

EXTRAORDINARY PARTNERSHIPS



Photos Courtesy of Debbie Laskey

Exceptional Children's Foundation Business Partner Recognition Luncheon earlier this month recognized business partners in the community for their fair and responsible hiring practices. Event master of ceremonies Jim Hill, CBS 2, joins honorees Paula Muesse (Zhena's Gypsy Tea), from left, Nora Frausto (Hawker Pacific Aerospace), Sean Ryan (Zhena's Gypsy Tea), Jeremy Iaccino (Lowe Enterprises) and Ivan Rosenberg (Frontier Associates) for a photo session. CEO Scott Bowling of Exceptional Children's Foundation, at right, congratulated the honorees.

ECF honors businesses for their 'Exceptional' support at May event

By Debbie Laskey

With more than 100 people in attendance, Exceptional Children's Foundation (ECF) thanked 70 business and community partners at its inaugural Business Partner Recognition Luncheon held at Killer Shrimp Restaurant in Marina del Rey on May 19.

ECF's partners make it possible for ECF adult clients with developmental disabilities to have access to employment opportunities – resulting in their leading more fulfilling and independent lives; they've set inspiring examples as a result of employing and working with people with developmental disabilities; and their financial and in-kind support helps fulfill ECF's mission.

ECF also paid special recognition to four partners for their exceptional support.

Jim Hill, CBS 2 Sports Director, event master of ceremonies, presented four Exceptional Business Awards alongside ECF clients.

Hawker Pacific Aero-



Ivan Rosenberg, left, ECF Exceptional Ambassador Award recipient, receives his plaque from Scott Bowling, president and CEO of ECF. The special luncheon took place May 19 at the Killer Shrimp in Marina del Rey.



Tex Boggs served as the keynote speaker.



Steve Rose is an ECF board member.



Reps from Bunnin Chevrolet in Culver City, meet emcee Jim Hill during the luncheon. From left are Leo Bunnin, Hill, Ron Vartanian and Chad Kelman. About 70 business and community partners were acknowledged and honored at the first Business Partner Recognition Luncheon, sponsored by Exceptional Children Foundation.

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'Avengers: Age of Ultron' kicks off blockbuster summer movies

By Theda Kleinhans Reichman

It's nearly summer, a time when superheroes like the Avengers arrive in movie theaters world wide to save the planet and the human race. This summer season is no exception as director Joss Whedon and his cast of Marvel Comics superheroes, ranging from Iron Man and Captain America to the Green Hulk and Thor, hit the big screen in "Avengers: Age of Ultron."

In a recent interview Whedon quipped, "Some days you're like, can't they just talk?" But for die hard comics fans, the more action, the better—and if that is how you feel, this movie will blow you away by the sheer force of the countless battle scenes between Avengers and the swarms of silver robots with superior artificial intelligence led by the sinister Ultron (voiced by James Spader).

In 2012 "The Avengers" earned more than \$1 billion at the box office without sacrificing wit for action. This time the emphasis is more on big battles than comedy. However we do learn more about some Aveng-

er's personal lives. For example, there is a glimmer of romantic interest between the Green Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) and the Black Widow (Scarlet Johansson), but will it lead to commitment on a larger scale? We also find out that when he is not avenging wrong, Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) has a loving wife and family. And as always, Thor (hunky Chris Hemsworth) has his hammer.

As this action-packed film begins, the Avengers have joined forces in some far away Baltic country to bring down a destructive leader. In the ensuing battles an even more destructive force is unleashed, the sinister robot, Ultron who was created by the billionaire inventor, Tony Stark, also known as Iron Man. Unfortunately for everybody but the viewer, Ultron is far from perfect. At this point in time, his ultimate goal is to wipe out mankind and replace humans with silver robots like himself. If Ultron succeeds, we will end forever, just as the dinosaurs did eons earlier.

Now it is up to the Avengers to unite, not squabble as they often do. They must wipe out or at least harness the power of the ultimate Ultron or mankind and all things human will be toast So

let the countless battles begin.

Add to the mix, two new characters, Quicksilver (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) who can move at supersonic speeds and his twin sister, Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen) who can get into your mind and alter your reality by focusing on your darkest fears.

Will humanity survive the age of Ultron? It certainly won't if Ultron (Spader) gets his way.

Brad Bird, director of "The Incredibles," "Mission: Impossible-Ghost Protocol" and the fabulous "Ratatouille," is back as director and co-writer of Disney's newest sci-fi adventure "Tomorrowland." The film stars George Clooney as Frank, a former boy-genius who has become cynical and disillusioned, and Britt Robertson as Casey, a bright, optimistic teen bursting with scientific curiosity. Together they embark on a danger-filled mission to unearth the secrets of an enigmatic place somewhere in time and space known only as "Tomorrowland." What they must do there changes the world and them forever. The film also stars Hugh Laurie, formerly TV's Dr. House.

There is plenty more in store if you see the film at the El Capi-

tan Theater in Hollywood where they present "The Magic of Imagination," a live magic show featuring illusionist Greg Wilson prior to the film. Witness the impossible made possible. There is also a display called "A Great, Big Beautiful Tomorrow!" that will give you a behind-the-scenes look at how the filmmakers created the world of "Tomorrowland" including costumes, props and concept drawings. Plus, see a display from Walt Disney Imagineering showing Disneyland attractions featured in the movie. Tickets are on sale now by calling 1-800-DISNEY6 or visit www.elcapitantickets.com. The show runs from May 22 through June 17 at El Capitan.

As of May 7 Universal's "Fifty Shades of Grey" proved it could go green, grossing \$500 million at the box office worldwide. But making money doesn't mean making art. Grey's luxurious, modern pad and playroom for BDSM dominance is visually interesting, but the plot is plod-

ding, the soft porn mild, the BDSM tame and the romance lame. In actual fact, you learn more about drawing up a dominant/submissive contract, than about the main characters Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) and multimillionaire Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan). When Anastasia's college roommate gets the flu, Anastasia is talked into doing a brief interview with Grey for the college paper. Anastasia is demure and shy, biting her lip often as she reads off the prepared questions, but when she asks him a question of her own he continues the interview, canceling other appointments. Could this be the start of something? Well sort of if they can draw up a contract of mutual consent. The film could have been somewhat interesting if anyone's character had been more fully fleshed out. (pun intended.) Who is this guy anyway, beyond

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space was recognized for hiring nine ECF clients and being an effective advocate for inclusive workplaces in the aerospace industry.

Zhena's Gypsy Tea was recognized for contracting with ECF's work activity program

and utilizing the talents of 60 clients this past year to complete a variety of packaging and assembly projects.

Lowe Enterprises was recognized for making in-kind contributions of food baskets, toys, clothing, and household items that impacted the young children and families of ECF's Early Start program.

Ivan Rosenberg received

ECF's Exceptional Ambassador Award for his commitment to identifying new business opportunities and his tireless advocacy to develop cultures of inclusion.

Tex Boggs, president of Antioch University, was the keynote speaker.

Visit www.ECF.net/businessthanks for more photos and event highlights.



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May 16 2-5-22-39-42
Mega: 03
May 13 12-18-28-38-43
Mega: 20
May 9 8-24-41-44-47
Mega: 23
May 6 11-14-35-40-43
Mega: 09
May 2 23-31-34-36-45
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April 29 5-24-25-34-47
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