

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
2008, Kim Dow



Our 2009 Woman of the Year is Judith Light.

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About ABWA

Founded in 1949, the American Business Women's Association supports businesswomen 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.

Awards Ceremony

June 2009

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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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Wine Country

CHAPTER

AMERICAN BUSINESS
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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 56 scholarships totaling \$76,900 to women attending Sonoma State University and Santa Rosa Junior College. This year's Inspiring Women Benefit, Moxie&Marvels, was another successful endeavor, and we are excited and pleased to announce our 2009 Inspiring Women Scholarship recipients:

Ashley Bell

\$1,000 • SONOMA STATE

PRE-MED & ART, 3.9 GPA

Ashley has worked hard to balance both a pre-med and studio art curriculum, two time-consuming and difficult disciplines. She has continued to work as a Sonoma County ambulance EMT and is part-time training director for a disaster preparedness startup, as well as a volunteer in the Santa Rosa Memorial oncology department. Ashley is a third-time recipient of our award who will graduate in December and begin the process of applying for med school. "Ashley is so well-rounded, kind and intelligent that if I had to pick only one of my current students to send to medical school, it would be her," says one of her professors.

India Gomez

\$2,000 • SONOMA STATE

PSYCHOLOGY, 4.0 GPA

India graduated from SRJC with Dean's Highest Honors, and has maintained a 4.0 at Sonoma State. She also teaches Salsa dancing professionally, plays multiple musical instruments, and is a recording artist. India plans to become a clinical psychologist, hoping to serve multicultural, multigenerational communities. Her internship at the Renaissance Healing & Learning Center gave India the opportunity to provide therapeutic treatment with the help of horses, working directly with clients and horses to treat various disabilities. One of her professors extols, "she's one of the best students I've had the privilege of teaching."

Megan Ingrassia

\$2,000 • SONOMA STATE

M.A. PSYCHOLOGY

Megan is a past Doyle scholarship recipient and SRJC Salutatorian with an AA in art, and graduated Cum Laude from Sonoma State. After recovering from a life-changing injury, she discovered a desire to pursue a career in art therapy and is enrolled in the Psychology Masters program at SSU. "Megan combines the rare qualities of compassion and empathy with academic and intellectual excellence," says one of her professors.

Rose McMackin

\$2,000 • SONOMA STATE

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGLISH

Rose is a driven and ambitious lover of reading and writing. She has been writing for publications since elementary school and will be traveling to New York City this summer for a coveted internship position at Condé Nast. Rose is currently very involved with the SSU on-campus newspaper, *The Star*, and her hope is to become a freelance journalist, focusing on politics, world affairs, and travel. "She is one of our most motivated and honest students who is dedicated to make the world a better place environmentally and socially," says one professor.

Lauren Stavish

\$2,000 • SONOMA STATE

SOCIOLOGY, 3.83 GPA

Lauren, a McNair Scholar at SSU, is in the process of completing a

research program focusing on the role of family in preadolescent nutrition education and food choice; she also interns at the Santa Rosa Department of Health & Human Services. One of her professors describes Lauren as being "in the top tier of undergraduate students at SSU." After completion of her undergraduate studies, she intends to pursue a Ph.D. in sociology, specializing in medical sociology, social stratification, and theory.

Yiching Bell

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

NURSING, 3.57 GPA

Yiching has always wanted to be Florence Nightingale, but with three school-age children and a disabled husband, it's been uphill for her since his motorcycle accident. She tutors in Chinese and Anatomy part-time, and is also a full-time student with the dream of becoming a registered nurse. Her parents are still in Taiwan, and her husband's family has not been able to offer financial help, so earning this scholarship from ABWA helps her realize her dream.

Georgianna Cappelletty

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

NURSING, 3.85 GPA

Georgianna is a 54-year-old California native from Ukiah. She's a Leukemia survivor, and her recovery took a full year of her life in 2001. Her next challenge came when her company closed its doors, and her 20-year career in finance went with it. Undaunted, she enrolled in SRJC, and will be eligible for their nursing program by the end of this year.

Tina Montero

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

NURSING, 3.95 GPA

Tina experiences great joy when she is helping others, so after some initial indecision, she decided nursing was for her. Tina dropped out of high school when she became a teenage

mother. Being both a single parent and a student at the same time, she has had her hands full, but is excited to be a student again. She has been an inspiration to her son, who also loves school and aspires to be a college graduate like his mom, and encourages him as a volunteer at his school.

Shayla Salzman

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

BIOLOGY, 3.95 GPA

Shayla is a 29-year-old reentry student. She already has a diploma received eight years ago, but is now passionate about organic farming and farmers' markets. She conceived and wrote a grant proposal and received a California state-funded grant, which she administered through a farmers' market. The business is going strong after five years, and has expanded to include all of Mendocino County. She is working toward a BS in Biology, and is currently employed as a goat-milker at Redwood Hill Goat Farm and Creamery.

Christine Stephens

\$750 • SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

NURSING, 3.94 GPA

Christine is the mother of three young boys, and returned to school in 2006, after barely getting through high school with a GED as a teenager. She loves being a student now, despite her many challenges, not the least of which is a looming divorce. Though she was a reluctant student in her youth, she now says, "I...want to lead by example so my children can see how important a good education is. I don't want my kids to take their education for granted as I did." To her, this scholarship is a recognition of how far she has come.

ABWA Wine Country Chapter is proud to support this year's scholarship recipients, and to help their dreams come true.