



Before the champagne celebrating the prince's plaque unveiling are Terease Chin, president Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, El Presidio Park; Spanish consulate general Francisco Javier Vallauré; Lois Erburu, patron; Keith Mautino, trustee board member, and Mary Louise Days, historian (photo by Priscilla)



At the northwest corner of El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park and named "The King's Wall" showing the plaque is mayor Helene Schneider with collaborators: ceramic artist Jeannie Davis and designer Christa Clark Jones; not pictured Michael Imwalle, archaeologist and colorist (photo by Priscilla)

bash at Tecolote, the bustling bibliophile bastion in the upper village.

"Mariellen's life and mine were remarkably interwoven. My story and her story are one. I hope this fact radiates through all of the anecdotes and remembrances to follow, just as certainly it radiates in my memory."

A Tile Tale

It was a night on the tiles when the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation dedicated a colorful ceramic plaque at the 233-year-old El Presidio commemorating the visit of then **Prince Felipe** of Spain to our Eden by the Beach in November, 2013, during which I met the now king, at a reception at the Biltmore, after which he joined his leggy wife, **Princess Letizia**, for a dinner at the

Montecito Country Club.

It was the second trip to our tony town for the towering heir apparent, who first came in 1995, a visit that is commemorated by another tiled plaque in El Paseo,

The new addition, which was designed by development associate **Christa Clark Jones** combining elements from the Presidio Chapel and the royal crest of Felipe, who was then Prince of Asturias before the abdication of his father **King Juan Carlos** after almost four decades on the Spanish throne last year.

The plaque was fired by ceramics teacher **Jeannie Davis**, a descendant of Jose de la Guerra, an early settler, after whom the central city plaza is named.

"It took three months to make," says



Executive director of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Jarrell Jackman, and Old Spanish Days El Presidente, Cas Stimson (photo by Priscilla)

Jeannie. "There were three coats of paint and it was glazed three times."

It was inset into a \$780,000 rebuilt 165-foot-long outer defense perimeter wall, which will feature additional tiles in due course commemorating donors to the preservation project.

It was unveiled by **Francisco Javier Vallaure**, Spanish consul-general, mayor **Helene Schneider**, trust president **Terease Chin** and **Craig Makela**, fundraising chair, after introductions by executive director, **Jarrell Jackman**.

To celebrate the occasion, guests, including TV anchor **Paula Lopez**, **Peter Hilf**, **Jerry** and **Helene Beaver**, **Roger Aceves**, **David Bolton**, **Frank Ochoa**, and Old Spanish Days president **Cas Stimson**, adjourned to a reception to quaff the Veuve Clicquot and snaffle the comestibles.

er and anchor, **John Palminteri**, conducted the auction, which included a stay in Mexico and VIP viewing of the harbor's July 4 fireworks.

Guests supporting the maritime mecca included **Mike and Anne Towbes**, **Frederick and Sigrid Toye**, **Pat Andersons**, **Peggy Wiley**, **Robert and Christine Emmons**, **Willard Thompson**, **Peter Lufkin**, **Craig Springer**, **Kristi Newton**, **Hiroko Benko**, **Jack and Karen Byers**, **Silvio and Antonio Di Loreto**, **Jerry and Dinah Baumgartner**, and **Bill and Shari Guilfoyle**...

Laughs Unscripted

The works of the prolific novelist Jane Austen, all of which have been made into major films, were given a decidedly new twist when the Los Angeles-based Impro Theatre staged *Jane Austen Unscripted* for two hilarious nights at the New Vic Theatre.

Starting with suggestions from the audience, which included the weather and a fine bottle of sherry on the first night I attended, the talented players created a rollicking two-hour Regency romp reflecting the plots of such works as *Pride and Prejudice* and *Mansfield Park*, with no two shows alike.

The group has created more than 100 Austen plays since its inception 27 years ago, with the nine players working seamlessly without any script whatsoever under directors **Dan O'Connor** and **Paul Rogan**, who are also members of the cast.

Stephen Kearin, **Brian Lohmann**,