

LAS PATRONAS

Partnering with the San Diego Community since 1946

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Las Patronas Presents the 73rd Annual Jewel Ball: Wonderland

LA JOLLA, CA – Las Patronas held its 73rd Annual Jewel Ball at the beautiful **La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club** on August 3, 2019. Since 1946 guests have attended the Jewel Ball for an exceptionally fun evening of fabulous cuisine, thrilling entertainment and exquisite design. **Wonderland** guests journeyed down the “rabbit hole” for an enchanted evening brimming with beauty and magic. The black-tie affair was the culmination of a year-long fundraising effort by Las Patronas members in support of the San Diego nonprofit community.

Las Patronas Jewel Ball Chair **Nicole Velazquez**, Co-Chairs **Cathy Maywood** and **Shay Stephens** and President **Michelle Wiseman** welcomed guests who were transported to **Wonderland** through a magnificent keyhole entrance adorned with countless shimmering butterflies. Once in the courtyard, “shrunkened” guests discovered a delightful world of fanciful flowers, giant mushrooms and captivating butterflies. The stylish Flamingo Bar beckoned all to linger and enjoy the vivid colors, twinkling lights and handcrafted cocktails, including a Queen of Hearts Cosmo. Guests sampled a glorious seafood station featuring Pulled Crab Claws, Shrimp Cocktail Shooters and a Peruvian White Fish Ceviche Tower as well as a “mad” assortment of tray-passed hors d’oeuvres.

Just beyond, the Queen of Hearts reined poolside surrounded by regal black and white harlequin and vibrant red hearts. As promised, the roses were properly painted red and no one lost their head! The party continued with lavishly decorated food stations offering grilled lamb lollipops, fresh sushi, and savory tarts of smoked chicken and caramelized pear with cambazola. **For 30 consecutive years, Sami Ladeki and Ladeki Restaurant Group have generously supported Las Patronas and this year provided the always popular Kobe sliders.** Silent auction tables presented a wide array of tantalizing items awarded to the highest bidder. A curated playlist provided an upbeat backdrop to the cocktail hour.

The talented **Wayne Foster Entertainment** provided a lively call to dinner. Guests were whisked into the spectacularly decorated “Mad Hatter” Ballroom via the pool bridge decorated with “flying” decks of cards. The entertainers continued to the dance floor where they set a festive tone for the remainder of the evening. The **La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club** tennis courts were transformed into a chic garden tea party under a ceiling of stars. Guests delighted in the eclectic spirit of whimsy and wonder that included the exquisite table décor featuring trailing vines, tea roses, candles, vintage clocks and charming china service. The all-volunteer membership of Las Patronas spent more than a year planning and countless hours building event décor, guided by the creative vision of Design Co-Chairs **Megan Cox** and **Michelle Parker**.

Behind the Scenes Catering provided the delicious dinner, which included a *Wonderland Salad* of bundled romaine with crisp pears, candied walnuts, whipped goat cheese, and Meyer lemon champagne vinaigrette, a Garden Cucumber-Tomato Gazpacho, and an *Ace of Spades* main

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course of braised beef short ribs with rosemary red wine sauce accompanied by *Duchess* potatoes and heirloom glazed carrots. The meal was perfectly paired with a sophisticated wine selection generously donated by **Behind the Scenes Catering** and **Hafner Winery**. For dessert, guests were treated to an *Enchanted* chocolate caramel pyramid with an *Eat Me* macaroon and fresh berries. **Sugar and Scribe Bakery + Fine Food** generously provided a dessert bar with an assortment of their specialty cupcakes and Cheshire Cat inspired decor. Fanciful Clock and Top Hat bars provided additional beverage offerings. A **Cafe Moto** coffee bar ensured guests were energized to dance until the party ended at 1:00 a.m.

Las Patronas announced that proceeds from Jewel Ball 2019, **Wonderland**, would fund critically needed capital items for nine nonprofit Major Beneficiaries, each receiving more than \$20,000, as well as an estimated 45-50 additional Minor Beneficiaries each receiving \$20,000 or less in the upcoming Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 grant cycles.

“We are grateful for the thoughtful generosity and support of our underwriters, donors, advertisers, guests and advisory members,” said Jewel Ball Chair **Nicole Velazquez**.

“Our nonprofit beneficiaries inspire us and, on this special evening, we celebrate them and our many supporters,” said Las Patronas President **Michelle Wiseman**.

Las Patronas is a philanthropic organization with a long history of giving. Since its inception in 1946, Las Patronas has donated over \$21 million to more than a thousand charitable institutions in San Diego. All funds raised by Las Patronas stay in San Diego County and are distributed to many small grass-root nonprofits as well as larger, more visible organizations.

Major Beneficiaries of Jewel Ball 2019, Wonderland

Adaptive Sports and Recreation Association: Wheelchair-accessible van to transport physically disabled athletes to organized year-round sports opportunities.

Alpha Project for the Homeless: Crew cab stake-bed dump truck to support job training and employment for homeless individuals.

American Red Cross: Cargo van to assist with 24-hour immediate disaster response.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego: Seventy-six passenger school bus to transport underserved youth to after-school activities and programs throughout San Diego.

Family Health Center of San Diego: Medical and exercise equipment to provide physical rehabilitation care necessary to maintain health and independence of medically-underserved senior patients.

La Maestra Family Clinic: Bus to allow at-risk youth to experience enriching educational programs throughout San Diego.

Outside the Lens: Technology to expand the reach of a digital medial education program in Title 1 schools and advance student skills in the core elements of filmmaking.

Rady Children’s Hospital: 3D printing system to create patient-specific models to assist with surgical planning, patient family education and medical training.

San Diego Fire Rescue: “Jaws of Life” equipment to enable world-class first responder firefighters to perform critical rescue operations.

For more information about Las Patronas, please visit <http://laspatronas.org>

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Our Mission

Las Patronas is committed to providing financial assistance to non-profit organizations in San Diego County that provide valuable community services in the areas of health, education, social services, and cultural arts, and to continuing our tradition of service to enhance the quality of life in our community.