

LAGUNA NEWS-POST

The Orange County Register • Thursday, Aug. 31, 2006



PHOTOS BY MIKE SCHWARTZ / LAGUNA NEWS-POST

Susan Hrbek and Clyde Straub dance to the music of singer James Tormé at the season-ending gala benefit for the Festival of Arts/Pageant of the Masters.

Sold-out gala grosses thousands

Guests dine and enjoy Pageant of the Masters with celebrities

BY KELLY GARRISON
LAGUNA NEWS-POST

A red carpet entrance of celebrities launched the eighth annual Pageant of the Masters Gala Benefit on Saturday – a sold-out night of artistry, special guests, dining and more at the Festival of Arts, now in its 74th year running.

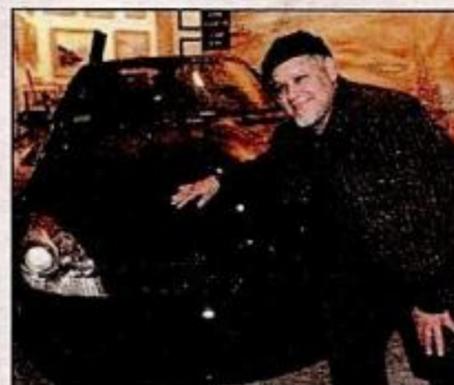
Gala host Teri Hatcher of “Desperate Housewives” and “The Adventures of Lois and Clark,” was there among other famous names, who kept many star-searching through the



Event host Teri Hatcher is flanked by Pageant of the Masters director Diane Challis Davy, left, and Festival of Arts president Anita Mangels.

The event grossed more than \$250,000 from ticket sales of \$50 to \$300. Proceeds will go toward the festival’s building fund.

“Being a celebrity gives you the opportunity to focus light



Jeffrey Carmona of Los Angeles finally gets to touch the Mercedes-Benz SLK that he won.

said Hatcher, who also hosted last year’s gala. She participated in the pageant with her daughter, Emerson, 8. “I really believe in the program, and I believe in the importance of bringing the arts into adults’

Churches vie for rebuilding

St. Mary’s, St. Catherine’s negotiate with residents.

BY KELLY GARRISON
LAGUNA NEWS-POST

The Rev. Elizabeth Rechter of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church pointed toward the peeling walls of Guild Hall and explained her congregation’s need for a more functional Sunday school, gathering and meeting place.

The building is not sturdy, she said. “We want to be able to improve our facility.”

After about 50 years of use, stale air permeates the hall’s worn corridors, but some still view it as a historical icon. Vines and shrubs layer a stucco archway leading into its nearby garden. A part of the original church, the hall has sparked debate over plans to tear down the old building and replace it with a larger facility.

Resident criticism has bombarded those who plan to expand St. Mary’s: one of two churches within the downtown area proposing expansions in size. The school at St. Catherine of Siena has also received complaints from some because of its plans to build on an open hillside determined by a state commission to be an environmentally sensitive habitat.

City officials made recommendations for both parishes to work out disputes with neighbors through a mediator.

ST. MARY’S

The church’s plans for a new