

Monterey Park Library Foundation Masquerade Gala

More than 330 library supporters attended the Library Foundation Masquerade Gala on Friday, September 13 at Almansor Court in Alhambra, generating approximately \$31,000 in net proceeds to support the library. The annual Gala is the Foundation's major fundraising effort and this year's event was a huge success. Guests, dressed in festive finery and wearing elaborate masks, were clearly enthused to be gathering together, generating palpable energy and good will in the room.



Photo above, from left:
Library Board of Trustees member Jason Dhing, Library Board President Andrew Yam, Gabriella Yonarta and Trustee Lisa Duong.

Photo at left, from left:
Alhambra Mayor Adele Andrade-Stadler and Monterey Park Mayor Hans Liang.

Photo at right, from left:
Monterey Park Assistant City Attorney Karl Berger and Rachel Berger.





Master of Ceremonies and Monterey Park Fire Chief Scott Haberle kept the program running smoothly and on pace. City Librarian Diana Garcia and Library Foundation President Robert Gin welcomed the crowd and thanked them for their support of the library. Guests posed with masquerade-related props for photos to commemorate the evening. Raffle prizes were plentiful and the holders of winning tickets were thrilled. The music provided by Gilbert Stokes and Friends during the event and especially after the program allowed attendees to dance away the night.



Photo at left:

*City Librarian
Diana Garcia*

Photo at right:

*Master of
Ceremonies
and Monterey
Park Fire Chief
Scott Haberle*



Ed Chen and Larry Sullivan were honored, receiving plaudits from U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu and others for their civic engagement and dedication to serving their community.



Photo above left, from left: Monterey Park Library Foundation President Bob Gin, Larry Sullivan and U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu. **Photo above right:** Ed Chen and his family



But the highlight of the evening was the live auction of a ride on the Goodyear blimp. Larry Sullivan solicited this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The initial minimum bid was \$1,000 but guest auctioneer Mike Eng exhorted the crowd to continue to increase the bids, generating urgency and excitement, propelling the final winning bid by Dr. Albert Young to an amazing \$8,000!

Photo at left, from left: Library Foundation member Carol Sullivan, Mike Eng, Dr. Albert Young, Yvonne Yiu and Larry Sullivan

Proceeds from this fundraiser will enable the library to purchase needed materials for children, teens and adults in the community and to provide services and activities encouraging literacy and educational opportunities for all.

The library thanks the members of the Monterey Park Library Foundation for their dedication and effort in soliciting donors and putting this event together. In particular, Foundation Vice President Theresa Amador and Foundation member Carol Sullivan worked countless hours promoting the Gala and organizing site logistics, creating raffle and auction prize displays and handling financials. Special thanks as well go to Library Board of Trustees member Jason Dhing and former Library Foundation member Peter Chan for their assistance with the event.



Photo above left, from left: Monterey Park Library Foundation members Josephine Quach, Carol Sullivan and Alicia Martinez, Library Foundation President Bob Gin and Library Foundation Vice President Theresa Amador.

Photo above right, from left: Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library staff members Joyce Hsiao, Diana Garcia, Anita Phan, Michael Le, Kristin Olivarez, Gwen Kishida, Deborah Niblick and Evena Shu