

Don't miss the CALM showhouse

THERE'S ONE WEEK LEFT to tour the lovely George Washington Smith house built in 1922 that has been transformed into a "Modernterranean" style casa (a mix of modern and Mediterranean) by interior designers Neil Korpinen & Rick Erickson, along with other generous volunteers and donors from Santa Barbara's design and construction world. My favorite touch? There



**LESLIE A.
WESTBROOK**

are many, but I loved the stenciled tile stair risers, cleverly done by Nancy Kintisch, that mimic antique tiles of the period.

Last week, I attended one of the special events held there, a benefit Trunk Show, where a good time was had by a great number of ladies and a couple of token men attending the afternoon soiree. Spotted in the crowd: Santa Barbara and "C" magazine publisher Jennifer Smith-Hale, who was fielding compliments on the latest issue of her magazines.

Jennifer's mother, Anne Smith Towbes, arrived later and was sweet on one of Jean Mendillo Babbe's charming antique lace-festooned blouses.

Babbe, whose label is Bella Notte Due, also fashions really pretty lingerie and custom wedding dresses from antique linens and handkerchiefs. Adorable Asha DeMarco, bathing suit designer extraordinaire, was showing her hot line, AshaCouture swimwear, with proud mom Sharon nearby.

Her father, Alain Clenet, with wife Kathy, seemed to feel at home in the mostly female crowd. Who would have guessed that Upham Hotel GM Jan Martin Winn also makes jewelry on the side? Lynn Barker, of Europa Art & Antiques, was there with her sister, purse designer Sally Spicer from San Francisco, as well as representatives from Saks Fifth Avenue.

Also spotted in the crowd: Sue Neuman, wearing an eye-catching pleated photo-fabric mini skirt featuring matadors; Janice "J.P." Pegram of Direct Relief International; Kathy Skarston; Georganne Alex of Alex Clothing; and Gillian Amery, of The Kitchen Company, who spun her magic in the kitchen remodel.

Kudos to co-chairs, Susan Day Hosea and Meredith Scott, for a lovely event ably catered by Duo.

Within the 3,200 square-foot house, many of the interior furnishings and paintings are for sale, with portions of the proceeds benefiting CALM, the worthy Child Abuse Listening and Mediation organization.

Items include: a delightful area rug inspired by a blueprint of a window grate designed by George Washington Smith (\$1200); antiques and furnishings from Michael Haskell (Michael and Kim once lived in this charming house) and Artifacts International, and original oil paintings from Studio 2, as well as yummy jackets and the softest robes from Diani in the gift boutique, appealed.

As twilight set in the stunning gardens transformed by Arcadia Studio, the event's token male volunteer server/green thumb Dan Bufano (aka "The Rose Man" who tends Barbra Streisand's posies) cheerfully poured pink champagne for all the shop 'til you drop' ladies.