

# Marin Symphony and Mill Valley Film Festival parties shine

## THE SOCIAL SCOPE

Leslie Harlib



If October is about leaving summer behind in a blaze of glory, the first weekend of this month was as sparkling as it gets.

Sunday night had a Latin flair. Marin Symphony's opening night gala in a tent pitched behind the Marin Civic Center, drew more than 300 people for a pre-concert party that celebrated the Spanish and tango music on the symphony's menu. There were hot red spike-heeled tango shoes as part of the table centerpieces. Some of the female guests amused each other, acting like impromptu Cinderellas, experimenting if their feet would fit.

Tango dancing with



**Maria and John Pitcairn of Ross** at the Marin Symphony opening. John is president of the board of Marin Symphony.



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**Film star Dakota Fanning** at the V.I.P. party at Mill Valley's Outdoor Art Club, launching this year's 31st annual Mill Valley Film Festival. Fanning flew up from Los Angeles for the premiere of her new feature, "The Secret Life of Bees."

dessert was part of the fun that drew Marin guests including: Maria and John Pitcairn of Ross (John's pres-

ident of the Marin Symphony board of directors), Diane and Asher Rubin of Tiburon, Lou and Marge Bartolini and Cari Pace Coch and Bob Coch, all of Novato; Xiaru and Gerald Hoytt, Gerry, Rita and Tony Castellucci, Catherine Munson and her daughter Shelley Munson, and Jacov "Jack" Golan, Erika Hagopian and Joanne Dunn, all of San Rafael; Nancee Rubenstein of Kentfield with her daughter Maisie Rubenstein of San Francisco; Dan Smith and his wife Lucy Lee, also of Kentfield; and Richard Kalish of Larkspur with Denise Kendall of Mill Valley.

## Dakota Fanning visits Mill Valley

Thursday night October 2, people who bought tickets for "The Secret Life of Bees," one of the 31st annual Mill Valley Film Festival's two opening night flicks, were thrilled to see and hear Dakota Fanning. The 14-year-old star flew up from Los Angeles to promote her new movie, which she stars in with Queen Latifah, Alicia Keys and Jennifer Hudson.

Before she spoke to a packed house of movie enthusiasts, she shook hands and chatted with special guests at a private party at Mill Valley's Outdoor Art Club.

"I'm so proud and happy to be here," Fanning said, drawing laughs by explaining that she couldn't stay to see the movie because she "had to go back to Los Angeles to go to school tomorrow."



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**Mark Fishkin of San Rafael, founder and executive director of the Mill Valley Film Festival,** with major festival sponsor Jennifer Coslett MacCready of Mill Valley and Susan and Richard Idell, also of Mill Valley. Richard Idell is president of the MVFF board.

Though it was a school night, the screenings and after party at the Mill Valley Community Center didn't stop more than 500 guests from staying up late to have a reel-life blast, kicking off 11 days of morning-to-evening viewing possibilities.

Spotted throughout opening night evening were: Mark Fishkin of San Rafael founder and executive director of the Mill Valley Film Festival, major sponsors Christopher B. Smith and his wife Jeannie Temple Smith of Tiburon and Jennifer Coslett MacCready of Mill Valley; Peter and Catherine Flaxman, Joe and Sue Carlomagno, Evelyn Topper and Allan Jackman and Susan Dutton, also of Mill Valley; San Rafael mayor Al Boro and his wife Pat; filmmakers Melinda Bach of Mill Valley and Cyn-

thia Pepper of San Rafael; Dr. Susan Martling of Greenbrae; K.C. Laucke of Ross; and Felicia Gaston of Marin City, executive director of Performing Stars of Marin.

• If you have news about upcoming benefit parties in Marin County, the North Bay or San Francisco, contact Leslie Harlib, Lifestyles Editor for the Novato Advance and the Marinscope chain of weekly community newspapers. Write to her at Novato Advance, 1068 Machin Ave., Novato, CA 94945, email her at lharlib@novatoadvance.com. or phone her at 892-1516 ext. 21. If you have photos and information about your fundraiser, please send in the name of the event and the date when it happened no later than the Monday immediately following the event. Photos should be 300 dpi. Please provide captions

with names and towns listed left to right, a credit for the photographer, and a contact name and number for your organization.



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**Cari Pace Coch of Novato** and her husband Bob Coch, ready to tango at Marin Symphony's gala opening night on Oct. 5.