Legends of the Ball

TV talk-show titan Oprah Winfrey is reprising her famous Legends Ball, I can exclusively reveal.

The socially gridlocked bash will be at the Bacara on Thursday, December 6, I am reliably informed, followed by a gospel brunch for the bold-faced name guests at her 42-acre Montecito estate the following day.

“It’s going to be the only ticket in town!,“ says my mole with the martini. “No one will want to miss it.”

The last ball was a three-day celebration honoring 25 African-American women in the arts, entertainment, and civil rights in 2005 – including the late Maya Angelou, Aretha Franklin, Roberta Flack, Lena Horne, Tina Turner, Cicely Tyson and Coretta Scott King – that got huge international coverage.

Oprah has her Christmas wish list worked out

The white-tie gala, also at the Bacara, attracted the cream of Hollywood and TV, including Sidney Poitier, Tom Cruise, Barbra Streisand, John Travolta, and Barbara Walters.

In the meantime, with only six weeks...
until Christmas, Oprah has released her much-anticipated Favorite Things for 2014 and, as usual, the list features some very pricey products.

Among this year’s picks, which appear in the new issue of O Magazine, are Beats by Dr. Dre wireless headphones in gold, a set of three jars of bath salts for $255, and a $500 tablet developed by actor Ashton Kutcher and Lenovo, which has a projector attached. Many of the items can currently be purchased for a limited time only at a discount online by using the code OPRAH.

Also on Oprah’s famed wish list is What I Know For Sure, a collection of excerpts from the inspirational column she has written in her Hearst glossy since 2000. The cloth-bound book, which was published in September, is available on the Macmillan website for $25.

The most expensive gift idea in Oprah’s Favorite Things are the headphones, which are powered by Bluetooth and available for purchase on the Neiman Marcus website.

Of the trendy gadget Oprah writes, “It wants me want to get my dance on.. and will sound as good as they look for years to come.”

For pet lovers looking to give their dogs something extra special this Yuletide, Oprah has suggested custom pillow beds from Charles Fradin Home, which start at an eye-watering $445. Famously open about her diet and weight struggles, the 60-year-old billionaire has recently touted SoulCycle as her favorite workout.

For ladies who can’t make it to a class, however, she has put a stylish seven-speed bicycle on her list, which comes in sky blue, red, or white, for $550. “The bike is a great way to stay in shape while keeping your carbon footprint under control,” writes the media mogul.

One of the more unusual gifts on Oprah’s list is a deluxe vine and bloom box from High Camp Supply, which contains two dozen gardenia flowers and two dozen vines grown in Hawaii and California. “Arrange the petals in water-filled bowls for a dramatic look, and place the vines in a vase for a scent that lasts long after the blooms have gone,” she says of the box, which costs $189.

This year’s emphasis seems to be on pampering, and there is no shortage of products on the list to help you do just that. A wellness collection from Wakaya Perfection, which includes ginger powdered tea, body scrub, and a bath soak, costs $265.

Nothing says relaxation like candlelight, and Oprah suggests a $240 set
of four candles from Lafco in wintery scents like Trees and Berry do the job. “Poured into hand-blown glass, the candles burn for 90 hours — long enough to flicker through the holidays,” she writes.

Ever the homemaker, Oprah tends to fill her Favorite Things list with an assortment of kitchen accessories, and this year is no different.

Among her recommendations is a set of three stoneware dishes in lime green from Le Creuset, which costs $405 altogether. Also featured in the line-up is a set of four dessert plates designed by her friend and fellow TV personality Nate Berkus. At $20 for a set of four, the plates are undoubtedly some of the more reasonably priced items on the list — or, as Oprah puts it, “it’s a whole lot of style per dollar.”

If you’re looking to buy a gift for new parents, look no further than Burt’s Bees Baby, which has $125 gift baskets filled with organic cotton baby clothes in three different color palettes.

Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel, who welcomed his first daughter with wife Molly McNearney in July, will be getting this from Oprah for Christmas, she revealed.

Also on the list are RedCJewels’ mix and match letter stud earrings, which the TV host is giving to all her Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy girls for the holidays.

Other accessories that have Oprah’s stamp of approval are 22-carat gold-plated astrological star map necklaces form Sequin-NYC, which cost $48 each...

Lowe Urine-alysis

Shy bladder sufferers have condemned a DirecTV advert that uses a “painfully awkward” Rob Lowe who cannot urinate in public restrooms to encourage viewers to switch from cable.

In the campaign, the 50-year-old

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THE V OICE OF THE VILLAGE

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Wine of the Times
Santa Barbara vintner and restaurateur Doug Margerum has been accorded quite an accolade by the magazine Wine Spectator.

The popular glossy named Doug's 2012 M5 “Wine of the Day” last month and has also asked him to write the 2014 harvest assessment for Santa Barbara for the national publication.

“Considering how many wines are produced in the world, getting Wine of the Day from the esteemed Robert Parker Jr. is big news for my small Santa Barbara County winery,” says Doug. “I think it’s a testament to the appeal the Margerum M5 wine has.”

But the majority of viewers who have tuned in to the issue in America are not necessarily trying to pick the most expensive or the most desirable wine to buy. They simply want to take the advert in the humorous way in which it was intended.

DirectTV, a satellite service provider based in El Segundo, claims viewers should be able to take the advert in the humorous way in which it was intended.

But in one case, the latter character is filmed standing awkwardly at a urinal with two other men. Unlike his doppelganger's formal attire, he is donning a fanny pack with his hair parted in the middle.

In response to the other Lowe's remark that cable TV makes subscribers wait, he states: “Fact, I can't go with other people in the room,” before unsuccessfully trying to relieve himself.

DirecTV, a satellite service provider based in El Segundo, claims viewers should be able to take the advert in the humorous way in which it was intended.

But a shy bladder group – yes, they do have them – has lambasted the company, saying the ad ridicules a serious issue in America, where around seven per cent of people have some form of “shy bladder syndrome.”

Steve Sofer, CEO of the International Paruresis Association and a social work professor of the University of Memphis, said he didn't mind “if people have a little fun” with the condition.

But he added: “It’s a situation that a lot of people don’t understand. In this particular case, the portrayal is making it look ridiculous, that this guy is a loser for having the problem: What if he didn’t have a leg or an arm? Are you going to make fun of them?”

Since the campaign's launch last month, members of the association have written to DirecTV asking for the advert to be removed.

But Darriss Gringeri, spokesman for DirecTV, said the service will not be acceding to their request.

“The ads will continue to run for the vast majority of viewers who have tuned in to the urinal with two other men. Unlike his doppelganger's formal attire, he is donning a fanny pack with his hair parted in the middle.

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MISCELLANY  (Continued from page 23)

works for the show, curated by Nancy Gifford, and each ticket holder was able to purchase a piece of art for only $300 on the night of the event.

The remaining artwork will continue on display at the gallery for the rest of November and will be available for purchase through a silent auction.

“It is unlike any other fundraiser because the artists themselves are the beneficiaries, not just the art donors,” says Catey Dunkley, event chair.

The reception will fund both the community gallery, which provides access and connection between emerging artists and the community, and the teens arts mentorship program that helps young artists explore their artistic talent through training from local professional artists.

Among those checking out the myriad paintings on display were Mary Collier, Leslie Dinaberg, Robin Martinelli, Stephan and Christine Rosenfeld, Bruce and Tracy Stouffer, and Steve and Caroline Thompson.

A real feast for the eyes...

Dream on

It is without a doubt one of the most popular charity fundraisers in our Eden by the Beach, with high-priced tickets being sold out weeks in advance – and it’s no wonder, given the host of celebrities it attracts.

And the 20th anniversary of Dream Foundation’s Celebration of Dreams gala at the Bacara was no exception with 500 guests turning out to honor tequila and haircare tycoon, John Paul Dejoria, and Genentech, one of America’s leading biotechnology companies, which has been involved with the foundation for eight years.

In the cavernous ballroom, gloriously decorated by Montecito events planner extraordinaire, Merryl Brown, former rock star, Bill Medley of the Righteous Brothers, and his daughter, McKenna, sang his two biggest hits, “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feelin’” and “Unchained Melody”, while Scottish Grammy Award nominee KT Tunstall performed her hits, “Suddenly I See” and “Black Horse and the Cherry Tree”, and singer-songwriter David Ryan Harris singing songs from his album Lightyears.

Hollye Jacobs, Holly Murphy, Mireille Noon, wife of 60s rocker Peter, and Jelinda DeVorzon, wife of Oscar nominee Barry, co-chaired the 13th annual super soiree, which was expected to raise a whopping $1 million for the non-profit which has helped achieve 20,000 dreams for adults suffering terminal diseases since its founding by Thomas Rollerson.

The ever-present Andrew Firestone, with the help of his wife, Ivana, conducted the live auction, which included a Napa Valley winery weekend, a...
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Holly Murphy (left), gala co-chair with guests also celebrating Holly’s birthday (photo by Priscilla)

private screening and cocktail party at mega director Ivan Reitman’s Montecito estate, a villa in Tuscany during white truffle culinary week, a 12-day Crystal cruise from Monte Carlo, a stay at the Hotel Bel-Air complete with a Rolls-Royce Ghost to drive, and a week’s stay at the late New York publishing tycoon Malcolm Forbes’ private island in Fiji.

Among the guests at the boffo bash were Priscilla Presley, American Idol TV producer Nigel Lythgoe, Tanya Thicke, Kenny Slaught, Bill and Sandi Nicholson, Ariene Montesano, Layla Khashoggi, Corrina Gordon, Leslie Ridley-Tree, Mara Abboud, Hiroko Benko, Herb and Bui Simon, Ella and Scott Brittingham, Stan and Roberta Fishman, Debbie Kass, Brian King, Diana and Ralph MacFarlane, Lee and Marla McNally Phillips, Kendall Conrad, Teresa McWilliams, Peri Harcourt, Palmer and Susan Jackson, mayor Helene Schneider, Mary Ellen Tiffany, Eric and Nina Phillips, KETY-TV anchor Shirin Rajaee and Steve and Caroline Thompson.

A Toast to Coast

Coast 2 Coast Collection, the charmingly eclectic gift boutique in La Arcada, celebrated its third anniversary with a champagne fueled bash for 175 guests hosted by owners Bob and Holly Murphy.

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**Art Wars**

Director George Lucas, who has a beach house just a tiara’s toss from Oscar-winner Kevin Costner in Carpinteria, has unveiled plans for his $300 million art museum – and it wouldn’t look out of place on the set of Star Wars.

The space-age Lucas Museum of Narrative Art was designed by noted Beijing architect Ma Yansong, who was inspired by the works of Frank Lloyd Wright and Mies van der Rohe.

Expected to open in 2018, it features a floating disc above four levels of exhibition space in “infinite loops” and an observation deck with 360-degree views of Chicago and Lake Michigan.

The museum will house pieces from the Star Wars creator’s $600-million personal collection, including works by Norman Rockwell and Alberto Vargas, and props from his ground-breaking movies.

It will be “a gathering place to experience narrative art and the evolution of moving images – from illustration to cinema to the digital mediums of the future,” says a statement on the museum’s website.

As well as the permanent collection, it will host temporary exhibitions, as well as educational events.

Chicago residents have had mixed reactions to the plans. In opinions compiled by the Chicago Tribune, readers compared the futuristic structure to Jabba the Hut’s desert spaceship, a nuclear power plant, a child’s volcano science project, and Space Mountain.

But the city’s mayor, Rahm Emanuel, is standing by the plans, saying in a statement: “George Lucas has revolutionized the art of storytelling over the last four decades and we are honored to be the recipient of this incredible legacy investment that will allow everyone to learn about and experience narrative arts.”

**Exit, Stage Left**

There was almost as much drama offstage as there was on when Opera Santa Barbara staged Verdi’s work Rigoletto at the Granada.

An ambulance, lights flashing like a Christmas tree, pulled up outside the theater during the first intermission after an elderly audience member lost consciousness.

As if this wasn’t enough, the theater had to be totally evacuated when the fire alarm went off in the second intermission due to a technical malfunction, though the audience was able to return to watch the end of the production after 20 minutes.

“It was certainly quite the evening,” says opera director Steven Sharpe. “I call it Rigoletto’s curse! But all worked out in the end.”

Black tie supporters, including Roger and Sarah Chrisman, Dolly Granatelli, Sandra Laby, and Corinna Gordon, noshed on a three-course pre-opera dinner in the McCune Founders room before the show, as well as having post performance dessert with the cast and conductor Christoph更改 All.

Soprano Andrea Carroll, who did an absolutely superb job as Gilda, along with baritone Evan Brummel as her hunch backed jester father and Cody Austin, as her womanizing employer, the Duke of Mantua, joined in the socializing along with bass Kevin Thompson, who played the assasin Sparafucile and mezzo-soprano Catherine Martin as Rigoletto’s sister.

Stage director Brad Dalton, an alumnus of Harvard University and the National Shakespeare Conservatory, excelled himself, as did scenic designer Steven Kemp and costume designer Martin Pakledinaz.

Everybody and the rest of the talent-ed cast was clearly in the right aria...

**Super Bowls**

The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County was bowled over when the 17th annual Empty Bowls Lunch took place at the Ben Page Youth Center, next to the Foodbank’s Goleta headquarters.

The brainchild of Danyel Dean, a longtime ceramics teacher at AdultEd, the event has become enormously popular over the years and more than 1,000 people turned out to buy a bowl and partake of a simple meal of bread and soup donated by many of our tony town’s best eateries, including Lucky’s, Benchmark, Arlington Tavern, Olio e Limone, the San Ysidro Ranch, Sly’s, Bouchon, Brophy’s, and Ca Dario.

I chose a cobalt blue bowl with a celadon glaze and porcini cream soup from Downey’s, a most delicious combination. The bowl, which I was allowed to take home, is now filled with fragrant potpourri, doing double duty.

The delightfully creative event, which had Janet Garufis, Randy Weiss, George Leis, and Allan Ghitterman, among others, ladling the soup selections, raised around $140,000 for the Foodbank – which served 144,000 people in Santa Barbara County last year working with 330 charities – bringing the total collected over the past 17 years to more than $1 million.

Afterward, I was given a tour of the nonprofit’s most impressive facility...
The major advances in civilization are processes which all but wreck the societies in which they occur. – Alfred North Whitehead

THE SANTA BARBARA RUG COLLECTION

The Santa Barbara Rug Collection by Michael Kourosh is a timeless selection of classical, modern, and transitional designs. Parented by Ziegler & Company, over 130 years of experience resides into the collection’s design and manufacturing process. Each rug carries a story of historical influence and inspiration making the Santa Barbara Rug Collection exclusively one of a kind. Hand-knotted with fine sheep’s wool, our rugs are a sustainable and eco-friendly product. The fleece contents are either left untouched or dyed with organic plant and mineral pigment sourced from our rug’s area of origin, ensuring the infusion of beauty and richness from its genesis.

THE MOROCCAN COLLECTION

By Michael Kourosh

True to their Bedouin influences, the Moroccan Collection offers monochromatic and richly-colored geometric designs that come together to create a fresh, youthful, and one of a kind rug series. Each piece is a work of art that add a pop of relish to any room.

jon bull, karin napel, bob torton, girlie edwards, and jason mountzoglou (photo by priscilla)

Sightings: ESPN football commentator Keyshawn Johnson checking out the racks at K. Frank, the trendy State Street haberdashery...Oprah Winfrey's beau, Stedman Graham, on his cell phone at Pierre Lafond...Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi noshing at Lucky's

Pip! Pip!

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

Foodbank CEO Erik Talkin framed with picture-perfect granddaughter Mia and Jordan BenShea, surrounded by Phillip and Carolyn Wyatt, and Empty Bowls founder Danyel Dean (photo by Priscilla)