



Fox TV honcho Gary and Jeanne Newman at the "Taste of Santa Barbara in L.A." event with Nancy Koppelman and Polly Firestone Walker

eateries and chefs, including the Wine Cask's **Brandon Hughes**, bouchon's **Greg Murphy** and the Hitching Post's **Frank Ostini**, accompanied by wines from Jorian Hill, a Santa Ynez vineyard owned by the Newmans and Brewer Clifton, owned by supporter **Greg Brewer**.

"We are raising money for our midwife equipment program," explained **Kerri Murray**, veep of communications. "Some 350,000 newborns die each year and we want to have 150,000 safe births in five years' time, equipping 1,000 midwives in deprived areas of the world."

Guests, including DRI director **Thomas Tighe**, "Private Practice" actress **Amy Brenneman**, **Adam Sher**,

CEO of Ryan Seacrest Productions, and wife, **Sara, Dante Di Loreto**, executive producer of the Fox TV series "Glee," **Gail Berman**, former president of Paramount Pictures and Fox Broadcasting, **Sandy Hill**, **Nancy Koppelman**, **Polly Firestone Walker** and **Dorothy Largay**, helped raise nearly \$25,000 for the DRI project.

Food for thought, indeed...

*Unforgettable Dancing*

If you missed seeing the Grupo Corpo Brazilian Dance Theater at the Granada, you missed one of the smashes of the UCSB Arts & Lectures season.

The 19 dancers were, in a word, sensational.

Never have I enjoyed a contemporary dance performance so much given the turbo-charged, exhilarating and creative choreography that made the two-hour show just fly by.

Performing two very different, but seamless pieces, "Parabelo" – a decidedly Brazilian creation with an exuberant and rhythmic beat and devotional chants – and a more recent creation, "Ima," with the stage's constant alternation between full and empty, the performers went full throttle with the sensuality of Afro-Brazilian dance forms, the liquid swing of jazz and the technical prowess of ballet, with abundant energy to burn.

The choreography by **Rodrigo Pederneiras** was stylish, unique and unforgettable.

With colorful theatrical effects and a pulsing beat, it is to be hoped the 36-year-old company, which was making its Santa Barbara debut, comes back to our Eden by the Beach sooner rather than later.

Wow!...

*Angels Foster Care*

Willowy lovelies, sporting white feathered wings, welcomed the 100 guests to the first major fundraiser for the local charity, Angels Foster Care, which helps find foster homes for needy and deprived children under the age of two.

The sold-out gala at Cadiz, a Mediterranean-style eatery that officially opens at the end of this month on the site of the former Bricks Cafe on lower State Street, had an all-white theme, orchestrated by Montecito events planner **Merryl Brown**.

**Meichelle Arntz**, a registered nurse, who founded the non-profit four years ago, says 84 children have been placed in that time.

"It costs \$6,800 a year per child and we recruit the families, as well as doing the screening and training," says Meichelle. "It's immensely gratifying."

The party, with celebrity auctioneer **Andrew Firestone**, in particularly fine voice, was chaired by **Michele White** and **Marsha Kotlyar**, with other guests including **Cynthia Spivey**, **Jenny Hecht**, **Jennifer Guess**, **Ann Scarborough** and **Messina De Rose**, a committee member and part owner of the new restaurant, that has undergone a total transformation.

More than \$40,000 was raised for the coffers...

*Warren Jones Returns*

It was only the first time in 21 years that Camerata Pacifica had to cancel a concert when pianist **Warren Jones** went down with a virulent case of flu.

Fortunately, just 72 hours later, he was back at the keyboard at the Music Academy of the West's Hahn Hall

with popular clarinetist **Jose Franch-Ballester**, for an eclectic performance featuring works from Debussy, Clementi, Schumann and Sebastian Currier.

The latter's 1997 nine-movement work "Verge," which also included **Catherine Leonard** on violin, was particularly entertaining...

*Dynamic Duo*

Just 48 hours later I was back at the sprawling campus for a UCSB Arts & Lectures performance featuring cellist **Alisa Weilerstein** and pianist **Gabriel Kahane**.

While Weilerstein, who made her Carnegie Hall debut with the New York Youth Symphony in 1997, played Bach's Suite No. 3 in C major and Suite No.5 in C minor, Kahane's selections on piano, banjo and electric guitar were decidedly more offbeat, including a collaboration between the two principals, who've known each other from the age of three, on Kahane's "Little Sleep's Head Sprouting Hair in the Moonlight."

One of Kahane's more interesting works is "Craigslitlieder," with the lyrics made up from Craigslist lonely singles ads!...

*Air Time*

Most of you were no doubt surprised to see me being featured in extremely expensive TV commercials during the Super Bowl broadcast.

I was as bemused as anyone, given I was watching the game at Cafe Del Sol when the promo for my Royal Wedding segments on KCOY-TV popped up during the third quarter.

Who knew I would be sharing air-time during one of America's most hallowed sporting events with Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback **Ben Roethlisberger**?

In the meantime, the final two segments on the nuptials of **Prince William** and **Kate Middleton** in my five-part series air live during KCOY's 5 pm Tuesday newscasts through the end of the month...

Sightings: Actress **Diane Lane** and husband, **Josh Brolin**, tucking into the pasta at Olio e Limone... Comic and talk-show host **Dennis Miller** dining solo at Cava on Coast Village Road... **Kevin Costner** checking out the menu at Tre Lune... Former *New York Post* Page Six editor **Richard Johnson** lunching with travel writer **Bill Tomicki** at the Coral Casino...

Pip! Pip! for now

Readers with tips, sightings and amusing items for Richard's column should e-mail him at richardmin-eards@verizon.net or send invitations or other correspondence to the *Journal*



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– Alice Pien, MD.

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