

‘Ahmed benefit’ rocks Luxor

BY JOHN MAYBURY
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Pacifica Peace People threw a party at Luxor Restaurant on April 1 for their new Palestinian friend Ahmed Al Khatib, a foreign exchange student living in Pacifica thanks to the hospitality of his “American mother” and host, Delia McGrath.

“The outpouring of love and generosity for Ahmed” at the tuition benefit was a huge success both financially and in building community,” said McGrath. “People have told me they had such a great time. And they feel a part of something important — the work of peace has no bounds — it can even take place while we are eating delicious Middle Eastern food and experiencing outrageously wonderful entertainment! It was a beautiful evening for peace.”

She acknowledges contributions and support of the following people:

Luxor owner Rocky Kardosh donated the lavish Mediterranean buffet and the use of his facilities, including the banquet room, stage, dance floor, curved mahogany bar, hanging gardens, and lounge.

Local musicians and dancers donated their services: Pacifica Pulse People (Carl Herder, Chuck Gee, Norm Dutton, Larry Arndt, Lionel Emde), Nancy Hall and the Curios, Caitlin Cook and Nayan Calderon, Antoinette (Hip Moves Belly Dancers), Layalli Sharq



Photo by Tamira Franz

Belly dancer, who goes by the single name of Antoinette, entertained the crowd

(Arabic band featuring Iraqi singer and oud player Hussein), Al Juthour (Palestinian traditional boot dance called “debke”), and Arabesque Dance Troupe led by Asia.

Pacifica Peace People and the Pacifica Tribune publicized the event in print and posters blanketing the town.

Tickets to the event and a silent auction raised more than \$8,000 toward Ahmed’s tuition at the Waldorf

School in San Francisco, where he graduates in June. As to Ahmed’s future, McGrath says: “We’ll give a progress report after see how his petition for political asylum goes. We hope he’ll be among us for many years — our child from Palestine — who came here to join us for this little while.

“We wish him and his family the 10,000 blessings as they all work for peace in their homeland.”