

August 29, 2006

Ruth McAninch  
Social Notes

RUTH McANINCH » SOCIAL NOTES

## Vista Center is top equestrian 'winner!'

**H**orse lovers filled Menlo Circus Club for the annual Menlo-Charity Horse Show to benefit Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, where world-class equestrians competed Aug. 8 to 11 to crowds of about 4,000 people watching jumping classes daily.

Aug. 11 was a dinner-dance sell-out, box seats sellout and sellout of 700 competitors, with a waiting list of 300, hopeful of competing.

At the dinner-dance were **Harriet Quave**, international riding champion with sponsors: **Alex and Kathy Mendez**, **Pat Hitchcock O'Connell**, daughter of movie director Alfred Hitchcock, **Bob Flury** and **Bob Bryant**, **Gary Hanes**, committee member and veterinarian, event co-chairman **Steve Goldenberg** and **Michelle Decker**, who is running for Adult Amateurs World Champ Hunter Rider.

MCHS celebrated 35 years of support to local charities since 1970. (Last year's show raised \$400,000, donated to VCBVI). **Betsy Gikburg**, show founder and co-chairwoman said, "MCHS is a premier event. Riders and sponsors now contact us to participate. We're proud this



At Menlo Circus Club, from left, Michelle Mossman, Pam Perez, Judy Levin, dinner coordinators. — Ruth McAninch/Social to the Examiner

year to have 60 major sponsors, which raised \$500,000 and all 650 open slots of stabling for horses filled within six hours of posting the entry form on MCHS's Web site, with a waiting list of 300."

**Bob Robinson** of San Jose British Motors sponsored the Grand

Prix since 1970, this year raising the prize purse from \$35,000 to \$40,000. Competition features Olympic style unique jumping on grass in three rings. Riders compete for \$100,000 in prize money and to get points toward national championships.

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## Charity horse show

World-class equestrians competed for the benefit of the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. See Page 20