



Andrea Corso (auction chair), Charna Sugar (event co-chair), Coleen Blackmore-Reilly (SDHS board chair), Mary Drake (event co-chair) with “Noelle,” Dr. Gary Weitzman (SDHS president/CEO).



Liza Crisafi (event chair; Girl Scouts San Diego board vice chair), Regina Buckley (GS-SD board chair), Katie Sullivan (honorary co-chair), Lindsay Estrada Sullivan (honorary co-chair), Sarah Houghton (honorary co-chair), Megan Delgado (honorary co-chair) and Carol Dedrich (GS-SD CEO).

Bowsers and badges

STORY AND PHOTOS BY VINCENT ANDRUNAS • SPECIAL TO THE U-T

HUMANE SOCIETY'S FUR BALL

Going to the dogs can be fun, especially when it's for a very good cause. Such was the case at the San Diego Humane Society's 31st annual Fur Ball, held recently in a creatively-repurposed parking lot at the SDHS facility on Gaines Street.

The human guests numbered about 600, and more than a third of them brought their dogs along to enjoy the fun and canine camaraderie. Well-behaved dogs (which most of them were...) are always welcome at this popular event, which sells out every year. Some of the kindly curs were dressed in doggie formal wear (the evening's attire was black-tie optional), and despite the summer warmth, all wore fur (which, for them, wasn't optional at all). Some knew the place well, having “done time” there before being adopted and taken to their “forever” homes.

Andrea Corso, Mary Drake and Charna Sugar co-chaired, and Barbara Lee Edwards emceed (as always). Festivities began with a huge silent auction, live music, several open bars, lively conversation and some playful barking. Jeff Strauss' signature hors d'oeuvres presaged the delicious three-course short rib dinner, which his famed Pamplemousse Grille also catered.

SDHS practices zero-euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals, has saved more than 30,000 companion and wild animals this past year, and hosts community programs including spay/neuter events and vaccine clinics. This year's Fur Ball honored Sandy and Ed Burr, owners of Eddo Disposal, for their decade-plus commitment to animal welfare, and SDHS CEO Dr. Gary Weitzman led a toast in their honor.

SDHS' mission is to save lives and make this the best place on earth to be an animal or to have one. Videos showed puppies, kittens and a tiny baby squirrel that was lovingly nursed until mature enough to return to the wild. Including the evening's \$81,000-plus live auction and \$225,000-plus paddle-raise (supplemented by three matching grants totaling \$95,000), generous partygoers helped raise about \$800,000 to directly benefit animals here in San Diego.

Rousing band Haute Chill, donating its services, played for dancing, and doughnut and espresso bars opened near the evening's end. Guests toured the facilities, some of them falling in love with irresistibly cute “inmates” and vowing to return in the morning to adopt and take them to loving homes.

GIRL SCOUTS URBAN CAMPOUT

Girl Scouts of the USA, commonly called simply Girl Scouts, was founded in Savannah, Ga., in 1912. Being a truly great idea, it quickly spread, reaching San Diego (Coronado, specifically) by 1917 and every state by 1923. National membership of girls and adults now approaches 2.6 million.

Last week, Girl Scouts San Diego celebrated its 100th anniversary with a special 20th edition of its annual Urban Campout “fundraiser for grown-ups” event, held under the stars at GS-SD's Balboa Park headquarters. The 526 guests explored Girl Scout history while earning “badges” as they enjoyed archery and several games and activities. There was plenty to do!

Continental Catering crafted copious canapés (shrimp, skewered beef, duck confit, and more), serving them with panache to partygoers along with wines and Champagne.

Eventually, all were seated for the program and Continental's dinner of beef tenderloin and jumbo shrimp. Guests were led in the Girl Scout Promise, and Mayor Kevin Faulconer spoke of how Girl Scouting teaches young women courage, confidence and character, so they can make the world a better place. The cookie program teaches girls the importance of business skills, people skills, and money

management. Girl Scout leadership programs challenge them to venture outdoors, volunteer in their communities, and have fun learning. Significant proportions of women in successful careers and leadership positions grew up as Girl Scouts. Katherine Faulconer, the 100th Anniversary honorary chair, told how her father's Navy career necessitated several relocations during her youth, and joining a new Girl Scout troop ensured instant connections with like-minded friends.

Carol Dedrich, GS-SD's new CEO, took the stage looking adorably retro in her vintage 1960s “senior” GS uniform. She told how GS prepares girls to be leaders — to take the lead like a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, and Leader) — while remembering the tenet of their promise and law: Respect myself and others, and be responsible for what I say and do. That's great advice for all people.

Clint Bell led the seven-item live auction (\$24,850) and paddle-raise (\$171,550, including an anonymous \$50,000 match). Proceeds will fund the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and programs focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), life skills, outdoor training and entrepreneurship.

An all-girl band played for dancing, and Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman did a boffo stint on the drums.



Sylvia Van Doorn, Joey Giacalone, Kevin Sheehan, Ira Gourvitz, Phil Pace and Patricia Connors.



Merle Brodie, Jo Dee and Glenn Jacob (she was 2001-2016 Girl Scouts San Diego CEO), Alex Nurse, Barbara Cramer and Denise Scott.



Joan Hurley (Purina marketing manager), Katie Heck (Purina marketing rep), Brian Daugherty (SDHS chief philanthropy officer), Kristin Ryan Fauss (Purina managing director), Sam Hartog (Purina pet welfare team), and Cat Small (Purina pet welfare team program lead).



Angie Lasagna, Katherine Faulconer (GS-SD 100th Anniversary honorary chair) and Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Shelley Zimmerman (San Diego police chief), Louarn Sorkin and Cindy Martin.



Kevin and Jolane Crawford, Sandy and Ed Burr (honorees), Yvette and John Snyder.



Mary Doyle (GS-SD communications director), Julie and Tom Karlo, Monica Medina (GS-SD community development director), Inez Thomas and Susan McBeth.



Chris and Liz McCullah, John DePuy, Barbara Kjos, Cathy and Ron Jones.



Andy Gallagher (board treasurer), Dori Gallagher, Amy Gallagher, Darby Gallagher, George Gallagher and Wendy Urushima-Conn.