

LAS PATRONAS

Partnering with the San Diego Community since 1946

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Las Patronas Presents the 71st Annual Jewel Ball: Taking Flight

LA JOLLA, CA, (August 5, 2017) – This evening Las Patronas celebrated the 71st Annual Jewel Ball, **Taking Flight**, at the beautiful **La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club**. The nearly 825 guests were transported to the golden age of air travel when travelers dressed for the occasion and flying was akin to a cocktail party on wings. The evening was an elegant affair combining mid-century posh with vintage glamour as guests toasted 71 years of support to the San Diego nonprofit community.

The cockpit of a **Boeing Stratocruiser** and a sleek chrome and yellow **Ryan PT-22** provided a dramatic statement as guests entered the **La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club**. Welcoming guests into the venue were Jewel Ball Chair **Jorie Fischer**, Co-Chairs **Jennifer Edstrom** and **Alison Lee**, and Las Patronas President **Leigh Plesniak**.

After more than a year of planning and countless hours of hands-on work, the dedicated team of approximately 50 Las Patronas members created a stylish event, led by the creative vision of Design Co-Chairs **Karly Cole** and **Shay Stephens**. Mid-century modern airport architecture greeted guests as they entered the main concourse where they enjoyed a unique display of museum quality air and travel memorabilia. Thanks to the generosity of the San Diego Air & Space Museum, Allen Airways and Captain David Lane, Las Patronas utilized these historic aviation pieces as well as the vintage airplanes to enrich the impact of the décor.

Once in the travel terminal, guests were transported to another time and place as they were greeted with champagne cocktails and hors d'oeuvre temptations that included a glorious seafood station as well as tray passed seared steak tartare on garlic crostini and warmed herbed nuts in verrines.

The swanky sounds of a jazz ensemble performing atop an acrylic stage over the pool lured guests towards the next travel stop. The pool area was transformed by metallic design elements into a sophisticated and glamorous mid-century executive lounge complete with a “Duty Free” bar, a “Sky Bridge” over the pool and a separate VIP Lounge. Culinary temptations offered poolside included a grill station with grilled petit lamb chops and vegetable skewers served with balsamic aioli and roasted red pepper hummus. **Sammy’s** offered their always-popular Kobe sliders and **Cafe Japengo** was on hand as well with a splendid sushi station. **Chef Drew of Panache Productions** was ready for take off with specialty Vietnamese salad rolls and Tom Kha Spot prawn shooters. A poolside silent auction provided a wide array of tantalizing items to be awarded to the highest bidder. Mobile bidding allowed guests and supporters to

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participate from wherever they were enjoying the evening.

A highlight of the evening was the call to dinner, when the **JP Hunten Music** “Flight Crew” called guests to board “Flight 2017” at “Gate 71.” Dancing flight attendants and pilots led guests over the Skybridge as the “Boarding Doors” opened to reveal a spectacular ballroom. The crew continued to the dance floor where they set a fun and upbeat tone for the remainder of the evening. The **La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club** courts were cleverly transformed into a ballroom scene reminiscent of the interior of an airliner taken to the skies. Giant oversized airplane windows showcasing majestic sunset clouds lined the walls of the ballroom and a dramatic projection over the stage made guests feel as though they were soaring through the night. Airplane and city skyline bars provided additional beverage offerings.

Dinner, provided by the **Hyatt La Jolla**, was a delicious menu and included a baby arugula salad with hazelnut brittle, a duo of grilled filet and Airline-cut crispy skin chicken, twice baked potatoes, asparagus, as well as an accompaniment of creamy pink peppercorn sauce and roasted garlic tarragon aioli. The meal was perfectly paired with wines from **Kinsella Vineyard, Hafner Vineyard, Kim Crawford, JaM Cellars, Sonoma-Cutrer and Veuve Clicquot**. For dessert, guests were treated to a trio of flourless chocolate cake with blackberry coulis, key lime mousse with graham cracker crumbles, and caramel pecan tart with Tahitian vanilla bean whipped cream.... decadent and delicious. Airplane and City Skyline themed bars provided additional beverage offerings, while an Oxygen Bar and a **Cafe Moto** coffee bar kept the energy levels sky-high! The vibrant sounds of **JP Hunten Music** got everyone on their feet and energized the crowd with their spectacular array of dance favorites, multiple production numbers and brass band!

“We are honored to continue the Las Patronas tradition of service to the San Diego community and are grateful for the thoughtful generosity and support of our underwriters, donors, advertisers, guests and advisory members,” said Jewel Ball Chair, **Jorie Fischer**.

“In addition to renewing partnerships with the beneficiaries with whom we have long established relationships, we take great pride in granting “wings” to outstanding new organizations this year by funding assets critical to the flight plan of their mission,” said Las Patronas President, **Leigh Plesniak**. “Our beneficiaries inspire us and, on this special evening, we celebrate them and our many supporters,”

The major beneficiaries of Jewel Ball 2017, **Taking Flight** are:

1. **A Reason to Survive:** A passenger van for youth outreach programs.
2. **Center for Community Solutions:** A new storage shed and painting and upgrades to long-term emergency housing.

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“Las Patronas is committed to providing financial assistance to non-profit organizations in San Diego County that provide valuable community services in the areas of health, education, social services, and cultural arts, and to continuing our tradition of service to enhance the quality of life in our community.”

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3. **International Rescue Committee in San Diego:** A passenger van for refugee assistance programs.
4. **La Jolla Playhouse:** Hearing loop systems in the three main-stage theaters.
5. **Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center:** An 84-passenger school bus.
6. **National Conflict Resolution Center:** Computer hardware infrastructure.
7. **Reuben H. Fleet Science Center:** A panel van for educational programs.
8. **Scripps Mercy Hospital, Mercy Hospital Foundation:** Infant bed warmers for the Maternal and Child Health department.
9. **Urban Corps of San Diego County:** A pickup truck for youth education and job training programs.
10. **Voices for Children:** An integrated phone system for their offices.

*For more information about Las Patronas, please visit
<http://laspatronas.org>*

Las Patronas is a philanthropic organization with a long history of giving. Since its inception in 1946, Las Patronas has donated nearly \$20 million to more than a thousand charitable institutions in San Diego. All funds raised by Las Patronas stay in San Diego County and are distributed to many small grass-root nonprofits as well as larger, more visible organizations. Las Patronas is a 100 percent volunteer organization that remains steadfastly noncommercial, nondiscriminatory, nonsectarian, and nonpolitical. For more information about Las Patronas, please visit www.laspatronas.org.

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