

# THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

TUESDAY, Oct. 23, 2007

PEOPLE WATCH

## A wealth of goodwill at Diamond & Pearl Ball

Beckstrand Cancer Foundation's tribute to **Tom Riach** touched hearts at the group's fourth annual Diamond & Pearl Ball held at the Balboa



**DONNA BUNCE**  
REGISTER COLUMNIST

Bay Club & Resort on Oct. 13. It was delivered by Riach's good friend **Dr. William French** and followed by a moving video of his life. Riach's widow, **Joan**, said, "Our family is so

appreciative to have other people see how courageous Tom was and how beautifully he handled the disease." The 448 guests enjoyed the "Evening in the Orient"-themed evening, featuring clusters of red paper lanterns decorating the dance floor, embroidered satin chair covers, and red orchid blossom and hanging crystal-decorated bronze branch centerpieces, thanks to Wildflower Linens. The ball, co-chaired by **Joni D'Amato**, **Tami Kahn** and **Kirsten Prosser**, featured ABC/7 entertainment reporter **George Penacchio** as master of ceremonies. The presenting sponsor, Neiman Marcus and Van Cleef & Arpels at Neiman Marcus, contributed some major auction items, including a Van Cleef & Arpels diamond pendant and earrings won by **Dave** and **Holly Wilson** for \$42,500, which they donated back to the foundation. Neiman donated a Turks & Caicos Islands trip, won by **Dana** and **Gary Weiner** for \$18,000. A luxurious Mondavi Napa Getaway for four with barrel tastings and a private party for 12 at Neiman Marcus with **Lydia Mondavi**,



MICHAEL MUNSON, FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

**MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE:** Tami Kahn, Joni D'Amato, Joan Riach, Dr. William French and Kirsten Prosser at the Beckstrand Cancer Foundation Gala.

founder of the exclusive 29 Grape Seed Age Protecting color line, sold twice for \$35,000 to **Tara** and **Mike Shapiro** and **Tami** and **Mike Kahn**. As part of the two raffle drawings, **Victoria Riach** won the 2007 Toyota Prius, donated by Toyota of San Juan Capistrano, and **Jim Mudd** won the 2007 Lexus RX400h Hybrid, donated by Newport Lexus. Cancer patient **Stacy Farnsworth's** story of her bout with a rare liver cancer and Beckstrand's life-saving help brought home the foundation's mission of improving and enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients and their families. To that end, net proceeds of \$1 million were realized.