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On the Town

SEA CENTER



Jenny Theodorou, left, Sea Center director, with museum trustees Sandy Powers, Lucie Greer and Tom Parker, board president of the trustees.

Sea Center

David and Lyn Anderson hosted a pre-opening reception and dinner in Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Ty Warner Sea Center. Guests of honor were longtime supporters of the original sea center and **Greg Rice**, representing Mr. Warner, a major donor.

Burned twice, the new center, located on Stearns Wharf, is made entirely of steel and cement — only the railings are made of wood. There are tanks that simulate the tides and kids can view from a transparent tunnel the sea life left on the shore when the tide goes out.

Tom Parker, president of the Museum of Natural History board of trustees, challenged best buddy **Chuck Slosser**, president and CEO of the Santa Barbara Foundation, to climb through the tunnel — and he made it!

Interactive stations explain, through photos and film, each display so children need only place a finger on a photo to get information. The Sea Center also has volunteer guides who answer questions.

Emilio's Ristorante catered the dinner. Major donors there enjoying it included **Joan and Palmer Jackson**, **Raymond and Natalie Myerson**, **Walter and Mary Thomson**, **Jean and Barry Schuyler**, **Virginia and Bob Sloan**, campaign and board member **Lucie Greer**, **Sue Parker**, **Stephanie Slosser** and **Virginia Castagnola-Hunter**. The Castagnola family has a long history in Santa Barbara with a fishing fleet and other business interests.

Dennis Power, former director of the Museum of Natural History, and his wife, **Leslie**, greeted old friends. He was director from 1972-94.

Karl Hutterer, executive director of the Museum of Natural History and the Ty Warner Sea Center, said, "The wharf is the right place for the Sea Center because this is where the people are — we do not need to drag them in."

Each guest was presented with the Sea Center mascot, **Opie**, a stuffed octopus, the newest of Ty Warner's Beanie Babies. Proceeds from their sale will benefit the center.