

Sellout crowd attends "Opening Night" festivities for new facilities at UCSD Medical Center-La Jolla

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SELLOUT CROWD ATTENDS "OPENING NIGHT" FESTIVITIES FOR NEW FACILITIES AT UCSD MEDICAL CENTER-LA JOLLA

A sellout crowd of 840 persons was on hand tonight for an "Opening Night" gala celebrating completion of the John M. and Sally B. Thornton Hospital and the Edith and William M. Perlman Ambulatory Care Center at the UCSD Medical Center-La Jolla.

"We've had to return dozens of reservation requests," noted Joanne Meredith, co-chair, "because we're limited by the size of the pavilion tent (site of the dinner dance) and fire regulations. As it was, we increased the tent size from our original 750 maximum.

"But," she added, "it's absolutely marvelous to have such a success on our hands."

The event was co-sponsored by the UCSD Medical Center Auxiliary and the UCSD Cancer Center Associates. Serving as co-chairs were Meredith and Anne Coleman of the Auxiliary, and Pam Burke of the Associates. Proceeds from the benefit event are expected to top \$200,000 and will be donated by the two sponsoring groups to UCSD Medical Center-La Jolla and the Cancer Center.

Decorations capitalized on the "Opening Night" theme with klieg lights and red carpet runners marking the atrium entrance to Thornton Hospital, through which guests proceeded to the adjacent tent. Tables covered with black linen cloths were centered with an arrangement of pillared red roses and a top hat, and places were marked with individually wrapped truffles in gold and black. Large 10' by 10' black and white illustrations of Broadway stars such as Joel Gray and Liza Minelli, framed in deep red with a dark red theater drape, covered the tent panels.

Stage, film and television star Shirley Jones and her orchestra, performing classic American show tunes, headlined the entertainment.

Guests were welcomed by Richard C. Atkinson, UCSD Chancellor; Michael Stringer, director of UCSD Medical Center; William Hryniuk, M.D., director of the UCSD Cancer Center, and John and Sally Thornton, major benefactors for whom the new hospital is named. Following the musical program, a brief thank-you to guests was extended by UCSD School of Medicine Dean John F. Alksne.

In a surprise announcement, San Diego City Councilman Ron Roberts presented a proclamation to the Thorntons naming Saturday, June 5, as "UCSD Medical Center's John M. and Sally B. Thornton Hospital Day."

Tours of the newly completed Thornton Hospital and Perlman Ambulatory Care Center--which will open for patient care in July--were available to attendees preceding dinner.

The 120-bed Thornton Hospital is a general medical-surgical facility, with an emergency room, designed to provide maximum comfort for the patient as well as the newest in medical and technological resources.

The adjacent Perlman Ambulatory Center will be home to more than 35 medical offices offering primary care and many specialities.

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