

Annual OBMA Awards Celebration says ‘Thank you!’ to local businesses and the community.

The OB business community gathered with an amazing turnout (over 170 people) Thursday, October 22nd for the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association’s Annual Awards Night Celebration. The Ocean Beach branch of Union Bank sponsored the event for the sixth year in a row, and 23 restaurants in the area donated food and refreshments. Their generosity was apparent. The tables overflowed with a wonderful array of foods from local establishments.

Mayor Jerry Sanders made a special appearance during the evening (even though it was he and his wife’s wedding anniversary) to meet the attendees and say a few words. State Senator Chris Kehoe stopped by and talked to many of the local merchants. Both Mayor Sanders and Senator Kehoe have a long history with folks in Ocean Beach and obviously enjoyed a warm welcome from the crowd. District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer and County Supervisor Greg Cox each expressed appreciation for the OB MainStreet Association and its Board and volunteers.

Cordelia Mendoza, Chair of the **Promotion** committee, presented the 2009 awards to businesses and individuals who are participants in making Ocean Beach an interesting and exciting community.

- Winston’s for *bringing a laugh to OB with the OB Comedy Night.*
- David Linton for *his support of and involvement with the Ocean Beach community through his artwork.*
- Pizza Port, *Welcome Aboard and thanks for their generous support of Ocean Beach events.*
- Gallagher’s for *outstanding marketing efforts.*

Yvonne Cruz, on behalf of **Design** committee Chair Barbara Iacometti, presented the Design Committee’s 2009 *Sunflower Awards* to

- ARCHITECTS hanna gabriel wells for *Excellent re-use of an existing building and for providing OB with an outstanding Interior and Exterior Remodel*
- Sunset Cliffs Animal Hospital for *Most remarkable interior and exterior remodel and positive contribution to the community.*

Cruz also presented *Community Volunteer* awards to:

- Point Loma Landscaping, *for their volunteer efforts to keep Ocean Beach looking good*
- Janis Ambrosiani, *for enormous volunteer efforts in designing and producing the 2009 OB Street Fair Mural.*
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Heather Clarke presented the **Economic Restructuring** committee awards:

- Suzy Lambert, of Crystal Visions, *2009 Business Award for marketing efforts to organize and promote the Santa Monica Ave. merchants.*
- Craig Gerwig, of Newport Ave. Antique Center, *2009 Community Partner award for volunteer efforts on behalf of the OBMA and the community.*
- OB Rag, *2009 Community Partner award for outstanding coverage of the 30th Annual Street Fair and Chili Cook-off Festival.*

Julie Klein, of the **Crime Prevention** Sub-committee, presented *2009 Community Partner* awards to Capt. Walt Vasquez and Officer David Surwilo of the San Diego Police Department:

- Capt. Vasquez was recognized for his *ongoing commitment to Ocean Beach*
- Officer Surwilo for his *ongoing commitment to Ocean Beach and work with the OB Crime Prevention committee.*

President Mike Akey presented special *2009 Community Partner* awards to

- Point Loma Masonic for *generous community partnership with the OBMA.*
- OB Town Council for *ongoing involvement and support of the 30th Annual Street Fair and Chili Cook-off Festival.*
- Shades Oceanfront Bistro for *generous support of the 30th Annual Street Fair and Chili Cook-off Festival by providing committee chili.*
- Union Bank received a *Community Partner* award for *their support of and involvement with the Ocean Beach community.*

Special *2009 Community Volunteer Awards* went to Chuck Schiele, Joshua Utley and Yvonne Cruz.

- Chuck Schiele, of StudiOB, designed and produced OB's FIRST-EVER compilation CD, WAVES: The Sound of Ocean Beach. Thanks to Chuck, Ocean Beach is now known for its diverse music culture. Chuck helped distribute certificates to all the musicians involved in making this cd as well as a certificate for Jim Grant for his cover photograph.
- Joshua Utley, of Intrepid Network, dedicated and donated countless hours in redesigning the OBMA's Web site after joining the Promotion Committee. Be sure to visit our new site at oceanbeachsandiego.com to view the changes.
- Yvonne Cruz was honored because she chaired the OB Street Fair and Chili Cook-off for so long that no one can remember how long. Last year she passed the torch to Barbara Iacometti and mentored her through the 2009 event.

The OBMA also thanked its 14-member volunteer Board of Directors, its many volunteers, sponsors, businesses who donated throughout the year, and all who attended for all their support. A special thanks to Pt. Loma Masonic Center for allowing the OBMA to have the Celebration at their facility.