

## **CAMEO's Fashion Show "A Walk on the Wild Side" Soars to New Heights!**

Lions and Tigers—and Women! OH MY! CAMEO, professional auxiliary of Assistance League® of Long Beach, welcomed nearly 1,100 guests to "A Walk on the Wild Side" at the Long Beach Convention Center on April 7<sup>th</sup>, proclaiming its largest attendance in its twenty year history!

Heralded as one of the most successful fundraisers in Long Beach, the event grossed \$230,000 in support of CAMEO's Mentoring program of academic scholarships, summer internships, and supplies of computers and books for promising students of Long Beach high schools and Long Beach City College.

As the **Steel Parade** drum band played, guests were greeted with champagne in a lobby bedecked with life-sized jungle animals, living plants, trees and ferns. Inside the Silent Auction room, the Bubbles and Baubles exhibit provided guests an opportunity to win a diamond, ruby or emerald gemstone. The one-carat diamond was won by ecstatic Jan Kenny. The jungle beat continued the bidding fever guide as **Mick McGuire** led them through an array of silent auction treasures waiting to be discovered by eager explorers (the auction bidders). More than 500 silent auction items, from restaurants to spa treatments, objects-d'Afrique to dazzling jewelry, tempted guests at every turn!

With the sound of the music fading into the background, ravenous members of the safari arrived in the grand ballroom to discover tables swathed in chocolate brown-over-white tablecloths with saffron and orange accents. Grazing ceramic giraffes, urn vases, and jugs with palm fronds selected by Centerpiece Chairman **Carla Graham** carried out the jungle motif.

The guests dined on a delicious lunch of Buffalo Mozzarella a la Caprese salad, entrée of Statler Breast of Chicken and Risotto with rustic grilled vegetables, and topped off with a dessert of tangy lemon square stacks and mixed berry and mango coulis. CAMEO Chairman **Linda Rahn** and CAMEO Resource Development Chair **Georg-Ann Talin** opened the festivities and welcomed their guests. They presented the Internship Partner of the Year Award to **Tammy Newland** of **Keller Williams Realty** of Los Alamitos, also a member of CAMEO.

**Maria Harris** and **Naomi Blackmore**, current and incoming **Philanthropy Chairmen** respectively, presented the Community Partner of the Year Award to **Lynda Ziegler** and **Pam Bass** of **Southern California Edison** for their years of support to CAMEO. But the real highlight came when Ms. Harris and Ms. Blackmore introduced more than 30 students from CAMEO's program to the guests on stage to a rousing round of applause.

Just prior to the fashion show curtain call, auctioneer extraordinaire **Allan Rahn** led a highly spirited live auction that consisted of interesting items such as a one-week trip to the Dona Lola Resort in Malaga, Spain, purchased by Tina Glover; an Angel suite for 22 guests donated by Southern California Edison won by two competing bidders; an original sculpture entitled "Untamed" designed by Orange County artisan **Daniel**

**Oropeza**, and purchased by Fatima Reep; and a unique private tour of the Manulani Container Ship with **Captain Andrew Merrill** sold to two different bidders. **Keesal Young & Logan's** epicurean dinner for twelve in the bidder's home also received exceptional bidding from Sheri Jones, and a Wine Tasting Extravaganza donated by **David Scales of MAWL (Music, Art, Wine, Love)** of Garden Grove, replete with wine tasting and premier wines for the host along with a wine cuvee, was purchased by Lynda Ziegler. In addition, **Sheldon and Joy Golison's** 55' yacht received spirited bidding for a sunset cruise for nine guests that was purchased by Beverly Reynolds.

After raising \$41,500 in the live auction, the highly awaited fashion show began with a jungle beat by native tribesmen and gorgeous models en route to a safari. The fashion show was a sensation with clothiers Bianco Nero, Bow & Arrow, Alan Del Rosario and Belusso Travel Luxury presenting. **Carin Holmenas** coordinated the event.

Concluding the fashion show the guests had the opportunity to win a \$500 savings bond donated by **Farmers & Merchants Bank**, a \$500 shopping spree to **Macy's Westminster**, a \$600 shopping spree to **Nordstrom, South Coast Plaza**, and the grand prize of a \$1,000 shopping spree to **Fashion Island, Newport Beach**.

The success of the fashion show was the result of a year of dedicated work by CAMEO members and family including: Fashion Show Co-Chairmen **Christine Jurenka** and **Nancy Koehring**, with daughter **Christine Koehring, Sheila Yee-Murrin, Pam Thames, Milt Butler, Susan Redfield, Rick Pinson, Martha Keizer, Sandy Morgan, Catherine Terry, Diana Williams, Barbara Grubb, Helen Hansen** and **Ginny Baxter**. The continued support by **CAMEO students, Male Hosts** and the **Assisteens®** at the fashion show were much appreciated.

**FYI:** Now in its twentieth year, CAMEO members mentor high school students over three years and Long Beach City College students over two years, providing them with one-on-one mentoring and tools to succeed academically. Students who participate fully in the program are awarded with academic scholarships, a computer and printer, and a trip to Washington, D.C. during the student's senior year in high school. Throughout the program, students engage in goal setting and career development workshops, summer internships, cultural field trips, and activities hosted by CAMEO, and also receive financial assistance for school from CAMEO.

Seen at the Scene: In-coming CAMEO Chairman **Ginny Kennebeck**, Assistance League of Long Beach President **Shelly Sandler**, Las Hermanas Chairman **Helen Sebring**, Rick Rackers Chairman **Vicki Vaught, Blanche Brewster-Cannady, Diane DeWalsche, Susan Bell, Beverly Cook, Joyce Krauss, Sandra French, Jane Jackson, Daphne Ching-Jackson, Charlene Young, Carlene Armstrong, Mary Crane, and Lorie Merrill**.