



CARING

WISE & Healthy Aging held their "Celebration of Caring" event recently. See page 5 Community Briefs for details.

Courtesy Photo

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WISE & Healthy Aging presents the "Compassion in Caring" Award to local recipients

Local attorney and incoming president of the Rotary Club of Santa Monica Tom Larmore was on hand to help WISE & Healthy Aging present the "Compassion in Caring" Award to local businessman and Rotarian Stan Fox, along with filmmaker Yaniv Rokah (center, also Santa Monica resident) and composer Ron Passaro (right) from the documentary film "Queen Mimi."

They were joined by family and friends, including Marie "Mimi" Haist, a former housewife who ended up homeless in her 50s for 30-plus years, eventually taken in over 20 years ago by Stan Fox in his

Fox Laundry shop on Montana Ave. Prompted in part by the Rotary's philosophy of service above self, Fox and his employees help Mimi with a dry, warm safe to stay.

The "Queen Mimi" documentary was five years in the making by Yaniv Rokah, then a barista at Caffè Luxxe on Montana Ave. across the street from Fox Laundry. Wanting to know how she managed to survive on the streets and stay happy most of the time, Rokah befriended Mimi and has maintained a friendship to this day. The documentary came out last year, and has garnered feedback from around the world.

Rokah shared about receiving thousands of emails from fans from as far as Germany, Australia, Hong Kong and Israel. Schools across the country have used the documentary as a launching point for classroom discussions and papers about aging in America.

Fox, Rokah and Passaro, along with four other honorees were recognized for their commitment to the community at the WISE & Healthy Aging special luncheon event at the Ritz Carlton Marina del Rey.