

Pizarro: On 50th wedding anniversary, generous Silicon Valley couple renews vows to each other -- and to the arts

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Saratoga residents Carmen and Alcario Castellano marked their 50th wedding anniversary last weekend with festivities that also celebrated their love of family and the arts.

The couple became famous after winning a then-record \$141 million California Lottery jackpot in 2001, but they were already well-known longtime supporters of the arts. Just how much the family embraces the arts was evident at last Saturday's celebration, where the couple renewed their wedding vows at St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica.

At St. Joseph's, the Castellanos and their guests were serenaded by Quinteto Latino -- the Bay Area wind quintet founded by their son, Armando Castellano, who plays French horn. Later, guests reconvened a few blocks away at the Hilton San Jose, where mariachis and the Los Lupeños dance troupe performed. After dinner, more entertainment was provided by Q-Vo, a Sacramento-based R&B and Chicano soul group, featuring their daughter, Carmela Castellano Garcia, and her husband, Angel Garcia.

And in a nice touch, the wedding favors included a cup with Mexican candy and -- what else? -- lottery tickets.