

Ventura County Commission for Wome

Fall 1985

VCCW Issues

Commission launches five-year plan



he Commission for Women has completed a needs assessment and established a comprehensive five-year plan to benefit the women of Ventura County.

"In our five-year plan, we have set goals for ourselves which will require extensive and intensive involvement and effort by every member of the Commission, as well as volunteers from the community," said Dorothy Engel, cochair for VCCW.

In addition to the ongoing programs, the Commission will initiate major efforts in the areas of housing, adult and community education, improved networks for referral and provision of services, and particular support for separated and divorced women.

"We are enthusiastic about the relevance of these efforts in serving the women of Ventura County," said Jean Bush. She will serve with Dot Engel as co-chair in 1985-86. Also serving will be Martha White of Oxnard, finance officer, and Candace Matson of Simi Valley, executive secretary.

"The survey not only verified what many of suspected, but it also surprised us with the additional insight it provided," Bush said.

Copies of the needs assessment and five-year plan are available for \$5 each from the Commission for Women office, 3161 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003.

CALENDAR

October

Sat. 19

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



Deadline for Annual "Salute to Women" Awards Banquet.



"Salute to Women"
Annual Awards Banquest, Oxnard Hilton Inn,
Oxnard. No-host
cocktails, 5:30 p.m., dinner, 6:30 p.m., awards
presentation, 8 p.m. Cost
is \$25 per person.
Checks should be made
payable to Friends of the
Commisssion and mailed
to 3875 Telegraph Road,
Suite 159, Ventura, CA
93003.

November



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



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



Thanksgiving Day



etails

The Forth Annaul "Salute to Women" awards banquet will be held on Oct. 30 at the Oxnard Hilton.

Superior Court Judge Melinda A. Johnson will be guest speaker and emcee at the event.

Judge Johnson received her political science degree from Stanford University in 1969 and her law degree from USC Law Center in 1972. She served as a deputy district attorney in Ventura County from 1972-76 and instructed in criminal law. She practiced domestic, personal injury, estate planning and contract law in private practice until 1982.

She served as a judge pro tem of the Ventura County Municipal Court from 1979 to February 1982, when she was named municipal court judge. She became a Superior Court judge in 1983.

Judge Johnson has been active in the Ventura County Bar Assoc. and serves as training supervisor and docent for the Ventura County Legal Guild court tour program. She is also a member of the United Way board of directors.

For additional information, contact the Ventura County Commission for Women at (805) 652-6411.



Be a part of The Calendar

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.

Fourth annual special salute to the outstanding women of Ventura County



utstanding women of Ventura County for 1985-86 will be honored at an awards banquet at the Oxnard Hilton on Oct. 30.

The Ventura County Commission for women's fourth annual "Salute to Women" recognizes 13 outstanding women from Ventura County.

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

The 13 winners are:

- Mabel Assheton outstanding senior citizen
- Irene Bahn philanthropy/ humanitarian
- Harriet Baker the arts

- Donna Clontz law/law enforcement
- Barbara Derryberry education
- Catherine Garnica media
- Marian Hadley community service
- Gwendolyn Hunt business/ management
- Catherine Johnston community service/professional
- Mary Jones science/health
- Patricia Longo political action
- Daisy Tatum education
- Gig Wishon homemaking

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







Irene Bahn



Harriet Baker



Donna Clontz

MABEL ASSHETON

Mabel Assheton of Ventura has earned a "Salute to Woman" award from the Ventura County Commission for Women as an outstanding senior citizen.

Throughout her life, Mabel has worked in areas mostly dominated by men. Even approaching 90, she is interested in equal rights for women.

"With other law students she marched up Fifth Avenue in New York in the first suffrage parade in 1917, carrying a banner 'Women Lawyers.' A recent graduate of Smith College, she wore her cap and gown in the parade and felt it was a 'grand adventure,'" the Commission said.

Her first job was with the Committee for Women in Industry which later became the Women's Bureau. She interviewed women who, for the first time, were driving street cars and operating elevators.

A very talented individual, she has been quite successful in a number of fields. She designed, patented and manufactured useful long-legged display dolls to hang on the wall. They were sold to gift shops across the U.S. As a designer, she created hats for a New York City couturier, who sold them to top stores in the area. She invented

soft-top toilet seats.

She had other talents. She danced before paying audiences in New York City, Washington, D.C. and France. She was pictured in dance poses in the 1921 centerfold of the English magazine, "Sketch." This is believed to be one of the first centerfolds.

In addition, Mabel has had music, poetry and several books dedicated to her, including one of the Wizard of Oz series. She also co-authored an article published in 12 languages by Reader's Digest.

Mabel, at over 90, is still active at the Townhouse where she resides. She has worked to improve living and safety regulations in the buildings.

IRENE BAHN

The Health Sciences Center at the Los Robles Regional Medical Center in Thousand Oaks was dedicated this past June to Irene Bahn on her 90th birthday. It is now called the "Irene Bahn Library."

"Irene's pioneer spirit led to the establishment of the volunteers at the hospital and her leadership, dedication and loyalty helped it flourish and expand," said the Commission in honoring her philanthropy.

A native of New York, Irene was born

June 19, 1895. She graduated from Syracuse University in 1918 with an English degree. When Irene Schuymet Chester Bahn, they were both reporters at the Syracuse News.

In 1960, the Bahns retired to California. She was also of retirement age, but this didn't stop her from volunteering in many ways once the family settled in the fledgling town. She led local citizens in naming Thousand Oaks. Her contributions continued over the decades, including such organizations as Conejo Players, the Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee, and Conejo Valley Historical Society. She is also partly responsible for the founding of Fitzgerald House and the Thousand Oaks Women's Club.

Her countless hours of volunteer involvement in Los Robles Regional Center augmented by her leadership abilities were instrumental in forming the Conejo Valley Auxiliary (1963). She served as president for two terms and continues to be active at Los Robles. Over the years, she encouraged the concept of incorporation for the hospital's auxiliary as a non-profit California corporation, a goal achieved in 1978.







Catherine Garnica



Marian Hadley



Gwendolyn Hunt

HARRIET BAKER

Harriet Baker became director of the Stagecoach Inn Museum in 1977 and has earned an outstanding reputation er volunteer efforts to preserve the heritage of her community.

The Thousand Oaks resident earned a "Salute to Women" award from the Ventura County Commission for Women for her contributions to the arts.

Since 1967, the art horizons of many women have been broadened through the regularly scheduled, ongoing art history workshops that she offered, free of charge, through the local AAUW.

For years, she actively worked on obtaining a local art center, taking part in efforts to obtain space for an art center in the former county library on Wilbur Road in Thousand Oaks. She now serves as acting director of the Conejo Valley Art Museum located there.

Since moving to Thousand Oaks in 1964, she's participated in an extensive list of community improvement activities, especially those relating to the arts.

She is a consultant with the sand Oaks Art Association; sarter member, vice president and currently board member of the Conejo Valley Art Museum; appointee to the

city's Commission for the Arts; features editor and writer for The Clarion, Arts Council of Conejo Valley and honorary life member, Conejo Valley Historical Society.

DONNA CLONTZ

A sense of responsibility to society and an absolutely unquenchable love of travel and adventure are important to understand why the Ventura County Commission for Women has recognized Donna Clontz as outstanding in law/law enforcement.

The Oxnard attorney graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UCLA in 1969 and was a regent's scholar there. She earned her elementary teaching and reading specialist credentials and received her law degree from San Francisco law school in 1976.

She was hired into the Ventura County District Attorney's office directly from law school. She was quickly promoted to supervisor of the juvenile unit in the DA's office. In the past five years, she has served as chairperson of the State Bar Juvenile Justice Commission in 1982-83; a member of the State Bar Criminal Law Executive Committee since 1983; president of Women Lawyers of Ventura County in 1981; president of the Ventura County Deputy District Attorneys Association in 1980 and 1984: co-chair of the Ventura County Bar Membership Committee in 1982-83; an ultimate delegate to the State Bar Convention in 1982: chairperson of the California District Attorneys Association Juvenile Justice Committee in 1984 and a contract negotiator for the Attorney Chapter of the Public Employees Association of Ventura County (PEAVC). She also won the District Attorney Association Outstanding Service Award in 1980.

The Juvenile Unit which she supervises has broad responsibility for both the protection and the correction of juveniles in the county. Juvenile Unit attorneys represent battered and abused children through legal dependency actions. They also prosecute juveniles who commit crimes against both adult and child victims.

BARBARA DERRYBERRY

As vice chancellor of the Ventura County Community College District, Barbara Derryberry is the highest (Continued next page)





Mary Jones

Catherine Johnston

ranking woman in higher education in Ventura County.

The Commission has honored her for outstanding achievement in education.

A re-entry woman who had some education in the early 1950s at Fullerton College, Derryberry wove her educational pursuits with raising a family of three children. In 1965, she received her bachelor's degree, and in 1968 her master's degree from California State University, Northridge. While at CSUN, she taught upper division and graduate students in business communications and records management and served on university policy and curriculum committees.

From 1970-74, she was instructor, multi-clerical cluster, special projects division at Ventura College.

Active also as a resource person, during this time she attended Ventura College of Law and in June 1974 was admitted to the state bar as an attorney at law.

She served as coordinator, special projects division at Ventura College to promote vocational training and from 1975-79, served as associate dean of instruction/occupational education at Oxnard College. There she developed and implemented a comprehensive



Patricia Longo

occupational educational program for Oxnard College.

She was named assistant superintendent, personnel in 1979 and was then named vice chancellor, personnel/affirmative action.

CATHERINE GARNICA

Cathy Garnica has covered Ventura County's entire educational system since 1982 and was hired by the Star-Free Press in 1979 as a reporter.

A lifetime resident of Ventura County, she has made gains as a woman and even more difficult, as a Hispanic, in the male-dominated world of the mass media.

"She was alert when the public began to push educators to demand more from their students," the Commission said. "She was able to play a key role in helping the public and the schools move toward a quality awareness. She keeps the public informed about what educators in the

classroom are trying to achieve to reach this goal."

Not only is she a successful professional, but she has encouraged others to enter the field. She has served as a panelist and active supporter of "Media and Minorities," a nationally acclaimed endeavor at Ventura College.

Cathy earned her bachelor of arts degree in journalism/communications from Pepperdine University. While there, she worked on the staffs of the campus newspaper and literary magazine. She is a member of the California Chicano News Media Association and was a member of Women in Communications.

"She also continually writes features about women, especially those in education, administration, business, classrooms, and the home. Her worreflects a feeling for humanity as we. an interest in the progress of women," the Commission said.

MARIAN HADLEY

Marian Hadley is a tireless advocate for the developmentally disabled. She represents the interest of this special class of citizens from the intimate experience gained as a mother whose daughter is developmentally disabled and now resides at Porterville State Hospital.

In 1953-54, she helped organize the Ventura County Association for the Retarded Citizens (VCARC) and served as it charter president in 1985-55.

She has served on the Developmental Disabilities Board, Area IX from 1977 to 1984, in a number of cities and currently serves as an advisor.

From 1980 through 1984, she served as the Area Board IX representative to the Organization of Area Boards. She was chairperson of Organization of Area Boards PDF Grants Committee for Cycle IV (1980), Cycle V (1981) and Cycle VI (1982).

She's invested an overwhelming amount of time and energy in the Porterville State Hospital Parents' Group since 1971, serving as president from 1977 to 1978.

As a special community services volunteer, Marian has spent countless hours speaking for the rights of the developmentally disabled.

In addition, she has been active in the community as a life member of the Ventura Soroptimist Club, serving as president. She served on the board of directors of the Girls and Boys Club for eight years and as president of the board of the

An active member of the Ventura Business and Professional Women's



Daisy Tatum



Gig Wishon

Club since 1952, she has served as president of the Ventura Club, president of the Coast District Business and Professional Women's Clubs and as treasurer of the California Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs for two terms.

GWENDOLYN HUNT

Gwendolyn Hunt of Oxnard serves as Director of Plans and Management at the Pacific Missile Test Center, Point Mugu. As a GS-15, she is the highest ranking woman at the base.

She is being recognized by the Commission for her contributions in business/management.

Gwendolyn holds a master's degree in systems management and began her career in the county as a mathematician.

She frequently speaks to students at schools, college and universities about career opportunities and encourages them to prepare themselves for the future. She travels across the country to help bring qualified engineers and scientists to Ventura County.

In the past, she has received the Professional Woman of the Year award,

the Pacific Missile Test Center Woman of the Year award, and community service awards.

For 24 years, she has actively worked through the church and other organizations to benefit the community. She recently served as president of the Twentieth Century Onyx Club and is currently president of Xi Kappa Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

CATHERINE JOHNSTON

Catherine Johnston is a dedicated individual who has given 39 years of service to the people of Ventura County by providing property tax information and assistance to persons in all walks of life.

Through her professionalism and her expertise in such areas as tax laws, she has assisted property owners, many of whom are elderly, in saving their homes from sale at public auction because of delinquent property taxes. She's assisted the blind, the disabled and senior citizens in obtaining renters' credits and in obtaining assistance for reimbursed or deferred property tax. Such advice is also given to the elderly (Continued next page)

with low income.

She's officially known as the county's Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator-Public Guardian and Conservator. She was appointed to the post on January 1, 1985 to fill an unexpired term. She competed in nationwide recruitment and ended up as the only female in the top 30 seeking the position.

Katie serves as commissioner and member of the board of directors for the Ventura County Commission on Human Concerns, representing Susan Lacey and her district.

Ms. Johnston also serves as the county's Public Administrator/Public Guardian. She oversees the county's programs as guardian to the mentally ill and mentally incompetent, plus aged and handicapped wards, under appointment by Superior Court.

She serves as a board member for Dependent Children, a board responsible for funds belonging to dependent children in foster homes or institutions. She's been an active member of the Ventura Business and Professional Women's Club since 1968.

MARY JONES

As a pioneer of quality for women in the community, Mary Jones of Ventura has been honored with a "Salute to Women" award in science and health.

As proprietor and nurse practitioner for Channel Islands Center for Women's Health, she operates the only women's health center in the county established by a nurse practitioner for the sole purpose of helping women.

She earned her nursing degree at Salve Regina College in Newport, RI; her master of nursing degree at UCLA and her nurse practitioner training at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

As a nurse practitioner, she is a

registered nurse who has acquired additional medical knowledge and skills in order to provide direct patient care. She maintains a direct association with a licensed medical consultant utilizing mutually-agreed-upon standardized procedures to effect quality care for women in the county.

She designed and developed the women's center to provide an atmosphere where women of all ages would feel comfortable obtaining medical care.

For the past two years, Mary has pioneered the treatment of PMS in Ventura County. She set up the PMS Center by donating her own financial contributions and time. The Center now has a monthly newsletter, weekly support group and numerous educational seminars.

PATRICIA LONGO

Patricia Longo, as deputy mayor of the City of San Buenaventura and the only woman on the Ventura City Council, has proven time and again that sociological advancement of woman can only be truly achieved through political support.

Serving on the city council since January 1982 and as deputy mayor since January 1984, Mrs. Longo's weekly decisions affect 85,000 people. She was responsible for assuring that the city budget maintained funds for the Coalition Against Household Violence.

She chairs the Community, Economic and Human Development Committee of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). In addition, she is active as a member of the rent stabilization, water and oil transport committees for the City of Ventura; the general assembly for the Ventura County Association for Governments; the energy management and transportation committees for the League of California Cities and California Elected Women for Education and Research.

Although her council position commands an average of 45 hours a week, Pati, a 16-year resident of the county, participates in many community organizations.

These include the Daughters of the American Revolution, P.E.O., American Legion, Ventura City American League and Women's Division of the Greater Ventura Chamber of Commerce, Rape and Sexual Abuse Center, Taskforce for the Homeless for United Way, Ventura Rotary Anns and Ventura County Professional Women's Netw

The outspoken deputy mayor is a former chairperson of the Ventura County Republican Central Committee. Nominated for the Ventura Star-Free Press's "Most Influential in the City" award, she once served in the U.S. Navy, formerly managed the San Jose Symphony, and was a public relations director at a college in Washington, D.C.

Her dedication to the betterment of life in the City of San Buenaventura was heard above her detractors and in the final tally, she garnished the second highest number of votes in the at-large election for four council seats. She faces re-election this fall for her second term on the city council.

DAISY TATUM

Daisy Tatum, assistant principal of student services at Hueneme High School, is "one person who really feels she belongs to her community."

Daisy's active career began at Oxnard High School where she ser. on the school paper, held several class offices and participated in sports.

When the local parks department built a youth center, Daisy served as its first president for two years and then won a vice presidency post for all of Southern California.

At the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, she ran an intramural program and ended up in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. She graduated cum laude and won a Southern Education Foundation grant to complete her master's degree.

Two years after she returned to Oxnard she was named Teacher of the Year at Channel Islands High School. Since then, she's been nominated Outstanding Young Woman in America, won a Tri-County Athletic evement Award and most recently

received the Hueneme Parent-Teacher-Student Association honorary service award for her commitment to parents and students.

Daisy has been active with the Association of California School Administrators, Urban League, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Minority Education Task Force. She served as a board member for both the YWCA and Interface and has been active in her community with the Olympic Task Force, Strawberry Festival, Oxnard Junior Miss Pageant, Miss Oxnard and Oxnard College Equal Opportunity Program Advisory Council.

GIG WISHON

The Commission for Women is honoring Ventura resident Gig Wishon for her contributions in the homemaking category.

romemaker with a husband and three small boys, she helped to organize a co-op baby sitting project as a community service.

While serving as an AAUW branch president, she began a project to establish a gift shop at the Olivas Adobe. In the ensuing years, the shop was established and proceeds went toward funding a docent and school program.

As a member of the executive committee of the Ventura County Arts Council, she has helped bring "affordable art" to the county.

As a member of the Olympic Neighborhood Committee, she helped present Olympic Day at Larrabee Stadium and an art mural contest for high school students. She has worked on programs to further eye safety and child health.

Her contributions for children are many: Campfire Awards programs, field trips, working in the Assistance League thrift shop with the Girls' Club and the school for the developmentally disabled, and helping a children's library. She was founder of Las Abejas Auxiliary of Children's Home Society, which showed films to junior high students as an aid to sex education.

She has helped Little League and soccer teams as a team mom and volunteer. As a room mother at Loma Vista School, she worked as a class volunteer and helped put on the school carnival for the PTA. She has delivered trays to a hospital as a member of Children's Philanthropies.

Volunteers sought for adult reading program

Want to take a more active role in combating illiteracy?

The Ventura County Library Services Agency seeks volunteers to participate in "Roots and Wings," a reading program for adults. The program has been in existence for more than a year.

The program helps county residents 18 years and older to learn to read at no cost and in their own neighborhoods. Those who join the program must have the ability to understand and speak English and be willing to commit to a total of 40 hours.

Volunteers are asked to complete a two- to three-hour training workshop and commit to teach one hour twice a week for 20 weeks (a total of 40 hours). After completing the training session, each volunteer is matched with a client in their local neighborhood.

There are currently six teaching sites throughout the county. These are the Avenue Adult Senior Center in Ventura, the Filmore Library, the Main Jail in Ventura, the Moorepark Library, the Honor Farm in Ojai and the Saticoy Cabrillo Village.

For additional information on the program, contact Patricia Lewis, program coordinator, Ventura County Library Services Agency, 651 East Main Street, Ventura, CA 93001 or call her at (805) 652-7511.



Help put an end to the pain of sexual abuse

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Center of Ventura County is seeking volunteers, 21 years of age and older, who will volunteer time to support women, children and men who have been sexually assaulted.

The Center provides a positive learning experience about topics that thrive on secrecy and misinformation.

"Our goal is to end sexual victimization that is perpetuated by ignorance, silence and denial," explained Janice Harper, education director for the Center.

Victim services include crisis intervention counseling, accompaniment to hospitals and police stations, in-person and telephone counseling, advocacy and information referrals.

"The goal of the Center's programs is to prevent victimization of children and adults through education," said Harper.

Many volunteers are needed to enable the Center to obtain its goal.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, or know of someone who

would, please call the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center at (805) 987-0428 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for information and enrollment.

"With enough caring individuals lending a hand, we can help put an end to the pain of sexual abuse," Harper said.

(805) 987-0428

Ventura County Board of Supervisors' names)











District 1 Susan Lacey

Lupe Gonsalves Maggie Mireles Mary Silverman

District 2 Ed Jones

Raymont Clayton Virginia Connell Louise Grethel

District 3 Maggie Erickson

Alicia Ramirez-Brewer Julie Elliott Sandra Smith Ryder

District 4 Jim Dougherty

Dorothy Engel **Brook Hubbell** Candy Matson

District 5 John Flynn

Tila Estrada Mary Jane Johns Martha White

What are Friends for? Find out, now!



The Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women is a support group to the Commission:

 Through contributions of time and energy for research, fund raising and public relations for the Commission.

Through finance and service

 By serving in an advisory capacity on issues of women's needs and services, and, by identifying and making recommendations on such issues.

We invite you to join our membership! As a corporation organized as a body independent of the Commission, we have the opportunity to develop projects as the expertise and financial resources to do so come to us through contributions to, and membership in, the Friends. We provide an opportunity for women in varied activities and occupations to interface through special events and community involvement. We also serve as a liaison for the conscientious efforts of the many women's groups in the county.

The Commission is currently developing projects in response to its recent needs assessment. Our next long-term support as Friends is to contact those of you who have indicated your interest in being a part of these projects, among which are:

- Affordable housing for families in Ventura County.
- Education, job training and developing the awareness of women of available resources.
- Personal, financial, job and legal counselina.
- Adequate child care facilities for women who work.
- Addressing the needs of the single or divorced head of household.
- The organization of a permanent volunteer bureau to provide continuing resources for women in Ventura County.

It's an exciting time ahead for us as an organization as we contribute energy and talents to these projects. We invite you to become a part of that effort.

LEE ANDERSON, President Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women

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Ventura County Commission for Women Officers 1985-86

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