

# Glamorous ball draws 1,000 singles

**D**RESSED in their finest, 1,000 singles from their 20s to their 60s converged on the Westin St. Francis Hotel last week for the 14th annual Red & White Ball. Held for the first time just one week before Christmas, perhaps hope swelled in more than a few hearts that one gift coming outta this mega-meet market would be true love.

Or at least a date or two. The ball's founder, San Franciscan **Pari Livermore**, claims more than 140 matches to her credit. Many of these came out of the Red & White Ball.

Even for those whose skin jumps at the sound of the word "singles," this is a fun party. If nothing else, the people-watching is astonishing. Everyone



**LESLIE HARLIB**

## Social scene

dresses as if their lives depend on it. As, in fact, they might. Female guests, asked to wear white, black or red, tend to choose gowns that outline the treasures available underneath. The male guests are tuxedoed to perfection, many in red bow-tie and cummerbund, their first names conveniently embroidered in red on white hankies flowering from hundreds of breast pockets.

Men and women buzz around

each other, swapping cards. The Red & White Ball is probably one of the more democratic functions of its kind. If nothing else, one might get a few business contacts out of it.

For dancers, there was an exuberant rock 'n' roll band. For gourmands, who had to arrive early, there were scores of hors d'oeuvres from Bay Area restaurants and caterers. For those who like quiet, more intimate socializing, there were smaller rooms, with perhaps a solo folk or jazz musician, where folks could really take time to talk to each other.

Ah, true love in the year 2000. Like anything else these days, some of us choose to approach finding it, professionally. And the Red & White Ball is certainly

one hot place to do it. It helps that the ball is also a fund-raiser. Proceeds from this year's shindig will support the San Francisco Boys and Girls Club, which has provided quality after-school programs for San Francisco children and youth ages 6 to 17 since 1891.

At least a third of the guests were from Marin. Among the many revelers were: **Jim Murphy** and **Nancee Rubenstein** of Kentfield; **Laurie Barton**, **Chantal Adams**, **Loretta Ferraro** and **Gayle Delaney** of Mill Valley; **Jeannie Lauren**, **Rick Haluggi**, **Dr. Clinton McDuffie** and **Mike Williamsen**, all of San Rafael; **Don Mathews**, **Mark Parode** and **Lee Roberts** of Sausalito; **Dr. Julia Shumelda**, **Judy Dick**, **Victoria Nice**,



IJ photos/Leslie Harlib

**IN RED AND WHITE:** Chantal Adams (left) of Mill Valley, Mr. Claus, Laurie Barton of Mill Valley and Jeannie Lauren of San Rafael attended the Red & White Ball.

**Lisa Klairmont**, **Pauline Robert**, **Susan Antonelli** and **Al McKee**, all of Tiburon; **King Kessler** of Corte Madera; and **Ilona Marshall** of Greenbrae.

To learn more about the Red &

White Ball and get involved for 2001, check the Web site: [www.redandwhite.org](http://www.redandwhite.org).

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