

Steel *We Make Children's Health Blossom* Magnolias

Stramski Developmental Center
of Miller Children's Hospital

Summer, 2008



President's Message

Your Support Helps Us Help Stramski Center Children



The fourth annual Steel Magnolias home tour was held in May and was a huge success. Five beautiful homes were

showcased – each a unique representation of Long Beach living.

We are now looking forward to September 13 and our ninth annual gala. This elegant evening will be held at the Hyatt Regency and will spotlight the 2008 Steel Magnolias honorees:

Stephen Gordon,
John Morris,
William Wade,
Elisa Nicholas, MD,
Kenneth Walker and Farmers & Merchants Bank.

As we approach our tenth anniversary year, we are most grateful for the extraordinary community support that has enabled the Steel Magnolias to help so many Stramski Center children. We hope you will join us on September 13!

Eline Fudge

President
Steel Magnolias

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September 13 Gala To Honor LB Luminaries

Mark your calendar for the 2008 Steel Magnolias Gala on September 13 at the Long Beach Hyatt Regency. The Gala reception and dinner serves as the major fundraiser for the Steel Magnolias, the support group of the Stramski Children's Developmental Center at Miller Children's Hospital. Honored this year are five individuals who continue to give generously, and in many ways, to the Long Beach community.

Stephen Gordon, who says his "career" is devoting time to nonprofit agencies, has been called "a true humanitarian who consistently promotes the cause of human understanding." A recent recipient of



Award-winners (L to R) Stephen Gordon, William Wade, Dr. Elisa Nicholas, John Morris and Kenneth Walker will be honored on September 13.

the California Conference for Equality and Justice Humanitarian Award, Gordon serves as president of the Long Beach Nonprofit Partnership, is a member of the board of trustees of the ChildNet Foundation, and is on the board of the Jewish Community Foundation. And this is just the short list of his philanthropy!

William Wade has long donated his remarkable talent as a photographer to many organizations in the city – and all have benefited greatly from his expertise, professionalism and generosity. Wade is a former president of Kiwanis, member of Tippers and is active in the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce. He was recently honored by the Assistance League of Long Beach for his many years of service to the community.

Mentored by the late Geraldine Stramski, **Elisa Nicholas, M.D.**, embodies the spirit of dedication that is the hallmark of the Stramski Center. A respected pediatrician, innovative public health practitioner and astute healthcare administrator, Dr. Nichols has devoted her career to the caring and advocacy of underserved children and families. She led the development of the Children's Clinic, serves as project director for the Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and was chief of staff at Miller Children's Hospital from 2004 to 2007.

The generosity of noted restaurateur **John Morris** is legendary. His willingness to lend his restaurant Smooth's for events and fundraisers has benefitted many organizations in town. Morris has played a major

(Continued on Page 2.)

Profile

Nancy Foster: First Lady of L.B. Is Steel Magnolia



Steel Magnolias is proud to claim **Nancy Foster** as a member since 2006. Active in many commu-

nity organiza-
tions, Nancy was drawn to Steel Magnolias because of its role as the support group for the Stramski Center.

Says Nancy, "I am particularly drawn to organizations that address the needs of children at risk. The Stramski Center is always on my mind when I am out of the city. It's such a wonderful resource for these children. Plus, I love being a part of Steel Magnolias – such a terrific group of gals!"

Her other involvements include Long Beach Cancer League, ChildNet, Operation Teddy Bear, Ronald McDonald House, International City Theatre and the Wildlife Reserve Center. She is also a recognized speaker on the subject of mental health.

Nancy is the proud wife of Mayor Bob Foster, mom to sons Kenny and James, and a devoted grandmother to Taylor, Bobby and Ryan.

Welcome New Members!

The newest members of Steel Magnolias are (L to R): Leigh Latimer, Linda Beaver, Cindy Bambam, Jo Murray, Carolyn Bixby, Mary Forbes, Lilly Rocha, Shenette Alexander and Karen Nolta.



September 13 Gala *(Continued from page 1.)*

role in the renaissance of the downtown Long Beach scene and developed the marketing slogan "Live, Work, Play" as the mantra for Pine Avenue development. The Rotary Club has dubbed Smooth's patio "a salon with buffalo wings – and those wings are the wings of change that will make downtown Long Beach fit into the future."

When **Kenneth Walker's** grandfather, C.J. Walker, founded **Farmers & Merchants Bank** in 1907, he envisioned a bank strong in its financial position, honest and full of integrity, with a dedication to customer service and community involvement. More than a century later, the bank and the Walker family remain true to the dream of their founder. Over the years, Farmers & Merchants Bank has donated generously to the Long Beach Unified School District, YMCA, Biola University, Long Beach Symphony and Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, among others. Kenneth Walker is active in the community and has received numerous awards for his commitment to helping others. He serves on the boards of Miller Children's Hospital and the National Conference for Equality and Justice.

In addition to the awards presentation, the Gala will feature a reception, live and silent auctions, gourmet dinner and musical entertainment. For more information on the September 13 event, please call the Steel Magnolias at (562) 430-4533 or visit the website at www.thesteelmagnolias.org.

Please Help Steel Magnolias Support The Stramski Center

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please accept my donation in the amount of \$ _____

____ Enclosed is a check payable to MMCF/Steel Magnolias

____ Charge this donation to my __ VISA or __ MasterCard

Acct. # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail your donation to:

6917 East Baccaro Street, Long Beach, CA 90815

**Steel Magnolias functions under the 501(c)(3) auspices of the
Memorial Medical Center Foundation (Federal Identification #95-6105984)**

Honorees, Stramski Center Feted at Open House

An evening of enlightenment, recognition and reunion unfolded at the 2008 Open House hosted by the Steel Magnolias at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center's Housells Forum on February 16.

Anthony Gagliardi, master of ceremonies and Steel Magnolias chairman, with Bob Maney, event chairman, set the stage for an evening that spotlighted past and present honorees, Dr. Gary Feldman and the Stramski Center, and the Stramski Family – including Carolyn Stramski Maney, Bob Maney, Becci Maney and Allison Maney. Allison, the daughter of Carolyn and Bob and the niece of Geraldine Stramski, generously underwrote the Open House.

Following a warm welcome by Memorial Medical Center CEO Terry Belmont, Dr. Feldman, Stramski Center medical director, explained to the more than 120 attendees the role of the center in addressing the needs of developmentally challenged children and their families.



More than 120 guests attended the 2008 Open House hosted by (L to R) Steel Magnolias Chairman Anthony Gagliardi, President Eline Fudge, Bob Maney, Allison Maney – the niece of Geraldine Stramski and underwriter of the event – Carolyn Stramski Maney and Dr. Gary Feldman, Stramski Center medical director.

Joyce Krauss, Steel Magnolias honoree chair, introduced the organization's 2008 honorees, who will be recognized at the 2008 Gala reception and dinner on September 13 at the Long Beach Hyatt Regency. (See article on page one.)

Past Steel Magnolias honorees in attendance at the Open House included Blanche Cannady, Kay Chun, Steve Conley, Dr. John Cronin, Gloria Deukmejian and The Honorable George Deukmejian, Dr. Nelson Gatov, Melva Miller, Dr. Lupe Padilla, Margie Penny, Justin Rudd, Jean Bixby Smith, Candace Stacy, Dr. Arthur Strauss, Don and Marlene Temple, Judy Walker and Dr. Jim Wells.

Farewell to Jim Silknitter, 1933 - 2008

Steel Magnolias Mourns a Beloved Friend



"How do you do? Give me five!" That was the greeting the late Jim Silknitter had for each of the Steel Magnolias as they arrived at monthly meet-

ings. He was referring to the \$5 he collected for tickets to the evening's prize drawing.

Jim was one of the original members of Steel Magnolias. From the beginning, he was invaluable for his quick wit, writing skills and gentle manner. He always had a positive approach to problem solving and greeted everyone with warmth and humor.

"That was the thing about Jim, he would do anything you asked of him," said Anthony Gagliardi, Steel Magnolias chairman. "He always went along with the menu of the day and was such a good sport about things, never a complaint, even when we dressed him as a gorilla for our jungle party! Jim was always willing, always there for us. He'd never let us down and nothing would get him down. He just made it happen."

Steel Magnolias founder Shirley Wild remembers, "He was such a hard worker and so talented. He made it all look easy. His 'turn of phrase' was evident in everything – our newsletter, our gala tribute book, silent auction boards and press releases. His humor and fine writing flowed throughout our group in many ways."

Jim was also a longtime supporter of many community organizations, served on the board of International City Theatre, and was an active supporter of Musical Theatre West. When he passed away in February, the Steel Magnolias lost a treasured friend who will be greatly missed.

www.thesteelmagnolias.org

About the Stramski Center

In 1975, Dr. Geraldine A. Stramski (Hyman) recognized the need for a multidisciplinary medical team to help children challenged by developmental conditions and founded the Children's Chronic Disease Center at Long Beach Miller Children's Hospital. In 1991, the center was renamed in honor of this dedicated pediatrician.

Today, under the direction of Dr. Gary Feldman, the center offers services through four programs: the Children's Chronic Disease Program, the Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Center, the Children's Developmental Clinic and the Infant Development Program. Referrals to Stramski Center programs are made by Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and other local hospitals, pediatricians, primary care physicians, pediatric dentists, health care providers, school nurses, regional centers and children's agencies.

The Steel Magnolias have been proud supporters of the Stramski Center since 1999 and are committed to raising funds and creating public awareness.

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Lingle

Contributors: Blanche Cannady,
Diana Eastman, Shirley Wild

Design: Innovators

Style Long Beach Home Tour is Huge Success

Fabulous homes, the ever-popular boutique and a grand reception in Anthony Gagliardi's poolside garden created a stellar turnout for Style Long Beach, the Steel Magnolias annual home tour held on May 5. A generous donation from Ikea helped produced a record return for the event, which raised more than \$33,000 for the Stramski Center.

The home tour featured an impressive range of architecture and interior design styles,

thanks to Mary Beth and Jerry Mashburn, Garry Sandlin, Joyce Clark and Ken Douthit, Bruce Bradley and Mary Forbes, and Leslie and Ron Herbst, who opened their homes for the fundraiser. Support for the event was provided by many Steel Magnolias members and community volunteers known as the Magnolia Petals.



Winners (from left) Brian Zeke and Dee Dee Brooks show their winning ticket for a \$6,000 suite of leather furniture donated by Ikea. They are seen with event co-chair Jacquie Wetenkamp and Sotoneira of Ikea.

A new component this year was a remarkable raffle item – a suite of leather furniture donated

by Ikea. "We couldn't be happier and we want to thank Ikea for contributing to the success of this very special event," said co-chairs Julie Soares and Jacquie Wetenkamp.

Steel Magnolias Members

Founder
Shirley Wild*

Linda Beaver
Susan Bell
Carolyn Bixby
Judy McNulty Black

Honorary Member
Hon. Beverly O'Neill

Chairman
Anthony Gagliardi*

Shirlee Bouch*
Mary Alice Braly
Blanche Cannady
Elaine Davis

President
Elaine Fudge

President-Elect
Jackey Gray

Stephanie Davis
Paul Diego
Diana Eastman
Lyn Epstein*
Mary Forbes
Nancy Foster

Shenette Alexander
Jeanne Bader
Cindy Bambam

Barbara Gaylor*
Elaine Goodnoe
Gail Gray*
Shell Whitney Grossman
Doris Hauser*+
Michelle Hertzog
Mari Hooper*
Lorrie Hutton
Judie Johnsen
Cyndie Kalina
Mary Klingensmith*
Joan Knight*
Lisa Koeller
Joyce Krauss
Linda Lassers*
Leigh Latimer

Kathy Lingle
Patti Lott
Jan Maize
Elpha Mandell
Bob Maney
Carolyn Stramski Maney
Patty McCarty
Barbara McDonald-Hall
Dawn McKenna
Lorie Merrill
Elizabeth Minor
Jo Murray
Kathy Newton
Karen Nolte
Kelly Pierce
Pat Reep
Lilly Rocha

Jill Rosenberg*
Loree Scarborough
Bonnie Scott
Sandra Sherrard
Lynn Shrum
Candice Stacy
Jocelyn Stanton
Trish Stevens
Julie Soares
Marlene Temple
Kathy Wade
Andrea Ware
Karen Wells*
Herb Wetenkamp+
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