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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

MILLBRAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONORS BEST OF THE BEST FOR 2007

Millbrae, CA- The Millbrae Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of the annual Excellence in Business Awards to be presented at a dinner on January 17, 2008 in the Palm Room at the El Rancho Inn. The awards honor local businesses and organizations in several categories including: Business of the Year, Restaurant of the Year, Beautification Award, Chamber Excellence and President's Award. A panel comprised of business and community leaders selected the winners after a thorough review process.

Organizations that will be honored at the January 17th event include Numis International (Business of the Year); La Collina Ristorante Italiano (Restaurant of the Year); Simeon Properties (Beautification Award for their 979 Broadway project); and the Millbrae Lions Club (Chamber Excellence). The City of Millbrae Parks Department is also being honored this year and will be presented with the President's Award for their work in maintaining and improving the landscape of Millbrae. The Chamber received many highly-qualified nominations for the awards, and the selection committee reviewed each based on the criteria that are established for the awards.

The Business of the Year award is co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Millbrae, and has Rotary's "4-Way Test" as part of the award criteria. "Numis International is a great model for businesses in Millbrae," stated Nancy Palmer, Millbrae Rotary President. "It is an example of a well-run family business whose ongoing use of television advertising keeps downtown Millbrae on the airwaves," she added. Family-owned and operated since 1963, Numis International relocated to Millbrae in 1976 and has been run by Allen and Jacob Notowitz for over 30 years now. Numis International specializes in buying and selling jewelry, coins and other collectibles and provides appraisals for individuals, estates and businesses. Located in the heart of downtown Millbrae, Numis International is well known throughout the Bay Area. Their clean, attractive store front, community-minded business practices and friendly customer service have endeared Numis International to their Millbrae neighbors.

La Collina Ristorante Italiano has been a favorite of peninsula diners since it opened in 1996. Owners Ossi Gondogdu and his wife, Bedriye, were surprised and pleased to learn their restaurant had been chosen from among the many outstanding restaurants in Millbrae. The couple and their two daughters, Rose and Nahil, worked hard to turn their restaurant into a charming, visually appealing storefront that is an asset to Millbrae. Twinkling starlights in arched windows beckon diners to come in off the street while attractive flower arrangements and shrubbery flank the entrance. "The committee had a tough choice to make thanks to the impressive restaurants that were nominated," noted Lisa Charney, Business Awards Committee chair. "All the nominated businesses were really deserving, but the incredible food

and charming atmosphere at La Collina elevated them to the top of the list,” she added.

Simeon Properties earned the Chamber’s Beautification Award for their impressive transformation of the 979 Broadway property at the north end of Millbrae’s downtown Broadway business district. Located just north of Mervyn’s, the former Millbrae BART station headquarters has been completely renovated by Simeon. The updated property stands out with bold, modern colors and design highlighted by attractive new second story windows, new landscaping and outdoor lighting. Other architectural improvements include new ground-level storefronts set back from the building front in order to create a pedestrian arcade. The front of the building also features a new elevator lobby area. The formerly two-story building was transformed into a 57,000 square foot lifestyle-oriented retail center over one level of underground parking. The newly revamped site has attracted new tenants such as 24 Hour Fitness and A Perfect Day Spa. Simeon has successfully turned the somewhat dated building into a modern, attractive and welcome new addition to Millbrae’s downtown.

In being chosen as the winner of the Chamber Excellence award, the Millbrae Lions Club is being honored for their tireless good works as the organization celebrates their 70th year of service. Currently headed up by Lions President John Muniz, the Millbrae Lions Club is comprised of community volunteers who work and fundraise for the community. Some of the Lions projects include the Millbrae Lions Youth Baseball League, blood drives, pancake breakfasts, Canine Companions for Independence, pumpkin patch sales, Crab Feed dinners, an essay contest for Youth Week, a fingerprint ID program, Flag Day flag placement, Halloween Monster March Parade, including a dance for school students and a Haunted House, and the Lions’ ongoing Eyeglass Program.

The City of Millbrae Parks Department is being honored with the President’s Award for their outstanding contributions to the community. Headed up by Parks Superintendent Ken Crosetti, the Parks Department is responsible for the notable improvement seen of late in Millbrae’s landscaping, park maintenance and business district cleanliness, which benefits all of Millbrae.

The Excellence in Business Awards dinner will also include the installation of the Chamber’s new board of directors. The event will take place at the El Rancho Inn, with a no-host cocktail hour at 5:30 pm followed by the dinner and program at 6:30 pm. For more information about the event or to RSVP, please call (650) 697-7324 or visit www.millbrae.com by January 14th.

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