

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

Stramski Children's Developmental Center
Miller Children's Hospital

FEBRUARY 2007

NUMBER 7

CALENDAR

Open House

Feb. 5, 2007

Style Long Beach

Home Design Tour

June 10, 2007

Gala Dinner-Dance

and Auction

Sept. 8, 2007

On the Inside

Home Tour Gets

Rave Reviews

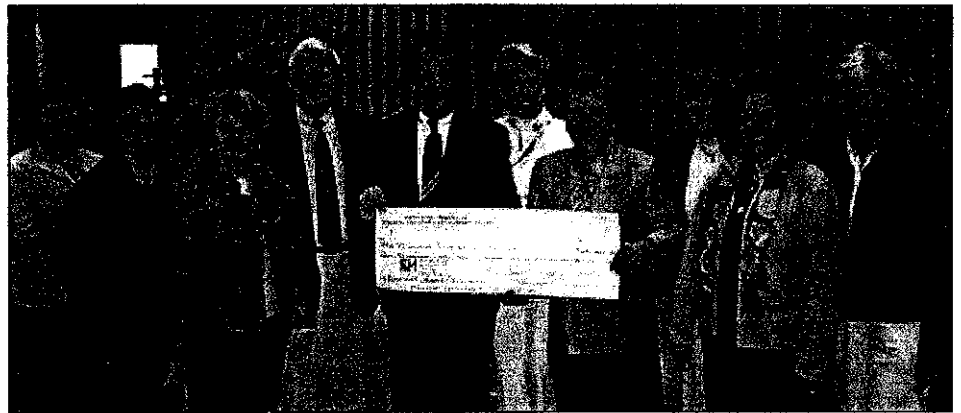
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Open House

Presents Honorees

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We Did It! \$1 Million!



Steel Magnolias present a check for \$240,000 to the Memorial Medical Center Foundations' Jim Normandin for the Stramski Center. From left: Karen Wells, Judie Johnsen, Mari Hooper, Bob Maney, Normandin, Shirley Wild, Tony Gagliardi, Mary Klingsmith, Mary Alice Braly, and Carolyn Stramski Maney.

The Steel Magnolias are on a roll. A million-dollar roll.

On December 18, the Steel Magnolias presented a check for \$240,000 to the Memorial Medical Center Foundation earmarked for the Stramski Center. That check boosted the group's donations to the Stramski Center to over \$1 million *in just seven years*. That's quite an accomplishment for so young an organization.

The Steel Magnolias Executive Board presented the check to **Jim Normandin**, president of the Memorial Medical Center Foundation, who lauded the Steel Magnolias for their efforts on behalf of the Stramski Center. Said Normandin, "Thanks to the dedicated Steel Magnolias and the generous donors who support their efforts, the great work of the Stramski Center continues for those in need."

In presenting the check to Normandin, Steel Magnolias Chairman **Tony Gagliardi** remarked, "Working with such a dynamic group of people and for such a good cause—

the Stramski children—makes fund-raising fun. I'm very excited about our growth over the past seven years and am looking forward to our next million-dollar donation."

Commenting on the rapid growth of the Steel Magnolias, Founder **Shirley Wild** said, "Never in my wildest dreams did I envision the phenomenal interest we would generate in the charitable community. It's truly a dream come true."

Following the presentation, the group was treated to a delicious lunch at the Foundation.

The \$240,000 donation primarily came from money generated at last September's successful Gala at the Hyatt Regency in Long Beach, including the opportunity drawing for a BMW, from a well-attended Home Tour supported by all of the Steel Magnolias, and from generous donors.

The Executive Board was represented by **Tony Gagliardi, Shirley Wild, Mary Alice Braly, Mari Hooper, Judie Johnsen, Mary Klingsmith, Carolyn and Bob Maney, and Karen Wells.**

In the Spotlight

by Shirley Wild

[Please Note: From time to time we are going to spotlight a member of the Steel Magnolias. It took an arm-wrestle to the ground and finally an executive decree to persuade our editor to print the following.]

"How do you do?" "Tolerably well, thank you" "Five dollars, please." So, begins a familiar exchange as **Jim Silknitter** greets Steel Magnolia members before each meeting, collecting for the night's raffle.

Jim has been a member of the Steel Magnolias from its inception, seven years ago. He generously shares his talent and helps in many ways behind-the-scenes. He has written and produced each Newsletter; until recently he has written the honoree biographies for the Tribute Book; he writes the clever descriptive notices for the silent auction items and anything else that needs the professional touch which he has honed so well.

Jim began his writing career as a journalism major at USC. During his service in the army, he was a Korean Bureau Chief for Stars and Stripes. He joined Douglas Aircraft Company in 1958 after his discharge from the army and eventually retired from (then) McDonnell Douglas Corp. as a technical writer/editor. He has been an active member of the board of International City Theatre for many years.

The Steel Magnolia family is proud to spotlight Jim Silknitter, who means so much to us as a friend and as a member. We appreciate his gentle humor, his wordsmithing turn of a phrase and his generous sharing of his many talents.

Over 500 Attend 2006 Home Tour, Give Rave Reviews

The latest Steel Magnolias success story is the annual Style Long Beach Home Design Tour. Conducted for the second time last May, it has become a prime money-maker for the Magnolias.

More than 500 people attended the 2006 tour and gave it rave reviews. Elegance was the theme of this year's tour. All of the homes featured inspiring interiors and fabulous furnishings.

The day-long event showcased five homes in Bluff Park, Park Estates, the Peninsula and Naples. There was something for everyone, including historical, contemporary, traditional and Mediterranean styles. Co-chairs of the event were **Julie Suares** and **Jacque Wetenkamp**.

The tour included a three-level home on Ocean Boulevard, a 1929 French Normandy Tudor house on Naples Canal, a 1923 Mediterranean Moorish villa-style house on First Street, and Park Estates homes on Bryant Drive and La Perla Avenue.

A Home Accessory Boutique and refreshments were included at the Park Estates home of Steel Magnolias Chairman **Tony Gagliardi**.

The 2007 Style Long Beach Home Tour will be held on June 10, so mark your calendars.



President Shirlee Bouch (left) and Event Chair Jacque Wetenkamp receive a big hug from Da Vinci's owner Stefano Colaiacomo.

It's 'Buon Natale' at Da Vinci Ristorante

Steel Magnolias and friends wished each other "Buon Natale" (Merry Christmas) on December 4 at Da Vinci Ristorante in Long Beach. (Where else would a group headed by a displaced Italian named **Antonio Gagliardi** celebrate the holidays?)

Although the Magnolias usually hold their annual holiday soiree at Gagliardi's home in Park Estates, they decided to open up this year's celebration to friends as well, largely because Da Vinci's owner, **Stefano Colaiacomo**, generously offered to donate a portion of the evening's profits to the Stramski Center.

Following scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by songsmith **Porter Singletary**, the 160 party-goers sat down to a gourmet Italian dinner.

The event was chaired by **Jacque Wetenkamp**.

Ikea Donates 'Therapeutic' Mirrors to Stramski



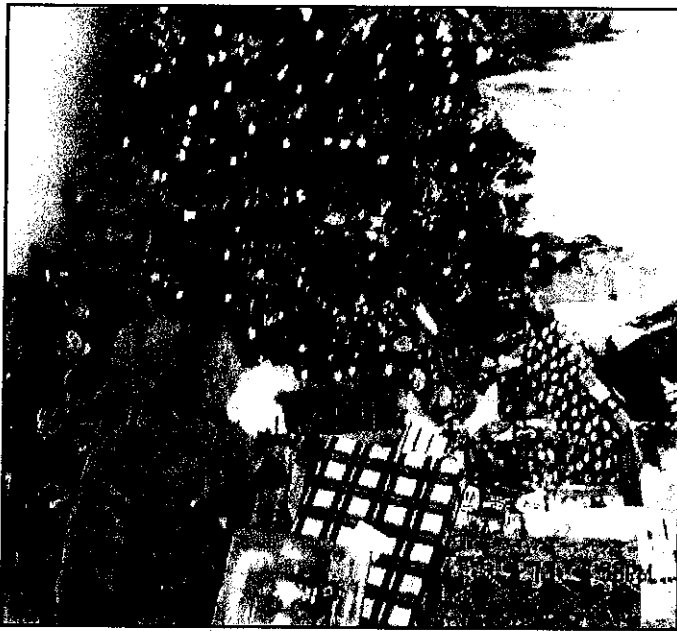
Stramski tots Jacob and Emma Fagsdale examine one of the new mirrors donated to Stramski by Ikea, while Ikea's Claudia Soto-Neira looks on.

When the Stramski Center said it needed mirrors for its children, Steel Magnolias **Jacque Wetenkamp** and **Julie Suares** rolled up their sleeves and went to work. In short order they had persuaded Ikea's Carson store to donate 100 padded mirrors to the Center. The mirrors were accepted by Stramski Director **Gary Feldman, MD**, last September.

The padded, red castle mirrors are used to encourage floor time, especially tummy time, and facilitate developmental progression in children.

"We had one little girl who just wouldn't push herself up with her arms when placed on her stomach," says **Surina Geoffrey**, Stramski physical therapist and program coordinator. "As soon as she was placed in front of the mirror, she pushed up for the first time to get a better look at herself."

The mirrors will go to families for use at home.



Hostess with the Mostest. Marlene Temple and her husband, Don, asked their guests to bring toys for the Stramski Center instead of hostess gifts to their annual Christmas party. "The guests were really excited about doing that," she said. "They seemed to enjoy giving presents to the Stramski kids."

Kudos & Accolades

2006 Home Tour Volunteers Feted by Steel Magnolias

More than 100 volunteers who donated their time to the Steel Magnolias Home Tour last year were feted for their efforts at **Tony Gagliardi's Park Estates** home in September. The volunteers enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by **Herb Wetenkamp**, door prizes were given to lucky winners, and everyone received a special cosmetic foot crème, noting the long hours they spent on their tootsies during the tour.

Elaine Davis was honored in September with the prestigious **Muriel Baldwin Service Award** from the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Long Beach/West Orange County. A JFCS member since 1992, Elaine served as president from 2001 to 2003, earning the sobriquet of JFCS's **Passionate President** because of her "passion" for the work of the agency.

Our own **Cyndie Kalina** is the new owner of **Once Upon a Story**, Long Beach's favorite children's bookstore. This is Cyndie's first plunge into entrepreneurship (is that a word?) and we wish her all the best in her new venture. As a special incentive, she will rebate to the Steel Magnolias 10% of any purchase made by a Steel Magnolia. A win/win situation.

Thanks to the efforts of **Jan Maize**, Staples Office Supplies has generously donated 100 notebooks to the Stramski Center. The notebooks are used as parent handbooks to hold the medical history of each child/patient throughout the child's tenure with Stramski.

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Open House Highlights Stramski Center, Honorees

The Steel Magnolias have a reputation as party animals, a reputation earned from their glamorous annual Gala and from the fun parties auctioned off at the Gala each year. But the Steel Magnolias also have a serious side, and nowhere is it more evident than at their annual Open House.

At the Open House, held each year at Houssels Forum at Memorial Medical Center, guests get an insight into the workings of the Geraldine Stramski Children's Developmental Center, which the Steel Magnolias support. There is a display of the services provided by the center and dramatic photos and videos of the children served. Especially touching are the heartwarming success stories told by parents regarding the rehabilitation of their children.

As **Dr. Gary Feldman**, medical director of the Stramski Center, has said, "It's our goal to see that every child reaches his or her potential."

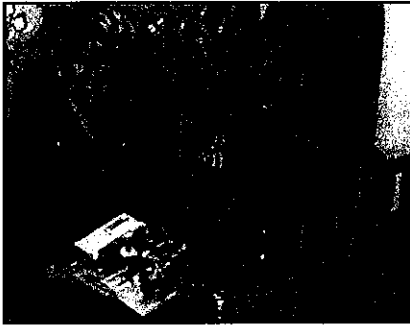
A highlight of the Open House is the introduction of the year's honorees, who will be officially recognized at the Gala in September. The 2007 Steel Magnolia honorees are to be introduced on February 5.

Individual Community Awards go to the **Autrey Family (Bob, Debbie, Ryan and Karen)**, **Irv Miller**, and **Steve and Stephanie Salyer**. The Corporate Award goes to **Bancap Commercial Real Estate Services (Steve Conley, John Hancock and Whit Latimer)**. The Spirit and Dedication Award goes to the **Cleft/Craniofacial Team** at Stramski, represented by **Dr. Peri Gunay, Judy Walker and Kay Chun**.

This is the fourth Stramski Open House that has been underwritten by **Allison Maney**, Dr. Stramski's niece.



Car(pe) Diem. The Steel Magnolias held an opportunity drawing for a new BMW at their 2006 Gala, raising \$37,000 for the Stramski Center. **Erika and Lawrence Howorth** held the winning ticket. Above, the Howorths accept the keys to their new car from **Diane, Sydney and Kathy Newton** (a Steel Magnolia). **Marlene Temple**, who sold the winning ticket, is at the left. **Maurice and Diane Newton** donated most of the funds for the car.



The Book Lady. Sandra Sherrard has donated more than 1000 books to the Stramski Center over the past few years. In the photo, Dr. Gary Feldman, medical director of the Center, accepts the latest batch of books from Sandra.



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Kudos & Accolades

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Kudos to **Liz and Harry Minor**. Harry is starting his 40th year as a baseball scout with the New York Mets and has just been honored by the Professional Scouts Foundation with the George Genovese Life-Time Achievement Award in Scouting. Liz is in her 45th year of volunteer work at Long Beach Memorial and Miller Children's Hospital.

Thanks to a colorful collaboration between **California State University, Long Beach**, and the **Long Beach Yacht Club**, toy-filled treasure chests were a big hit with the kids at the Stramski Center. The empty chests were donated by CSULB following a "Jewels of the Night" themed student athlete scholarship event. The women of the Yacht Club then spent their "Ladies Day" generously filling the empty chests with treasure (toys, that is) for the Stramski kids.

Kudos and accolades to past Steel Magnolia honoree **Justin Rudd** for his many gifts to the Stramski Center, including Easter baskets and Christmas bicycles.

Congratulations to **Marlene Temple's** mother, **Lorraine Rusk**, who celebrated her 100th birthday on October 25th. Mrs. Rusk's formula for a long life: "Walk a lot to stay on your feet, share laughter, and enjoy every day as a gift from God!"

With the election of **Blanche Cannady** to the Steel Magnolias, we now have nine current and past members who have won Rick Racker Woman of the Year Awards.

Major Donors for 2006

Steel Magnolias - \$25,000

Ackerman Family - Evalyn Bauer Foundation
Diane & Maurice Newton
Wells Fargo Bank

Platinum Magnolias - \$10,000

Long Beach Press-Telegram
Anonymous

Gold Magnolias - \$5000

Binnie & Jack Berro
Joan & John Knight
Allison Maney
Peterson & Jones Door & Window

Silver Magnolias - \$2500

CitiGroup Foundation
Epson America
Anthony Gagliardi
Patti & Robert Lott
Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Bronze Magnolias - \$1000

Barbara & Carter Boswel
Dr. John Cronin
Gail & Jim Gray
Alison & John Konop
Susan & Morton Stuhlberg

The **Carrow** kids have done it again. For the third year in a row, **Julie, 6**, and **Andrew, 9**, have donated all their birthday gifts (both birthdays are in December) to the Stramski Center to be given to needy children for Christmas. Julie and Andrew are neighbors of Steel Magnolia **Mari Hooper**, who had told them about the Center. The kids took it from there.

Welcome Aboard!

The Steel Magnolias welcomed six new members for 2007. They are **Blanche Cannady, Arleen Freeman, Elaine Goodnoe, Pat Reep, Loree Scarborough** and **Andrea Ware**.

The Steel Magnolias

Shirley Wild, Founder*
Anthony Gagliardi, Chair*
Shirlee Bouch, President*
Eline Fudge, President-Elect
Beverly O'Neill, Honorary Member

Ann Arnold	Patti Lott
Jeane Bader	Jan Maize
Susan Bell	Elpha Mandell
Judy McNulty Black	Bob Maney
Mary Alice Braly	Carolyn Stramski Maney
Blanche Canady	Patty McCarty
Elaine Davis	Barbara McDonald
Stephanie Davis	Dawn McKenna
Diana Eastman	Lorie Merrill
Lyn Epstein*	Elizabeth Minor
Nancy Foster	Kathy Newton
Arleen Freeman	Kelly Pierce
Barbara Gaylor	Pat Reep
Elaine Goodnoe	Jill Rosenberg*
Gail Gray*	Loree Scarborough
Jackey Gray	Bonnie Scott
Shell Whitney Grossman	Sandra Sherrard
Doris Hauser**	Lynn Shrum
Michelle Hertzog	Jim Silkmitter
Kathleen Hoffman	Candice Stacy
Mari Hooper*	Jocelyn Stanton
Lorrie Hutton	Trish Stevens
Judie Johnson	Julie Soares
Cyndie Kalina	Marlene Temple
Mary Klingensmith*	Kathy Wade
Joan Knight*	Andrea Ware
Lisa Koeller	Karen Wells*
Alison Konop	Herb Wetenkamp**
Joyce Krauss	Jacque Wetenkamp
Linda Lassers*	Myrna Wigod*
Kathy Lingle	

*Charter Member **Lifetime Member