

Braille Institute Auxiliary *A Kick-Off Tea*

By Kerry Methner / CASA

ELEGANCE AND NOSTALGIA were the cues for attendees at the Braille Institute Auxiliary's *Kick-off Tea* in the beautiful Braille Institute Fountain Courtyard last month.

The tea offered an opportunity for the community to learn about the upcoming August 25th Annual Robert Skene Polo Invitational Match and Benefit Luncheon at the Polo Club, *Look for the Silver Lining*. It also honored 25 year members and offered good old-fashioned conversation.

As the event unfolded in the afternoon light, with heirloom table clothes, members' own china, subtly flavored tea, and a bouquet of tea roses by Gwen Burgee, Braille Auxiliary members and attendees arrived in vintage hats or brooches to be served tea.

Past contributions of the Auxiliary also set the stage, as the fountain in the courtyard where the tea was held was donated to the Braille Institute by the Auxiliary. Also donated last year was a check from the Auxiliary for \$120,000.

Robert and Elizabeth Skene's son, Curtis Skene, noted he was excited about the upcoming August event which honors his father who was instrumental in getting it started 25 years ago.

The upcoming fundraiser at the Polo Club will take place on August 2nd and benefit the Braille Institute. All proceeds will be directed to programs and services for students of the Braille Institute Santa Barbara Regional Center. "The benefit is open to anyone who wishes to experience a first rate daytime event

with a delicious seated luncheon served under a tent with a Polo match following. It's now a tradition after 25 years and we would welcome new attendees" noted co-chair Lida Light Blue.

The Braille Institute Auxiliary of SB was formed in 1981 by dedicated community members who support the effort of blind and visually impaired individuals in our community to live full, independent lives. For information visit www.brailleinstitute.org.

To attend the August event call Benefit Chair, Sandy DeRousse at 965-2320, or Co-Chair Lida Light Blue at 565-0378.



Lida Light Blue and Sandy DeRousse
Co-Chair and Chair of August Event



Braille Auxiliary President,
Carol Wenzlau and Curtis Skene



Meg DiNapoli in the fountain donated by the Braille Institute Auxiliary



Donna Salomon with Sara Beeby



Diana Mohme



Pat Andersons



Michael Lazarovits, Regional Director; Jane Catlett; Mary Romo; Robert Woods (back); Susie Vos; and Sean Raschiatore



Carol Betker



Kay Utterback



Linda Chapman, Sally Fordyce, Gwen Burgee, Sydney Tredick, and Sherry Tilton



Sally Fordyce

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