

*The San Mateo County*  
***Women's Hall of Fame***

**1984–1994**

PORTRAITS  
*of*  
DEDICATION

*Shirley Burgett • Michael Svanevik*

**PORTRAITS OF DEDICATION**  
**San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame, 1984-1994**  
by Shirley Burgett and Michael Svanevik

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in cooperation with the  
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## DEDICATION

*In gratitude to the pioneers before us,  
and for their deeds and dreams,  
let us give hope to the children,  
and dedicate ourselves—every one of us.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The efforts of many people are required to make a project the magnitude of *Portraits of Dedication* possible.

A number of local businesses and corporations have remained steadfast in their sponsorship and support of the **San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame**.

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Women from every stratum of life beyond the **Hall of Fame** and traditional women's organizations, including inmates from the San Mateo County Women's Correctional Center, have provided services in preparing this document.

The authors especially wish to thank Eleanor Williams-Curry, Libby Traubman, Shirley Moore and Rebecca Cooper, each elected to the **Hall of Fame** in 1994. It was this group which conceived of the idea for *Portraits of Dedication* and whose organizational skills and dedication to plain hard work have resulted in the finished product.

**Hall of Fame** is only a decade old, hardly old enough to be considered history in the traditional definition of the word. As a result, gathering information has often been tedious. Special thanks is due to Michelle A. Carter, managing editor of the *San Mateo Times* until December, 1994, for allowing the use of newspaper photographs. In some instances, when women have disappeared or failed to respond to requests for information, the authors relied heavily on material drawn from the pages of the *San Mateo Times* and offer specific thanks to journalists Heidi Van Zant, Dale Martin and Sherry Posnick-Goodwin, who have written numerous articles on the women who have been elected to the **Hall of Fame**.

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CONTINENTAL SHELF  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WHIP

Dear Reader:

I have genuine respect for each and every of the more than 100 women who are included in the pages of Portraits of Dedication: San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame, 1984-1994, and consider it a special honor to have been asked to make a few introductory comments.

The Hall of Fame had its beginning in 1983. I remember the moment so well. It was shortly after I had been sworn into office to serve on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

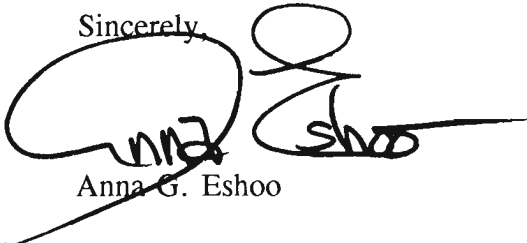
For many years I'd been aware of the great professional, charitable, philanthropic and humanitarian contributions which were being made by women of San Mateo County. Many had received recognition statewide and nationally. Ironically, however, our own community wasn't celebrating their extraordinary achievements. Girls and young women need role models. I felt that our ethnically diverse county should emphasize the emergence of women in every field and profession, those who have been the true trail blazers.

I presented to the Advisory Council on Women the idea to establish a hall of fame sponsored by a public entity which would acknowledge and highlight the contributions of women. It would be the first such organization in California.

The Hall of Fame is now well-known and has assumed its rightful place in the life of San Mateo County. Its existence is celebrated well beyond county lines. People clamor for tickets to the annual banquets which honor those who have been elected. The San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame has developed into far more than I had originally dreamed.

I am delighted to introduce this book. Portraits of Dedication assures that the unique contributions of women will be indelibly etched in the historical record. The book deserves a place in every library, every home and every heart.

Sincerely,



Anna G. Eshoo

# INTRODUCTION

This is a book about women, extraordinarily dedicated women who both individually and collectively have left an indelible imprint on the history of San Mateo County, the State of California and the United States as well.

No two are the same. Yet each is equally deserving of recognition. Whether talking about a young woman who successfully overcame drug addiction and prostitution and has put her unfortunate experience to beneficial use by helping others to succeed, or a woman with six children of her own who found energy, time, and enough love in her heart to take in 47 disturbed foster children, or a woman bent and crippled with disease who refuses to quit, and instead finds hours and stamina to assist others who are equally handicapped, *each* woman is an achiever. These are all ordinary women who have accomplished extraordinary deeds.

San Mateo is one of the smaller counties in California. It comprises 440 square miles of the peninsula directly south of San Francisco. In population, the county is just over half a million. Yet, historically, from this small population have emerged some of the most dedicated women in the nation.

**The San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame**, established in 1984, was largely the brainchild of Anna Eshoo, then a newly elected member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and, since January of 1993, a representative in the United States Congress. The **Hall of Fame** was created under the auspices of the Board of Supervisors and the Commission on the Status of Women (formerly the Advisory Council on Women). Its purpose is to pay tribute to these dedicated women and highlight their remarkable contributions.

Since creation of the **Hall of Fame**, 117 women have been elected to its ranks. While a few have died subsequent to their induction, most of those honored are still living. Six of the women, whose achievements were considered especially notable, were elected posthumously.

**Portraits of Dedication: San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame, 1984-1994** has been written to tell the stories and record for posterity the backgrounds and individual achievements of the **Hall's** members.

These accounts, read in isolation, are interesting and illuminating. However, read together they become an inspiration. Every family in which there is a growing daughter should have a copy of this book. It deserves a special place on the shelves of all school and public libraries. Every woman, young or old, who seeks to leave a mark on her community should read it, as should every man, especially those who have been inclined to disparage women's abilities or

their rights to absolute equality.

Biographical works of the county's leading citizens have been written before, most recently in 1946. While a few of the author's entries were women, the book is overwhelmingly dominated by the achievements of men.

This, of course, can be attributed to several things. First, accomplishments of women, great or small, certainly as compared to those of men, were at that time considered of lesser importance or mere reflections of their husbands' deeds. And secondly, in fairness, the emergence of women, their entry into all of the professions and their determination to be recognized on a basis of social, cultural, intellectual and political equality, is a post-World War II phenomenon. Never before in history have women made such extraordinary advances.

Still, it is unfortunate that previous historical works have not given greater emphasis to notable accomplishments of women. A number of early Hillsborough women, for example, rejected traditional social roles and became noteworthy for their achievements.

During World War I, sisters Edith and Helen Chesebrough were active in the American Red Cross. Helen joined the Red Cross Canteen Service and was sent to France to serve American soldiers on the Western Front.

Ethel Sperry Crocker, wife of San Francisco banker William H. Crocker, was in Europe when armies clashed at the beginning of World War I. She worked with Herbert Hoover in the Belgian Relief Organization. Her instincts were truly humanitarian. She gave to the Lafayette Fund, the Mutilated Soldiers Fund, the French Children Refugee Fund and the American Ambulance Corps. She was responsible for building the largest American hospital in Paris.

Ethel Crocker was particularly saddened by the destruction of Vitrimont, a tiny twelfth-century French village reduced to rubble during the German invasion. She became determined to restore it. Her efforts were undertaken absolutely anonymously.

Punctuated by the thunder of German artillery, in 1916 the project began to rebuild public buildings and 70 homes. Orchards were replanted and barnyards restocked. An 800-year-old church was rebuilt. The town was restored to its pre-war condition, except that its main street was wider and modern plumbing had been installed.

During the early years of the century when San Mateo County was plagued by the homeless, then commonly referred to as hobos, Abby M. Parrott, widow of eminent San Francisco banker John Parrott, opened part of her fashionable home *Baywood* for social misfits and the unemployed. "Turn no hungry man away," had been her husband's dying admonition.

A porch on the back of the sprawling, gingerbread mansion located at Third and El Camino, was designated as the hobos' dining room. For years Abby Parrott retained a chef exclusively to cook for the less fortunate. A portion of the estate was set aside as a campground for these weary wanderers.

Another Hillsborough woman who refused to conform to a traditional role was Cecelia Casserly. In 1915 she organized the San Francisco branch of the American Fund for French Wounded. After American entry into World War I, that organization was taken over by the Red Cross. Casserly became the top Red Cross executive in the West.

In summer of 1918, when local hospitals were overwhelmed with victims of Spanish influenza, Casserly opened her own elegant home on Bridge Road in Hillsborough to sufferers. Fifty-seven were treated there; nine died.

Casserly forged new trails. In 1919, she championed the cause of striking telephone operators, presiding over a mass meeting of 500 labor leaders and striking operators in San Francisco. She likened the treatment of women operators to a "revival of slavery" and declared that the battle was "as big a fight for democracy as was waged by the boys on the fields of France."

In 1924, Casserly waded into Democratic Party politics. Four years later she ran for Congress, the first local woman to make the attempt. Albeit unsuccessful, her platform was for "equal pay for women performing the same duties as men" and "to help women gain the rights to which they are entitled."

Historically, thousands of women have left marks on the local community. Certainly, not all have been from the privileged classes.

Elsa S. McGinn, who came to San Mateo in 1916, was such a woman. In 1917, she became president of the Girls' Welfare Home in San Francisco and chair of the San Mateo County women's committee of the State Council of Defense. Two years later she chaired the county's Liberty Loan campaigns.

In 1920, named by the governor as chair of San Mateo Community Service, McGinn was elected a member of the city board of trustees, receiving more votes than any other candidate. Additionally she was commissioner of public health and safety for the city. As such she had jurisdiction over the police, fire and health departments. For a time she acted as mayor of San Mateo.

She became a trustee of the San Mateo Public Library in 1921 and served with the Red Cross for control of influenza. She was vice president of the San Mateo County Peace Officers Association.

McGinn contributed time and energy to numerous other clubs and agencies. She was "fearless in her defense of the right and a tireless worker in behalf of the cause which she espouses," wrote Roy Cloud during the 1920s. "Her career should prove a source of inspiration not only to her own sex, but to all who aspire to a high level of accomplishment."

Another notable woman was Rosalie Brown, an immigrant from France and resident of San Mateo. Her husband, a member the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, died in 1920. Upon her promise never to run for office on her own, the governor appointed Rosalie Brown to fill out his unfinished supervisor's term. She was the first woman to serve on the County Board of Supervisors.

Brown liked the job so well, she promptly forgot her pledge and ran for re-election on her own. Highly popular, she was re-elected not once but twice.

Brown also belonged to the San Mateo and Burlingame Women's clubs, the San Mateo Professional Women's Club, the Parent Teachers Association and the Catholic Daughters of America. She was the mother of nine children.

Elinor L. Falvey, often considered the "dean" of county women, was another genuine trailblazer. A native of Chicago and daughter of Irish immigrant parents, her family came to San Mateo in 1903.

Falvey began her career working in the county clerk's office. At the prodding of friends, she enrolled at night in the San Francisco Law School, studying while commuting by train. She completed a four year course in three years.

On October 1, 1927, Falvey was admitted to the California Bar, thus becoming San Mateo County's first woman attorney. In 1939 she was appointed deputy district attorney, the first woman to fill that position, which she held for 20 years.

In all, for 48 years Falvey was an integral part of community life. She served as chair of the National Council of Catholic Women's Committee for International Affairs, president of the San Mateo County Professional and Business Women's Club and chair of the women's division of the Democratic State Central Committee (1942).

Over the years, women in San Mateo County have made tremendous strides. Indeed, they have triumphed in virtually every field. Their influence is felt locally, nationally and internationally. They are writers, editors and artists, educators, union negotiators, firefighters and police officers, social workers, airline pilots, attorneys, physicians, conservationists, ambassadors, politicians and members of scores of other professions. Today, no door is closed.

One of the more amazing tales of contemporary times is the story of Claire Mack. Mack, an American of African descent, grew up in the town of San Mateo east of Delaware Street, the only section of town where minorities were permitted to reside.

She was raised in a community where there was no formal segregation, yet it was commonly understood that there were certain "nice" hotels and "fine" restaurants where black people simply didn't go. They would not be served.

In 1990, Claire Mack won a seat on the San Mateo City Council. In 1994 she was elected the town's first black mayor.

Shirley Burgett & Michael Svanevik  
San Mateo, California, March 1995

PORTRAITS  
*of*  
DEDICATION

## GERTRUDE ATHERTON

San Francisco-born (1857) Gertrude Atherton was the grand lady of American literature. She published dozens of novels, histories, collections of short stories and essays. In all, there were almost 60 books plus millions of words penned for magazines and newspapers.

Her father was Thomas Horn, a Connecticut-born businessman. Her mother, Gertrude Franklin, was a Southern belle and a great-grandniece of Benjamin Franklin.

Young Gertrude grew up on Rincon Hill, San Francisco's most fashionable neighborhood. In 1877 she eloped with George Atherton, son of merchant Faxon Atherton who headed one of the Peninsula's most distinguished families.

For a decade, before she was widowed, Gertrude lived on the Atherton estate in Menlo Park. Then she headed for Europe, intent on becoming a writer. Ironically, there she recognized the fascination people had for California in the era "before the gringo." She wrote stories, capturing the romance of the fiestas, grand balls, picnics, horse races and day-to-day existence during the Mexican era. More than anyone, she lent life and color to old California.

A committed non-conformist, in 1912 she brought dining service at South Shore Country Club to a standstill by smoking—right out in public. She never remarried. Growing old was abhorrent and she became a disciple of "artificial rejuvenation." In 1923 she received "reactivity treatments" in Vienna—hormone injections, vitamins and radiation to restore vigor. This she repeated in 1934. "I'm like a woman of 40," she declared at 82.

Her last book was published in 1946. She died two years later. No American writer had been more versatile and prolific.

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GERTRUDE ATHERTON  
Elected Posthumously, 1984

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## JOAN BAEZ

Joan Baez was a founding member of Amnesty International on the West Coast and founder and president of Menlo Park-based Humanitas International Human Rights Committee (1979-1992). She founded the Institute for the Study of Nonviolence (now the Resource Center for Nonviolence).

A well-known singer, Baez, in 1978, earned the Bay Area Music Award as Best Female vocalist. She has made eight gold albums and one gold single. Her autobiography, *And a Voice to Sing With*, was released in 1987. She still performs around the world and continues her efforts in humanitarian and social organizations.

Baez was born in Staten Island, New York on January 9, 1941. She graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1958 and briefly attended Boston University. She holds honorary doctorates from Antioch University and Rutgers University (both in 1980.)

Throughout her career, Baez has been a vocal pro-civil rights, anti-war activist. At age 15 she heard Martin Luther King Jr. lecture on nonviolence and civil rights. The following year she committed her first act of civil disobedience by refusing to leave her school building during a bomb drill. In August 1963, she participated in the march on Washington, where she sang "We Shall Overcome" before an estimated crowd of 250,000. The song became inextricably linked with the civil rights movement.

Put succinctly, Baez sums up her political and social philosophy: "I believe in the sanctity of human life above all things."

She protested the war in Vietnam, worked against American support of Nicaraguan Contras and for the AIDS Emergency Fund. She was in Czechoslovakia in 1989 and in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1993. In 1987 she traveled to the Middle East to meet and sing for the people of Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Baez has received numerous honors and awards, including the French Chevalier, Legion d'Honneur in 1983.

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JOAN BAEZ  
Elected 1986

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Photo: Matthew Rolston

## *KATIA LAHARIN BARRETT*

Katia Z. Barrett became the first woman firefighter in Union City and is presently a member of the Fremont Fire Department. "What makes my job interesting is that it is never the same from day to day. One day I may fight a fire and another provide lifesaving medical care."

Born in Hollywood, September 8, 1959, and residing in San Mateo since 1989, she currently plays saxophone in the San Mateo Community Band and is manager of the Round Table Rebels, a local softball team she created. Prior to coming to the county she ran KAZ Services, a private consulting firm.

She has been an achiever since attending Terra Linda High School (Marin County), where she was a member of the gymnastics, softball and volleyball teams all four years. She played in the jazz, marching and concert bands and was named in *Who's Who Among American High School Students* in 1977, the year she graduated.

Barrett holds memberships in the California Women in the Fire Service, National Women in the Fire Service, International Association of Firefighters, California State Firefighters Association and the San Francisco Paramedic Division. She is a certified EMT-D and CPR instructor.

Barrett and her husband Eric have become active members of the community. She was an enthusiastic participant in Leadership San Mateo and regularly visits local schools to discuss her career and encourage young people to follow their dreams.

"I know that I am always striving to be the best that I can be and to constantly be acquiring knowledge and experience, because I truly believe that if you stop learning you stop living."

She is the first member of her family to attend college and will complete a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of San Francisco in 1996.

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KATIA ZAHARIN BARRETT  
Elected 1993

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## LOUISE KATHLEEN BASTILLE

A native of Pennsylvania, born May 26, 1954, Rev. Louise Kathleen Bastille is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University (1976). She also received a Master of Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary (1981) and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Bastille is Associate Pastor of the Congregational Church of San Mateo.

Her name was placed in nomination to the **San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame** by the Women's Fellowship of the Congregational Church. "I believe they honored me for my steady devotion to my congregation," she states.

She received her call to the ministry while on a work-study trip to Boston during the 1970s, where she became "... overwhelmed with the violence that was experienced daily in certain parts of the city." One young woman shared her daily dread of walking between her home and the bus stop; she always feared for her life. "I felt her fear and also hurt for those who were a threat to her. I wanted to use my faith to make our world a better place."

Bastille is the wife of the Rev. Dr. Edward C. Bastille. Together they have made a number of trips. One, in 1992, took them to Moscow and St. Petersburg. "We took along medical supplies, exchanged knowledge and established ties with the Russian people."

She is very conscious of those who do not experience the same religious freedoms Americans take for granted. Since her admission to the **Hall of Fame**, Bastille has educated herself on the religious environment in Southeast Asia and become involved in making the world aware of religious persecution presently being experienced in Vietnam.

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LOUISE KATHLEEN BASTILLE  
Elected 1994

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## JANET PARKER BECK

Janet Parker Beck, a veteran San Mateo *Times* reporter (since 1975) and native San Matean, was one of the most respected journalists on the San Francisco Peninsula.

She was elected to the **Hall of Fame** in part because of her weekly newspaper column, "Pulse of the Peninsula," which made notable contributions to community understanding of health and science issues. "I wrote about complex medical topics—including cancer, arthritis, mental illness and Alzheimer's disease . . ." She received numerous letters from readers noting that the column had "improved the quality of their lives and, in a few cases, possibly saved their lives."

Beck, born June 16, 1953, became involved in journalism while at Crestmoor High School, where she was inspired by teacher Sam Goldman. She graduated from Skyline College and San Jose State University.

In recent years, she was the courthouse reporter for the San Mateo *Times*. "I love meeting interesting people and having a ringside seat for newsworthy events," she stated. Beck covered more than 40 murder cases and a dozen death penalty trials.

Beck is known for her book, *Too Good To Be True: The Story of Denise Redlick's Murder*, published in 1991, which has sold more than 70,000 copies. It is the fascinating story of Redlick's ex-fiance, who was convicted of first-degree murder by a San Mateo County jury *before* the victim's body was found.

This reporter was a member of the Peninsula Press Club, the California Press Women and the National Federation of Press Women. She received more than 50 honors for her writing.

Beck, who died of cancer in 1994, was married to James C. Beck. Their daughter was born in 1989.

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JANET PARKER BECK  
Elected 1987

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## ANNA CAPOZZI BENA

A native of New Jersey, Anna Capozzi Bena was destined to become one of San Mateo County's shining stars. As a youngster she trained as a ballet dancer and ultimately found employment with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. Though she loved dancing, she made a conscious decision to give up performing to become a teacher. She came west and was instrumental in establishing the Peninsula Ballet Theater, which had the distinction of being the first professional resident ballet company on the Peninsula. It has now been in existence for more than two decades.

"Bena developed a unique style of movement using a forward placement of the skeleton which results in more ease of movement and enhances the ability of her students," stated one of Bena's admirers.

Her impact on professional dance has been felt throughout the world. Bena students have carried her technique to the American Ballet Theatre, Stuttgart Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, the Dance Theater of Harlem and the Frankfurt Ballet Company.

The artistic quality and critical acclaim she has received are "due solely to Bena's ability to draw from each student the highest quality of performance, the very best that the individual can produce, often surpassing the individual's perception of the possible."

Bena has taught for the Washington, D.C., Ballet and worked as a resident choreographer of the Park Theater in New Jersey. She was also director of Ballet America of New Jersey.

She is a resident of Half Moon Bay.

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ANNA CAPOZZI BENA  
Elected 1987

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## ANN BELKNAP BENNER

Ann Benner came to San Mateo in 1945. For her, who had become active in the League of Women Voters while an undergraduate at Rockford College in Illinois, "a community without a League . . . was unthinkable." Thus, in 1947 she was instrumental in starting a San Mateo Chapter. The organization, she says, contributed to her understanding of local government and the political process.

After raising four children, she became active in politics, "working to elect several candidates," most notably Congressman Tom Lantos.

Since 1980, Benner has been Special Assistant to Congressman Lantos in his San Mateo office, a position she finds especially rewarding. "I think that government and politics are important, the way we organize living together," states Benner, who was born in Chicago, August 6, 1918.

Benner's contributions to the community go well beyond politics. She was in large part responsible for establishing the San Mateo Unitarian Fellowship, which evolved into the Unitarian Universalist Church.

She has also been active with the American Association of University Women, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the United Nations.

As an undergraduate, Benner studied political philosophy and government. Upon graduation in 1940, she taught for a year in Nishinomiya, Japan, returning to this country a few months before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. She attended graduate school at Mills College, where her thesis dealt with the concept of authority in Japan.

"Government is an extension of family life, from which we all learn, and I thoroughly enjoy waking up each morning and being available to put to use some of the information and processes which I have amassed in a relatively long life."

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ANN BELKNAP BENNER  
Elected 1991

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## JUDY BLOOM

“Each day is different and I never fail to learn something new. I have the opportunity to help change public policy, to solve real problems for real people and to stretch myself intellectually and organizationally,” states Judy Bloom, who has served on the staff of Assemblywoman Jackie Speier since 1986.

Bloom was raised to be involved in her community. When she came to San Mateo County in 1969, she immediately became active in the League of Women Voters and Women’s American ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Training) “to meet people and become involved in both the Jewish and secular community.”

Born in Chicago on December 13, 1944, she is married and the mother of three grown children.

More than 20 years of community activism and volunteerism, including participation in parents’ groups, the Advisory Council on Women and inclusion on many task forces and community committees, in addition to her work with Assemblywoman Speier, resulted in her nomination to the **Hall of Fame**. She has received numerous awards and wide recognition.

“My grandmother called herself determined; my mother called herself independent; I call myself a feminist,” remarks Bloom, whose grandparents were from Russia and Romania.

Bloom graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with the Class of ’66. She was Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. She received her secondary teaching credential from Berkeley the following year. Her major areas of study were French and Spanish. She taught at Oakland Tech High School and at Oak Grove Intermediate School (Mt. Diablo) before the birth of her eldest child.

Upon election to the **Hall**, Bloom concluded her remarks by challenging the audience: “Remember, it’s a man’s world . . . unless women vote. Are you registered?”

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JUDY BLOOM  
Elected 1993

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## HATTIE L. BOSTIC

“Friend, mother, therapist, pastor, bricklayer, writer, politician, speaker, soul saver, teacher, confidante, counselor;” so went the description of Elder Hattie Bostic on her nomination to the **Hall of Fame**.

Born August 8, 1935, in Mobile, Alabama, and mother of five adult sons, she is pastor of Mt. Olive Apostolic Original Holy Church of God in the Belle Haven section of Menlo Park.

“I have always been sensitive to the needs of my fellow man. As a result, from a child, I have striven to serve others. A milestone in my commitment to humanity came in 1963 when I was led by God to organize and found the Mt. Olive Church.”

She has expanded her ministry to include outreach to residents who are veterans. There is a pre-school enrichment program and a Ministerial Alert Team combining efforts of religious leaders from different churches to canvas neighborhood streets to bring hope to residents of Belle Haven (East Palo Alto).

Bostic received a Doctorate in Theology and Divinity from Pentecostal Bible College and the Southern California School of Ministry in 1994. She has also been trained in law enforcement and detective work.

In 1968, she founded the Crime Prevention Narcotic Drug Educational Center, the first such community-based program in the nation. She works with youth on probation, helping them find ways out of crime and drugs.

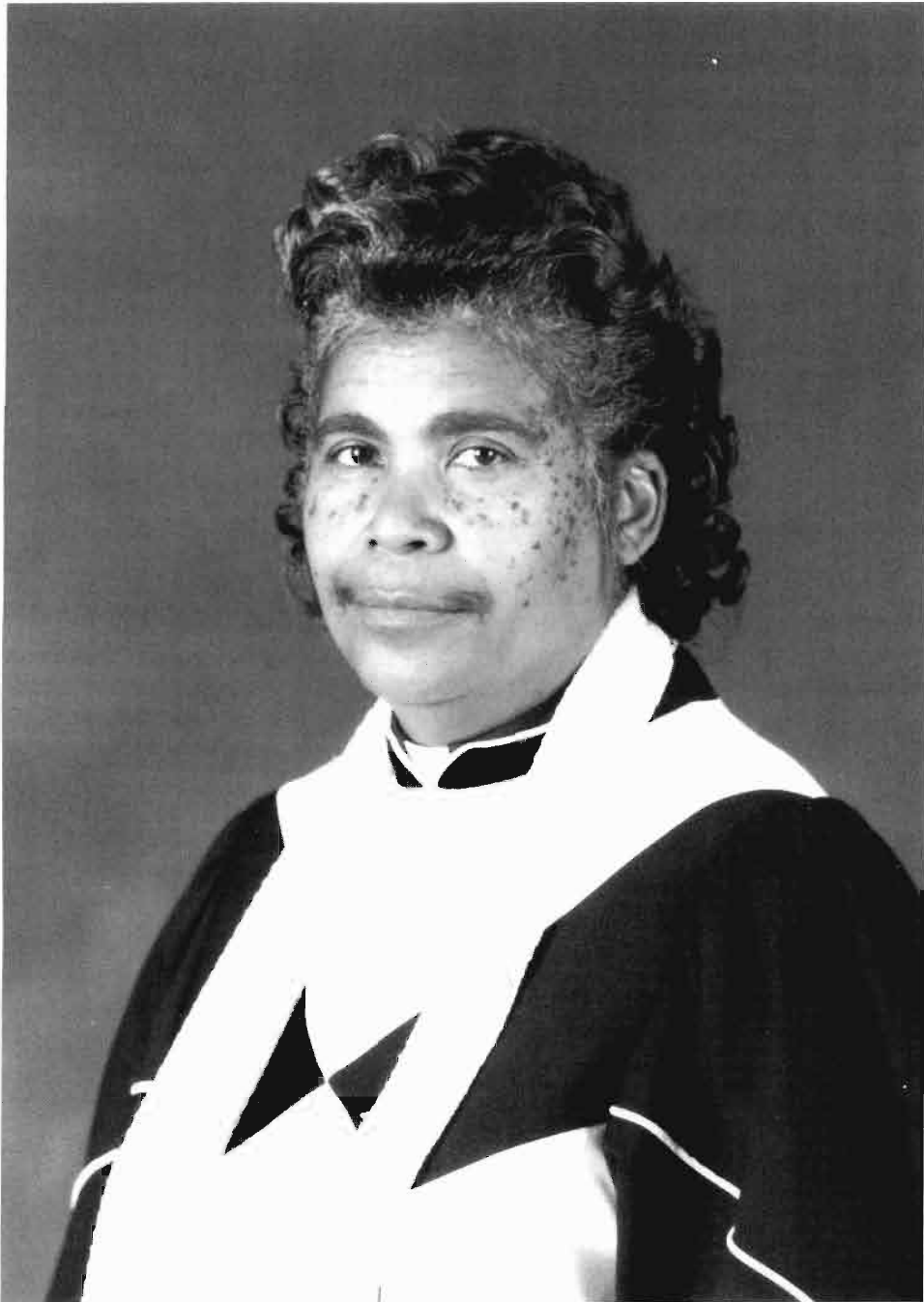
“Pastoring is not just standing behind the pulpit, but trying to help humanity as a whole,” she states.

She is currently involved in a host of volunteer activities, including distributing food and clothes to the homeless. Her church provides food and comfort for more than 100 people a day. She is the author of *Women's Equal Rights: A Biblical Perspective*. Elder Bostic is the recipient of many awards for community service.

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HATTIE L. BOSTIC  
Elected 1992

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## DOROTHY GRACE BOYAJIAN

*Children's Pockets may hold amazing things  
Coins, rubber bands, kinds of strings  
But there is no greater wealth than one finds  
In little children's hearts and little children's minds.*

Dorothy Boyajian, born in New Jersey, September 27, 1938, has been an elementary school teacher in the San Mateo-Foster City School District for 43 years. Currently she is teaching 4th and 5th grades at Sunnybrae School. She came to San Mateo as a child, attending Turnbull Elementary School, San Mateo High, San Mateo Junior College and San Francisco State College. "I try to bring to teaching all the excitement, creativity, imagination, experiences and knowledge that I have or can get . . . I involve the children in activities that will inform them, intrigue them and educate them. I stimulate their imagination and their ability to think and react."

Boyajian encourages students to write letters. They have corresponded with presidents from John Kennedy to Bill Clinton and others, the likes of Queen Elizabeth and cartoonist Charles Schultz. Letters have resulted in visits from dozens of television and community personalities and replies from politicians, presidents and other powerful potentates.

She was a leader in drug education programs, specifically, "See red, say no to drugs." Among her accomplishments, Boyajian is especially proud of her work with Pat Montandon's program, Children as Peacemakers, an organization promoting world peace, with children as the focal point.

She is the recipient of many awards including San Mateo City and County Teacher of the Year (1989-1990) and ranks among the top 40 teachers in the United States.

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DOROTHY GRACE BOYAJIAN  
Elected 1987

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## PATRICIA BRESEE

During fall, winter and spring, when children are in school, Patricia Bresee, Commissioner of the San Mateo Superior Court, hears an average of 100 juvenile delinquency and dependency cases a day.

“School is a key source of reporting abuse, neglect and delinquencies, so it seems like we have more business during the school year,” she states.

Attorneys report that Bresee is perceived as a knowledgeable and caring commissioner. “Her expertise in the area of juvenile law is known throughout the state,” reports attorney Gerry Hilliard, administrator of the juvenile law division of the San Mateo Private Defender Program.

Another attorney, David Pasternak, adds that he has always “found her to be very impressive. She follows the law and she takes more of a personal interest than a good number of judges I’ve come across.”

Born in South Bend, Indiana (1936), Bresee spent her childhood in Detroit. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University (1957) and a legal degree working nights at the San Francisco School of Law (1972).

She went into general practice with her husband in San Mateo. “In 1978 I started representing kids. By 1982 that was 75 percent of my practice . . . I went to juvenile and family courts representing child victims in criminal proceedings against offenders, and I did some personal injury work on behalf of kids suing their parents for abuses.”

Bresee has written extensively for legal journals and belongs to many professional organizations.

As commissioner, she reports, her decisions are always difficult. But, she adds, “I think they should be difficult. I don’t think it should ever be easy to make a ruling about the destiny of children and their families.”

She is a member of the Family and Children Services Advisory Committee to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, as well as a member of the state and county Bar associations.

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PATRICIA BRESEE  
Elected 1988

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## *PATRICIA BROWN*

Patricia Brown was elected to the Redwood City Board of Education in 1981 and has served continuously since then. Prior to her election, she had been parent-teacher association president, a site council member and held membership on two district advisory committees.

Though continually striving to provide students with quality education, she believes that providing it “for all children is an elusive goal.” She is concerned that in Redwood City there has been a fundamental inequity in terms of state funding, but adds that “we have been successful and creative in generating alternative funding and pursuing quality education, but the underlying unfairness remains.”

Brown is executive director of the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center. “It is satisfying to be part of a dedicated group of professionals and volunteers who are exploring the variety of ways that non-adversarial dispute resolution, consensus building and facilitation of community goals can be applied,” she states.

Born at Mare Island, California, August 16, 1944, Brown is a graduate of Notre Dame High School in Belmont. She received a Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of San Francisco and a Master of Public Administration from College of Notre Dame.

Brown is affiliated with Peninsula Partnerships for Children, the South County Coalition for Prevention of Substance Abuse and the San Mateo County School Board Association.

She takes time to nurture her relationships, which she believes are the true value in life. “Family, friends, co-workers enrich and make my life meaningful. Without them, achievements would mean nothing.”

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PATRICIA BROWN  
Elected 1991

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Photo: San Mateo Times



## *ALICE PENA BULOS*

In South San Francisco and north San Mateo County, few Filipino-Americans are as well known or as influential as Alice Pena Bulos. She is the virtual centerpiece of community activism.

Born in the Philippines, March 31, 1930, Bulos did not come to this country until 1978. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in social and behavioral sciences at the University of Santo Tomas, Philippines, in 1951 and 1958 respectively. The university, established in 1631, she notes with pride, is four years older than Harvard.

After graduate school she taught sociology at the same university and rose to the position of professor and chair of the Department of Sociology.

In the community, Bulos is seen as an effective "silent power," and is noted for her quiet and dignified approach. She has worked tirelessly for equal rights in employment, housing, crime prevention and services for youth. She has advocated hiring more minority teachers at Jefferson Union High and local elementary schools. She is a staunch champion of women's issues and the rights of women in the work place. Additionally, she is intensely involved with the senior citizen population. "I am dealing with people with special needs who cannot help themselves."

During the presidential campaign of 1992, Bulos worked within the Filipino community for the Democratic Party and Bill Clinton's election. Clinton subsequently appointed her to the Federal Council on Aging. She is also a member of the Health Commission of San Mateo County.

She has received numerous awards for her political and community leadership. Among her many honors, Bulos was acclaimed by the Democratic National Committee for a quarter century of service to the party and named "Woman Warrior of the Year" by the Pacific Asian Women Bay Area Coalition.

"To empower the community, I believe three things are important: Participation, Involvement and Commitment."

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ALICE PENA BULOS  
Elected 1988





## NEVIDA PRESTON BUTLER

Nevida Preston Butler, one of seven children born to a St. Louis, Missouri (later Arkansas) sharecropper, was the first in her family to receive a high school diploma. She earned it at age 17 while employed as a domestic worker. Her father did not believe education was necessary for women. Her plans to attend college were derailed by the necessity of earning a living and caring for younger siblings.

Butler, with her three children, came to San Mateo County in 1973. She began a career in social work with the American Red Cross. In 1976 she started as a volunteer for the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto, a nonprofit organization established to assist low income people in need of emergency food and other critical support services. Her organizational and management skills quickly led to her appointment as executive director of that organization in 1981.

Under her leadership, the Ecumenical Hunger Program grew steadily. At the time of her election to the **Hall of Fame**, the organization was serving over 2,000 people a month with emergency food, clothing, furniture and essential family counseling. By 1994, 3,000 families per month were being helped. "There is not a language or culture that is foreign to her because she has a special communication for all people," notes her nominator.

Butler has received awards from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, the Career Action Center, the California State Assembly and the Sertoma Club of Palo Alto. In November 1990, she was elected to the East Palo Alto City Council.

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NEVIDA PRESTON BUTLER  
Elected 1990

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## LOIS A. CALLAHAN

Chancellor Lois Callahan is chief executive officer of the San Mateo County Community College District, one of the larger districts in California. It serves approximately 25,000 students. She is the first woman in the history of the college district to attain this high position.

Born in Gary, Indiana, February 8, 1932, Callahan was an undergraduate at Southwest Missouri State University. She received an M.A. in business education from California State University, Chico and an Ed.D. in higher education from the University of Southern California. In 1981, she attended the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University Graduate School of Business and Education.

She began teaching in San Mateo's Hillsdale High School in 1954 and joined the Business Division at College of San Mateo in 1968. Eight years later she was named Dean of Instruction, and President of the college in 1978. She is known for bringing education together with the business world.

After an exhaustive national search in 1991, Callahan was elevated to chancellor-superintendent. Allen Brown, retired vice president at College of San Mateo, noted: "She has been an independent and creative thinker who always encouraged innovation and challenged us all to broaden our horizons."

Callahan states that "my attitude is we can always improve. It's worthwhile listening, even to criticism, because it has value. I try to bring different points of view to bear."

Along with her husband Harold, Callahan has been a resident of San Mateo for 24 years. They have two grown daughters.

Callahan has served on the boards of the Mental Health Association, the United Way of the Bay Area and the Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education. She maintains many statewide professional leadership positions.

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LOIS A. CALLAHAN  
Elected 1992

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## PHYLLIS CANGEMI

Phyllis Cangemi, who grew up in Levittown, New York during the 1940s, is executive director of Whole Access, a Redwood City-based nonprofit organization that educates park planners, designers and managers on how to create and manage programs and facilities that are accessible to all people, including those with disabilities. Whole Access was founded in 1983, formed as part of the struggle for human rights—the rights of people with disabilities to participate as equals in human society.

Through her efforts, parks around the San Francisco Bay Area are becoming increasingly accessible.

Cangemi received training on state and federal access regulations from the California Department of Rehabilitation and the Office of the State Architect, and has served on the California State Parks Accessibility Task Force (1987-1990).

She has been recognized for her work by the California Department of Rehabilitation, Point Reyes National Seashore and through receipt of the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award (1986) and the Gerbode Professional Development Fellowship (1992).

“Nature is something she has a lot of reverence for, and she’s doing work to help people have contact with nature,” remarked one of her longtime friends.

Though a physically frail woman, those who know her say she “radiates energy.” Cangemi suffers from Hodgkin’s disease, a degenerative cancer of the lymphatic system. As a result, she does most of her consulting from a three-wheeled scooter and much of her paperwork in bed.

Her organization has been featured in *Sierra* and *National Geographic*.

Cangemi is a contributing editor of *Access America: An Atlas and Guide to the National Parks for Visitors With Disabilities*.

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PHYLLIS CANGEMI  
Elected 1993

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## JEANNE CAUGHLAN

The year that Jeanne Caughlan was elected to the **Hall of Fame**, she good naturedly referred to herself as a “retired political freak.” It was the ultimate modesty.

Caughlan, born December 6, 1918, grew up in Fairfield, Iowa. As an undergraduate majoring in psychology, she attended Ohio Wesleyan. She found herself spending a great deal of time studying laboratory rats when it occurred to her that she would prefer to be working with human beings.

A professor suggested a career in social work. The idea appealed. She attended Washington University in St. Louis and received a Master of Arts degree.

A widow with two sons, in 1946 she moved to California. For 13 years she worked as a psychotherapist for the Veteran’s Administration in San Francisco.

In 1964, she was chosen to administer a pilot program in San Mateo County aimed at getting qualified mental patients out of state hospitals and into residential homes. She screened patients from Agnews State Hospital and placed them in appropriate facilities while keeping in close contact with them.

Caughlan retired in 1981 to care for her ailing mother, although she continued to maintain a private practice in San Mateo.

She remains active doing volunteer work. In recent years she has served on the Commission on Aging Advisory Committee and the boards of directors of the San Mateo Democratic Club, American Civil Liberties Union and Caminar, which works on behalf of the mentally disabled.

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JEANNE CAUGHLAN

Elected 1991

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Photo: San Mateo Times



## OLGA CHAMBERS

Olga Chambers, a 29-year resident of Hillsborough who now resides in the state of Washington, was the founder of Dollar Watchers, a nonprofit financial advisory organization that provides financial and budgetary counseling services to both individuals and families.

Additionally, Chambers is a person who cared about children in trouble. She was the first woman teacher and counselor at the San Mateo County Juvenile Schools at Camp Glenwood, Hillcrest Juvenile Hall.

She also set up the San Mateo County Shelter School Program for battered and dependent children in 1976. A member of the Peninsula Professional Women's Connections, she was active as a business woman, volunteer, lecturer. Gene Colberg, current director of Dollar Watchers, comments that Chambers is "a great woman" and "one of the most intelligent people I've ever known."

Chambers, born in 1928, is also known for her portrait and landscape painting.

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OLGA CHAMBERS  
Elected 1987

*No photo available*

IRENE CHENG

“As an Asian American woman living in a society structured to exclude and repress those who are different from the hegemonic ‘norm,’ my life has been shaped by racism, sexism and other related forces. Much of my community work is an attempt to respond positively to these forces, to re-vision and envision a society in which all forces are given equal weight,” states Irene Cheng.

San Francisco-born, December 16, 1975, Cheng grew up in San Mateo County. During her senior year at Mills High School (Millbrae), where she was named a Presidential Scholar, she served as the student member of the California State Board of Education, representing 5.5 million public school students.

“I took strong positions in support of gay/lesbian inclusion in the state health curriculum framework, against education budget cuts and in favor of multicultural education.”

“She was our ‘shining star’,” stated Barbara Delbon, assistant principal at Mills. Cheng graduated in 1993 and is enrolled at Harvard-Radcliffe University, where she is involved with the Asian American community both in Boston and at the university.

At Harvard she is the coordinator of “Youth Writes,” a racism and civil rights education program for Asian American high school students. She is also the chair of the Educational/Political Committee of the Asian American Association.

“I view my work as consisting of several parts. One aspect includes ‘dismantling’ old oppressive social structures, another is involved with developing new ‘tools’ for building a more just and peaceful house, a world where people are more respectful and understanding of each other.”

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IRENE CHENG  
Young Women of Excellence  
Awarded 1993

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## RUE RANDELL CLIFFORD

She is remembered by thousands. A native of San Francisco (1887), Rue Randell Clifford was a graduate of the University of California. Music and English were her subjects.

Clifford began teaching in 1909 and three years later was hired to teach music in South San Francisco. In 1913, she became the town's first high school teacher, a position she maintained for 43 years.

She was a basic, all-around teacher, associated with many curriculum firsts in South San Francisco. Creator of the school's journalism program, she was instrumental in publication of the first yearbook and newspaper. She introduced public speaking and composed the school song. She is tenderly recalled for her teaching of English literature, especially Chaucer.

Her interests were never purely academic. An ardent sports fan, she coached both the men's and women's track teams and was the football team's honorary coach. The football field at South San Francisco High School, Clifford Field, was named in her honor.

"A long punt, a quick pass or a long tricky run can be just as beautiful as a sonnet," she once remarked. She was always in attendance at South City High games and, in 59 years, allegedly never missed a University of California football home game.

South San Francisco had just over 2,000 people in 1914, when philanthropist Andrew Carnegie offered library grants for towns which collected signatures of all town residents. Rue Clifford, today considered the mother of the city's library, made the new library her goal. She mounted her horse and set out gathering the necessary signatures. The West Orange Library was dedicated in her honor. Clifford died in 1964.

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RUE RANDELL CLIFFORD  
Elected Posthumously, 1984

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Photo: South San Francisco Public Library Local History Collection



## JOHN H. CLINTON JR.

John Clinton Jr., publisher of the *San Mateo Times*, accepted the **Hall of Fame's** Special Recognition Award on behalf of the family-owned independent newspaper.

He was honored for the number of women who have been named to fill influential positions at the newspaper during the past half century. Clinton noted, however, "that no conscious effort had ever been made to achieve the ratio. Women have been hired because at each particular time they were the most qualified to fill the open positions." Of all the employees in the *San Mateo Times* office, where Clinton controls the hiring process, more than 50 percent are women.

Women have held key positions at the *San Mateo Times* since Anne Brubaker served as general manager in the 1940s. During the 1950s, Margaret Buschini was hired as the classified advertising manager. In the 1980s, after the retirement of Virgil Wilson as managing editor, "we conducted a nationwide search for a replacement and found the best qualified person here in our own newsroom," states Clinton. Michelle A. Carter was hired. She became the first woman in California to hold such a high editorial position on any newspaper comparable in size. Clinton adds that a number of key office manager positions have gone to women as well.

Clinton, San Mateo-born (1944), became publisher upon the death of his father, J. Hart Clinton, in 1992. He is a history graduate from the University of Oregon (1966) and holds a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Santa Clara (1970).

He serves as vice president of the Peninsula Blood Bank and as second vice president of the California Press Association. He sits on the board and, in 1993, was named president of the San Mateo County Historical Association.

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JOHN H. CLINTON JR.  
Special Recognition  
Awarded 1989

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Photo: San Mateo Times



## REBECCA S. COOPER

For 15 years Rebecca S. Cooper has been executive director of Friends for Youth, Inc., a local, non-profit organization. The Peninsula-based Friends provides volunteer mentors to at-risk boys and girls in the community. “Nearly 900 children have been matched with adult volunteer mentors, who offer them intensive, long-term support and friendship,” she states, adding that Friends for Youth has a success rate of 90 percent at creating good matches and seeing improvement at home, in school and socially.

Born in Los Angeles, March 30, 1956, Cooper is a graduate of Stanford University with a degree in psychology (1976). The following year she received an M.A. from Stanford in early childhood education.

Cooper began her career teaching at Bing Nursery School at Stanford. “In 1979, I felt that I wanted to broaden my experiences and seek new challenges in the community.” Having heard about the beginning of Friends for Youth, she applied for the first staff position and was excited about a position in “which I could truly have an impact on the development of the organization and its youth services.”

Cooper, who played in the U.S. Volleyball Association National Championships in 1987 and has won numerous awards for track and field, softball and other sports, is committed to excellence. “My vision is to create a community that gives all children positive adult support and protection, access to health care and other vital needs, and opportunities to learn new skills and engage in meaningful activities. I will not give up on any child,” she concludes.

Cooper credits her personal success and accomplishments to a supportive family and to her life partner Kirk Anderson.

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REBECCA S. COOPER  
Elected 1994

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Photo: Kirk J. Anderson

## EMILY BERNABE CORPOS

Emily B. Corpos, a graduate of Santa Clara University (1967) and a resident of San Carlos, has dedicated much of her life to helping parents cope with the death of an infant. "I have come to serve, not to be served," a statement by St. Ignatius, is a thought she lives by.

In 1981, she established the organization known as HAND (Helping After Neonatal Death), after experiencing a tragedy herself. It is a volunteer support organization for parents who experience miscarriage, stillbirth, genetic abortion or newborn death.

Corpos, a person "who turned shattered dreams into strengths" according to her nomination, often visited parents of deceased children while they were in the hospital and assisted in making funeral arrangements.

HAND, through meetings, hotlines, peer counseling, hospital visits, networking, publications, training conferences and other activities, guides people through the process of grieving. In its first eight years of existence, HAND offered comfort and guidance to more than 500 families in San Mateo County.

Corpos has been active in the affairs of St. Charles Roman Catholic Church in San Carlos, where she serves as a eucharistic minister. She assists at the altar during Mass and, since 1982, has given communion. She also gives communion in private homes to parishioners who are too sick to attend church.

Corpos was recipient of the Ignatian Award (1989), presented by the University of Santa Clara for her work with HAND. "Being recognized by my own university made the award particularly special," states Corpos. She was also voted the San Carlos "Citizen of the Year" in 1989.

The mother of three sons, Corpos is particularly taken by a cartoon which states: "We're not primarily put on this earth to see through one another, but to see one another through."

Since 1993 Corpos has been on the faculty of Sacred Heart Preparatory School in Atherton.

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EMILY BERNABE CORPOS  
Elected 1989

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Photo: Olan Mills

## *LELA M. CROCKETT*

There is something special about Lela M. Crockett. Part of her uniqueness is the fact that she has been a foster parent for 26 children.

Born January 6, 1919, in Van Houten, New Mexico, Crockett was honored by the **Hall of Fame** for her contributions in the field of outdoor education. She is a graduate of San Diego Junior College and, she says with a smile, “the School of Hard Knocks.”

For 25 years she served on the staff of the YMCA Camp at Jones Gulch. During the 1950s, “Santa Clara County schools wanted a spot for outdoor education and we accommodated them,” states Crockett. “They came and brought their fifth- and sixth-graders along with their teachers and stayed Monday through Friday . . . the camp provided facilities, food, buses and a naturalist to teach about the outdoors.” Gradually other counties became involved.

In 1975, Crockett joined the Redwood Glen Baptist Camp at Loma Mar as resident manager. She worked seven days a week, 12 months of the year. Nevertheless, she found time to assist the development of Pescadero Creek Park.

During the early 1960s, Crockett helped initiate a program with Agnews State Hospital to train and provide employment for adults with developmental disabilities.

Crockett, who raised two children of her own, takes special pride in her foster children. “We found them on our doorstep, at the camp, people would just drop them off. Some of them were kicked out of the house by their parents.”

There are many success stories. “Today one boy is a doctor in Detroit,” Crockett boasted several years ago, “one is head purchasing agent at Sequoia Hospital, one became a Marine and one just recently retired as head mechanic for the motor pool in Sacramento.”

Now retired, Crockett is involved in volunteer work.

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LELA M. CROCKETT  
Elected 1988



## CLARA BROSELL CROOK

“My mission is to help eradicate ageism, to encourage people to announce their ages with pride and not allow the world of the young to take over and make us invisible,” states Clara B. Crook, born in Canada February 25, 1910. She enjoys challenging the status quo and believes strongly in self sufficiency.

She is involved in a lengthy list of community organizations, including the College of San Mateo Emeritus Institute, Stanford Geriatric Advisory Committee, the City of Burlingame—Senior Commission, League of Women Voters, the Older Women’s League and the American Society of Aging.

Crook discusses aging in a regular newspaper column she writes for the *San Mateo Times* and on a weekly radio program. She acts as a consultant in retirement planning.

Her honors are many. She has been named Volunteer of the Year by the Emeritus Institute and the California Legislature’s Woman of the Year. She was honored as the Soroptomist Woman of Distinction.

She received her education at Marquette University and the Universities of Wisconsin and New Hampshire. She also attended Keene State Teachers College. Crook’s fields of study were psychology, history and business.

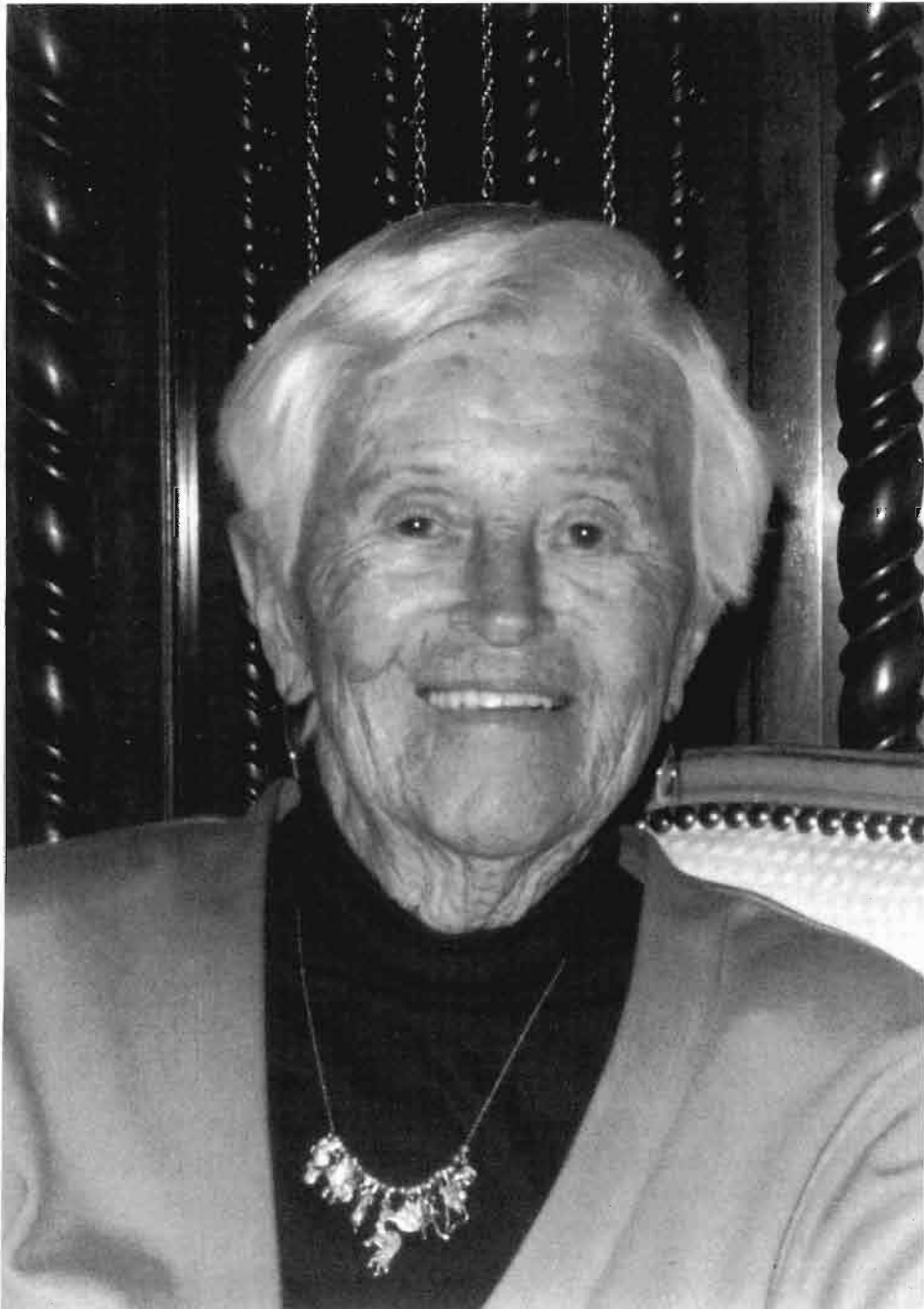
Prior to coming to San Mateo, Crook, a mother of two, was involved in many pursuits. She lectured in the School of Business Administration at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and was Assistant Dean of Student and Industry Relations. She acted as consultant to the U.S. government in the Office of Personnel Management, hosted radio talk shows and wrote for newspapers.

Crook is presently planning a book on the positive aspects of being 80.

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CLARA BROSELL CROOK  
Elected 1989

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## CATHARINE JULIE CUNNINGHAM

Catharine Julie Cunningham, S.N.D., became president of College of Notre Dame in Belmont in 1956 and maintained that position until 1980. Thereafter, she was named the first chancellor of the college, an office she held until her death October 15, 1984.

Her character is indelibly etched in the history of the college. She was a builder. She was always renovating old buildings and putting up new ones. She built St. Joseph Hall, a dormitory, in 1958 and the Memorial Chapel in 1961. (Upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of the chapel, it was renamed the Cunningham Memorial Chapel.) She was responsible for construction of the Notre Dame Library in 1975 and undertook restoration of historic Ralston Hall in 1979.

A third generation San Franciscan born October 22, 1910, Sister Catharine Julie attended Notre Dame High School in the Mission District and received a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of California in 1932.

After completing Berkeley she entered the Convent of Notre Dame and took her vows as a nun. Thereafter, during summer sessions, she acquired a Master of Arts in History from the Dominican Campus of the Catholic University of America.

Sister Catharine Julie believed in doing what was right, not necessarily what was popular. She saw herself as a facilitator and delegated as much as possible, "because no one is going to work wholeheartedly if it is simply an imposition from above."

In an interview shortly before her death she was asked if she'd left guidelines for her predecessors. "No," she replied, "I didn't leave any guidelines. I think you have to have your own character and your own way of handling things."

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CATHARINE JULIE CUNNINGHAM

Elected posthumously 1987

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Photo: College of Notre Dame

## ELEANOR WILLIAMS-CURRY

"I was born rich on a cold winter morning in an impoverished segregated side of town called 'the ghetto,' rich in spirit, love and protection. We were not poor, just broke," states Eleanor Williams-Curry. It was St. Louis, February 4, 1928. She and husband, Richmond Earl, are parents of eight; there are seventeen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

"Life is full of lines . . . drawn to keep people apart, in groups, in neighborhoods, in racial divisions, in genders. I like to influence erasing such lines."

A resident of Belmont, she has been a longtime community activist involved in improving the lot of women in San Mateo County. Williams-Curry is a charter member of the Advisory Council on Women. She is determined to see that young girls get the help they need to achieve success. To encourage dropouts to return to school, in 1986 she created the Curry Fund for Girls and Young Women, a scholarship administered through the Peninsula Community Foundation. She raised initial funds by selling caftans she made in her home. Now she seeks public support. Since establishing the fund, 24 scholarships totaling \$8,000 have been awarded.

Williams-Curry has attended community colleges, Stanford University and received her B.A. in human relations from Antioch College (1976).

She is a strong supporter of the public school system and believes teachers make the difference. "I am appalled at all the abuses of children. Teachers who care are one of the key forces protecting children."

Williams-Curry is presently employed by the Human Services Agency, Housing Division of the County of San Mateo and is a board member of the United Way of the Bay Area. "My eyes open habitually at 6:30 a.m. . . . I shall never retire. I love life. People fascinate me. I like discovering new ways to do things."

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ELEANOR WILLIAMS-CURRY

Elected 1994

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## MARIE H. DAVIS

"I was thrust into the battle for equal rights and justice at the age of 12 when I and another black girl were removed from a movie theater in my hometown of Casper, Wyoming, for refusing to sit only in the area designated for 'Colored People'."

She has been in the battle ever since. She was appointed to the President's Commission on Civil Rights as a Wyoming State Advisory Committee Member in 1961. In 1992, in San Mateo County, she coordinated a joint program with the Bay Area Urban League and the San Mateo Branch of the NAACP to assist black youth and others raise scholastic achievement levels through special seminars and workshops.

Davis has been the recipient of many awards. In 1991, the San Mateo County Family Service Agency honored hers as "Family of the Year." She is married to Ernest Oliver Davis; they have four children.

Singing and playing piano have always been major activities in her life. Davis received an Associate of Arts degree from Casper Community College (Wyoming) and a bachelor's in music and political science from College of Notre Dame in Belmont. As a soprano soloist she has professionally recorded two albums and sung for many special occasions, including the National Anthem for San Francisco Giants games at Candlestick Park.

She served for eight years on the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee and was elected as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in Atlanta (1988), where she also performed as soloist.

Among her many affiliations, Davis lists membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Business Women's Association and the Northern California Association of Cartoonists.

Born August 13, 1929, Davis resides in Foster City.

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MARIE H. DAVIS  
Elected 1993



## *SYBIL UNIS EASTERDAY*

Sybil Easterday, who achieved fame as one of California's earliest professional sculptors, was granddaughter of honored Redwood City pioneer William Littlejohn. Easterday, always a maverick, was born in San Jose, California, November, 1876 and lived until 1961. She is remembered for her attempts to survive in a formerly all male profession.

As a teenager she studied painting and sculpture at the San Francisco Art Institute, where she impressed instructors with her skill and originality as an artist.

She became one of the city's more controversial women artists. Because of the rigors of her work, Easterday threw off the trappings of the Victorian woman which, she said, impeded her artistic efforts. To the horror of those who knew her, she dressed like male colleagues in trousers, flannel shirts and men's shoes.

Her talent was undeniable, although she apparently gained more attention because of her unorthodox views about what most people supposed was the proper role of women. In public she donned traditional women's garb, which she allegedly referred to as "feminine fripperies."

For a short period she led an adventurous, romantic life in Mexico. While there she received a commission from Mexican President Porfirio Diaz to do a bust of himself.

In later years, Easterday gave up her promising career and returned to California. She lived in Mayfield before moving to San Mateo County, into a cabin built by her father near Tunitas Creek. There she led a hermit's life.

Her marriage to Louis Charles Paulsen following World War I was short lived. Three months after the nuptials, he was shot and killed in a drunken brawl.

Easterday became known on the Coastside as one who sold chickens and eggs on the streets of Half Moon Bay.

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SYBIL UNIS EASTERDAY  
Elected posthumously, 1984

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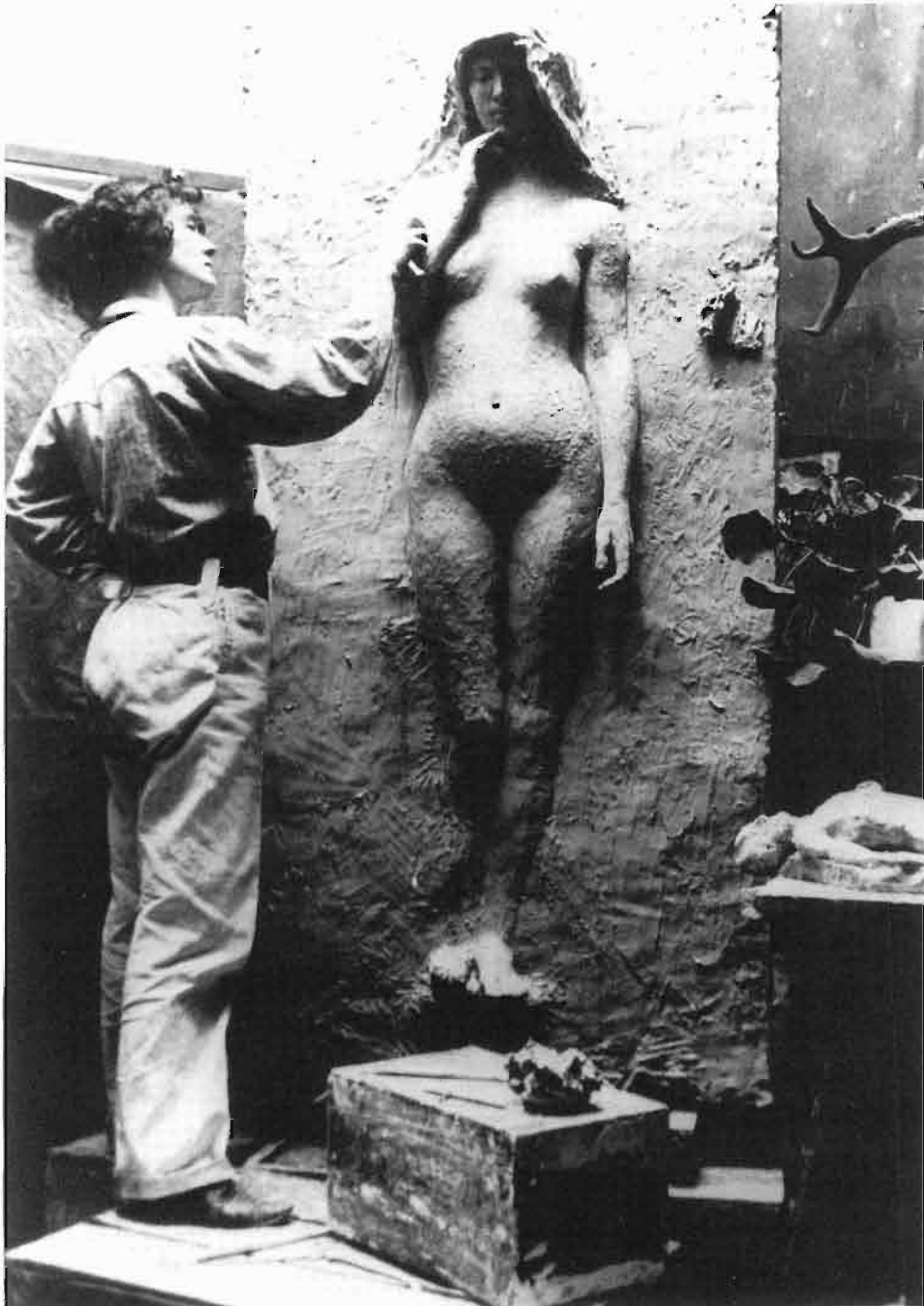


Photo: San Mateo County Historical Museum



## ELLEN NYHUS ELLIOTT

“There is far more important work to be done in the world than there is money to pay people to do it . . . hence the importance of personal initiative and volunteerism,” states Ellen Nyhus Elliott, a native of Washington, D.C. born June 22, 1933. “It’s amazing what you can get done if you don’t worry about who will get credit for it.”

Elliott became involved with the League of Women Voters in 1971. She notes that the organization was one of the few volunteer options open to women staying home to raise children that offered both intellectual challenge and a program of value to a wide range of people.

She was active in a number of leadership roles with an emphasis on voter education. She also chaired a study on reapportionment, coordinating the work of 74 local chapters in workshops, television and radio appearances to advocate for improved redistricting.

Simultaneously Elliott served as a founding member, treasurer and president of the Mid-Peninsula Task Force for Integrated Education, advocating desegregation, integration, equal educational opportunities and a multicultural curriculum.

She enjoys intellectual challenges and involves herself in efforts that bring people together rather than build walls between them. For two years (1991-1993) she served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Bialystok, Poland.

Elliott, who resides in San Francisco, received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin in 1954. She is married to David Elliott. They have three children.

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ELLEN NYHUS ELLIOTT  
Elected 1989

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*No photo available*

## LOIS ALMEN EVERETT

Lois A. Everett became executive director of the Human Investment Project (HIP) in 1978, at a time when the organization was floundering. She has been responsible for raising the financial status of the organization from \$20,000 a year to over \$500,000 a year.

HIP, which celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Clarion Hotel in Millbrae in June 1992, now places over 700 people each year in shared homes within San Mateo County. More than 6,000 people have been placed since homesharing began.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Everett is the mother of two. She is a graduate of the University of Missouri and received an M.A. from Temple University in Philadelphia.

In addition to her work, she serves on the Democratic Central Committee. She is well known as a thespian, having played the lead role in over 25 theatrical productions ranging from professional summer stock to local little theater.

Everett loves her job because of the variety of tasks and skills necessary—everything from public speaking to knowing how to write grants. “The people involved have interesting and varied backgrounds and the volunteers bring an added dimension to each day. There is always something different to do, a new problem to solve or a new opportunity waiting to be explored.”

Everett lives by a philosophy passed on by her mother: “It isn’t what happens that matters, it’s how you meet it that counts.”

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LOIS ALMEN EVERETT  
Elected 1990

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## CHRISTINE FESSLER

“In a time lacking in truth and certainty and filling with anguish and despair, no woman would be shamefaced in attempting to give back to the world, through her work, a portion of its lost heart . . . ”

And therewith Christine Fessler, executive director of the Peninsula Association for Retarded Children and Adults (PARCA), concluded her remarks the evening of her induction into the **Hall of Fame**.

Fessler was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, December 7, 1952. She received an undergraduate degree in social work from the University of Dayton, Ohio, and completed advanced study at the University of Madison, Wisconsin.

During her first year as director of PARCA, a nonprofit agency serving developmentally disabled children and adults in San Mateo County, Fessler was honored by the California Association for Retarded Children for her strategic plan, which increased membership by 60 percent.

She was instrumental in generating private, corporate and foundation support, and during her three year tenure at PARCA created or expanded 23 different programs. These included a summer day camp, an after-school recreation and child care program for disabled children, a residential training facility for adults with severe behavioral disorders, a sibling support group, travel program and a “Parent-to-Parent” program.

Fessler was nominated to the **Hall of Fame** by her staff. Her leadership in improving the quality of life for many residents of the county was noted.

In 1993, Fessler became president and chief executive officer of the Easter Seal Society in Madison, Wisconsin.

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CHRISTINE FESSLER  
Elected 1991

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## NORMA AU FONG

Norma Au Fong, born in 1912 in Hong Kong, was a believer in the United States and the opportunities which were afforded to those who were willing to work hard to see them materialize.

An immigrant from Hong Kong in 1945, she was successful in opening a small dressmaking shop in San Francisco's Chinatown where, through her association with Johnny Kan, she became known as an extremely talented seamstress and clothes designer. She made dresses for some of Hollywood's top women stars, who came to San Francisco exclusively to work with Fong.

Hard work and dedication to her profession gained her recognition in Hollywood. On two occasions she was hired to design dresses for the attendants of the television program "Queen for a Day."

For many years she maintained a small dressmaking shop in San Mateo on El Camino Real near 25th Avenue. Not only did she design new gowns, she engaged in historic restoration of ancient Chinese costumes, meticulously returning them to their original splendor. Though she seldom displays them any more, her collection includes more than 100 costumes, most more than a century old.

Fong admits that moving to America was very difficult for her. She was saddened and almost overwhelmed by the vicious discrimination against Chinese which she encountered in San Francisco and along the Peninsula during the 1940s and '50s.

Nevertheless, she made a reputation for herself in the field of fashion. For almost 30 years, Fong's fashionable frocks were modeled for virtually every major charity fund raising function in San Mateo County.

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NORMA AU FONG  
Elected 1985

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## MARGARET ANN GALLAGHER

Margaret Ann Gallagher is not your typical teenager, although she would like to be. While most mark their freshman year of high school with new friends, parties, dances, school spirit and academics, Margaret suffered hair loss, depression and overwhelming nausea. Gallagher suffers from Hodgkin's disease and its debilitating treatments.

When asked what she considers her greatest achievement, she quickly responds: "Getting through cancer and chemo."

Margaret established a pattern of volunteerism well before diagnosis of her cancer in October 1990. She had already spent two summers working with impoverished children at St. Elizabeth's summer day camp. Simultaneously she undertook the weekly care of a child suffering from cerebral palsy.

Since treatment for her own disease, Margaret has channeled her energy, talents and enthusiasm to help those currently suffering from what she has overcome; she actively supports others who have Hodgkin's.

She has led three kayaking trips for the disabled and become a counselor at a camp for children with cancer. "Since I've received the honor (Young Women of Excellence), it feels like I've done 3,000 things . . . I starred as 'Margaret' in our school play "Are you there God? It's me, Margaret." Additionally, she has been accepted into the National Honor Society.

In August 1994, she enrolled in classes at Canada College and hopes to attain a degree in child development. She is also a student of guitar and ballet.

Margaret Ann Gallagher was born May 11, 1976, in San Francisco. She is a resident of Daly City.

MARGARET ANN GALLAGHER

Young Women of Excellence

Awarded 1994



Photo: Glamour Shots

## NORMA GALLAGHER

"I was born to be a volunteer; yes, I grew up in a family with a parent who had a disability, unfortunate for my father, but fortunate for his family and friends. We saw ability, not disability. He will never know the great influence he had on family and those who were fortunate to know him."

The following poem hangs above Norma Gallagher's desk:

*God put me on earth  
to accomplish a certain number of things  
Right now I am so far behind  
I will never die!*

Gallagher has contributed more than a quarter century serving the disabled. She was responsible for establishing the Belmont League of Crippled Children and Adults which became Easter Seals. She and other volunteers have given their time working with children and raising money for support.

For years, she served on the board of directors of Easter Seals in the county, state and nation. She was voted the Esther Elder Smith Award for outstanding volunteer of the state and has received numerous awards for her unselfish activity. In 1990 she received a letter from President George Bush thanking her for volunteer efforts. The following year she received awards from the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County and the Junior League of Palo Alto.

Gallagher "is an extraordinary contributing humanitarian and has distinguished herself without peer in the community as a strong advocate of the rights of the disabled," stated Timothy F. Foley, president of the Easter Seal Society of San Mateo County. She is considered one of the county's most effective, creative and talented fund raisers.

She herself suffers from disabling arthritis and has served as a genuine role model for other disabled people. Arthritis has forced her to endure 16 years of surgeries, pain and wheelchair confinement.

Gallagher is married and the mother of four.

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NORMA GALLAGHER  
Elected 1988



## SUSAN CLEARY GARRATT

Born July 30, 1937, in New Jersey, Susan Cleary Garratt did not come to San Mateo County until 1962. She was honored for her participation in Planned Parenthood, an organization with which she became involved in 1983. She helped organize Voice for Choice, a grassroots group which grew to 2,000 members, all advocates for reproductive rights.

Additionally, for 17 years Garratt sat on the board of Caminar, an organization devoted to enhancing the quality of life for the mentally disabled. From 1989 to 1991 she was the first woman chair of the Freedom from Hunger Foundation, an organization to empower women by lifting barriers that prevent them from obtaining adequate food and nutrition education for their families.

She has always found her work interesting, especially serving with other intelligent people and facing the “intellectual challenges of solving problems.”

Garratt, a master swimmer and participant in triathalons, has been a supporter of the Women's Sports Foundation, a member of the San Mateo County Task Force on Teen Parenting and the county's Childwatch Project.

Though a sustaining member of the Junior League of San Francisco, because of family needs she has retired from other volunteer activities.

Garratt received a Bachelor of Arts at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where her major field of study was history.

She is married to William Garratt. They have two adult children.

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SUSAN CLEARY GARRATT  
Elected 1992

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## MIRIAM L. GHOLIKELY

Born June 8, 1912, in Atlanta, Georgia, Miriam L. Gholikely and her husband have been residents of Daly City since the 1960s. They have two children. She is a graduate of Atlanta's Clark University and American University in Washington, D.C. with a degree in chemistry. She was voted outstanding volunteer of the year in 1986 by the United Way of the Bay Area. In 1981 she was a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging.

"I stay young by being involved with people of all ages. I have just as much fun with three and four year olds as I do with adults," states Gholikely.

"From early childhood I have been concerned about human needs and how to solve them." She is no stranger to problems of the elderly and handicapped on public transportation. In 1982 she was named to a four-year term on the San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors and elected chair of the board in 1985. Previously she had served six years on the SamTrans Citizens Advisory Committee and had acted as chair of the San Mateo County Paratransit Coordinating Council.

"I'm in touch with all phases of the transit industry. I've seen it from the point of view of the consumer, the provider and the policy maker. My philosophy is that there's a job to be done and women are out there doing it — equally with men. We are partners . . . working together for a better future." She played a big role in the development of Redi-Wheels and other transit services for seniors and the disabled.

Gholikely has been the recipient of numerous honors and special awards.

"I plan to be around for 100 plus," she laughs. And "I plan to be actively involved with life as long as I live."

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MIRIAM L. GHOLIKELY  
Elected 1986

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Photo: Norton Pearl



## *S*YLVIA *G*RANDSAERT

At the age of four in her native Rochester, New York, Sylvia Grandsaert saw a Roman Catholic nun on a public streetcar and knew immediately what she wanted to be. "There was never any doubt," she states. "I became a nun because the Lord wanted me to."

Sister Mary Sylvia Grandsaert, born August 13, 1910, entered the convent of the Sisters of Mercy at the age of 17. She received her Baccalaureate in nursing from San Francisco College for Women in 1938.

In 1955, the year she received her master's in nursing education from the University of St. Louis, Grandsaert was assigned to the University of San Francisco and, along with one other faculty member, was responsible for planning the curriculum and starting the USF School of Nursing. She was made associate professor in 1967. Today, that institution is the largest basic nursing school in the nation.

Upon mandatory retirement in 1975, she asked permission to go into pastoral care. For two years she ran the Marian Care Center, the order's house for sisters who are retired or infirm.

Thereafter she was assigned to hospice work at St. Gregory's Church in San Mateo, where she ministers to the sick and dying, "until they are called home to God." Grandsaert attends every funeral of those she has worked with.

Still a registered nurse, Grandsaert sees between 40 and 50 patients a week who are in need of care but cannot get out on their own. Working as coordinator of 15 volunteers, "we bring both care and the Eucharist into homes." Patients are often driven to medical facilities. Not unusually, Grandsaert gives injections herself.

She is especially proud that once a month, on Friday, elderly parishioners are brought to church for Mass, followed by a good meal at the church.

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SYLVIA GRANDSAERT  
Elected 1992

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## LINDA GREGORY

"I like the drama and even melodrama of representing workers whose jobs are often themselves quite dramatic and whose work has real public impact," states Linda Gregory. "In union work, where job opportunities, money and self-respect are on the line, there's an almost unlimited amount of variety, excitement and humor."

Since the early 1970s Gregory has been a labor union representative, organizer and negotiator. She worked with District Council 57 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, representing public and private sector employees in 70 local unions in California.

At the time of her admission into the **Hall of Fame** Gregory had successfully organized Sequoia Hospital's part-time and on-call units, the Foster City Clerical/Technical unit, employees of the Cordilleras Mental Health Center and County Licensed Vocational Nurses. She has successfully bargained over 70 collective bargaining agreements.

Gregory has served for a decade as first vice president of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council and in 1980 received the Unity Award from the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education.

Additionally, since 1981, she has taught labor studies at community colleges in San Francisco and San Jose. In the process she had trained stewards and leaders for nearly every labor union in the Bay Area. She has also taught for the Carpenter's Apprenticeship Program and has trained trade unionists in the Czech Republic through the Public Service International program.

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LINDA GREGORY  
Elected 1986



## ROSE GUILBAULT

Rose Guilbault is director of public affairs and editorials for KGO-TV in San Francisco. A native of Mexico, born February 21, 1952, she has been a resident of San Mateo County since 1976. She has been continually involved in community affairs and enjoys the variety, creativity and “making a difference for my community.”

In 1991, Guilbault was one of 17 people from across the nation selected by President George Bush to serve on the President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence of Hispanic-Americans. At that time she stated: “I’m honored to be appointed to this very important national commission.”

She is concerned with the 40 percent dropout rate that plagues Hispanic youth. “Helping children become better educated is the best investment this country can make.”

Armed with a bachelor’s degree in journalism from San Jose State University and a master’s in business administration from Pepperdine University, Guilbault has broadcasted news on KNTV in San Jose, worked at KGO Radio and, before accepting her present position, was a producer-director at KPIX-TV.

In 1984, Guilbault created “Profiles of Excellence,” a series of three specials which air annually to salute the outstanding contributions made by African-Americans, Asian-Americans and Hispanic-Americans living in the Bay Area.

She has been a syndicated columnist for the Pacific News Service and a columnist on Hispanic affairs for the San Francisco *Chronicle*. For the latter she won the Eugene Block Journalism Award for advancing social justice and human rights (1990). Guilbault sits on the Board of Regents at College of Notre Dame and on the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Club.

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ROSE GUILBAULT  
Elected 1986



## MARIAN HEMINGWAY

Born in 1902 in Warsaw, Indiana, Marian Hemingway was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Journalism and completed post-graduate work at Ohio State University. She was a member of Sigma Kappa Sorority. Before moving to California in 1951, Hemingway served as president of the League of Women Voters in Montgomery County, Maryland. In San Mateo, she became a lifetime member of the League and maintained an interest in good government. She was also staunchly supportive of civil rights.

Hemingway was known for her attention both to the city's problems and her compassion for other people. She was one of the first women elected to the San Mateo City Council, in 1955, and served until 1959.

With her husband, James Rene Hemingway, she established the Unitarian Church of San Mateo in their living room. He was an administrative law judge with the National Labor Relations Board.

For 13 years Hemingway served as regional director on the corporate board of UNICEF, taking the story of the United Nations and UNICEF to Bay Area public schools. For many years she chaired the "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" program.

She was president of the United Nations Association in San Mateo County and Chair of the Peninsula Committee of UNESCO. She received a Memorial Award from the San Mateo Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and was recipient of a Woman for Responsible Government Award. Hemingway also received a Human Investment Project Award "for meaningful contributions in the field of human services." She was a member of the American Association of University Women for 39 years.

Hemingway died November 6, 1990.

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MARIAN HEMINGWAY  
Elected 1986

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Photo: San Mateo Times



## FRAN HOFFMAN

Newell, South Dakota, was the birthplace of Fran Hoffman April 3, 1921. She and her family became residents of San Mateo in 1961.

Motivated by the fact that one of her two children suffered from mental illness, Hoffman co-founded the San Mateo Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI) and the California Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

San Mateo's AMI was the first organization of its kind in the country. Since establishment here, the movement has spread to every state. There is a national organization as well.

AMI holds a general meeting monthly and sponsors support groups throughout the county. It played a significant role in establishment of Cordilleras Center for the mentally ill and preventing the closure of Chope Hospital. AMI was also instrumental in the decision to update and rebuild San Mateo General Hospital.

Since being elected to the **Hall of Fame**, Hoffman has stayed continually involved with AMI both in San Mateo and at Napa State Hospital.

Reflecting on her accomplishments, Hoffman remarks that "perhaps the best thing we did was come out of the closet." Before the organization of AMI, "mental illness was kept secret by most families."

In 1986, Hoffman and her husband Anthony were honored by the California Psychiatric Association and presented with a special plaque for "outstanding contributions to the founding of the California Alliance for the Mentally Ill. Hoffman graduated from high school in 1938, secretarial school in 1940 and completed 32 units attending Evening College at College of San Mateo.

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FRAN HOFFMAN  
Elected 1987

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Photo: Lisa Kanemoto

*With Tony and Ed Hoffman*

## EDNA HOLMSTROM

"If there's a job to be done, you just do it," Edna Holmstrom commented in 1987 upon her election to the **Hall of Fame**. At that time, the Pacifica resident was 81 years old.

Over the years Holmstrom had received many honors for her volunteer service. She contributed countless hours in the fields of child care and senior citizen advocacy. She served 12 years on the San Mateo County Commission on Aging. For 10 of those, she was the chair of the Social Services-Elder Abuse Task Force. In Pacifica she was instrumental in establishing the Seniors in Action program.

She also received the Volunteer of the Year award, the highest service recognition from the California Park and Recreation Society. She was honored by the city of Pacifica in 1986 and in 1978 by the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County.

Holmstrom graduated from Swarthmore College. She once remarked that service to the community was an activity that had been strongly encouraged both in her home and at school.

She moved to Pacifica in 1960 and volunteered from the start. She was a member of the Pacifica Resource Center Advisory Committee, the Seton Medical Center Community Advisory Committee and the Seniors in Action Advisory Committee.

Holmstrom was also active in developing programs for low income elderly, minorities and children. She was a longtime member of the League of Women Voters, an organization she states gives women confidence "to state one's own opinion."

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EDNA HOLMSTROM  
Elected 1987



Photo: San Mateo Times

## CHOWCHOW IMAMOTO

My work is done wherever I am . . . my mission in life is to help people help themselves,” states Chowchow Imamoto, who was born on a farm in Livingston, California July 27, 1927.

She is a graduate of the University of California School of Nursing and is both a licensed registered nurse and a certified public health nurse. She has also had extensive training in holistic health, which is her field of expertise.

“While I am formally educated, you might say that life has educated me,” she remarks.

“I was excellent in math and wanted to be an architect. However, quite by accident, I was pushed into nursing.” Imamoto notes that she became quite ill as a result of having been given too many antibiotics. “I had to go in search of alternative ways to find my way in life.”

Imamoto has been active in the field of nursing for over 30 years and has worked with the Red Cross, childbirth groups, PTAs, juvenile delinquents, drug and alcohol programs, meditation, body work, spiritual and holistic groups and assisted in developing the first chapter of Planned Parenthood in San Mateo County.

She has traveled and written extensively. She is the author of *Radiance of Self Healing*, which she describes as a “simple and easy-to-use handbook for self healing.”

Imamoto is affiliated with many community organizations including the American Red Cross, Psychic Research Institute, Japanese American National Museum, the Johrei Fellowship and the American Association of University Women.

She is an ordained minister with the Universal Church of the Masters, a spiritualist church. “I minister wherever I am,” Imamoto concludes.

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CHOWCHOW IMAMOTO

Elected 1986

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## CHARLOTTE IRVINE

Charlotte Irvine was nearly 80 when she was honored by the **Hall of Fame** in 1990. A graduate of Cornell University, for many years after moving to California she lived in Palo Alto on the Stanford campus.

She was elected president of the Palo Alto League of Women Voters and later served in that position for the League of Women Voters of California. Additionally, she chaired the organization's nominating committee for the League in the United States from 1968-1970.

Active in local politics, during the 1970s Irvine chaired San Mateo County's charter review committee, which produced a complete charter revision subsequently approved by voters in 1978.

Irvine also chaired the local government committee for the California Constitutional Review Commission. In that capacity she helped prepare a major revision of the state constitution.

Always willing to volunteer her services to those in need, she worked with the Ecumenical Hunger Program's Food Closet. She has also worked with prisoners in the jails and on the criminal justice task force of the Urban Coalition.

Professionally, Irvine worked as an editor at Stanford Research Institute, a researcher at both Stanford and the University of California, and was associate director of Stanford's Upward Bound, a program aimed at East Palo Alto High School students sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity.

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CHARLOTTE IRVINE  
Elected 1990



Photo: San Mateo Times



## YASUKO ANN ITO

"I have always been involved as an advocate for the rights of minority children and adults. I have fought for the rights of all children to have equal educational opportunities. I have worked closely with the city on matters pertaining to citizen rights. I have served on many commissions and boards to encourage communication as a means of solving problems together which will be beneficial to everyone."

Yasuko Ann Ito has also been a teacher and was elected to the San Mateo/Foster City Elementary School Board of Trustees in 1985.

Born in Watsonville, July 12, 1921, Ito came to reside in San Mateo County in 1947. She is the mother of two daughters. Though retired, she remains active in a variety of volunteer efforts.

She is working with KCSM-TV to create a three-part documentary for television on the Japanese in San Mateo County. The first, entitled "Chrysanthemums and Salt," was presented during the summer of 1994.

Ito is presently doing interviews for "Tanforan," which will be second in the series. It will tell the story of the internment of Japanese Americans in May 1942. The third segment, which will explore the lives of local Japanese after World War II and their release from the camps, is to be titled "Starting Over."

Ito particularly enjoys meeting new people and learning new things. "Last spring I rode in a hot air balloon and this summer a glider plane," she states triumphantly.

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YASUKO ANN ITO  
Elected 1991



## RUTH MONTGOMERY JACKSON

Ruth Montgomery Jackson, born in Campbell, California (1911) when the area was still primarily orchards, was named "Outstanding Citizen of the Year 1990" by the Atherton Civic Interest League and, additionally, received a resolution from the California Legislature citing her for "38 years of service for the Children of California."

Before her retirement after 40 years, Jackson had been employed by the Palo Alto Schools as director of the Speech, Language and Hearing Department. In that capacity she pioneered programs which became models in school districts not only in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties but throughout California.

Jackson, a person who suffers herself from a hearing deficiency, initiated one of the first programs for the hearing impaired which involved educational and social integration with hearing students in a regular school setting. This integration, a personal goal for her, was elevated to the level of a crusade. As a special honor, a school building in Palo Alto has been named for her.

She also was instrumental in creating a television program on speech improvement for children and one of the first computer assisted instruction programs for deaf and hearing impaired children.

A small but dynamic woman, Jackson served as president of the Atherton Library Board and led a campaign to raise funds for the addition of a children's section to the town's library. "Ruth Jackson is the most dynamic, creative, personable and ardent supporter of her community that I have had the privilege of working with," stated Chet Mulawaka, manager of the Atherton Library.

A graduate of College of the Pacific, she has been an active member of the Atherton branch of the American Association of University Women. She served as president of the Dames, an organization dedicated to the support of 22-acre Holbrook-Palmer Recreation Park in Atherton and successfully raised several hundred thousand dollars for it.

Jackson retired to Sutter Creek, California. She is a widow with one daughter.

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RUTH MONTGOMERY JACKSON

Elected 1991

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## CLARA WILLIAMS JACOBS

Clara Williams Jacobs abhors the limelight. She prefers staying quietly in the background doing the nitty-gritty work that needs to be done. When she learned she'd been elected to the **Hall of Fame**, "I was shocked . . . why would anyone do that to me," she remarks modestly.

Jacobs, the mother of three, who lives in a three-bedroom East Palo Alto house, received her license to be a foster parent in October 1970. Since, she has taken care of approximately 1,400 children in both shelter and long term care. Children brought to her for shelter care range from birth to 18 years of age. These are emergency cases. The normal stay for a child in shelter care is from a matter of hours to several days.

She is also licensed for long term care cases, those who stay with her for more than four or five years. She has raised eight children fitting into this category.

Jacobs, born in Mansfield, Louisiana on February 14, 1928, has been honored with the Service to Mankind Award from the Sertoma Club of Palo Alto in 1987 and by the San Mateo County Social Services Department in 1989. She has also received recognition from St. John's Baptist Church of East Palo Alto.

Jacobs enjoys "giving something back to the world." She firmly believes that we need more "nurturing and more giving."

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CLARA WILLIAMS JACOBS  
Elected 1994

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## NANCY LEE JALONEN

Nancy Lee Jalonen has had three careers since coming to San Mateo County in 1956. For 18 years she worked as an educational television producer at KCSM-TV, for seven years she was executive director of the Arts Council of San Mateo County and, until her recent retirement from the College of Notre Dame, she was the Director of the Communication Department, a major she pioneered in 1986.

Jalonen has received many honors. She was recognized by the City of San Mateo for founding the Arts Advisory Council and by College of San Mateo for having produced 350 television programs promoting cultural, educational and civic organizations. She was also honored by Belmont and San Mateo County for her directorship of the Art Council.

She believes her mother, Hazel Lee Griffin, an artist and musician from Virginia, has had a great influence on her love of the arts and attitude about life. "Whether it is painting, music or selling real estate, it's important for any boy or girl to know that anything they want to try to learn about is worth trying. That was her attitude."

Jalonen was born in Hollywood October 28, 1927. She attended Pasadena City College and received a B.A. and M.A. from Stanford University. She completed advanced study at Cambridge University. Her major fields of study were English, drama and education. She is married and the mother of two adult children.

Since her retirement from full-time teaching, she works one semester a year at College of Notre Dame and is engaged in volunteer work for Lighthouse for the Blind.

Jalonen, a resident of San Mateo, enjoys the theater and musical events, reading and working in the garden. "I'm motivated by an enormous zest for life and enjoyment of people."

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NANCY LEE JALONEN  
Elected 1989

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FRANCES JEAN KENTOR JAMIESON

“Put more than one arrow in your quiver. Many jobs won’t exist tomorrow but if you are prepared to do several things you’ll be more than likely to get a job,” is a philosophy Frances Jamieson has lived by.

She was born in Denver, Colorado April 8, 1922. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Denver University in 1943 and a master's degree from Stanford in 1950. Advanced study allowed her to become a licensed psychologist.

Upon retirement, she was honored by the California State Assembly and Senate for having served successfully as job steward for the California State Employees Association. She was listed in *Who's Who in American Women* and *Who's Who in the West*.

Since moving to San Mateo County in 1983, she has been active in the leadership of senior citizen organizations. She was chair of the San Bruno Senior Citizens Advisory, president of the Senior Forum and legislative chairman of the San Bruno chapter of the American Association of Retired People.

She currently stays busy doing volunteer work. She is an avid believer in the axiom: “Give of yourself without wanting pay . . .” She believes that such an approach brings dividends in the long run.

In August 1994, Jamieson, who is a resident of San Bruno, was winner of the South San Francisco Golden Years Toastmasters speech contest.

She is married and the mother of one.

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FRANCES JEAN KENTOR JAMIESON  
Elected 1992

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## MARY HOCHREITER JANNEY

Mary Janney is the executive director of Sterling Court, a retirement home on El Camino Real in San Mateo. She has been responsible for bringing the community up to 100 percent capacity.

Before the premature death of her husband, Janney was a full-time wife, mother and community volunteer. Shortly after he died, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, which resulted in surgery and chemotherapy. Thereafter, she says, "I began pursuing a 'second life,' which has been a continuation of extensive community involvement and the establishment of a position for myself in the world of business . . ."

In addition to her position at Sterling Court, which opened in 1990, she has had significant impact on her community. Twice she was elected to the Burlingame School District Board of Trustees and three times to the San Mateo Union High District Board of Trustees. She is a past director of the California School Boards Association and served both on the San Mateo Chamber of Commerce and the American Cancer Society board.

She is especially proud of the fact that in July 1994, she became the first woman president of the Burlingame Rotary Club.

Janney was born in Buffalo, New York on November 15, 1937. She earned her A.B. from Duke University (1959) in North Carolina before moving to California. For a time she taught elementary school in San Diego before moving with her family to Burlingame. She is the mother of two adult sons.

She has been active in the League of Women Voters, the Burlingame-Hillsborough Auxiliary to Children's Hospital at Stanford and many other organizations. In 1989 she was recipient of the Burlingame Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen Award.

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MARY HOCHREITER JANNEY  
Elected 1992

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Photo: Rubiolo Photography

## STELLA L. JENSEN

Stella L. Jensen was born in Wakeman, Ohio, December 2, 1882. She was married to Mattrup Jensen, superintendent of Mount Olivet Cemetery on Hillside Boulevard in Colma. In 1924 he became the first mayor of the incorporated town of Lawndale (later known as Colma).

Jensen was active in the affairs of San Mateo County. During World War I, she sold Liberty Bonds and involved herself in Red Cross work.

While her formal education ended with a high school diploma from Muncie, Indiana, she was a diligent lifelong reader and thinker who avidly studied religion and philosophy.

Jensen was associated with the Girls' Club of Colma and became a prime mover behind establishment of the Jefferson Union High School District and, for a number of years, sat as a member of its governing board.

She was also supportive of the establishment of San Mateo Junior College in the town of San Mateo (1922). During the late 1930s, she served on the junior college board of trustees. She also sat as a member of the San Mateo County Grand Jury.

Jensen was a past matron of Crocker Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, and served as a Deputy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of that organization. She was also Vice-Supreme Guardian of the International Order of Job's Daughters.

She was the mother of three children.

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STELLA L. JENSEN  
Elected posthumously, 1984



Photo: Ken Gillespie Collection

## *MONICA JIMENEZ*

Monica Jimenez was a bright, hardworking sophomore at Burlingame High School when she was honored by the **Hall of Fame** in 1993. And, coming from a single parent home, life had not been especially easy for her.

She was honored because of her extraordinary service to the community. Even before she started high school, she was a regular volunteer at the Burlingame Retirement Inn, where she worked with senior citizens. She willingly spent time taking walks with seniors, reading to them and generally providing companionship.

After starting high school, she continued to work through the auspices of the San Mateo County Volunteer Center. During the summer of 1992, she participated in programs for underprivileged children at Turnbull School.

She co-chaired the Youth Board at the Volunteer Center, successfully recruiting other student volunteers, and helped on a county-wide conference on youth and volunteer service.

Upon graduation from Burlingame High School (1995), Jimenez had planned to go east for college. Financial realities, however, have brought about a change in plans. She intends to enroll at the College of San Mateo to complete required lower division courses.

During high school years, besides being an excellent student, Jimenez took part in many school activities, including the drama club and the swimming team.

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MONICA JIMENEZ  
Young Women of Excellence  
Awarded 1993

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Photo: San Mateo Times



## BEVERLY ANN KAYE

"I love to volunteer," reports Beverly Ann Kaye, born in San Francisco, March 29, 1939. "I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."

In 1979, Kaye established the Mid-Peninsula Chapter of The Holiday Project, an organization dedicated to visiting people in nursing homes, hospitals and other institutions on holidays throughout the year. Before beginning the Peninsula chapter, Kaye drove to San Francisco to volunteer.

She has been successful in involving all the Redwood City high schools, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other groups in the project. In 1993, 573 volunteers made 3,123 visits to people on the Peninsula.

In addition to working for the Peninsula chapter, she is corporate secretary of The Holiday Project and volunteers for the "national team," which insures continuity throughout the country.

Kaye was also one of the first women to enter the computer field as a systems engineer and has been honored with a variety of awards related to her job. She is employed by Micro Focus Corp., a computer software firm in Palo Alto. Meanwhile, she runs her own business, Resources Unlimited, established to perform services for people and companies when they need an extra person to do special projects.

Kaye is married to Michael Andrew Kaye. They are the parents of three adult children. She is a member and president of the Redwood City Sunrise Lions Club. A graduate of Heald Business College (1958), she has attended both San Francisco City College and San Francisco State University.

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BEVERLY ANN KAYE

Elected 1988



LEONA M. KENT

Men and women drink for different reasons, states Leona M. Kent, who devoted much of her life to providing leadership for women seeking to overcome alcohol and drug dependence. "Men drink for power; women use alcohol as a medication."

Most programs to overcome such addictions have been designed for and by men. Kent was honored for her work with women. She was the founder of the California Women's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Dependence and the executive director of the Women's Recovery Association of San Mateo County.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, February 4, 1916, she came to California in 1942. She is the mother of six children. Kent successfully overcame her own alcoholism and was recognized, along with First Lady Betty Ford, at the Ninth Annual California Women's Council on Alcoholism.

She has authored many articles on the subject and, during the early 1970s, helped write and edit *The Paraprofessional in the Treatment of Alcoholism*. This book became a standard in training programs. "It was a real breakthrough in the field of alcohol," she states.

Kent, a high school graduate who never attended college, takes special pride in having received the Women Helping Women Award from the Soroptimists International.

Now retired and living in Sacramento, Kent remarks with satisfaction that she still hears from women all over the nation who received help from her program.

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LEONA M. KENT  
Elected 1985

*No photo available*

## SHELLEY KESSLER

Shelley Kessler is the assistant executive officer of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council. Historically she has been a staunch advocate for women in the labor movement and was honored for conducting assertiveness training seminars, advising women dealing with sexual harassment problems and job discrimination issues. She has assisted in the development of a high school curriculum introducing labor issues without sex bias.

Additionally, Kessler helped organize Congressional hearings on job safety and injustices in the work place. She assisted in developing the national PBS television series "We Do the Work," creating positive portrayals of working people, their livelihoods and their lives. She served on the board of directors of KQED-TV.

She has been a member of the Women's Legislative Advisory Committee for Assemblywoman Jackie Speier, president of the Western Workers Heritage Festival, a celebration of workers' culture, and organized a commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Kessler began her working career in non-traditional jobs for women. She labored assembling automobiles, was a spot-welder and a mechanic.

Acclaimed for her work in behalf of women, she was given a special award by the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants for her support and leadership during a national flight attendant strike.

Kessler is a native Californian.

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SHELLEY KESSLER  
Elected 1993

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## LOTTIE M. KIRK

"I was born to an angry 15-year old mother . . . and an itinerant bigamist father. Their marriage was over as soon as my mother found out he was already married and had five other children. She ended up hating him and having me did not help the situation," states Lottie M. Kirk, who was born in Mississippi April 25, 1918.

Kirk was raised by her grandmother, who passed away when the young girl was 13. She only completed the eighth grade, although since coming to San Mateo in 1959, she has taken some evening and correspondence courses. In 1949, she met Robert S. Kirk, "a kind, loving and generous man from whom I learned how to be the person I am." They were married in 1955.

Now widowed, Kirk has no children of her own. She was honored by the **Hall of Fame**, she says, because "I was responsible for helping keep family members linked to their traditions, helping family members overcome negative aspects of family life and instilling in them a more positive outlook. I have also opened doors to those in need of a more stable environment."

Kirk has been an active volunteer at the Little House Senior Center in Menlo Park and for the Ecumenical Hunger Program, making quilts for the needy. She is a resident of East Palo Alto.

Retired since 1983 after 24 years of doing custodial work and acting as custodial supervisor in Stanford University dormitories, Kirk continues volunteer activities. "The fact that God blesses me to wake up every morning and I am able to get out of bed makes everything and everyone interesting to me."

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LOTTIE M. KIRK  
Elected 1993





## CHARLIE M. KNIGHT

Dr. Charlie M. Knight is Superintendent of the Ravenswood City School District. When she began, October 7, 1985, one of the most serious problems facing the district was the demoralization of the staff.

While at first Knight's enthusiasm and dedication met with hesitation and skepticism from many district teachers, she has succeeded in instilling a renewed sense of pride in the profession within Ravenswood schools. Her message to teachers was that the entire district would be held accountable for providing quality education for students. Teacher morale has improved; many have participated in staff development activities designed to increase effectiveness with the special population of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

Knight has restored public confidence in the district's ability to educate its children, refurbished the district's facilities and grounds, making them attractive areas for learning, and returned Ravenswood City School District from the brink of bankruptcy to a year-end balance of over \$1 million.

In 1988, Knight's goal became the opening of a new school focusing on science and technology. This was approved by the school board six weeks before classes began. With a staff of community volunteers, she renovated Flood School, which had been abandoned for more than a decade. Flood opened on schedule for 220 students.

Born April 18, 1932, in Valdosta, Georgia, Knight is married and the mother of four. She is president-elect of the National Alliance of Black School Educators, president of the San Mateo County Superintendents Association and belongs to many professional and service organizations. She also established the only public center for babies affected by prenatal substance abuse.

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CHARLIE M. KNIGHT  
Elected 1991

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## *DIANA BETH KOIN*

Diana Beth Koin, a doctor of medicine who received her degree from the University of Colorado, is known for groundbreaking work in the field of elder abuse. She was the first physician to describe and deal with the topic.

Koin was born in Denver in 1943. Asked about her interest and concern for the elderly, she admits that the scientist in her sees aging as a “fascinating biological phenomenon.”

She created and ran a free clinic for the elderly in Denver and later joined the faculty of the Stanford University Medical School as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Gerontology. Additionally, while at Stanford, she volunteered her time teaching physicians various techniques of effectively working with the elderly.

Koin is presently director of the Veterans Administration Center nursing home in San Francisco and (since 1991) Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco.

Koin also served as chair of the Home Health Care Program of the Visiting Nurses Association.

She is a participant in health fairs, has written numerous articles for professional journals and is much sought after as a public speaker.

Koin's undergraduate degree is from Bryn Mawr College, near Philadelphia.

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DIANA BETH KOIN  
Elected 1988



RAYNA LEHMAN

"I think I am most famous for my strong belief in equal opportunity for women, particularly women in non-traditional work," states Rayna Lehman. "I was in a construction apprenticeship program (1974) before the words 'non-traditional' were coined."

In 1978 Lehman became the first woman to graduate from the Painters' Apprenticeship Program in San Mateo County and two years later was the first woman elected President of the Painters Local Union.

Lehman, born in the Bronx, New York, in January 1951, is a graduate of Manhattan Community College in New York City (1970), where she studied liberal arts, painting and decorating. She is currently Director of Community Services of the San Mateo Central Labor Council and an outspoken advocate of services for displaced workers. "I work with people. I am allowed to be creative. I feel there is a strong sense of dignity and decency associated with the labor movement, and I am a part of that. I am faced with new situations daily."

She is dedicated to seeking dignity and fairness in an often bureaucratic, unfair society. Lehman assisted in the creation of START, an affirmative action outreach program to attract and retain women in construction. And whereas the program is no longer in existence, "its principles are carried forward in several public and privately funded programs."

Nine months after being honored by the **Hall of Fame**, Lehman and husband Bill Nack became the parents of twin sons. "My life since has been a balancing act of full-time work and full-time motherhood."

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RAYNA LEHMAN  
Elected 1990

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## SUE GOODSTEIN LEMPERT

"I believe you need to make every moment in life count," states Sue Lempert, who was born August 2, 1931. "You only have a limited time to do your thing and so much needs to be done. I get my jollies out of public service and believe getting involved is the best way to make things better."

For more than 20 years she has been active in the life of the city of San Mateo. She was elected to the elementary school board in 1973 and re-elected three times. In 1983, Lempert was a candidate for the San Mateo High School board, on which she served four terms. In 1994, voters seated her on the San Mateo City Council, a position which, in itself, is "almost a full-time job." Much of her energy is devoted to trying to find ways the cities and schools can work more closely together to better serve youth and all citizens.

Lempert, a native of New York City, is a graduate of Stanford with a B.A. in journalism. She received an M.A. in public law and government from Columbia University in 1955 and a Masters of Public Administration from San Francisco State University in 1983.

Since 1989, Lempert has been executive director of the Age Center Alliance Inc., a nonprofit Menlo Park-based organization that researches, develops and promotes programs for the elderly.

She is affiliated with numerous community organizations. Lempert was instrumental in her son's election in 1988 to the California State Assembly. "It was one of the most exciting grass roots campaigns of all times," she states triumphantly, noting that the victory regained a seat for Democrats which had been held by Republicans for more than a century.

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SUE GOODSTEIN LEMPert  
Elected 1988

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## ERIN MICHELLE LEYDIG

Erin Leydig was honored by the **Hall of Fame** while still a student at Hillsdale High School in San Mateo. "I was recognized for the many small achievements that I accomplished," she remarks.

During four years at Hillsdale she was continually involved as an officer in student government and in 1992 represented the school at Girls' State in Sacramento. She was chosen by the San Mateo Elks Lodge *and* the San Mateo Union High School District as a "Student of the Month." She competed in athletics and earned letters in swimming and track. She was a National Merit Commended Scholar and ultimately was named valedictorian of her graduating class.

Leydig was born in San Mateo, December 5, 1975. She is presently a sophomore at Stanford University with academic interests in biology and mathematics. Leydig also rows with the university crew, belongs to a sorority and acts as a dormitory coordinator.

An active member of the Congregational Church of San Mateo, she is currently a sponsor for a high school youth group at the Congregational Church of Palo Alto. During time away from school, for a number of years Leydig worked for the city of San Mateo as a day camp leader and has enjoyed running her own Kids' Camp, which she and a friend established in 1989.

Leydig is optimistic about the future. "When I actually take the time to think about it, every little piece of this world is more amazing than I can comprehend: leaves, clouds, rainbows, flowers, children—everything is so perfectly balanced and beautiful."

She is an accomplished pianist and was one of the first teenagers elected to the **Hall of Fame**.

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ERIN MICHELLE LEYDIG  
Young Women of Excellence  
Awarded 1993

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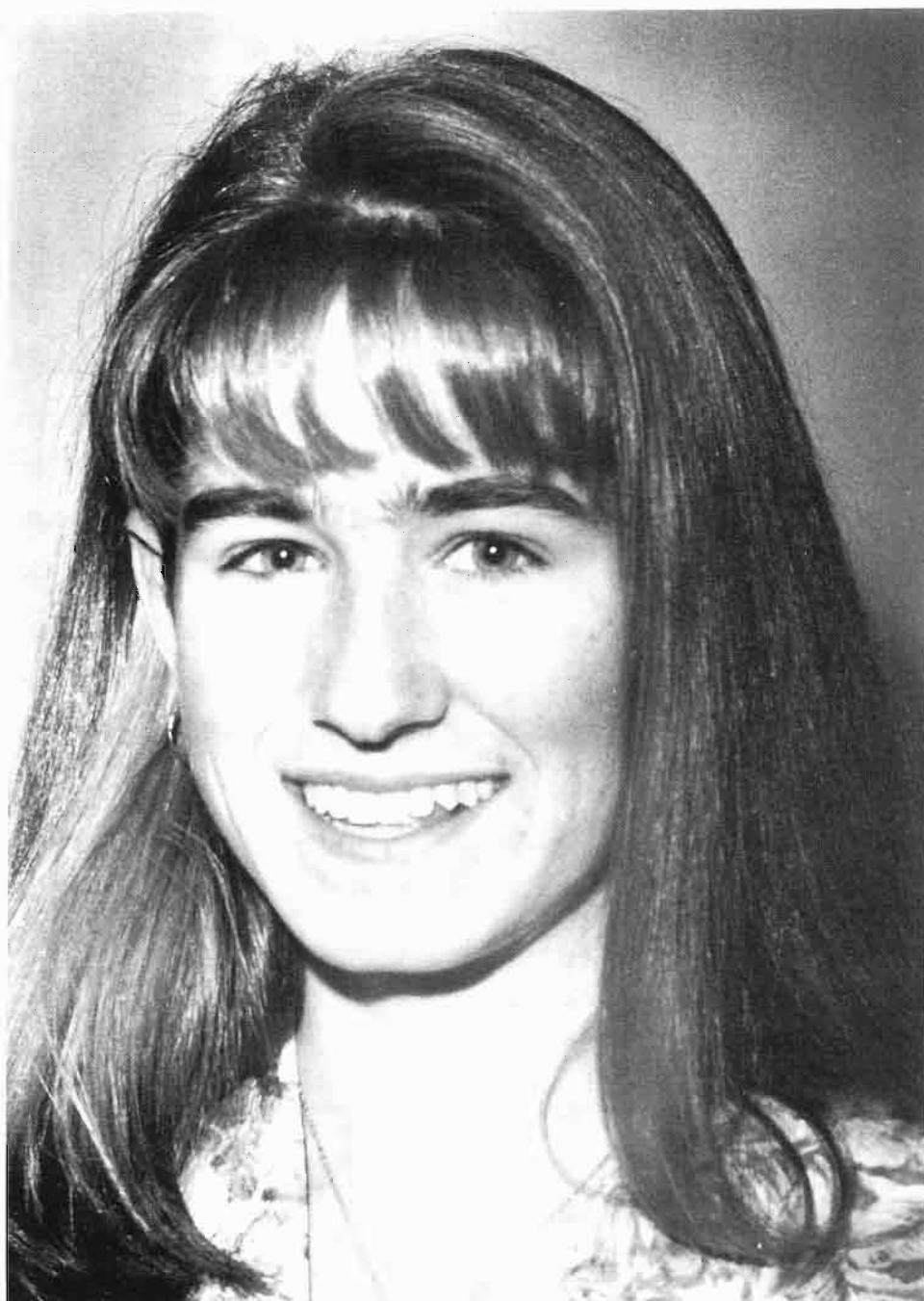


Photo: San Mateo Times

## SALLY LIVINGSTON

Though Sally Livingston died shortly before her induction into the **Hall of Fame**, she deserves a special place of honor as one of San Mateo County's early champions and ardent fighters for women's rights. She was singled out of a field of 95 nominees competing for the honor.

Livingston devoted much of her life to helping women make advancements in all aspects of their personal and professional lives.

She became a role model. As such, she clearly demonstrated that internal and external obstacles could be overcome. Livingston lobbied for establishment of a Commission on the Status of Women. And, whereas she was never successful in this endeavor, she helped lay the foundation for what became the Advisory Council on Women.

She served as president of Women Entrepreneurs, which she built into a highly professional and efficiently managed organization. She chaired the Regional Conference for Women Business Owners, which was sponsored by the Small Business Administration. She persuaded the group to form a non-profit organization.

Livingston also played a significant role in acquiring funding for Mainstream Planning Associates, a consulting and training firm designed exclusively for women.

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SALLY LIVINGSTON  
Elected 1985



## DOROTHY LUDD LLOYD

“Expect to pass through this world but once, any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now. Let me not neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again;” these words, expressed by an unknown writer, have become the personal philosophy of Dorothy Ludd Lloyd.

She, the oldest of six children and the first in her family to attend college, was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, February 4, 1936. Lloyd graduated from Los Angeles State University (1959) and received an advanced degree in educational administration from the University of Southern California (1966). She earned her doctorate, an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction, from the University of California, Los Angeles (1973).

She was honored for her work in education while a professor at San Francisco State University. During her tenure there, Lloyd was a regular presenter at state and national conferences. For more than 18 years she acted as a consultant or staff development leader for schools and school districts in 13 states and more than 30 school districts in California. She worked with teachers, principals, superintendents and staff developers, challenging and facilitating their effectiveness.

Because of her unique skills she is much sought after to serve on educational boards and presently sits on more than a dozen. She has received numerous awards including “Educator of the Year” by the Western Regional Professional and Business Women.

In 1989 Lloyd became a founding faculty member and administrator at California State University, San Marcos—the first new state university in the nation in 25 years. Currently on loan from San Marcos, she is Assistant Vice President and Dean of Collaborative Education and Diversity at California State University, Monterey Bay, California’s newest university.

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DOROTHY LUDD LLOYD  
Elected 1988

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## *KATHLEEN S. MAHANY*

"I was a hyperactive kid and haven't slowed down yet," stated Kathleen Mahany upon her election to the **Hall of Fame**. She was honored for 40 years of community service.

Since her school days—she attended San Mateo Junior College and San Francisco State College—Mahany has been an advocate for fair and low income housing while also being a champion of civil liberties. Through her affiliation with the First Congregational Church of Redwood City and an association with the Society of Friends, she has also been vocal in the cause of peace.

Born in London, England, September 10, 1921, she became a resident of San Mateo County in 1925. She is the mother of four.

"My parents, through their actions and deeds, led me early to be aware of injustice . . . I cut my teeth on politics around the family dinner table," remarks Mahany. She served on Redwood City's Housing and Human Concerns Committee, working to provide housing for homeless families. Mahany also held a seat on the San Mateo Planning Commission. She has been recognized as the Soroptimist of the Year (1976).

Mahany's educational background is in psychology and sociology. For years before her retirement in 1976, she was involved in special education, teaching autistic and neurologically disabled children at Morgan Center in Los Altos.

Her volunteer work puts her in touch with people with a variety of needs.

"I work and pray to help the rich, the suffering, the hungry and the homeless wherever I can and whenever I can."

Mahany believes in staying active and healthy. Neighbors in Redwood City note that she (accompanied by her dog) jogs a mile at least three times a week.

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KATHLEEN S. MAHANY  
Elected 1988

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Photo: San Mateo Times



## MARGARET A. MARSHALL

Margaret Marshall was born in Mills Hospital, January 30, 1934. She attended elementary school in San Carlos and graduated from Sequoia High School. In 1955 she received her A.B. in political science from the University of California and a Masters in Public Administration from College of Notre Dame in 1991.

She was a teacher in Castro Valley for two years before leaving to raise a family. Now a widow, she is the mother of three adults.

Marshall became involved as a volunteer with the Redwood City school board in 1965 and was appointed to fill a mid-term vacancy seven years later. Elected on her own in 1975, 1979 and 1984, she was instrumental in the effort to unify the schools in 1984. She co-chaired the Redwood City school bond election in 1991 and the parcel tax election of 1993.

She chose not to stand again for election to the board, declaring that "people shouldn't perpetuate themselves." Upon retirement from the board, the superintendent of schools praised Marshall as someone who was always willing to listen and ready to make tough decisions. She was considered a "peace maker" and a "consensus builder."

Community involvement is a major factor in Marshall's life. She is a member of the League of Women Voters and encourages all in the community to involve themselves. Involvement, she believes, leads to creative solutions.

Marshall has been a counselor for California Girls State, a Sierra Club hike leader, a Campfire Girl leader, and a host for foreign exchange programs.

In 1992, the California legislature named Marshall Woman of the Year and she received a Planned Parenthood Apple Award. Two years later she was a Koshland Prize Winner from the Peninsula Community Foundation and became director of the San Mateo County Conflict Resolution in the Schools Program.

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MARGARET A. MARSHALL  
Elected 1989

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Photo: San Marco Times

## OLIVE GRAHAM MAYER

Olive Mayer was one of the first women licensed in California as a professional mechanical engineer and has been honored by the engineering societies of the Bay Area for Distinguished Engineering Service. At one time she operated a machine shop, which she built herself in Redwood City. In it she manufactured science education teaching materials for schools.

She has also been recognized for efforts to achieve world peace. She formed the Committee for International Friendly Visits, extending invitations to Soviet women to visit the United States and encouraging American women to visit the Soviet Union.

She is well known for environmental work for parks and open space. "If people were going to destroy this beautiful land, it would be over my dead body," she once stated. She is a longtime member of the Sierra Club and organized a political campaign to obtain \$500,000 for trails from the state legislature. San Mateo County used much of this to adapt Sawyer Camp Trail for use by hikers, bicyclists and joggers. The trail is used by approximately 200,000 people annually. Mayer has been involved in a neverending struggle to save the forests and coasts.

Born November 7, 1918, in New Jersey, Mayer received a Bachelor of Science from Swarthmore College and completed a year of advanced study at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Still, she states, "experience is the only great teacher . . . Being a woman I learned about prejudice, not only against women but against blacks and Jews, other cultures and religions. I learned to defend minorities, to be tolerant in politics and allow people to be different. And I also learned to stand up for what is right and be tough and uncompromising when dealing with ignorance."

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OLIVE GRAHAM MAYER  
Elected 1985

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Photo: San Mateo Times

CATHERINE M. McCANN

"In childhood I was inspired by the work of my grandfather for justice and later was moved by the suffering wrought by the economic depression of the 1930s," states Catherine M. McCann, who was born in San Antonio, Texas on June 2, 1914.

McCann graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1936 and completed graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1961. Her fields of study were economics, psychology and social work.

This Hillsborough resident was recognized in 1987 for her work with community organizations promoting peace and social justice. "Social action is my hobby."

McCann portrays herself as a political activist. "I have helped plan and participate in public demonstrations for peace and twice committed civil disobedience for this cause." In 1965 she founded the Concerned Citizens of San Mateo County because of the escalating war in Southeast Asia. During the 1980s, she opposed funding for the Contras of Nicaragua and fought for the duly elected government.

McCann continues to be active in peace-promoting and environmental groups. She is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Hunger and Homeless Coalition and the Emergency Response Network (concerned with solidarity with Third World peoples).

In addition to recognition from the **Hall of Fame**, McCann has been honored by the American Civil Liberties Union of San Mateo and the San Francisco-San Mateo Older Women's League.

"I want to see a change in direction of our global human society toward no domination of one group or person over another, toward sustainability in all our economic production and . . . toward an end to war and the preparation for war."

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CATHERINE M. McCANN  
Elected 1987

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## GRACE ELIZABETH LOCKHART MCCARTHY

Grace McCarthy has been a community volunteer for more than half a century, including 50 years of service with Girl Scouts of America. For more than 30 years she has been a member of the Pacifica branch of the American Association of University Women. She was a charter member of the League of Women Voters in north San Mateo County.

She served as mayor of Pacifica three times in 1967, 1971 and 1972, taking the position at a difficult juncture in Pacifica history and successfully tackling the problems of growth and taxes.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, August 14, 1908, McCarthy is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana with a degree in English. She has since taken courses at San Francisco State and the University of California.

She served as a County Planning Commissioner, a member of the County Grand Jury and president of the Pacifica Historical Society. McCarthy has been recognized for her distinguished service to the community, including an award of \$10,000 from the Peninsula Community Foundation for "outstanding involvement in humanitarian causes." She is an honorary life member of the Sharp Park Elementary School P.T.A. and the Pacifica Rotary Club.

"Sadly enough, I don't think enough people do their part (in civic affairs)," states McCarthy. "It starts by being an informed voter. Participation, no matter how small, makes a community better."

McCarthy, a widow who still volunteers her time and writes a weekly column for the Pacifica *Tribune*, was married to Carl P. McCarthy and is the mother of two.

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GRACE ELIZABETH LOCKHART MCCARTHY  
Elected 1991

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## MARILYN MCCORMICK

Marilyn McCormick received honors from the **Hall of Fame** for her extraordinary efforts in the field of drug and alcohol dependence. In 1983, she served as coordinator of Family Forum, a Peninsula Hospital support group for caring friends and relatives of chemically dependent people. While at Peninsula, she also worked as a pre-admit counselor and family interventionist.

Previously she had worked at Gladman Memorial Hospital in Oakland, California, where she assisted in the creation and development of specialized programs to encourage abstinence from drinking and provide much needed guidance in making healthful choices to those who are alcohol dependent. She also worked to increase corporate awareness of alcohol problems and early symptoms to watch for.

McCormick's interest in alcohol and drug abuse began when she volunteered to serve as secretary for the California Women's Commission on Alcoholism. She is remembered as a pioneer for recognizing significant differences between male and female alcoholics: that women drink and become chemically dependent for vastly different reasons than men. Thus traditional treatment, mostly designed by men for men, would surely result in frustration for both the woman alcoholic and her counselor.

She helped create the first live-in women's alcohol rehabilitation home in Oakland and also worked with the Emergency Shelter Systems for battered women in Hayward.

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MARILYN MCCORMICK  
Elected 1986

*No photo available*

## RACINE MCROSKEY

Racine McRoskey, born in Portland, Oregon (1874), became the town of San Mateo's leading clubwoman and writer.

She was probably best known as a poet and author. Among her publications was *The Missions of California*, a faithful portrayal of the old state landmarks, a subject about which she had made an extensive study. She was also the author of *Drift o' Dreams*, a collection of poetry.

Aside from her literary efforts, McRoskey played a leading role in the club and civic work of the county. She was one of the organizers of the San Mateo County Center of the California Civic League, started by women who served on the 1913 grand jury of which she had been a member.

She was appointed to the grand jury by Superior Court Judge George H. Buck, who acted in defiance of the U.S. Attorney General's declaration that women could not serve on juries. "Women are well qualified for the work," stated McRoskey. "They are fearless and delve deeper into things than men. Besides, I think they can start the work with a freer conscience."

She was a director of the San Mateo Women's Club, a member of the Pacific Coast Women's Press Club and the Laurel Hill Club of San Francisco.

Racine McRoskey died in San Mateo at the age of 41.

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RACINE McROSKEY  
Elected posthumously, 1984



Photo: San Francisco Public Library

*ETHEL MEARS*

Ethel Mears, a native of Silver City, Iowa who lived in Nebraska before moving west, retired in 1954 after 30 years of service with the U.S. Civil Service Commission in San Francisco.

Following her retirement, she was a founder and president of the Senior Forum of San Mateo County and participated in the design of the College Heights campus of the College of San Mateo. Additionally, she helped implement the college's Better Living for Later Years program, establish Redwood City's first senior housing unit and was named one of the county's women of the year in 1964.

Mears served on the county Commission on Aging, worked with the Redi-Wheels program and sat on the Salvation Army Board of Directors. She established two chapters of AARP in Redwood City and was active in the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

A member of the Redwood City Senior Affairs Committee, she worked on the renovation of the Veteran's Memorial Building for use as a senior center.

Mears was born in 1895 and continued her normal whirlwind schedule almost until her death in Redwood City in 1991. She was 96.

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ETHEL MEARS  
Elected 1990



Photo: San Mateo Times

*ROSE H. MEEHAN*

“Rose H. Meehan was one of those rare characters whose lifetime efforts were devoted to the good of others,” stated Miss Pansy J. Abbott, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools, in 1927 upon the death of Meehan. “She had never failed to respond to any call upon her time and her sympathy in any worthy cause.” Meehan, a native of San Francisco, began teaching in the Half Moon Bay School District and came to San Mateo in 1905. For 21 years she served as principal of Central Grammar School of San Mateo. During her tenure, she became widely acclaimed and revered as a pioneer educator and was beloved by many for her faithful service in charities and in the cause of education.

Unmarried, for years she was prominent in the affairs of St. Catherine's Church of Burlingame and was treasurer of the Catholic Ladies' Aid of Burlingame.

Meehan served as president of the Grade Teachers' Association of San Mateo and for years was active in the work of the Three Cities Women's Council, an organization of teachers. Regularly she served as a delegate to the annual meeting of the San Mateo County Teachers' Association.

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ROSE H. MEEHAN  
Elected Posthumously, 1984

Photo: San Mateo Public Library



*Central Grammar School*



## SHIRLEY MOORE

Project REACH, Recreational Experiences for All Children, is the creation of Shirley Moore, started at Millbrae's Highland School May 3, 1982. It is an organization which serves the recreational and child care needs of disabled children and teenagers.

When it began, it was the only program of its type in the country. Moore's concept was that children with disabilities should have the opportunity to ride bikes, roller skate and play baseball like all other kids. "All children should be able to grow up without feeling like outsiders because they are different." Project REACH works with children over the age of five with all varieties of disabilities, except those who are "medically fragile."

Moore, a graduate of San Jose State University, was born in Washington, D.C., March 27, 1953. "There was never a doubt that I wanted to work with kids." She majored in recreational and leisure studies and is a recreational therapist.

Project REACH has been recognized as one of the most effective programs in the nation to teach children understanding and tolerance for differences in ability and appearance. More importantly, it teaches them compassion for each other and instills a generosity of spirit.

Moore is presently involved in building a \$500,000 endowment fund to assure the quality and availability of this unique effort and place it on a stable financial basis. She is well past the midway mark.

Moore received the Award for Outstanding Service to the Community from the Peninsula Community Foundation in 1985. The award accompanied a \$10,000 grant.

"I believe in the power of positive thinking and the realization that we can indeed solve our own problems and create better situations for ourselves and others," she states. Moore's philosophy developed in large part through her long-term relationship with soul-mate, mentor and best friend, Darrell Vogt.

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SHIRLEY MOORE

Elected 1994



## LUCY MUIR

Lucy Muir was born in San Francisco, June 11, 1928. At the age of 14 she contracted rheumatoid arthritis and was hospitalized for three years. Since, she has been confined to a wheelchair. She has never allowed her disability to run her life and has been termed as “fanatically independent.”

Muir, a resident of Linda Mar (Pacifica), became the Registrar of Voters and participated in countless voter registration drives working toward the incorporation of Pacifica.

She was married in 1958. The following year, unable to have children of their own, the Muirs became foster parents. They raised eight teenagers.

At age 45, Muir enrolled at Skyline College (San Bruno) in quest of a degree in social work. “I wanted to devote my energies toward working with people who have disabilities . . . to help them seek, find and maintain independent lives. I . . . knew I needed increased knowledge in order to advocate effectively.” She graduated in 1978 and subsequently earned a Bachelor of Arts in social work at San Francisco State University. At Skyline College she recommended 10 modifications to improve handicapped student access; eight were implemented.

“My determination to encourage independent living led to co-founding The Center for Independence of the Disabled, Inc. (Belmont). The center provides services that enable people with disabilities to remain in their homes instead of institutions.”

Muir has been president of the San Mateo County Chapter of the California Association of the Physically Handicapped. Her goal was to gain access to public transportation. “In order to focus real attention to our earnest need for access . . . we blocked over 100 buses. Forty of us in wheelchairs were arrested. *Because the S.F. Building of Justice was inaccessible*, we were booked in a garage. *Because the S.F. Building of Justice was inaccessible*, the charges were dropped.” Lift-equipped buses existing today are in large part due to Muir’s advocacy efforts.

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LUCY MUIR  
Elected 1992



## RUTH K. NAGLER

As Director of Community Education for the San Mateo County Community College District, Ruth Nagler initiated, designed, developed and administered non-credit short courses, workshops, conferences and special events for more than 48,000 people. "Offered were a diverse array of topics, many of them unique to the county at the time and not available through the college district's established credit program," states a retired but still enthusiastic Nagler.

Prior to accepting her position with the college, Nagler had served 10 years as a trustee of the San Mateo City Elementary School District Board. As such, she was a leader of one of the earliest state school desegregation programs.

Since retirement, Nagler has remained active in community activities. She is both employed and participates in volunteer responsibilities, admitting that she finds it difficult to draw a line between the two spheres of activities. As coordinator of "San Mateo County 2000" for the Public Library System, she is paid a small amount. She has been chair of the Friends of the Advisory Council on Women, a member of the Mills-Peninsula Hospital Board of Trustees, chair of the San Mateo Performing Arts Center Board of Directors and directed a successful drive to refurbish the High School District's theater. Presently she chairs the Center for the American Musical (begun by Joe Marchi at Canada College).

Born May 21, 1922, in Brooklyn, New York, Nagler received an undergraduate degree from College of the City of New York (1943) and a Master of Arts in education from New York University (1945). She and husband Edmund are parents of three.

Nagler has been a member of the League of Women Voters since 1951 and served as president of the San Mateo chapter, 1959-1961. She has partaken in many policy-making activities and received numerous awards.

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RUTH K. NAGLER  
Elected 1988



## EVELYN BANKS NEELY

Evelyn Neely received a Bachelor of Arts from Wiley College (1956) in Marshall, Texas and a graduate degree from the University of Texas (1967). She was born in Houston, July 5, 1935.

She began a career in public service in 1956 and presently serves as Director of the Income Maintenance Division of San Mateo County's Human Services Agency. Neely directs a staff of 290 employees and administers a budget of over \$70 million. She is the first woman appointed to this position and remains the highest ranking black woman employee in the county. She received a commendation from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors for serving as a role model for all, and particularly black women in the county.

Asked what makes her job interesting, Neely states that it is her "commitment to people and the belief that I can *make a difference* . . . my dream is and continues to be to make a difference." She was responsible for developing strategies for services to the homeless within the county as part of a Stanford University Blue Ribbon committee. She also organized a community group of concerned citizens to assist in the adoption of children and foster placement. Neely is a member of the county's Affirmative Action Committee.

A divorced mother of two, Neely takes special pride in her profession. "I am very proud to be a social worker. I have never felt the need to deny this when attending social events as some of my cohorts have been known to do. Some are weary of having to explain why they are social workers." She believes that informed people make for a supportive community.

This woman's life goes beyond work. She began tap dancing at age 40 and, she says, does "a mean Tina Turner."

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EVELYN BANKS NEELY  
Elected 1992





## FRANCES BOHANNON NELSON

Frances Nelson, daughter of businessman-developer David D. Bohannon, is currently employed as President of Bohannon Development Company, Vice President of David D. Bohannon Organization, Vice President and Treasurer of the Bohannon Foundation.

She likes her work. "I find it absorbing and challenging. Keeping tabs on all the myriad aspects of what it takes to keep the business running smoothly and profitably is a full-time job."

Born in Oakland, California, May 6, 1922, Nelson received a degree in psychology and economics at the University of California (1943). She began working on Hillsdale Shopping Center matters about 1960 and was put on the payroll two years later. In 1975 she was named president of the company and plunged into the massive job of remodeling and expanding the 150-store mall.

Bud Bostwick, executive vice president of the San Mateo Development Association, calls Nelson "the most dynamic business woman in San Mateo County. She has a keen sense of direction . . . and puts her money where her mouth is."

Nelson, who commands the respect of both men and women in the business world, is married and the mother of three. "The closeness of the Bohannon family has been an integral part of the goal set by David D. Bohannon to have the businesses he founded carried on by future generations of his family," she states.

Upon admission into the **Hall of Fame**, Nelson was commended for her "sensitivity for the needs of youth groups and handicapped adults," which has been underscored by her generous financial contributions in these areas.

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FRANCES BOHANNON NELSON  
Elected 1990

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## ELEANORE DRUEHL NETTLE

In 1989, when Eleanore D. Nettle announced she would not seek re-election and intended to retire from the San Mateo County Community College Board of Trustees, it marked the end of an era. She served longer than any trustee in the 67-year history of the district.

During her 33-year tenure, she attended almost 800 community college board meetings. Nine times she served as president of the board. She witnessed the college expand from the single College of San Mateo campus to include Canada College in Redwood City and Skyline College in San Bruno. Student enrollment expanded from 2,700 to more than 30,000. Approximately half a million students attended the college while she sat on the board.

Nettle, a member of the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women, ran for office upon becoming convinced that the college's governing board had lost touch with the community and needed strengthening. She ran in 1956, the last year of President Eisenhower's first administration.

During her career as trustee, Nettle was recognized statewide and nationally as a leader in community college affairs. For significant contributions and strong advocacy of community college education, she received numerous prestigious awards and honors, including the Trustee of the Year Award by the California Community College Trustees Association. She was appointed by Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown as a community college representative to the Coordinating Council for Higher Education and re-appointed by Gov. Ronald Reagan.

A graduate of College of San Mateo, she was born October 9, 1933.

Upon retirement, Nettle stated: "It has been exceedingly rewarding sharing responsibility for providing the highest quality education for students of the district and maintaining an excellent faculty of master teachers."

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ELEANORE DRUEHL NETTLE  
Elected 1990



## SHARON GRAHAM NIEDERHAUS

In 1993, after eight years with the San Mateo County Office of Education, Sharon Niederhaus resigned to pursue other interests. During her eight dynamic years, she initiated and developed over 100 Adopt-A-School business-education partnerships in the secondary schools of 23 school districts. The program matches schools with businesses and business leaders to encourage students to stay in school. Estimates are that approximately 43,000 of San Mateo County's 85,000 students had been served through partnership activities ranging from tutoring to job shadowing, job interview role playing, mentoring, field trips to businesses, reading aloud, and curriculum and staff development.

In 1991, Niederhaus developed the Latina Mentor Program, linking Hispanic professional role models with 75 fifth and sixth grade Latina students, ages 10-12, in five schools. The girls selected for this program are considered at-risk for dropping out of school. The professional women serve as mentors and nurture the girls through remaining school years.

She was honored as a Woman of Distinction in Education by Soroptimist International of Burlingame-San Mateo in 1993. She has received two San Mateo County School Board Association's J. Russell Kent Exemplary Awards for The Future and its Challenges and the Adopt-A-School Program.

Niederhaus was born in San Francisco, February 23, 1942. She is a seventh generation Californian, descended from Pedro Amador, a Spanish soldier who came to California with the Portola expedition of 1769. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Mills College in 1965 and has earned five teaching credentials: General Elementary, General Secondary, General Pupil Personnel, Administrative, and Learning Handicapped.

She is married to Donald Niederhaus. They are parents of five. Presently she works with the United Way of San Mateo County. Niederhaus believes in the African proverb: "It takes the entire village to raise a child."

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SHARON GRAHAM NIEDERHAUS  
Elected 1993

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Photo: Mock Photography

## MARY SORENSEN PETSCHÉ

She was born in Hardy, Nebraska, July 22, 1936. Mary Sorensen Petsche received a bachelor's and Master of Human Development from the University of Nebraska in 1957 and 1961 respectively. She is the mother of two.

Petsche is a child development professional. She was honored by the **Hall of Fame** on the basis of her contributions to child care and development through the Child Care Coordinating Council, an organization which she heads.

"The California budget crisis, which began to become apparent in 1992, caused me to believe that it would be necessary to find other sources of funds for programs for young children, especially child care," states Petsche. "To that end, I have spearheaded an eight member steering committee which has held one 'summit' and plans further action in order to fully fund child care for *all* of California's children. This is likely a five year (or longer) commitment. I believe other changes in our system are cosmetic unless and until we can finance adequately the services we need for children."

For her efforts, Petsche is highly regarded in the professional community. In 1986, she received the Soroptomist Women Helping Women Award.

During the year of her election to the **Hall of Fame**, Petsche was active in Mary Griffin's first campaign for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and also served as a member of the San Mateo County Grand Jury which, she admits, was "a privilege for any citizen, but a tremendous commitment of time on the part of each juror."

Petsche is active in the Burlingame-Hillsborough Democratic Club, the San Bruno American Association of University Women and the Central County League of Women Voters.

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MARY SORENSEN PETSCHÉ  
Elected 1986

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ROSEMARY PHIPPS PFEIFFER

Rosemary Phipps Pfeiffer, a San Francisco native, in 1990 became the first woman in San Mateo County elected to the Superior Court.

She received her Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from San Francisco State University and her legal degree from the University of San Francisco.

Daughter of the late Joseph and Helen Phipps of San Bruno, she has eight siblings.

For a time Pfeiffer, a Democrat, practiced with the Millbrae firm of Corey, Orton & Luzaich, where she specialized in family law. A resident of San Bruno, she once ran unsuccessfully for the town council.

After 10 years in practice, in 1987 she was appointed Family Law Commissioner. She was noted for her work in this regard and, in addition, was honored for her efforts with women involved in domestic violence and family law difficulties. She also provided guidance in development of legal services for women through the Women's Center.

Pfeiffer was winner of the College of San Mateo Distinguished Alumni Award and was named Woman of the Year in the 19th Assembly District (1987). She received the Elinor Falvey Award, presented by the Women and Law Committee of the San Mateo County Bar Association.

She is a member of the Women's Center Honorary Board, has served on the Judicial College faculty and the advisory committee of the Family Court Services. She also sits on the advisory committee of the Breast Center.

Pfeiffer, born in San Francisco July 30, 1947, is the mother of one. In 1993 she came out as a lesbian.

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ROSEMARY PHIPPS PFEIFFER  
Elected 1990

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## JANE WINTERS POWELL

In North San Mateo County few women are better known or more respected than Jane Winters Powell. San Francisco-born in November 1927, Powell graduated from Lowell High School; she moved to Daly City in 1960.

A member of the Jefferson High School Board of Education from 1969 to 1981, she next served Daly City for another 12 years on the city council. In the process she was elected Daly City's first woman mayor, a position she held on three different occasions.

Powell is the mother of five sons and a daughter. While the children were growing up, she and her husband Richard started accepting foster children, all teenagers, from the Youth Guidance Center in San Francisco. The downstairs of their typical Westlake three-bedroom home was converted into a dormitory. Over the years, they served as foster parents for 47 troubled children, almost all of them boys. The normal length of a stay was 12-14 months. "Sometimes we had as many as 14 kids in the house," Powell laughs, admitting that "we had big food bills."

Powell was also co-founder of *John's Closet* (named for John Papen who died prematurely). The idea was to collect new shoes and clothes for children who had none.

Since her election to the **Hall of Fame** in 1993, while working with the Sisters of Charity at Seton Medical Center, Powell helped to establish *Rodacare*, initially made possible with a \$5,000 grant from the Rotary Club.

Originally the purpose of *Rodacare* was to provide free medical care to children in need. Subsequently it was expanded to care for entire families. "There is absolutely no charge to those in need," explains Powell. "Doctors, nurses, and pharmacists all donate their time." Even prescription drugs are provided without charge.

Powell has won numerous awards for her political and charitable endeavors. "It's been a good life and I've loved it," she states.

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JANE WINTERS POWELL  
Elected 1992

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Photo: San Mateo Times

ARTHUR H. PULASKI

Art Pulaski was honored, in addition to being an overall good person, for his support of women and family issues. He notes that for more than a decade he was involved with the effort to establish Pal Care, a child care center in Burlingame. Initially the center, which opened in 1990, served only airport workers, but more recently has been opened to all.

Since 1984 Pulaski, a resident of Pacifica who is of Irish-Polish Catholic ancestry, has been the executive secretary of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council. During the late 1980s he worked with the Private Industry Council to establish START, a pre-apprentice training program for women in non-traditional jobs. "The program helped some people," states Pulaski, "but unfortunately lost its funding."

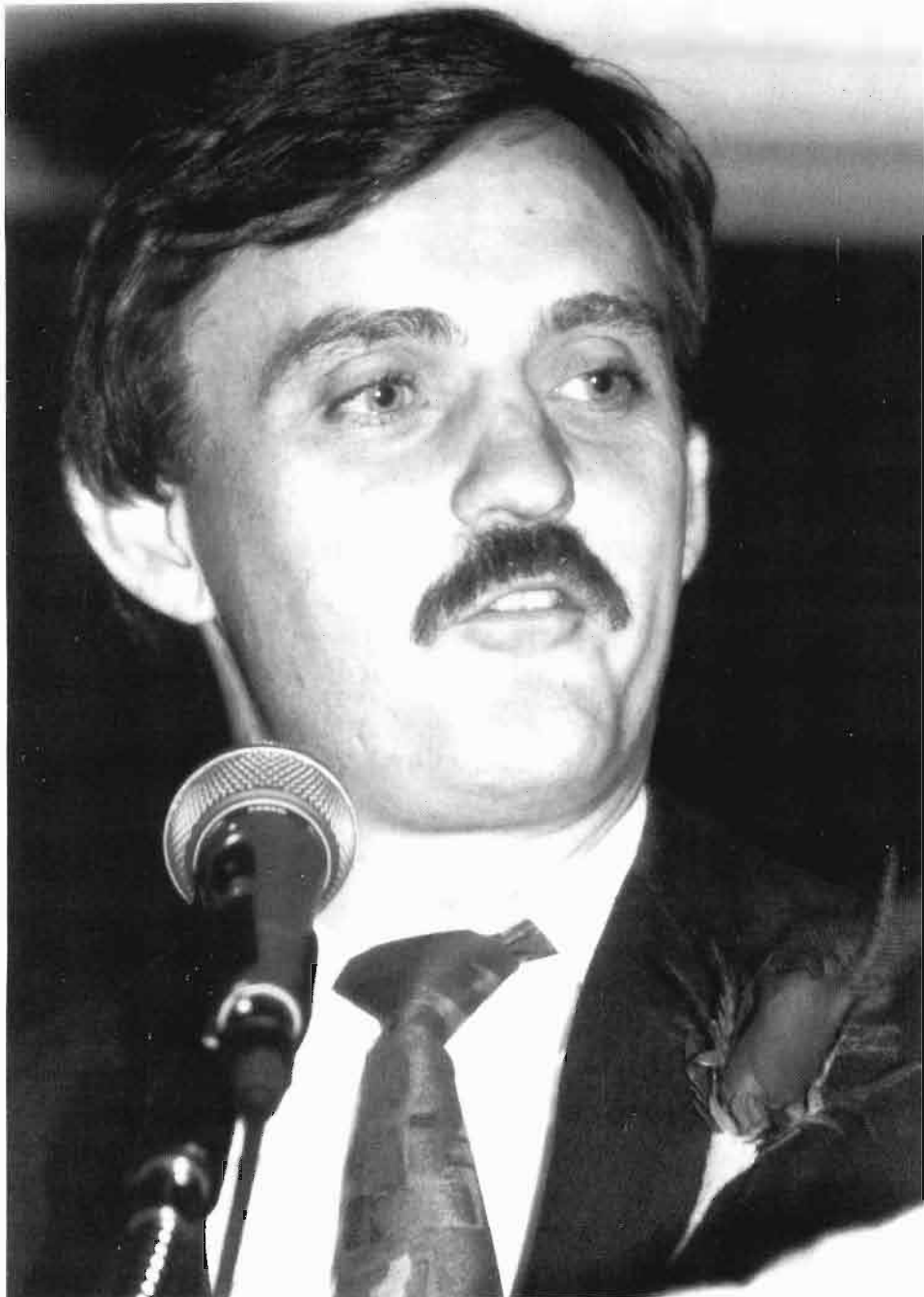
Pulaski was born in Stratford, Connecticut in 1952 and did not come to San Mateo County until 1980. He received undergraduate training in psychology and social work at South Connecticut State University and received a graduate degree in community organization and social development from the University of Minnesota.

Pulaski is married and the father of three children.

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ARTHUR H. PULASKI  
Special Recognition  
Awarded 1990

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## *HELEN M. RAISER*

"You broads should be home ironing," shouted a group of burly motorcyclists at Helen M. Raiser and a friend. They had posted themselves in San Francisco outside the Sutter-Stockton Parking Garage and were engaged in an effort to collect 900,000 signatures to qualify a handgun control measure for the California ballot. The gun lobby spent millions combatting their effort.

Since 1963, after the murder of President John F. Kennedy, Raiser has fought passionately for handgun control. She started organizing "from our kitchen, where I recruited support." In 1981, she co-founded Californians Against Handgun Violence. Backers staffed booths at the San Mateo County Fair, sponsored events to raise funds, gathered signatures and took films to schools aimed at educating people about their cause.

Building a retirement community was ironically even more difficult than passing handgun control legislation. Along with husband John, Raiser participated in development of The Stratford.

"This San Mateo retirement community (601 Laurel Avenue) was built after 43 public hearings and 10 years of challenges to overcome," states Raiser, who was born in Canada, May 16, 1935. The result "is state-of-the-art and is now often mentioned as an example of the new paradigm of aging with vitality and independence."

Raiser attributes her continued enthusiasm to "the incredible diversity in my day." She works with family members who, in addition to her husband, include three grown children. A son and daughter have assumed responsibility for management of The Stratford.

Besides continued devotion to The Stratford, Raiser sits on boards of the Human Investment Project, Senior Community Services and the National Board of Directors, Handgun Control, Inc. She has been the recipient of the Human Investment Project Award and the Mills-Peninsula Foundation de Guigne Award.

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HELEN M. RAISER  
Elected 1987





## KATHLEEN RAND REED

“Don’t be afraid if someone steals your good ideas, there’s always more where they came from. It’s a poor mouse with only one hole,” comments Chicago-born Kathleen Rand Reed.

Reed, who maintains offices in San Francisco, Palo Alto and Menlo Park, was first chair of the African-American Donor Task Force, an organization whose goal is to educate the medical and minority communities and to develop education models and vehicles for an increase of organ donors within the African-American community. She is president of Necronomics, a research and marketing company specializing in sociocultural and racial aspects of organ and tissue donation. She trains transplant coordinators about African-American families and nuances of approaching them for organ donations in the delicate period right after death.

Reed is now expanding from organ transplants to reducing the number of possible donors, the young African-American men who are dying violently in the streets.

Born February 6, 1947, Reed started reading at three and, after skipping several grades, landed in high school at 12. “There were no programs for little African-American gifted children . . . I quit school.” She was picked up as a truant. But, after listening to her story, a judge allowed her freedom to educate herself as long as she satisfied curriculum requirements.

“I see myself as all heritages,” she states. Reed carries genes from German, Swedish, Afro-Hispanic, Chinese, Cherokee, Jewish and Moroccan forbearers. In part, the **Hall of Fame** honored her for work bridging racial, cultural and ethnic barriers. “This country can no longer afford to shoot itself in the foot in terms of race,” she remarks.

Reed is a few units shy of completing a degree from San Jose State University in biology, communications and genetics. Thereafter she plans advanced study in medical sociology.

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KATHLEEN RAND REED  
Elected 1993

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Photo: Jim Dennis

## CHARLA W. ROLLAND

In 1985 Charla Rolland became superintendent of the Las Lomas School District in Menlo Park. Previously she had been a principal in the Fountain Valley School District and on the faculty of California State University, Hayward, where she taught the administration of curriculum development.

She graduated from Chicago State University in 1971 and engaged in advanced study at the University of Southern California. Awarded a Doctor of Education in 1984, her dissertation was entitled "Leadership Behavior and the Role of Superintendent in School Districts that are Mature in Their Collective Bargaining Relationships with Teachers." Her goal in life is to serve the needs of students through public education. "She just gives all her time and thought to kids and schools," states a member of the Las Lomas School District Board of Trustees.

During her years as superintendent, Rolland has sought to bring minority children into the school and build programs to make all children feel at home. As a volunteer, she has worked with two troubled teenage mothers as a court appointed child advocate. "It's a struggle to make sure their kids have a chance," states Rolland.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, December 6, 1948, Rolland has been given many awards for her work. She received the African-American Woman of Distinction Award and the Human Relations Commission of Santa Clara County Award, both in 1993. The following year she was recipient of the Girl Scouts' World of People Award. "I find a way on a regular basis to give back to society what has been given to me."

Rolland is a member of the board of directors of Stanford University Hospital, the University Palo Alto Rotary and the Center for Urban Black Charities. She is a prolific writer, well known for her publications and public presentations.

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CHARLA W. ROLLAND  
Elected 1993

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Photo: Mock Photography



## *JANICE ROMANT-SOLIS*

Janice Romant-Solis was honored by the **Hall of Fame** for her entrepreneurial acumen, charitable endeavors and many contributions to the San Mateo community.

She was co-founder, with husband Ray, and president of Fashion Dynamics of Foster City, a company which did \$5 million a year in sales. Largely as a result of that amazing success, Romant-Solis received an American Business Woman of the Year Award in 1985. Founded in 1982, the company employed over 5,000 representatives. Fashion Dynamics specialized in beauty and health care products, jewelry and toys.

Simultaneously, she contributed time as an employment counselor at the State Employment Development Department, specializing in job training for young people along with a Vietnam veterans rehabilitation program.

Romant-Solis also left her mark on the community through her special efforts with the Leukemia Foundation and Mexican Earthquake Relief (1985).

Additionally, she found time to participate in the war on drugs, creating the "California Kid of the Year" award to benefit the San Mateo-based Pros for Kids project, an anti-drug program.

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JANICE ROMANT-SOLIS  
Elected 1986

*No photo available*

## PATRICIA FOBES RONALD

"It may be a cliché, but I am motivated by a sense of wanting to feel that there is a purpose in life and that I want to give something back. My parents taught that we should leave the world a better place than we found it," states Patricia Ronald.

Born in Council Bluffs, Iowa on January 31, 1932, Ronald received a degree in sociology and chemistry from Iowa State University (1954) and a Master of Arts in human relations from San Francisco State University (1980).

She was founder of Potential Unlimited, a human relations consulting organization aimed at helping women reach their potential. A specialist on teenage years and values, she was the first candidate chosen from a national field of applicants to study and write on the subject through San Francisco State University.

She became a mentor-counselor and taught in the re-entry program of College of San Mateo. She published "Recycling Your Life," a guide for women's re-entry in the Bay Area.

Ronald has a long record of community service. She has worked with the Girl Scouts, served on the advisory committee for KCSM-TV/FM and in a variety of positions with the American Association of University Women. She was president of the League of Women Voters of San Mateo County.

Recently, Ronald has worked with the League to Save Lake Tahoe and acted as volunteer executive director of the Tahoe-Baikal Institute, an organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of these two magnificent lakes. Baikal, the world's deepest fresh water lake, is in Siberia. In conjunction with the University of California, the institute works with scientists from Baikal and the United States. Ronald is proud to have had "an influence bringing former enemies together."

A resident of San Mateo, she is married to Robert Ronald; they are parents of three.

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PATRICIA FOBES RONALD  
Elected 1988

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Photo: Ray DeArigo

Patricia Ronald, center, with Dave McElhatton and Bonnie Chastain



## CHARLOTTE ROSS

Charlotte Ross-Fisher, a resident of San Mateo, was born in Oklahoma City, October 21, 1931. At the time of her induction into the **Hall of Fame**, she was executive director of the Suicide Prevention and Crisis Center. She was lauded as a pioneer in her field and given recognition for the many crisis intervention programs she helped to develop. Among them was a program to train school personnel to recognize and respond to children who are suicidal.

Ross, a graduate in psychology from the University of Oklahoma (1953), became interested in the field after her former professor and mentor committed suicide. "I tried to understand what happened and prevent other such tragedies," she states.

She came to San Mateo County in 1960. Her interest in suicide led to creation of the Suicide Prevention Center. After establishing the program, she took it across California and then throughout the United States, creating the Youth Suicide National Center. Subsequently she served as executive director of that organization.

Ross, who has lectured extensively and written too many articles to list, belongs to numerous local and national mental health organizations. Recipient of the Daniel Koshland Award (1984) from the Peninsula Community Foundation, she was presented with the California Congress of Parents, Teachers and Students Commendation (1988) and the American Association of Suicidology Service Award (1990).

Many who have visited Ross in her San Mateo office, remember the words on the wall behind her: "Humpty Dumpty CAN be put back together again. All it takes is time and much compassion to slowly glue the shattered bits and pieces back together. Time is the bond but compassion is the most important ingredient."

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CHARLOTTE ROSS  
Elected 1985

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Photo: San Mateo Times

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San Mateo County  
WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

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*BARBARA ROVINS*

Barbara Rovins, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, born September 30, 1941, and a resident of Foster City, is the Vice President of Old Republic Title Company, where she is in charge of sales and marketing.

Since coming to San Mateo County in 1977, she has been an active volunteer. She has served on the Board of Directors and as president of Kainos Home for Developmentally Disabled Adults in Redwood City. During the year she was honored, Rovins chaired the Private Industry Council's Summer Jobs for Youth program and was president of the Affiliates council of the Building Industry. She sits on the Board of Directors of Shelter Network.

Rovins notes that she strives "to be the best that I can be in whatever I undertake to do . . ." She has been recipient of many awards, including the 1990 Affiliate of the Year for leadership and support from the Building Industry Association. Kainos Home awarded her their 1992 award for "Outstanding Volunteer Service." The following year she was named "Business Woman of the Year" by the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce.

Rovins is a single mother of two adult daughters.

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BARBARA ROVINS  
Elected 1990

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## KATHRYN RUTH RUNKLE

Kathryn "Kay" Runkle was born October 30, 1916, in Ditch Valley, Oklahoma, on a ranch just over two miles from the Oklahoma-Kansas state line. She received a Bachelor of Science in education and Library Science from Emporia State University (1937) and a Bachelor of Arts in American Literature from Oklahoma State University at Stillwell (1941) .

From 1938 to 1976 Runkle was librarian at Millbrae's Taylor Intermediate School, where she secured a \$43,000 federal grant to develop the Taylor Library into a model Media Center for the state of California.

In 1986, she investigated, organized and co-chaired the first *Hunger Walk* in San Mateo County, which raised \$13,000 and has annually raised over \$10,000. She helped promote the Millbrae-San Bruno Community Contact Food Pantry. Since 1986, she has been a volunteer tax consultant to the elderly and, as a member of the San Mateo County Organizing Project, helped plan the Homeless Shelter in Daly City.

For 10 years Runkle was a care-giver to an elderly woman with no relatives in this country. After she died at age 106, Runkle found the following quotation in her purse: "The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life . . ." Runkle states: "I am convinced that this philosophy was part of the reason for her long, productive life, and I have made it mine."

Volunteer work, says Runkle, "should be a joy and not a burden" and concludes that "footprints in the sands of time are not made sitting down. If I will have left a few footprints, I will die happy."

Runkle has received numerous awards and belongs to a variety of community organizations. She is the mother of two.

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KATHRYN RUTH RUNKLE  
Elected 1990

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## EDNA "BONNY" RUSSELL

A graduate of Stanford University, Edna "Bonny" Russell was honored for her community service to the mid-Peninsula's elder population. She was a noted gerontologist.

She became a founding member of the Peninsula Volunteers in 1947. Two years later she helped build Little House, the first suburban, multipurpose center designed for senior citizens, in Menlo Park. She was a founder of the Senior Forum of San Mateo County and served on the State Commission on Aging for 18 years.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan appointed her to the Federal Council on Aging, where she served an active member of the Caregiver Support Committee. In 1985 she received a \$10,000 Robert J. Koshland Award from the Peninsula Community Foundation.

Russell, who held a doctorate in education from the University of Northern Colorado, was particularly active in her efforts to assist the blind and those with impaired vision. In 1987 the American Federation for the Blind honored her with the coveted Migel Medal, an award established in 1937 by the foundation's first president. Russell served for many years as president of the American Federation for the Blind. She always felt that her work with the federation assisting visually impaired elderly citizens was "a most rewarding part of my life."

She joined the faculty of the Health Profession (Gerontology) School of Applied Arts and Sciences at San Jose State University in 1976 and retired in 1982 as director of the Gerontology Education and Training Center.

Russell, an Atherton resident, served on numerous councils and citizen committees on the Peninsula. She was married to banker Albert Russell; they had three children.

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EDNA "BONNY" RUSSELL  
Elected 1985

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Photo: San Mateo Times



## MARION CARR RUSSELL

“Our endeavor is to enrich and change the lives of children for the better,” states Marion Russell, “so much can be done when the community works together.”

Russell, a resident of Los Banos, was honored for 38 years of teaching and volunteer work, all on behalf of children. She began teaching at 19 in 1932 in a rural, one-room schoolhouse in her native Cherokee, Iowa. There were eight children in five grades. Russell went on to become an instructor of nursery education at Pennsylvania State University and head teacher in nursery education at Ohio State University.

Her family moved to Pescadero in 1974, ostensibly to retire. But, she states, “I saw so many needs in Pescadero that I was hooked.” Her first project was to get funding for a badly needed preschool. She also helped establish the South Coast Children’s Services (incorporated 1977), which has continued to raise significant funds for enriching the lives of children in rural areas. She was a volunteer at Pescadero Elementary School, a library volunteer at Pescadero High School and the director/coordinator of the Pescadero Playgroup. “It is more rewarding to be involved in working on projects which have the potential for improving life for people rather than dwelling on how it used to be,” she states. “Children are wonderful.”

Russell was born on Washington’s Birthday, 1913. She attended Cherokee Junior College, Iowa State College at Ames and received a Master of Science from Ohio State University in Columbus. Her major field of interest was always early childhood education. She is the mother of three.

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MARION CARR RUSSELL  
Elected 1988

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Photo: Virginia Yip

## *KIBBIE SIMMONS RUTH*

Born in Durham, North Carolina on May 17, 1948, Kibbie Simmons Ruth (formerly Kibbie Simmons Steele) has left a lasting imprint on San Mateo County.

Trained in physics and theology, Ruth is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She came to the county in 1984. "I witnessed the trauma of child abuse while I was a high school physics teacher, pastor, night minister in the Tenderloin, assistant chaplain at Napa State Hospital, and chaplain for the San Mateo Juvenile Detention Facilities . . . the comment that truly grabbed my heart was the prostitute who said: 'I don't know why people think this is so bad. At least now I get paid for it; my dad always got it for free.'"

In October 1984, she established the Center for Abuse Prevention. During its first two years of existence, Ruth was responsible for teaching prevention skills to parents, school staffs and over 5,000 children.

The organization (now the Pastoral Center for Abuse Prevention), of which she has been executive director since 1991, focuses on the safety and personal dignity of women and children. It offers bilingual consultation and training on inter-personal violence of all varieties. Since its establishment with a \$2,500 grant from the San Mateo Rotary Club, the agency has grown to include 14 paid multicultural staff members and 120 volunteers. Its annual budget is \$300,000.

Ruth, a resident of San Mateo, is mother of two teenage daughters. She has served on many boards and advisory groups and has received numerous awards for her unique contributions.

She attributes her success to hard work, humor and determination in the ongoing effort to make the world less cruel to women and children.

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KIBBIE SIMMONS RUTH  
Elected 1986

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## SALLY A. SALINAS

For the dozen years prior to her election to the **Hall of Fame**, Sally Salinas, a licensed clinical social worker, was executive director of the Target Education and Welfare Council and director of the Fair Oaks Senior Center in Redwood City.

“Within three months of my employment . . . I knew that there was a social problem which prevented many frail and low-income elderly from receiving the care and support that they deserved as human beings.”

She guided the growth of the senior center and was the driving force behind development of new, larger facilities. Her goal was to create a genuinely community oriented center where seniors would continue to feel intimately tied to the larger community.

Salinas resigned in 1988 to practice as an independent training and development consultant for two years and engaged in case management social work with Spanish-speaking clients. She remains actively involved in community affairs and has given frequent presentations to Peninsula colleges and other organizations. She is currently employed by the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency.

Born in Los Angeles, December 10, 1938, Salinas received an Associate of Arts from Canada College (1976). She attended San Jose State University, bypassing the Bachelor's degree, and was awarded a Master of Social Work (1985). She specialized in gerontology and social work administration.

Recipient of numerous awards for her efforts in social work, in 1987 she was recognized for “Outstanding Service in the field of Hispanic Aging” and presented an “Outstanding Service Award” by Redwood City.

Salinas is the mother of two.

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SALLY A. SALINAS  
Elected 1988



## MARCY VACURA SCHULTZ

In 1986, Trans World Airways flight attendants were on strike. The company had asked them to take a 48 percent cut in pay because they weren't "bread winners."

Marcy Schultz successfully lobbied the California Assembly and Senate to pass a joint resolution in support of striking attendants. "With the help of Congresswoman Barbara Boxer I helped launch a Boycott of Conscience against TWA which was recognized and supported all over the world."

With two other women, Schultz, in 1986, launched the START Program (San Mateo County Targeted Apprenticeship and Recruitment Training) aimed at recruiting women for non-traditional apprenticeship programs. Schultz was the first woman in the United States elected as business manager/financial secretary of a building and construction trades council.

"When I became involved in the construction industry I realized what a rewarding and well paying career it was. I also realized that less than two percent of the workers were women." Until START, most women didn't realize that such positions were open to them.

"The work I do is very challenging and rewarding. Every day I . . . represent men and women in the construction industry to make sure they are receiving a livable wage and are treated with dignity in the workplace," she states.

Schultz was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, July 15, 1949. She attended Gonzaga University in Spokane and the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

"I am a firm believer in equality for all men and women alike . . . I believe a woman can achieve anything if she wants it badly enough."

Schultz received the "Woman Helping Woman Award" from the Soroptimist Club of North San Mateo County in 1989, the "Outstanding Labor Volunteer" from the United Way in 1991 and the "Leadership Recognition Award" from the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants in 1991.

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MARCY VACURA SCHULTZ  
Elected 1994

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## CAROL SLAVICK

"She is one of the foremost experts in the state on special education. There's no doubt about it," stated San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Floyd Gonella about Carol Slavick upon her retirement in 1992 from the county Board of Education after 27 years.

Slavick's own interest in special education goes back to her childhood in Illinois when her father took her several times a week to read to children at the Crippled Children's Home.

After her election to the county school board in 1965, Slavick witnessed the inclusion of special-needs children in the mainstream of public school classrooms. "It's been wonderful to see children come out of isolation and go into class."

Slavick's activities as a board member made her much sought after as a consultant, speaker and panel participant. She also authored numerous publications on such issues as special education and children at risk.

She has been active as an advisory member on the San Mateo County AIDS Task Force, Teenage Suicide Prevention, the county's commission on child abuse and the Advisory Council on Women.

Slavick graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in sociology in 1946. Thirty years later she received a Master of Arts with a focus on child advocacy from San Francisco State University.

Like most people in education today, Slavick is concerned by the lack of adequate funding for educational programs and schools. "I'm not discouraged though. The people in San Mateo County want what is best for young people. We'll find the answers."

She is married and the mother of two daughters.

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CAROL SLAVICK  
Elected 1985

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## CATHERINE SMALLWOOD-MURCHINSON

Catherine Smallwood was honored by the **Hall of Fame** with the first group of women to be admitted. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in community development and education from San Francisco State University and a Ph.D. in social welfare from the Union Institute in Cincinnati.

Founder of the Cynthia Smallwood Medical Education Foundation, she was director of the Bay Area Crisis Counseling Services and the principal participant of the 24-Hour Crisis Line. She is responsible for developing the concept of quasi-morticide.

Discussing quasi-morticide, "we're not just dealing with traditional suicide," states Smallwood. "We're dealing with all types of suicide and self-destructive behavior." This ranges from drug and alcohol abuse to being "accident prone" to the high rate of black crime, and homicide committed by blacks against blacks. "I think people have to retrain their thinking, that if you kill yourself by jumping off a bridge, or drug abuse, or getting somebody else to kill you, you're just as dead."

Smallwood believes that while more research is needed, the high violent death rate among young blacks is preventable. Part of the answer is public education to promote an overall healthier lifestyle for blacks, including emphasis on exercise, nutrition and awareness of the warning signs of distress.

Smallwood is on the board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union and a member of the Institute for Multicultural Research. She was chairperson and founder of the San Mateo-Foster City Black Political Forum.

She is sought after as a speaker and panelist and has received numerous awards and honors. Currently she is a lecturer at San Francisco State University in the School of Social Work.

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CATHERINE SMALLWOOD-MURCHINSON  
Elected 1985

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## GLENN SMITH

As Chancellor-superintendent of the three college San Mateo County Community College District, Glenn Smith held the senior educational job in San Mateo County for a period of 18 years.

Smith received special recognition from the **Hall of Fame** because of the number of important women he made part of his administration. "There was no special campaign to accomplish this," states Smith, "we simply hired the most qualified people." Having spent a career in educational administration, Smith is adamant that there is no difference in quality or effectiveness between men and women.

During his tenure as chancellor, two of the three college presidents were women. Additionally, the college district's chief business officer, chief personnel officer and the chancellor's administrative assistant were women. A number of the vice presidential positions within the colleges were also filled by women.

Smith is an active member of the community. Since retiring (1991), he has served on the board of Mills-Peninsula Health Systems and been the chair of the board of Senior Focus for three years. He is a director of the San Mateo County Fair and Exposition Center and chair of the Horse Racing Committee. Former chair of the San Mateo County Economic Development Association, he serves on the board of Northern California Presbyterian Homes.

Smith was born (1925) in Mill City, Oregon, a company town where all but two male inhabitants, his grandfathers, worked for the company. One grandfather was the postmaster; the other ran the bank.

Following military service, Smith attended Occidental College and received a degree in history in 1950 and an M.A., also in history, in 1952. He did advanced study at the Claremont Graduate Center.

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GLENN SMITH  
Special Recognition  
Awarded 1991



## IDA SONENSTEIN

Ida Sonenstein, born in Philadelphia in 1913, came to San Mateo County via Idaho in 1957. Residents of Burlingame, she and husband Phil have two sons. One, now 40, was born mentally handicapped.

Prior to their arrival in the county, the Sonensteins were responsible for establishing the State Association for the Retarded in Idaho and created similar organizations on the local level.

She's credited with having singlehandedly built a day camp for the Mentally Handicapped in San Mateo County and for twelve years served as its chairperson. The camp provided service to handicapped of all ages. She took particular satisfaction in this project because she successfully enlisted local high school students to assist in running it. "The students worked with tremendous zeal in helping those in need," commented Sonenstein's husband.

Sonenstein, a believer in the importance of "volunteerism," is dedicated to the principle of "teaching others to help themselves." For 31 years she volunteered for Women's American ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Training).

Phil and Ida Sonenstein started the collection drive that came to make up a substantial portion of the budget for the Peninsula Association for Retarded Children and Adults.

For 18 years, beginning in the early 1960s, she was active in the council of Jewish Women's Drama Group, which entertained the handicapped in public schools and state institutions. She also helped raise funds for the Jewish War Veterans of America.

A lifetime member of Hadassa, Sonenstein has received numerous awards for her activities. She was honored by the San Mateo County Park and Recreation Commission (1975), the California State Legislature (1977) and the Peninsula Association for the Retarded in 1980.

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IDA SONENSTEIN  
Elected 1989



Photo: San Mateo Times



## JACKIE SPEIER

In November 1986, Jackie Speier became the first woman elected to the 19th Assembly District of San Mateo County. She is presently serving her fourth consecutive term.

"I became interested in government service when the late Assemblyman Leo Ryan came to speak to my class at Mercy High School," states Speier, commenting on her early political involvement. "I soon volunteered as an intern in his district office." Later, after Ryan was elected to Congress, Speier served as his legal adviser.

Ryan was killed in 1978 while on a Congressional investigation in Guyana. Speier, who had accompanied him, was shot five times. Upon her recovery and return to San Mateo, she ran unsuccessfully for his Congressional seat. Subsequently she ran for the County Board of Supervisors, becoming the youngest member of the board and the first woman to represent her district.

Speier, born May 14, 1950, in San Francisco, graduated with a degree in political science from the University of California, Davis (1974) and Hastings School of Law (1976).

In the Assembly, Speier has chaired the leading consumer protection "watch-dog" committee since 1991. Under her leadership the committee has uncovered numerous acts of inefficiency, waste and abuse of public resources by state bureaucrats who have subsequently resigned from office. She is also a member of the Finance & Insurance, Judiciary and Health committees.

Speier was married to Dr. Steven Sierra, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident early in 1994. Before his death they experienced the pain of adopting a baby only to have the birth mother take it back. Subsequently she became the mother of a son and a daughter.

Since becoming a member of the State Assembly, Speier has authored and seen passed more than 165 pieces of major legislation.

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JACKIE SPEIER  
Elected 1992



## EDDIE MAE CHAFFEE SPILLER

More than 20 years ago Eddie Mae Chaffee Spiller turned over her Redwood City garage as a warehouse for the Emergency Hunger Fund. Since, she has raised over \$2 million and provided assistance to more than 300,000 people.

Donations are given by churches, foundations and private businesses. Spiller usually does the shopping and then works with volunteers to package the gifts. Boxes vary in size according to the number in a recipient family.

It is estimated that she has fed more than 6,000 people annually. Most are referred by numerous agencies and churches. Daily, people in need ring her doorbell and leave with packages of food and clothing, not infrequently with a coupon for an overnight stay in a local motel. The recipients of her help have not all been black but include Indian, Latin American and white families.

The poor of the community respect and trust her. A common expression among her many friends is that "no one says 'no' to Eddie Mae." She has received 72 plaques for her good deeds and community involvement. In 1991 the Sertoma Club of Los Altos voted her the International Woman of the Year. The following year she was selected as one of 100 winners in the Maxwell House "Search for 100 Real Heroes" nationwide award program. The search was designed to honor 100 Americans who had helped to make the nation great.

Spiller credits her mother with instilling the values she possesses today. "She taught us good etiquette and talked to us around the fireplace at night about how to respect others."

Spiller was born in Jackson, Mississippi, September 29, 1922, and came to San Mateo County in 1948. She attended College of San Mateo. She and her husband Sherman were parents of two sons; one is deceased.

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EDDIE MAE CHAFFEE SPILLER  
Elected 1989

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## EVELYN FILICE STANTON

In 1969, Evelyn F. Stanton and her husband Emmett were "Citizens of the Year" in Hillsborough. Six years later she was named "Woman of the Year" by the San Mateo Soroptimist Club. In 1991, she received the United Way Executive Director of the Year award.

For many years she has occupied leadership roles in the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, the Hillsborough and San Mateo schools. She has served on the Mills-Peninsula Hospital board of directors, the Belmont Hills Consulting Board and the San Mateo County General Hospital Foundation Board in addition to local and state government committees and community auxiliaries such as the Poplar Center.

For 16 years Stanton has been executive director of the Mental Health Association of San Mateo County. The organization is headquartered in Redwood City, but the programs of the association are located throughout the entire county. Stanton is continually challenged by the effort to provide services to those who are disadvantaged by mental illness.

Stanton tries to excel in everything she attempts and takes particular satisfaction in achieving specific goals, especially those which involve risk taking.

Born in Hollister on December 17, 1926, this Foster City resident is the mother of four sons. She studied Spanish and English at the University of California at Berkeley, graduating in 1948. She received a secondary teaching credential from San Francisco State University in 1949.

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EVELYN FILICE STANTON  
Elected 1987

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## HARRIET STASSINOS

Harriet Stassinos was a longtime active member of the Democratic Party. She walked precincts and helped register people to vote during Franklin Roosevelt's last campaign in 1944.

Born in Poughkeepsie, New York, Stassinos, with her husband and three children, moved to California in 1958. She became a volunteer with numerous community organizations. Active in Planned Parenthood of New York, San Mateo County, Santa Barbara and Sacramento, she belonged to the National Women's Political Caucus of San Mateo County, the Older Women's League, Children by Choice Coalition of San Mateo County and Meals a la Car.

She received the Pro-Choice Citizen of the Year Award from Children by Choice in 1982 and the Special Honors Award from the National Women's Political Caucus in 1985.

Stassinos earned a degree in library science from Sacramento City College in 1971 and also attended the College of San Mateo. She was a freelance writer and poet as well as the chief baker of "Hearty Harriet Cookies," which were sold at local stores. Proceeds from the sale of the cookies were contributed to one of her favorite causes.

She was an ardent foe of smoking and had never engaged in the habit. Ironically, her death in 1986 was attributed to lung cancer.

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HARRIET STASSINOS  
Elected 1987

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Photos: San Mateo Times



## HARRIETT HILLS STINSON

Harriett Stinson is a longtime political activist. Since the early 1960s, when it was still a misdemeanor for social workers to initiate conversations about birth control, she has been advocating reproductive choice and family planning care for all women. "Silence is not golden; silence is stupid."

She was the founder and is a past president of the Planned Parenthood Association of San Mateo County and, in 1983, took it upon herself to create California Republicans for Choice. Within a decade this organization had 3,000 members and had become a force to be reckoned with inside the party. The group often faced hostility and "near physical threats" from some party members, states Stinson. "My frankness upset party leaders but they couldn't stop me."

During the 1970s, Stinson became a visitor-counselor at the San Mateo County Jail, making the rounds of women's cells. "After jail inmates told me horrifying stories of their lives as battered children and of the drug-damaged lives of their own children, I became a powerful crusader for the right of people of all ages to birth control services. As an individual I challenged all the San Mateo County Superior Court judges on a reproductive health issue for minors and they backed down. Previously judges had an unwritten policy of threatening to fire and blacklist any probation officer who told a minor about birth control. Judges finally stopped setting medical policies for Hillcrest."

Stinson, a pre-med student focusing on bacteriology, graduated from Stanford University in 1947. She was married to the late Ralf Hal Stinson, M.D. They had three children.

Stinson confides that once she "intended to be a missionary in India, but I seem to be doing missionary work for the battered child in San Mateo."

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HARRIETT HILLS STINSON  
Elected 1990

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## CHRISTINA SUTHERLAND

“We can ignore homeless people, complain about them, blame them for all kinds of social ills. But it is our own humanity that is diminished by our complacency and callousness about homelessness,” states Christina Sutherland, founding executive director of Shelter Network of San Mateo County, the primary provider of services to homeless residents in the county.

Since its founding in 1987, Shelter Network has become a regionally and nationally recognized model of innovative and effective solutions to homelessness. Three times it has been honored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for its transitional housing programs. In 1993 alone, over 85 percent of families and 60 percent of single adults housed by Shelter Network reestablished permanent housing, more than a 10 percent increase over previous years and a rate that contrasts sharply with most homeless programs.

Sutherland, born in San Francisco, December 18, 1961, is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles. She has been working in the field of homelessness and poverty services since 1983, when she was still an undergraduate. “That summer I lived on Washington, D.C.’s equivalent to Skid Row. I slept in the same house, ate the same food and used the same restrooms as did the women we housed . . . the experience changed me.”

She is driven by an unswerving social conscience that says all people have the right to a decent life. “I truly believe that in a nation as wealthy as ours, homelessness is inexcusable; and that society as a whole and each individual in that society has a moral and ethical responsibility to do something about this most graphic manifestation of poverty in America.”

Sutherland is married to Jonathan Greer. They have one daughter.

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CHRISTINA SUTHERLAND  
Elected 1994

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## EVELYN TAYLOR-HAMER

At the time of her election to the **Hall of Fame**, Evelyn Taylor was the principal of North Shoreview School in San Mateo and president of the board of Samaritan House.

North Shoreview, a school with incomparable ethnic diversity, had many families considered to be "at risk." In 1986, Taylor initiated and obtained funds for an after-school tutorial program. Working in cooperation with Samaritan House, scores of volunteers met each week with students, one-on-one, at the school throughout the year to assist in their learning. In conjunction with United Way (1990), Taylor arranged for 30 minority students to be tutored in their homes in north central San Mateo.

Additionally, Taylor inaugurated "Super Saturday," opening the school's gymnasium each semester so people in need could receive donated clothing. From this developed the Samaritan House clothes closet, which provides free clothing to more than 1,000 people a month.

Taylor turned a school with high risk students, low achievement, and discipline problems into a model. She did this in part by reducing class size. A person who cares for people, especially children, Taylor is always ready to walk the extra mile. Characteristically, she provided alarm clocks to students who were perpetually late to class, and thereafter refused to accept excuses for their lateness.

This educator has received significant recognition by her colleagues and peers. In demand as a leader in education, she serves on the advisory board for the San Francisco State University Department of Education. She has been on the board of Latinos Unidos, working on the middle school scholarship program, and is an active member of the Foster City Rotary Club.

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EVELYN TAYLOR-HAMER  
Elected 1989

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## ROBERTA CERRI TEGLIA

Roberta Teglia was born (1941) and raised in South San Francisco. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Seattle University and accomplished advanced study at the College of Notre Dame.

She has been an elementary school teacher and South San Francisco planning commissioner. While serving on the commission, she came to realize that it was only a recommending body; she wanted to be on the council "where the decisions are made." Teglia became "dedicated to the goals of local government." Elected to the South San Francisco City Council in 1978, she was chosen mayor of the town in 1982. She has subsequently been elected the town's top executive on three different occasions. She is the only woman to have served on the city council and as mayor in the town's history. Teglia is pleased with her accomplishments because they indicate that women are being accepted more in leadership roles in society. "It was a long time coming but it was well worth the wait," she states.

As a civic leader, she is known both for warmth and boundless energy. Teglia has worked for deeper understanding and respect among people. She was instrumental in establishing a relationship between South San Francisco and Atotonilco, a city in Mexico.

Since her early political accomplishments, Teglia has been recognized as a role model for women who strive to achieve their aspirations. In 1986, Soroptimist International of North San Mateo County awarded her the "Women Helping Women" award.

She has been active with the Chamber of Commerce, the American Cancer Crusade, the Friends of the South San Francisco Library and a variety of other community organizations.

Teglia, the mother of three sons, is married to Dr. Fernando Teglia, a pharmacist.

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ROBERTA CERRI TEGLIA  
Elected 1985

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## AGNES TOBIN

"To Agnes Tobin, who brought to our door her genius for friendship from the uttermost shore of the West," wrote Joseph Conrad in dedicating to her the first edition of his *Under Western Eyes*.

Scholar, poet, translator, Agnes Tobin was born (1846) in San Francisco. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tobin, her father was a member of the pioneer banking family which had established Hibernia Bank. She was the sister of Celia Tobin Clark of Hillsborough.

Tobin received her early education in San Francisco and developed true appreciation for Petrarch, Euripides, Sophocles and Dante.

She possessed a rare genius for translation, spending most of her literary life in London, where she became a friend of such judges of letters as Arthur Symons, Sir Edmund Gosse, Alice Meynell and Joseph Conrad. Meynell, in tribute to Tobin's personality, dedicated her best known poem, "The Shepherdess," to the San Francisco woman.

Tobin's most outstanding literary achievements included her translation of the sonnets, canzoni and ballata of Petrarch. She captured in English for the first time the beauty of the original poems. On the basis of these translations, William Butler Yeats hailed her as America's finest poet since Walt Whitman. Edward F. O'Day (1915) noted that Tobin possessed "the artist's consuming passion for perfect form."

Among her intimate friends were literary luminaries the likes of Italian poet Arda Negri, George Meredith, George Sterling and Joaquin Miller.

Tobin, who was painfully shy and was known for erecting barriers of "speech that effectively protects her most cherished thoughts, her dearest opinions from the casual observer," wrote not for the multitudes but for the few. Most of her poems and translations from Italian, Greek and Latin were privately printed and distributed among her close associates.

Agnes Tobin returned to San Francisco in 1924 where she lived a retiring life. She suffered from a lingering illness but survived until February 20, 1939.

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AGNES TOBIN  
Elected posthumously, 1984



Photo: San Francisco Public Library

## ELIZABETH “LIBBY” LINN TRAUBMAN

For years Libby Traubman has helped educate the public on energy efficiency, television violence, use of drugs and alcohol by youth, the threat of nuclear war, the concept that the individual makes a difference, the importance of valuing diversity.

She has been honored in part for her work with Palestinians and Israelis from the Middle East. This included helping arrange a successful conference in California during which key leaders from the two peoples were brought together. This spurred interest for an ongoing Jewish-Arab dialogue group within the Bay Area.

Traubman also has Armenians and Azerbaijanis talking to one another, in spite of a six-year state of war between them. Recently she and other team members engaged in shuttle diplomacy between Yerevan and Baku. With husband Len (a pediatric dentist), Traubman helped bring the two groups together for conferences in the Santa Cruz mountains.

“I am a plodder and try to respond to the signs of the times,” states Traubman. She has served the community for 25 years, working with the elderly, families of retarded children, terminally ill patients and war veterans. She led in forming Beyond War which, since the end of the Cold War, evolved into the Foundation for Global Community.

A mother of two, Traubman encourages women to recognize the power they have to make a positive social difference. “Women are connected to life, and are challenged to bring out what is right for the continuation of life for a good society.”

Born in North Carolina on December 10, 1940, Traubman grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana. She attended Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia and the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. She received a Master of Social Work and later became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

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ELIZABETH "LIBBY" LINN TRAUBMAN  
Elected 1994

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*PAULA G. UCCELLI*

Paula G. Uccelli is assistant harbor master and director of public relations at Pete's Harbor, on the waterfront in Redwood City.

She is known for her volunteer work for numerous charitable organizations. "I've had a long association with Kainos, a home for mentally retarded adults," remarked Uccelli. She believes the Kainos program is especially beneficial in that it helps developmentally disabled adults learn to take care of themselves. She is a member of the Sequoia Hospital Foundation and is closely associated with the Emergency Hunger Fund, which provides food and shelter for people in need. She serves on the advisory boards of the Mid-Peninsula Hospice and Pets in Need. Asked the motivation behind her continuing service, Uccelli states that it "is for the personal joy and fulfillment I get when helping others.

In 1988 Uccelli was named the Soroptomist Woman of the Year and the following year was American Legion, Post 105's Outstanding Citizen of the Year. In 1990, she was named Athena Business Woman of the Year by the Redwood City/San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce.

Born in San Jose August 30, 1942, Uccelli attended College of San Mateo, where she studied business and became a dental hygienist.

"Paula Uccelli . . . is a legend in Redwood City—a legend for caring for people," stated Daniel L. Webb, president of the Chamber of Commerce. She has been an active volunteer in the Marina and Recreation Association, Marine Ecological Institute, Navy League, Girl Scouts, Peninsula Yacht Club, the San Mateo County Development Association and the American Business Women's Association.

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PAULA G. UCCELLI  
Elected 1991

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Photo: Art Elwing

## *JEAN E. VAN KEULEN*

“My mission . . . is to help improve the quality of life for individuals who are in need by sharing my time and talents to access resources and services to assist them in fulfilling their personal aspirations and/or professional goals . . . I believe in people, equity and diversity. I am an advocate for change—that is improving the quality of life for all people . . . I believe education is a tool that can open many doors . . .” So states Jean E. Van Keulen, born in Charleston, West Virginia, January 19, 1941.

Van Keulen, who has a graduate degree in education administration and a doctorate in special education from the University of California, Berkeley, is chair of the Department of Special Education at San Francisco State University.

She was honored as founder of the Institute for Human and Social Development Inc. of San Mateo County. The organization, located in South San Francisco, developed a county-wide special education program serving over 600 young children with disabilities and their families.

Since 1973 Van Keulen has written over \$50 million worth of federal grants in the areas of research, training, technical assistance program development, demonstration models and program evaluation.

She has been honored by the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. as “Business Woman of the Year” (1989) and by San Francisco State University as the “Outstanding Special Educator of the Year” (1993).

Van Keulen is active in the community. She serves on the board of the Institute for Human and Social Development and is a member of the Council for Exceptional Children.

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JEAN E. VAN KEULEN  
Elected 1987

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Photo: San Mateo Times



## ANA F. VIVAS

Ana F. Vivas was born in Managua, Nicaragua on June 26, 1977. She was named a Young Woman of Excellence by the **Hall of Fame** for her work with homeless teenagers and as a peer counselor at the Community Living Room.

As a peer counselor she has effectively helped others by drawing on her own experience of having been sexually abused, a homeless runaway and a former drug user. She has organized her friends at Mid-Peninsula High School to help other homeless teenagers, often providing shoes and clothing that no longer fit them.

Vivas, who presently lives in a foster home in Redwood City, is seen as an ideal role model for other students at risk. She learned English within four years of arriving in the United States and managed to give up a drug addiction without outside assistance. Besides her classes at Mid-Peninsula High School, she is enrolled in several courses at Canada College in Redwood City.

"I have learned many lessons from a hard life as a teenager," she admits. "The biggest lesson is that I deserve to think of myself with respect and that no one can treat me badly. I won't take the physical or sexual abuse. When I said 'no more,' I walked out of one kind of life and entered a new one with a new me . . . I can pass this feeling on to other kids in the same position."

In April 1994, Vivas was honored with the Roger Injayan Youth Award from the Western States Youth Services Network for exemplary service to youth and community in the area of youth participation.

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ANA F. VIVAS  
Young Women of Excellence  
Awarded 1994

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## KATHLEEN WENTWORTH

Kathleen Wentworth graduated from the University of San Francisco Law School in 1973. The following year she was appointed Deputy District Attorney in San Mateo County and later promoted to the Superior Court Criminal Division of the District Attorney's office. She was the first woman to hold the position.

Saturday mornings while in law school, Wentworth began taking flying lessons and obtained a private pilot license and instrument rating. Flying became a hobby.

However, in 1978, when United Airlines first signed women pilots, she was hired, initially as a DC-8 Flight Engineer, later as a First Officer, and currently as Captain on Boeing 737 aircraft based in San Francisco.

"There is nothing which compares to the beauty and freedom that flight offers," states Wentworth. "Every day, I have the rare opportunity to view the earth from a perspective that few people enjoy . . . as captain of the airplane, I . . . serve as a role model for young people through the use of announcements on the public address system and greeting enplaning and deplaning passengers."

San Francisco-born, August 20, 1949, Wentworth, while on furlough from United Airlines in 1981, worked as an administrative assistant for Supervisor Jackie Speier and helped coordinate the first *Woman's Day Conference* at the San Mateo Fairgrounds (1983). In 1994, she was recognized by Speier as Woman of the Year for the 19th Assembly District.

Wentworth is a pioneer in non-traditional jobs for women. She states emphatically: "Don't be afraid to set goals for yourself; don't be afraid to tackle tough projects; and don't be intimidated or dissuaded when you hear the most counter-productive phrases ever uttered—'It can't be done . . . we tried that once and it didn't work' and 'we've never done it that way before'."

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KATHLEEN WENTWORTH  
Elected 1985

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Photo: Craig Maxwell Photography

## MARJORIE WHEELER

Marjorie Wheeler retired in 1973 after working 22 years at College of San Mateo in the field of early childhood education. Unready for a rocking chair and slippers, Wheeler plunged into volunteer activities in San Mateo County. She was honored for her efforts with 25 community organizations.

Her principal volunteer efforts involved child care, family care and women's issues. She was one of the original members of the Child Care Coordinating Council. Her last volunteer effort, before retiring in 1992, was as a peer counselor for senior citizens.

Wheeler is a woman of eclectic interests. She served twice on the San Mateo County Grand Jury and was much involved with the Mills-Peninsula Senior Focus program. A founder of the Peninsula Hospital Auxiliary, she represented San Mateo County in the West Bay Health System Agency. Over the years, she has been a consistent booster of San Mateo County General Hospital and has worked extensively with the League of Women Voters.

"She has the unusual talent of perceiving needs in the community almost before anyone else. She has the special quality of inspiring enthusiasm in others to volunteer for the good of the community," remarked one of the people responsible for her nomination to the **Hall of Fame**.

Born (1909) in Minnesota, in the town of Tower near the mining district, Wheeler went to the University of Minnesota, where she received a degree in education and social work in 1929. Her graduate work was accomplished at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She received a Master of Arts in Psychiatric Social Work in 1933.

Wheeler is a resident of Millbrae.

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MARJORIE WHEELER  
Elected 1989

*No photo available*

## SHARON ALEXANDER WILLIAMS

"My work is fun. Every day is fun," states Sharon Williams. "People make my work interesting. I love people . . . I interact with every kind of person imaginable. It is thrilling for me to see people who are considered to be the dregs of society by middle America overcome their problems and achieve great success."

Williams, born in San Francisco on April 22, 1943, received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of the Pacific and a lifetime secondary teaching credential from San Francisco State University. Still, she states, "I have learned more from life than I did in school. I have learned to believe in the power of trying. I have learned that an 'I can' attitude will achieve wonders."

Williams is director of the Opportunities Industrialization Center West (OICW), a nonprofit job training and placement program. She became involved with the center in 1973 and was made executive director in 1979. With a loyal staff and many volunteers, she developed OICW into a first-class training center that serves more than 2,000 people annually. OICW also operates youth programs, a child development center and a free clothing outlet.

She also either sits or has sat on a number of community boards. These include the East Palo Alto Senior Center, Stanford Alumni Consulting Team, Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula and the San Mateo County Women's Center.

Her favorite volunteer work is to cook for the homeless and hungry at Bread of Life in East Palo Alto where her husband, LeRoy, is the administrative director of the program.

Williams received the Woman of Vision Award from the Career Action Center in 1990. She is the mother of one daughter.

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SHARON ALEXANDER WILLIAMS

Elected 1989

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## LISA WOLFKLAIN

Lisa Wolfklain became involved as a volunteer at the Battered Women's Services in 1981. By the early 1990s she sat as a member of the board of directors. "My primary accomplishment was the reorganization of Battered Women's Services at a time when the organization may have folded," she states.

She is also vice president of human resources for American Western Life Insurance Co. in Foster City. As such, she has been responsible for development of a wellness plan which integrates self care, alternative medicine and standard Western medicine. "The plan promotes education and self-care and includes a network of conventional and alternative providers such as acupuncturists, chiropractors and naturopaths," explains Wolfklain. The whole idea is to help prevention-minded people take charge of their health and avoid getting sick in the first place. American Western Life Insurance Co. is owned and operated by her family.

Wolfklain, a resident of Foster City and mother of four, was born December 26, 1956, in Tucson, Arizona. She is a member of the board of directors of the North Peninsula chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Foster City Chamber of Commerce. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in social welfare, she is working on a certificate in human resources from UC Berkeley Extension.

Since March 1993, Wolfklain has evolved her position from president of the board at Battered Women's Services to an advisor and public speaker.

Included in the numerous awards she has received are recognition by the Soroptimists and the San Mateo County Volunteer Bureau.

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LISA WOLFKLAIN  
Elected 1993

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Photo: Christopher

SHERYL A. YOUNG

*I am one, and yet I am one;  
I cannot do everything, but I can do something;  
And what I can do, I will do.*

Sheryl Young was born in Lafayette, Indiana and first came to San Mateo County in 1976. She was honored in 1992 for her role as director of Poplar Center and for leadership in the transition from a “sheltered” work program to comprehensive, community-integrated programs. Her nomination emphasized her work with the elderly and people with disabilities.

She graduated from Purdue University with a degree in political science and received a Master of Arts in special education from Ball State University. In 1993 she earned a Master of Public Health degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

“My job is fun and I thoroughly enjoy the combined business and educational components of this agency (the Poplar Center). I love working with every person involved in this organization which includes people ranging in age from birth to senior citizens, varied business and social services backgrounds and diversified ethnic and religious histories.”

Young, the mother of one daughter, is high on life, which she finds exciting and “where I learn something from every person I meet.”

She has tremendous respect for the people with whom she works. “The individuals and the families we serve have great ideas and dreams they want to see happen in this community. I have enormous admiration for their courage, fortitude and patience, and am energized by their passion for a better life.”

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SHERYL A. YOUNG  
Elected 1992



## SHIRLEY A. ZYNDA

Phoebus, Virginia, was home for Shirley A. Zynda. Born there February 5, 1923, she is a widow with one son and one daughter.

A resident of Half Moon Bay, in 1978 Zynda founded the *Beachcomber*, a weekly newspaper to provide a much needed forum in the area. Additionally, it provided steady employment and was a training ground for women writers and artists.

She has served as chairperson of the Health Service Committee for the Community Advisory Board of St. Catherine Hospital (now Seton Medical Center, Coastside). She assisted the committee in presenting an AIDS forum, sponsoring baby sitting classes for teens, and prepared informational material on inexpensive transportation to medical appointments. Zynda is a member of the Spanishtown Historical Society and has developed a number of oral histories by interviewing old-timers.

She maintains her association with the Coastal Arts League and the Friends of Half Moon Bay Library.

In 1985 she received the Woman of Excellence award from the Coastside branch of the American Association of University Women. Four years later the town of Half Moon Bay presented her the Distinguished Service Award. She also was recipient of an Award of Merit from the Half Moon Bay Rotary Club.

“One thing leads to another. When offered an opportunity, grab it,” states Zynda. “Just because you have never done something doesn’t mean you can’t do it. Try it. Keep open to new experiences and new challenges.”

Zynda went to high school in New York State. She attended Hofstra College (now Hofstra University) for two years.

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SHIRLEY A. ZYNDA  
Elected 1991

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Photo: San Mateo Times

## EPILOGUE

**San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame**, now embarking on its second decade, continues its tradition of pursuing and recognizing excellence. A board of prominent judges has elected the following women for the year 1995:

Carol Stroy Boes

Nan Hawkins Bostick

Celeste Maia Cron

Priya Karim Haji

Helen Mandelowitz Hausman

Ortensia Lopez

Elizabeth Jackson McCaulay, M.D.

Pegi Morton Young

### **Young Women of Excellence**

Lisa Marjorie Coar

Carolyn Noor

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Shirley Burgett earned a degree in history at San Francisco State University where she has also engaged in advanced study.

Michael Svanevik is a professor of American history at the College of San Mateo. He holds a master's degree from the University of San Francisco.

Since 1986, Burgett and Svanevik have collaborated in the writing of a local history column for the *San Mateo Times*. They have also been regular contributors to local and regional magazines.

Their other publications include *No Sidewalks Here: A History of Hillsborough* (1991), *Pillars of the Past: A Guide to Cypress Lawn Memorial Park* (1992), *The Burlingame Club Remembered* (1993) and *City of Souls: San Francisco's Necropolis at Colma* (1995).

Both writers are native San Franciscans. They are members of the American Historical Association, the California Historical Society and the San Mateo County Historical Association. Burgett is a resident of Colma; Svanevik lives in San Mateo.