

■ It was a joyful 30th birthday for the Delancey Street Foundation, “where hitting the bottom begins the climb to new heights.” As everyone knows, the organization rehabilitates and trains down-and-outers at no cost to the client or taxpayer. (They support themselves through projects, private gifts, and profits from their Crossroads Café at the Embarcadero.)

The party at the Café, underwritten by **Denise Hale**, honored Williams-Sonoma board chair **Howard Lester**, who donated all the furnishings and flatware for the Café from Pottery Barn, and major donors **Barbara & Dick Sklar**. She’s an acclaimed artist; he’s the former Ambassador to the Balkan States and currently works with **Gov. Gray Davis** to build new power plants.

A group of Delancey Street residents described as “six huge tattooed, muscle-bound ex-cons” sang tributes to the honorees. First the Sklars: “Dick’s the energy czar, which is not so bizarre, since power is his middle name.”

For Lester, they crooned: “We started out full of hate, mad at the folks who are straight, but we learned to be kind and brave, helping customers here on the couches you gave.”

Among those cheering them on were **Del Anderson**, jazz legend **John Handy**, **Jim Lazarus**, **Rick Mariano**, **Gina Moscone**, **Peter Palmisano**, Congresswoman **Nancy Pelosi**, **Cissie Swig**, and of course Delancey Street president **Mimi Silbert**, celebrating her 59th birthday, “because everyone knows there are no more birthdays after 59.”

■ Several dozen old (as in “longtime”) friends got together to celebrate **Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s** birthday at the Renaissance Stanford Court.

Mimi Silbert brought a huge Happy Birthday poster signed by her Delancey Streeters.

## Only In California

— Moving & Shaking —



*Mary & Howard Lester, Mimi Silbert, Ambassador Dick Sklar and his wife Barbara*



*Jim Lazarus and Rick Mariano*



*John Handy*