

Wine Country Chapter Woman of the Year

Each year, the Wine Country Chapter emphasizes the outstanding achievements and contributions members make by electing a Chapter Woman of the Year. There are many benefits to participating in this national ABWA program. For our chapter, it can boost our public image, spark interest from prospective members and reinforce current members' decisions to stay involved in ABWA, and, for all members, increase their evaluation and decision-making skills. Recognizing a member for her accomplishments demonstrates our commitment to support the mission of the American Business Women's Association. Past winners have included:

2002, Lucy Lewand
 2003, Anna Scally
 2004, Diana Blakeley & Holly Schatz
 2005, Carol Feuerstein
 2006, Margi Williams-Weiranga
 2007, Anna Smith

Our 2008 Woman of the Year is Kim Dow.

Kim Dow is the principal at Dowhouse, a design studio offering a multitude of creative services for print and web media.

Kim was raised on a rugged ridge overlooking the South Yuba River, where she learned the magic combination of gravity and bicycles. Kim's BMX career took her all over the country and landed her a national top ten ranking. Understanding the short career span of a cyclist, she put her nose to the academic grindstone in a co-op program at the University of San Francisco and the Academy of Art. Before she graduated with honors in 1997, with a major in graphic design and minors in women's studies and multicultural studies, she chaired the University's student diversity group and managed to continue her cycling career into mountain bike racing. After landing her first design job in Sonoma, she settled into life in the local community. When the 9-to-5 got to be a bit confining, she split off on her own and has been freelancing for the last seven years.

Kim is a founding member of the Occidental Bohemian Farmers Market and continues to serve as board president and managing director into the market's sixth year. She is a member



Kim Dow, 2008 Woman of the Year

of the Bohemian Connection and leads the HillJillys Women's Cycling Club. Kim's considerable pro bono work includes ongoing projects for the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition and other community organizations. She's been an active ABWA member for the last three years and chaired the Inspiring Women Scholarship Fundraiser for the last two, helping to raise tens of thousands of dollars for a cause that's close to her heart.

Kim is dedicated, tireless, focused, and always willing to laugh. There is always time in her day to get something done for someone else. If we had twice the time as her, we'd probably only get half as much done. It's in the wake of this easy industriousness that we award her with ABWA's Woman of the Year, should we get her to slow down long enough to accept it.

Awards Ceremony

June 2008

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OUR MISSION:
 To bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally, through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition.

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About ABWA

Founded in 1949, the American Business Women's Association supports business-women by helping them reach their personal, educational and career goals. Today, ABWA, with 120 chapters and more than 60,000 members, spans the nation as the world's most diverse professional organization for women. Tens of thousands of members gather throughout the country, united by a common goal: to support each other in personal and professional development and career advancement.

The Wine Country Chapter in Sonoma County became an official chapter of ABWA in May 2000, and membership continues to grow. We hold monthly dinner meetings, which include a networking session and an informative speaker. We developed a Scholarship Fund to support women in their educational pursuits.

"[I'd like to] express my sincerest gratitude for the award from the ABWA's Wine Country Chapter. I am a returning student with a family, and this contribution to my education makes such a difference. Returning to school has been a dream of mine for over 20 years, and your help in fulfilling my dream is so appreciated."

Sarah Uyehara
2007 Scholarship Recipient

"Funds like these mean the critical difference in a deserving student's ability to attend an institution of this caliber... Being selected for a scholarship further motivates these students to accomplish their academic goals. Scholarship recipients enhance the overall quality of this institution through their achievements both in and outside of the classroom. Therefore, your gift makes a direct impact upon this campus and on the lives of the students we serve. Thank you for your wonderful support and generosity."

Bucky Peterson
Vice President for Development,
Sonoma State University

"I thank you for your generosity in awarding me the ABWA Wine Country Chapter Scholarship. Due to your largesse, I am able to complete my studies to become a special educator... I am very thankful for this honor and will do my best to live up to the expectations that accompany it."

Suzanne Duffy
2007 Scholarship Recipient

Inspiring Women Scholarship Program

Every year, ABWA Wine Country Chapter members work hard to raise money for scholarship awards to help women in Sonoma County achieve their business and/or professional goals through education. Since 2003, our local chapter has awarded 46 scholarships totaling \$65,150 to women attending Sonoma State University and Santa Rosa Junior College. This year's Inspiring Women Benefit, with the Wine Raffle and Auctions, was another successful endeavor, and we are excited and pleased to announce our 2008 Inspiring Women Scholarship recipients:

Ashley Bell

\$2,500 • SONOMA STATE

PRE-MED & ART, 4.0 GPA

In addition to her work as an EMT on an ambulance, Ashley recently started an internship at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital in the oncology department. She is a Red Cross CPR Instructor and works in disaster preparedness. Ashley's professors praise her disciplined and conscientious work and study ethic, and her calm demeanor. Both commented on the fact that they believe she will be an excellent physician. Ashley is a second-time recipient of our award, and is preparing to apply to medical school.

Catherine Hare Lauria

\$2,500 • SONOMA STATE

BIOLOGY, 4.0 GPA

Catherine is passionate about her field of study. She has volunteered in Zambia, starting a nonprofit there, and with several environmental and peace activist groups. In December 2007, the alternative energy project with which she works was grant-funded for additional implementation. She was also recently hired as a student intern by the City of Santa Rosa. Catherine is a second-time recipient of our award.

Urjita Parekh

\$1,500 • SONOMA STATE

COUNSELING, 4.0 GPA

Urjita is currently a student in the MA Program in Community Counseling in the School of Social Sciences, training to be a Marriage and Family Therapist. She was called to post-grad studies

after volunteering at Parental Stress Service in Oakland and Edgewood Center for Children and Families in San Francisco, where she developed a passion for working with children, families, and our populations with the greatest need. Upon graduation, Urjita plans to work in a school or social service agency in Sonoma County.

Erica Peringer-Batten

\$2,500 • SONOMA STATE

MUSIC EDUCATION, 4.0 GPA

Erica has maintained her 4.0 GPA and Presidential Scholar status throughout her college career. She is entering her last semester of her BA in Music Education, and excited about a future teaching band, orchestra, choir and/or general music in the public school system. She has worked as a teaching assistant in the Music Department, where she's learned valuable skills for her future career. Erica is a second-time recipient of our award.

Lori Louise Lawrence

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

Vela Millen

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

EDUCATION

Tina Montero

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

NURSING, 4.0 GPA