Scientists, doctors, artists, educators, community and business leaders – in short, some of the most influential people in Southern California – gathered Saturday evening in San Marcos to network, party and officially launch the beginning of this year’s Asian Heritage Awards season.

The occasion was a special reception for Asian Heritage Awards nominees to meet each other in a relaxed cocktail party setting in San Elijo Hills, a newly developed upscale community in San Marcos. San Elijo Hills, one of the sponsors of this year’s Asian Heritage Awards, provided the venue, which brought together some 80 guests, including nominees, past honorees, Asian Heritage Awards committee members and friends. The event was hosted by Rosalynn Carmen and Len Novarro, founders of the Asian Heritage Awards. Guests were welcomed by Roz, Len and Julia Cheng, chair of this year’s Asian Heritage Awards Committee, and inspired by Dr. Lilly Cheng, who told the nominees how they have con-

Left: The Asian Heritage spectrum, Dr. Lilly Cheng, Asian Heritage Awards committee member, and 2-year-old Raya Dann. Above, in conversation, Paul Yu, left and Dr. Shu Chien.

Photos by Rosalynn Carmen, Matt Bootz and John Chandler

Above, middle row, left, nominee Murray Lee; middle, Alex Li, second from right, representing nominee Epoch Times, with wife, Christy Su, left, and Howard and Judy Rubenstein; right, Asian Heritage Awards committee members Barbara Metz, left, and Gloria Tierney, center, confer with Hale Richardson, marketing director for San Elijo Hills. Bottom left, nominee Liqin Zhao and Paul Kusy; middle, Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose, CEO of the Union of Pan Asian Communities of San Diego, with Raymond Chavaria, representing nominee Sara Pol-Lim; right, attorneys Audie De Castro and Erika Hiramatsu, both nominees. Bottom right, Anisha Dalal with Leonard Novarro, Asian Heritage Awards founder.
This staircase in the San Elijo Hills home that served as the reception venue, seemed the perfect gathering place for a group photo. Front, left to right: Alexander Nguyen, Jing Baluyot, J.B. Baluyot, Julia Cheng, Rosalynn Carmen and Jacqui Nguyen-Boots, marketing director for this year’s Asian Heritage Awards.

Nominee Edward Park, left, and Moonlight dancer Jenny Gong. Right, nominees Alexander Nguyen and NAAAP’s Paul Lim.

Left row, top, Thai community leader Randy Permpoon with ladies of the Moonlight Dance Group, left to right, Jennie Fan, Qun Wu and Rachel Wu; middle, Gwen and Mike Coronado share a few moments with nominee Breana Ha, left; bottom, Asian Heritage Awards committee member Johne Chandler and Selma Seer, representing the Cambodian community.

Right, Awards Committee Chair Julia Cheng and Gladys Lee, wife of nominee Murray Lee.