



JANUARY 1987

VCCW Issues

Women's History award honors Erica Neville

By Ginny Connell, Chair, Women's History Project

She was a young housewife and mother, a dedicated community activist and a returning student working toward a degree in education when she died suddenly on Jan. 27, 1986. Among the many people stunned by her loss were the women who served with her on the Women's History Project of Ventura County.

As word of her death spread, many of us dealt with our grief by sharing memories of Erica. There was the trip to Chicago in May 1980 for a "Mother's Day March for the E.R.A." and a weekend of volunteer effort for ratification by the State of Illinois. At the rally after the march, Erica had had an epileptic seizure, but quickly recovered and rejoined our group.

During 1981 she first heard about the National Women's History Project and enthusiastically joined in plans to celebrate March 7-13, 1982 as Women's History Week. Erica coordinated the highly successful effort to have women and women's organizations donate books about women to the Ventura County Library Services Agency. She also scheduled showings for the film "How We Won the Vote" at four different libraries around the county.

A handmade quilt with a needlework patch for each of the 35 states which ratified the Equal Rights Amendment also received Erica's time and energy that same year. It was a project of Simi/Conejo N.O.W. (National Organization for Women) and was displayed at the Thousand Oaks Library during Women's History Week.

(Continued page 2)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

In January, 1982 Erica dressed as Alice Paul, a suffragette leader who wrote the original text of the E.R.A., and did a program about her for the Women's Equity Coalition. This experience encouraged her to prepare classroom presentations for different grade levels and begin visiting

Conejo Valley elementary schools during Women's History Weeks in 1983, 1984, and 1985. Dressed as a suffragette, or as Alice Paul specifically, or as a pioneer woman coming west, Erica would delight students and teachers and give meaning to the week's observances.

On March 6, 1986 at a special luncheon in Camarillo, the first Alice Paul Award was presented to Erica's mother and son to honor her. On March 7, 1987 this award will be given to one educator and one community activist in recognition of their efforts to follow Erica's model in promoting Women's History Month in Ventura County.

Positive Parenting Foundation offers choices to new parents

Last year, nearly 2,000 babies were born in the Conejo Valley. Because the transition to parenthood is the single most significant and permanent change in a person's life, the Positive Parenting Foundation was established to aid in that transition.

The non-profit network provides education, support, referrals, and resources to new and expectant parents in the community. The goals are two-fold: to make parenting as rewarding an experience as possible and to improve the quality and availability of day care in the community by establishing new centers and employer-sponsored day care.

Memberships are \$20 for families, \$50 for businesses and \$100 for patrons. Applications for membership may be requested from the Positive Parenting Foundation, 3261 Futura Point, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 or call (805) 493-2065.

Special luncheon to be held for Women's History Month

Educators and communities throughout the county are making plans to acknowledge and celebrate the growth from National Women's History Week to a full month for special women's history programs and classroom activities.

The Ventura County Commission for Women and the Women's History Project will host a special luncheon to kick off local celebrations of Women's History Month, March 1987.

The event is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Sheraton Hotel in Ventura.* Cost is \$12 per person.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Gloria Lothrop, historian and author. Her topic will be "California Women: A History."

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

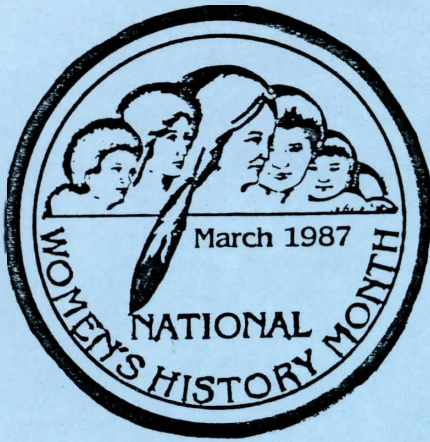
Paid reservations are required. Make your checks payable to Friends of the Commission and mail to 2661 Tanglewood Dr., Camarillo, CA 93010 by Feb. 16, 1987. Please do not send checks to the Commission office.

Organizations throughout the county are invited to be co-sponsors for the luncheon. This would entitle a group to be listed as a co-sponsor and be entitled to display information about the organization. Co-sponsors are asked to publicize the event in their own newsletters and communities, and to encourage their members to attend.

If your group is interested in being a co-sponsor, contact the Commission for Women office at (805) 652-7611 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays by Jan. 16, 1987.

Organizations already co-sponsoring are: American Association of University Women, Camarillo Branch, Thousand Oaks Branch and Ventura County Branch, Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Commission, Interface Domestic Violence Program, Organized Parents Against Latchkey, Rape and Sexual Abuse Center of Ventura County, Tres Condados Girl Scout Council, Ventura College Re-Entry Center, Ventura County Library Services Agency and Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition.

*Note: This is a change in the originally announced location.



Announcing

Women's History Project of Ventura County

announces

luncheon and speaker

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 21, 1987

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Sheraton Hotel, Ventura

SPEAKER: Dr. Gloria Lothrop, historian, author

TOPIC: CALIFORNIA WOMEN: A HISTORY

COST: \$12/person

Reservations must be made in advance by sending a check payable to: FRIENDS OF THE COMMISSION, 2661 Tanglewood Dr., Camarillo, CA, 93010. Deadline is February 16, 1987. For more information you may call the office of the Ventura County Commission for Women, (805) 652-7611.

M-F, 8am-1pm.

Organizations already co-sponsoring the luncheon are: American Association of University Women, Camarillo Branch, Thousand Oaks Branch and Ventura County Branch, Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Commission, Interface Domestic Violence Program, Organized Parents Against Latchkey, Rape and Sexual Abuse Center of Ventura County, Tres Condados Girl Scout Council, Ventura College Re-Entry Center, Ventura County Library Services Agency and Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition.

ERICA NEVILLE MEMORIAL ALICE PAUL AWARD

MARCH 7, 1987

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 28, 1987 to:

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

WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT OF VENTURA COUNTY

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

During the celebration of Women's History Month in March 1987, the Women's History Project will recognize the accomplishments of one educator and one 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 on the reverse side to nominate an outstanding educator or community activist for the Erica Neville Memorial Alice Paul Award. The 1987 awards will be presented on March 7, 1987 at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, during the program for "Creative Options: A Day For Women."

Please return all nominations to the Commission for Women office, postmarked no later than January 28, 1987.

Nomination Deadline: Wednesday, January 28, 1987

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

Women's History Project set for March 1987

The Women's History Project of Ventura County encourages you to submit a nomination for the Erica Neville Memorial Alice Paul Award for women's history activities. During the celebration of Women's History Month in March 1987, the Women's History Project will recognize the accomplishments of one educator and one 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 Erica Neville, an initiator of the Women's History Project in Ventura County. (See the article on page one.) It is hoped that these memorial awards will encourage many others to keep spreading an awareness of women's contributions to the history and culture of America and the world.

Use the form enclosed in this newsletter to submit your nomination.

Return all nominations to the Commission office, postmarked no later than January 28, 1987. Address: 505 Poli St., Ventura, CA 93001.

Commission to host Tri-County meeting

The Ventura County Commission for Women will host a Tri-County meeting on Saturday morning, Feb. 21, 1987 with the Santa Barbara County Commission for Women and the San Luis Obispo County Commission on the Status of Women.

The regular Ventura County Commission business meeting will take place from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. followed by the Tri-County meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel in Ventura. Both meetings are open to the public.

A special Women's History luncheon will follow the meetings. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for luncheon information.)

Golden Triangle BPW celebrates 25th year

The Golden Triangle Business and Professional Women's Organization of Thousand Oaks will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Thursday, Jan. 22 at Reuben's, 299 S. Moorpark Rd., Thousand Oaks.

Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$22.50 per person. Reservations are requested by Jan. 16. Call (818) 889-7858 or (818) 889-1161.

The legal department of the Commission on Human Concerns is now providing at low cost an assistance program for non-adversary divorce for low and moderate income people. Because of high legal costs there is a need for this kind of program in the county. Many people are unable to afford legal counseling and representation in getting a divorce. Also, the procedural difficulties often baffle do-it-yourselfers and the results are confusion and more costs. This program helps those people go through an uncontested divorce at a low cost and receive legal assistance throughout the entire procedure. The legal offices of the Commission on Human Concerns are located at 621 South Richmond Ave., Oxnard. For more information call 486-4725.



The Commission for Women wishes each of you a happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year!



If your organization, school, workplace, community, etc., is planning a special activity or program for Women's History Month in March, 1987, please send an announcement of your plans to the Commission for Women office. We would like to publish a schedule of events and programs being held countywide. Please let us hear from you by February 14, 1987.

Guide to legal rights now available for women

The essential handbook for American women, "The State-By-State Guide to Women's Legal Rights," explains the laws that affect women's lives in four areas: home and family, education, employment, and the community.

The author is the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund and Dr. Renee Cherow-O'Leary, professor of communications and public policy at City University, New York.

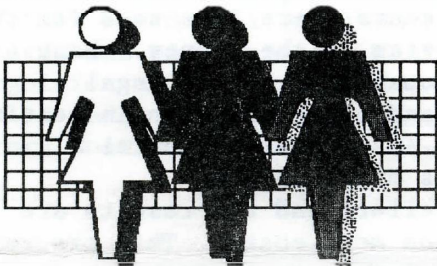
Available Nov. 24, the McGraw-Hill publication is available in paperback for \$12.95 or in hardcover for \$19.95.

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To become a newsletter sponsor, please send a minimum contribution of \$25 to the Commission office at 505 Poli St., Ventura, CA 93001.



Ventura County Commission for Women

Vol. 4, No. 1

JANUARY 1987

Ventura County Commission for Women - Officers 1986

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VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

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