



VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Vol. 2 Nos. 1 & 2

3161 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 654-3109

October-November, 1983/December-January, 1984

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN WELCOMES NEW CO-CHAIRS

Erin Healy Sheffield of Camarillo and Jo Anne Le Fils-Moore of Ventura have been selected to serve as co-chairs of the Ventura County Commission for Women for 1983-84.

The newly-elected board was installed at the "Salute to Women" second annual awards and installation banquet sponsored by the Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women on Thursday, October 27 at the Lobster Trap restaurant in Oxnard.

Other new officers are Lauren Anderson of Ventura, executive secretary, and Virginia Connell of Thousand Oaks, immediate past co-chair, treasurer.

Sheffield is a producer and owner of ESP Photography/Productions in Camarillo, which specializes in slide and sound shows. Appointed by Maggie Erickson, District 3 Supervisor, she is currently publicity director for Region 68, West Camarillo, of the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). She is a docent, Fine Arts for Youth, for Mesa Union School and a member of the General Plan Review Committee for the City of Camarillo.

She has been active in the past as a board member for the United Methodist Nursery School; the American Association of University Women, Camarillo Branch (AAUW); and a member of the Camarillo Women's Day steering committee. (cont'd., pg. 2)



Jo Anne Le Fils-Moore



Erin Healy Sheffield

She and her husband, Tracy, have two children, Avery, 7, and Christian, 6. She enjoys gardening and cooking, and her apple jelly has won many ribbons in the annual Ventura County Fair competition.

Moore is project director for the Ventura County Commission on Human Concerns. Appointed by District 1 Supervisor, Susan Lacey, the Ventura resident served as president in 1982-83 of the Ventura Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW) and this year serves as the group's legislative chair.

She is a member of the National Women's Political Caucus and serves as a member of the Ventura County Democratic Central Committee.

A native Californian, she and her husband, have four children and four grandchildren.

Serving as the finance officer for the coming term will be Virginia Connell of Thousand Oaks, a marriage and family therapist in private practice, specializing in feminist psychotherapy for women in crisis. She recently completed a term as the first co-chair of the Commission for Women along with Yvonne Gallegos Bodle of Ventura.

Connell, appointed by Ed Jones, District 2 Supervisor, serves as chair for the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition and president of the local chapter of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. She is a delegate to the Democratic Central Committee for the County. She and her husband, Phil, have two sons, 8 and 10.

Extending her term as executive secretary is Lauren A. Anderson, appointed by Susan Lacey to represent women in District 1. A senior secretary at Vetco Offshore, she is membership chair of the Ventura Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW), as well as for the Coast District BPW (tri-counties area). She is also a member of the Board of the Coalition Against Household Violence.

In the past, she has been active with Ventura Hotline, a volunteer for the Ventura County District Attorney's Victim/Witness Unit, and the Ventura County Community College District's Status of Women Advisory Committee. She and her husband, Jack, have two children.

"WORKING PARENTS: AN EMPLOYER'S SYMPOSIUM ON CHILD CARE"

A successful symposium to raise awareness on the part of the employers about child care options was held in May in Thousand Oaks. An outgrowth of the Commission for Women's Child Care Project and the first conference of its kind to be held in Ventura County, the symposium attracted more than one hundred representatives from top firms throughout the county.

Employers and other interested parties had an opportunity to hear first hand from experts the advantages, benefits, difficulties, and rewards of employer and community involvement in child care.

Symposium Chair Carol Keochekian and Child Care Project members Dorothy Engel, Mary Baird, Dr. Brook Hubbell, and Stephen Wiman agreed that the symposium accomplished its goal of providing employers with information and raising awareness of how business is becoming more involved with child care.



Carol Keochekian

An array of top-notch speakers brought up-to-the-minute information on tax incentives, impact on recruitment, productivity and absenteeism, child care options and models, what other businesses are doing, and how to take the first step.

Susan Foster from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena had been directed by management to study problems concerning

employees and to bring back recommendations. A result was the establishment of a child care center. Ms. Foster related management's view of child care benefits and problems, the decision making, planning, and implementation process.

Kurt Ganter, vice-president of Marketing and Planning at Simi Valley Adventist Hospital, served as speaker moderator. Ganter was instrumental in establishing a child care center at Simi Valley Adventist Hospital, the first and only on-site employer-assisted child care center in Ventura County.

Kathleen Murray, an attorney with the Bay Area Child Care Law Center, is an expert on tax incentives to business in regard to child care. Ms. Murray discussed tax consequences from the point of view of the for-profit employer, as well as legal considerations, such as liability and contractual agreements with outside agencies.

Sandra Burud, principle investigator for National Employer Child Care Project, has traveled nationwide for the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services to interview employers and collect the most recent data on cost benefits analysis. A past director of two worksite child care centers, she is presently writing a comprehensive "how-to" manual for employers about child care.

Dr. Brook Hubbell, Ventura County Commission for Women, spent 20 months prior to the symposium researching the various programs utilized by industry to assist their employees with child care concerns. Her findings have been published in the booklet, "KISS: Kids and Industry -- Success Story." Dr. Hubbell outlined the options used by business and discussed how to take the first step.

Strong support from the Private Industry Council and other private employers helped to make the symposium a success. Among those who served on the steering committee for the event were representatives from State Farm Insurance Companies, Private Industry Council, Pleasant Valley Hospital, Amplica, Inc., Prudential Insurance Co., Autologic, Inc., Raytheon Data Systems, ABEX Corporation, Litton Data Command Systems, and Business Labor Council.

ANOTHER FIRST

Another first . . . this time for women business owners. The American Woman Economic Development Corporation (AWED) has set up a hotline for women with questions about business problems. Staffed by 40 counselors who are experts in different facets of the business world, the hotline can be reached at 1-800-222-AWED. Nominal fees can be charged to credit cards.

Women's History Week is March 4-10, 1984. Resource catalogs are available from the Commission office.

"SALUTE TO WOMEN" AWARDS BANQUET

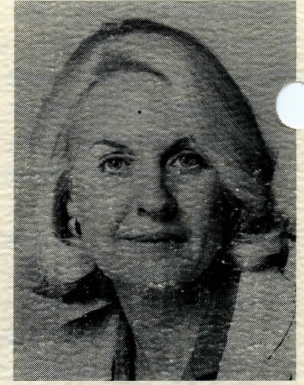
The second annual "Salute to Women" Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, October 27 at the Lobster Trap restaurant in Oxnard. Cocktails kicked off the evening at 6:30, with dinner at 7:30, followed by the program.

During a most enjoyable dinner, the attendees were serenaded by Montenia Schider of Oxnard. Ms. Schider has recently changed her career to singing, and all in the audience were very happy she did.

A total of 12 outstanding women were honored in a number of categories during the annual banquet.

Yvonne Bodle, the co-chair of the Commission for Women for the past two years, also was a recipient of a special award in recognition of her past service to the Commission. Ms. Bodle has recently resigned from the Commission to enable her to complete her doctorate.

Following the presentation of the awards, the banquet had a grand finale with Pat Allen, Ph.D., psychologist/counselor, author, teacher, lecturer, businesswoman, and mother of four, who spoke on "Women as Decision Makers." As a speaker, she was indeed enlightening as she shared her proven counseling techniques with learning, laughter, and love.



Byrdenne Johnson *** Barbara Garcia-weed

Deanna Hackman Julie Reinhart Coburn

Homemaker -- Byrdenne Bryan Johnson of Oxnard has devoted her time to a difficult occupation, and succeeded admirably. Her nurturing skills can be attested to by her husband of 35 years, her four daughters, seven sons, 20 grandchildren, and two Apache Indian foster sons.

instrumental in bringing together women's activist groups throughout the county to coordinate action on specific issues.

She is an avid home decorator, refinishing antique furniture and hardwood floors, enlarging rooms, and braiding rugs. She cans fruit and jams, grinds the wheat for her own bread, and designs her own Christmas cards.

Beginning in 1979, she fought for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, forming the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition, which includes as members the Ventura/Oxnard and Simi/Conejo chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW), as well as the Thousand Oaks and Camarillo branches of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

In addition, she finds the time to remain active outside the home. She works for the community as county election inspector, volunteers for the American Heart Association and the Arthritis Foundation, and is a teacher, leader, and musician.

Since 1981, she has been involved in efforts to organize countywide activities for National Women's History Week. She is a substitute teacher in the Conejo School District, is involved with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and is an active member of the Conejo Art Museum.

Political Action -- Barbara Garcia-Weed of Ventura has spent 15 years as an advocate for senior citizens, testifying before state and federal lawmakers on Social Security reform and the problem of abuse of the elderly. She prepared the background report for the local ombudsman program for convalescent hospitals and rest homes, and has provided input to the National Institute on Aging and the President's Council on Physical Fitness. She established the Eldercare Clinic, a low-cost medical clinic restricted to medical problems of the senior adult and funded by private industry.

Humanitarian -- Julie Reinhart Coburn of Thousand Oaks has managed to combine her practical experience and educational background to provide public service in diverse areas. In 1975, she went to Camp Pendleton to work with Southeast Asian refugees, where she helped establish crisis education programs and set up crash courses in English for families that fled the fall of South Vietnam. Drawing on her experience as a teacher in Thailand, she worked with Asian scholars to develop a series of books that helps maintain traditional culture identity for refugee children, while at the same time aiding in their adjustment to American education. She helped with the initial organization of the Hospice of the Conejo Valley, an experience which led her to write "Death and Living," a booklet designed to provide insight into dealing with the terminally ill. She is currently conducting doctoral research in psychology and established the Institute for Christian Medical Healing and Research in 1982.

Mrs. Garcia-Weed was an organizer of Protect our Parks, serves on the Ventura County Senior Coordinating Council, and was a Democratic candidate in the 1982 primary election for the 36th Assembly District.

Deanna Hackman, also honored in the category of political action, has been

Science/Health -- Dr. Joane Goforth Baumer of Ventura, physician in charge of the West Ventura Family Care Clinic, was instrumental in establishing the satellite clinic of Ventura County Medical Center in the Avenue area. A graduate of Scripps College for Women and the University of California, Davis, Medical School, she completed her residency at County Medical Center in 1980 and became a member of the faculty there.

She was soon selected director of the project to bring convenient medical care to the residents of West Ventura, and spent 2-1/2 years finding a building, locating an appropriate site, obtaining a grant from the Redevelopment Agency, and negotiating a lease.

Dr. Baumer is public education chairwoman for the Ventura County chapter of the American Cancer Society. She is also a member of Altrusa, an organization of business and professional women which raises money for scholarships for women.

Outstanding Senior Citizen -- Leona Lee of Camarillo, born in Haynesville, Alabama on April 25, 1892, became the oldest person ever to attend Oxnard College when she enrolled as a typing student in 1976. In 1978, while employed as an office assistant, she participated in the move of Camarillo City Hall to its new site on Carmen Drive and, as late as 1980, she was still working as a babysitter.

When her children were young, she taught Sunday School, supported the YMCA, and worked at the polls on election days. She is an executive board member of the Women's Society of United Methodist Church in Camarillo and is active with the Camarillo Senior Citizen Center. She serves as hospitality hostess at the church, which honored her with a plaque on her 90th birthday.

Law/Law Enforcement -- Ventura attorney Colleen Toy White has spent the past five years working through the Ventura County District Attorney's Office to aid the victims of crime and establish programs to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault. She is the legal counsel to the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Program and supervises the Small Claims Assistance Program for the County.

She helped establish the Ventura County Shelter for Battered Women and Children, developed the Rape Awareness and Prevention Program operated jointly by the District Attorney's Office and the Rape Crisis Center, and developed the clinical law program for Pepperdine University.

She is a member of numerous organizations and committees, including the Ventura County Law Enforcement Steering Committee, the Southern California Consumer Protection Council, and the Ventura Chamber of Commerce Crime Prevention Committee. She is president of the Board of Directors of the Ventura County Rape Crisis Center, a member of the Board of Directors of the Coalition Against Household Violence,

Business -- Carol Haverty of Camarillo operates her own firm, Business Support Systems, where she works as a business and tax consultant. In addition, she is an accounting instructor at Ventura College.

She has given generously of her time at Women's Day workshops, leading sessions on "How to Start Your Own Business" and "Preparing for Retirement." The 18-year county resident is active in the American Association of University Women, having served as president of the Camarillo branch (1978-79), and chair of the California Central Coast Division (1982-83), and currently as the California State Division chair for Networks.



Dr. Joane Baumer



Leona Lee



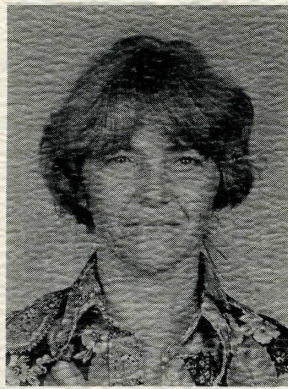
Colleen Toy White



Carol Haverty



Lillie Watkins



Lee Riggan

Educator -- Lillie Watkins wanted to be a teacher from the time she first set foot in a kindergarten classroom. After teaching in Oxnard for 25 years, first at Juanita School, then at Britell, and currently at Driffell, her enthusiasm has not waned and is reflected by the support she has received from students, parents, and administrators.

She is a founding member of the Professional and College Women's Organization which has raised thousands of dollars for scholarships for Oxnard students. During Black History Week, she coordinated and was chairwoman of the first Afro-American History Speech Exposition sponsored by the Oxnard Elementary School District.

This year, Mrs. Watkins received the Driffell School PTA Honorary Service Award for her outstanding service to the youth of the community. She was also honored this year by Alpha Delta Kappa,

Community Service, professional -- Lee Riggan of Thousand Oaks is credited with helping keep two much-needed, but financially-strapped, community organizations in operation -- the Commission on Human Concerns (CHC) and the Coalition Against Household Violence (CAHV).

Ms. Riggan, as CHC's executive director, helped put the organization back on track after a period when its future was in doubt. The agency has achieved a recognized position as one which cares about the poor.

Her successful efforts to bring CAHV under the CHC umbrella allowed CAHV to remain in business.

Ms. Riggan is also a vice-president in the California-Nevada Community Action Association.



Evelyn Brubaker



Luisa Franceschi-Runge

Community Service, volunteer -- Evelyn Brubaker of Ventura has been a community volunteer since 1965. Through the years she has helped the developmentally disabled at Camarillo State Hospital (ten years), the California Association for Neurologically Handicapped (five years), Easter Seal Society (three years), and the Assistance League (one year).

For the past three years, she has also devoted her volunteer efforts to city service at the Olivas Adobe Educational Project.

Using her bachelor's degree in social work and graduate studies in special education, she has been involved in pilot and innovative programs in her primary interest area, that of the developmentally disabled.

The Arts -- Madame Luisa Franceschi-Runge of Ventura, 83, has devoted her 65-year career to music, beginning with her 1918 Broadway debut in "Blossom Time." Twelve years of musicals, operettas, and Ziegfeld Follies were followed by operatic training in Europe. With the onset of World War II, she left Italy and opened a voice studio in New York City, where she worked with many prominent students, including Eugene Conley, Zinka Milanov, Leonard Warren, and Mario Lanza.

In addition to her work as teacher and adviser, she has lent her expertise to assisting people with speech or breathing difficulties. Despite bouts with illness, she has continued her work and is now serving in an advisory capacity with the Ventura County Opera Association.

FRIENDS NEEDED

The Commission is looking for supporters in the county who are willing to contribute to the various projects of the Commission according to their talents. Whether it be in the form of a donation for one of our projects, accounting or clerical service, providing refreshments, attending a luncheon or banquet, your commitment for 1984 will entitle you to become a member of Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women.

We are only 15 very busy people who are donating our time to improve the quality of life for women in Ventura County, and we hope you will add your talent, whatever it may be, to our efforts. Contact Martha Baskerville at the Commission for Women Office, 3161 Loma Vista Road, Ventura 93003, or call 654-3109.

MAKE WOMEN IN HISTORY COME ALIVE IN YOUR CLASSROOM

A workshop for elementary and secondary educators and other interested persons presented by the State Department of Education through California Lutheran College Office of Continuing Education.

We are fortunate to have State Department of Education Consultants Molly MacGregor and Bette Morgan to present this workshop. Both women are historians, educators, experienced, highly-skilled workshop leaders, and are founders of the National Women's History Week Project and the Women's History Network.

Date and time: Friday, January 27, 1984; 4 to 10 p.m..

Saturday, January 28, 1984; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Workshop includes catered dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday.

Location: County Schools Conference Facilities, Camarillo Airport.

Content: Awareness of the portrayal of women in history and of the need to study women's history. An extensive slide presentation of American women. Role models. Chronological overview of women in American history. Specific lesson plans, and implementation techniques for the classroom.

Participants will receive resource materials and curriculum guides.

Credit: One unit.

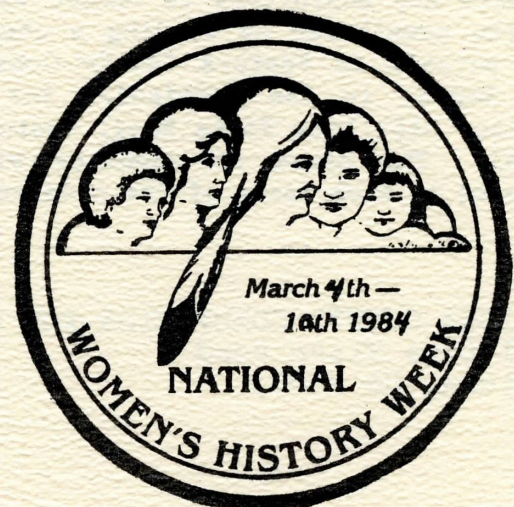
Cost: \$55 for one unit of credit; \$35 for non-credit. (Fees given are approximate. Final information on cost not available at time of this printing.)

Registration: By January 20, 1984.

Contact: Leslie Seifert, CLC, Office of Continuing Education, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360; Phone (805) 492-2411, ext. 490.

Academic reviews of the most often used current history textbooks show less than 11% of the content deals with women. This version of history portrays women as passive non-participants in the events of the world. From the beginning, starting with Native Americans, women have made contributions that have had a critical impact on the development of the United States. The study of women's history provides a means of discovering what these contributions have been and what effects they have had on our lives today.

Make your reservation now to attend this valuable workshop.



COMMISSIONERS WE WILL MISS

In addition to our recent resignation of Yvonne Bodle, District 3, who acted as co-chair for the first two years of the Commission, two other commissioners have also recently resigned.

Steve Wiman, District 2, who was very active in our Child Care Project; and Carol Kochejian, District 2, who acted as the chair for the Child Care Symposium.

These were hard-working members and their presence and their contributions will be missed.

BECOME A NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

The Commission for Women is pleased to publish this double-issue newsletter, our first issue of this fiscal year. We consider it of prime importance as a means of communication with the people of Ventura County. We would like to continue to expand our mailing list to reach greater numbers of people and to include in our newsletter more news on items and events of interest and information that will be of special help to women.

Unfortunately, budget constraints prevent us from expanding as we would like to do. In order to supplement the funds for printing the newsletter, we encourage our readers and supporters to become sponsors of the newsletter by sending a check for \$25 payable to Ventura County Commission for Women, to the Commission for Women Office, 3161 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003. The names of sponsors will be printed in each issue of the newsletter.

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
3161 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, CA 93003

CALENDAR 1984

January 13: Discovery Day
Career Center, Ventura College. Orientation for re-entry students. Academic counseling, classes, and services. 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon.

January 16: Program on women's history featuring Dr. June Stephenson, author of Women's Roots. Sponsored by AAUW, Camarillo branch. At the Camarillo Boys' and Girls' Club. 7:30 p.m.

January 27 and 28: Workshop on women's history, presented by NWHW Project founders. Credit available from CLC. Call 492-2411, extension 490.

February 26: An evening of music from women's history featuring Cantor Patti Holin of Ventura. Location to be determined. Call 654-3109.

March 3: Creative Options Day for Women -- CLC.

March 6-12: National Women's History Week.

March 8: International Women's Day.

Call the Commission Office, 654-3109, for information on these events.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

MAY ALL THE SEASONS OF YOUR LIFE
BE FILLED WITH PEACE AND LOVE.

BULK RATE
U. S. Postage
Paid
Ventura, CA
Permit No. 39