

SENATOR MIKE MORRELL'S WOMEN OF DISTINCTION 2017

BANNING

Lynette Espinoza

Lynette Espinoza began working at the City of Banning Community Services Department in 1989 where she first became acquainted with the Playhouse Bowl (the department's director was the city liaison to the organization). She became a member of the "Bowl" in 1999 and was immediately voted in as co-chair. In 2000, she was voted in as chair, a position she still holds. A strong believer in community events with a love of live music, Lynette has been and continues to be a catalyst for the Playhouse Bowl's Evenings in the Park Summer Concert Series that will be celebrating its 66th year in 2018. She works tirelessly with the other members of the association year-round soliciting donations, sponsorships, business ads, and community support for the concert series that takes place every Thursday evening during the month of August. The musical entertainment is carefully selected to make sure it is family-friendly and represents various generations and genres and is recognized regionally and nationally. It is all accomplished on a small budget as the Playhouse Bowl Association is an all-volunteer nonprofit. The concerts serve 7,500 to 10,000 area residents and guests each year. When not working on the concert series, Lynette, who retired in 2009, currently works part-time at the City of Banning Senior Center. She also trains and rides her horses, care for her pets, reads, and spends time with her family and friends.

Heidi Meraz

Lifelong Banning resident and twenty-year-plus city employee Heidi Meraz has a commitment to her community that goes well beyond the workday. As the Community Services Director for the city, she oversees the planning and coordination of programs and events that touch tens of thousands of lives each year from children to senior citizens and is often seen volunteering at such activities. She has been actively involved in and has served on numerous nonprofit boards including Community Action Partnership of Riverside County, Stagecoach Days Association, and the Banning Community Fund, to name only a few.

Anne Price **Received the Distinguished Woman Award for the City of Banning*

Anne Price was born and raised in South Carolina, receiving a B.S. degree from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C. She taught school for a few years, but as the family moved west she went into banking and then joined Target Corporation, retiring as Human Resource Manager after 28 years. Jim and Anne moved to Banning about 12 years ago and became active in the community and in their church. In 2011, they helped bring Little League to the Pass Area and served on the board of directors for five years. They were recognized by the Chamber of Commerce as Citizens of the Year in 2014. Anne currently serves as

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secretary for District 58 in the Little League Western Region. She also is president of her local Neighborhood Watch, secretary for the Banning Woman's Club, and is running for a trustee position on the Banning Unified School Board. Anne and Jim have two children and two grandchildren.

BEAUMONT

Robin Bishop **Received the Distinguished Woman Award for the City of Beaumont*

Robin Bishop has over 35 years experience in a variety of fields including developing new emergency plans and implementing training programs across the country and in Haiti. In 2009, Robin developed a respiratory program and respiratory teams in response to the H1N1 outbreak and has given several national conference presentations regarding disaster medicine and emergency management. Robin has been appointed to the California Governor's Task Force on Disaster Resistant Community Colleges and serves on the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services Volunteer Emergency Communication Services group.

Amy Herr

Amy Herr is a lifelong resident of the Pass Area. Amy raised her own children in the same community, one that she says has given her great memories, lifelong friends, and a true appreciation for diversity. Amy served eight years on the Banning Unified School District Board of Education and it was during this time that she and a former city council member founded the Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Geronio Pass. After serving the organization as board president for its first three years, Amy was asked by the board to take on the role of executive director. She has been serving in this capacity for almost ten years and is looking forward to many more. On its first day, the Boys & Girls Club served just five children, two of which were her own. It has since grown to serve nearly 750 kids each day at ten different locations. Amy also ran a successful bond measure during her tenure on the school board to build a football stadium, baseball complex, tennis courts, and pool at Banning High School as well as providing IT, HVAC, and other necessary improvements districtwide. Amy currently sits on the Bond Oversight Committee for the San Geronio Pass Memorial Hospital and is excited to see what the future holds for her community. Amy has been married to her husband, Joe, for over twenty-three years and is the proud mother of Ryan, Troy and Hannah.

Dr. Jerilynn Kaibel

Dr. Jerilyn Kaibel is dedicated to her patients, community and hospital and has assisted in bringing modern medicine to Banning, Beaumont, and the Pass Area. She has been recognized by the State of California for her activities as liaison for various medical boards. Dr. Kaibel also devotes much of her

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time to getting a veterans memorial placed at the City Hall in Beaumont. She has been active in numerous community activities, serving on the Beaumont Unified School Board as both a member and president. As a breast cancer survivor she has been active with local breast cancer support groups and participated in the Relay for Life. She is on the board of San Geronio Memorial Hospital, and currently serves as its chair.

BIG BEAR LAKE

Cindy Caretto* *Received the Distinguished Woman Award for the City of Big Bear Lake*

Soon after retiring to Big Bear Lake in 2006, Cindy became active in the tight-knit community. Her first involvement was with AAUW, where she coordinated the Tech Trek Program, a position she dedicated herself to for 10 years. She is currently serving a second term as president of Soroptimist International of Big Bear Valley. She strongly believes in the goals of this organization, which works to empower women and girls through access to education. She and other members are working to revive and grow the organization. As a former teacher, she enjoyed chairing the Bear Valley Literacy Coalition for seven years. Working with the library staff, she helped to provide tutoring and materials to individuals who sought to improve their basic reading and writing skills. Her participation on the Big Bear Middle School Positive School Climate Committee, made up of students, parents, and staff and community members allows her to spend time in the public school atmosphere that she loves and misses very much. Being part of the Bear Valley Unified School District LCAP Committee affords her the opportunity to help draft and review the Local Control Accountability Plan. She has previously served on the Bear Valley Community Hospital Foundation which raises funds for the Bear Valley Community Hospital. She also worked on the Amgen Tour of California & Tour de Big Bear doing hospitality and registration and served on the organizing committee for the Big Bear Cowboy Gathering a music and poetry event.

Megan Meadors

Megan Meadors is the Program Director for the Bear Valley Community Healthcare District's Mom & Dad Project, a parenting and education resource center located in Big Bear Lake. The Mom & Dad Project is the only Family Resource Center located in Big Bear Valley and is a program run under the area's only hospital. The Mom & Dad Project's mission is to provide full spectrum education and resources to anyone involved in raising a child. Megan has a bachelor's degree in social work with an emphasis in child development and a master's degree in administration and management. After completing her undergraduate degree, she worked for the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in South Central Los Angeles. Megan's responsibilities included Family

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Maintenance, Dependency Investigation, and Adoption and Family Reunification. Working for the County of Los Angeles sparked an interest in prevention and early intervention. Megan believes that child maltreatment is a serious public health problem with proven links to poor physical and mental health and negative changes to brain structure and development. As such, Megan is passionate about early intervention, collaboration, health equity, maternal mental health, fatherlessness, and positive health outcomes for children. She has secured over \$9 million in grant funding for these programs in her community in the past nine years. As the board treasurer of the Inland Empire Community Collaborative, she teaches capacity-building and sustainability to non-profits throughout San Bernardino County with a goal of strengthening their collective impact. She is also incredibly thankful to her husband Andy, who has always supported her hopes and dreams, and to her two children, Luke and Kennedy who give her the clear lens to see those hopes and dreams.

CRESTLINE

Bev Rios **Received the Distinguished Woman Award for Crestline*

Bev Rios is a graduate of both San Bernardino Valley College and CSUSB. She says that her over 35 years of employment in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties has been a blessed learning experience. She served in the legal system both counties as a courtroom clerk and was mentored by a group of extraordinary judges who shared their knowledge. She values her experience both in ROP administration and in later years through teaching in SBUSD for over five years. Within the last 14 years, she has also worked in the non-profit field, serving her community and its ever-changing needs. She especially values her co-workers over the years that have supported her in positions as case manager, Director of Social Services, and program manager for Hearts & Lives. Additionally, she has served as WRAP facilitator for Lutheran Social Services. Outside projects have included serving as an ad hoc member of the newly formed Mountain Homeless Coalition that serves the mountain area from Cedar Pines Park eastward to Big Bear, as well as with Soroptimist International Rim of the World.

HEMET

Anna Pechanec Ancheta ** Received the Distinguished Woman Award for the City of Hemet*

Anna Pechanec Ancheta is the Founder/Executive Director of Musica! Summer Strings Academy & Inland Valley Youth Orchestra. Anna works tirelessly to help her students reach their goals and also serves as an executive board member, recording secretary, and docent for the Diamond Valley Arts Council. She donates her performances to fundraisers and serves as conductor of Local Color, a women's a cappella

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chorus. Anna has received awards as Teacher of the Year in Hemet and San Jacinto and is also a recipient of the Soroptomists' Club "Ruby" Award for enhancing the lives of women in her community.

Lori Raupe

Lori Raupe is the CEO of Lori Raupe Enterprises, a consulting and training company whose clients include the California prison system and Fortune Builders. She is an executive director with The John Maxwell Team and is a certified speaker, trainer, and executive coach. One of the main roles throughout Lori's career has been as the prison's Correctional Business Manager, developing leaders and offering mentorship to many of the staff members that directly and indirectly report to her. She has also written policies for the American Correctional Association accreditation as well as Correction Treatment Center licensure for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Lori devotes much of her personal time to supporting the Landfill Harmonic in Paraguay, Helping Hands Orphanage in Malawi, and Shoes That Fit, a nonprofit providing shoes to children in need in Los Angeles.

Sharyl Adams-Williams

As an active board member for many local non-profits, Sharyl Adams-Williams supports both the Hemet San Jacinto Chamber and the San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce by volunteering and contributing to their fundraisers and programs. She is also a Life Skills Teacher for students with learning disabilities and volunteers for several events and programs, including Relay for Life and Jackets for the Homeless. Sharyl has been a member of the San Jacinto Lions Club since 2013 and is a two time Lion of the Year recipient.

LAKE ARROWHEAD

Diane Gladwell

Diane Gladwell is the President of Gladwell Governmental Services, Inc., assisting over 200 California local governments in improving their efficiency through better records management. Diane is the former City Clerk of Glendale and San Luis Obispo, and her professional work has received numerous prestigious awards. She has been active in Rotary, PTA, and has spearheaded and supported many other charitable efforts in Lake Arrowhead and statewide. Diane balances a very demanding professional career and charitable community endeavors with the help of Bob, her husband of 42 years, her father, Dan Griffin, son Daniel and his wife Samantha, and son, Michael, who has overcome various disabilities to make his own positive contributions in Lake Arrowhead.

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Yolanda Lopez Douglas

Yolanda Douglas Lopez is well known in the mountain communities for donating her time and talents. Yolanda has acted as Fundraising Committee Member for the Mountain Communities Boys and Girls Club Auction, served on the Board of Directors for Junior League Los Angeles, and is an active member of the UCLA Mountain Bruins Club. She has also volunteered for fundraising events for the Mountain Community Hospital Foundation, and has been recognized with the President's Award from Rim of the World Soroptimists International.

Rhea-Frances Tetley * *Received the Distinguished Woman Award for Lake Arrowhead*

World traveler Rhea-Frances Tetley moved to the mountain in 1976 with husband Douglas Motley, after a three-and-a-half month bicentennial tour of the USA. Rhea has volunteered in many capacities, including with the PTA, Little League, Boy Scouts, various service clubs, and Soroptimist International of Crestline as its past president. She has won several regional awards, including one for creating a history curriculum and coloring book for mountain third graders. In 1986, she co-founded the Crest Forest Historical Society, which evolved into the Rim of the World Historical Society and now operates the Mountain History Museum in Lake Arrowhead. She has served on its board of directors, as secretary (twice), and president for two-and-a-half years. She still enjoys coordinating guest speakers, managing the bookstore, and being a museum docent. To expand the bookstore's resources, she has written four books on the history of Crestline and Lake Arrowhead. Rhea-Frances has reported for The Alpenhorn News newspaper since 2001, writing the history column for ten years, helping to promote change and growth in the community and spotlighting local personalities and businesses. She has been a special needs middle school teacher at Clement Middle School in Redlands for the past 23 years and was nominated as Teacher of the Year. She has been the volunteer assistant director of school plays for over two decades.

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MENIFEE

Lynne Hartung

For over 12 years, Lynne Hartung has served students in the Meniffee Union School District. Even in retirement, she continues to volunteer her time working with students at Paloma Valley High School. Lynne also raises puppies for the Canine Support Team, a nonprofit organization dedicated to training dogs to support those with special needs. She is a member of the National Association of Female Executives and the GFWC Meniffee/Sun City Woman's Club. She is also on the board for the Meniffee Arts Council and the Temecula Valley Symphony and has received the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award.

Resa Rosenstein

After 18 years practicing law, Resa Rosenstein decided to pursue a career in teaching. She taught English at Paloma Valley High School and is also currently the Work Experience Coordinator. She is a resource between community leaders and business owners, helping students find jobs through efforts like organizing and planning the successful College and Career Day Event. Resa is the President of the Inland Chapter of California Work Experience Educators (CAWEE). She has received awards for her outstanding leadership and community involvement, including the American Jurisprudence Award in the area of Labor Law.

Kelly Smith * *Received the Distinguished Woman Award for the City of Meniffee*

Kelly Smith has worked in public education for 22 years. She is currently a transition teacher for adults with moderate/severe disabilities, instructing them with job skills and travel training so they can be as independent and self-sufficient as possible. Kelly also brings laughter to adults and children as a professional clown and is an aspiring author and photographer, publishing children's picture books and humor/photography books. She is starting a business as a Christian copywriter and intends to use the funds raised for causes that support women and children in need around the world and to protect wild and domestic animals. Kelly is a 2016 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by President Obama.

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MENTONE

Angie Grisafe-De La Rosa * *Received the Distinguished Woman Award for Mentone*

Angie and her spouse Gabe De La Rosa have been very active in the Mentone community since they moved to Mentone in 2008. Having her own real estate office, A Noteworthy Realty located on Mentone Boulevard, Angie has frequently opened up her conference room for community meetings. She also hosts a yearly Santa Claus event for families, leading friends in Christmas caroling. Angie has helped at the Mentone Elementary School resource fair each year and has supported many of the school's fundraisers. Angie has been active in the Mentone Area Community Association as secretary and is also secretary for her church council. When serving at the Home of Neighborly Services Board as secretary, Angie helped arrange and serve the food to the KABOOM volunteers who helped in building a park for the kids.

June Purvis

As Owner/Manager of the Wilbur Power Equipment Rental, June is very involved in the local community. She serves in the Mentone Area Community Association, The Mentone Chamber of Commerce, Adopt – A – Highway, Mentone Chili Cook-off, Casino Family Night, and the Parent Teacher Association.

RANCHO CUCAMONGA

Juanita Braunwalder * *Received the Distinguished Woman Award for the City of Rancho Cucamonga*

Juanita is the co-owner of Braunwalder Insurance and Financial Services. For over 13 years she has provided insurance in the life and health market to both individuals and businesses. Juanita is the current vice president of Soroptimist International of Baldy View, working with others to bring awareness to the organization's mission of aiding women and girls through developing programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Additionally, Juanita serves as assistant director for Growing Pains, a program that mentors teen parents. The goal of the program is to provide positive reinforcement and encouragement to teen parents and help them realize their potential as both students and as parents. Juanita is a Member of the National Association of Health Underwriters Inland Empire and serves as a greeter at Community Baptist Church. She recently celebrated 39 years of marriage to Ernie and is the mother of four children and grandmother of five.

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Lynne Kennedy

With a professional career spanning over three decades as an educator and school administrator, Lynne Kennedy is a passionate leader with a lifelong commitment to public service. Lynne first discovered her life's calling while working as a mathematics teacher at a junior high in the Rialto Unified School District. Her passion for education prompted the pursuit of an administrative credential, which opened doors and led to positions as both an assistant principal and principal at local schools. At the district level, Lynne has worked to craft curriculum and boost student achievement in her official capacities as Director of Student Achievement, Associate Superintendent and Superintendent. Although Lynne retired in 2012, she recently returned to work as Executive Director of the Alliance for Education for San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. As Executive Director, Lynne works with school districts across the county to build partnerships among business, labor, government, community, and education entities. The goal is to produce an educated and skilled community that provides a qualified workforce for the continued economic well-being and improved quality of life for all residents in the Inland Empire. A lifelong resident of the Inland Empire and a graduate of San Bernardino High School, Lynne decided to remain local in her educational pursuits. She is the recipient of a Bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Redlands, a Master's Degree in School Administration from Cal-State, San Bernardino, and a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University. Her dissertation, "Selection Criteria and Student Access to Algebra I", received the Claremont Graduate University, Urban Leadership Achievement Award and the Phi Delta Kappa award for Dissertation of the Year. A firm believer that a life is defined not only by one's professional accomplishments but by giving back to the community, Lynne has made service a central tenet of her life. She is a charter member of the San Bernardino Valley Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of women who contribute thousands of documented hours of community service annually. In addition to her work in the community, Lynne is an active member of the church. In the early 1980s, Lynne taught confirmation classes at Shepherd of The Hills Lutheran Church in Rancho Cucamonga, and currently serves as member of the Hillside Community Church's Board of Directors, Prayer Team and Guest Services. Lynne's zeal for excellence, knowledge and experience in governance, and dedication to her community make her a strong leader for Rancho Cucamonga. As Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Rancho Cucamonga, Lynne brings forward-thinking, commonsense solutions to the table in an effort to build a more prosperous tomorrow for the city she has proudly called home since 1980. Lynne has been married for 40 years to her high school sweetheart, Michael Kennedy, who is a businessman and currently senior partner at Estelle & Kennedy, A Professional Law Corporation.

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Amabel Nugpo De Leon

Maria Amabel, better known as “Amabel”, is an enterprising woman, using her life experiences, management skills, and professional know-how to influence the people around her. It is because of these attitudes and moral values that she is considered a top resource in the health care industry. Her dream was to be a successful “Florence Nightingale” and positive role model as an entrepreneur. To achieve this dream, she combines her passion to heal and the resources of her home health company to better the lives of children, adults, and the elderly. Vanura Home Health Services Inc., which she founded jointly with her husband, Ramon Alan, is a pioneering company when it comes to innovating and enhancing patient care through home health services. Her team is molded on Amabel’s perspective of what compassion is all about – that healing is not only about administering medication, or providing therapy, but also about helping patients attain a better lifestyle and independence despite their medical situations. Amabel is guided by her strong faith in delivering compassion to everyone and her very supportive family.

REDLANDS

Carla Ford-Brunner * *Received the Distinguished Woman Award for the City of Redlands*

As a self-made, successful marketing specialist with 20 years of experience in newspapers and digital marketing, Carla Ford-Brunner is well-versed in connecting with small businesses and large corporations. Building relationships and finding innovative advertising and marketing solutions have been the key to her success. Outside of work she is committed to increasing the enrollment of African-American students in Catholic Schools, particularly in San Bernardino. She believes the way out of poverty is through education and supports not only efforts to educate a child, but also focuses on the impact that by doing so, families will have hope for a better future. In her role as chair of the San Bernardino Catholic Elementary Schools Board she has learned and contributed in many ways. She has recruited for the board, represented schools at the LEAD Conference, facilitated roundtables, and connected schools with community events. She has developed an understanding for fund development, and created opportunities for new enrollments through events that both promote the schools and generate funds for scholarships. Last year, she assisted with the first Guardian Angel Award Dinner. As a woman, mother, grandmother and professional she finds that her energy is well-spent when serving her community.

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Valerie Machain

Valerie Machain has been a mainstay and business leader in the San Jacinto Valley for over 27 years. She began her career with The Village Retirement Community, located in Hemet, in October of 1991 as the founding administrator for the on-campus health care center. In her position, Valerie managed a 100-bed skilled nursing/rehab and assisted living operation with a staff of over 125 employees. In 2008, Valerie transitioned into becoming executive director of The Village, an active life plan community. In this capacity, she oversees the entire Village campus, including independent living, which offers an array of services and amenities to nearly 300 active, independent residents. Valerie has been married to her husband Tim for over 31 years. Grown children, Alex and Taylor, along with two active grandsons, keep Valerie busy in her personal life. A 1982 graduate of Loma Linda University with a degree in accounting, Valerie also obtained a Nursing Home Administrator's license in 1984. Within the industry, Valerie has been affiliated with the California Association of Health Facilities since 1993, serving as an active board member and past president. She maintains a personal vision that advocates for the quality of care for the senior community.

Michelle Mainez

Michelle Mainez is passionate about making a difference in her community and in the lives of individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She has dedicated over 22 years to a career in human services, including 16 years with California MENTOR where she serves as the Regional Director in Rancho Cucamonga. She leads a variety of programs for over 1300 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Southern California. Services include an early intervention program for infants, an adult foster care program, specialized medical homes, and various other residential, employment, and adult day programs. Michelle currently serves as chair of California MENTOR's Autism Collaborative. For the past six years, the committee has hosted an annual Autism Awareness Festival in Rancho Cucamonga, a free full-day festival with thousands of guests from the around the Inland Empire, including law enforcement and fire departments, student volunteers, and various agencies and businesses. Michelle believes it takes bold action to unite the community and create a future where individuals with disabilities live inclusive lives as active citizens that are valued, appreciated, and afforded opportunities to pursue their dreams. Michelle is a life-long resident of the Inland Empire born and raised in San Bernardino and Highland. Michelle, her husband Charles and their two daughters Jamie and Lauren have resided in Redlands for over 20 years. Michelle is a proud Girl Scout co-leader for a troop from Mariposa Elementary in Redlands. She has a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from California State University, San Bernardino.

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SAN BERNARDINO

Charlotte Baber

Charlotte Baber retired from federal service after 34 years. She served in the U.S. Air Force from 1979 to 1995 as an Inventory Management Specialist and was awarded numerous decorations, medals, badges, citations, and campaign ribbons during her tenure including the following: AF Achievement; AF Oversea Short Tour Ribbon; AF Longevity Service Award; USAF PME Graduate Ribbon; Southwest Asia Service Medal; AF Good Conduct Medal with two Oak Leaf Clover; National Defense Service Medal; AF Training Ribbon and AF Outstanding Unit Award with two Oak Leaf Clover. While in the Air Force, she advocated against the unfair weight standard for women in the military, a program responsible for the discharge of 85 percent of women in the Armed Forces. She received extensive coverage throughout the state including on the front page of the Press-Enterprise, in the Air Force Times Worldwide, and the Black Voice newspaper in 1996. Her numerous community service activities include serving as the current 25th District 3rd Vice Commander, American Legion; Past Service Officer 25th District, American Legion; Past Commander of Guy Wynton Morris American Legion Post 710; and past President of the Feeding Coalition. She has been an advocate for veterans' benefits, performing outreach programs for veterans and their families, assisting the sick and shut-in, and has served on the Diversity in Action Committee at Jerry L. Pettis Medical Center. She is also a member in good standing of American Legion Auxiliary Unit. In 2009, she was recognized by Assemblywoman Wilmer Amina Carter in honor of Veterans Appreciation Month.

Manal Iskander * *Received the Distinguished Woman Award for the City of San Bernardino*

Manal has not only experienced much of the world, she has made her mark on it. A globe-trotting renaissance woman with an inquisitive, educated, and creative mind, she has lived in several countries and speaks multiple languages. Her entrepreneurial spirit has led her to many successful endeavors, including owning a popular restaurant and market called "The Green Shack MarketPlace," (with an annual revenue well over \$20 million) and the IT company "PCtronics" with well-known clients such as Hilton Hotel Group and Adidas. She is also Executive Producer of the PBS television series Musicology that airs Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m. Holding advanced degrees in finance and marketing, Manal has won numerous awards for her business skills and brings significant vision to the city of San Bernardino and its business climate.

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Gwendolyn Rodgers

Gwendolyn Dowdy-Rodgers has been married for 22 years to Arlington Rodgers Jr. and is the proud mother of Arlington Rodgers III (Morehouse College) and Jonathan Rodgers (UCLA). Gwen is a noted speaker for women's conferences statewide, assistant pastor and worship leader at Church of the Living God in Highland, and is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated. She is currently writing a book on parenting called "That Thing Called Parenting." 12 years ago, she founded Young Women's Empowerment Foundation (YWE) with the mission of empowering girls ages 12-21 to reach their highest aspirations starting in middle school through their first year of college. Gwen also established a free annual spring "Girl Talk" conference for over 200 Inland Empire girls along with an annual "Healthy Me" Wellness Conference held each fall for more than 100 women. Gwen spent over 20 years as a regional finance manager with American General Financial Corporation. She is now employed at Uplift Family Services as a community development specialist advocating for mental health services and resources on behalf of foster youth. Gwen was elected to the San Bernardino City Unified School District Board of Education in 2015 where her main goal is to support an authentic strategic parent engagement plan and to close the opportunity gap for all students while addressing barriers that hinder student success. Gwen spends countless hours working in the community mentoring/volunteering her time. She is currently the San Bernardino United Way's President-Elect and chairs and serves on the boards of several organizations including the Department of Behavioral Health African-American Awareness Subcommittee, the San Bernardino County Gangs and Drugs Executive Board, Volunteers of America, and the San Bernardino Symphony. Gwen has been acknowledged for her service with the Sacred Sistahs Shero Award, the Unforgettable Award, the Black Chamber of Commerce Community Spotlight Award, the Black Culture Foundation 2017 Humanitarian of the Year Award, among many others.

SAN JACINTO

Karen Revay

After growing up on the East Coast and attending college, Karen spent more than 20 years in the military. She retired at the rank of Major. Since moving to San Jacinto in mid-2010, she has been involved in several community and business-related organizations. She not only served on the Board for the San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce and the San Jacinto Valley Women's Conference, but also chaired Adopt-a-Grandparent outreach for 200 residents in four San Jacinto assisted care facilities. She is always reaching out in the community in which she lives and is involved locally. She is also a part of the American Business Women's Association, of which she will become the new Vice President later this year.

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Mary Jean Stevenson * *Received the Distinguished Woman Award for the City of San Jacinto*

Mary Jean Stevenson is a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force. While in the military, she worked as a clinical laboratory supervisor and as a diet therapist. She had the opportunity to work in several military medical centers where she received training and remains a member of the California State Militia Reserve at March Air Force Base. Since May 2010, Mary has been an instructor of Humanities and Sciences for the University of Phoenix. She also teaches health science at a community college, where she discusses stress, drug abuse, and nutrition. Mary volunteers her time as part of a therapy dog team called Rim of the World Comfort Pets, visiting the Jerry L. Pettis VA hospital and several nursing homes in Yucaipa and Redlands. Additionally she is an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America, Military Explorers Troop 13.

Kathleen Prokop

Kathleen Prokop is involved in several programs around San Jacinto which include, being the vice president, secretary, and fundraiser manager for the Active Minds Club and a member of the Diamond Valley Arts Council. Kathleen is also an adult literacy tutor at the Hemet Public Library. She has helped raise money for the Hope for the Cure at the Hemet and San Jacinto Relay for Life and also volunteers at the Village Health Center, the Brighton House, and the Genesis Devonshire Care Center.

YUCAIPA

Brandy Gomez

Known for her incredible enthusiasm and dedication to her community, Brandy Gomez has been a faithful volunteer and part of the ambassador team for the Yucaipa Valley Chamber of Commerce over the past five years. As a military veteran herself, Brandy recognizes the sacrifices veterans and their families go through – and also volunteers with the local VA Hospital in Redlands. She is a Certified Paralegal for the family-owned practice Roberts Ross Law Firm where she further donates her time assisting the elderly with estate planning, financial management and notary services. Brandy is married to Jason Ross and they have two daughters, Tysana and Phoenix.

Rachael Gustuson

Rachael has been a resident of Yucaipa since 1995. She has served on multiple PTA boards, school site councils and has been a room mother, school nurse, and substitute teacher over the years. Rachael is a proud graduate of Crafton Hills College and CSUSB. She is currently the editor of the Yucaipa-Calimesa News Mirror, after having been a reporter for 10 years. She enjoys writing, cooking, spending time with

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her family and friends, and seeing the positive in all situations. Rachael has a deep love of her community and the amazing residents of Yucaipa. She is a member of Music and Arts Festival Ad Hoc committee, Autumnfest, Winterfest, and Make-A Difference Day committees.

Mari Winter * *Received the Distinguished Woman Award for the City of Yucaipa*

From the time Mari Winter first moved to Yucaipa almost two years ago she has devoted her time and energy to the community. Mari founded the "2 Way Street" program assisting local homeless people getting back to work. She further serves them through "Faces of Yucaipa" a Facebook group over 1,000 volunteers strong. She works individually with each homeless person to guide him or her through the red tape of finding temporary to permanent housing and credits her success to sheer determination and perseverance.