

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL 2017 BRAVO Awards



*H*onoring
Women
Who Create
and Inspire



NAWBO

VENTURA COUNTY

National Association of Women Business Owners

SERRA CENTER, CAMARILLO
FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017

Making the communities we serve better places to live and work.



At Montecito Bank & Trust, we know living up to a mission statement is less about what you say you do, and more about what you actually do. That's why we spend so much of our time, energy and resources actively giving back. We volunteer over 2,400 hours and donate over \$1.3 million dollars each year, and provide loans that benefit the people, families, nonprofits and local businesses of the Central Coast.

We're honored to be recognized as NAWBO Ventura County's 2017 Corporate Leader of the Year. Thank you to all of the 2017 BRAVO Awards honorees for making such a meaningful impact on the local communities.



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TODAY'S PROGRAM

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

Mimi Donaldson, MimiSpeaks!
Celebrated Speaker, Speech Coach & Author

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Brenda Terzian, Doug Terzian Construction, Inc.
President - NAWBO Ventura County

RECOGNITION OF DIGNITARIES

Jill Friedman, Partner - Myers, Widders, Gibson, Jones & Feingold, LLP
Public Policy Director

LUNCHEON

Silent Auction Closes: 12:30 pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Susan Solovic, *THE* Small Business Expert
“*THE* One Percent Edge: The Key To Auction To Remaining Relevant
in Today's Changing Market”

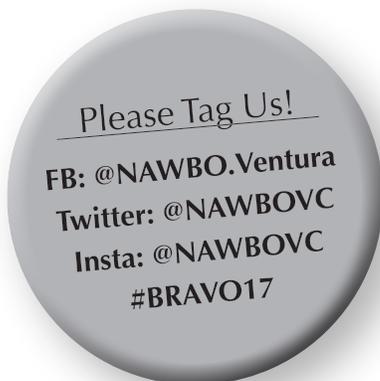
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

NAWBO-VC Member of the Year
Young Woman Entrepreneur of the Year
Arts Advocate of the Year
Rising Star of the Year
Education Advocate of the Year
Innovator of the Year
Community Advocate of the Year
Corporate Leader of the Year
Lifetime Achievement Award
Woman Business Owner of the Year

APPRECIATION & CLOSING

Brenda Terzian, Doug Terzian Construction, Inc.
President - NAWBO Ventura County

Elaine Hollifield, Hollifield Creative
President-Elect, 2017 BRAVO Awards Chair



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017



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Brenda Terzian



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Doris Muna

Past Presidents of NAWBO Ventura County

2015 – 2016 Dr. Janis Shinkawa, Ohana Pet Hospital
 2014 – 2015 Diane de Mailly, DDM Metering Systems, Inc.
 2013 – 2014 Robin Martino, Keller-Williams, The Robin Team
 2012 – 2013 Karen Smith, Personalized College Choice
 2011 – 2012 Debbi Reed, Balance Your Books
 2010 – 2011 Colleen King, Colleen King Insurance Agency
 2009 – 2010 Sandy Allan, Technology & Operational Solutions
 2008 – 2009 Sonia Cohen, Cohen Marketing Int'l
 2007 – 2008 Joy Sakata, Joy's Chocolates

2006 – 2007 Colleen King, Colleen King Insurance Agency
 2005 – 2006 Judith Pérez, Esq., Pérez and Hawes, LLP
 2004 – 2005 Jerri Hemsworth, NewmanGrace, Inc.
 2003 – 2004 Christa Nonnemaker, AXICOM, Inc.
 2002 – 2003 Jerri Hemsworth, NewmanGrace, Inc.
 2001 – 2002 Kathy Rappaport, Rappaport Business Management
 2000 – 2001 Vicki Arndt, Eagleson Arndt Financial Advisors
 1999 – 2000 Sue Eigenbrodt, Too Fun Sue's Drawing Between the Lines
 1998 – 1999 Linda Cameron, CPA

1997 – 1998 Lisa Schwartz, CPA, Mitchell and Schwartz (Founding President)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Brenda Terzian

PRESIDENT, NAWBO VENTURA COUNTY

Thank you for joining us today. I am very honored to welcome you to the 18th Annual NAWBO Ventura County BRAVO Awards.

This annual BRAVO Awards celebration allows our local NAWBO chapter the opportunity to recognize women in our community who have gone above and beyond. They continually strive for and achieve milestones that have significant positive impacts for our individual communities as well as our county. In many cases, these women provide contributions through out our nation and beyond.

I am thankful to be part of such an amazing national organization that recognizes the empowering benefits of rewarding and honoring the women you are about to meet. This year's honorees have accomplished incredible achievements and deserve this day of recognition. It's about them and for them!

A big THANK YOU to our wonderful sponsors, without whom this event could not be possible; They are listed in the program and some of our sponsors will be presenting the awards today. I encourage you to get to know them and support their businesses.

An event of this magnitude takes many hours, hard work and lots of helping hands. Thank you to all those who have worked so hard on this BRAVO Awards ceremony and luncheon. A special thank you to Elaine Hollifield, our BRAVO Chair, who has coordinated this wonderful afternoon for you and has worked numerous hours to make it special and memorable for everyone.

Now, I invite you to sit back and enjoy your afternoon!

Sincerely,

Brenda Terzian
President, NAWBO Ventura County
Doug Terzian Construction, Inc.





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

March 31, 2017

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 18th Annual BRAVO Awards for the Ventura County Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the 2017 BRAVO Award recipients. This year's BRAVO Awards recognize ten remarkable women for their exceptional contributions to creating a positive future for women business owners, women-led business ventures, and our community as a whole.

I want to thank the Ventura Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) for being such a vital economic component of our region. Since its establishment in 1996, NAWBO Ventura County has worked to develop and strengthen the entrepreneurial interests of women business owners in Ventura County.

Again, congratulations to the BRAVO Award recipients! I wish you continued success in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Brownley".

JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0037
(916) 319-2037
FAX (916) 319-2137



March 31, 2017

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the National Association of Women Business Owners of Ventura County on your Annual BRAVO Awards! Your work supporting women in business strengthens the rest of the business community of Ventura County, and the community at large.

I am honored to join you in celebrating the successful business and community leadership of these ten wonderful honorees. The tenacity and perseverance of the women we are recognizing is an example for our next generation of entrepreneurs. They have shown incredible creativity and initiative that inspires me and others in many ways. These women continue to show the younger generation that by coming together and pushing the boundaries there is an incredible amount that can be accomplished.

I look forward to many more years of the BRAVO Awards in Ventura County, and to working together to support our small business community. Again, congratulations to NAWBO for another successful event and to this year's honorees for your work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monique Limón".

MONIQUE LIMÓN
Assemblymember, 37th District

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. B OX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0044
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DISTRICT OFFICE
2301 E. DAILY STREET
SUITE 200
CAMARILLO, CA 93010
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AND THE ECONOMY

March 31, 2017

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the National Association of Women Business Owners of Ventura County (NAWBO-VC) for its 18th Annual Bravo Awards, which continue to shine the spotlight on outstanding businesses and the women who own them.

California, presently the 6th largest economy in the world, ranks No. 1 in the number of woman-owned firms, number of employees, and in revenues generated annually. Small businesses are the single largest source of job creation in the country and since the recession women owned businesses have set the pace for business starts. Women-owned businesses now comprise 38% of the business population.

NAWBO recognizes that investing in women creates lasting change. Its commitment to promoting education and economic, social, and political growth of women and businesses is what makes them such an astounding organization.

I commend and applaud NAWBO-VC for the tireless dedication and leadership you've demonstrated in Ventura County. I am proud to pay tribute to this year's awardees, women who are creating a brighter future in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacquie V. Irwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JACQUI IRWIN
Assemblymember, 44th District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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LINDA PARKS
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
(805) 214-2510
FAX: (805) 480-0585
E-mail: Linda.Parks@ventura.org

March 31, 2017

NAWBO of Ventura County
143 Truinfo Canyon, Ste 101
Westlake Village, CA 91361

Dear Members of NAWBO of Ventura County,

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, please accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 18th Annual Bravo Awards celebrating the outstanding women in business and leadership in Ventura County.

It is my privilege to congratulate this year's distinguished honorees of the 2017 Bravo Awards: County Supervisor Kathy Long, Heidi Whitcomb, Marta Alvarez, Angela Rosales, Shanté Morgan-Durisseau, Tobi Jo Greene, Barbara Hinton, Tracie Karasik, and Fern Perusse-Filzen.

These remarkable women honored by NAWBO of Ventura County truly exemplify the vision, intellect and perseverance that enriches our communities and strengthens our nation.

Congratulations,

Linda Parks
Supervisor, 2nd District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF VENTURA

980 Enchanted Way, Suite 203
Simi Valley, California 93065

March 31, 2017

SUPERVISOR PETER C. FOY
FOURTH DISTRICT
(805) 955-2300
(805) 578-1822
INTERNAL MAIL: L#5910
Supervisor.Foy@ventura.org

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
STEVE BENNETT
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Brenda Terzian, President
NAWBO, Ventura County
355 N. Lantana St. #449
Camarillo, CA 93010

Dear Ms. Terzian:

I am pleased to join the Ventura County Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) in congratulating the 2017 "Bravo Award" Winners! This year's award winners embody your very mission of promoting economic development with the entrepreneurial community to transforming public policy and influencing opinion makers.

Since your chapter was established in 1996, membership has grown steadily from the west end of the county in Ventura and Oxnard to the east end of the county in Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. Your members have taken an active role in providing activities to women who want to want to build, improve and succeed in the business world while helping others to do the same. Over the years you have held countless dinner meetings and workshops featuring instructive speakers and even hosted a state-wide public policy forum to take an active role in supporting favorable business legislation. All of this work has greatly contributed to the professional growth and success of their individual businesses.

Once again, I salute this year's winners along with the 17 previous years of "Bravo Award" recipients. Collectively you have put your indelible stamp on this county and contributed to the overall business success of this region.

Sincerely,

PETER C. FOY
Supervisor, 4th District

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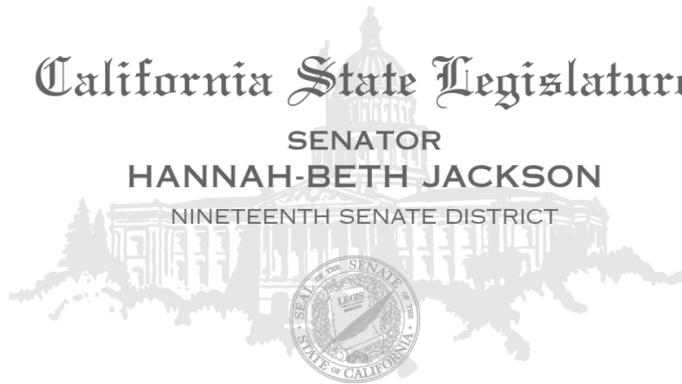
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OFFICE
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SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
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FAX 805-965-0701

VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE
300 E. ESPLANADE DRIVE
SUITE 430
OXNARD, CA 93036
TEL 805-988-1940
FAX 805-988-1945

California State Legislature

SENATOR
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON

NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE
WOMEN'S CAUCUS
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& WATER
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARTS

March 31, 2017

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 18th Annual Bravo Awards Luncheon.

Congratulations to the ten extraordinary 2017 award recipients! Your achievements and dedication as local leaders in business are an inspiration and a source of empowerment for all of us. As last year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, I value this significant recognition and am proud to be able to celebrate this accomplishment with you.

Having authored and passed legislation such as the California Fair Pay Act, the strongest equal pay law in the nation, and SCR 62, the first-in-the-nation resolution calling for more women on corporate boards, I know how important it is that we recognize and encourage the success of women in business.

As past Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus, I would also like to thank you for your commitment and leadership to the business community and congratulate the National Association of Women Business Owners – Ventura County on another successful year.

With admiration and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Hannah-Beth Jackson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
Senator, 19th District

HBJ: pq

Achieving great things for our community



When one person comes along with the courage and vision to turn dreams into reality, the future looks bigger and brighter for everyone.

BRAVO Award Recipients, we celebrate your achievements.

wellsfargo.com

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Together we'll go far



TODAY'S MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES



Mimi Donaldson

MIMISPEAKS!

SPEAKER, SPEECH COACH, & AUTHOR

Mimi is a superstar in the speaking business, keynoting for audiences of thousands. Her combination of sophisticated humor and solid content makes her one of America's most popular funny females. Mimi has created speeches and "found the funny" for executives, celebrities, and entrepreneurs. Before starting her speaking and coaching business, she was a Human Resources Specialist with Walt Disney, Northrop Aircraft, and Rockwell International.

Mimi has authored 4 books: *Negotiating For Dummies*; *Bless Your Stress! It Means You're Still Alive*; *Necessary Roughness: New Rules for the Contact Sport of Life*; *Pitch Perfect: Speak to Grow Your Business in 7 Simple Steps*.

Mimi has also been an active member of NAWBO since 1985!



CONNECT. CREATE. CELEBRATE.

Join us today at BRAVO. Get a \$25 Discount and Free Dinner Meeting.

Connect with other women business owners who are members of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) of Ventura County, and see how we truly value relationships. It's a philosophy that encourages members to support, motivate, and educate each other, no matter the industry or size of business.

Create your next business success that not only benefits you but will also inspire others to get to the next level and beyond.

Celebrate with your fellow NAWBO members when you achieve a goal or business success, whether it's large or small. You'll find plenty of congratulations!

Join us today! Visit the Membership Table and sign up. Get \$25 off and receive a free NAWBO-VC Dinner meeting at a value of \$45. We look forward to meeting you and sharing all the benefits of a NAWBO membership.

Membership@nawbovc.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Susan Solovic

THE SMALL BUSINESS EXPERT

A woman of many talents, Susan Wilson Solovic is an award-winning serial entrepreneur, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Amazon.com* top 100 and *USA Today* bestselling author, media personality, sought-after keynote speaker, and attorney.

An Internet pioneer, Solovic was the CEO and co-founder of one of the first video-based Internet sites, a company she grew from its infancy to a million dollar plus entity. In 2006, she accepted the Stevie Award (the Oscar's of business) on behalf of the company for the Most Innovative Company under 100 employees; that same year the company was voted the Best Investment Opportunity at a Venture Forum in the Silicon Valley.

As a media personality, Solovic is a former small business contributor for ABC News and hosted a syndicated radio program, *It's Your Biz*.

She appears regularly as a small business expert on *Fox Business*, *Fox News*, *The Wall Street Journal's "Lunch Break"*, MSNBC, CNN, CNBC and many other stations across the country. She hosted her own PBS special called *Reinvent Yourself Now: Become Self-Reliant in an Unpredictable World*. Solovic is a featured blogger on numerous sites, including Entrepreneur, AT&T Business Circle, FoxBusiness.com, MasterCard, Intuit, The Pulse of IT (HP) and Samsung. She has written four bestselling books, which have been translated into multiple languages.

Among her long list of honors, Solovic was recently named in the Top 10 of both SAP's "Top 51 Potential Human Influencers" and consistently ranks in the top 5 of the "Top 100 Small Business Experts to Follow on Twitter". She serves on the Small Business & Entrepreneurship (SBE) Council, and was honored with the Institute for Women's Entrepreneurship Leader of Distinction Award. Solovic has served on the National Women's Business Council, which counsels the President, Congress, and the SBA on issues affecting women business owners, and is a past board member of the Women's Leadership Board at Harvard University, the Women Presidents' Organization, Women Impacting Public Policy and the Institute for the Economic Development of Women.



THE One Percent Edge: The Key to Remaining Relevant in Today's Changing Market.

"Every organization must be prepared to abandon everything it does to survive the future." – Peter Drucker.

Only 71 of the original Fortune 500 companies remain today. Why? They failed to adapt to a changing market place so they became irrelevant. The business world is changing rapidly. Customer demands, technologies and competition puts businesses of all sizes at risk of becoming extinct. High performing companies are the ones who build innovation into their DNA. THE One Percent Edge is a disciplined process, which will transform not only your product offering, but your entire business operations. It requires business leaders to ask the tough questions with an open mind in order to identify and explore new strategies and opportunities. It's not a one-time exercise, it's a completely new way of doing business. Susan Solovic will show you how to embrace the process so you can stop struggling and soar to success.

A SPECIAL EVENING FOR OUR BRAVO HONOREES!



NAWBO President, Brenda Terzian (left), BRAVO Chair Elaine Hollifield (right) congratulate 2017 BRAVO Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Kathy Long (center).



Woman Business Owner of the Year, Heidi Whitcomb (left) with Stephanie Becerra, Sal Sandoval, and Marni Brook, representing the Corporate Leader of the Year, Montecito Bank & Trust.

On February 28th, our Board hosted an exclusive members-only VIP Reception at The Tower Club in Oxnard. This special evening honored this year's BRAVO awardees and allowed our membership to thank our Corporate Partners and Sponsors for their ongoing support of women in business. Congratulations again, to the NAWBO-VC BRAVO Class of 2017!



2017 BRAVO Award Winners. Back row left to right: Shanté Morgan-Durisseau, Fern Perusse-Filzen, Tobi Jo Greene, Marta Alvarez; Sal Sandoval and Marni Brook from Montecito Bank, Barbara Hinton, Kathy Long, Heidi Whitcomb. Front row left to right: Stephanie Becerra from Montecito; Angela Rosales.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HONOREES

NAWBO VC MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Fern Perusse-Filzen, FPF Coaching

YOUNG WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Tracie Karasik, TLKmultimedia

ARTS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Barbara Hinton, Ventura County Art Events

RISING STAR OF THE YEAR

Angela Rosales, Very Ventura Gift Shop & Gallery

EDUCATION ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Tobi Jo Greene, The Girls Empowerment Workshop

INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

Marta Alvarez, YCE, Inc.

COMMUNITY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Shanté Morgan-Durisseau, Morgan Communications

CORPORATE LEADER OF THE YEAR

Montecito Bank & Trust

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Kathy Long, Supervisor 3rd District County of Ventura 1997 - 2017

WOMAN BUSINESS OWNER OF THE YEAR

Heidi Whitcomb, Ventural Rental Party Center

NAWBO-VC MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Fern Perusse-Filzen

CPC, PCC, FLMI

OWNER, FPF COACHING

Fern Perusse-Filzen is a Certified Professional Coach specializing in organizational change, transition and leadership. Working with companies large to small, Fern helps owners, management teams and front line employees effectively and successfully navigate through company change and transition.

For 35 years Fern has built a career in management, mostly in the insurance and health care industries, where she has earned several designations including being a Fellow at Life Management Institute (FLMI). Fern also holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Environmental/Occupational Health, is an Energy Leadership Index Master Practitioner and a COR.E Leadership Dynamics Specialist.



As the founder of FPF Coaching, Fern provides her clients with a broad spectrum of experience, from companywide strategic planning to staff leadership and goal development to quality assurance and compliance. "I always say, 'Process plus People equals Prosper.' I truly believe that if you invest in your employees your business will thrive," states Fern.

The NAWBO Ventura County chapter has most certainly thrived from Fern's leadership and coaching experience. As a dedicated NAWBO member, mentor and leader, Fern has contributed her talents to the Programs committee, has served as the Stage Manager at last year's BRAVO awards luncheon, and is this year's Membership Director. In her latest role, Fern ensures that all new and renewing members feel welcomed and heard. In her typical, can-do style, Fern even implemented "Your Stories," a new feature of the chapter's monthly newsletter where members are invited to share their stories of how they are successfully working with and supporting other member businesses. It's been wildly successful!

Based in Santa Paula, California, with her husband, Jerry, Fern gets her energy from worldwide travel and continuous learning, and is often found volunteering her time mentoring the next batch of emerging leaders.



A word from last year's honoree - Maura Raffensperger, YourChiefSimplicityOfficer.com

BRAVO to you, Fern, for your commitment to NAWBO-VC! Your contributions have made this chapter and board stronger. This award as NAWBO-VC Member of the Year is just a small measure of our gratitude.

YOUNG WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR



Tracie Karasik

PRESIDENT

TLKMULTIMEDIA

Tracie Karasik is President of TLKmultimedia, a creative multimedia company founded in 2012, specializing in Apple Product Training and Consulting, Video Production and Editing, Photography, and Motion Graphic services. Tracie and her team produce high quality, personalized, and dependable products and services, which demonstrate her company's tagline, "Where Life and Media Meet". As Tracie says, "It's technology that enhances everyday lives by capturing and preserving life's most precious moments through video and photography."

Growing up, Tracie always had an interest in film, which also developed into an interest in photography. When Tracie's parents purchased their first Apple computer, her world was forever

changed because she became fascinated with being creative using technology. In college, Tracie increased her knowledge by working at an Apple Store, which led to a passion for teaching people how to take advantage of technology.

After graduation, Tracie worked in multimedia departments in the film industry, and realized she had a drive for entrepreneurship. At the age of 24, she founded TLKmultimedia, which has been growing ever since. In addition to running a successful business, Tracie is an active member of the Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce and Synergy and Emerging Leaders. She also serves on the Board of Westlake High School Innovative Technology (WIT) Academy Advisory Committee, advising, and collaborating with Academy teachers on curriculum, certification, industry trends, and employment opportunities.

Tracie holds an A.A. degree from Moorpark College in Film and Cinema Studies; and a B.A. degree in Cinema and Television Arts and Multimedia Production from California State University, Northridge.



A word from last year's honoree - Allie Anderson, Shop Allie Anderson & Presh Events

Congratulations Tracie! You are an inspiration to all of the young women out there. Keep up the phenomenal work!

ARTS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Barbara Hinton

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

VENTURA COUNTY ART EVENTS

Barbara graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1983 and received her California Teaching credential in 1987. She taught high school English for ten years. After she ended her teaching career, she worked in sales. Four of those years were spent in the staffing industry.

After leaving staffing, she went to work for one of her former clients. When that company downsized, Barbara obtained a position at another former client's family insurance company. In 2008, she began working for part time for RH Wealth Advisors, where she is an office assistant and handles special events for the firm.

It was also in 2008 that Hinton decided that she wanted to start an art festival in Ventura. Since she was volunteering for the Ventura Chamber of Commerce at the time and they were talking about starting a new event, she presented the idea to the leadership at the Chamber. The Ventura Art Festival was launched in 2009 as a fundraiser for the Chamber.

At the end of 2012, the new Chamber leadership decided they no longer wanted to support the festival, so she decided to manage it herself. Today, this popular annual festival, now known as the Ventura Art & Street Painting Festival, hosts artists and street painters at the Ventura Harbor venue and raises funds for local non-profit organizations.

Barbara was named the Ventura Chamber's Volunteer of the Year in 2009. In 2011, she co-founded a local book club, and for the last five years has volunteered for local animal rescue groups.

Hinton lives in Ventura with her husband and their five cats. She is a part time artist, with an emphasis on fiber arts. She enjoys socializing with friends, traveling, practicing yoga and wine tasting.



A word from Brenda Terzian, President - NAWBO Ventura County

Art Advocate of the year is a new category for BRAVO, and as the current NAWBO-VC President, I am honored to acknowledge you, Barbara, as an extraordinary advocate. You have made huge contributions in maintaining the importance and awareness of arts in our community. Thank you for your tireless efforts and wonderful dedication to the arts.

RISING STAR OF THE YEAR



Angela Rosales

OWNER

VERY VENTURA GIFT SHOP & GALLERY

Inspired by the pride and passion of living in Ventura, Angela Rosales opened Very Ventura Gift Shop & Gallery in 2013 in a tiny (less than 300 sq. ft.) space off-the-beaten-path in downtown Ventura. Today the gift shop is located right in the heart of the thriving historic downtown district in a 2200 sq. ft. space. Angela now runs the store full time and employs two sales clerks.

Very Ventura Gift Shop & Gallery is a major asset for the local community, embodying the spirit of Ventura and growing the local economy. The business celebrates the city by offering a blend of fine art, upscale souvenirs, and carefully curated products designed by local artisans.

Last year Angela was the recipient of the Downtown Ventura "Juni" Award, honoring her as Volunteer Merchant of the Year.

Her commitment to the art community also led her to reach out to fellow merchants to implement a fun, new event called "Arts & Eats." Happening six times per year, this is a night where the community can come together for one night to enjoy fine-art, music and tasty-bites at galleries, shops and restaurants.

Angela holds a bachelor's degree in English and gained her operational skills through her career in Human Resources. She credits her work ethic to her father, love of learning to her mother and zest of life to her sisters. Born from parents still in their teens, there wasn't a lot of money growing up but her parents did what they could to ready their daughters for life. When Angela turned 13, her big sister Anita was diagnosed with Leukemia. Angela often spent weekends in the hospital tending to her ill sister so her parents could go home. Then she would trade off during the week to go to school, handle chores and help raise her little sister. Anita lost her life. But the lessons she gave Angela about living motivates her every day.

On the days when business or financial concerns overwhelm Angela, she recalls her sister's struggle and she gets up and moves forward. Her dream is to grow her company so that she cannot only make a good living for the basic things, but so she can travel and meaningfully give back to the community she loves so much.



A word from last year's honoree - Adriana Perez, Skincare by Adriana

Congratulations on this wonderful achievement, Angela! I've had the pleasure of seeing your business grow over the last few years, and I know it will continue to be successful. Be proud of yourself, and please know that everyone at NAWBO is here to support you in any way that we can.

EDUCATION ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Tobi Jo Greene

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

THE GIRLS EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP

Tobi's work experience over the past 20 years has been related to the empowerment of individuals of all ages, including the development and implementation of environmental education programs, Facilitating Personal Empowerment and Team Building Ropes Courses, Sexual Health Education, Sexual Assault Awareness Education, Self Defense Instruction, Rape Crisis Counseling, Advocating for victims of sexual assault, as well as various team coaching positions.

The Girls Empowerment Workshop was developed from a combination of Tobi's passion, experience and desire to empower young people with information, a deep self worth and a voice to go along with it. Tobi has a son and a daughter who have both been participants in this program for several years.

Tobi holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation Administration with a concentration in Environmental Education. She also owns Bobbi's Mexican Food, with her husband Mike, in Camarillo.



A word from last year's honoree - Dianne McKay, Mustang Marketing

My heartfelt congratulations to Tobi Jo Greene for receiving the Education Advocate of the Year. I was so honored to receive this Bravo recognition last year. Educating girls during this fragile time of their lives is a tremendous gift to them and our community. I'm certain that many lives are being changed for the better by empowering girls to be themselves, and by helping them not feel any limitations on what they can do. Tobi, keep up the magnificent work.

INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR



Marta Alvarez

PE/PLS/MASCE

FOUNDER, YCE, INC.

In 1986, Marta Alvarez, PE/PLS/MASCE founded YEMMA Consulting Engineers (YCE, Inc.), a boutique Ventura, California-based company that provides land surveying and civil engineering services to agri-business farmers, large site developers, environmental developers, residential property owners, architects and more. YEMMA represents the first letters of her immediate family's names plus their last name. Marta manages and leads planning and design for projects such as large scale public works improvements; designs for a storm drainage project, and hillside erosion measures on a growing farm.

Fulfilling a childhood dream, Marta followed in her father's footsteps and became an engineer. At the age of 9, Marta emigrated

with her family emigrated from Chile to the United States overcoming many obstacles to begin a new life in America. In 1984, Marta received her Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree from California State University, Northridge (CSUN), and later returned to earn a Master in Business Administration (MBA).

Marta has been honored with numerous awards and honors, which recently includes the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) "2016 Engineer of the Year" award, and a national winner in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) "Dream Big" contest for her submission, "What Civil Engineering Means to Me." After her appointment as the 2016-17 California Women for Agriculture (CWA) State Board Endangered Species Director, she was awarded a CWA scholarship to attend the American Agri-Women (AAW) Legislative Fly-in hosted in Washington D.C.

In the community, Marta serves on the Executive Boards of the CWA, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the California Land Surveyors Association (CLSA), and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), to name a few. She also awards two scholarships to local women students pursuing degrees in engineering or agriculture. "I want to show young women that engineering and agriculture are viable career paths with many opportunities," says Marta.



A word from last year's honoree - Andrea Gallagher, CSA, President Senior Concerns

Congratulations, Marta on receiving the NAWBO Innovator of the Year Award. Your dedication, passion, and expertise in the engineering field are truly inspiring. Please accept my congratulations on this wonderful recognition of your many accomplishments.

COMMUNITY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Shanté Morgan-Durisseau

EDUCATOR, CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS

OWNER, MORGAN COMMUNICATIONS

For Shanté Morgan-Durisseau, all roads lead to effective communication across all cultural and gender lines. That's why she has spent nearly 30 years either as a writer, editor or educator—creating opportunities to share information.

She is currently faculty at California State University, Channel Islands teaching communication and critical thinking, and has worked as managing editor of digital publications at California State University, Northridge. Before joining academe, she worked as a journalist, reporting on issues ranging from Hollywood typecasting to urban sprawl. Shanté is also the founder/owner of Morgan Communications, and a former editor of Turning Point magazine; and reported for publications including *Copley News Service*, the *Daily News* and the *Pasadena Star-News*.



In 2016, Gov. Jerry Brown appointed Shanté as the first African-American member of the 31st District Agricultural Association, Ventura County Fair Board of Directors. She is the first African-American to chair the Ventura County Commission for Women. She served as co-chair for the study on the Status of Women and Girls, the first comprehensive examination of this constituency in the county.

In addition to serving on the Ventura County Women's Economic Roundtable, Shanté is president of the CSUN Black Alumni Association, and past president of the Ventura County Alumnae Chapter. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the largest African-American sorority in the nation; the Simi Valley AAUW; and Ventura County NAACP; and Women's Political Council. Recently, she co-founded the Concerned Parents of Black Children of Moorpark to address issues of bias and micro aggressions. Shanté holds a B.A. degree in Journalism and Afro-American Studies from California State University, Northridge (CSUN), and a Master's degree from the USC Annenberg School of Journalism.



A word from last year's honoree - Lisa Rule, Acorn Newspapers & Beyond the Acorn Magazine

Bravo, Shanté! You are no stranger to awards for your selfless service to our county and are an inspiration. You are so deserving of the NAWBO 2017 Community Advocate of the Year award. Keep up your wonderful contributions for all of us.

CORPORATE LEADER OF THE YEAR



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For over 40 years, Montecito Bank & Trust has remained dedicated to our founding mission – to make the communities we serve better places to live and work. As a locally grown business ourselves, we believe in the importance of investing in our communities in meaningful ways – from the loans we make to individuals, families and businesses of all sizes, to our investments in technology and our ongoing volunteerism, financial outreach programs and nonprofit support. Our communities are special places and our approach to serving their needs is just as unique. We work hard each and every day to deliver that experience and to fulfill our mission, by providing friendly and personalized service and creating financial solutions tailored to each individual, business or nonprofit organization’s needs. As a result of this unwavering

commitment, we are proud to have become the largest and oldest locally-owned community bank on the Central Coast.

Montecito Bank & Trust is proud to support NAWBO Ventura County and is honored to be named Corporate Leader of the Year. As a company that is guided by the leadership of a number of strong, influential women, we are firm believers in creating opportunities for women entrepreneurs on the Central Coast and beyond.



A word from Elaine Hollifield, 2017 BRAVO Awards Chair

Congratulations to Montecito Bank & Trust for being honored with our Corporate Leader of the Year award! It’s meant to recognize your enduring commitment to supporting the strength and vitality of our communities that include nonprofit organizations such as NAWBO-VC. Your monetary contributions and the generous contributions from your Associates of personal time and talents are greatly valued and appreciated. Thank you!

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Kathy Long

SUPERVISOR 3RD DISTRICT

COUNTY OF VENTURA 1997-2017

Kathy and Randy Long moved to Ventura County in 1988 to start their new pest control and carpet care businesses. Kathy worked with her husband to get it up and running the first three years, before she re-entered government service, working for former Supervisor Maggie Erickson Kildee. Kathy considers those start-up years gave her deep appreciation for the many challenges faced by small business owners.

As Supervisor, Kathy was widely recognized for her two decades of collaborative and effective public policy accomplishments on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. A leader in creating opportunities for economic vitality, Kathy served on the Executive Board of the Economic Development Collaborative – Ventura County. She worked to enhance the unique military value of Navy Base Ventura County as Co-Chair of the Regional Defense Partnership for the 21st Century, and helped establish the Women’s Economic Roundtable. She is still a supporter and active member of several community organizations including the Rotary Club of Camarillo, Camarillo Boys & Girls Club, and the Health Care Foundation for Ventura County.



A word from Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, California State Senator State District 19

Thank you, Kathy, for more than 20 years of leadership and dedication to our community. Your public service accomplishments will have a long lasting positive impact in Ventura County. Your tireless work striving for economic stability, environmental justice, quality and cost effective healthcare will remain a legacy. Your passionate commitment to strengthening the lives of children and their families remains an inspiration to all.

WOMAN BUSINESS OWNER OF THE YEAR



Heidi Whitcomb

OWNER/PRESIDENT

VENTURA RENTAL PARTY CENTER

Heidi Whitcomb is a second-generation owner of Ventura Rental Party Center Inc. who has been at the helm of the business since the mid 1980's. For over 30 years, Her breadth of knowledge from an event rental perspective is immense having designed and coordinated thousands of events from intimate family gatherings to corporate events with 8,000 guests in attendance. A firm believer in community involvement, Heidi and her team orchestrate multiple event projects on a monthly basis including *Ojai Music Festival*, *Community Memorial Health Systems events*, *Casa Pacifica Food & Wine Festival* along with various other non-profit, corporate and private events.

Heidi has also been recognized with awards such as the National Association of Catering Executives *Event Professional of the Year*, and *Inspirational Member of the Year*. In 2013, she captured the coveted President's Award, a national award bestowed upon selfless leaders, and awarded to only one outstanding member each year. Heidi has also obtained the Certified Event Rental Professional (CERP) designation from the American Rental Association, and was a featured panelist on multiple occasions for the National Rental Show, hosted by the American Rental Association.

Heidi currently sits on both the Community Memorial Healthcare Foundation Board & Casa Pacifica Board serving as chairwoman for the Programs and Oversight Committee. She is known for recognizing the plight of children in need, and helping them have a voice. She also volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, and is currently mentoring mothers trying to reunite with their children through her work with The City Center in Ventura.

Heidi and her husband Mike have been happily married for 33 years and reside in Somis, CA.



A word from last year's honoree - Nellie Akalp, CorpNet.com

Sending huge congratulations to Heidi Whitcomb as the 2017 Women Business Owner of the Year winner! As last year's recipient I know what an honor it is to receive this award! Starting a business and building it to a success is no easy feat but we're here to show that it can be done and women shouldn't let anything stop them from going after their business dreams!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BRAVO TEAM

This event couldn't have happened without the dedicated support and many hours of hard work, and caring from our BRAVO Committee and BRAVO supporters, friends, and family. Great gratitude goes to:

- Generous sponsors for their support: *Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Montecito Bank & Trust, Myers, Widders, Gibson, Jones and Feingold, LLP, Pacific Coast Business Times, UBS Financial Services, Wells Fargo Bank*
- PR Chair *Allie Anderson* for her tireless efforts despite having to move to another city. She contacted people, followed through on articles and got coverage
- Thank you to Media sponsors for their support: *The Acorn Newspaper; Pacific Coast Business Times; Kim Pagano, "The Kim Pagano Show", KVTA 1590; Karen Campbell "Girls On the Air" KVTA 1590; KBBY 95.1*
- *Kim Pagano, The Kim Pagano Show*, - a special "thank you" for helping with our speaker search and being a great BRAVO cheerleader
- Silent Auction Committee spearheaded by *Brenda Terzian* and wonderful work by *Jennifer Cooper Finnerty*; and a big thank you to *all who donated auction items*
- *Elena Trevino* for creating the fantastic BRAVO graphic design; *Michelle and her team at Shell's Petals Florist* for the beautiful centerpieces
- BRAVO Nominating Committee: *Brenda Terzian; Doris Muna; Diane de Mailly; Maura Raffensperger; Shantha Mony*. Also thanks to Maura for keeping us on track for our Program submissions
- *Mary Squire of River Park Executive Suites* for letting the BRAVO Committee and Board of Directors meet in her beautiful offices
- Registration Committee for their efficiency and attention to detail: *Doris Muna; Evelina Ochoa; Sue Osborn; Cinda Roffman; Shantha Mony; Maura Raffensperger*
- Membership Committee for their work in assisting the new membership drive today: *Fern Perusse-Filzen; Jennifer Cooper Finnerty; Neil Palache; and Gloria Miele*
- Corporate Partners Committee – *Shantha Mony; Cinda Roffman; Larene Ring*
- *Rose-Marie Robinson* for jumping in to assist with Stage Management
- *Dr. Janis Shinkawa* and *Jamie Gill* for keeping BRAVO on track with advice, Constant Contact emails, and helping with the A/V for today
- *Natalie Ruffing, Natalie Jean Photography* and *Sirens Media* for memorializing today's event in photos. An Extra Special Thank You to Natalie for her tireless contributions to designing the BRAVO print and online ads, and marketing materials. PLUS, she contributed her time and talents to putting together this awesome BRAVO Program
- *Serra Center* for the beautiful venue: *Meagan Scott* and *Kay Nielsen*, thank you for your assistance in planning and with the A/V presentation
- *Rick Garza, Spades Casino Events*, and his cameraman *Eric Foss* for directing and producing the Honoree Video with such talented dedication to telling the stories of our incredible honorees
- *Manuel Escobedo* and *Command Performance Catering team* for the delicious lunch
- *Joy Sakata* for her generous gift of truffle treats for all our attendees. She made them herself!
- *Sonia Cohen, Creative Marketing Ideas*; a Past NAWBO-VC President, who once again lent her expertise in making sure our BRAVO Awards were correctly produced
- Last, but not least, *Brenda Terzian*, our fearless President who was my co-creator in making this 18th BRAVO Awards the best ever! Also a big thank you goes to the Board of Directors who lent their support in many ways.

THANK YOU ALL!

Elaine Hollifield, Hollifield Creative
2017 BRAVO Chair/President-Elect, NAWBO Ventura County

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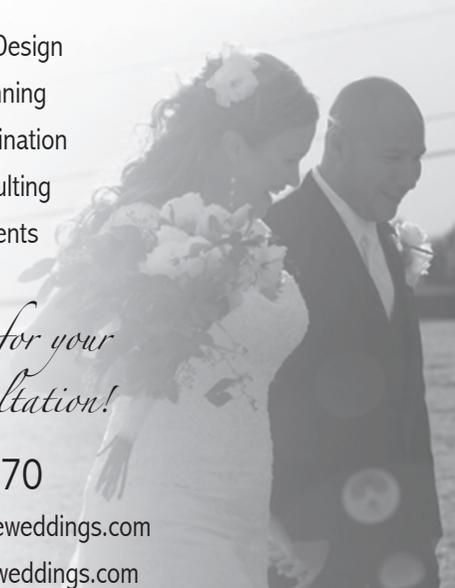
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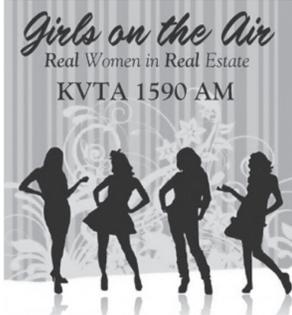
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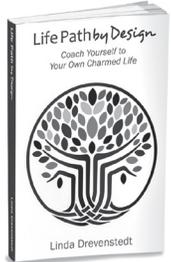
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TAKE NOTES AND NAMES!



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