

SEEN AROUND TOWN

by Lynda Millner

Green Gala



Green Gala greeters Nick Sylvio, Katie Joseff, Travis Johnson, Natalie Casey and Jimmy Ranger. The girls are heads of the CEC junior committee.

This year the Community Environmental Council's (CEC) Green Gala attacked all of your senses from the sound of rhythmic music to wildly airbrushed and costumed Green Greeters welcoming you into a stunning space filled with trees hung with moss and leaves, and walls covered in white chiffon and awash in dramatic light. The plain Santa Barbara Armory had disappeared into the décor. The dance floor was called the Rhythm Cave, a "room" created out of LED screens, which surrounded guests with images of nature, a forest, kelp beds, or a windswept mountaintop. The Cirque du Soleil artists were awesome as "live trees" on stilts walking around. As chair **Elizabeth Wagner** and honorary chair **Cyndi Richman** said, "Almost everything in the room is borrowed, repurposed or vintage including costumes, the greenery, the décor and the centerpieces."

Merryl Brown Events and the Green Gala Committee (a team that donated hundreds of hours) collaborated on all the details – even selecting the dinnerware with thought as to how much water it would take to wash them.



Ms Millner is the author of "The Magic Make Over, Tricks for Looking, Thinner, Younger, and More Confident – Instantly!" If you have an event that belongs in this column, you are invited to call Lynda at 969-6164.

The *coup de grace* was the dessert table laden with ice cream, brownies, truffles, cupcakes, chocolate chip cookies, tiny pies and much more. Kids in a candy store couldn't have been happier than the 350 guests enjoying the decadent delights. All the while LA DJ **Derek Monteiro** spun a fantastic mix of dance music.

CEO/executive director **Dave Davis** with board president **Dennis Allen** head up CEC, which has been around for over forty years as a local pioneer for a national movement. Their goal is "Fossil Free by '33" including solar programs, electric vehicle charging stations, wind and solar farms, ditching plastic, saving energy and conserving water. CEC helped make



Green Gala event chair Elizabeth Wagner, CEC staff Megan Birney, actor Christopher Lloyd and décor chair Lisa Loiacono

CEC board member Andrew Lemert, Mayor Helene Schneider, assistant director Sigrid Wright, and co-chair of the CEC partnership council Eric Lohela at the Bacara



Cirque du Soleil live "tree" at the CEC fundraiser recycling a common occurrence. To see what you can do, log on to www.cecsb.org.