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Pacifica Chamber of Commerce toasted and roasted outstanding community contributors

By Jane Northrop | Pacifica Tribune Staff Writer

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The Pacifica Chamber of Commerce toasted and roasted its annual honorees in a banquet catered by the chefs of the Moonraker Restaurant in the elegantly remodeled banquet space of the Best Western Lighthouse Hotel.

Pacifica Chamber Chief Executive Office Courtney Conlon presided over the gala with help from California Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, who handed out the awards.

the Cobalt Lifetime Achievement Award, now renamed the Nick and Lorraine Gust Lifetime Achievement award, went to Chuck Gust. After a razzing roast, Gust gracefully accepted the award and spoke about how deep the local roots are for him and his family, especially in Rockaway.

His dad designed in 1955 a hotel for where the Moonraker stands today. He commended all independent business owners for their perseverance.

"We come to work each day and roll the dice, taking a chance on whether our bills are going to be paid," he said.

"Business people like you all are the backbone of this country."

Conlon showed the Chamber-produced video highlighting what makes Pacifica such a great place to live and visit. Her remarks were followed by Chris Porter Gabrielli, from Recology of the Coast, one of the Chairman Circle sponsors of the event. Cheryl Yoes, as outgoing Chamber president, gave her remarks before Mayor Mary Ann Nihart, swore in the new president, Bill Meyerhoff, of Seaview Tire and Brake and the board of directors.

Yoes spoke of the accomplishments of the Chamber over the last year, which included promoting Pacifica and addressing the new tech needs of local businesses. Meyerhoff spoke of the challenges and priorities to come.

Susan Vellone earned the Outstanding Individual Community Contributor for donating her time to two key Pacifica service organizations, Pacificans Care and the Rotary Club.

The three generations of the Lee family that is behind Save More Meat Market won the Business Treasure award.

Revitalization and Beautification awards went to two winners at the same corner of Crespi Drive -- the Pacifica Beach Hotel and the hopping Peruvian restaurant Puerto 27.

Linda Mar Ace Hardware won an Outstanding Business to Building a Better Community award. The owner, Dave Rees, thanked his family for being so patient with him while he spent long hours at the store helping other families with their remodeling and hardware needs, ignoring those of his own family. "Like the shoemaker whose kids go barefoot, I help fix everyone else's toilet while mine leaks," he quipped.

Pacifica Beach Coalition won the Outstanding Community Organization award. Lynn Adams,



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president of the Pacifica Beach Coalition, and a coterie of members accepted the award for the advocacy and clean up work they do.

Jim and Morning Nichols won the Community Cultural Arts Contributor award for their decades of performing in Pacifica and around the world and for tirelessly directing the operations and entertainment at the Mildred Owen Concert Hall.

Volunteer of the Year, Charlotte Allen, has a background of volunteering in the schools and for special community events, such as Fandango, the dinner dance that kicks off the annual Fog Fest.

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