

UP & COMING

by Judy Foreman

Ms Foreman, a Santa Barbara freelance writer, has been covering fitness, beauty, health, fashion, new businesses and lifestyle trends for the Journal since 1998



The Magic of Motown

Growing up on the Southside of Chicago in the 1960s and '70s, we danced and fell in love to the Motown sound. Musical artists such as Aretha Franklin, Tina Turner, the Supremes, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, Marvin Gaye, Gladys Knight and the Pips are a few of the iconic groups Barry Gordy and his Motown Records empire turned out that defined a generation whose music continues to be played and enjoyed at venues all around the world.

Saturday evening April 18, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is holding "Casa Rocks The Coral" as its annual fundraiser, paying special tribute to the music of 'Motor City,' featuring a special performance by the Duke Ellington School of Arts from Washington, D.C. The award winning Duke Ellington Student Show Choir has performed throughout the United States, Europe and Japan, at venues including Carnegie Hall in NYC, John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, the White House, and The Allied Liberation Music Celebration in Europe. Most recently the choir performed at President Obama's pre-inaugural celebration at the Lincoln Memorial.

CASA has decided to bring high school students from the Duke Ellington Choir to Santa Barbara and in place of hiring a traditional band, CASA will be directing funds to support the choir's efforts to provide professional arts training and college preparation to talented D.C. students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to develop their artistic skills.

From a 75-person luncheon I attended at the Coral Casino almost 10 years ago to today, the message and importance of CASA resonates just as strong to provide highly trained volunteer advocates for minors moving through – or stuck in – the court system.

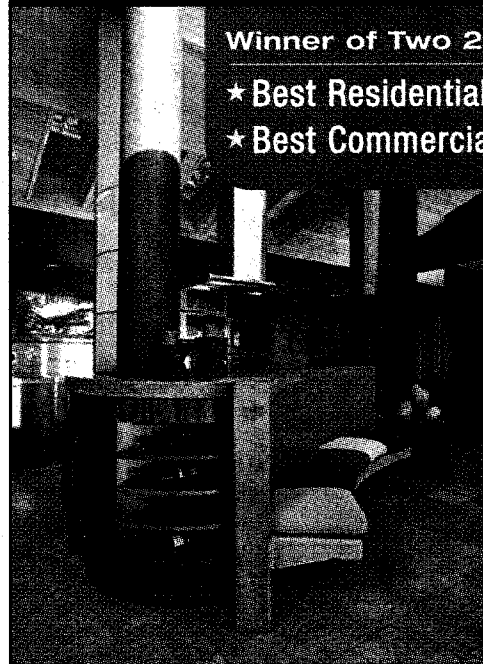
In addition to the food and ambience at Coral Casino, after the Duke Ellington Show Choir, deejay **Michael Smith**, who lived a great part of his young life in Detroit, Michigan, will blend together Motown-influenced music such as funk and soul with more modern melodies for dancing.

Over the past 17 years as a resident of Santa Barbara, Michael said he was greatly inspired by the philanthropic work of his parents, Anne and Bob Smith.

Michael has had first-hand experience working for the Unity Shoppe and SEE International, and bringing his musical talents to the fundraising endeavors of Storyteller, CALM, The Dream Foundation and ADL. Michael, a musical curator for the past eight years, is capable of creating mixes of playlists that artfully fuse the exotic with the familiar. "Given the range and depth of the Motown sound, it will make for an incredibly danceable and enjoyable evening at the gorgeous Coral Casino," he promises. One can be sure he will surely keep the 'twist and shout' party going well into the night.

For more information on learning about CASA or to sponsor a table, please call 805-845-8364 x26. CASA Rocks the Coral, Saturday April 18 6 pm to 11 pm. Tickets are \$250 each. *My*

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