

Rick Rackers Reunion

Over one hundred enthusiastic past and current Rick Rackers members enjoyed a special evening of rekindling old friendships and visiting the newly-opened Assistance League® of Long Beach Philanthropic Center at 6220 E. Spring Street. Past Rick Rackers Chairmen **Karen Kozaites** and **Judy Lamb**, along with **Patricia Shadden**, greeted the ladies as they entered the beautifully-appointed building where Asian art from chapter's Howard Collection adorn the halls. For the first time in the history of Assistance League of Long Beach, the new Philanthropic Center is able to house all of the organization's programs under one roof, including Operation School Bell®, Orthodontic Center, Scholarships, Mentoring, ALa Carte, Assault Survivor Kits®, and The Kids on the Block™.

Past Rick Rackers Chairman **Pat Reep** ushered the ladies into the grand assembly room and Assistance League of Long Beach President-Elect **Sandy French** opened the program by welcoming the lively group to the reunion. Sandy introduced past Rick Rackers Chairman and a Woman of the Year honoree **Suzanne Nosworthy** who presented an overview of Rick Rackers history from its inception in 1942. Current member **Cindy Gillis** updated the group on Operation School Bell's five-year goal of clothing 10,000 Long Beach students in school uniforms, and **Randee Sullivan** presented a gift from her graduating class—a painting depicting the original Rick Rackers house. **Bill Wade**, "Mr. Rick Racker" was thanked for his generous donation of time photographing the numerous Rick Rackers events over the years.

The event's steering committee including Cindy Gillis, **Meg Hogan**, and past Rick Rackers chairmen Karen Kozaites, Judy Lamb, **Kathy Lingle**, **Melva Miller** (also a Woman of the Year nominee,) Suzanne Nosworthy, Pat Reep, **Vickie Sullos**, **Vicki Vaught**, **Kathy Wade** and **Barbara Newton** was also acknowledged for planning the successful Rick Rackers reunion.

FYI: Rick Rackers, an auxiliary of Assistance League of Long Beach, was chartered in 1942 and its members are the founders and inspiration of Operation School Bell in Long Beach. Operation School Bell is one of the signature philanthropic programs of Assistance League of Long Beach and Rick Rackers. The organization currently clothes over 4,000 Long Beach Unified School District children in need each year.

Seen at the scene: Past Rick Rackers Chairmen **Pat Archbold**, **Dawn Askew**, **Marisa Autrey**, **Margo Bergkvist**, **Sue Breuklander**, **Susan Bruner**, **Lenell Chace**, **Jennifer Coates**, **Mary Crane**, **Maryann Feo**, **Rose Hamm**, **Kristi Marks**, **Joyce Murchison**, **Joann Rich**, **Jocelyn Stanton**, **Jann Whisenant**, **Beverly Wing**, and past Woman of the Year honorees **Clara Andrews**, **Mary Alice Braly**, **Gloria Deukmejian**, **Mary Klingensmith**, **Nancy Latimer**, **Sande Rice**, **Wanda Sewak**, **Arlene Solomon**, and **Shirley Wild**.

PHOTO: Photo emailed as an additional attachment.

Caption: "**Rick Rackers Reunion:** "Cindy Gillis, Suzanne Nosworthy, Sandy French, and Pat Reep view a scrapbook at the Rick Rackers reunion. The reunion allowed past and current members to reconnect with each other and visit the newly-opened Assistance League of Long Beach Philanthropic Center on Spring Street.