

News Summary



ATTENTION:

Sara Wacker

YWCA San Diego

April 15, 2011

Keyword	Publication	Publication Date	Page #	# of Pages
<u>YWCA</u>				
Article	San Diego Daily Transcript	April 15, 2011	3	1
Article	La Jolla Light	April 14, 2011	12	2
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OrgWatch

By Jenna Long

In the Company of Women, the **YWCA** of San Diego County's largest annual fundraising event, which will be held April 20, raises financial support and awareness for local programs and services for survivors of domestic violence and homelessness.

The YWCA announces well-known advocate against domestic violence, Denise Brown, as the keynote speaker for the luncheon.

Denise Brown, sister of Nicole Brown Simpson, has made educating the public about domestic violence and improving the quality of life for women and children who have been victims, her lifelong commitment after her sister was tragically murdered in 1994. Since early 1995, Brown has traveled to many states raising awareness of the epidemic of domestic violence.

She played a major role in the success of the Vine System, an automated victim notification service of the

release of batterers from jail or prison, and also lobbied on behalf of the Violence Against Women Act. Brown testified to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, which led to the increase of funding for the Violence Against Women Act from 18 million to 32 million.

The luncheon will be held Wednesday, April, 20, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina with Mistress of Ceremonies Kimberly Hunt, KGTV Channel 10 News Anchor.

Seats and tables must be purchased in advance through the YWCA's website at ywcasandiego.org. Individual seats cost \$120 each and tables of 10 are \$1,200.

All proceeds go directly to fund YWCA programs and services for survivors of domestic violence and homelessness, including Becky's House, Passages and the Cortez Hill Family Center.

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Soroptimist luncheon shines spotlight on women helping women

The Soroptimist International of La Jolla Annual Awards Luncheon was held March 19 at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church. Lunch was catered by Gretchen Vedder and Tiffany Trevino of Indigo Cafe, which has donated the food for the luncheon for the past three years.

The event raised more than \$16,000 for the club's service projects — all in support of programs for women and girls. It included a silent auction underwritten by many local businesses. SILJ was founded in 1947. Learn more by visiting silj.org

The Violet Richardson Award went to Megan Hastings who was presented with a \$1,000 award, plus \$500 toward her selected charity, Becky's House, a YWCA project that runs domestic violence shelters. Hastings is a junior at The Bishop's School. She was also recently recognized as an "Everyday Hero" by Youth Service America for donating her own books, as well as books collected by her school, to the shelters.

The Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Award winners

were Luman Sellers, first place, who received \$3,000, and Gloria Bradley, second place, who received \$1,000. The funds are designed to benefit female heads of households, who return to school to improve their careers to support their families. Applications for the award were submitted in the fall, and a panel of judges from the community chose the winners from many qualified applicants.

The Ruby: Making a Difference for Women Award, \$500, was given to Cora Cormody to benefit her organization, Technology Goddesses, which provides mentorship and education to girls pursuing careers in technological fields.

Keynote speaker Gretchen Means, an assistant district attorney working with the San Diego Sex Crimes Unit, discussed the growing concern over sex trafficking of girls in the greater San Diego area.

Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher was also a guest at the luncheon. He helped congratulate the winners and hand out awards.



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Cora Comody, Luman Sellers, Gloria Bradley and Megan Hastings PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELAINE MONTEMARANO



Karen Cebberos, Gloria Sandvick, Melissa Crothers, Gloria Garrett, Elaine Montemarano, Ronda Landrum and Maureen Murphy



District director Joanne Siudara with Lisa Lindgren, president of Soroptimist La Jolla and a guest



Jean McGrath and Gretchen Means



Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher with Cora Cormody and Carol Tuggey