

On the Town

Lobero tea celebrates Associates

The Lobero Theatre Associates is a women's auxiliary group that has been working to support the Lobero Theatre since 1972, raising money to fund special projects to continue the Lobero legacy.

If you are thinking that sounds like a lot of icky nonprofit work, you're wrong! The group is full of camaraderie among newfound friends who have a fine time creating ways to support a great theater (such as their very popular Hats Off! Luncheon coming up March 15). Their annual Christmas tea is one time of year they get to sit back, kick off their shoes and just enjoy each other's company after another successful year.



Erin Graffy

The room at the Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore Santa Barbara was filled with ladies in holiday haute couture, including Associates president **Janet McCann** and members **Carol Wathen, Kay Robinson Schofield, Holly Murphy, Annie Johnson, Hope Kelly, Sylvia Easton, Angie Ferraro, Leslie Haight, Lily Marx, Margaret Slater, Susan Tarlow, Annie Williams** and **Rhea Hayes** (Hats



ERIN GRAFFY / NEWS-PRESS

At left, tea co-chair **Emily Johnson**, with, from left, Lobero Theatre Associates **Josie Devine, Linda Vannier** and **Melissa Franzen**. At right, from left, tea co-chair **Mindy Denson, Marlene Handler, Lana Marmé** and **Mavis Mayne**.

Off! co-chair).

Tea co-chairs **Emily Johnson** and **Mindy Denson** organized tea sandwiches and other dainty morsels, while pianist **Frederick Roswell** serenading us with seasonal sonatas on the keyboard. More people enjoying the company, conversation and croissants included **Victoria Furst Hines, Paige Beard, Marlene Handler, Helene Buckley, Joan Crossland, Emily Dempster, Dennise Barron, Mavis Mayne, Josie Devine, Maribel Jarchow, Cindy Freeman, Victoria Firestone, Linda Vannier, Melissa Franzen, Diane Brighton, Miny Willmon** and **Lana Marmé**.

Lobero Theatre board president

Amy MacLeod attended along with grateful board members **Tim** and **Louise Casey**, as well as **Steve Hayes** and Lobero staff members **Jim Dougherty** (Heritage Fund director), **Marianne Clark** (fund director) and **Angie Bertucci** (marketing and communications).

Emily Johnson said, "I am so grateful you are all here and that you all brought a Christmas toy for CALM (Child Abuse Listening and Mediation)!"

Brandon Mowery, the new director of development, has been in his position all of two months but was already getting attuned to the sweet spirit around the Lobero. "One thing that jumped

out at me is all that the Lobero Associates do," he told us. "I took a crash course about this group, and learned that they were formed in 1972. One of the most impactful things you have done is fund the Steinway grand piano that serves our theater stage, and the great patio in a beautiful courtyard that serves our receptions so well.

"And I know that you are very active in bringing thousands of students to the theater each year for Lobero programs."

"You know, the one meeting I attended, I noted the Associates were already eager for the next Raise the Roof campaign," Mr. Mowery concluded. "So I just want to say, 'We appreciate you guys!'"