

Ventura County Commission for Women

DECEMBER 1987

VCCW Issues

OUTSTANDING WOMEN EARN ACCOLADES

With humor, warmth and humility, 10 outstanding Ventura County Women accepted long-overdue acclaim for their individual efforts to improve their communities and society at the Ventura County Commission for Women's Sixth Annual "Salute to Women" Awards Banquet held Thursday, October 29 in Westlake Village.

This newsletter honors these women, who have not only made a significant impact on other people's lives, but who, by their efforts, are responsible for changing the way people view the achievements of Ventura County's women.

An overflow crowd of 500 men and women gathered at the Westlake Plaza Hotel to pay homage to women for their contributions in the arts, media, business, education, community service, law and science/health.

"Over the last 20 years we have had a real social revolution, as women have emerged and made changes that are good for all of us," presenter Joy Picus, Los Angeles City Councilwoman, told the audience.

Noting she was 35 years old before she knew women could run for office, Picus discussed her own role in carving a new definition for women in the City of Los Angeles. Her precedent-setting pay equity agreement for Los Angeles city employees two years ago caused her to be named Ms. Magazine's 1985 "Woman of the Year."

Sponsored by the Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women, the annual banquet celebrates the accomplishments of women and provides a forum for the community to learn more about the county's leading achievers.

"I get a lot of inspiration from my clients," Carmen Ramirez, this year co-holder of an award in law, told the crowd. As executive director of the Channel Counties Legal Services Association, she helps to provide legal aid in civil cases to indigent Ventura County residents. "My co-workers and I see, every day, the struggles people have: to live, to put food on their table, to be clothed and educated."

What the legal services is able to achieve, she said, "we cannot do without each other and the people in the county, who keep fighting for basic human rights. It's a cliché, but if you want peace and justice in a community, you have to fight for it."

Many awardees took the time and effort to thank their co-workers and support committee: their families. "Behind every great woman, dot, dot, dot," Superior Court Judge Melinda Johnson said in accepting her award.

From homemaker to community activist, each of the women on the following pages plays a special role for Ventura County women. As achievers, pace-setters and ground-breakers, we owe them the recognition and respect that comes to the truly deserving.

Let's take a closer look at this year's "Salute to Women" awardees:



(left to right: Carmen Ramirez, Daryl Reynolds, Sherry Musgrove)

CARMEN RAMIREZ

As executive director of Channel Counties Legal Services in Oxnard, she is responsible for providing legal services in civil cases to approximately 60,000 eligible indigent residents of Ventura County and parts of Santa Barbara County.

In addition, she is active in the United Way of Ventura County, Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, El Concilio of Ventura County and National Legal Aid and Defender Association.

She has dedicated her professional life to assisting the poor and her efforts on behalf of those in need have been tireless.

DARYL REYNOLDS

The Thousand Oaks resident has been recognized for years of service to her community. Especially to local education.

In 1984, her vision of a "latchkey" program for students

was realized. Today, this day care program serves 55 students and employs three instructors.

Her work has touched hundreds of young people and has been invaluable to her community.

Her involvement includes service with numerous PTAs, Conejo Valley Unified School District's Blue Ribbon Committee on Stable Funding for Education, City of Thousand Oaks General Plan Review Board and Ventura County Advisory Committee on Drug Abuse.

SHERRY MUSGROVE

Sherry Musgrove of Westlake Village, honored for her work as a community service volunteer, has been the driving force behind many successful fund raising campaigns for the United Cerebral Palsy/Spastic Children's Foundation.

The foundation, in its 44th year of direct service to the disabled of Southern California, is a national

organization which provides care and facilities for brain-damaged clients and support programs for their families.

For the past five years Mrs. Musgrove spearheaded the Celebrity Tennis "Love Match" helping to raise more than \$100,000 over the past four years.

INGRID H. ELY

For consistent efforts since 1972 to bring musical entertainment to the community and to develop pride in cultural events in Ventura County, the VCCW honored Ingrid H. Ely of Simi Valley with a "Salute to Women" award in the arts.

Three years ago Ingrid was one of the founding members of the Simi Valley Community Orchestra and was recently elected to a third term as president by orchestra members.

For seven years she has played first stand in the bass section of the Conejo Symphony, which strives to increase the cultural exposure of Eastern Ventura County, and she plays bass in the Moorpark College chamber orchestra.

MELINDA A. JOHNSON

Ventura County Superior Court Judge Melinda A. Johnson has been honored for her outstanding efforts in law.

She exemplifies the legal profession at its best and serves as a significant role model for women professionally and personally. Judge Johnson was named to the Ventura County Municipal Court in 1982 and was appointed to the Superior Court in 1983.

She is active in the California Judges' Association, particularly in the Continuing Judicial Education and Research Program (CJER). She is presently on several teaching teams that present programs on family law (divorce) to judges throughout the state.



MADELINE MIEDEMA

For a lifetime of devotion to education, the VCCW honored Madeline Miedema of Oxnard.

Miss Miedema has been a school teacher, school and district level administrator, and currently serves as a member of the Oxnard Union High School District board of trustees.

A resident of Oxnard since 1918, Miss Miedema first began teaching at Oxnard High School in 1937. She served as girls' vice principal at Hueneme High School and curriculum director for the Oxnard Union High School District from 1966 to 1975, when she retired. She was first elected to the high school board in 1979.

(see Awards, p.4)

(left to right: Ingrid Ely, Melinda Johnson, Ruth Hogan, Madeline Miedema)

RUTH HOGAN

Honored for her contributions in business is Ruth Hogan of Simi Valley, vice president, finance and administration, for TeleProcessing Products, Inc., a data communications company located in Simi Valley.

Her ability to select the right people, train, motivate and direct their efforts has been a major factor in the company's success. She has consistently been a strong advocate of equal opportunity.

She gained recognition by ensuring active participation by TeleProcessing Products in the California Employment Development Department's "Workability" program. She was instrumental in her company being recognized as "Employer of the Year" and receiving the Tri-County Award of Merit from the Santa Barbara District of the California Department of Rehabilitation in 1984.



(left to right: Colleen House, Marion Gordon, Shirley Jewett)

(photos courtesy of Ventura County Star Free Press)

(Awards)

COLLEEN LOUISE HOUSE

Honored for her outstanding contributions as a professional in community service, Colleen Louise House of Oxnard was recognized for her work as executive director of the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging. The agency is federally mandated to develop and provide a coordinated community service system for older persons, helping them maintain their maximum independence and dignity in their home environment.

The system now provides the 85,000 elderly in Ventura County with such direct and diverse services as tax form assistance, in-home personal care, telephone reassurance, caregiver respite, medical/dental transportation and volunteer training. From three senior centers and councils on aging, it has grown to 11 of each to date.

MARION GORDON

When Marion Gordon first came to Camarillo from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she served as director of nurses for St. John's Home, she brought a wealth of experience which she quickly put to good use helping her fellow senior citizens.

She helped to form the Neighbors Care Group at Leisure Village, then went on to assume leadership in such organizations as Hospice, Long Term Care Committee, Emergency Health Service Committee, Ombudsman Program and Ventura County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee.

SHIRLEY JEWETT

In 1985, with little more than credit cards and a dream, Shirley Jewett of Simi Valley published the first issue of Ventura County Woman magazine under its original name: BUSY, the Businesswoman's Newspaper.

The purpose of the publication was to provide women a forum to extend their network of personal and professional contacts, share information and promote their businesses, and to look carefully at the issues facing women today.

Today, Ventura County Woman magazine is still going strong and the Ventura County Commission for Women is honoring its publisher for outstanding efforts in media.



WOMEN'S HISTORY LUNCHEON CO-SPONSORS SOUGHT

The Commission for Women and the Women's History Project of Ventura County are pleased to announce a special luncheon to celebrate Women's History Month 1988.

Saturday, March 19, 1988
Holiday Inn, Ventura
\$14 per person

Program:

Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner,
feminist historian and author

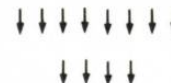
Proceeds go to the Women's History Project of Ventura County to support continuing women's history activities.

Community organizations are invited to co-sponsor the luncheon. Co-sponsors will be listed in pre-event publicity and on the luncheon program, and will be given space at the luncheon to display information.

Co-sponsors are asked to publicize the event in your own newsletters and communities and to assist with ticket sales.

There is no fee for co-sponsors although a \$5 donation to the Women's History Project to help offset costs would be gratefully accepted.

To list your organization as a co-sponsor, call the Commission for Women office at 652-7611.



WOMEN'S HISTORY AWARDS

During the celebration of Women's History Month in March 1988, the Women's History Project will again recognize the accomplishments of an educator and a community activist in furthering our goal of "making women in history come alive in the classroom."

These awards are named for Alice Paul, one of America's leading 20th century suffragists, and the author in 1923 of the original text of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

They are being given in honor of Erica Neville, an initiator of the Women's History Project in Ventura County, who died very suddenly in January 1986. Erica took Alice Paul as a model and heroine, and for several years presented her to school children of the Conejo Valley in a meaningful and exciting way.

It is hoped that these memorial awards will encourage many others to follow in her footsteps and keep spreading an awareness of women's contributions to the history and culture of America and the world.

Please use the form enclosed in this newsletter to nominate an outstanding educator or community activist for the Erica Neville Memorial Alice Paul Award. The 1988 awards will be presented on March 19 during the Women's History Luncheon at the Holiday Inn, Ventura.

Return all nominations, postmarked by January 29, to the Commission for Women office, 505 Poli St., Ventura, CA 93001.

WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT OF VENTURA COUNTY

A Joint Task Force of Ventura County Commission for Women
and
Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition

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Please return all nominations to the Commission for Women office, postmarked no later than January 29, 1988.

Nomination Deadline: Friday, January 29, 1988

Mail to: Ventura County Commission for Women
505 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93001
Phone (805) 652-7611

ERICA NEVILLE MEMORIAL ALICE PAUL AWARD
MARCH 19, 1988

NOMINATION FORM

Category: _____ Educator _____ Community Activist

Nominee: _____ Home Phone _____

Address: _____ Work Phone _____

Street, City, Zip

Describe nominee's school and grade level activities, or organization and events for involvement in the Women's History Project:

Using this page and additional sheets as needed, give details of how this nominee has demonstrated enthusiasm, initiative, creativity, impactful and stimulating activities either as a teacher in a classroom/school setting or as a community activist coming into a school or working on an event for Women's History Week or Month.

If you are not the nominee, please indicate how you know her/him.

Your name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Work Phone _____

Street, City, Zip

Other references: (two if you are nominating yourself; one is sufficient if you are nominating someone else.)

Name _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

Street, City, Zip

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

Street, City, Zip

Please return completed nomination by January 29, 1988 to:

Ventura County Commission for Women
505 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93001
PHONE (805) 652-7611

HAVE YOU BEEN THROUGH THE FAMILY LAW COURT?

The Family Law Task Force of a Ventura County Commission for Women is actively seeking input from the general public in an effort to implement one of our top priorities and thereby assist those in marriage dissolution proceedings. During our August "brainstorming session," the Family Law Task Force identified as a goal to "support and encourage legislation and/or court policies to allow women better opportunities for fair results in dissolution and custody proceedings."

As anyone who has been to the Ventura County Courthouse can tell you, our Courts are overburdened and the wait to get a civil case to trial is growing longer. The Courts recognize this problem and are making every attempt to alleviate it. At a recent Bar Association meeting, the members were requested to make recommendations and suggestions to help streamline the dissolution proceeding. Recommendations were plentiful; however, they reflected one viewpoint, that of an attorney.

An individual who has been through the dissolution process has a uniquely different viewpoint from the Judge or the Attorney. There are areas that the individual may be able to pinpoint that would have kept them out of court or made it easier to agree to a resolution.

Therefore, the Ventura County Commission for Women is seeking input from those who have had a dissolution proceeding in the Ventura County Court. Please answer the following questions best you can and send your responses to the Commission at 505 Poli St., Ventura, CA 93001.

We will then compile the responses and present them to the Court for their consideration.

Please help us help you.

1. What was the most controversial area of your dissolution? (Spousal Support, Child Custody, Child Support, Property Division, other)
2. What would you recommend the Court do to facilitate the resolution of issues surrounding your dissolution?
3. What one area of your dissolution do you feel the Court system was not adequately addressing?
4. What do you feel was the most positive aspect of the dissolution process?
5. Did you have a court trial over any issues in your dissolution? If so, please specify the category: support, custody, property division, other.
6. Do you have any suggestions that could be implemented by the Court that might have resolved your dissolution without going to Court?

Providing your name and address is not required but would be appreciated.

FAMILY LAW FORUM

Saturday,
February 6, 1988
8:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.
Thousand Oaks Library

Lectures begin at 9 a.m.
\$5 Lunch Reservations
Must be made by Feb. 1, 1988

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN TO HOST FAMILY LAW FORUM

Ventura County Superior Court Judge Melinda Johnson will offer a judge's views of the divorce process during the lunch hour at a day-long seminar on divorce and related family issues. Lunch may be reserved for \$5.00.

Sponsored by the Ventura County Commission for Women, the free seminar will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6 at the Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks. The meetings will be held in Rooms 1 and 2.

Attorneys from across Ventura County will join Judge Johnson to share insights into today's legal system.

"In the Beginning... Preliminary Considerations for Divorce," will be discussed by Ventura attorney Patricia S. Riley.

Thousand Oaks attorney C.B. Henrichsen will speak on "What is Community Property?" while attorney Grace Cohen of Camarillo addresses the topic, "Your Right to Child and Spousal Support."

Assistant District Attorney Stanley Trom will discuss support enforcement. Andy Wolf, a Ventura attorney, will talk about the right of children to independent counsel in custody disputes.

Offering a workshop overview and concluding remarks will be Susan Witting, Thousand Oaks attorney and Supervisor Madge Schaefer's appointee to the Commission for Women.

Advance reservations for the forum are requested. Lunch must be pre-paid by Feb. 1. Please send your reservation and \$5 check to: Family Law Forum, 2661 Tanglewood Dr. Camarillo, CA 93010. Make checks payable to Martha Baskerville.

**FRIENDS OF THE
COMMISSION
ANNUAL MEETING**

Date: Thursday, Jan. 21, 1987
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Camarillo Library
3100 Ponderosa Dr.
Camarillo, Calif.

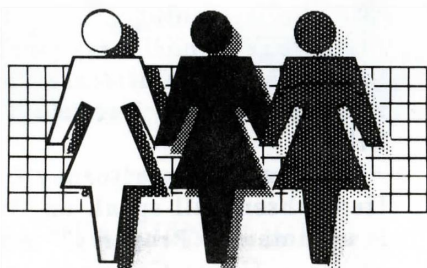
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**Ventura County
Commission for Women**

VOL. 5, NO. 8

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Commission for Women
(805) 652-7611

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