

"Historically that has really been important in this organization. Our board has always been committed to providing free services," Rink adds.

Looking to the future, board president Roger Heroux says, "The vision is to grow because there is a lot of work to be done. Not only do we want to grow and expand the clinical aspects of this organization, we want to penetrate the Hispanic community in a big way.... (Also) we've got to make sure that our infrastructure is solid...to make sure that we've got the capability internally to deal with the growth. And finally we want to collaborate with a couple of like-minded organizations that will serve as a good referral source to us, but who also share our commitment to this process."

"I think that it will be a different kind of leadership," says Rink. "I'm a fundamental program person and have been in the business a long time (27 years as a hospice social worker/counselor) and Steve has been affiliated with the business for a long time. I built the fundamentals, he'll build the future."

To find out more about Hospice of Santa Barbara, call (805) 563-8820 or visit www.hospiceofsantabarbara.org.

Light Up a Life: 25th Anniversary Celebration

Hospice of Santa Barbara hosts its 25th annual Holiday Light Up a Life celebration in Santa Barbara (December 7, Lobero Theatre Lawn, 5:30 p.m.), Carpinteria (December 13, Hollyhock Cottage, 789 Linden Avenue, 5:30 p.m.) and Goleta (December 6, Camino Real Marketplace, 5:30 p.m.). A ceremony celebrating the life and the joy of remembrance of loved ones, Light Up A Life features memorial trees illuminated with hundreds of sparkling lights and stars, each symbolizing a tribute to a loved one.

—Leslie Dinaberg

CURRENT AFFAIRES

LOCAL FUNDRAISERS for DECEMBER, JANUARY & FEBRUARY

December

DECEMBER 5 CASA DEL HERRERO CHRISTMAS, CANDLELIGHT AND COCKTAILS December 5, 5–8 p.m.

Guests are welcomed to a warm and festive holiday atmosphere, with elegant decorations created by Kyle Irwin adorning this acclaimed George Washington Smith estate. A special benefit evening features hearty hors d'oeuvres, a scotch and bourbon tasting room and a much-anticipated silent auction featuring a brand-new collection of superb Casa-inspired jewelry designed by Silverhorn, with proceeds benefiting Casa del Herrero. 1387 E. Valley Rd. For tickets and information about the event or to book a holiday tour, call Susannah Gordon at (805) 565-5650 or email casatour@silcom.com.

DECEMBER 5 CATHOLIC CHARITIES MISTLETOE BALL December 5, 6–10 p.m.

Enjoy cocktails, a lavish meal, dancing and live music at this sell-out annual fundraiser held at the beautiful Four Seasons Biltmore Resort. Proceeds benefit south county Catholic Charities programs and services. 1260 Channel Dr. For tickets and information, call (805) 965-7045.

DECEMBER 6 CITIZENS PLANNING ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION HOLIDAY PARTY AND SILENT AUCTION December 6

A multitude of gifts—from stocking stuffer to extravagant—are auctioned off at this annual event benefiting Citizens Planning Association. Hosted at The Frameworks & Caruso-Woods Gallery, the evening includes a light buffet and festive beverages. 813 Anacapa St. For tickets and information, call (805) 966-3979, email info@citizensplanning.org or visit www.citizensplanning.org.

**HOSPICE OF SANTA BARBARA, INC.
LIGHT UP A LIFE
December 6, 7 and 13, 5:30 p.m.**
(See box at left for more information.)

DECEMBER 7 UNITY SHOPPE MOTORCYCLE TOY RUN December 7 Register at 9 a.m., ride at 10:45 a.m.

Use your chopper to fight evil with this fun, easy ride in support of Unity Shoppe's holiday toy drive. Begin on Santa Claus Lane and wrap up at Santa Barbara Elks Lodge in Goleta with a barbecue lunch and camaraderie. For information, call (805) 965-4122 or visit www.unityshoppe.org.

DECEMBER 13 SARAH HOUSE LIGHT UP THE NIGHT: "ARTIZAN'S BALL—IMAGINE" December 13, 6–10 p.m.

Sarah House's biggest annual fundraiser is set to be another fabulous soiree for a good cause. Art is the focus for auction items—including Christmas trees made by local artists and paintings created as guests observe, with the results auctioned off on the spot. As always, the evening includes music and a lavish spread of hors d'oeuvres and local wines, served up by Wildcat Lounge bartenders. Guests are encouraged to come in costume. Santa Barbara Women's Club at Rockwood, 670 Mission Canyon Rd. For tickets and information, call (805) 882-1192 or visit www.sarahhousesb.org.

DECEMBER 13–14 GOLETA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY AT THE RANCH December 13 and 14, 1–4 p.m.

Enjoy a weekend of live music, crafts, a holiday boutique and other festive activities at the beautifully decorated Stow House. Children can learn to make holiday cookies and visit with Santa Claus, "rein-goats" in tow. Stow House, 304 Los Carneros Rd., Goleta. For information, call (805) 964-4407 or visit www.goletahistory.org.

DECEMBER 16 KDB-FM HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING-ALONG December 16, 7:30 p.m.

This musical fundraiser for Foodbank programs in Santa Barbara County is a wonderful way to gather for the holidays. Sing Handel's awe-inspiring *Messiah* with your fellow Santa Barbarans in a performance and sing-along of this timeless work, conducted once again by local music director Phillip McLendon. Scores can be purchased at Chaucer's Bookstore, Santa Barbara Sheet Music and at the door. First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance Ave. For information, call (805) 879-8346.