

LIBRARY RAISES FUNDS AND EXPECTATIONS

by Charley Mims

On Saturday evening April 10, 1999, our community demonstrated its continuing commitment to support of our Los Feliz Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. That evening over 160 guests enjoyed the charm of our brand new library at a sit down black tie dinner sponsored by the Friends of the Los Feliz Library. We came together to collectively show our support for our library.

A champagne reception was hosted by Chez Mimi and Angela Stewart. Barton Phelps, AIA, who designed our library, was on hand to lead tours where he described the features of each area of the library. From the entry way we have access to the community room, the Leonardo DiCaprio Computer Center and the main library. When entering the main library we find a delightful and sunny reading area to the right and a check out desk and aisle after aisle of books on the left. At the far end of the library are reading desks and lounge chairs and the children's area beyond. And what a wonderful area for kids! Low stacks of books with child size tables and chairs and light flooding in from high windows. Then, in a secret alcove, a round glen for youngsters to cozy up with a good book! The alcove is crowned with manzanita limbs to image a forest glen.

And did I mention the interactive computer line along the wall of the main library? This state of the art communications and computer center was made possible by a gift from the Walt Disney Foundation.

With all this beauty surrounding us our speakers that evening were gratefully brief. Marilyn Bush welcomed the crowd to the fundraiser and introduced our own Councilman John Ferraro who is always succinct and to the point. He reminded us of the long wait for our new building and of how the entire neighborhood had rallied around the present site at Franklin Avenue and Hillhurst. Next our Assemblyman, Scott Wildman, presented a lovely Assembly Resolution to the Friends of the Los Feliz Library for their decades long support of the library and for hosting this first fundraiser to support library programs and acquisitions. Last came John Caragozian who shared information on how we can name the Friends of the Library in our wills and trusts to carry on our support for future generations.

The brief speeches past, we then broke bread with our fellow neighbors and admired our new library. Other special attendees were City Librarian Susan Kent and our own special Senior Librarian Pearl Yonezawa. Leonardo DiCaprio's mother was present, and Margaret Ferraro joined husband John. Richard Mooney arranged for the catering services and coordinated the serving of Hors



photo by Bruce Carroll

It was dinner among the periodicals for Franklin Hills residents Gina DeGirolamo, Patricia Jimenez and FHRA vice president Chris Boutelle.



photo by Bruce Carroll

FHRA Board member Shirley Newland and FHRA Secretary Charley Mims enjoy the Library Gala. Mims was on the committee that planned the sold-out fundraiser.

d'oeuvres from the Mustard Seed Café; the first dinner course from the Chi Dynasty; the second dinner course from Trattoria Farfalla; bread selections from L A Bread; dessert from La Belle Epoch; and coffee from Joe to Go. Dinner wines were provided by Robert Mondavi Coastal Vineyards.

The baby grand piano, beautifully played by guest musician Gildo Mahoney, was donated for the evening by David Abell, Fine Pianos; Crystal Valet Parking provided valet services; the Prince of Printing provided the invitations and the programs for the evening; and Flower View Gardens donated the beautiful table arrangements. Thank you all.

continued on page 10