

# SWELLS

CATHERINE BIGELOW



Photos by THOMAS J. GIBBONS / Special to The Chronicle

**Pretty as a picture:** ① Iconic American designer James Galanos (left) at the opening night of his first photography exhibition (through Oct. 21) at the Sorokko Gallery with a friend, fellow American designer Ralph Rucci. ② Gallerist Serge Sorokko and his daughter, Katya Sorokko (left) and his wife, former model Tatiana Sorokko. ③ Galanos pal Wolfgang Puck (who stayed at Campton Place and made a point of stopping in at his signature Postrio restaurant there) flew up from Los Angeles for the event with his fiancée, Gaelila, and hand-delivered a handwritten note of congratulations to Galanos from a dear pal, former first lady Nancy Reagan. ④ Jane Yamamoto, who was the designer's assistant for 40 years, and Galanos. ⑤ At a dinner later, actress Dixie Carter, another Galanos fan who flew up for the opening from El Lay, led the gang in singing "Happy Birthday" to the designer, who'd celebrated his 80th the day before his show's opening. ⑥ Stylish Sally Debenham, herself a former model, may refer to the designer as Jimmy when speaking about him but said that even after 30 years of knowing him, she always calls him Mr. Galanos in person.

