

Last modified Saturday, January 28, 2006 10:51 PM PST

## Outdoor Art Foundation plans Carlsbad Masquerade

*By: BARBARA BRILL - For the North County Times*

In their elegant costumes and their elaborate masks, Venetians each year step from gondolas to enter canal-side doors that lead into private grand ballrooms of the palazzi.

For a week, they celebrate what they call Carnivale, a time of merriment before Lent, a period of penitence and fasting that begins on Ash Wednesday and runs for 40 days until Easter.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, local residents will get a chance to copy this colorful tradition when the Outdoor Art Foundation ---- in conjunction with the Carlsbad Village Business Association and the Museum Artists Foundation (a national heritage foundation) ---- introduces its first annual Carlsbad Masquerade.

This Venetian Carnivale of art, music and dance will be held in the ballroom at the Ocean House. The grand old historical mansion was built in 1887. It was once known as the Twin Inns and more recently as Neimans.

The owners of this popular restaurant, at the corner of Carlsbad Village Drive and Carlsbad Boulevard, plan to change the name to Ocean House sometime in February after changes are made to the décor and menus.

Tickets for the fundraiser are \$60 a person in advance and \$75 at the door. The event will include hors d'oeuvres, which are generously being donated by Ocean House, as well as two complimentary glasses of wine. There will be a performance by the Small Opera of San Diego, New Age music by Yrsan Daro, dancing to the Cajun rock music of the Bayou Brothers, and a special invitational art exhibition and sale of world-class sculptors. Valet parking will be available.

The committee would love to see everyone showing up in 18th century Venetian costumes, but cocktail attire will be acceptable. And, although masks aren't mandatory, they should be. After all, this is a masquerade event.

The Carlsbad Village Business Association plans to post on its Web site a list of places where costumes and masks are available. Check out [www.shopcarlsbadvillage.org](http://www.shopcarlsbadvillage.org). But, please be aware that costumes that are not elegant are discouraged.

This event is being held to help raise money for the Outdoor Art Initiative, a project that involves placing a minimum of 30 significant sculptures and mural projects in the Village.

It was only six months ago when Bill Ostrie, the owner of Carlsbad Village Art & Antique Mall, got the passionate and determined art community buzzing about his idea to help make the village a cultural and financial asset for everyone.

He realized our downtown area has continued to be an untapped jewel that could become a

better destination for locals and for tourists.

The Outdoor Art Foundation was formed, and Bill and Evo Ostrie pledged the first \$10,000 toward the \$200,000 goal.

The county Board of Supervisors put its seal of approval on the outdoor art initiative with a \$4,000 grant. Sponsors are already stepping up to the plate for the Carlsbad Masquerade, including Ash Ibrahim from Sunset Coast Capital, Tim Stripe of Grand Pacific Resorts, and Mark and Kathy Winkler.

For Carlsbad Masquerade tickets or for more information about the Outdoor Art Foundation, call (760) 434-2553 or visit [www.outdoorartfoundation.org/](http://www.outdoorartfoundation.org/)

Barbara Brill, a North County Times columnist, is a free-lance writer who has lived in Carlsbad since 1971. Contact: [bbrill2@juno.com](mailto:bbrill2@juno.com)