



NEWS RELEASE:

Lobero Theatre Ghostlight Society

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LOBERO THEATRE GHOSTLIGHT SOCIETY TO INDUCT GEORGE BURTNES AND MILT LARSEN AS LUMINARIES Sunday, April 23, at the Lobero Theatre

- **Celebrating Milt Larsen's lifetime of contributions to magic and entertainment**
- **Honoring George Burtness for his commitment to philanthropy in Santa Barbara**
- **Special guests include Richard M. Sherman and entertainers from the Magic Castle**

Thursday, March 2, 2017, Santa Barbara, CA – **The Lobero Ghostlight Society is proud to induct two leaders in the fields of entertainment and philanthropy as Luminaries at a private event that will be held onstage at the Lobero Theatre on Sunday, April 23 at 5 PM.** The Ghostlight Society is delighted to celebrate these Santa Barbara legends for their many accomplishments in a magical evening that will begin with a cocktail reception and include a performance and presentation featuring Richard M. Sherman, of the famous Sherman Brothers Songwriting Team, along with guests from the world famous Magic Castle in Hollywood.

George Burtness, Philanthropic Luminary

George Burtness has made an indelible impression on Santa Barbara through his lifelong commitment to philanthropy, taking an enthusiastic interest in environmental conservation, arts enhancement and preservation, and health. George has donated his time and talent to support many worthy non-profits from the Music Academy of the West and Santa Barbara Historical Museum to serving for many years as Board President for Sansum Diabetes Research Institute and the Lobero Theatre Foundation.

Milt Larsen, Artistic Luminary

"Magic" Milt Larsen's enviable career has included writing comedy songs and musicals with Richard M. Sherman. As an entrepreneur he created theaters and produced live stage revues including *It's Magic!*, the family-friendly all-star magic revue that has been at home at the Lobero Theatre for 20 years. He is best known for bringing magic into the spotlight in 1963 when he founded the world famous private club for magicians, the Magic Castle, earning him a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The [Ghostlight Society](#) is the Lobero Theatre’s premier giving circle. Their strong and steady support illuminates our behind-the-scenes efforts and, like the steadfast bulb at center stage, keeps our vibrant theatre from ever going dark. The Luminaries of the Ghostlight Society are a spark of brilliance, not only for the Lobero stage but also for the entire performing arts community in Santa Barbara. We honor the individuals whose passion and commitment provide for the artistry that illuminates our stage.

The dedicated members of the Ghostlight Society carry on the commitment originally made in 1924 by a core group of donors responsible for rebuilding the Lobero Theatre in order to provide a lasting home for live performance in Santa Barbara. By pledging their time, talent and treasure to keep the light of live performance on in the Lobero, these leaders in the community embrace their vital role in keeping the arts alive and accessible for the community at large.

Named for a theatrical tradition dating back to Shakespeare’s old globe, the ghostlight is a bare bulb atop a rudimentary pole which stands at center stage, lit by the last person to leave the theater each night and extinguished by the first to arrive in the morning. Though stark in stature and artless in form, the ghostlight fulfills many functions—both practical and supernatural. For over 140 years the lamp has served as a beacon to keep creative spirits company from curtain-down to curtain-up.

The Ghostlight Society inducted its first [Artistic Luminary, Charles Lloyd](#), in 2016, and has recognized the following individuals as Philanthropic Luminaries: Lillian & Jon* Lovelace, Anne & Michael Towbes, Lyn & David Anderson, and Baroness Leni Fe Bland*. (**in memoriam and with gratitude*)

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Since its inception, and with founding leadership by the Community Arts Music Association, the Lobero Theatre has been a cornerstone for live performances in Santa Barbara since 1873. The Lobero is equally treasured today for vibrant presentations as well as its architectural pedigree. Recent renovations such as new seats, expanded restrooms, and other upgrades ensure it will remain a cherished community resource for many years to come.

More at [Lobero.org](#)