

**SOCIETY**

# Year of giving ends with warm receiving

*It came without ribbon!  
It came without tags!  
It came without packages, boxes or bags!*

Gifts of the season. San Mateo resident **Charles Homer** has given \$1 million to the Peninsula Museum of Art in Belmont. Homer may be San Mateo County's answer to San Francisco socialite **Dede Wilsey** who spearheaded the campaign for the recently renovated de Young Museum.

**POSTSCRIPTS**



**CARLA SCHEIFLY**

Sure, we enjoy the de Young, but really would love a prestigious museum of our own. "This generous donation will start the museum's building fund," said **Ruth**

**Waters**, president of the museum's board of directors.

Homer was introduced to the museum by artist **Ruth Silnes** who has volunteered there since its inception in 1997.

The Peninsula Museum of Art features contemporary regional artists "who take risks and do it successfully," said Waters. Currently the museum has a single formal exhibit, "Local Legends: 6 Eminent San Mateo County Artists," including the works of **Vincent Rascon, Irving Norman, Alonso Smith, Charles Strong, Duane Wakeham** and **Alexander Nepote** that will run through Jan. 15.

In February, the work of 50 national artists will be highlighted in "Beaus and Eros," an exhibit that will run through April 30, then the walls of the museum will be bare for several weeks in preparation for the next show.

"If we had our own building and a larger facility, we could do much more," said Waters, who is currently scouting site locations with board members. "We could stagger shows, provide art education and so much more for the community."

**Gentry Star Awards**

*And he puzzled three hours  
Till his puzzler was sore.*



*Then the Grinch thought of something  
He hadn't before!*

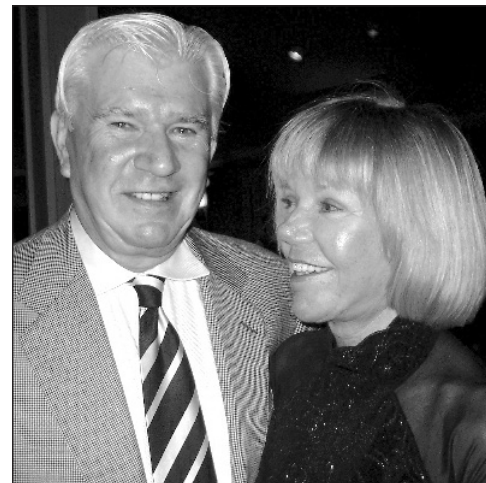
A warm sweater. Tomorrow, **Diane Eskenazi** will ship over 8,500 hand-knitted sweaters and blankets to Afghanistan. Last week she sent 40,000 toys to the youngest victims of Hurricane Katrina — "There are no Toys-R-Us left standing in New Orleans," says Eskenazi. And last month she arranged for orphans in an African school to receive school supplies. This is what she does in her free time, between being a mom and successful filmmaker.

Eskenazi and nine other unsung heroes were recognized by Gentry Magazine at its annual Gentry Stars Awards dinner last week at the Stanford Park Hotel in Menlo Park.

Some of those people leading regular lives, but doing remarkable work include **Jane Yates**, who founded the Festival of Trees that benefits Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford; lymphoma survivor **Beto Telleria**, who conducts pain management and support classes for those suffering from chronic and debilitating illness and injuries; **Mary Lou**



**GENTRY HONORS GENEROSITY** — Top left, Laurie Wishard (left), Shirley Moore (center) and Andy Frisch. Top right, Jane Yates. Above, Diane Eskenazi (left) and Jill Flynn. Right, Ron Wendt and Elsie Floriani. Daily News photos by Carla Scheifly.



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