



# Ventura County Commission for Women

Winter 1985

## State commission identifies priorities

Each year, the California State Commission on the Status of Women identifies current priorities and new direction for its programs, said Dorothy Jonas, chairperson. During 1984-85, the Commission will focus on:

- Homemaker's rights (management and control provisions of state community property laws);
- Minority women's concerns;
- Employment (affirmative action; comparable worth; sexual harassment; employer-sponsored child care; job training and women-owned businesses);
- Adult day care and latchkey programs for school age children; and
- Education (K-16 institutions; voter responsibility and the political process).

## VCCW News Roundup

The Oxnard-based firm of Hooper, Lopez and Co. has been chosen by the Ventura County Commission for Women and the Ventura County Commission for Human Concerns to carry out a joint needs assessment project this coming year.

Seeking to discover the needs of women of all economic levels and all age groups throughout Ventura County, Hooper, Lopez and Co. will conduct a series of surveys.

Plans include surveys of agencies providing services to women, community leaders, women's organizations and individual women through random sample telephone interviews and public hearings. Organizations will be invited to co-sponsor the public hearings in local areas.

The results of these surveys will determine priorities in the efforts of both commissions to effectively serve the needs of women. Information on

the needs of poor women will be specific focus of the Commission on Human Concerns, while the Commission for Women seeks data about all the women of the county.

Maureen Hooper, former aide to Supervisor Ted Grandsen, and Armando Lopez, former aide to Supervisor John Flynn, began their consulting business more than a year ago. Both have had experience in the

private sector in addition to their work for the county. Their firm provides expertise in marketing and public relations to private business and public agencies.

Joanne Olivares, a member of their staff, will serve as project coordinator for the needs assessment. She will implement the survey program under the direction of Maureen Hooper-Lopez.

This issue of the Commission's newsletter probably looks a lot different to you than the ones you've received in the past — and with good reason.

This is our premier issue to ring in a new year with a whole new look and image for VCCW.

Beginning with this issue, General Telephone Company of California is graciously providing typesetting and paste-up services, which gives the publication a clean, crisp look.

Christy Nafius, a graphic designer, created the new high-tech logo to reflect the multi-faceted dimensions of the outstanding women of Ventura County. The new format for the newsletter, which Nafius also designed, carries out that concept.

"The contributions of both Christy and General Telephone are greatly appreciated," said Sandy Ryder, newsletter editor.

# CALENDAR

J • A • N • / • F • E • B

## January

Sat.  
19

**"A Day for Young Women."** California Lutheran College. Keynote speaker: Kelly Lange.

Fri.  
25-26

**"Make Women in History Come Alive in Your Classroom."** One hour credit workshop on women in American history, Cal Lutheran, Nelson Room.

Mon.  
28

**The Women's Equity Coalition** meets on the fourth Monday evening of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of Santa Barbara Savings and Loan, 425 Arneill Road, Camarillo.

Thur.  
31

**Conference on Family Violence.** Harbortown, Ventura, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Early registration: \$25. Professional: \$30. Students: \$15. Includes lunch. Sponsored by Interface and other organizations - Rape and Sexual Abuse Center, Public Social Services, Coalition Against Household Violence, Ventura College, Child Abuse and Neglect. (805) 652-6411.

## February

Sat.  
9

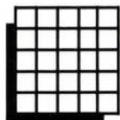
**Commission for Women,** 9 a.m., Public Social Services Agency Training Facility, 77 N. California St. Ventura.

Tues.  
19

**The Friends of the Commission,** 7:30 p.m., PSSA District Office, 2220 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo.

Mon.  
25

**Women's Equity Coalition,** 7:30 p.m., Santa Barbara Savings and Loan, 425 Arneill Road, Camarillo.



### COMING IN MARCH:

March 8: International Women's Day

March 3-9: National Women's History Week



## Details

**"A Day for Young Women"** offers workshops for high school girls on Saturday, Jan. 19 at California Lutheran College in Thousand Oaks.

Workshops will range from "Dress for Success" to "Transitions into Adulthood."

For additional information, contact CLC at (805) 492-2411.

**"Make Women in History Come Alive in Your Classroom."** A one-hour credit workshop, Jan. 25 and 26.

This workshop will provide a multicultural overview of women in American history.

The workshop will present information on why and how to include women in the regular kindergarten through 12th grade curriculum with specific models and lesson plans available. In addition, the workshop will point the way to valuable print and non-print resources about American women.

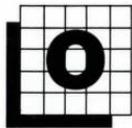
The session will be held at CLC in the Nelson Room. Hours will be from 4 to 10 p.m., Friday, Jan. 25 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26. Cost is \$60 for one hour of credit; \$40 for non-credit. The workshop includes dinner Friday and lunch Saturday.

For additional information, contact Katy Cunningham, Cal Lutheran Office of Continuing Education, for registration information at (805) 492-2411, Ext. 490.

If you would like to have your non-profit organization's meetings or events listed in the Calendar, please send the information to the Commission for Women office, 3161 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003. The newsletter is published bimonthly.

For additional information on any of these programs, contact the Commission for Women office at (805) 652-6411.

# A special salute to the outstanding women of Ventura County



Outstanding women of Ventura County for 1984-85 were honored at an awards banquet sponsored by the Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women on Thursday, Nov. 1 at the Hilton Inn, Oxnard.

The women were selected for outstanding contributions to the betterment of their communities and for outstanding personal achievements on behalf of other women.

The 12 winners included:

- Jean Marshall of Ventura, chairperson of the Ventura County Arts Advisory Commission;
- Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez, mathematician at Point Mugu;
- Treenie Ortiz of Piru, a long-time advocate for senior citizens both locally and statewide;
- Betty June Verity of Ventura, supervising deputy probation officer for the Ventura County Corrections Services Agency;
- Katherine Flook of Simi Valley, 78-year-old humanitarian;
- Joan Gorner of Thousand Oaks, a Conejo Unified School District teacher and member of the Thousand Oaks planning commission;
- Zella Kaiser, executive vice president and chief financial officer for H & H Oil Tool Co., Inc., Santa Paula;
- Mamie Duffy Island of Camarillo, a retired educator;
- Patricia Lyon of Camarillo, homemaker and foster mother;
- Beverly O'Gorman of Ventura, administrative assistant to Senator Gary Hart;
- Thelma Payne Sanborn of Oxnard, winner of a bronze medal in diving at the 1920 Olympic games in Antwerp, Belgium.
- Sally Newell of Ventura, executive director of Child Abuse and Neglect (CAAN).

Turn the page and find out all about these outstanding women.

# 1984-85 SALUTE



Joan W. Gerner



Katherine Flook



Mamie Duffy Island

## KATHERINE FLOOK — HUMANITARIAN

Katherine Flook of Simi Valley was feted for her efforts to promote the welfare of humanity and the spirit of community in the county.

The 78-year-old serves youth as the "officially adopted" grandmother of the Simi Valley Unified School District, going from school to school with the Grandmother Program she developed.

She initiated a leadership program for youth with the Simi Valley City Council; served as a judge for the Builder's Scholarship Foundation, helped raise the money to furnish Simi's new Senior Citizen Center, made recommendations to improve patient care at Simi Valley Adventist Hospital, aided the blind as an American Red Cross volunteer and serves on the Ventura County Drug Abuse Advisory Board. She served as the Simi Valley fund-raising chairman for the American Heart Association.

Mrs. Flook's efforts to preserve cultural heritage is evident by the role she has played in the Simi Valley Park and Recreation Foundation, Simi Valley Cultural Arts Foundation, Simi Valley Historical Society and Simi Valley Community Concert Association.

Recognized in 1978 as the Outstanding Senior Citizen by the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, she was also honored as a member of the Women's Club as a recipient of the Community Improvement Program (CIP) Award by Sears-Roebuck Co.

## JOAN W. GORNER — EDUCATION

Honored for outstanding contributions in education was Joan W. Gerner of Thousand Oaks, a Ventura County resident for 19 years. A teacher in the Conejo Valley Unified School District since 1965, she has devoted her efforts to excellence in the school system.

An instructor at Colina Intermediate School celebrating 25 years of teaching, she has been involved with academic achievement, cooperation with private industry to improve schools, accreditation, curriculum and textbook selection.

A member of the California Teachers Association and the National Education Association, she is vice president of the Unified Association of Conejo Teachers.

She coordinated the City of Thousand Oaks' "Youth in Government" program, has been

active with the American Association of University Women, the PTA, Citizens' Action to Save Education and the Conejo Future Foundation. These days she serves on the Thousand Oaks planning commission.

## MAMIE DUFFY ISLAND — COMMUNITY SERVICE — VOLUNTEER

Honored for her contributions in community service.

A retired educator and resident of Camarillo, Mrs. Island has volunteered her time to a long list of organizations and causes. A life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, she has served in every office since the age of 17.

She helped to organize Black History Week in Oxnard where children of all races enter an oratorical contest about famous Black Americans endorsed by Oxnard schools. Two years ago she helped organize the Links, Inc., pledged to community service and scholarships to black youths.

She plays an active role in Girl Scouts, Head Start, Special Olympics, United Methodist Women, Ventura County Children's Advisory Council,

# 1984-85 SALUTE



Zella A. Kaiser



Patricia Lyon



Jean Marshall



Sally Newell

Registrar of Voters, League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, Camarillo Friends of the Library and others.

## ZELLA A. KAISER — BUSINESS

Zella A. Kaiser, executive vice president and chief financial officer of H & H Oil Tool Co. Inc. of Santa Paula, has been honored for her contributions to business.

A longtime county resident, Ms. Kaiser helped to build H & H Oil Tool from infancy. With 172 full-time employees, H & H is a service company to the oil industry.

She helped to found Ventura County National Bank which is celebrating its second year of operation. She sits as chairperson of the board.

Named Soroptimist "Businesswoman of the Year" in 1982, Ms. Kaiser earned an advanced management degree from the Harvard University Business School.

She is active as a member of the board of the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce; Ventura County Taxpayers Association; Boys and Girls' Club of Santa Paula; the American Petroleum Institute, Coastal Chapter; and director of the United Way of Ventura County.

## PATRICIA LYON — HOMEMAKING

Patricia Lyon of Camarillo was honored for her achievements as an outstanding homemaker and community philanthropist who works with youth.

She and her husband, Ed Lyon, have five children. Actively involved in the foster program, the Lyons have helped numerous foster children over the years.

For the past six years, Mrs. Lyon has coordinated the Youth Ministry program at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Camarillo. In its early days, she coordinated the Indian Maid program for the UMCA. Active with Marriage Encounter, she also has served as a volunteer counselor for many youth groups throughout Ventura County. She is an active member of the Parent Teachers Association (PTA).

She received a special commendation from Pope John Paul for her work with the youth of Ventura County.

## JEAN MARSHALL — THE ARTS

Jean Marshall of Ventura has been recognized by the Commission for Women for her leadership role in promoting and developing the arts in

Ventura County.

As chairman of the Ventura County Arts Advisory Commission, she has been instrumental in its work since its founding in 1981. She played a key role in the development of a three-phase, three-year county arts plan which has been called the best in the state. She helped to complete the county's first Arts Directory, published earlier this year.

Mrs. Marshall has promoted the arts over the years as a story-telling specialist for the county library system and as an instructor in the creative arts and drama at Kimball House Children's Center for the Visual and Performing Arts. She has performed or produced over 300 puppet shows for children and adults and has excelled in this artistic arena.

## SALLY NEWELL — COMMUNITY SERVICE — PROFESSIONAL

Honored for her professional efforts in community service was Sally Newell of Ventura, executive director of Child Abuse and Neglect (CAAN).

She was the first director of the Ventura Free Clinic, started in 1970 to offer low-cost medical, legal, dental

(Continued next page)

# 1984-85 SALUTE



Treenie Ortiz

and psychological services. One of the first of its kind, the clinic saw more than 47,000 patients before closing its doors in 1983.

CAAN was formed in 1975 with Ms. Newell at the helm. Her devotion to young people led to countless hours of volunteer work, and she won the Volunteer Organization Activist Award in 1977. Ms. Newell's special concern is children and teens who get overlooked because they are too young to fight for their needs.

Recently appointed to serve on the California State Senate's Advisory Committee on Parental Skills in Development by Senator Robert Presley, Ms. Newell has received other awards during her career.

She belongs to the Ventura County School Attendance Review Board; VC Rape Crisis Program; VC Child Abuse Council; Simi Valley Pregnant Minor Advisory Board; Ventura High School Pregnant Minor Advisory Board; Ventura County Family Life Education Program; Presley Select Committee — Parenthood Education Resource Team; Los Angeles County Preschool



Beverly O'Gorman

Molestation Team; KCET Public Broadcasting System Southern California Women's Advisory Board; Altrusa; V.I.A. (Venturans in Action); Ventura County Youth Advisory Board and Southern California Council of Free Clinics.

## BEVERLY O'GORMAN — POLITICAL ACTION

Honored for her outstanding contributions in the political action arena is Beverly O'Gorman of Ventura, administrative assistant to Senator Gary Hart (D-Santa Barbara).

As Hart's assistant for the past seven years, O'Gorman has helped to organize political forums and voter registration drives. Her specialty is assisting with legislation aimed to help in the areas of health, child abuse, the handicapped and education.

"My role is to plug in the ideas from the local community to the legislators in Sacramento," she said. "Most importantly, I teach people how to advocate in their own behalf in whatever area of concern they might have."

She has been active with the Ventura County branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW), Women's Equity Coalition, Santa Barbara's March of Dimes campaign, Goleta Federation of Women, vice president of the Association for the Retarded in Santa Barbara, League of Women Voters and Child Abuse Council.

## TREENIE ORTIZ — OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZEN

A 25-year county resident, Treenie C. Ortiz has been selected as outstanding senior citizen.

Ms. Ortiz has been a long-time advocate for senior citizen affairs, both locally and statewide. In 1980 she was appointed to serve as a delegate to the California State House Conference on Aging.

Treenie was a prime mover in the establishment of a community center in Piru. Due to her special interest in the senior citizenry and her persevering efforts, a congregate nutrition site and social service programming for older persons was established in that center.

While Ms. Ortiz has made great strides for older Piru residents, she has also been active in this area's community services for youth and as an advocate for the poor.

## ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ, Ph.D. — SCIENCE/HEALTH

The breadth of her interests and her high degree of accomplishment were reasons cited by the Commission in selecting Dr. Elizabeth Rordiguez for "Salute To Women" Award in science health.

A mathematician at the Pacific

# 1984-85 SALUTE

Missile Test Center at Point Mugu employed in the mathematical analysis branch, she actively promotes the involvement of women in the sciences. She serves as a role model by being involved in the Society of Women Engineers, the Mexican-American Engineering Society, the Minorities in Engineering and Science Achievement or MESA program in local schools, and through a technical speakers and recruitment program at Point Mugu.

Selected as a participant in a Federal Women's Executive Leadership Program, Dr. Rodriguez speaks frequently to local school children about opportunities in mathematics for women and Hispanics. She is well-published in her field and has authored pieces about minority women and Mexican-American youth in professional journals.

Last year, her endeavors culminated with her selection as Hispanic Scientist of the Year for the State of California.

## THELMA PAYNE SANBORN — SPORTS

For a lifetime of excellence in sports, Thelma Payne Sanborn of Oxnard has been recognized by the Ventura County Commission for Women with a "Salute To Women" Award.

She gained international recognition as an Olympic athlete who won a bronze medal in diving at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, Belgium. At the time there were only 15 women on that first team in swimming and diving.

Mrs. Sanborn, 88, the original "tween girl" in advertising, was American champion in swimming in 1918, 1919 and 1920 before her win at Antwerp. Inspired by the great



*Betty Jane Verity*

Constance Meyer, she gained her fame in sports as a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club in Oregon. In later years she coached champion swimmers.

Named to the Oregon Empire Athletic Foundation Hall of Fame in 1983 by the governor of Oregon, she is also in the Helms Athletic Foundation Hall of Fame. Her medals and trophies hang in the California Hall of Fame in downtown Los Angeles.

Mrs. Sanborn, who is active with the Ventura County Council on Aging, participated actively as a member of the 23rd Olympic Spirit Team during the Los Angeles Summer Games and received a proclamation from Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley.

## BETTY JUNE VERITY — LAW/LAW ENFORCEMENT

As supervising deputy probation officer for the Ventura County Corrections Services Agency, Betty June Verity of Ventura has been honored in law enforcement.

A county employee and a county



*Elizabeth Rodriguez*



*Thelma Payne Sanborn*

resident for 41 years, her specialty is producing informative and effective court reports on defendants who appear before the various county criminal courts. A senior member of the probation department, she investigates a defendant's background and coordinates the results into a comprehensive formal report recommending appropriate disposition of the case.

With an extensive background in adult and juvenile investigation and supervision, Miss Verity is currently in charge of the correction agency's Ventura Field Services Unit whose officers supervise adults and juveniles on probation who live in the Ventura, Ojai, Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru areas.

She has belonged for years to the California Probation, Parole and Correctional Association and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. Past president and active member of the Ventura Soroptimist Club, her community affiliations also include the Ventura County branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Ventura County Humane Society.

# Help update our mailing list

Please help us update our mailing list. If you are no longer the representative of the organization for which you are receiving this newsletter, please call the Commission office or send us the name and address of the current

representative.

Call (805) 652-6411, Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or write to the Commission for Women, 3161 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003.

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Former Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Current Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

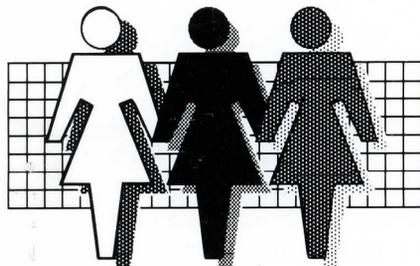
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Month in which annual change of officers/representatives occurs \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut and return to the Commission For Women, 3161 Loma Vista Rd., Ventura, CA 93303

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**Ventura County  
Commission for Women**

Vol. 1, No. 1

Ventura County Commission for  
Women Officers 1984-85

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Winter 1985

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the women of the county.*

*To become a newsletter sponsor, please  
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VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION  
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