

Top chefs raise money for local organization

By Wehtahnah Tucker

DEL MAR — Hundreds of supporters gathered poolside April 18 at the Hilton Del Mar to raise money for Casa de Amparo. The 14th annual Meet the Chefs of Del Mar event brought together 19 local masters of cuisine from 17 restaurants to share their unique epicurean delights with the crowd.

The signature dishes were paired with wines from Young's Market Company. "It's a great opportunity to sample all of the wonderful food and wine offerings while helping a good cause," said Cheryl Sevilla who attended the event with several co-workers.

Many of the guests were longtime supporters of Casa de Amparo. For more than 32 years, the nonprofit has been a major force in preventing child abuse and assisting victims.

Pamplemousse Grille chef and owner Jeffrey Strauss said he looked forward to participating in the event for the 14th straight year. "I have a huge spot in my heart for the children helped by Casa de Amparo as well as the organization itself," he said. "This event brings local chefs together with the community and raises much needed funds for children who've been abused."

Jade Cole, international supermodel and finalist in "America's Next Top Model" on season six, was on hand to assist with the live auction. The controversial contestant said she heard about the organization through family and friends. "I was touched by their vision of ending child abuse and decided to become a volunteer," she said.

Proceeds from the event directly support Casa de Amparo's five integrated programs including Hayward Child Development Center, a therapeutic childcare and preschool; Supervised Visitation Program, which provides safe, supervised visits for parents wanting to reunite with child who have been removed from the home; counseling that is available to children and families of all programs; The Children's Shelter, an emergency shelter and support for children who

have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect; and New Directions, a transitional housing and support program for youth who have aged out of foster care.

For more information, visit www.casadeamparo.org.



The Live Auctioneer wheels and deals as attendees bid on items such as dinner at one of the 17 restaurants that participated in the 14th annual Meet the Chefs of Del Mar.



Sarah McNew, Karen Chung, Kim Barrett and Chris Geirman. Photos by Wehtahnah Tucker



Left, Cynthia Ellis inspects one of the hundreds of prizes in the silent auction. Right, Carolyn Rhein, Julia Coulman, Holli Coulman and Jan Compton enjoy the music and food.



Left, Steve Block pours Roy Creed a glass of one of the various wines for sampling. Right, Poseidon Restaurant Chefs Timothy Guimann, Jamal and Pica served a delectable seared scallops with grape, orange and mint compote at the 14th annual Meet the Chefs of Del Mar Fundraiser benefitting Casa de Amparo.



Left, Virginia Gonzalez and Hope Spadora of Life Technologies, celebrate a large donation from Life Technologies, an event partner. Right, Lorene Bowers, Charlene Zettel and Jo Konrath enjoy the tastes.



Show set to benefit older adult centers

LA JOLLA — "Shir L'Chaim: A Song to Life," a variety show concert to benefit Jewish Family Service older adult centers, will take place at 2 p.m. May 23 at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive.

A complimentary hors d'oeuvres reception will take place immediately following the show at the Classic Residence by Hyatt, 8515 Costa Verde Blvd.

Tickets cost \$20 per person. To purchase tickets, visit www.tickets.lfjcc.org or call (858) 362-1348. All proceeds from the concert will benefit Jewish Family Service older adult centers.

Performers for the concert include a wide variety of talent starting with Kavannah, a teen band started by Temple Solel's director of youth programming, Craig Parks. Kavannah leads teen-only Friday night services monthly that attract large groups of Jewish teens that come to celebrate Shabbat and their Judaism with a spiritual service, which includes original and traditional liturgical music, meditation and meaningful discussion.

Joan Kurland, well-

TURN TO VARIETY SHOW ON 34

Half-price book sale set at Ranch library

RANCHO SANTA FE — May is just around the corner and with it comes May's Half-Price Book Sale at the Rancho Santa Fe Library Guild Book Cellar, below the Youth Services Wing of the Rancho Santa Fe Library, 17040 Avenida de Acacias. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting May 6 through May 8, the Book Cellar's entire inventory of books and other items are 50 percent off the regular price. In keeping with tradition, there will be a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate at 4 p.m. May 8.

Staffed and managed by volunteers, the Book Cellar and all proceeds from the half-price sale are used to maintain and improve the Rancho Santa Fe Library. The Book Cellar keeps its selection of books fresh by continually culling and restocking the shelves. The Book Cellar has its own entrance through the side patio, featuring used books, large print books, collectors and audio books.

The Book Cellar is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (858) 756-4780 or visit www.rsflibraryguild.org.

A Stroll & Wheel to heal walk to benefit health institute

SOLANA BEACH — Local real estate team Andrea Lajoie and Jennifer Wanner, with the Sterling Company in Rancho Santa Fe, are hosting the first A Stroll & Wheel to Heal, benefiting Awakenings Health Institute at 10 a.m. April 24 on the Solana Beach Boardwalk, starting at the Lomas Santa Fe entrance.

"We wanted to get

involved in something that could benefit the local community and AHI is right in the heart of Solana Beach," said Lajoie, co-chairwoman of the stroll. "Because this is our first year, we are reaching out to our sphere of influence, but we hope this will be a giant stepping stone in making this event bigger and better each year."

AHI is a community-based, nonprofit organization that serves individuals with spinal cord injuries and neurological disorders, such as MS and Parkinson's. The institute provides affordable and accessible exercise programs to enhance the rehabilitation process in a specialized holistic health and fitness facility.

"This organization does

tremendous things for people trying to improve their quality of living," said co-chairwoman Wanner. "And what better way to highlight their efforts than organize a charity event for the entire community to enjoy."

The team is reaching out to local businesses for corporate sponsorship opportunities, donations for prizes, food

and beverages. Each participant is expected to raise at least \$100 for the cause. If they reach that goal, they will receive an event T-shirt. There will be a prize for the top fundraiser.

To get more information regarding this event, contact Andrea Lajoie at (619) 459-9119 or Jennifer Wanner at (858) 518-1537.

Local woman injured when car rolls over in 4S

4S RANCH — On April 15 at 4:03 p.m., Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District firefighters responded to the report of a roll-over traffic accident on Camino Del Norte near Camino San

Bernardo in 4S Ranch. Upon arrival, the firefighters found a mid-sized SUV that had rolled over multiple times and landed upright on the side of the road. The driver, a 24-year-old female, was not

wearing her seat belt and sustained major injuries to her hand, back and neck. She was transported by Mercy Air to Scripps La Jolla. There were no other occupants in the vehicle and no other vehicles

involved in the accident.

In addition to the firefighters from Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, emergency personnel from San Diego Medical Services Enterprise, San Diego Fire

Department, and California Highway Patrol responded to the scene.

Traffic on Camino Del Norte was briefly stopped in both directions to allow for Mercy Air to land.