



FRANCES ALLEN Desert Roundup

Like the yearly return of swallows to Capistrano, or the annual migration of salmon upstream spawn, once a year the Palm Springs International Film Festival shifts its focus from the Desert to Beverly Hills and the historic Charlie Chaplin estate, now the home of actress Patricia Barry, and kicks off its award season with the announcement of the recipient of the festival's Rising Star award.

This year's honoree is Anna Kendrick, and although the young actress already as a very impressive body of work—including a Tony nomination when she was but 12 years old—she is being recognized for her performance in the soon-to-be-released film, *Up In The Air* in which she co-stars with George Clooney.

Festival chairman Harold Matzner made the announcement of Kendrick's selection as he introduced the actress to a group of invited guests at the cocktails and hor d'oeuvres event hosted by Stephen Breimer, a festival boardmember.

Also present and presenting a beautiful center of attraction was *Entertainment Tonight's* Mary Hart, who will reprise her duties as host of the festival's red-carpet, black-tie awards gala, to be held on Tuesday evening, Jan. 5 at the Palm Springs Convention Center.

This will be the 21st anniversary of one of North America's most ea-

gerly awaited film festivals, and not just because of the star-studded awards gala presented by Cartier and sponsored by Mercedes Benz and *Entertainment Tonight*. During its run from Jan. 5-18, the Palm Springs International Film Festival will screen more than 200 separate films from nearly 60 countries. It also will present a majority of the films submitted for consideration in the Best Foreign Language category for the Academy Awards, as well as a large number of independent American and international features, many making their world or U.S. debuts.

There are many more awards to be announced between now and January, and *The Courier* will report on them all, including one that I'll go out-on-a-limb to predict, a male star with the initials "G. C." If so, he will be in good company as past honorees have included Sean Connery, Clint Eastwood and Ron Howard.

The gala, under the flawless chairwomanhood of Jackie Lee Houston, is certainly the Desert's most glamorous event, and the nearly two weeks of screenings will satisfy any movie junkie. More information on the festival is available at 800-898-7256.

He's the gift that keeps on giving—a one man United Way. He's Palm Springs resident Barry

FILM FEST—Actress/producer Patricia Barry opened her historic Beverly Hills home for a reception to launch the upcoming Palm Springs International Film Festival. Highlight of the evening was the announcement of actress Anna Kendrick (*Twilight*) being named "Rising Star of the Year" to be presented Jan. 5 at the festival gala. Pictured are (from left): festival chair Harold Matzner, Kendrick, Barry, *Entertainment Tonight's* Mary Hart, and Beverly Hills attorney Stephen F. Breimer.

Photo by Nathan Sternfeld

Manilow, who knows, in a major way, that charity begins at home.

This column has featured some Manilow's previous generosity, such as giving \$500,000 worth of musical instruments to 20 Coachella Valley schools. But this is only a drop in the bucket compared to what the iconic singer has in store for Christmas this year.

Expecting to be recovering from scheduled late-October hip surgery, Manilow chose to perform during a five-night run of not-to-be-performed-elsewhere benefit concerts at the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert. Here's how it works.

Manilow and his management company chose 25 local Desert charities to benefit from Manilow's five performances — five charities per performance. The concerts take place Dec. 4-5 and Dec. 7-9, and will not be scaled down versions of his other performances. This unique, arduous



five-night run, entitled "A Gift of Love," will feature a full orchestra and mix some of Manilow's greatest hits in with traditional Christmas music as well as special holiday songs written by Manilow.

Regular tickets range from \$85 to \$250. However, premium tickets, giving fans dedicated time with Manilow, as well as attendance at a post-performance reception and photo opportunity scale from \$750 to \$1,000, and purchasers of premium tickets can designate all but \$250 of the premium price of their tickets to charity beneficiary of their choice.

Premium tickets are available now with regular tickets go on sale Oct. 26 at www.mccallumtheatre.com.

It's the Desert's theatrical equivalent to "the little engine that could." The 433-seat Annenberg Theater in Palm Springs continues to bring world-class, live stage performances — from cabaret, comedy, jazz, dance and classical — to the

Desert despite having to compete with larger, neighborhood venues.

Located within the grounds of the Palm Springs Art Museum, the Annenberg Theater, named after its biggest patrons, features a sophisticated mix of live stage performances in a state-of-the-art facility.

This year, the Annenberg's seventh opening night, Nov. 7, features the song and dance of multi-talented and much honored Rita Moreno. Lorenzo Lamas, Melissa Manchester and The Diamonds will appear during the season. A full listing of performers and dates is available online at www.annenbergtheater.org.

And remember, the theater is on the campus of the internationally renown art museum, so leave time prior to the show for a visit to the museum, where a special showing of "A Modern Renaissance in Italian Glass," featuring art by Italian glass master Lino Tagliapietra, is on display through Dec 27. The museum can be reached at 760-325-7186.

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Jewish Community Foundation Awards \$250,000 To Jumpstart

The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles has given a three-year, \$250,000 award through its Cutting Edge Grants Initiative to Jewish Jumpstart, an incubator think tank dedicated to supporting Jewish innovation.

The grant will fund Jumpstart L.A., which helps local startups with infrastructure and operational support, aiming to connect and strengthen emerging Jewish organizations serving diverse constituents across the community.

The grant from the JCF will help bring together creative individuals, organizations and ideas to establish Los Angeles as a center of Jewish innovation. Through Jumpstart, it will provide direct support to nonprofits via fiscal sponsorship, organizational development and other incubation services and provide assistance in areas such as technology, communication, governance and strategic planning.

Marvin I. Schotland, president/CEO of the foundation, stated: "A new generation of creative Jewish social entrepreneurs is emerging, but the current economic environment makes it particularly challenging for them to realize their dreams. In keeping with our vision of a dynamic Los Angeles Jewish community, we will continue to provide critical seed funding to social innovators, despite the economic downturn. Our grant serves to validate the importance of Jumpstart's mission, connecting and strengthening new and young local Jewish organizations."

Meanwhile, Joshua Avedon, Jumpstart's COO and co-founder, said: "Los Angeles is an epicenter for Jewish innovation, but local initiatives often don't get the funding or public recognition they deserve but this grant gives Jumpstart the resources needed to help make L.A. a powerful force within the Jewish community."

His co-founder and Jumpstart CEO Shawn Landres added: "The foundation's investment in Jumpstart is more than providing financial resources, it's about sharing ideas, connecting people, and creating networks of social entrepreneurs and activists to grow Jewish innovation in Los Angeles."

The JCF has set the deadline to apply for 2010 Cutting Edge Grants to Nov. 30. Grantseekers can receive a maximum of \$250,000 over three years in a program designed to launch innovative efforts to positively impact the Jewish community. These grants have helped new initiatives such as 30 Years After, LimmudLA, Jewish World Watch, JDub LA, and the Jewish Federation's Next Generation Engagement Initiative, among others, get their starts.

Established in 1954, the Jewish Community Foundation is the largest manager of charitable assets and the leader in planned giving solutions for local Jewish philanthropists and ranks among the 12 largest Los Angeles foundations. For information, visit www.jewishfoundationla.org.