



# MONTECITO MISCELLANY

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail, and was an editor on New York Magazine. He was also a national anchor on CBS, a commentator on ABC Network News, gossip on The Joan Rivers Show and Geraldo Rivera, host on E! TV, a correspondent on the syndicated show Extra, a commentator on the KTLA Morning News and Entertainment Tonight. He moved to Montecito 11 years ago.

## On the Money, by the Numbers

**F**orbes magazine has just issued its top 400 U.S. annual rich list and, for the first time, a third of American billionaires were considered "too poor" to make the elite rankings, but, as usual, our rarefied enclave is well represented.

After 24 years at the top of the list, Microsoft tycoon **Bill Gates**, 63, has been toppled by Amazon magnate **Jeff Bezos**, 54, whose fortune is estimated at \$160 billion – up from \$81.5 billion last year – beating Gates by a hefty \$63 billion.

Berkshire Hathaway founder **Warren Buffett**, 88, is third on the list with \$88.3 billion, an increase of \$10.3 billion in 2017, with Facebook founder **Mark Zuckerberg**, 34, valued at \$71 billion, a \$10 billion increase from last year.



Oprah features yet again on the Forbes list of the 400 richest Americans

Santa Barbara resident and Oracle entrepreneur **Larry Ellison**, 74, comes in fifth with \$58.4 billion, while Montecito resident and Google honcho **Eric Schmidt**, 63, is at 33 with \$14.4 billion.

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## A little peace of mind goes a long way

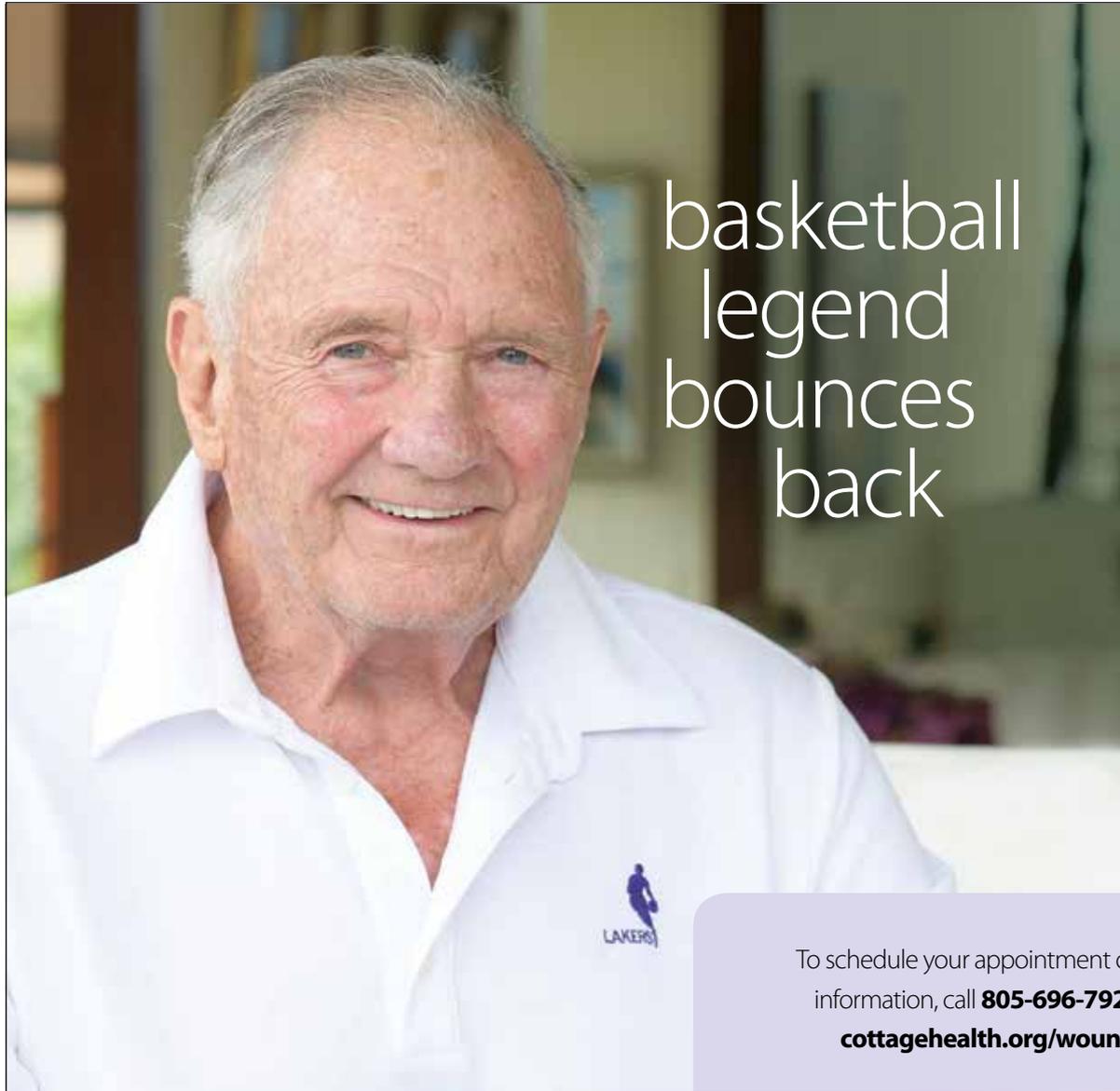
Having confidence that your assets will carry you through retirement requires thoughtful financial planning.

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Suzi Schomer  
VP, Wealth Strategist

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## basketball legend bounces back

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**Coach Bill Bertka has 10 NBA Championship rings with the Los Angeles Lakers.**

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Brian Miller, Carol Burnett, Margo and Jeff Barbakow (photo by Kendall Klein)

Dallas Cowboys owner **Jerry Jones**, 76, a frequent visitor while his NFL team has summer training in Oxnard, is 75th in the rankings with \$6.9 billion, with *Stars Wars* producer **George Lucas**, 74, who has a beach house in Carpinteria, at 123 with \$5.4 billion.

Developer **Rick Caruso**, 59, whose long-awaited Miramar beach hotel is scheduled to open in the New Year, is ranked 179 with \$4 billion, while mall and sports magnate **Herb Simon**, 84, is 251 with \$3.2 billion.

Our most famous resident, **Oprah Winfrey**, 64, is 298 on the list with \$2.8 billion, a slight decrease from 2017, while Beanie Baby billionaire **Ty Warner**, 74, owner of the Biltmore and San Ysidro Ranch, is ranked 316 with \$2.6 billion.

The total net worth of those on the list rose to \$2.9 trillion, a record high, with half the wealth held by the top 45 people ranked.

### In-Tents Situation

A large tent had been erected to protect the 420 guests at the sold-out 16th Gold Ribbon lunch for the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation at the Biltmore from the blazing sun, but it served an entirely different purpose when the heavens opened, deluging the tony beachside hostelry in a rare rainstorm.

Silent auction items had to be rapidly moved inside a nearby room, along with the registration tables, causing sweaty social gridlock until the down-pour was over.

Generosity poured as well, with the event, co-chaired by **Kathy Kelley** and **Lacy Taylor**, raising around \$370,000 for the popular charity, which since 2002 has awarded \$1.95 million in



Shaun and Carla Tomson (photo by Kendall Klein)

financial assistance to 2,142 individuals in the tri-counties.

The ubiquitous **Andrew Firestone** was in particularly energetic mode, auctioning off a Costa Rica vacation for \$3,250 and a gold and diamond ring, donated by **Leonard Himelsein**, for \$2,000, with awards going to the Schultz Family Foundation, the Trejos family, **Robyn Howard-Anderson**, **Tracy Angel**, and **Shannyn Tupper**.

Legendary comedienne and long-time supporter **Carol Burnett** donated her Silver Lining collection of items, including platters and a wine decanter that guests could bid on.

The lunch concluded with a performance by singer **Justin Fox** of the group Dishwalla, accompanied by the **Teddy Bear Singers**.

Among the tony throng of ursine supporters were **Jeff and Margo Barbakow**, **Earl and Claudia Minnis**, **David Edelman**, **Lindsey Leonard**, **Bob and Patty Bryant**, **Dan Encell**,

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Gold Ribbon lunch committee member Randy Perotin, co-chair Kathy Kelley, and Dishwalla frontman Justin Fox (photo by Kendall Klein)



Event sponsor Earl Minnis with Teddy Bear's Encouraging Youth Philanthropy program participants (photo by Kendall Klein)

Anne Towbes, Lynda Weinman, Bruce Heavin, Randy Weiss, Michael Baker, Robyn Parker, Catherine Remak, Ali Ahlstrand, Jean von Wittenburg, Carla Tomson, Donna Barranco-Fisher, Diana MacFarlane, Morrie and Irma Jurkowitz, and Ginni Dreier.

*Lady and the Little Tramp*

State Street Ballet opened its 24th season with one of its boldest programming decisions ever with its outstanding performance of *Chaplin* at the Granada.

The full-length world premiere is a truly remarkable collaboration with three diverse choreographers, Kevin Jenkins – who came up with the

idea – and Edgar Zendejas joining forces with longtime resident choreographer and new co-artistic director, New Yorker William Soleau, bringing to life the immensely complicated, but uniquely comedic work of silent film star Charlie Chaplin.

The highly entertaining performance combined with soundscape, multimedia, and many other elements taking the audience on a spellbinding, delightful ride into the mind that was the creative genius of Chaplin, who used to own the Montecito Inn.

New company member Ahna Lipchik, along with last year's arrival James Folsom, were quite superb as the show's primary portrayals of Chaplin, who died at his home in



State Street Ballet's *Chaplin* (1000 Words by Ryan Orion)

Switzerland in 1977 at the age of 88.

It was a show combined with the comedian's traditional slapstick mixed with pathos, featuring his trademark shrugs and wriggles, and his work not

only in front, but behind the camera.

A tour de force that founder Rodney Gustafson can be immensely proud of as the tony troupe scales new balletic heights.

*Gift Keeps Giving*

Christmas came early when Chris Toomey threw a pre-Mistletoe Ball pizza party at his Carpinteria aerie, complete with Yuletide carols, for supporters of the Catholic Charities of Santa Barbara, our Eden by the Beach's oldest social services agency, which helped more than 12,000 people county-wide last year.

The festive fete, which has been held at the Biltmore and Coral Casino over the years, is moving to Birnam

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(From left) Catholic Charities Santa Barbara staffers Rose and executive director Dan Grimm, staffer Yolanda Vasquez, board member and Lawrence Seyer, and staffer Genevieve Morlino (photo by Chris Toomey)

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Wood, with the 200 guests hoping to raise around \$100,000 for the charity, which supports low-income families.

Co-chairs are **Carol Wathen** and **Barbara Kummer**, with **Neal Graffy** as emcee and the ubiquitous KEYT-TV reporter **John Palminteri** as auctioneer. The gala will honor **Maribel Jarchow**, who has worked at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel for 40 years.

Among those noshing the pizza and quaffing the wine were parish priest **Lawrence Sayer**, **George Leis**, **Haley Conklin**, **Kristan O'Donnell**, **Bill** and **Jocelyn Meeker**, **Ed Hindelang**, **Mike** and **Angie Ferraro**, **Frank McGinity**, **Teresa McWilliams**, **Trish Gainey**, and **Don** and **Wendy Gragg**.

*At the Table*

**Jim** and **Stephanie Sokolove** opened their beautiful Montecito estate, just a tiara's toss from TV talk show titan **Oprah Winfrey**, for the fourth consecutive year to host the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County's seventh annual Table of Life beano, chaired by Montecito Bank & Trust head honcho **Janet Garufis**, with more than 260 colorfully garbed guests in hats and flats, helping raise \$450,000 for the popular nonprofit, which has effectively distributed more than 10 million pounds of food over the years.

The bounteous bash, which benefited families and children affected



MB&T chair and CEO **Janet Garufis**, **Alison Hardey** of **Jeannine's Bakery**, **Foodbank of Santa Barbara** CEO **Erik Talkin**, **Patrick Braid** of **Village Cheese & Wine**, (photo by **Jacqueline Pilar**)



Event artist **Penelope Gottlieb** (photo by **Jacqueline Pilar**)

by the **Thomas Fire** and **Montecito debris flow** disasters, was emceed by the ubiquitous **Geoff Green** and also featured creations from **Rincon Catering** and music from pianist



**Stephanie and Jim Sokolove** (photo by **Jacqueline Pilar**)

**George Friedenthal** and **Peter Muller and Friends**.

The event, which honored **Alison Hardey** of **Jeannine's Bakery** and **Patrick Braid** of **Village Cheese** and

**Wine**, sadly was the last time the dynamic duo are hosting the sunset soirée, given they are moving to **Boca Raton, Florida**, in **December**.

Among the tsunamis of foodie fans were **Anne Towbes**, **Bob** and **Val Montgomery**, **Fred** and **Sarah Kass**, **Rinaldo** and **Lalla Brutoco**, **Nina Terzian**, **Robert** and **Christine Emmons**, **Gary** and **Susan Gulbranson**, **Jeff** and **Margo Barbakow**, **Teresa McWilliams**, **Nancy Schlosser**, **Maryan Schall**, **Karl** and **Michelle Hutterer**, **Erik Talkin**, **Tom** and **Heather Sturgess**, **Harry** and **Judi Weisbart**, and **Curtis Skene**.

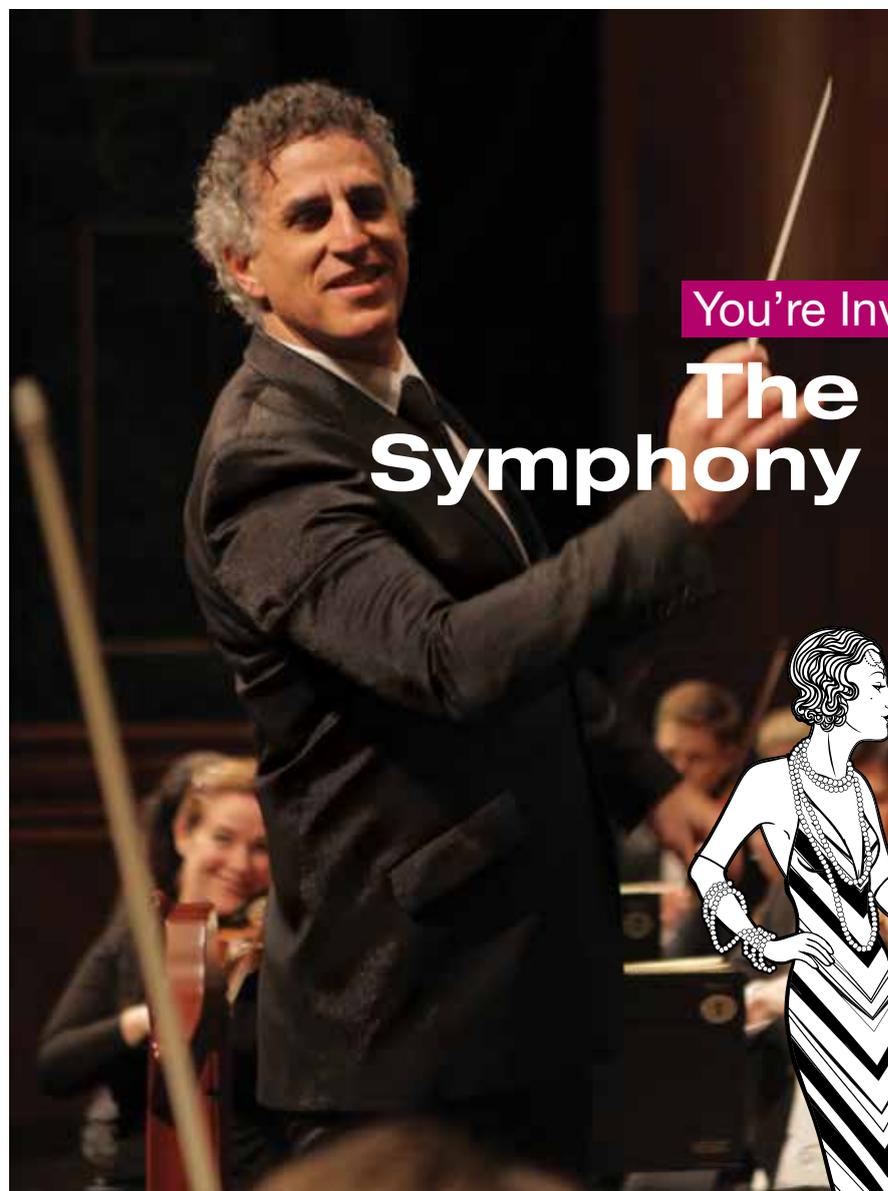
*Fine Wine*

Restaurateurs **Doug Margerum** and **Mitchell Sjerven** have sold their interest in the historic **Santa Barbara eatery The Wine Cask**.

**Doug**, also a noted winemaker, is also opening a new **Margerum** tasting room in the **Hotel Californian** next year, he tells me.

"It will be a spectacular space with 22-foot-high ceilings, a kitchen, heated patio, and mezzanine," says **Doug**. "The existing reserve tasting room at **El Paseo** will continue to pour both **Margerum** and **Barden** wines until the new location is completed. After that, the **El Paseo** location will become exclusively the **Barden** tasting room."

**Doug** owned and operated the **Wine**



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Doug Margerum opening new tasting room in Hotel Californian

Cask for more than a quarter of a century, selling it 11 years ago to a Los Angeles restaurateur.

Mitch also owns the popular Victoria Street eatery bouchon.

*Flip Doesn't Flop*

Montecito TV talk-show host **Ellen DeGeneres** has just splashed out \$15 million on a Beverly Hills Regency-style estate.

The 60-year-old Oscars host, who sold her former **John Saladino** house, *Villa di Lemma*, for \$34 million in July, has made quite a fortune as a serial flipper of real estate over the years.

Her new 5-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom home was built in 1962 and designed by architect to the stars, John Elgin Woolf, and was formerly home to actress-philanthropist Marjorie Lord, before being sold for \$8.3 million after her death in 2015.

The single-story 5,100-sq.-ft. property, which was updated by Los Angeles design firm Marmol Radziner, has floor-to-ceiling windows in nearly every room taking in the city to ocean views.

*Foam on the Range*

Santa Barbara County firefighters are blazing a trail with their first Foam Fest in Carpinteria on Saturday, with a foam board surf contest followed by a benefit concert at the Padaro Beach Grill with local groups **King Zero** and **Cornerstone**.

The boffo beach bash, with costumes



Foam Fest organizers

encouraged, is being organized by Santa Barbara district attorney **Joyce Dudley**'s son, **Sam Dudley**, along with **Hugh Montgomery**, **Ian Mather**, **Eddie Luparello**, and **Kelly Hahn**.

"We're trying to raise money so we can better serve our community by investing in our youth," says event chairman Sam. "As firefighters, it's our duty to serve our community 24/7, on and off the clock."

An admirable sentiment.

*By Any Other Name*

Montecito actress **Gwyneth Paltrow** won her Oscar for *Shakespeare in Love* at the age of 26.

And at 27, she got a rude awakening about her swollen head when her director father, Bruce, warned her about "becoming an a\*\*\*\*\*e."

Gwyneth, now 46 and married again to producer **Brad Falchuk**, says: "I was just believing my own hype, thinking that I was awesome," when her father gave her a talking to.

"And he was like, 'You're getting weird. You're acting like a d\*\*k,'" the Goop founder recalled.

"When you achieve the kind of fame I did by the time I was 25 or 26, the world starts removing all your obstacles because you're now a 'special person.'"

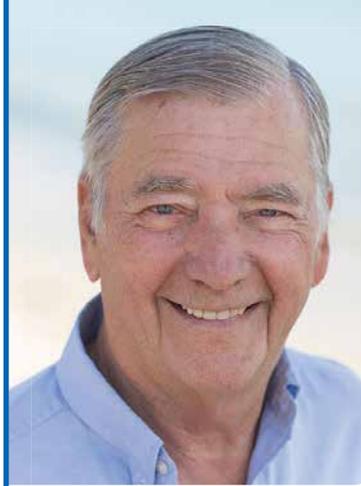
By way of example, she tells *Marie Claire* U.K.: "You don't have to wait in line at a restaurant, and if a car doesn't show up, someone else gives you theirs.

"There is nothing worse for the growth of a human being than not having obstacles and disappoint-

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**VOTE**

**DANA NEWQUIST**



**"T**here's no reason for us to discharge partially treated wastewater off Butterfly Beach. Montecito deserves better than that. We can build far more scale into the current recycled water plan, keep this place looking beautiful, and stop discharging into the ocean.

Having served on the Montecito Fire Protection Board for 9 years, I have learned that board members who've already served 12 years or more get too comfortable, feel entitled to occupy that seat forever, and resist new ideas and new ways of doing things. They lose sight of what the community needs. I pledge to keep the community always foremost in my mind, as I have always done. I'd be honored to receive your vote."

**- DANA NEWQUIST**

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Robert Adams with award winners of the Green Residential Home are Marilyn Jorgensen and Errol Jahnke, and Nina Dunbar, SBB director, and SB councilmember Eric Friedman (photo by Priscilla)



Kurt Ranshoff, MD/ COO Sansum Clinic; Ysidro Olvera, Lori Willis, SC executive director; Martha Degasis, Lindsay Cortina, director of Organizational Initiatives; Brian Cernal, AIA; and Frank Foster, chair of Cancer Foundation Board of Trustees (photo by Priscilla)



Holding their mosaic of marble with intertwining of gold weaving are Kristen Weidemann, and Marina Satoaifaiga, with Sarah York Rulan, and Margie Yahyavi having received the City of SB Arts Advisory Committee's Business in Art Award (photo by Priscilla)

ments, and things go wrong. All of my greatest achievements have come out of failure."

*Happy Trails*

Santa Barbara Beautiful hosted its 54th annual awards celebration Growing Resiliency at the Music Academy of the West for 200 guests.

The fab fete, co-chaired by **Mark Whitehurst** and **Kerry Methner**, and emceed by ubiquitous KEYT-



Awarded the Playa de Santa Barbara for Environmental Stewardship to the Montecito Trails Foundation represented by Barbara Cleveland with Don McPherson (board member), Kevin Snow, Ashlee Mayfield, and Sheila Snow (photo by Priscilla)



Bob and Christine Emmons with Irene Nagel and sculptor Aris Demetrios for his SBB president's award-winning sculpture "Dance of Life" installed at the Ridley-Tree Cancer Center with Sansum Clinic (photo by Priscilla)

TV reporter **John Palminteri**, donated half of the day's proceeds to the Montecito Trails Foundation, one of the event's honorees, in support of community members recovering from the catastrophic events in the New Year.

"Recognizing this pivotal moment, which not only changed the landscape in our community, but also changed our hearts and the way we relate to one another, we have moved to adapt the awards and yet hold on to recognizing our neighbors for their community building and beautifying work," says Mark.

The awards, at the Marilyn Horne House and Kuehn Court, went to the Ridley-Tree Cancer Center, Chase Palm Park, Paseo Nuevo, the East Haley Street Sojourners Mural, the Hotel Californian, and the Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade.

Among the supporters noshing on comestibles by C'Est Cheese and quaffing the Fess Parker wines, were **Jo Ann Mermis, Jacqueline Dyson, Mara Abboud, Kate Kurlas, Robert Adams, Jean Schuyler, Duncan and Suzanne Mellichamp, Tim Downey, Nina Dunbar, David Jacoby, Deborah Schwartz, and Caroline Rutledge.**

*Try, Try Again*

Santa Barbara warbler **Katy Perry** may soon be walking down the aisle again.

The "Roar" singer's English actor beau, **Orlando Bloom**, 41, intends to make it last with the 33-year-old former Dos Pueblos High student.

"Everyone would be excited if they got engaged," a friend of the tony twosome tells the *London Daily Mail*.

"Katy is wonderful and they make a great pair."

The dynamic duo got together in January 2016, and split in February 2017, before resuming their peripatetic relationship in April.

*Take the Wheel*

A gas-guzzling Bentley Turbo, formerly owned by **Prince Charles**, could be yours for as little as \$15,000 when it goes under the hammer later this month.

The 1994 car is a far cry from the ultra frugal and environmentally friendly \$85,000 Jaguar 1-Pace, **Queen Elizabeth's** heir is currently driving.

While the zero-emissions 2018 Jag will cover 298 miles on a single charge of electricity, the 6.75-liter Bentley, which would have cost \$130,000 when new, will do just 13 miles to the gallon.

It was part of the Royal fleet until 1996 and, under two different ownerships, now has 140,000 miles on the clock.

*Rarified Air*

**Prince Andrew**, Queen Elizabeth's second-eldest son, is no doubt breathing a huge sigh of relief now that the U.K.'s ITV has agreed to broadcast his daughter, **Princess Eugenie's** wedding on Friday.

The BBC, as I wrote here, turned down the chance to air her nuptials to wine merchant **Jack Brooksbank**, 32, at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, because they thought it wouldn't garner the boffo ratings of **Prince Harry's** wedding to **Meghan Markle** at the same location in May.

ITV's show will run for three hours, giving viewers the chance to see the celebrity guests arriving and climaxing with the Queen's 28-year-old granddaughter leaving the historic chapel in her wedding gown.

In the U.S., the cable channel TLC is also covering the event, which will be attended by all members of the Royal Family, live for three hours.

Sightings: Oscar winner **Kevin Costner** and family noshing at Olio Pizzeria...Rocker **Alan Parsons** checking out SOHo...Rocker **Dave Crosby** dining at Opal

Readers with tips, sightings and amusing items for Richard's column should email him at richardmin eards@verizon.net or send invitations or other correspondence to the *Journal*.

To reach Priscilla, email her at priscilla@sanatabarbaraseen.com or call 969-3301.

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