Over 600 attendees were on hand for the Business Journal’s 14th annual Women in Business Awards luncheon held at the Sheraton Universal Hotel on April 14, 2015.
The San Fernando Valley Business Journal celebrated and honored the women of outstanding achievement in the Valley business community with the annual Women in Business Awards Reception and Luncheon event at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City on Tuesday, April 14th, 2015.

Described by attendees as an uplifting and inspirational event, the celebration honored Valley based women who have “led by example” and provided inspirational success stories for the Business Journal year round! These remarkable women were applauded for demonstrating effective business vision and a passionate commitment to positively impacting the world of business, the communities they serve or in many cases, both.

Hundreds of nominees were submitted to the San Fernando Valley Business Journal by readers this year. So the judges had the unenviable task of narrowing the field down to honorees in nine categories for this year’s big event.

Specifically categorized Awards of Recognition were presented to a group of women who have truly blazed a path of business excellence for all of us in the Valley and beyond.

It wasn’t easy to select just ten honorees for this year’s awards, so we have also taken the time to single out, for honorable mention, an incredible 121 additional nominees — superb examples of women who genuinely lead by example and are all winners in their own right. Each is profiled in these pages.

Many thanks are due to our Presenting Sponsors, California State University Northridge, Comerica Bank, Dignity Health Northridge Hospital Medical Center Bank and Wells Fargo and our Platinum Sponsors Bank of America, Chase, Habitat for Humanity, Merrill Lynch, Penny Lane and Travelers, as well as to our terrific collection of Gold Sponsors this year.

Congratulations to all the honorees and nominees!

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Associate Publisher
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Congratulations to all of the nominees and winners of the 2015 San Fernando Business Journal Women in Business Awards.

We are proud to have 12 CSUN alumnae included among these incredible women.
Business Owner of the Year
KATHERINE MCCUNE
President & Owner
McCune Masterworks and McCune Design

Katherine McCune is the owner and CEO of McCune Masterworks and McCune Design in Van Nuys. An experienced entrepreneur of 30 years, she managed her own private practice as a Medical Nutrition Therapist and Registered Dietitian, as well as treated patients for nutrition and eating disorders at various educational centers from local San Fernando Valley elementary schools to Pepperdine. She has always maintained a strong dedication to mentor young people and guide them both in diet and nutrition, as well as helping them embark upon new careers, especially budding artists that may hone their skills at one of her current Van Nuys businesses.

In 2010, McCune acquired the Academy Award winning miniature special effects business McCune Design after the passing of her husband, Grant McCune, a celebrated pioneer of the miniature special effects industry known for among other artistic triumphs, models used in the original Star Wars Film, Star Trek, The Motion Picture and many other contributions to an astounding number of the most memorable scenes in film history.

Despite moving from one industry to another when Katherine McCune took over the business in 2010, she successfully pulled the company out of debt for several years running, and acquired a passion to share the McCune creative legacy beyond the special effects industry. Fascinated herself with the distinctive creative and technical wizardry of McCune Design’s talent, she boldly and successfully redirected and rejuvenated the company in a way Grant would never have imagined.

With a love for the finer things, and a great appreciation for the eclectic and handcrafted work the company was known for, Katherine refocused their prestigious work for discerning private collectors and launched McCune Masterworks in 2014. The new company specializes in limited edition automata gifts, bespoke functional art, custom home furnishings and historical replicas.
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Based on commercial and industrial loans as a percentage of total assets. Data provided by Thomson Reuters Bank Insight, June 2013. **Comerica’s Associates is a leading worldwide strategic consulting and research firm specializing in financial services. For Middle Market, the Greenwich Awards are based on nearly 14,000 market research interviews with U.S. companies with sales revenues of $10 million-$500 million, and benchmarks were recognized by their customers as providing superior quality of products, service and coverage. Of more than 750 U.S. banks evaluated, Comerica ranked within the top 5 percent of banks with “distinctive quality” and “performing at a differentiated level relative to peers.” For Small Business, the Greenwich Awards are based on more than 17,000 market research interviews with U.S. companies with annual revenues of $1 million-$50 million, and benchmarks were recognized by their customers as providing superior quality of products, service and coverage. Of more than 750 U.S. banks evaluated, Comerica ranked within the top 6 percent of small business banks with “distinctive quality” and “performing at a differentiated level relative to peers.”
In 2012, Travelers launched the Small Business Risk Education program (SBRE) in the San Fernando Valley area. SBRE is an initiative that provides insurance literacy and safety risk management education to minority- and women-owned small businesses. The program includes workshops, one-on-one assistance focused on risk management and business continuity planning, and microloans.

As one of the nation’s largest insurers of small businesses, Travelers understands that small businesses create jobs, boost the economy and help to preserve the American Dream. A unique aspect of SBRE is its cross-functional collaboration among Travelers employees from community relations, small commercial insurance, risk control, marketing, research and public policy. The SBRE team, comprised of women who are subject-area experts, has developed a unique risk management program that includes hands-on, one-on-one, consultations and access to technology tools that help small businesses succeed.

A critical component of the SBRE program is its partnerships with community-based organizations that provide small businesses with training and financial assistance. In the San Fernando Valley area, Travelers joined forces with Valley Economic Development Center (VEDC), the largest non-profit small business lender in California, to leverage their unique expertise in helping female and minority-owned small businesses. Since the partnership was established in 2012, Travelers has granted VEDC with nearly $750,000 to coordinate the workshops and to fully administer the microloans granted to some business owners for capital investments.

While the initiative is large scale and requires a large group of dedicated individuals, at a variety of levels, the team is headed primarily by a group of diverse, dynamic women. The leadership team is comprised of women from both Travelers and VEDC, who come with executive-level responsibilities, many years of experience and a breadth of expertise. The leadership team is primarily responsible for setting the program’s direction, reporting key outcomes, and securing program resources.

The women in our families and offices are always “taking care of business”. Their health is vital to the health of our businesses and families. Protecting their health protects yours.

Support Valley Community Healthcare and help ensure that all women, regardless of income, can access the medical care they need.

Valley Community Healthcare, a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization providing services to needy men, women and children of the San Fernando Valley since 1970.
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Questions? Please contact Danielle DeLeon at (818) 884-8808
CEO of the Year
HILARY GENGA
Founder, CEO and Co-Owner
Trunkettes Swimwear

Hilary Genga is founder, CEO and co-owner of Trunkettes Swimwear. Founded in 2008, the line of swimwear is designed for women to feel confident and comfortable without sacrificing style. Based in Reseda, Trunkettes was the brainchild of Genga, a mom entrepreneur in search of a trendy bathing suit that provided more freedom and comfort than traditional swimwear.

Trunkettes first started out in Genga’s garage. Today, the office now includes an attached warehouse and the company has gone from selling a few suits on the Internet to being featured in major retailers and boutiques nationwide.

As CEO, Genga oversees all day-to-day operations of the company, including sales, marketing, customer relations and management, in addition to keeping her creative hand in the design of her swimwear line. Genga and Trunkettes Swimwear have been featured on a broad array of high profile media, including The TODAY Show, The Talk, Entertainment Tonight, Extra, and US Weekly, among others.

Trunkettes Swimwear has also been included in the coveted Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition six times, beating out upwards of 10,000 submissions each time to make it in the ultimate placement for premiering the season’s new swimwear.

An impressive list of celebrities wearing Trunkettes have popularized the brand, including Carrie Underwood, Carmen Electra, Felicity Huffman, Kathy Lee Gifford, Perrey Reeves, Julie Bowen, Hannah Davis, Gretchen Rossi, and the women from The Talk.

In addition to speaking to kids at local schools about becoming entrepreneurs and supporting women in leadership roles, Genga volunteers and teaches an entrepreneur class in the community once a week where she helps create products that will hopefully go to market and support a scholarship fund. She also donates several boxes of swimsuits to a special needs school once a year where the kids wear Trunkettes suits year round, competing in Special Olympics.
Every day, small business owners across the country work hard to make their entrepreneurial visions a reality. For Zoey Van Jones of Zoey Van Jones Brow Studio,* that meant making sure her expansion plans worked as hard as she did. Helping business owners like Zoey is why we created Wells Fargo Works. It’s our commitment to small businesses everywhere. By delivering a wide range of products, resources, and guidance, we help businesses take the next step toward their goals. Welcome to Wells Fargo Works. Let’s make it work for you.

“It works for helping shape up my expansion plans.”

—Zoey Van Jones, Owner of Zoey Van Jones Brow Studio

*Wells Fargo awarded Zoey Van Jones $25,000 to help with her expansion plans.
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WOMEN IN BUSINESS 2015 HONOREES

Executive of the Year
ROSE ALINAYA
Vice President, Finance
MannKind Corporation

Rose Alinaya, who serves as Vice President of Finance for MannKind Corporation, joined the organization in June of 2003, prior to its IPO in July of 2004. She joined as the organization's first Corporate Controller, subsequently being promoted to Vice President, Finance reporting directly to MannKind's CFO, Matt Pfeffer.

Alinaya's day-to-day responsibilities include a vast number of roles as MannKind continues to focus on the discovery, development and commercialization of therapeutic products for diseases such as diabetes and cancer. Most recently, she and her team played an integral part in MannKind's lead investigational product, AFREZZA (an ultra rapid-acting inhalable insulin), receiving FDA approval in June of last year for the treatment of adults with type 1 or type 2 diabetes for the control of hyperglycemia. Last August, MannKind entered into a global licensing deal with French pharmaceutical giant, Sanofi for the commercialization of AFREZZA and in January of this year, AFREZZA hit the shelves in pharmacies nationwide.

Several of Alinaya's duties include key management roles in a broad array of areas of MannKind as a publicly traded entity, including: Accounting (General Ledger Management); Finance (Budgeting and Forecasting); Accounts Payable & Payroll; SEC Reporting & Investor Relations; SOX/Internal Controls; Treasury/Cash Management; Risk Management; Stock Compensation Administration; ERP/Cost Accounting; Corporate Governance (including Annual Stockholders Meeting, Proxy Statement, Stockholder Voting Tabulation); and Corporate Press Releases.

Despite her full plate of responsibilities at MannKind, Alinaya also makes time to remain very active in her local Kiwanis organization, a service organization to "Serve the Children of the World." She is also an active volunteer for the Make-a-Wish organization and is also very active at her child's school and her family's church, participating in charitable outreach programs year round. When asked about what drives her charitable efforts, Alinaya responds, "I always seek out opportunities to help youth as they are our future!"
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If you’re looking for a hospital where you’ll be treated with kindness and nationally recognized care, you don’t have to look far. At Dignity Health Northridge Hospital Medical Center, we’ve been named one of America’s 100 Best Hospitals in 2015 by Healthgrades®, a leading healthcare ratings organization – because caring for people with kindness means everyone wins. Learn more at NorthridgeHospital.org.

Hello humankindness®
Doreen Granpeesheh founded the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) a quarter-century ago to provide evidence-based autism treatment to a relatively small number of children affected by autism spectrum disorder (ASD). As autism prevalence has increased, demand for CARD’s services has grown, and Dr. Granpeesheh has expanded CARD to 37 locations in 19 states and multiple international sites.

Today, under Dr. Granpeesheh’s leadership, CARD has become one of the world’s largest providers of evidence-based treatment for individuals diagnosed with ASD, employing nearly 2,000 highly skilled professionals, including licensed psychologists, marriage and family therapists, Board Certified Behavior Analysts, doctoral-level researchers and clinicians, technology developers, behavioral therapists, and administrative personnel. Headquartered here in the San Fernando Valley, Dr. Granpeesheh and her employees have treated thousands of individuals affected by ASD, and she has gained a well-earned reputation as a leader distinguished by her expertise, experience, and integrity.

As a business owner, Dr. Granpeesheh has shepherded CARD through extraordinary growth in a field that had no blueprint for business development. Dr. Granpeesheh has differentiated herself and the services that CARD offers by anticipating, understanding, and meeting the needs of the autism treatment field. As the prevalence of autism increased, Dr. Granpeesheh worked diligently to ensure that the quality of treatment was never compromised. She implemented stringent training programs for CARD employees, developing a comprehensive assessment to identify the developmental gaps of the individuals with ASD, and leading research protocols to document and expand the effectiveness of autism treatment.

Dr. Granpeesheh’s unwavering commitment to providing evidence-based treatment is reflected in CARD’s comprehensive treatment curriculum, which produces successful outcomes for every child CARD treats. Her long and impressive career as an autism treatment provider has been shaped as much by her altruistic nature as her research background. Her success and generosity parallel and complement each other – making her a natural choice to receive this Lifetime Achievement Award.
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Newcomer of the Year
MARISA HAMAMOTO
President, Dancer, Instructor
Sexy Salsa Ballroom
Artistic Director
Infinite Flow – A Wheelchair Dance Company

Marisa Hamamoto, is a professional ballroom dancer, dance advocate, Founder and Instructor of Sexy Salsa Ballroom, and Founder and Artistic Director of Infinite Flow - A Wheelchair Dance Company. Hamamoto has been a professional ballroom dancer for five years. In 2006, she suffered spinal cord infarction, a severe neurological disease that left her paralyzed from the neck down. Bed-bound and unable to move her legs or arms, she was told by her doctor that she might never walk again.

A classical ballet and contemporary dancer since age 6, Hamamoto knew that she would dance again — even if it were from her wheelchair. Throughout her healing journey, Hamamoto was driven by her dream to be a professional dancer — providing her with the strength to fulfill her goal and share it with others, now her life’s mission. As a professional artist and dance advocate, she is passionate about promoting the magic of dance to all kinds of people.

From paralysis to professional ballroom dancer, today Hamamoto is proficient and performs professionally in all styles of ballroom - International Standard & Latin, American Smooth & Rhythm, as well as Salsa, Tango, and Swing. Once wheelchair bound, she understands firsthand that dance is a powerful, transformational, and rehabilitative medium, which everyone deserves to experience.

Her company, Sexy Salsa Ballroom, provides high quality dance instruction primarily in Sherman Oaks and the surrounding area, where she has instructed over 1200 LA County residents over the last three years in operation.

In addition to running Sexy Salsa Ballroom, Hamamoto recently founded Infinite Flow – A Wheelchair Dance Company in January of this year. The organization’s mission is to bring the power of dance and performance to individuals with physical challenges, promoting musicality, movement, rehabilitation, and social interaction through performance, workshops, events, media, and instruction.
Penny Lane Centers salutes all the honorees of the San Fernando Valley Business Journal 2015 Women in Business Awards. We are especially proud of our Founder, Ivelise Markovits, who has led Penny Lane in empowering children and families for over 45 years...

Since 1969, Penny Lane Centers has grown and evolved into one of the largest and most diverse social and behavioral service provider in Southern California. With offices in North Hills, Commerce, the Antelope Valley and North Hollywood/Burbank, Penny Lane Centers provides continuous and critical services to over 3,500 children and families each month.

Penny Lane aims to provide integrated services that help disadvantaged children and families achieve their highest levels of functioning, self-reliance and autonomy.

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- Vocational Education Program
- Wraparound
- Family Preservation
- Volunteer/Mentor Program

By donating, volunteering or sponsoring an internship program that could help our youth get experience or life skills you will be changing the lives of our children.

For more information about Penny Lane Centers or if you would like to make a donation, Contact Nydia Barakat at (818) 332-8260 or visit our website: www.pennylane.org
Nonprofit Leader of the Year
IVELEISE MARKOVITS
Founder and CEO
Penny Lane Centers

Upon graduating from high school in her native Puerto Rico, Ivelise Markovits and her family moved to Southern California. Though still a teenager, she had already developed a strong sense of justice and had developed a silent agenda for working against poverty in Puerto Rico. After graduating from college, she began her career as a placement officer for the Los Angeles County Probation Department. She was responsible for finding residential treatment facilities for female wards of the court. In a very short period of time, Markovits became frustrated and disillusioned with the near void of adequate treatment facilities available to girls, especially those who were more challenging than others.

Over the next few months, while still working for the Probation Department, Markovits began to pull together the pieces that would go into developing a strong residential treatment program for teen aged girls. She had come to realize her calling was not limited to poverty in Puerto Rico but also covered the salvaging of lives in her new home in Southern California. On December 15th, 1969, Penny Lane became a functioning reality.

Penny Lane started as a home for 25 troubled teenage girls, providing them with a safe haven to help them rebuild their lives. Today, Penny Lane is a nearly $55 million a year nonprofit organization that helps over 3500 vulnerable children, youth and their families throughout the San Fernando, Antelope and San Gabriel Valleys. Penny Lane programs include group homes, foster care and adoption, family preservation, transitional housing for emancipated youth, mental health, and wraparound.

Markovits has offered help and hope to countless abandoned, neglected and abused children since 1969. Her ability to envision services beyond the boundaries of basic needs has allowed Penny Lane to expand to serve not only teens, but also children of all ages, young adults, families in crisis and our community as a whole.

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C O N G R A T U L A T E S

The recipient of the San Fernando Valley Business Journal’s 2015 Women in Business Lifetime Achievement Award

Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD
Chief Executive Officer and Founder
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It’s more than a business. It’s your livelihood.

As one of the nation’s largest insurers of small businesses, Travelers advocates for economic opportunity – one business and one community at a time. In addition to developing customized initiatives to protect small businesses, we are committed to working toward public policy solutions for small business owners and helping them prepare for the unknown through education and leveraging our expertise in risk mitigation. Travelers has undertaken these efforts because the company understands that the health of small business is key to economic prosperity, competitiveness and the preservation of the American Opportunity.

Travelers is proud to support Women in Business.
Rising Star Award
SONIA OJEDA
Director of Respite Services
24Hr HomeCare

Sonia Ojeda is the Director of Respite Services of 24Hr HomeCare’s Oxnard Office, which works with the State Of California-Regional Centers to provide relief to the families of children and adults with developmental disabilities. As Director, her day-to-day responsibilities include planning the office’s annual budget and coordinating the billing and payroll process, facilitating the intake of new clients, and establishing key relationships with respite care professionals and developing and managing her staff of four, which in turn oversees over 400 Caregivers.

Ojeda began her career at 24Hr HomeCare five years ago, as a Human Resource Coordinator. In her three years in that position, she received countless company awards. As she grew professionally, the company’s founders tapped into her talent for leadership by selecting her to open the then-new office in Oxnard in 2013. Being the Oxnard Office’s first employee, Ojeda took on a varied set of responsibilities, selecting office space, hiring and training its staff, managing accounts, and beginning to build relationships with the area’s Regional Centers. In the last two years, she has grown the office from a staff of one serving 10 clients to a staff of four serving over 600.

In addition to leading the Oxnard office to become one of 24Hr HomeCare’s highest-grossing offices within this short period, Ojeda’s other business accomplishments include establishing and developing new relationships with key Regional Centers in the San Fernando Valley. Under her leadership, the Oxnard office has added additional types of care services to its original offerings. She is also the catalyst for many of the company’s current philanthropic initiatives. She organizes countless community events for seniors and developmentally disabled individuals each year, and is leading the company’s fundraising efforts for 2015’s Aut 2 Run for Autism in Camarillo, and the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles.
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Volunteer of the Year

LORRAINE ALDERETTE
Owner
RNY Construction & Specialties Inc.

Lorraine Alderette of RNY Construction has been a devoted volunteer of The Rescue Train for the last five years. The Rescue Train is a non-profit, no-kill organization dedicated to eliminating animal suffering and euthanasia through hands-on rescue work, dedication to spay/neuter, education and awareness. According to The Rescue Train, never in the organization’s history have they had a volunteer with the level of commitment, compassion, and unlimited dedication for the plight of homeless dogs, cats and horses as has been exhibited by Alderette.

She has been heavily involved in the fundraising, development and promotion of the organization’s signature annual fundraiser “Race for the Rescues,” which helps over 40 non-profit animal rescue organizations. Additionally, Alderette has secured key sponsors for the Race, which has been a major contribution to the event’s continued success.

Recently, Alderette volunteered at a Los Angeles Skid Row event and coordinated free grooming for the dogs of homeless people and supplied dog blankets, collars, leashes, food and treats. She also initiated a pet food program for homebound seniors, and she secured a storage facility for a small rescue group called Angel Hanz for the Homeless. She will be sponsoring the launching of The Rescue Train’s new “Shelter Intervention Program” at East Valley Animal Shelter in Van Nuys where she has recently furnished the organization’s new office there.

In addition to Alderette’s tireless efforts on behalf of The Rescue Train, she was also on the HomeAid LA/Ventura Board of Directors for over seven years and a volunteer at that same non-profit for over 15 years. During that time she helped renovate many “safe-houses,” homeless shelters and a teen center for homeless girls. Currently she has volunteered to help renovate housing for homeless teens. In addition, she has built over 10 custom playhouses for charity, which raised close to $200,000.00 for the homeless.
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MADELYN ALFANO
Maria's Italian Kitchen

Madelyn Alfonso, one of California’s most successful restaurant owners, believes that food is not just a necessity or pleasure, but a lifelike passion. Inspired by her parents and life in a large Italian family, she blends the finest ingredients, traditions and new ideas with the best aspects of family life to create a truly unique dining experience.

In 1980, Alfonso began her first solo venture when she opened International Meat and Deli Market across the street from the Village Mart. In 1985, she opened her first Maria’s Italian Kitchen in Sherman Oaks. Now, with headquarters in Van Nuys and more than 450 employes, Maria’s Italian Kitchen is among the leading privately owned restaurant chains in the state. Today, there are 10 Maria’s Italian Kitchens, including the newest locations, Maria’s Marina del Rey and Oxnard. With every community Alfonso joins, she offers healthy, quality food with hospitable service in a casual yet elegant and friendly atmosphere.

MELENE ALFONSO
Los Angeles Daily News

Meleene Alfonso was promoted to Vice President and General Manager of the Los Angeles Daily News in February of this year. Prior to this promotion, she held several leadership positions within the company. She has been responsible for the Classified, Advertising Department, Retail Advertising Department and was instrumental in establishing and nurturing the Digital Advertising Department. Her ability to establish and maintain excellent relationships with other business leaders in the community has led to countless community-oriented programs that have benefited both the company and the businesses partnered with it. Alfonso has a strong track record of launching new products and programs that have benefited countless advertisers and community members alike.

As part of the Senior Management Team, she is now responsible for overseeing the entire Advertising Department while working closely with the Circulation, Marketing and Editorial Departments as the company focuses strategically on the future success of the Daily News within the San Fernando Valley – both in Print and Online.

NOLA ARONSON
SCV Audiology

Nola Aronson has been an audiologist and business owner for 35 years, 30 in the Santa Clarita Valley. She has run and managed three other audiology practices and actually trained many of her competitors. The main reason she feels her audiology business has been able to grow through difficult times is because of the great team she has assembled to work with her and the fact that her patients realize that knowledge, expertise and value are important features in her business.

SCV Audiology’s mission is to help people communicate better so they can lead better social lives through improved hearing. The philosophy is to educate so a person understands about their hearing issues and doesn’t feel like he or she is just “buying” a hearing aid and finding out it then doesn’t work because it couldn’t be adjusted properly. Aronson’s years of experience and knowledge on the programming of hearing aids makes every hearing aid fitting an optimum experience.

KRISTIN BANTA-BLAND
Kristin Banta-Blanc Events

With an extensive background in fashion, entertainment, and event production, as well as experience in catering and interior design, Kristin Banta-Blanc creates unforgettable celebrations while bringing a fresh perspective to the mix. Known within her community as a long-standing advocate for marriage equality, she is passionate about helping her clients find their own voice for their wedding day. Her events, from society weddings in exclusive locations to progressive film and music industry soirees, are as unique and diversified as her clientele, which range from Fortune 500s to multi-platinum recording artists.

Banta-Blanc has served as the weekly wedding expert for the Hallmark Channel’s “Home & Family” as well as the host of “Keep the Party Moving” on the Style network. Her Bravo special, “The Ringlearners,” premiered on Valentine’s Day and showed her signature out-of-the-box style, revolutionizing the way couples look at their special day. She has also appeared as a correspondent on KTLA and as a featured designer on the TNT series, “Wedding Wars.”

DENISE BEAN-WHITE
Consortium Media

Denise Bean-White, founder and president of Consortium Media, has been a leader in advertising, marketing and public relations, imprinting her brand on Ventura County, the State of California, and nationally since 1990. Bean-White’s full-service communications firm strategically combines advertising, promotions, public relations, web, social media and creative design to build successful brands.

Through her vision and leadership over the past 25 years, Bean-White has helped hundreds of local, regional and national businesses, nonprofit organizations and corporations achieve greater success, improve their brand recognition and bolster their bottom lines.

Bean-White encourages great corporate social responsibility with her firm’s local and national charitable partners and organizations (Ventura County’s FOOD Share, Aspunter, Toys for Tots, etc.) by donating a minimum of 1,450 pro bono hours per year for marketing, advertising and public relations services.

Belly Bandit Team: LORI CADEN, KARI CADEN, JODI CADEN, NORMA CARDENAS, ROSE AMESCUSA, ERICA PELAYO, ELIZABETH RUIZ, PAMELA RYAN, IVA SHAH, ELLIE MILLER, LYNN FLEMING, KATRINA FIAL, VERONICA LOPEZ

Belly Bandit

Like most women whose figures have undergone the changes associated with pregnancy, Lori Caden was worried about getting her tummy back in shape after the birth of her second child. While brainstorming options with sisters Jodi and Kari, the three became convinced that there must be more effective and convenient ways than serious gym time or costly tummy tucks to snap back into shape. By improving on the idea of compression wraps, they felt they could bring an effortless, affordable and stylish alternative to busy new moms of all shapes and sizes.

The Caden sisters along with their energetic team introduced the first Belly Bandit on Mother’s Day in 2008, creating a new niche in the post-pregnancy market and sparking a new trend for postpartum women. Designed to help women slim and shape their silhouettes, provide back support, minimize stretch marks, ease c-section discomfort, boost confidence and restore positive body image, the Belly Bandit wrap has quickly become one of the most coveted post-pregnancy aids for women everywhere.

HEATHER BERRY
The Cheesecake Factory Incorporated

Beginning her career with The Cheesecake Factory as a Manager at the Woodland Hills restaurant, Heather Berry rose through the ranks from individual restaurants to develop an organization-wide presence. Her current position is Senior Director, Beverage and Bakery Operations for the entire company. In her current role, she leads the company’s bar and bakery operations of its namesake concept as well as Grand Lux Cafe and RockSugar Pan Asian Kitchens. Her multifaceted role includes conceptualing and developing training programs, new menu innovation, beverage R&D, operational execution, beverage contract negotiation, financial oversight of bar and bakery operations, and collaboration with the company’s design team concerning bar and bakery design.

In recent years, Berry has been integral in supporting The Cheesecake Factory’s growth outside of the United States. Last year, she developed a custom beer and wine program for the company’s second licensee in Mexico, while also negotiating with suppliers to procure the ingredients necessary to support the company’s core beverage program.

JENNIFER BET-DAVID
PHP Agency, LLC

Jennifer Bet-David is well known in the community for her continuous dedication to her staff, peers, partners and the people she mentors. At PHP Agency, her responsibilities include handling all corporate contracts with partners, maintaining vendor relationships and being integrally involved in the design and review of marketing materials and literature. She has led major projects for the company, including a back office redesign and management of the design plan for integration of back office web based software solution with agency management and electronic submissions components.

Bet-David is also the founder of PHP’s Woman’s Initiative Program, “PHI Ladies,” handling all marketing materials, and meetings. Outside of work, she is involved with C.A.T.S (The Center for Assault Treatment Services) who are presenting her the “Voice of the Community” award for this year for her efforts in spreading awareness for the cause “treating victims of sexual & physical abuse.”

SUSAN BOOKER
Peaceful Paws Aquamation, Inc.

Susan Booker, co-founder of Peaceful Paws Aquamation, has turned her passion for animals and the environment into a growing business. Based in Newbury Park, Peaceful Paws Aquamation is the country’s first 100% green anidumental- ly-sensitive pet afterlife service. It’s a high-tech and high-touch business that offers a green and dignified alternative to pet cremation – a process that spews toxic chemicals into the atmosphere and requires significant amounts of energy — and services that are a far cry from removal operations.

Booker and her husband, former television executive Jerry Shevick, were particularly pained by the loss of one of their pets and the animal’s subsequent “disposal” method by the veterinarian. The couple later discovered an eco-friendly...
Congratulations!

Ellen Cervantes
Vice President & Chief Operating Officer,
Child Care Resource Center

Nominated for:
San Fernando Valley Business Journal
2015 Women in Business Awards
Not-for-Profit Executive of the Year

For the past 30 years, Ellen Cervantes has dedicated her personal and professional time to helping others. From her early years as a camp counselor and mentor and, throughout her career, her life’s mission has been to make the world a better place for everyone regardless of age, background or education.
Continued from page 46

ly, water-based process called aquamation. Using a combination of flowing water, heat and alkalinity, aquamation replaces and已经超过 some natural way a body decomposes as if left out in the elements. Under Bokke’s leadership, Pacific BlackLine has quickly some recognized as one of the most innovative businesses in the pet care industry.

LORI BROGIN-FALLEY
Pacific Federal Insurance Corp.

As Vice President of Client Services and Public Affairs at PacFed, where she is responsible for the administration of several health care trust funds and ensuring their compliance with federal and state laws. Additionally, she oversees the company’s government affairs and community relations efforts. PacFed’s parent company, Pacific Federal Insurance Corporation (PFC), specializes in the administration of private exchanges, labor, Multi-Hospital health plans and corporate ERISA Plans. Prior to joining PacFed, Brogin-Falley practiced law and represented clients in various administrative law, insurance and land use matters. She also worked extensively in the area of regional economic development. In addition to her work at PacFed, she is a commissioner for the Local Agency Formation Commission for the County of Los Angeles (LACFCO). LACFCO is responsible for coordinating logical and timely changes in local government boundaries, including annexations and detachments of territory, incorporations of cities, formations of special districts, and consolidations, mergers and dissolutions of districts.

LAURI BURNS
The Teen Project

Lauri Burns is the Founder and serves on the Executive Board for The Teen Project. Under their leadership the first thing, what it means to be an “at-risk kid,” Burns herself grew up in the same neighborhood. Dependency System where she was a probation youth and ward of the court. Burns has lived in the same area for five years after emancipation and was determined to make a change for other system youth.

Today Burns owns a computer consulting firm and works full-time at a fortune 100 defense company. She is also author of Pitbulls for Puppies and donates 75% of her book proceeds to The Teen Project. She is institutional in The Teen Project’s day-to-day operating, fundraising and program operations. She is also active in the day-to-day lives of all of the kids in the program. Still today, Burns has four prior homeless youth living in her home and a foster child. She is a monthly donor for The Teen Project and the “mom” that all of the kids depend on.

TRISH BURR
BlackLine

Titch Burr is the Vice President of Operations and Chief Blake engineer. For four years ago, when Burr was serving the company, she is the Director of Human Resources for the California State Bar. She has been tirelessly to ensure this fast-growing company had the recruitment and retention tools put in place at an early enough stage so that success was absolutely imminent.

Today, the company is on the brink of 300 employees and the company growth is still moving quickly. In her time there, she has been able to pull from her vast experience in financial management to help build this company into what it is today. She has worked with recruiting. 

Every day, Eve Bushman, owner of Eve Bushman Consulting, presents “Purple Cow” out-of-the-box ideas for her clients and potential clients; is responsible for social networking her business along with her clients; physically represents her business, and her clients in local for-profit and non-profit events; and creates content-driven online videos for her clients and potential clients. She also sends emails to further the marketing campaigns of her existing clients, handles clients through difficult tasks and relations; writes marketing pitches for existing and potential clients; writes and sends press releases for newsworthy items; provides social network training; and evaluates clients to help improve/implement internal and external marketing, branding, pricing, training, websites, workshops and recall tools.

Bushman embodies the can-do attitude of a true professional. She has advised numerous clients with specific business strategies to improve their bottom line while staying innovative and fresh. She has increased her clients’ exposure dramatically, and her own as well. She is well respected as a knowledgeable and trusted advisor and expert in her field.

ARIEL CARPENTER
KCETLink

Ariel Carpenter is the Vice President for KCETLink, the public media outlet serving 11 counties in Southern California. The channel is broadcasting reach to 6 million homes. It is a second-generation communications strategist with 15 years of agency, nonprofit and university experience and brings to KCETLink a proven track record and specific experience with digital media and cultural curating. Carpenter has embraced the forefront of the technology revolution from inception and worked with entrepreneurial and established companies to define their digital media presence in content creation and relationships.

And she has connected the vibrant, multi-ethnic community that makes up Los Angeles through launching several initiatives for KCETLink, and as a community volunteer.

Carpenter works with KCET’s Community Advisory Board and creates a dynamic pipeline of communication to that community so that a public service media voice can truly reflect the issues of the region. For example, the KCET 50-year initiative invited the community to contribute narratives on how individuals envisioned a better California.

MARTHA CARTWRIGHT
USI Southern California Insurance

Those who work with Martha Cartwright, who serves as Assistant Vice President at USI Southern California Insurance, are quick to describe her as a genuinely dedicated and hard-working person. She manages the company’s ‘VIP Personal Lines,’ which in and of itself could be a full-time project, yet she always finds time to help the company’s producers out at the last minute, staying well past closing hours. She also comes on the weekend often for producers and whoever needs her assistance to get important things done.

Her dedication to her colleagues and teammates is tremendous and she exhibits her team spirit every day.

KELLY CERVANTES
Child Care Resource Center

Ellen Cervantes joined CCRC as an Associate Director of Resource & Referral and Child Development at a time when the Child Development program was struggling to survive. Although child development was in her background, it was her strong program management skills that were utilized to evaluate and implement improvements to each program she undertook. Cervantes later became the Vice President of Programs and took on the entirety of the childcare financial assistance staff and programs.

Through her persistence and her proven success in program management, she was able to develop an integrated, streamlined process with improved levels of customer service and the highest audit scores the agency had ever received. Over the years, she has been instrumental in identifying and crafting successful grant applications for new and expanded agency programs such as School Readiness, which served thousands of families throughout its seven years, far exceeding its initial grant period of only two years.

MARGIE CERVANTES
NEW Economics for Women

Maggie Cervantes is a nationally recognized leader and advocate who has devoted her life to creating places for poor children and families to thrive, particularly in the Latino community of California. As Executive Director of NEW Economics for Women, Cervantes has provided the vision and practical approaches that have made the successful redevelopment of neighborhood economies in the Los Angeles area. Cervantes has worked to develop affordable housing units, while creating economic literacy among its residents and has implemented a wide range of other social service programs, including a housing and schools initiative.

MARLA CLEWOW
Weis Fargo

Marla Clewow is executive vice president and president of Wells Fargo’s L.A. Metro Community Bank. In this role, Clewow oversees more than 2,200 Wells Fargo banking professionals at more than 80 banking stores across the communities of the San Fernando Valley, Glendale, Burbank, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Hollywood, West Hollywood, Santa Monica, West Los Angeles and the South Bay.

An over 20-year veteran of Wells Fargo Bank, Clewow began her career with the company in the client services division within The Private Bank. She’s an active leader in the community and has served as part of the board of directors for the Valley Industry & Commerce Association, the Valley Economic Alliance, California State University Northridge, and the Boys & Girls Club of West Valley. Clewow supports various philanthropic efforts and organizations in the San Fernando Valley region and is part of the board of directors for Cal State University Northridge Foundation and the Valley Chamber and Commerce Association (VICA).

AMY CLITES
Multiple Organizations and Causes

Amy Clites is known to friends and colleagues as a particularly bright, resourceful and kind-hearted woman. She is included in these pages for her tireless and selfless efforts as a volunteer.

Clites dedicates most of her free time volunteering with V-Day, A Window Between Worlds and V-Day SoCal. She has a fierce spirit and works hard to help create a world where women and girls are safe. She is a leader of a group of two teenagers. She takes her role as a step-mom extremely seriously, and strives to be a good mother and stepmother as well as to young women through-out the Valley and beyond.

JENNIFER CONSTANTINE
We the Pie People LLC

JC’s Pie Pops were born in Jennifer Constantine’s home kitchen after an accidental fridge fiasco turned out to be the best mistake she ever made. Constantine loves to throw parties and make food for friends. One night in 2010, she made a large amount of panera cotta dessert bowls and placed them in the refrigerator to set. Her fridge settings were off and froze the desserts solid! This ended up being a “happy accident” and Constantine added a little crunch, fun complimentary flavors and placed them in her side hustle. She decided that These “JC’s Pie Pops” (as she would call them) needed to be shared with the world and she got to work, experimenting with flavors and textures, and after a year of painstaking research and development, she partnered with some food industry experts to bring JC’s Pie Pops to grocery stores. She
continues to innovate and grow and hopes to be in 10,000 stores by 2016.

ANNA M. CORDOVA
FILMLOOK Media and Post
With a groundbreaking dis- covey in the entertainment industry, Anna M. Cordova and her business partner founded FILM- LOOK Inc. During a time when many in the indus- try looked down upon shooting with video instead of film, they just didn’t understand why anyone would want to make video look like it was shot on film. The patented invention did just that, initially drawing in clients that were thinking outside the box.

Today, FILMLOOK is a household name in the entertainment industry for being on the cutting-edge of technology. FILMLOOK provides full, post production services, including audio post, color grading, online and offline editorial, encoding, D cinema packaging, Blu-ray and DVD mastering, closed captioning, duplication, and quality control. As the co-founder and vice-president, Cordova’s expertise lies within the strategic marketing of the company, along with building the clientele relationships locally, nationally, and internationally. Many people recognize Cordova, a woman in a man’s industry, as the face of FILMLOOK.

ADRIANA CRUZ-OCCAMO
U-Frame-It Gallery
Adriana Cruz-Ocampo was born in Cali, Columbia. In 1973 she immigrated to Los Angeles with her parents and sister. Attending Sacred Heart Elementary and Our Lady of Corvallis High School in Studio City, she was active- ly involved in a number of activities, including pho- tography. She acquired the entrepreneurial bug while still in high school when she began to work at a small frame shop called “Super Art Mart.” She decided to stay on at the frame shop, where her photography background allowed her to apply her creative side to the framing business.

After college, she was given the oppor- tunity to buy a small frame shop in which she had continued to work since high school. In 1988, with her own sav- ings and a business loan she was able to purchase the shop renaming it “U-Frame-It.” Since then she has grown the busi- ness into one of the most successful and customer friendly frame shops in the San Fernando Valley.

RACHEL CRYSTAL and KASSANDRA WORKMAN
Sugar Babies Cupcakery
Sugar Babies Cupcakery began to take form when co- owner Kassandra Workman discovered a hidden passion for confections and baking while living in Las Vegas in 2006. A hit with friends and family, she was soon serving macaroons to a local art gallery and crafting cookie bouquets for baby showers and other

events. After moving to Los Angeles with sister and co-owner Rachel Crystal in 2009, the sisters recognized a need for reasonablie portioned, fun and floral treats, and the signature mini cupcakes of Sugar Babies Cupcakery were born.

The sisters launched in May of 2010 and with nothing but $30,000 in personal- savings, and set out to begin their busi- ness. After several hiccups and a few strokes of misfortune, the sisters stum- bled upon a boutique shop and kitchen in Sherman Oaks that had recently been closed, and, as luck would have it, had been a cupcake shop. Now in their fourth year, the sisters have gained considerable popularity from their corner shop in Sherman Oaks and their traveling mobile cupcake truck.

DDKK Staffing
Team One & Two
DIANE KREHBIEL-DELSON, JENNIFER BHRIVE, BARBARA BECNEL
DDKK Staffing
Team DKKD Staffing – Diane Krehbiel-Delson, Jennifer Bhrive and Barbara Becnel – are a particularly effective and well-respected (and well-liked) team. The team consistently fills jobs in the IT field and is known for its professionalism and the fact that it puts clients and employees needs first. Diane ‘Dr’ Krehbiel-Delson, owner of DKKD Staffing has been a consistently growing staple in the IT Service field since 2000. Krehbiel and team provide employ- ees with qualified staff for their upper management and other IT needs. Each of the DKKD team goes the extra mile to make sure her contractors and employees reflect the job requirements, and they also each make themselves available to clients and job seekers 24/7 to accommodate their needs.

DEBRA DONOVAN
Valley Village
Debra Donovan has been the executive director of Valley Village for many years. She has proven to be a great leader and an effective community based organization serving the disabled in the Valley. Under her stewardship, Valley Village effectively serves this important and sometimes forgotten population.

Continuously providing a safe, creative place for loved ones to go, Donovan and her team have managed their organiza- tion among shortages in government support and have managed to prove they are a sustainable organization in the Valley community, located in Winnetka.

DESIREE DOUBROX
An Empowered Woman
Desiree Doubrox is Founder/CEO of An Empowered Woman, Inc. She started An Empowered Woman in 2009 after her living room with the intent of empowering women to invest in real estate. An Empowered Woman has developed into an exclusive global networking community and resource center for women professionals and entrepreneurs. Supporting women who are starting, fix- ing or building their business with web TV and radio shows, MasterMind meet- ings, tele-classes, seminars, coaching and every in-person event. As a result of her affiliate associations including those in South Africa, France, Canada and the Philippines the community has grown to over 53,000.

As a way of giving back, Doubrox launched her non-profit program in 2011. With the “DreamCatchers” pro- gram, she partners with corporations and business professionals to teach, support and sponsor women in starting a business.

DIANA DONOVAN DUENAS
Encino Chamber of Commerce
Diana Donovan Duenas has served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Encino Chamber of Commerce since July 2007. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the chamber, does the event planning, works with the Board of Directors and committees to ensure that the Encino Chamber of Commerce is a valuable asset to the community. She is the main force keeping the chamber together and is responsible for keeping the chamber members motivated and working as a team.

In her spare time, Duenas spends as much time with her family as possible. She has strong family values and a formi- dable work ethic, yet manages to balance everything effectively.

JODY DUNN
Partners in Care Foundation
Jody Dunn, Vice President of Service Integration at Partners in Care Foundation, is co-founder of this successful company dedicated to changing the shape of health care, and it works better for everyone. Dunn’s executive management skills have contributed over the past 17 years to the phenomenal progress of a major new non-profit in the Valley. The agency has grown from $1 million to $14 million. Revenue grew from $9 million to $14 million in the last two years, with a signifi- cant improvement in financial posi- tion. Line of credit was increased, debt dropped to zero, reserves increased and there was a significant year-end gain of revenues over expenses.

In addition, as strategic guide of the agency from its inception, Dunn led the naming, branding and introduction of multiple trend-setting innovations in home and community based service pro- grams throughout her leadership tenure. Partners has grown to serve more than 15,000 adults of all ages each year.

GEORGIA DURANTE
The Enchanted Mandolin
Georgia Durante has packed a lifetime of lessons into her diving into the world of web TV. Those who have known her for the past twenty years as one of Hollywood’s most successful and durable female commercial stunt drivers have been shocked by the truth of her past.

Hollywood producers have known two Georgia Durantes: the steady-nerved stuntwoman with the skill to handle a three-ton high-performance vehicle in high-speed precision maneuvers and the beautiful model and actress who, at sev- enteen, was considered the most pho- tographed girl in the country. She knew only those sides of Georgia Durante because that was all she chose to reveal. Only now does she share the full story of her life, in The Company She Keeps, an inspirational book that shares Durante’s surviving abuse in an inspiring and moti- vating way. Today, Durante speaks in prisons and abused women’s shelters, inspiring women to see their own poten- tial. Meanwhile, her performance two driving team now has 16 stunt drivers who perform in commercials and other entertainment venues.

HEATHER EDWARDS
Alpert, Barr & Grant, APLC
Heather Edwards is the Executive Legal Assistant to Encino-based Alpert, Barr & Grant’s founding principal and shareholder, Lee D. Alpert and has been loyal to the firm since 2000 when she started.

Before working for Alpert, Barr & Grant, Edwards had worked for Warner Bros. Television as an Executive Legal Secretary to the Vice President of Television Legal Department. Edwards is a part of the San Fernando Valley Legal Secretaries Association and has been since 1991. A native of the San Fernando Valley, Edwards currently resides in Northridge California. Married to Ernest Edwards and has four children. She enjoys travel- ing, shopping and playing competitive basketball and is in several basketball leagues in the San Fernando Valley.

LISA ELKAN
Lisa PR
Less than three years ago, Lisa Elkan, having successful- ly performed marketing duties at a number of dif- ferent kinds of organiza- tions, formed Lisa PR, a marketing and PR consult- ing firm for professionals and businesses. At Lisa PR, Elkan’s motto is “Our Business is Getting You Business.” She works closely with each client to imple- ment effective and creative strategies that produce quantifiable results. Day-to-day responsibilities include understanding clients’ needs, but often include creating or redesigning websites with the help of a programmer, creating or “freshening” logos with the help of a graphic artist; coming up with new taglines; creating or assisting with social media pages; provid- ing LinkedIn tutorials; getting articles published about the client; getting clients on TV; writing catchy press releases for clients; planning events and continuing education lunches; creating advertise- ments for product or service, and book advertisements; writing “firm News” announcements for clients’ web- sites and newsletters; and keeping clients in the know with the latest marketing and PR trends.
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ROBIN FISCHETTE
Go West Creative

As Chairman and co-founder, Robin Fischette continues to be a quintessential component in the development of Go West Creative. Fischette launched a successful career in the recording industry as an artist and writer that spanned the U.S., Asia, and Europe. She turned her visionary and creative focus to Go West Creative where she helped shape a theatrical quality, experiential full-scale production company with more than 25 years of industry innovation, Go West Creative has perfected the secret to creating branded experiences. In partnership with customers, designs are driven by ‘brand focus.’

The artists and technicians Fischette has assembled at Go West are a veritable dream-team from the fields of design, entertainment, editing, animation, fabrication and production. From the grand opening of the Los Angeles Staples Center, home of the Lakers, and the huge Rose Bowl Village, to 18 simultaneous U.S. tours and a 65-city satellite broadcast, Fischette continues to thrive in a demanding creative and technical world.

CHERI FLEMMING
Valencia Acura

Cheri Fleming embarked on an entrepreneurial challenge in 1997 with the purchase of Valencia Acura at a time when the dealership ranked dead last nationally in sales and customer satisfaction. Fleming turned the struggling dealership into one of Acura’s highest ranking dealerships in customer satisfaction, and one of the highest in the nation for sales penetration in a primary market and customer loyalty. Today, Valencia Acura has been voted “Best Dealership in the Santa Clarita Valley” 12 years in a row.

Outside of her successful work at the Dealership she owns and runs, Fleming is also one of the most sought after volunteers within her community, and last year celebrated her elevated passions, talents and capacity for helping others to an international platform as the 2014 President of Soroptimist International of the Americas, which endeavors to improve the lives of women and girls. In her role, Fleming led 28 regions across the country, a successful effort due to her passion for understanding, educating and mobilizing professionals.

MARY FRAN GELB
Gelb Group

Gelb Gelb of Gelb Group exemplifies courtesy and professionalism to all levels of her team from the maintenance crew to the top executives. Unlike many business owners that hire property management companies to manage their buildings, Gelb deals with the daily operations first hand. From screening new prospects, making maintenance calls and taking in payments, her daily jobs are never too big or busy to take the time with any client.

Gelb has built a lengthy network of clients by creative marketing and strong negotiation skills, attracting new clients at the level of a top producer. Also dedicated to her community, Gelb has long been a sponsor of many LAFED events at her Sherman Oaks office building for many years and is dedicated to continue to do so for many years to come.

FLORENCIA GIESSEMANN
Anheuser-Busch, Inc.

Florence (“Flo”) Giessemann began her career at Anheuser-Busch as a secretary to the Brewmaster. Working for the Brewing department, she learned the brew process by supporting the workforce that brews beers such as Budweiser and Bud Light, for the largest brewer in the world. Several years later, she transitioned to working for the General Manager, who oversees the brewery’s operations.

As an office administrator for the General Manager, she handles the brewery’s charitable efforts, including Habitat for Humanity San Fernando/San Clarita Valleys. Anheuser-Busch was one of the sponsors for the organization’s Sylmar build, which was completed last year, providing homes for 12 veteran families. In her own words, “Our team built the second story with the family that would live there. The little girls were thrilled to watch as the walls of their rooms went up before their eyes.”

VANESSA GIORGIO
Lotus Kitty Yoga Inc

A long time self-proclaimed “gym rat,” Vanessa Giorgio has long been passionate about yoga and became a certified instructor in 2008. After teaching classes at Center for Yoga for a number of years, Giorgio converted her garage and started teaching classes at her home studio sanctuary. In 2008, she moved her unique and fast growing Lotus Kitty Yoga concept to a professional space, which she ultimately grew again and moved to a new space that perfectly matches her vision.

The new studio is 2500 square feet, has four rooms and is the first Hybrid Fitness studio in the United States. Giorgio and her team run 17 varieties of classes, have a full retail shop and a Wellness Room where we massage therapy, Reiki healing sessions, psychic readings and hypnotherapy, Angel card readings, and organic spray tans are offered. The key to Lotus Kitty Yoga is that Giorgio and her team always work to find ways to encourage people to love and take care of themselves.

ELISIA GLICKMAN
Glendale Arts

As Chairman and co-founder, Elisia Glickman established Glendale Arts in 1997. Glendale Arts, a non-profit organization tasked with the management of the Alex Theatre and coordinating resources to benefit the arts and art education in Glendale, felt the effects in an immanent way, and were forced to consider closing the theatre. Elisia Glickman, the then-eight-year marketing veteran of Glendale Arts had recently moved into the role of CEO when news broke of the loss of redevelop-ment funds. She successfully lobbied to convince the city to continue to let Glendale Arts run the Alex Theatre. They would make up for the loss of funds through private fundraising of $6 million. Almost four years after the loss of redevelopment funds, the art community in Glendale is alive and well and the Alex Theatre remains the hub. Without Glickman’s stewardship, one of the region’s cultural and artistic icons would have been lost.

RENEE GLICKMAN-COHN
RGEB Employee Benefits

Renee Glickman Cohn is Executive Vice President of RGEB Employee Benefits, in charge of client relations and sales, and is the firm’s founder and visionary. She formed the company in 1997. Prior to creating her own employee benefits insurance agency, she worked for Blue Cross of California for 16 years. As Blue Cross Regional Sales Manager responsible for all small group and individual product sales in the San Fernando Valley, she worked with 600 Blue Cross agents, implemented and marketed new small group health insurance products, trained individual agents and developed sales training seminars. In 1997, however, she decided it was time for her to leave Blue Cross and start her own agency. She has grown the agency from two people to a staff of 20, is working with 500 companies representing 12,000 employees and their families, 2,000 individuals and families and 500 seniors.

EVA GOETZ
ONEgeneration

Eva Goetz is the CEO of ONEgeneration, an intergenerational social services organi-
As CEO, Goetz’s day-to-day responsibilities include establishing new partnerships that align with the company’s vision, exploring new programs to enable ONEgeneration to provide better care to 660 homebound seniors and dementia patients and a comparable number of children, and providing guidance to her management team. She oversees ONEgeneration’s staff of 78 full-time and part-time employees. Having served as CEO for ONEgeneration for the past year, Goetz has worked tirelessly to expand and diversify the organization’s core programs. The aim of ONEgeneration’s programs is to positively impact the different human needs affecting youth and seniors, and the diversity spectrum are not only what makes her unique but should also be exemplary to what any organization should strive towards.

Green’s abilities to work with and provide service to individuals from across the diversity spectrum are not only what makes her unique but should also be exemplary to what any organization should strive towards.

TAMARA GURNLEY
Mission Valley Bank

Tamara Gurney is the Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of Mission Valley Bank, a $250 million dollar community based business bank headquartered in San Valley. In 2001, Gurney brought together a group of respected community bankers, along with a number of local area business people to form Mission Valley Bank. This dedicated group opened the bank’s doors in July 2001 after raising slightly more than $6 million in initial capital. Mission Valley Bank’s first location had a humble start — a “triple-wide trailer” in the parking lot of today’s 10,000 square foot headquarters building.

Gurney and her team’s commitment to build a bank that was “more about the client and less about the bank” proved to be exactly what the area needed. Now well into its 14th year of successful operation, serving the financial needs of the San Fernando & Santa Clarita Valleys and surrounding area business communities, the bank continues to grow.

SANDRA HAMILTON
EdNet

Hamilton and her unique ability to put people to work. She has adapted her training company from tech training to what is now security training as the marketplace shifted. Recently she won, and then won again, contracts from the City of LA for the Sheriff’s Department.

Hamilton is an inspiration to all women business owners, in that she stays strong in the face of adversity, does good work, and does not accept defeat when faced with opposition.

CHERIE HECKER
TWC Aviation

As Director of Flight Standards for TWC Aviation, Cherie Hecker holds one of the most critical executive positions at the company. This key post requires expertise and wide-ranging experience in aviation operations, as well as in domestic and international aviation law. She manages a team of seventeen aviation professionals, each of whom has direct, daily contact with corporate flight department managers, private jet owners, service providers and other vendors.

Always excelling beyond what is asked or expected, Hecker has a number of significant achievements to her credit. For example, when TWC acquired another large business aviation corporation, Hecker was essential throughout the lengthy and complicated process to efficiently integrate flight scheduling software and systems, operations procedures, and flight operations personnel. She also believes in giving back to the community and her industry. She participates in company-sponsored community education activities, such as the Van Nuys Airport Aviation Career Day and the FAA’s Aviation Career Education initiative. These programs reach thousands of San Fernando Valley high school students every year.

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RACHEL HOWITT
NAI Capital

Rachel Howitt has had a notable career in real estate that is tied together by 36 years of wide-range experience including metallurgical engineering, finance, and business development. She is currently President and CFO of NAI Capital, Inc, a leading commercial real estate brokerage with 14 offices throughout the five county region of Los Angeles.

Howitt oversees all financial and administrative matters relating to NAI Capital, Inc. With over 28 years of experience leading the company, she is responsible for exploring strategic alliances to enhance the depth and scope of the services NAI Capital provides to its clients, including strategizing on company expansion plans. She is also a principal in NAI Capital Management Services, Inc., a property management company exclusively managing Commercial Investment Real Estate. Howitt has succeeded in keeping the company’s revenues stable and its credit position firm throughout the recession and in fact the last three years at NAI Capital, Inc. have shown increase in profitability.

RYAN JORDAN
Educated Nannies, LLC

Ryan Jordan earned a multiple-subject teaching credential and Master of Arts in Education from Pepperdine. In addition to teaching, she has spent more than five years as a full-time professional nanny for celebrities and high-profile families. Through her own experiences as a nanny focused on her approach to the home as a classroom and “edu-taining” children, plus feedback from families, Jordan discovered that there was a need for higher learning centered childcare in Los Angeles. In combining all levels of her talents, passion, education and experiences, she created Educated Nannies, a full service nanny referral agency that specializes in placing college-educated nannies with families.

Additionally, Jordan believes that children from all walks of life deserve a chance to thrive, for this reason, a percentage of each and every placement Educated Nannies makes gets donated to Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA), an organization that provides thousands of underserved and at-risk youth with free and exceptional after-school programming in academics, visual and performing arts and athletics.

LISA KANTOR
Kantor & Kantor, LLP

Lisa Kantor has developed a specialized legal practice representing clients whose claims for treatment of eating disorders, and dual diagnosis (substance abuse and other co-morbid conditions) have been unfairly denied by their health insurers or benefit plan. Kantor & Kantor is the only law firm in the country with a distinct eating disorder practice staffed with lawyers and other professionals experienced in the specific needs of people who have been denied benefits for eating disorder treatment. Kantor uses health plans that refuse coverage, or agree to pay for treatment for a short period of time, forcing patients to be discharged before their health is restored.

ANI KHODAVERDIAN
Chase

Ani Khodaverdian is a Relationship Manager at Chase. Her colleagues report that her continued level of service for her clients has been tremendous. Feedback from her clients pertaining to her dedication to them and her ability to ensure that any issues or concerns have been addressed has also been consistently positive. Khodaverdian has developed a substantial number of COIs that actively seek her out and have built a strong level of trust in her. She is known for being a team player and always volunteers to take on tasks that are for the good of the team and the market.

DINA KIMMEL
We Rock the Spectrum Kids Gym

Although Dina Kimmel studied Business Marketing at California State University Northridge, it is her mother’s intuition combined with her entrepreneurial spirit that led to the creation of We Rock The Spectrum Kid’s Gym. After her second child Gabriel was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Kimmel began to research ways to facilitate her son’s development. This led her to create a sensory gym in her own home. Gabriel thrived and at the same time her older daughter Sophia enjoyed playing on the equipment as well.

The fact that both of her children were being entertained at the same time was a fantastic outcome; Kimmel had an “aha” moment when she realized that many...
people did not have the means or space to put a gym in their own homes. This was the beginning of We Rock the Spectrum Kid’s Gym. The first gym opened in August 2009 and due to the demand it has become a nationwide franchise with over 25 locations, and counting.

JODY L. KIRCHBROWN
LightGabler LLP

A little over five years ago, LightGabler LLP opened its doors as a new law firm. Since then, Jody Kirschbrown has quickly transformed from a hybrid legal secretary/paralegal through to Office Manager and now to Executive Director. The work she does in all aspects of the office management still has people shaking their heads. She’s seemingly a step ahead of everybody that calls or enters her office with a question. It’s as though she’s already thought about what you’ve come to discuss with her. According to her colleagues at the firm, she works at an incredible pace, yet in the midst of her whirlwind persona is her calming, warm, and comfortable side.

To the firm’s partners, the junior partners, the young attorneys, and the support staff, Kirschbrown serves as the answer source, minister, counselor, encourager, referee, confidant, arbitrator, mentor, voice of reason, etc. Truly, she is an essential component of the firm.

DIANE KREHBIEL-DELSON
DKKD Staffing

Diane Krehbiel-Delson has been in the recruiting business since 2000. In late 2011, DKKD Staffing in Westlake Village opened its doors providing predominately Executive and Technology contractors, direct hires and payroll services across most of US. In the first year of business, Krehbiel helped DKKD achieve the status as a million dollar business. The firm has made more than $1 million in sales each year since.

Krehbiel is the Chief Headhunting Officer in charge of the entire client interface, working alongside her colleague Jenny Stave (Sr. Recruitment Manager) overseeing all candidates for the past 13 years. Krehbiel is well known for her work with many non-profit organizations and genuinely loves the recruiting business & helping people.

MELODY LEBLANC

Melody DeMott LeBlanc, a valuable partner for Stephen Yu Dentistry. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Encino Chamber of Commerce where she chairs the annual Installation Dinner and Awards Program, she is on the planning committees for the Encino Chamber of Commerce Taste of Encino and works tirelessly on other events and committees. She also is actively involved with PALs, raising money to support the West Valley Police Station. PALs creates a positive bond between police officers and the youth of the community.

LeBlanc gives tirelessly of her time and money. When she volunteers she brings a crew with her including her husband, daughters and often her son-in-law. Her heart is in the work she does at both the dentistry and her volunteer efforts, which makes others want to work right along with her for whatever cause she is supporting.

REBECCA LIENHARD
Tierra del Sol Foundation

Rebecca Lienhard is new to her position of Chief Executive Officer, but not new to the San Fernando Valley or Tierra del Sol. For the past 24 years, she has made more than $1 million in sales each year. The firm was on-boarded a new team of leadership to guide the organization, while tirelessly advocating for the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

ALISON LINDEMANN
WSI Internet Consulting

Alison Lindemann has created a terrific reputation in her line of business. She owns a boutique digital marketing firm providing a full array of marketing services including strategic research, adaptive SEO, social media marketing, e-mail marketing, advertising, web development and mobile marketing. Lindemann and her WSI team are located in Valencia, serve the market in a variety of industries, with clients primarily located in the greater Los Angeles area.

This month, Lindemann celebrated her 10 year anniversary as a business owner and is recognized for her dedication to community involvement. Alison Lindemann is a member of the Executive Officer, but not new to the San Fernando Valley or Tierra del Sol. For the past 24 years, she has been in the recruiting business and works tirelessly on other events and committees. She also is actively involved with PALs, raising money to support the West Valley Police Station. PALs creates a positive bond between police officers and the youth of the community.

Beginning her career as a job coach at Tierra del Sol Foundation, she assisted individuals with significant intellectual disabilities to find their unique gifts and skills, and match those talents to jobs that needed to be done. As a result of her work, people like Renee, a woman with Down Syndrome, who otherwise would have spent her life tucked away at home or in an adult day care center, are able to celebrate 15 years of employment at The Daily News. Since becoming the CEO of Tierra in July of last year, Lienhard has on-boarded a new team of leadership to guide the organization, while tirelessly advocating for the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

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owner and digital marketing consultant. She is consistently a top 20 revenue earner within the WSI network of over 1,000 clients worldwide. She mentors new consultants, participates on numerous committees, speaks at digital marketing events, and is currently the chair of the marketing division of the ASEO consortium. Prior to owning her own business, Alison worked for Farmers Insurance Group as the Director of Sales as well as the Director of Service Center Operations, among other positions in her 17-year tenure with the organization.

AMANDA MA
Innovate Marketing Group, Inc.
Having visited over 30 countries, the founder of Innovate Marketing Group Inc., Amanda Ma is uniquely able to unite her passion for travel by incorporating style and design from all over the world while acknowledging how culture and tradition can play into many different kinds of events. With more than 10 years of experience, Ma is a master of creating and leveraging strategic connections to bring additional value to events and taking them to the next level.

Ma’s witty personality and positive attitude help her clients relax with confidence as she works her magic. She oversees high-level event strategy and brand integration. She has worked with clients including HBO, ABC, NBC, Showtime East West Bank, and LA County Department of Public Works. Alongside her day-to-day operations, she is passionate about developing and implementing dynamic event experiences and marketing strategies in alignment with brand strategies and messaging.

PRECIOUS MAYS
Pacificia Hospital of the Valley
Precious Mays started with the 231-bed Pacifica Hospital of the Valley, independent with fresh visionary ideas. She took the assignment of creating development and completed it with rapid success. Mays was then given the Chief Development Officer position in which she excelled in creating a referral network that grew from a 20-mile radius to a more than 100-mile radius. She excelled in building relationships and developing new ones far exceeded the expectations of the organization. She was then offered the Chief Strategy Officer position nine months ago. Her ability to see vision and growth in a very depressed area and in a community in need of more services that most Healthcare organizations do not want to provide is a true talent.

Mays’ visionary ideas and goals are to open a dialysis unit to serve the community, to expand outpatient services and work together with the local IPA and Serra medical clinic to collaborate on creating new opportunities for the community and serve a larger patient population.

CYNDI MCAULEY
Therapeutic Living Centers of the Blind
Leading a team of over 300 employees, who care for clients who are born with blindness or have become blind later in life may well take a lion’s share of courage, strength, experience and a great sense of humor. That is exactly how colleagues and clients alike describe Cyndi McAuley, a warm and caring leader who constantly exhibits his unique blend of wisdom, caution and humbleness.

Under McAuley’s stewardship, the Therapeutic Living Centers has found it necessary to have a very serious agenda in place. It’s an agenda that means dedicated teamwork in working hard to assist people who are challenged by loss of sight and other bodily functions from sunset to dawn and throughout the day. TLCB offers a well-structured lifestyle of services to each of their clients from speech therapy, psychological help, housing, Braille education, recreation and social activities. They also have a whole array of services in several sites in the Valley.

HELEN MCDONAGH
Massage Envy Spa Los Angeles
Irish-bred Helen McDonagh started her career in software development and remained in the industry for 17 years. She left the business side of hand at entrepreneurship, and opened her first Massage Envy franchise in 2004. She now owns 13 franchise locations throughout the San Fernando Valley and is the Los Angeles Regional Developer for the company. Running between 13 franchises, each of which schedule tens of thousands of massages per year, puts McDonagh on the road for hours each week. She serves on the national standards boards for Massage Envy. She is frequently called upon to testify in Sacramento as the state standards for massage therapy.

She believes being a good neighbor in her community is vital to having a successful business. Massage Envy has become a national sponsor for Healing Hands for Arthritis, and Helen’s clinics have played a major role in growing awareness for the organization. In 2010, Helen and her staff raised $116,000 to benefit Healing Hands. 

LISA MCDOWELL
The Cheesecake Factory Incorporated
Since joining The Cheesecake Factory in 1992, Lisa McDowell has been laser-focused on helping the company as it grows for growth with growth without sacrificing its deeply rooted company culture and standards for excellence. She made her initial mark by refining the company’s many training & development programs and systems, while creating the infrastructure necessary for growth. She has opened more than 35 of the company’s 140 restaurants locations – most notably opening all of its eight international locations from 2012 – 2014, and launching the Grand Lux as well as RockSugar Pan Asian Kitchen.

In her current role, McDowell has created the company’s Global Development Department to prepare for growth with international licensees. Always one to embrace change and enjoy a challenge, Lisa is now charged with building and leading teams across the globe and developing the programs, systems and infrastructure necessary to facilitate the company’s initial expansion into Asia and its continued growth in the Middle East and Latin America – while remaining for upcoming growth in other parts of the world.

LAURA MCHOLM
NorthStar Moving Company
Laura Mcholm’s NorthStar Moving Company is built upon a sincere dedication to meeting the highest standards for service and integrity in relationships with customers, employees and the community at large. As a result, her company moves over 8,000 families a year, employs over 200 people in the San Fernando Valley and has been honored with more awards for service than any other moving company.

McHolm and NorthStar Moving have redefined the moving industry as the first to offer eco-luxury moving services, elevating basic moving and storage services to a new unparalleled level of customer service, customized care, and environmental consciousness. They have proven the state-of-the-art way to move is with its red carpet service, and are succeeding in their mission to move service back into what should have always been the ultimate service industry: the moving industry. McHolm and her company contribute time, services, and financial support to over a dozen charitable and socially conscious organizations including Make-A-Wish, Global Green, Habitat for Humanity and Move for Hunger.

DIANNE MCKAY
Mustang Marketing
Diane McKay’s all-in business mentality dates back to 1986 when she cofounded Strategic Television with her late father. During this time, she helped chart the territory of satellite communications, transforming the once startup into the leading provider of satellite technology for live television around the world. She sold Strategic Television in 2004 to focus on her nonprofit efforts, her family of four and her lifelong passion: education. McKay added a new chapter to her illustrious professional career in 2010, joining Mustang Marketing as the director of business development. With her caring nature and sharp wit, she effortlessly immersed herself in the inner-workings of the company and formed close bonds with each client, helping to discover what each needed to experience greater success. As a result, Mustang Marketing grew, and is now recognized as Ventura County’s largest marketing agency, and McKay was promoted to Vice President.

ZSUZSANNA (SUSANA) NAGY
Keller Williams
Zszusanna (Susanna) Nagy is a Realtor with Keller Williams Realty Studio City.

When she joined Keller Williams less than three years ago, Nagy was new to residential real estate. In 2012 she immersed herself in the study of the business – taking every in-house course twice and also taking courses at the Southland Association of Realtors in Van Nuys. In 2013 (her first full year) she set a new KW Studio City first year Realtor record closing over $11,000,000 in transactions and receiving a perfect 5.0 client satisfaction rating from every client. These scores were the highest scores in the office.

Last year, Nagy, working without the benefit of a team, was a Top Producer, closing 24 transactions worth over $18,000,000. She was also invited to join the KW Luxury Homes division based on her success within the Southland Association of Realtors in Van Nuys. Nagy has been working on Hula’s growth on the basis of technological innovation, outstanding customer service and integrity. As a result, the company enjoys strong and longstanding relationships with major film and television studios, technology manufacturers and developers, and peer competitors. That, in turn, has created opportunities for the company to extend its market share through acquisition, strategic partnerships, co-ventures and sub-contractor agreements. Hula’s success also led to its 2010 sale to Slate Media Group. Upon completion of that sale, Nio became the company’s Chief Sales Officer.

KATHY NORRIS
The Santa Clarita Valley Industry Association ("VIA")
Kathy Norris has been and continues to be instrumental in the company’s growth, valuable connections, and community participation. She successfully runs a successful organization and while prioritizing priorities and expectations change on an annual basis, she is able to adjust with her market and her place on the Board successful.

Norms serves as a bridge that connects the gaps between businesses and the non-profits that so deservedly need corporate support. The value for all parties is both personal and professional – for VIA members, the ability to make a difference through charitable volunteer opportunities and gain insight into the needs of the community, and for charities, the connections with strong donors of both time and necessary funding. Norms is well respected in the community as a leader, influencer, and as someone who has made significant impact to the growth of the Santa Clarita Valley business and non-profit community.

FRANCINE OSCHIN
Oschin Partners, Inc.
As chief executive officer of Oschin Partners, Inc., Francine Oschin is a real estate professional and founder of Econico-based consulting firm, Oschin Partners, Inc.

Oschin has been a staple of the Valley’s business community as well as the Valley in general for a number of years. In 2012 she immersed herself in the study of the business – taking every in-house course twice and also taking courses at the Southland Association of Realtors in Van Nuys. In 2013 (her first full year) she set a new KW Studio City first year Realtor record closing over $11,000,000 in transactions and receiving a perfect 5.0 client satisfaction rating from every client. These scores were the highest scores in the office.

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KATHY NORRIS
The Santa Clarita Valley Industry Association (“VIA”)
years and has tirelessly given of her time to help the Valley region prosper thanks to the seemingly endless number of different roles she has played over the years. She has played trade as a consultant for many years, but has also worked as a staffer for elected officials and is well known throughout the community for being a superb and selfless volunteer.

SARA OWENS
HUB International Insurance Services Inc.

Through hard work and dedication, Sara Owens has been recognized as Sales Producer of the Quarter for HUB International numerous times due to bringing in the most new business revenue over any other of the approximately 20 Producers in the office. She has organically grown a book of business of over $700,000 in revenue for HUB working in both Property & Casualty, as well as Employee Benefits. She has created a niche for insuring game publishers and developers and was asked by the American Bar Association to write a chapter for their textbook on insuring game companies. In fact, she is currently working on edition two of the “Business of Video Games.”

Along with her production responsibilities, Owens leads the HUB Employee Engagement Committee, which focuses on attracting and retaining the very best talent in the insurance industry. With the team, Owens has built technical training programs, wellness initiatives and plans social events for all employees in the office.

NIRANJALA “ANGIE” PEIRIS
Brighton Hall

Angie Peiris grew up in Sri Lanka in a family of educators who placed the value of education on the same level as family harmony. Coming to America as a teenager, she quickly realized that the opportunities hard work can offer and graduated from California State University Los Angeles with a degree in international business management, before pursuing her masters degree from National University.

At first, Peiris worked in the worlds of corporate finance with Lockheed, and then Warner Brothers, before she heard about a struggling school looking for a leader. Accepting the challenge, she quit her prestigious position and took up the directorship of San Fernando Valley Professional School. Combining her passion for children’s education with the pragmatism of corporate finance, Peiris steered SFVPS to the fully accredited, college preparatory institution that Brighton Hall is today – a unique college preparatory private school, dedicated to ensuring that its students achieve a strong academic education, in preparation for them to meet their professional goals.

STEVENIE PICO
Southland Stone USA, Inc.

Stevanie Pico has been instrumental in developing Southland Stone's relationships with Architectural and Design firms throughout the United States, Asia, and Europe, creating a go-to-market plan in conjunction with the company's Italian partners for its innovative Chokolatta product, PORSIM, and assisting in the design of a facilities remodel. Although quite new to the market, Pico confidently developed relationships with industry pros that have come to know her as reliable, honest, and hard working. She has also joined and has become an active participant in many industry organizations.

Pico has, in a very short time, become known as a relentless proponent of Southland’s capabilities for supplying top quality materials for large and commercial projects worldwide. Her primary responsibility is in managing and furthering Southland Stone’s Architectural and Design sales team, but Pico is also committed to creating and implementing marketing strategies, project and product research and development, creating materials palettes and presenting those materials all over the world.

KARIE L. PURCELL
KSA Management, Inc.

Karie L. Purcell, CEO of KSA Management, has built a reputable career in both the business management industry and in her work with the Encino Chamber of Commerce. Serving as President, Purcell has established KSA Management as a “right-hand” in helping elite clientele achieve their career goals, while maintaining order in their personal lives. Through more than 20 years of experience, she is able to provide a diverse set of skills from accounting to property management as well as pay-roll and business administration.

As President of the 2015 Executive Committee for the Encino Chamber of Commerce, Purcell shares a major responsibility in the governance, efficiency and continuation of community resources. Since she joined the Chamber over six years ago, she has been an active member serving on multiple committees including marketing, golf and lunch networking all at the same time. Her leadership inspires others to seek active participation.

CINDY RAKOWITZ
Fit 4 The Cause, Inc.

Cindy Rakowitz is an American executive, known as a public relations expert and a former Division President for Playboy Enterprises, where she ran international public relations, marketing and advertising, as well as the modeling agency for over 15 years. Between the years 1986 and 2001, she managed Playboy's policies in the fields of public relations, marketing and advertising, also representing the company as spokesperson in relation to the major media outlets. She was involved in the development of the Playmate brand and its related trademarks and logos, she advised the celebrities who had a relationship with Playboy, voiced Playmate's views on various issues and produced Playboy's major events.

Having been bitten by the health and wellness bug, Rakowitz decided to “pause” her successful PR career in order to pursue her newfound passion. In 2014, she founded a non-profit corporation - Fit 4 The Cause, which raises money and awareness for local and national health related dragdiving diverse, fun group exercise programs led by professional instructors.

CONNIE RICHARDSON
AAA TLC Health Care, Inc.

Connie Richardson is Director of Patient Care & Marketing for AAA TLC Health Care. A nurse for over 25 years — in case management, home health and hospice, Richardson is also a certified Senior Advisor, fighting for senior rights, as well as traveling to Sacramento to meet with state legislators to fight for affordable care at home.

Richardson makes time to also serve as a member of the Magnolia Council for the Tower Cancer Research Foundation (TCSR) at Cedars Sinai, where she is the silent auction chair for the Tower of Hope Gala. She also participates on the board and spearheads the ad loc market- ing and fundraising committee for NeuroCommunity Foundation, aka Northridge Foundation for Neurological Research & Education. Tirelessly, she also supports and participates in fundraising for many local charities, ranging from the ASPCA, Children’s Hospital of L.A., City of Hope, St. Jude’s hospital, Breast Cancer Awareness, Alzheimer’s Disease, MS, Society, CATS Ovarian Cancer Coalition, Run Kids Run events for children and the Los Angeles Zoo.

EVA RODRIGUEZ
Magical Touch Day Spa

Eva Rodriguez has been the owner of the Northridge-based Magical Touch Day Spa since 2004. A licensed Esthetician and Massage Therapist in the State of California, Rodriguez designed Magical Touch Day Spa to offer a variety of services which include: massages, facials, waxing, extractions, permanent make-up, and body treatments.

Rodriguez is a self-taught businesswoman, known for her tremendous drive. A first generation Latina business woman, she learned a lot from her parents, especially her dad who was a “sobador” in Mexico. Her goal is to always offer the best service that will keep the customer happy and coming back for more. Growing the business over the last decade plus, she has also found the time to volunteer and be a speaker and mentor for one of ICON CDC's Entrepreneur training programs. Her ability to run her own successful business and still find time to give back to the community is a testament to her character and drive while showcasing what a model citizen can and should aspire to be.

GENNA ROSENBERG
GennComm, LLC

The founder and principal at GennComm, Genna Rosenberg, is a leader, visionary,Mompreneur, and toy and consumer products veteran, with more than 20-years’ experience in marketing and communications. She has led campaigns, programs and promotions for some of today’s most beloved and classic kids’ brands with licensing industry giants including Disney, Nickelodeon, Marvel, Mattel, Hasbro, Sony and many more.

Rosenberg has revolutionized the way people work by creating an environment in which seasoned executives work the hours they want on projects they like, thereby keeping overhead minimal and giving clients access to top notch execu- tives on all their campaigns. The virtual workspace has allowed her team to maxi- mize work life balance and have a better quality of life, spending more time with their families. Known for her creative vision and strategic partnerships, she has been able to build her company with word-of-mouth and results. Today she oversees more than a dozen staff, multi- ple clients, and various campaigns.

DIANA M. SANCHEZ
Van Nuys Airport (div. of Los Angeles World Airports)

Diana Sanchez is the Public and Community Relations Director for Van Nuys Airport (VNY). She has been with Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) for 16 years, over eight of them at VNY. She is currently responsible for building the community relations activities at VNY including forming Team LAWA, an employee and the tenant vol- unteer group whose volunteers improve the community through refurbishing parks, visiting hospitals, running food drives and joining with the Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce for their annual Clean Up Day.

ANDREA SANTILLAN and ELIANA SANCHEZ
Chokolatta

Chokolatta is a perfect example of the work-related lifestyle, demonstrat- ing how anybody here in the United States can achieve their business goals. Andrea Santillan is the owner of Chokolatta and has worked on her busi- ness for years — starting out at farmers markets and eventually working her way up to the opening of her Chokolatta busi- ness location in North Hollywood. Chokolatta has been open for a little more than five months now and is gaining pop- ularity day after day.

Chokolatta would not be as successful as it is today without Santillan’s partner, Eliana Sanchez. The two’s dedication and commitment to perfection that Chokolatta holds so dear. “Con Amor” is the answer they always ask their customers why their products are so delicious. “With love” is how they create the deli-
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...and determination – and are ready to face any challenge thrown their way.

TAMARA SARETSKY and MARY KRELL-OISHI
Blue Word Productions

They first came together with the idea of turning Saretsky’s award winning novel, “Suburban Task Force” (written using the pseudonym Addison Towne) into a screenplay. Over the course of a short period of time, these two dynamic women found that they shared a passion for creating new quality films that feature and encourage women in all fields of industry.

Since their first meeting at Burbank’s B.J.’s Grill, they have worked together to build a production company that will become something long lasting and vibrant. Together, they have written and produced two award winning short films, “Going to the Top” and “A Day at the Office.” Their third short film, Replanting, produced in concert with Solitary Creatures, will soon be hitting the festival circuit. Most recently, their feature “Army of Sun and Stone” and their television pilot “Crime Tour” were recently honored at the Monrovia International Action on Film Festival.

LINDA C. MILLER SAVITT
Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt, LLP

Linda Miller Savitt has been a partner in Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt, LLP since 2000. She specializes in defending management in labor and employment litigation matters. Prior to 2000 she was a partner in another San Fernando Valley law firm, the former Rushfeldt, Shelley & Drake for 13 years.

Savitt has tried over 80 jury trials, numerous court trials and several arbitrations. Approximately 90% of her trials include cases with punitive damages allegations. She has received defense verdicts in approximately 90% of her trials. In 2014, she was named one of the Top Employment Lawyers by the Los Angeles Daily Journal and 2015 Best Lawyer, Labor and Employment. Savitt also served as the 2011 President of the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel. In 2014 she was the President of the California Defense Council. She is a Diplomat level member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, a fellow with the American College of Trial Lawyers and a fellow with the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.

KAMILA SAXA
Interpress Media Group, LLC.

After studying business and accounting in Slovakia, Kamila Saxa came to America in 1999 with just $600 in her pocket. She went from being a manager in a Slovakian Saving Bank to a toilet cleaning lady here. After nine months of menial labor, Saxa took classes to learn English and then was able to work in restaurants. Shortly thereafter she was qualified to work as a secretary, office manager and then eventually took a brave step to start her own business.

With a love of publishing, and knowledge and passion for design, Saxa published her first magazine 2007. In 2013 she launched Brass Ring, based on the story of how everyone is trying to grab the brass ring of success. Saxa and her team publish quarterly the digital and hard copy publication where everything is fine tuned. To date, Interpress celebrates over 350,000 viewers. We are currently building our sales team to generate more advertisers and to expand our distribution worldwide.
Southland Stone. She now manages over 300 accounts and sees up to 15 customers per day. Seedahmed inspires a loyalty in her clients with her attention to detail, her impeccable work ethic, and her genuine care for the people she works with.

After emigrating from Sudan, Seedahmed earned her degree in Interior Design in Los Angeles. She has used her experience to guide designers through the process of materials selection for residences, commercial spaces, and even yachts. Her ability to get to the core of the desired look and feel of an installation, to see the greater picture, has given Seedahmed a nearly perfect customer satisfaction rating.

**SUSAN SENGEZER**
*Providence Holy Cross Medical Center*

Sengezer is a full time emergency room RN, who at the age of 30 went back to school. Today, this mother of seven children and eight grandchildren, “Ms. California Ambassador for Domestic Violence” with Folks International, also makes time to volunteer for Safe Passage Los Angeles once a week and raises funds to make a difference.

Sengezer started volunteering in 2010, helping women with various health issues. In 2013 she created the “It’s Not Okay” brochures about domestic violence and the help that is available at Safe Passage – and posted them at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. Now she is on a mission to put these brochures in every emergency room in Los Angeles County. This year she will also launch a class for domestic violence and will offer the class online and in person with proceeds going to the charity for ongoing funding of the materials.

**CYNTHIA SEWELL**
*New Horizons*

Cynthia Sewell is President and CEO of one of the largest and oldest agencies of its kind in the San Fernando Valley — serving individuals with special needs. While the organization has been in existence since 1954, her strong leadership over the past 25 years has enabled New Horizons to consistently provide job training and placement, education, counseling, travel training, social and recreational activities, residential services, community living support, and employment opportunities to more than 1,000 individuals each year.

An important element of New Horizons’ approach is to be a contributing member of the San Fernando Valley business community, and add economic value and significance to our local area. To that end, Sewell’s achievements have enabled New Horizons to contribute $13 million to the community each year in goods, services, and purchases from local businesses, while returning income to the community through purchases made and taxes paid by its clients who earn an annual payroll through jobs held at New Horizons’ on-site Workshop and in the community.

**KATHY SHAFAGH**
*Studio City Orthodontist/1st Choice Dental*

Dr. Kathy Shafagh has been an Orthodontist for over 20 years and genuinely cares about her patients and employees. Despite the fact that she is a cancer survivor and a widow, she is full of positive energy. She owns two successful offices, the one in North Hollywood is a bustling family practice that she has owned for 20 years; and the other is a brand new, one-of-a-kind, Invisalign specialty office with a uniquely Zen-like setting in the heart of Studio City. Shafagh is constantly giving back to the community and her employees. She offers financial incentives and even matching funds to her employees, most of whom have worked for her for many years and even bring their family members in to work for her as well. In terms of community involvement, most recently she teamed up with the Love Project to take food and hygiene items down to skid row to give out on Valentine’s Day.

**ANITA SHELLEY**
*Vaco Los Angeles*

Anita Shelley is a dynamic executive who has not only helped thousands of people find gainful employment, but also helped them to build more balanced lives with meaningful, challenging careers that also allow them meet their personal goals and responsibilities. Shelley co-founded Vaco Los Angeles, launched its Westlake Village office in 2006, and achieved truly phenomenal success over the past year. Coming from high-powered positions in large companies, Shelley traded corporate security for a stake in owning and operating Vaco Los Angeles and has helped build the business from scratch. Under her leadership, Vaco Los Angeles grew from zero to over $25 million, and accomplished this growth in the best possible way – by putting people to work.

Shelley helped transform Vaco Los Angeles from a start-up into a thriving business today, and leads the most profitable consulting placement line of business, while maintaining a 95 percent employee retention rate.

**DANONE SIMPSON**
*Montage Insurance Solutions*

Danone Simpson is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Montage Insurance Solutions, which has helped thousands of people find meaningful, challenging careers that also allow them meet their personal goals and responsibilities. Shelley co-founded Vaco Los Angeles, launched its Westlake Village office in 2006, and achieved truly phenomenal success over the past year. Coming from high-powered positions in large companies, Shelley traded corporate security for a stake in owning and operating Vaco Los Angeles and has helped build the business from scratch. Under her leadership, Vaco Los Angeles grew from zero to over $25 million, and accomplished this growth in the best possible way – by putting people to work. Shelley helped transform Vaco Los Angeles from a start-up into a thriving business today, and leads the most profitable consulting placement line of business, while maintaining a 95 percent employee retention rate.

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Insurance Solutions. Under her leadership, the firm has experienced an incredible growth average, year over year, every year since its inception in 2006. The company is over 500% larger than it was when it opened its doors just over 8 years ago. In the last 12 months, the company has managed to expand the size of its company, its largest department (employee benefits) by over 30% and in the last several years it has launched a COBRA department and doubled its sales force.

Simpson's company utilizes HR tools, consulting, wellness campaigns, health fairs and safety initiatives to reduce premiums and employee costs. These programs have proven to be effective in retaining and nurturing the health and safety of employees. Further, her visionary goals for technological advancements in the industry and newer, creative ways to service clients is a huge part of the tangible success the agency has experienced.

CHERRITA SMITH
Burbank Association of Realtors

Cherrita Smith is the chief administrative officer of the Burbank Association of Realtors (BAOR). She is responsible for the efficient management, execution and administration of all of the business and affairs of BAOR. Among the many day-to-day responsibilities on Smith's plate is regularly recommending and implementing policies, plans and procedures for the administration, organization and operation of BAOR. She is also in charge of hiring all personnel to fill positions or vacancies on its administrative staff, all of whom she supervises on a day-to-day basis.

LEIGH ANN SPOONER
Sun Air Jets

A highly regarded charter sales representative for many years, Leigh Ann Spooner, Director of Charter Sales for Sun Air Jets with offices in Camarillo and Van Nuys, has received the point of contact for all trips taking place within a specific fleet of private aircraft. She handles the sales, scheduling, and arrangements for each trip as well as managing relationships between clients, brokers, and other operators alike.

Being both a natural hard worker and people person, in nearly 20 years in the industry, Spooner has cemented her outstanding reputation. Moreover, her own daughter reports that in all the years she has dedicated to her job, through all the blood and tears that have gone into all her hard work toward her career, she now once again has renewed her most important role — as a mother.

JANE STANTON
North Valley Family YMCA

Jane Stanton is Executive Director/Vice President of the North Valley Family YMCA, the second largest of 26 branches of the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles. The agency serves a broad range of people including Northridge, Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, Mission Hills, Pacoima, San Fernando, and a portion of North Hills. In this role, Stanton oversees all staff of 300 and administers an annual budget of $9 million. Over the years, Stanton has served as the YMCA's executive director, where she has been successful in monthly milestone deadlines and continues to be dedicated to making our community stronger, healthier and a better place to live.

Under her leadership, the North Valley Family YMCA has initiated new fitness programs and implemented national programs and services for over 28,000 people each year, including 18,000 elementary school children at 41 school sites, 4,000 children in fitness/activity classes at the Y, 2,000 youth in summer camp programs, and 4,000 adults and seniors.

THRISH STEELE
Safe Passage Charity

A successful model, make-up artist and wardrobe stylist in the entertainment industry, Thrish Steele founded the non-profit organization Women Crowned in Glory, Inc. in 1992. In working with Women Crowned in Glory, Steele found a need for support of women dealing with domestic violence, something she too had overcome. With this, she created Safe Passage in the year 2000.

Before the hit show “Extreme Makeover,” Steele began performing her own extreme makeovers, through Safe Passage, on survivors of domestic abuse. Safe Passage compassionately transforms the lives of abused women and their children to a new better life providing hope, opportunity, pride and empowerment. Steele and her team build these women’s confidence and help them to become leaders that can give back to the community. A true inspirational leader who leads by example, Steele has made a career out of turning dreams into reality and insecurities into self-assurance.

MICHELE STEIN
NAI Capital

As Chief Operations Officer at NAI Capital, Michele Stein oversees all of the company’s offices throughout Southern, California, including the Corporate Headquarters totaling over 300 brokers, managers and staff.

Through leading the 47 direct report team members, Stein is able to facilitate comprehensive performance in the day-to-day management within the scope of human resources, marketing, contracts, accounting, information technology, and business development.

Over the past 10 years she has become an integral part of NAI Capital’s administration, being named COO in 2014. Currently, as a member of senior management, Stein oversees the operation of 14 NAI Capital offices throughout California and is known as much for her smile and positive attitude as for her ability and competence. A classic “jack of all trades,” Stein is involved in all aspects of NAI Capital’s administration from purchasing, human resources, technology, compliance to overseeing NAI Capital’s IT and Marketing Managers.

SIM TANG-PARADIS
City National Bank

Sim Tang-Paradis is the vice president and branch manager of the Westlake Village office of City National Bank. Tang-Paradis oversees the delivery of the bank’s full range of financial products and services, including commercial, consumer, and real estate loans, cash management services, deposits, international banking services, and foreign exchange. She also manages the office customer service and business development efforts.

Tang-Paradis joined the Board of the Economic Development Collaborative-Ventura County in 2009 and was elected to be the Chairman of the Board for 2014. She served as the First Asian American Chair for the Organization. Under her leadership, the EDC-VCO loan pool grew by $5 million, a total of 187 jobs were created by the Small Business Development Center, serving more than 523 area companies, which facilitated local business access to more than $37 million in new capital and an increased in sales of more than $30 million in the region.

CRYSTAL THOMAS
Crystal Clear Concepts

Crystal Clear Concepts is the Principal of Crystal Clear Concepts of Porter Ranch. A club GM for almost 30 years and a recipient of the Excellence in Club Management Award, Thomas is one of only 18 industry experts with a Master Club Manager designation.

Shortly after leading The Athenaeum at California Institute of Technology to Platinum Club status in 2003, Thomas founded Crystal Clear Concepts to drive the success of other clubs as a consultant and educator. In working as a club consultant and in all of her educational courses, she focuses on enhancing member satisfaction through honing existing skills and introducing new approaches in critical competencies. Today, Thomas recently published her second book, Business with a Heart. The business novel follows a young leader as she fights entrenched attitudes to find instead an approach that mutually benefits upper management, team members, and members/customers alike, while still advancing the bottom line.

KENDRA THOMAS, ESQ., CFP®, Thomas Law Offices

Specializing in Family Law, Kendra Thomas has been able to start a business (Thomas Law Offices) from nothing and build it into a successful practice that has doubled and tripled its earnings in the last three years. She has been able to achieve this by expanding the firm’s business model to include a legal concierge service for the firm’s higher-end clients. Her success in the San Fernando Valley has allowed her (and her team) to open a second branch of the firm in Newport Beach.

Being trained in mediation, negotiation and arbitration, Thomas also holds a Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the Strauss Institute at Pepperdine. Known for her empathy and compassion, when Thomas is not helping a client through a complicated divorce or custody proceeding happening in the Domestic Violence clinic or representing someone struggling to overcome domestic violence on a pro bono basis.

EMILIE TODD HiMedia

In 2006, Emilie Todhunter graduated from California State University, Northridge (Magna Cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing) and was offered a job at Round2 Communications, a media agency that played a huge role in shaping the businesswoman Todhunter is today. In her six years there, she rose through the ranks, starting as an Assistant Planner and then a Media Planner/Buyer, and ultimately Media Supervisor. Unfortunately, Round2 fell to financial hardship and ultimately closed in late 2012. Out of a job, but not discouraged, Todhunter and a former colleague decided to take life into their own hands and open RxF Media Partners.

Since its inception, in December 2012, Todhunter and her partner have drawn upon their experience across all mediums (traditional, digital and social). Today, RxF is a profitable, full-service media marketing agency with offices in both Los Angeles and San Diego, serving clients locally and worldwide.

MAJA TROCHMICYZ, PH.D.
Phoenix Houses of California, Inc.

Dr. Maja Trochmicyz has a history of leadership in the Polish American community in Los Angeles County and in the poetry world in San Fernando Valley. For over seven years, she has held a senior management position in development at Phoenix Houses of California, with a focus on grants/contracts and regional communications. Over this time, she has obtained more than $77 million in grants for the organization. Simultaneously, she has been involved in other nonprofits, as a board member (four years at the Polish American Historical Association, as Board Secretary and Communications Director), board president (two years at the Modipiska Club, and committee chair (eight years as Scholarship Chair at the Polish University Club of Los Angeles).

Prior to joining Phoenix House, she worked as an advancement professional in the social sciences field for three years, with a specialty in foundation/corporate relations, organizing foundation grant-writing programs for such non-profit agencies.

THERESE TUCKER
BlackLine

Therese Tucker started financial software leader BlackLine in 2001 when she decided to merge her two talents and passions, technology and finance, in one exciting endeavor. BlackLine was the first company to develop a dedicated software-based solution for managing accounts payable accountants to automate their financial processes. In just a few years, BlackLine

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ensures that all financial decisions benefit revenues of $1.8 billion dollars. Her role overseeing a budget of $750,000,000 and Region. In this role she is charged with Country, and the entire Antelope Valley

Hollywood, the eastern portion of the San

Kaiser Permanente

trum of financial operations.

greater efficiency, financial governance

BlackLine has been laser

client roster that includes global house-

BlackLine users in more than 100 coun-

providing comprehensive health care to

Karla Valle-Smith

Kaiser Permanente

as the Area Chief Financial

City Medical Center Area

and Antelope Valley

Medical Center Areas. These

areas include North

Los Angeles, the eastern portion of the San

Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita, Canyon

Country, and the entire Antelope Valley

region. In this role she is charged with

overseeing a budget of $750,000,000 and

revenues of $1.8 billion dollars. Her role

ensures that all financial decisions benefit

Kaiser Permanente patients, with a goal of
delivering quality care at an affordable rate. Kaiser Permanente’s Panorama City and Antelope Valley service areas include more than 500 physicians and 4,000 employees, providing comprehensive health care to

more than 300,000 members.

Valle-Smith leads an interdisciplinary

team that includes regional and local leaders, physicians, nurses, finance experts, and analysts. Since she took the reins as CFO, Karla has introduced a cul-
ture of excellence and efficiency.

NANCY HOFFMAN VANYEK

Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce

Nancy Hoffman Vanye is the Chief Executive Officer of the Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce. Starting

with the Chamber in 1987 as the Communications Manager, she was promot-
ed to Program Manager in 1989, and

assumed the CEO position in 1993. In

2000, she received her Accredited

Chamber of Commerce designation from the Western Association of Chamber Executives. As CEO of the Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce, Vanye has designed and launched innovative concepts and functions that improved efficiency, productivity, and quality. She has created strategic partnerships with government, business, and community sources, such as successfully developing a strong government affairs program that has influenced legislation and regulations affecting businesses in California. Through these efforts and many others,

she has transformed the local chamber into a regional business organization that is recognized as the primary voice of business in the San Fernando Valley.

STACY VIERHEILIG-FRASER

Charles Dunn Company

Since Stacy Vierheilig-Fraser won the Charles Dunn Company’s 1988 Rookie of the Year award in 1988, she 27 years later remains one of the company’s top producers, as well as one of the most successful commercial real estate brokers in the San Fernando Valley. With the extensive market knowledge she has developed and main-
tained throughout her career, she has completed sale and lease transactions totaling more than $500 million. Vierheilig-Fraser averages 70-80 deals per year, a significant feat of volume that belies her remarkable work ethic. In 2014, she completed 76 sale and lease transac-
tions, with a total consideration of almost $22 million. It was a banner year for her not only in the amount of market share that she grew throughout the San

Fernando Valley, but also for the scope of her work. Several of Vierheilig-Fraser’s clients were connected with production facilities and creative offices, and she also directed several key deals in cross-office collaborations.

Panney Wei

Positive Changes Consulting

Panney Wei is an award-winning writer, TV/radio host, life coach, and moti-
vational speaker on leadership, achieving one’s potential, and using the power of your mind to achieve your goals. She has made a career out of inspiring people with the wisdom and inspiration to cre-
ate positive change and live the lives of their dreams. She is the on-air host of the show and podcast “Positive Changes with Panney Wei” on iTunes and Blogtalkradio.com, broadcast to over a million listeners.

Wei is largely known for her accom-
plishments in serving her community, as she continually works to inspire personal transformation, empowering people to achieve success in their personal and profes-
sional lives. She is dedicated to inspir-
ing her fellow women, community, local-
ly and globally. She is also an activist in her community, serving as State Secretary for the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus of the California Democratic Party.
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Bonnie Weigel, Food Share

Since taking the helm of Ventura County’s FOOD Share in 2008, Bonnie Weigel has successfully met a growing demand, serving 63 percent more people in need, and securing increased donations from 6 million pounds of food to 11 million pounds today. Her gift of building inclusive relationships within the community has resulted in donations that now represent 60% of the food coming into the food bank each month. Under her stewardship, the CANTree Collection, which has become a favorite holiday tradition of Ventura County building holiday trees out of canned goods, was created. In just three short years, the event went from the community building 60 trees to 258 trees this year, garnering over 196,000 pounds of food in 3 days.

Weigel spearheaded a $350,000 partnership between the Port of Hueneme and Wells Fargo, which has created one of the nation’s largest mobile pantries that will travel to food deserts delivering nutritious foods to the hungry.

Trixy Weiss, Genesis Capital, LLC

Trixy Weiss is the founder and CEO of Genesis Capital, LLC, a private real estate and finance firm with a platform of diverse offerings including lending, auction and real estate services. As founder and CEO, Weiss is responsible for business growth and development, assisting with financial decisions, executive hiring, vetting and underwriting of all borrowers and managing a staff of more than 80 employees.

A leader in a predominantly male industry, Weiss has effectively grown the Genesis business. Under her leadership, in 2014, the company received an investment from Oaktree Funds of nearly $100 million, with an anticipated increase in funding of up to $250 million. Additionally, since Q1 2014, Genesis Capital originations have increased more than 600 percent, and the company has expanded its operations to now include: Los Angeles, Northern California, Texas, Florida and Georgia. Recognizing an opportunity in the marketplace to take the disposition business to the next level, Weiss arranged for Genesis to join forces with Hudson & Marshall to create a technology driven auction powerhouse.

Melissa White, Wells Fargo

Melissa White is the district manager for Wells Fargo’s South Valley Metro market. White oversees over 200 retail banking professionals at nine Wells Fargo banking stores in the communities of Woodland Hills, Encino, North Hollywood, Studio City, Sherman Oaks and Tarzana.

White is a seasoned banker with more than 20 years of retail banking experience, including 15 years at the former Wachovia Bank. Since joining Wells Fargo, she served as district manager for the Santa Clarita Valley. She also was a retail financial sales leader with Wachovia’s Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley districts, where she was responsible for opening and converting new banking stores in the region. White began her banking career as a Wachovia teller in Edison, N.J., and has served in a variety of retail banking positions, including head teller, banker, ATM and processing compliance representative, card services representative, service leader, assistant manager and store manager.

Paula Wilson, Valley Community Healthcare

As CEO, Paula Wilson is responsible for the operation, financing, budgeting, and managing of the Valley Community Clinic in North Hollywood. Starting with Valley Community as a volunteer over twenty years ago, she has led the organization through a great deal of change and growth. Since taking over as CEO in 2005, Wilson spearheaded a successful capital campaign that raised five million dollars in just over two years and made possible the 45,000 sq. ft. facility in which the clinic now resides.

In 2013 and 2014, VCH opened 45 brand-new positions, including clinical, IT, mental health enrollment, medical and administrative support, increasing the staffing base to over 200 employees. As a result of Wilson’s expansion efforts, Last year, VCH enrolled more than 5000 new patients and its new North Hills Wellness Center opened for limited services at the beginning of this year.
Kimberly Wyard serves as the Executive Director of The Rescue Train. The Rescue Train is a non-profit, no-kill dog and cat rescue located in Studio City. She has led The Rescue Train and its volunteers to raise over 2.25 million dollars to save thousands of dogs and cats from euthanasia at city shelters and find them loving homes where they become cherished family members. She has also recently launched new programs such as the “Shelter Intervention Program” that provides help for low-income people in the Valley that want to keep their pets.

LISA YOUNG
The Rescue Train
Lisa Young is the Founder, President and Executive Director of the Rescue Train. Her deep connection with animals is something she believes she was born with. When her acting career brought her to Los Angeles she was shocked to see the state of the city shelter system. She started volunteering her time a low-income animal hospital in East LA in the year 2000 and the seeds for her organization were planted.

In 2003, she founded and became the Executive Director of The Rescue Train. The Rescue Train is a non-profit, no-kill dog and cat rescue located in Studio City. She has led The Rescue Train and its volunteers to raise over 2.25 million dollars to save thousands of dogs and cats from euthanasia at city shelters and find them loving homes where they become cherished family members. She has also recently launched new programs such as the “Shelter Intervention Program” that provides help for low-income people in the Valley that want to keep their pets.

Laura Zak, of V-Day, both works and volunteers in activism. For seven years, she has spearheaded college and university audience campaigns as well as general global campaigns to help raise awareness, initiate change, and put an end to violence against women and girls. Among her many other tireless efforts, Zak has produced the huge V-Day event globally to bring attention to this matter. She also is an active writer, and producer and actress for Tello films, helping to promote equality in the LGBT community.

STACEY L. ZILL
Michelman & Robinson, LLP

Stacey Zill is a partner at Michelman & Robinson, LLP, specializing in health care litigation. Always taking a client-centric approach, Zill is heavily involved in health plan payment disputes, fraud, and unfair competition. She litigates at the trial and appellate levels, both in state and federal court. She has led precedent-setting victories at trial.

On a daily basis, Zill manages all phases of the litigation process, from pre-litigation counseling and strategy through appeal. Her extensive appellate experience has resulted in numerous published opinions. Zill is routinely published in esteemed health care journals and trade publications, and frequently speaks at seminars and before the California Society of Healthcare Attorneys, where she is also a member. Zill also volunteers at The Giving Spirit, an organization that provides homeless outreach in Los Angeles. Among her many other philanthropic activities, she is also an active member of both The Holy Cross Mothers Guild and The Band Rooster of Notre Dame, where she assists with fundraising efforts for scholarships.
At the Event