

OUR TOWN

by Joanne A. Calitri

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Environmentally Friendly Luxury Living



Seen at Diane Boss's home energy savings presentation are key Community Environmental Council donor Jules Zimmer with Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Executive Director Karl Hutterer

Debunking common labels attributed to both environmentalists and high profile residents is Montecito's **Diane Boss**. Her exemplary work at incorporating energy efficiency without limiting her luxury lifestyle, and her continued efforts to do so, are inspirational for people of all economic statuses.

Diane explains, "I am interested in our environment and am on the Board of the Community Environmental Council here in Santa Barbara. I figured if I am on the Board of an environmental organization, I better walk the talk, so I started doing research in 2006 regarding how my luxury home lifestyle in Montecito affects our environment and what I can do as a private citizen to change any negative impact." Diane's research and her participa-

tion on the CEC Board provided her with information to implement changes that reduced her energy consumption by 60% and her carbon footprint a few tons annually.

Happy to share her research, and show her neighbors the changes she incorporated into her estate, Diane sponsored a luncheon on Thursday May 17, in collaboration with the Community Environmental Council. Invited guests included CEC donors **Jules Zimmer** and **Rick and Aurora Grimm**; Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Executive Director **Karl Hutterer**; **Fiona Stone** with her parents **James and Carole Bull** visiting from East Sussex, UK; **Adam Rhodes**; **Heidi Winston**; **Lissa Liggett** and **Kathi Brennan King**, CEC Donor Relations Manager. CEC presenters were **Megan Birney** and **Marina Kasa**, both energy experts. "Its inspir-

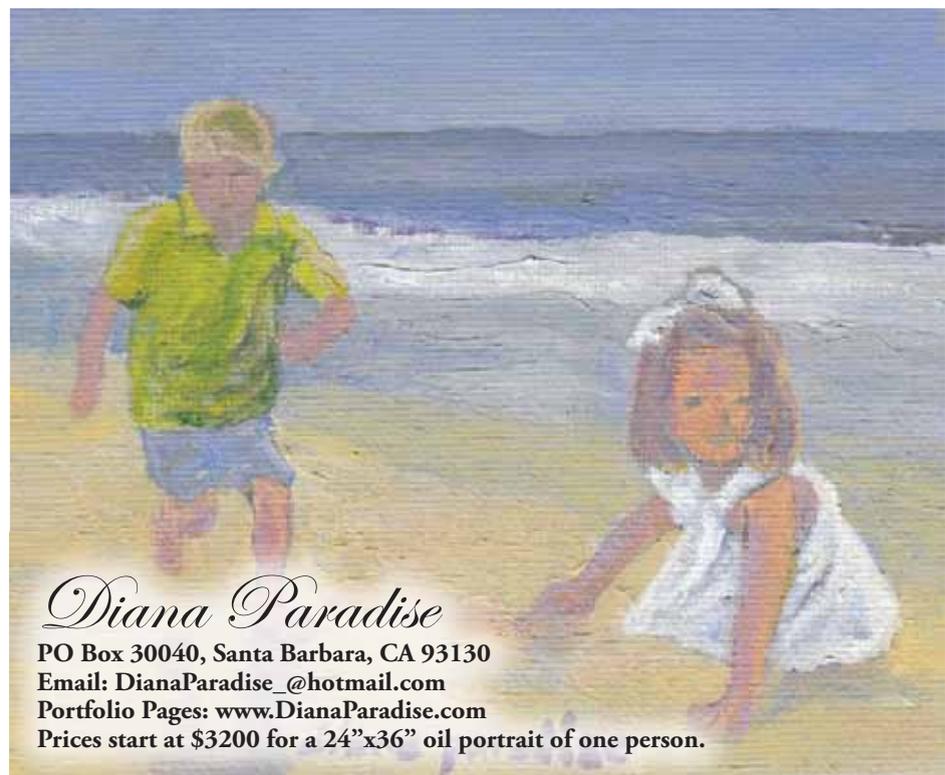


Diane Boss (center) with CEC energy experts Megan Birney and Marin Kasa in Diane's newly energy efficient home theater



Guests at the energy efficiency presentation included Fiona Stone with her parents James and Carole Bull visiting from East Sussex, UK

New energy efficient landscaping at the Boss estate in Montecito, using drought tolerant planting replacing acres of lawn



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Prices start at \$3200 for a 24"x36" oil portrait of one person.

ing to see Diane taking a lead in conserving energy use while maintaining her luxury lifestyle," said Megan, adding, "Large estate home theaters, lawns, lighting outdoor gardens and pool heating create what we call a 'Phantom Load' on the grid, as well as unnecessary expenses for the consumer. The changes Diane made on her estate are exemplary."

Although it is harder to make energy changes on existing homes, Diane outlined what she did and is still researching to do in the future. Her home theater arena was on standby using 750 watts, now is shut down to 50 watts with an \$1,800 per year and 2 tons of CO2 savings. She pointed out that 40% of greenhouse gases emitted in our area come from our buildings, large estates included. Admittedly she added that her estate is not what people think of when they think of

a "green home," but she explains, "We started with solar panels that we lease, hybrid cars, and then proceeded to cut back on water usage with energy efficient landscaping, using computer-based controls for our outdoor lighting and other similar areas, such as guest rooms not being used." She demonstrated 'Smart Strips' and 'Kilowatt meters,' which are for sale on the CEC website on Amazon.com. Diane concluded her presentation with a tour of her estate and fielded questions from the guests. Everyone came away with a new look at a familiar cause, and appeared interested to look into what they may do at their homes in Montecito, starting with a professional energy audit from a local contractor certified to conduct building performance assessments. For more information, visit www.cecsb.org/get-started.

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