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LOCAL

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John Hancock, left, Gloria Deukmejian and Jim Gray talk at an August program honoring backers of the Stramski Children's Developmental Center of Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach.



Kenneth G. Walker, left, Henry Walker, Dr. Elisa Nicholas, Bill Wade and Kathy Wade, and Linda and Stephen Gordon gather with Joyce Krauss at the program honoring the 2008 Steel Magnolia winners.



Bob Maney, left, and Dr. Jim Wells are served appetizers by Panache Services at last month's event. Steel Magnolias will have its annual gala Saturday at the Hyatt Hotel in Long Beach.

'Magnolia' winners are saluted for work



**SHIRLEY
WILD
SEEN AT
THE SCENE**

An alfresco reception has been held for the 2008 Steel Magnolia honorees.

President **Eline Fudge**, there with her husband, **Jack**, welcomed the 40 or so attending the Aug. 10 event. As past honorees were introduced to this year's recipients there were hugs all around as people met old friends. All the while, sumptuous hors d'oeuvres were presented and served by Panache Services.

Honoree Chairwoman **Joyce Krauss** thanked this year's honorees and introduced **Stephen Gordon**, **Bill Wade** and **John Morris** (who was not present) as the Community Award recipients; **Kenneth G. Walker** and **Henry Walker** (representing

Corporate Award recipient Farmers & Merchants Bank) and **Dr. Elisa Nicholas**, the recipient of the **Geraldine A. Stramski Spirit and Dedication** award.

Fudge spoke of the good works of the Stramski Center and introduced members of the Stramski Center's cleft palate and craniofacial team. They included past honorees **Dr. Jim Wells**, **Kay Chun**, **Dr. Nelson Gatov** and **Dr. Peri Gunay**, who spoke from the heart about what their work accomplishes. There was more than one tear seen as they discussed the profound impact on their patients.

It was a casual evening with guests enjoying the camaraderie of the gathering in the poolside setting.

FYI: The Steel Magnolias is the support group of the Stramski Children's Developmental Center of Miller Children's Hospital, which treats children with birth defects and other special needs. In keeping with the paper's policy of disclosure, I'd like you to know I am the founder of the group and serve on the board.

The 2008 Gala will be held Saturday at the Hyatt Hotel. For more information and photos, check the Web site **TheSteelMagnolias.org**. To help, call **562-430-4533**.

Seen at the scene: past honorees attending included Gov. **George** and **Gloria Deukmejian**, **Marlene Temple**, **Dr.**

Nelson Gatov (with **Link**), **Margie Penny** (with **Jim**) representing Long Beach Memorial Hospital Children's Auxiliary, **Blanche Cannady** (with **John**), **Justin Rudd** (with **Ralph Millero**), **Jim Gray** (with **Gail**), **Dr. John Cronin**, **Stephen Conley** (with **Fran**) and **John Hancock** (with **Liz**). Also seen: **Bob** and **Carolyn Maney**, **Michelle Hertzog**, **Jackey Gray** and **Dr. Bill Wild**.

News of social events with charitable purposes may be sent to Shirley Wild at spwild@verizon.net or by fax to 562-594-9668. Please include a brief FYI about your organization, including a contact phone number. Send high-resolution JPEG photos to spwild@verizon.net and include group name and identification of individuals from left. Call Shirley at 562-594-9468 for information.