

Singles get ready for their big bash

GEARING up for the year's biggest, fanciest singles fest, the Red and White Ball on Jan. 29, is no easy feat.

Woman or man, you go into training for it by attending as many pre-parties as you can, meeting and making allies, sipping out possible romances.

The last pre-party celebrating the ball was held on Friday night up out at **Carl Hackney's** striking modern home on an Oakland Hillside.

We're talking a residence so swank I felt like an extra in a James Bond film: acres of marble fireplace, soaring glass walls and angled ceilings, polished stone and wood floors, immense rooms big enough to hold fights between ninjas, women in cocktail dresses and men in business suits or elegant casual wear.

All but the ninjas actually attended. Despite the pouring rain and fog, some 100 men and women from all over the Bay Area (including a fair contingent of stalwart Marin Red and White Ball patrons) braved the slick roads and treacherous visibility to nibble ham, shrimp, focaccia, crudites, and sample each other's conversational gambits.

Ari Kurtzig from Nicasio showed up, looking particularly dashing in his newly grown beard ("I was on vacation for a month and thought I'd try it out.") **Gayle Delaney**, Ph.D., a dream therapist and author of a number of books on dreams, was also on hand, looking rather dreamy herself in a short-white, sequined evening dress.

Then there were **Mitzi Breckenridge** and **Tom Carson** from Greenbrae; **Stan Lipschutz** from Larkspur; **Tom Danduran** from Sausalito (he's a former superior court judge); **Cheryl Edison** from Kentfield; and **Edita Bodmer** from Tiburon.



Leslie Harlib photos

PARTY BEFORE THE PARTY: A pre-party for the annual Red and White Ball drew Mitzi Breckenridge (left) of Greenbrae, Pari Livermore of San Francisco and Ari Kurtzig of Nicasio.



LESLIE HARLIB

ON THE SOCIAL SCENE

Pari Livermore from San Francisco, the founder of the Red and White Ball and a key mover and shaker on the Bay Area's good works circuit (she also produces and hosts the cable TV show, "Everybody's Angels," focusing on some of our region's most noteworthy philanthropists), was very busy introducing people to one another. Wearing a short black cocktail dress with immense fur collar, she looked ultra court — and official.

"We still have room at the ball for 40 women and about 80 men as of this evening," she told me.

"This year's proceeds from the Red and White go to Children's Garden of California, the San Ra-

fael charity." And a fine organization it is — providing shelter, love, emotional support and education for abused, neglected and homeless children.

Tickets for the Red and White Ball are not cheap. It's \$250 per person for people 35 and over, \$200 per person for people under 35. This includes next week's and a reunion party in April.

For those singles who have never experienced it, the Red and White Ball, in this writer's opinion, is a must. Held at the St. Francis Hotel, there's dance music from two different bands, and entertainment from several more; food from 40 of the Bay Area's top restaurants; a 52-item silent auction. If nothing else, you'll get off on the incredible people-watching. The way the women dress is, on its own, worth the price of admission. This is a very formal do. For information and reservations, call 674-1886.



READY FOR THE RED AND WHITE: Tom Danduran of Sausalito (left), Cheryl Edison of Kentfield and Tom Carson of Greenbrae were at the Oakland event for the Red and White Ball.