

## Starry, spectacular night for EBAC Masquerade Ball



More photos here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPia-LXsO-k>

Saturday night proved to be spectacular in terms of weather and in all details of the East Bay Agency for Children Auxiliary's Masquerade Ball, its major annual fundraising event of the year.

A spectacular English Tudor home in the Oakland Hills was the site for "An Evening Under the Stars," where more than 160 guests were served a sumptuous seated dinner with a spectacular 270-degree view of San Francisco Bay.

A clear tent sparkled with festive lights in late October when the chill is usually just setting in. Amazingly, the stars did align for the evening as they were twinkling with a waxing moon in the distance. The unseasonably mild weather allowed guests to roam the beautiful hilltop property taking in the festive atmosphere and the spectacular view with a backdrop of a fiery orange sunset.

Valet parking was provided by Douglas Parking and a golf cart donated by Cresco Equipment Rental took some guests up the driveway where they were greeted by National Charity League volunteers and starry lights on the front patio.

Inside, Shades of Gray entertained while delicious hors d' oeuvres were passed and guests mingled. The wine for the evening was generously donated by Wente Vineyards.

After bidding on silent auction items from fitness and sports outings to nights on the town, several road trips and a popular Mad Men party, the doors to the back of this exquisite home were opened for a grand view of the bay.

Guests took their seats at beautifully appointed tables with light filled glass cylinders of floating orchids from the Oakland Flower Mart arranged by the talented Michele Helm. During a wonderful meal by Barbara Llewellyn Catering, well known comedian and political satirist Will Durst took the stage and kept the crowd laughing and applauding throughout his distinctive perspective of politics, near and far.

Auctioneer Joe Cunningham led a lively auction segment after dinner, with spirited bidding on romantic holiday getaways in Mexico, France and Southern California. Many guests donated generously to individual East Bay Agency for Children programs through the fund-a-need portion of the live auction. The evening was capped by late night dancing to a DJ under the stars.

Auxiliary president Sherry Pattera and event co-chairs Marilyn Weber and Edna Cooper orchestrated one of the most exceptional parties ever. The Auxiliary is extremely grateful to the gracious hosts, Janice Jagelski and Pat Morrin, who opened up their lovely home for this charity event. Monica Marcone and Jamie Miller were amazing in their procurement and organization of the live and silent auction items, while Vicky O'Bresly's ability to manage the logistics was key to the event running without a hitch.

Event sponsors include the Anderson Family Foundation at the highest level. The Grubb Co. and Kaiser Permanente, sponsors of the event since its inception more than 10 years ago, were on hand.

The EBAC Auxiliary were also pleased to have as sponsors the Zimmer Family Foundation, Wente Vineyards, Keenan Winery, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Pacific Union International, Ross Stores, Berkeley Orthodontics, Marlis Susan Branaka, MB Jessee Painting, Nahid Nassiri of East Bay Sotheby's International Realty, and Drs. Negron and Mendoza-Sobel of Piedmont Pediatric Dentistry. Many in-kind donors were also instrumental in making the sold-out event a huge success.

For more information about the EBAC Auxiliary, contact Edna Cooper (735-9890) or Marilyn Weber (652-6445).

East Bay Agency for Children based in Oakland, serves Alameda County. Founded in 1952 by local parents, it has grown to become a comprehensive child services agency, offering a diverse set of innovative programs serving 19,000 children each year.

By Katy Ford