

Paris

from front page



Co-Chairs Steve Napolitano and Erica Mangham and Board President Roger Van Remmen.

munities of the Los Angeles area; Mike Sullivan, president and owner of LACarGuy, for his support of Richstone and many other organizations and working to improve our community; and Al Villasenor, for this many contributions as a longtime volunteer and board member for Richstone.

great to see so many old faces and new faces too," said Richstone Board President Roger Van Remmen.

The dining area was transformed into the Moulin Rouge. Tables were adorned with Eiffel towers. The Bluecat Express played jazz, and Cancan Cabaret kicked up its heels. A buffet dinner was served from an outdoor terrace overlooking the Pacific. Master of Ceremonies Kevin Nealon from *Saturday Night Live* introduced key contributors, while Executive Director, Rolando Ramirez thanked all for supporting Richstone.

Special guests were honored: the Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Second District, for his years of public service to the com-

In addition to the generosity of local restaurants, stores, and businesses, countless hours were given by more than 22 volunteers. The co-chairs were Erica Mangham, Richstone board member and owner of The Event, and Steve Napolitano, board member and deputy to County Supervisor Don Knabe. Auction chairs were Barbara Bowman, Colleen Cole, Liz Keran, and Donna Marita. Barbara Van Remmen and her decorating committee, with special artistic help of Lynn Wolf, transformed the modern University Hall into a vision of old Paris. Mike Sullivan of LACarGuy, Dorothy and Bob Courtney, RL and David Peters, American Honda Motor Co., Supervisor Knabe, Toyota Financial Services and Toyota Motor Sales USA were all sponsors.



City Council Member Richard Montgomery and wife Diane.



Sponsors RL and David Peters enjoy the "Evening in Paris".

During the spirited live auction, guests vied with one another to take home the biggest and the best. Among the items stirring up the most fervor were a New York City studio apartment for one week; a Sun Valley home; a riverside cottage in Tuscany; tickets to the 2010 *American Idol* Finale; private dance lessons with *Dancing with Stars*; football practice and dinner with Pete Carroll and the USC team; and an ultra-luxurious martini party for 50 guests, which donor Jonathan Matter generously

extended to a party for each the top five bidders. The top draw of the evening was a 12,000-square foot chateau in Aspen, donated by the daughter of Al Villasenor.

In this year of dwindling revenue from government and corporate grants, An Evening in Paris proved that the Richstone kids are still in good hands. For information on supporting Richstone through donations or volunteering, call 310-970-1921.

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Gator

from front page

Rosenberg pointed out that the Gator Run is helpful to the foundation not only for the money, but because of its consistency in raising money. "We're always concerned about sustainability in all of our programs because the kids always need to learn," she said. "It's important to know we have an ongoing fundraising stream to support the schools. The Gator Run is so established and reliable, and it's a great comfort to us and the district."

Gator Run Co-chair Margot Farris said a lot of the money raised comes from sponsors, which also benefit from the event. "It's a great marketing opportunity for the right business because it's a really neat community," she said. "For what we charge, the run is a great way to market a business, and of course you are helping the schools, so it's a great fit."

Farris noted that organizers were grateful to sponsors for continuing to donate money to the event, despite the poor economic climate. Murad, Inc. which donated \$15,000, has been the Gator Run's title sponsor for the last three years. "They have been so supportive of our community, and once again they have come through as the main sponsor for us by contributing funds and product," Farris said.

According to Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel Richard Murad, the company has supported children through

its donations to the Foundation and other children's organizations for years. "Murad strongly believes efforts to support the education and welfare of children will bring hope and encouragement to young people to work for a bright and rewarding future for all mankind," he said.

After the run, participants munched on free orange slices, courtesy of one of the sponsors, Grow produce market in Manhattan Beach. Co-owner Kathy Fisher, whose children go to Grand View, served runners and walkers as they came in from the course. "Oranges have been at every run because we totally support the kids in any way we can," Fisher said. "And we have the best oranges...nothing beats a nice juicy orange after a run."

For those who weren't in the mood for oranges, Ryan Sharp of Fresh Brothers Pizza, another sponsor, stationed himself near the finish line to provide run participants an opportunity to donate 20 percent of their bill to the Foundation.

Judd Gilefsky of Manhattan Beach said attending the event was a great way to help raise money for the schools and get exercise, which he did by pushing his two young children in a stroller. He estimated the load to be about 65 pounds. "We will probably do it in the future, but it depends on how big they get," he said. •

Frankly

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and change to its backers. Jockey Calvin Borel, who was atop the Derby winner, had to settle for third place in the finale of the Triple Crown series.

Borel thought he was sitting pretty when his gelding poked his nose in front as the horses entered the long, long, backstretch at Belmont, but it wasn't quite that simple. "I thought I was home free," said the diminutive Cajun jockey, "but the other horses galloped by." Well, two other horses galloped by, as Mine That Bird's backers collected the paltry show money.

Now most folks can forget about horse racing, at least until the Breeder's Cup races that will take place at Santa Anita in October. But if you do have a hankering to see the ponies run in person, you best get down to the soon-to-be-leveled Hollywood Park this summer, cuz the old power plant looks like it is going to be blown up in the not-too-distant future. Something about the land being too valuable to let sit nearly vacant every day.

Gotta give credit where credit is due. Kudos to the A's, who are the champions of the Major Division in the Gundo Little League. Yup, the same division that saw

the Mighty Mariners ousted in two straight inglorious playoff games.

The A's battled back from a huge sixth inning deficit last Thursday night against the Mets, forcing a winner-take-all championship tilt on Saturday, which the A's also won, something like 50 to 10. I say something like because I had to leave the field early to watch the Belmont.

So congrats to the A's and their 11-man coaching staff, who will now be representing Gundo in the Tournament of Champions.

As for the Mariners, we are still involved in the King of the Beach tourney. Loyal readers will remember that I boldly guaranteed a tournament championship. Well, we won our first game rather easily last Sunday, and played contest number two last night, which I am also assuming we won. Confidence is a good thing, right, folks?

Finally, the Little League volunteer party was held last Saturday night, and most of us freeloaders were well-behaved. Started to tell the wife about the night's festivities, but she said she "didn't want to hear about it." Probably a wise choice, all-in-all. Like I said in the open, she has had to put up with "more than a lot" over the years. •

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