DISCOVERY BAY PRESS

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & EVENTS COMMUNITY **SEED celebrates with An Evening in Paris**

by Arlene Rivera Correspondent

The ninth annual SEED Winter Gala was held Saturday at the Discovery Bay Country Club. The black-tie event featured a large crowd of beautifully dressed guests who enjoyed dinner, raffle prizes and dancing.

SEED (Supporting Excellence in Educational Development) has been a major contributor to the Byron Union School District for years. Last year's Winter Gala raised \$20,000.

The theme for this year's fund-raiser was An Evening in Paris. As guests sauntered through the entranceway they were greeted with complimentary hand-decorated bottles of champagne. Each bottle was inscribed with a personalized thank-you note and accompanied by a miniature chocolate replica of the Eiffel Tower. In the center of the dining room stood a 20-foot black and gold replica of the Eiffel Tower, setting the mood for a night of elegant fun.

Multiple tables draped in white displayed some of the evening's auction items. A dinner of roast tenderloin of beef with béarnaise was served, and soon after the dinner a live auction took place. One lucky guest won the trip to the Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino, one of many raffle prizes. Other raffle prizes ranged from tutoring services

(to be provided by a local teacher) to Barry Bond's 73rd home run game ticket. D.J. Doug Dailey led the guests in dance on a glittering dance floor between 9 and 11 p.m.

SEED's mission statement is to "raise money to support academic programs for the schools in the Byron Union School District," a promise the organization has kept since forming in 1996. Without SEED, the Byron Union School District would be without many important programs and materials. The Pinnacle Report Card Program, increased library hours, audio/visual equipment, staff development programs, overhead projection carts, new computers, individual teacher grants, Zoo phonics and various field trips are all a direct result of the funding generated by SEED members and contributors.

In 2001, SEED and the BUSD applied together for a federal grant for the BEST program, which now provides a variety of after-school programs. The district

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Darlene Tarrintino, left, and Anita Sparks enjoy the ambiance at SEED's Winter Gala Saturday.

> Photo by Richard Wisdom

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 Mystery Spot

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H ave you seen this spot? All callers who identify the location of this week's Mystery Spot will automatically be entered in our monthly drawing for \$100 in cash! Call 634-1441, ext. 138 before midnight on Monday, Feb. 12 to take a guess. Limit one entry per person per week. The last Mystery Spot was the decorative posts on a lawn at the corner of Drakes Court and Willow Lake Drive.





Photo by Richard Wisdom

SEED president Shelly Scruggs, center, mingles with guests during the organization's annual Winter Gala. The event helps raise money for academic programs for Byron schools.

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was awarded a grant from the government for BEST for \$775,000.

SEED's members work hard to make events such as An Evening in Paris successful. They are Shelly Scruggs, Debbie Doll, Gretchen Dow, Rise Hancock, Nann Stark, Denise Sneath, Darlynne Fu, Jill Sprenkel, Diana Dobbie, Kathy Mertens, Jody Gianni, Tina Fagundes, Laura Page, Gina Wisinski, Denise Banyas, Tiffany Howard, Lynn Austin and Kristen Broocker.

