billion, 556-foot yacht Eclipse, which boasts two swimming pools, two helipads, and even its own submarine.

The dynamic duo, who've been dating for four months, as I've chronicled in this illustrious organ, were spotted kissing and cuddling on the mega-vessel, which can be rented for \$250,000 a day.

Last year, Prince Andrew's eldest daughter, Princess Beatrice 27, was spotted on the yacht off the Spanish coast when Oprah Winfrey and friend, CBS morning show co-anchor, Gayle King, on a nearby boat, invited Queen Elizabeth's granddaughter on board for drinks.

Taking a Bow

After nearly a half-century of service as a cellist for the Santa Barbara Symphony, septuagenarian **Geoffrey** 



Geoffrey Rutkowski, Santa Barbara Symphony cellist, calls it a day after nearly 50 years

Rutkowski has hung up his bow.

Geoffrey, who is a distinguished professor of cello and a director of the strings program at UCSB, joined the popular orchestra in 1968 after studying with the legendary cellist Pablo Casals in Puerto Rico after receiving a Ford Foundation grant.

Originally from the Bay Area, Geoffrey, whose wife, Joan, is a founding board member of Opera Santa Barbara, has worked under many world-famous conductors, including Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, Sir Colin Davis, and Mstislav Rostropovich, and in 1985 performed and gave master classes in China at the

invitation of the Ministry of Culture.

In 1979 and 1980, he was the principal cellist in Florence, Italy, a position organized by the U.S. Consul-General in the Tuscan city.

Geoffrey, who plays a 1689 Matteo Goffrillet Venetian instrument, says he now intends "enjoying life" gardening at his one-acre home on the Riviera and reading mystery novels: "I don't want anything too stressful," he admits.

To mark the end of his long service at the symphony, maestro **Nir Kabaretti** presented Geoffrey with an inscribed conductor's baton at the final Granada concert of the 63rd season.

Music to his ears.

Going Global

The *Montecito Journal* has been getting international attention in some of the world's wealthiest enclaves.

Nonstop, Gulfsteam's bi-annual magazine for its jet owners worldwide, features a glowing eight-page article on the Santa Barbara Polo Club where they are sponsors for a second year, by **Patty Jensen**.

The piece, in which I am quoted at length, focuses on the Gulfstream Pacific Coast Open, the biggest tournament on the Left Coast with one of the largest trophies in the sport.

Current club president Texan **John Muse** won the competition for three

consecutive years with his team, Lucchese, and the world's top player, Argentinian **Adolfo Cambiaso**, on his squad.

The article, which goes to 50,000 readers, also has photos of **Prince William** playing in a round robin when he visited the Carpinteria club five years ago with his wife, **Kate**, the Duchess of Cambridge, to mark its centennial.

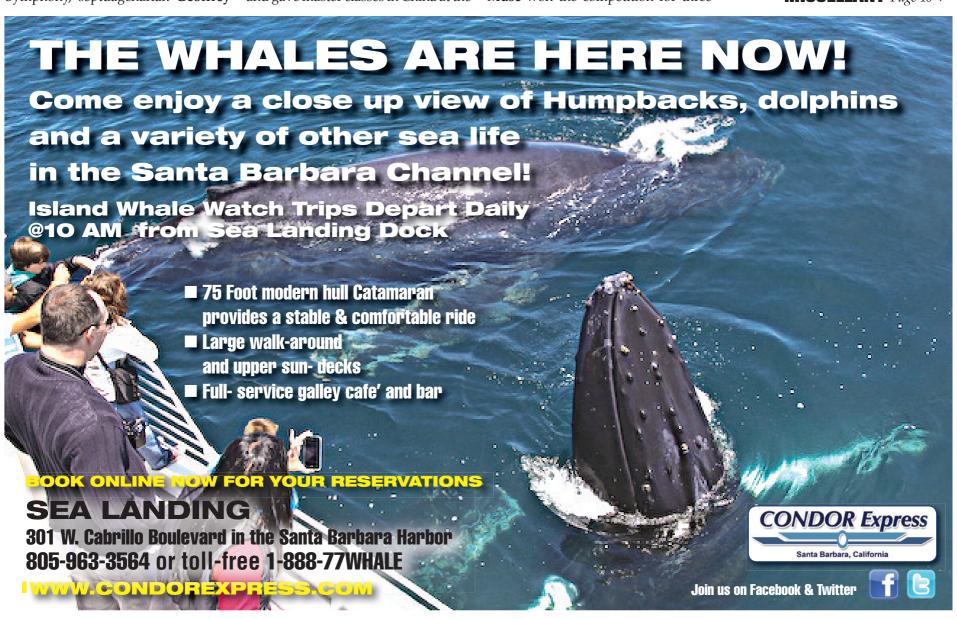
Rome at Home

Santa Barbara Choral Society hit a high note at the Rockwood Woman's Club with its annual fundraiser, When in Rome.

The Italian themed sold-out bash for a record 190 guests, which raised around \$30,000 for the popular vocal group, was most appropriate as the choir launches its two-week performance tour of Italy, including Florence, Pisa, Milan, Rome and Naples, on June 4.

The gala, co-chaired by Mary Dan Eades, Kate Rees, and Marylove Thralls, featured veteran director JoAnne Wasserman conducting pieces from the forthcoming tour, including the world premiere of a choral version of "Santa Barbara," a piece composed in 1980 by Jeanette Vacca, sister of local artist Mara Abboud,

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#### **MISCELLANY** (Continued from page 37)



Presenting the Bouquet of Appreciation" is Santa Barbara Choral Society president Debra Stewart; honoree composer Jeanette Vacca; soloist soprano Tamara Bevard, who performed "Santa Barbara" with the choral group, having received standing ovations from guests (photo by Priscilla)

by the Dutch diarist Anne Frank, featuring actress Sofia Ross, was a most moving and poignant production, but Newberry's (con)version, which featured Thomas Fant and Meredith Harrill with an ensemble of nine dancers in an extremely contemporary work, was a standout.

It is to be hoped artistic director and founder Rodney Gustafson uses the New Vic again. It's a terrific, intimate venue.

Horsing Around

to watch." Stewart's Anne's Window, inspired

According to Weaver, whose organization was founded in 1985, the repetitive movement of the horse stimulates the body and works a rider's muscles in a way that cannot be duplicated by machines or in physical therapy.

Betty Stephens, Mahri Kerley, and Linda Hedgepeth were among the crowds cheering the riders on.

Hour of Flower

Dream Foundation put on a blooming good show when its hosted its 6th annual Flower Empower lunch at the



Rider Lumi Chen (age 10) with volunteers Karen Powell and Erik Oftebro (photo by Jim Clanin)









who flew in from Boston with her family for the occasion.

After noshing on a buffet dinner of risotto, lasagna, and gelato by eatery Via Maestra 42, the ubiquitous Andrew Firestone showed off his abundant auction skills with trips to Provence, Tuscany, Hawaii, and New York among the lots, while choir treasurer, Jim Robbins, emceed.

Among the music lovers attending were Brooks and Kate Firestone, Ralph and Diana MacFarlane, Eric and Nina Phillips, Stefan and Christie Riesenfeld, Pat and Ursula Nesbitt, Dan and Mary Secord, Peter and Deborah Bertling, Geonine Moriarty, Ivana Firestone, Gene Sinser, Dolly Granatelli, Arlene Montesano, and Barbara Burger.

Vic Clicks

State Street Ballet took over the Ensemble Theatre's New Vic for its entertaining production Women's



State Street Ballet's Women's Work performance at the New Vic (photo by David Bazemore)

Work, honoring the legacy of the late Montecito philanthropist Leni Fe Bland.

The show, featuring five works by female choreographers - Cecily Stewart, Brook Hughes Melton, Sophie Monat, Andrea Schermoly, and Kassandra Taylor Newberry was a mini festival of four world premieres.



Veterans Aaron Swaney, Drew and Jeremy Jensen (photo by Jim Clanin)

Hearts Therapeutic Equestrian Center hosted its 26th annual horse show, raising around \$25,000 for the nonprofit, which has 80 riders weekly serviced by 100 volunteers from all age groups.

"It's a wonderful occasion to celebrate our student riders and all their accomplishments," says executive director Alexis Weaver, whose riders on the center's 15 horses suffer from a variety of disabilities, including cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, and multiple sclerosis.

"Our programs have changed countless lives and inspired people from all walks of life with physical, emotional, and cognitive challenges, illnesses, or injuries. It's truly magical historic Bates Ranch House, owned by Robbie and Ed Hutto, overlooking Rincon Point.

The 200-guest bash, raised around \$100,000 for the charity, which last year delivered 7,500 bouquets to those in need from Goleta to Ventura.

KEYT-TV chief meteorologist Alan **Rose** co-hosted the fragrant fete with Ivana Firestone, wife of Andrew Firestone, who watched her performance with their charming 5-yearold daughter, Anja, just a tiara's toss away.

Montecito Bank & Trust president Janet Garufis was in particularly good mood after winning a seven-day Holland America Caribbean cruise in the raffle.



Flower Empower coordinator Valerie Banks and Kate Coppola (photo by Kelly Sweda)

The floral fete also honored sponsors Tim and Diane Brown, George and Lisa Hagerman, Geoffrey Rusack and Alison Wrigley, Bob Fuladi, and Nissrin Mahmoud, as well as Yoze Van Wingerden, grower of the year, Jay and Jan Anderson, volunteers of the year, and youth volunteer Delaney Werner.

Among the tony torrent of guests were Randy and Roxana Solakian, Corinna Gordon, Doreen Ladin, Michelle Ebbins, Justine Roddick, Darren Osti, and Jodi Fishman-Osti.

He's Bax!

Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra wrapped up its 37th season at the Lobero with popular Italian pianist Alessio Bax performing Beethoven's Emperor concerto No. 5 in E-flat major.

Bax, who has appeared as a soloist with more than 100 orchestras, including the London and Royal philharmonics, the Dallas and Houston symphonies, the St Petersburg Phil and the City of Birmingham symphony with Sir Simon Rattle, was at the top of his form opening the concert after conductor Heiichiro Ohyama flip-flopped the program to make it top the entertaining show.

Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Reformation, wrapped the performance.

Two days later, orchestra executive director Kevin Marvin hosted a reception at the University Club to showcase what's in store for the 38th season with venues including the venerable Lobero, as well as the Museum of Natural History's Fleischmann Auditorium, Montecito's All Saints

by-the-Sea, and the University Club.

"We wanted to create more intimate events at historically significant locations to enhance the musical experience for our audience," explains Kevin. "It's new and exciting programming."

**United They Stand** 

United Way of Santa Barbara County's 93rd annual awards celebration at the Biltmore's Loggia Ballroom was a bittersweet moment for president and CEO Paul Didier, who is retiring after 40 years at the helm of the organization.

When he joined in 1975, United Way provided funds for 112 charities and groups, and now supports 2,100, both financially and with parallel programs such as Fun in the Sun and United for Literacy.

Didier, who leaves his job in February, says: "From the board, to donors, I've been blessed. I get to rub shoulders with the captains of industry and ask them for money for their own community."

Radio host Catherine Remak was mistress of ceremonies at the bash, which handed out dozens of awards to various individuals and organizations, including Montecito twosome Jim and Stephanie Sokolove for outstanding philanthropy, longtime supporters James and Joyce Tamborello

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George Leis, Leslie Ridley-Tree, Paul Didier, and John and Virginia Wigle (photo by Scott Gibson)



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#### **MISCELLANY** (Continued from page 41)

for outstanding volunteer work, Arlen and Karen Knight as legacy supporters of the year, and David Duarte as young leader of the year.

"It's always quite a night," adds Didier, who has worked more than 60 hours a week for four decades. He now plans to take six months off in due course.

Garden Variety



Guests are enthralled by power-packed Punjabi-style finale by UCSB Indian Dance group

Santa Barbara Museum of Art held its first Atelier event of the year, attracting 400 revelers to the tony State Street institution, where flowers reigned supreme, courtesy of our Eden by the Beach's garden club.

"It was a crowd for all ages enjoying the museum's wonderful surroundings," says spokeswoman Katrina Carl.

Among the guests were director Larry Feinberg and his wife, Starr Siegele, Diana Sullivan, Amanda McIntyre, Gwen Baker, John Schlosser, and Helene Segal.

A fun-filled night.

Bottoms up

Santa Barbara actor Joseph Bottoms shone brightly in Steven Dietz's Yankee Tavern at the Center Stage Theater.

play is set in a 2006 New York dive bar run by a young couple, played

Directed by the Granada's former executive director Peter Frisch, the by Hayley O'Connor and Charlie Rohlfs, marketing director for the

Ensemble Theatre, with veteran local actor Bill Egan as the mysterious stranger in their midst.

The Production Unit play is a mix of thriller, romance, and comedy, with the tragedy of 9-11 as its main theme.

Well worth a visit.

Head of the Class

UNICO National, the largest Italian American service organization in America, hosted its annual scholarship awards at the Coral Casino, handing out checks to worthy high school students moving on to college.

Daniel DiLoreto Dominguez, who is heading to the University of Connecticut from Bishop Garcia Diego High School, won the Brian Piccolo Award, while Stone Rochell, who is off to Tulane after graduating from Santa Barbara High, collected the Renaissance prize.

Other winners included Chloe Wells from Dos Pueblos who is off to Point Loma Nazarene in San Diego, and Nancy Jean Orso, also from SB High, who is attending Berkeley.

President James Barbabella handed out the awards.

> Crazy Ray with Palmer and Adam in the background (photo by Janelle Odair)



Rest in Peace

On a personal note, I remember Morley Safer, the urbane presenter on the CBS show 60 Minutes, who has died at the age of 84.

Safer, an art lover and raconteur, first introduced himself when I was an editor on New York Magazine's Intelligencer column in the '80s and called out of the blue complaining bitterly about Metromedia tycoon John Kluge's penthouse atop his headquarters - which later helmed Rupert Murdoch's Fox TV network - blocking sunlight to his townhouse garden on Manhattan's Upper Eastside.

Then, after becoming a regular on The Joan Rivers Show and Geraldo Rivera, taped at the CBS studios on West 57th Street, a tiara's toss from the Hudson River, I would see him often, as the 60 Minutes production office was just across the street.

Safer's 46-year tenure on 60 Minutes followed years of war reporting for the network, particularly from Vietnam.

A true broadcasting great.

Sightings: Welsh warbler Tom Jones noshing at the Coral Casino... New resident and Oscar winner Gwyneth Paltrow at the Cos Bar on Coast Village Road....Diminutive actor Danny DeVito at UCSB

Pip! Pip!

Readers with tips, sightings and other amusing items for Richard's column should email him at richardmineards@verizon.net or send invitations or other correspondence to the Journal.

To reach Priscilla, email her at priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com or call 969-3301.

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720 Ladera Lane	1-4pm	\$3,785,000	5bd/4.5ba	Brian King	452-0471	Village Properties
754 Winding Creek Lane	2-4pm	\$3,495,000	4bd/3.5ba	Mary Whitney	689-0915	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
595 Freehaven Drive	1-3pm	\$3,475,000	7bd/5.5ba	John Comin	689-3078	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
193 East Mountain Drive	1-3pm	\$3,195,000	3bd/5ba	Wade Hansen	689-9682	Sotheby's International Realty
82 Humphrey Road	2-4pm	\$2,995,000	1bd/3ba	Jennifer Johnson	455-4300	Sotheby's International Realty
1122 Camino Viejo	1-4pm	\$2,995,000	3bd/3.5ba	Susan Jordano	680-9060	Village Properties
216 Ortega Ridge Road	1-4pm	\$2,950,000	4bd/4ba	Mark MacGillvray	886-7097	Coldwell Banker
1781 San Leandro Avenue	12-3pm	\$2,695,000	4bd/4ba	Eric Stockmann	890-0789	Coldwell Banker
298 East Mountain Drive	1-4pm	\$2,450,000	5bd/4.5ba	Daniela Johnson	453-4555	Sotheby's International Realty
2727 East Valley Road	1-3pm	\$1,875,000	4bd/3ba	Todd Bollinger	220-8808	Coldwell Banker
1295 Spring Road	1-4pm	\$1,750,000	3bd/3ba	Barbara Savage	455-1933	Village Properties
690 Chelham Way	2-4pm	\$1,695,000	4bd/2ba	The Stricklands	455-3226	Sotheby's International Realty
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