



# CONNECTIONS

www.fresnowomensnetwork.org

Vol. XXIII July 2009

## CALENDAR

### TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2009

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

**Luncheon: "Scholarship Awards Presentation"**

**Speaker: Gerre Brenneman, Evangel Home, Inc**

Location: Banquet Facilities at Diana Court  
(5351 N. Diana --East of Barstow, off Blackstone)

**July Community Connection: CA National Guard Family Readiness**

(see pg 3) More details available on our website

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2009

Time: 11:45 am – 1:15 pm

**Mentoring Meeting (see pg 2 --Subject to be announced)**

Location: Perfect Balance Yoga 5091 N. Fresno St. Ste. 133

Call 222-6212 to RSVP

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2009

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

**Luncheon: Network at Noon Invitational Mini-Trade Show**

Location: International Catering  
4277 N West Ave (North of Ashlan)

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

**Luncheon: Business Etiquette**

**Speaker: Cynthia Merrill**

**Luncheon Sponsor: Edward Jones**

**Location:** Banquet Facilities at 5351 N. Diana  
(East of Barstow, off Blackstone)

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

Visit our booth at the Central California Women's Conference

## Reservations & Payment

### Payment for July 14 Luncheon-Due July 9

**\$16** for current members & their first time guests

**\$20** for non-members

**with late fee of \$3 after July 9, (if seating is available).**

**Payments received date of luncheon, add \$5 each**

**(if seating is available)**

Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted for all Network events. Unless noted, additional information for these events, including membership, can be obtained by contacting the Network Office at:

(559) 450-2102 Fax: (559) 450-2041

Register on-line with credit card:

[www.fresnowomensnetwork.org](http://www.fresnowomensnetwork.org)

or

Call to make your reservation, and

Mail check to:

Fresno Women's Network

**NEW Mailing Address:**

1303 E. Herndon Ave. Mail Stop 55

Fresno, CA 93720

## 2009 Scholarship Awards Presentation



Is Education the answer? Join us in July when Gerre Brenneman, Executive Director for Evangel Home, speaks on Education Beyond the Classroom, Education as an Antidote to Poverty, and how our favorite teachers impact our lives. We will also enjoy meeting the recipients of this year's Scholarships.

Gerre has been Director of Evangel Home since 1988. Prior to her current role, she was the Public Relations Officer at Reedley College. Her work history includes

teaching, social work, and journalism – all areas of excellent preparation for her current responsibilities.

As director of Evangel Home, she strives to provide homeless women and children with the direction and tools they need to be successful and independent. Although she supervises a staff of 17 whose primary job is to work with the Evangel Home's residents, Gerre believes it is important to have her finger on the pulse of the Home. She believes in a team approach to supervision and is not a top-down manager.

In 2008, Gerre founded the Evangel Home's 101 Counseling Center, which not only sees Evangel Home clients, but has opened its doors to people in our community who have no access to counseling services.

In 1995, she founded the GARDEN program, a 9-month alternative sentencing program for women who are dealing with drug and alcohol issues. In addition to the GARDEN, Gerre supervises 3 other Evangel Home programs.

Gerre has lived in Fresno for most of her life. She has three degrees from California State University, Fresno, is active at First Presbyterian Church, and enjoys bicycling, family activities, computer classes and reading. She says her list of interests would not be complete without mention of her 750-piece PEZ collection.

Gerre's favorite book is "A Prayer for Owen Meany" by John Irving. She says it instilled in her an incredible sense of being put on earth for a purpose and to live every moment in gratitude.

In addition to our speaker, this month the Fresno Women's Network will have the pleasure of awarding scholarships to hard-working, determined, and deserving candidates who truly exhibit the mission of the Network. You will be able to meet and hear the stories of a group of women with a passion to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others. This is your chance to witness firsthand the result of your raffle tickets purchases and donations and the positive effect of the year long efforts of the Network and the Scholarship Committee to provide women with this opportunity. We extend a special thank you to Saint Agnes Hospital and the Susan Melkonian Fund. They are tremendous partners in helping these women pursue their passion.

Be ready to be inspired! Join us on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> for this timely luncheon filled with networking, inspiration and hope for the future!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carole Laval  
Laval & Associates

### Join In!

This month's meeting is the culmination of our fund raising activities for the year. At our July meeting, we take the proceeds of all of our Scholarship Fundraising events and divvy them up among our scholarship recipients.

Our Scholarship Committee receives lots of applications. They examine them, interview the candidates and ultimately choose a few students that have the most incredible combination of goals, education and community service.

We are delighted to welcome the scholarship recipients at our July luncheon and introduce them to you.

In May we honored the memory and generosity of our late member, Susan Melkonian. Susan was a long time member of the Network who left us a bequest upon her death. At our July luncheon, one of our scholarship students will be awarded the special scholarship named in Susan's honor.

We are able to provide these scholarships because of the good hearts and passion of our members to help others.

Our Scholarship Committee, headed by Dianna Short, receives raffle donations from our members every month. Our members buy oodles of raffle tickets for the chance to win one of these terrific prizes (and they are fantastic prizes!) and because the proceeds go to the scholarship fund. The scholarship funds are awarded in July and then we start all over again.

Two important things I want you to think about:

- The Scholarship Committee can always use your help. Contact Dianna Short to volunteer for this committee or to donate an item for the raffle.
- We have a scholarship fund at the Fresno Regional Foundation that you may donate directly to. Any donations or bequests to this fund are tax deductible and may be made at any time.

Since our last newsletter, we will have already enjoyed several networking events: our June luncheon, which was entirely devoted to networking, Ladies Night Out at Grizzlies Stadium, and the membership mixer at Harlan Ranch, sponsored by Wathen-Castanos.

Ours is such an active, involved membership! We have so many networking opportunities for you to build relationships and the business that follows.

Realize the opportunities your membership provides by getting involved.

Make your reservations now for Net at Noon, our annual mini-trade show on August 11.

Our theme this year is: Shop Local – Shop the Network. Come and see all the wonderful goods and services our members have to offer. There will be great food, lots of free stuff, and fantastic networking!

**Join in!**

## Member Highlight Summary from our May Luncheon

*Submitted by Linda Lu*

**Robirda Lyon  
Lyon Wills and Trusts**

Robirda is an attorney who specializes in Wills and Living Trusts. Make sure that your children and assets are planned for the way YOU want them. Robirda will meet with you when convenient for you, and makes the process very easy and understandable, as well as being very affordable. She can be reached at (559) 917-2329

## Fresno Women's Network Mentoring Program

*Submitted by Joanne Bazarian*

Our audience is you. Are you looking for a job, wanting a better job, wanting to start a business, or have recently graduated and want career business guidance? The mentoring program might be able to help you. Each month, we will present a topic which may include a speaker who is an expert in that field. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 29th from 11:45-1:15 pm.

If you would like to be a mentor, please contact us as this program is to include all members of the network; those needing a mentor and those wanting to mentor.

We are in the process of creating a reference list for mentors - please let us know if you would like to be included. Along with the reference list will be a resource team list that will include who to contact for your needs. We all use our directory to keep our network flowing and this will be a mini version of contacts for mentors and the resource team.

Contact Joanne Bazarian at 222-6212 with any questions you have regarding the program as a mentor or a mentee. Meetings will be held at Perfect Balance Yoga, 5091 N. Fresno St. Ste 133, NW corner of Fresno/Shaw. Bring your lunch or get a yummy sandwich at The Grape Tray.

Together we are strong and can make change happen. Join us and be a part of this program. Whether it be receiving help or giving help, we would love to have you be a part of it.

## SAVE THE DATE

Network at Noon Invitational Mini-Trade Show

August 11, 2009

"Shop Local – Shop the Network"

Don't miss out on this annual event where members showcase their goods and services.

FOOD – FREE STUFF – NETWORKING – FUN FOR ALL

## Wanted! 2 Committee Members

*Submitted by Suzanne Moles*

The website committee needs two new committee members to post information to the Internet on a regular basis.

Requirements: Must be familiar with social networking and the Internet.

Contact: Suzanne Moles (Website Chair)

Phone: (559) 346-0801

email: [webmaster@fresnowomensnetwork.org](mailto:webmaster@fresnowomensnetwork.org)

## WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

For complete information, log on to the "Membership Directory" on our website

[http://www.fresnowomensnetwork.org/membership\\_directory.htm](http://www.fresnowomensnetwork.org/membership_directory.htm)

Have you forgotten your username and password for the Membership Directory portion of our website? Contact the Network Office.

Danny Gathright  
OWNER  
Sierra Pacific Barter Exchange  
*Referred by April Cavanaugh*

Patricia Nicasio  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST  
Social Security Administration

Korinna Pedrosa  
MARKETING MANAGER  
Pana-Pacific

JayCee Van Cleave  
PRESIDENT  
SilberBank Equipment, Inc.

# Join in!

### 2009 Network Board

#### Executive Committee

**President** – Carole Laval, *Laval & Associates*  
**First Vice President** -- Karen Bowser, *Creative Memories*  
**Second Vice President** – Linda Dippel, *United Way Fresno*  
**Secretary** -- Kitty McManus, *Jack Nadel International*  
**Treasurer** – Jamie Eropkin, *Finch Ocheltree Rowland & Shoopman, LLP*  
**Parliamentarian** – Gail Parvavian, *Rabobank*  
**Past President** -- Lucia Robeson, *Union Bank*

#### Committee Chairs

**Membership** – Katie Dubbels, *Bank of the West*  
**Newsletter** – Katrina Tonkogosuk, *Professional Print & Mail, Inc.*  
**Programs** – Marsha Conant  
**Directory** – Jennie Guadagno, *Dumont Printing*  
**Scholarship** – Dianna Short, *Western Pistachio Association*  
**Public Relations** – Joanne Bazarian, *Perfect Balance Yoga*  
**Board Development** -- Lucia Robeson, *Union Bank*  
**Web Site** – Suzanne Moles, *Wattleweb Global Solutions*  
**Saint Agnes Liaison** – Jaime Huss, *Saint Agnes Medical Center*  
**Community Connection** – Linda Dippel, *United Way Fresno*  
**Fund Development** – Karen Bowser, *Creative Memories*  
**Special Events** – Nykole Hibbs, *Dinner MyWay*  
**Legal** – Linda K. Durost, *Linda K. Durost, Inc.*  
**Member At Large** – Divonna Swan, *Farmers Insurance*  
**Member at Large** – Joan Meyers, *Guarantee Real Estate*  
**Member At Large** – Melanie Coventry, *The Pines Resort & Conference Center*

### "On the Move"

Have you changed jobs? Been promoted? Won an award? Submit your info to the Network Office, so we can publish your news in a future issue.

### "Transitions"

Did you just get married? Have a baby? Another life event you'd like to share with the membership? Submit your info to the Network Office, so we can publish your news in a future issue.

Suzanne Moles (our website chair) was awarded the California Commendation Medal -1<sup>st</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster. She received this commendation for her work with the Wing Operation Ready Families Program, 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno Air National Guard Base, California, from May 1, 2007 to May 1, 2009. Suzanne is delighted to receive this award for her volunteer work. We're proud of her too!

Deitra Lewis-Metcalf would like to announce that "I (finally) graduated from CSUF on May 22 with my BS in Accounting. I will be attending Kellar Graduate School of Management in January 2010 to get an MBA in Human Resources". Way to go, Deitra!

### July Community Connection Partner

For contact information & more info, visit our website:

[http://www.fresnowomensnetwork.org/community\\_connection.htm](http://www.fresnowomensnetwork.org/community_connection.htm)

*Submitted by Linda Dippel*

### CA National Guard Family Readiness Sue Miguel 994-6102

Our mission is to provide assistance to all branches of the Military thru the Family Center located in the Hammer Field Armory. We provide resources and information as to their benefits and entitlements. There is a small library of Military related self help books, etc., for them to check out. We have a nice children's area to keep the children entertained while the parent comes in for assistance or to use the computers we have available for their use. We also have a food pantry that is here for Military Members and their families from all branches. During these difficult times, the food pantry has come in very helpful to many military families.

**Needs: Non perishable food items or grocery gift cards.**

### Founding Sponsor



Saint Agnes Medical Center

### Our Mission Statement

The Fresno Women's Network was founded in 1987 as a way for women to support each other in business, personal, and professional growth. Members are encouraged to build relationships, mentor one another, and give back to the community.



PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 2019  
FRESNO, CA

**NEW Mailing Address:**  
1303 E. Herndon Ave. Mail Stop 55  
Fresno, California 93720

**Return Service Requested**

Providing Opportunities for Personal and Professional Growth

**Newsletter Fund**

Help support your newsletter! Find out how by downloading our Newsletter Fund Agreement from our website at:  
[http://www.fresnowomensnetwork.org/downloads/newsletter/NewsletterFundAgreement\\_040109.pdf](http://www.fresnowomensnetwork.org/downloads/newsletter/NewsletterFundAgreement_040109.pdf)

**Partners in Education**

Your name could be here!

**Patrons**

Saint Agnes Medical Center

**Benefactors**

Your name could be here!

**Advocates**

Leslie H. Kos CPA  
Hills, Renaut, Homen & Hughes

Kitty McManus  
Jack Nadel International

Sue McCombs  
McCombs & Associates

**Raffle Donors**

**If you would be interested in donating an item at an upcoming luncheon, please contact Dianna Short at [short\\_dianna@yahoo.com](mailto:short_dianna@yahoo.com)**

**May 2009 Raffle Donors**

- Carolyn Kovalski- Facelogic  
Fresno Magazine
- Joan Meyers- Guarantee Real Estate
- Kelly Fitzpatrick- Big Happie Hair
- Jayne Guyer- At Home America
- Debbie Milla- Milla Vineyards
- Shann Conner- Kaiser Permanente
- Jackie Doumanian- CSUF Summer Arts
- Kimberly Mayhew- Caswell Bell & Hillison, LLP
- Lisa Nicora
- Jennifer Wojtas- Willow Creek & Valley  
Healthcare Centers
- Ellie Huston
- Glenna Gates- Spherion Corporation
- Cindy Lea Sambueso- Healthy Touch For  
Animals
- Janna Graham- Fresno Philharmonic

**Monthly Buddies**

The Buddy Bag program welcomes our new guests and demonstrates the diversity of the businesses and services that we represent. It also provides an excellent yet easy opportunity to showcase your business.

NOTE: Please drop off Buddy Bag contributions at Guarantee Real Estate, Palm and Shaw, or bring to the luncheon meeting. Call Joan Meyers: 284-4854, for more information

**May 2009 Buddy Bag Donors**

- Jack Nadel, Int'l, Kitty McManus
  - Guarantee Real Estate, Joan Meyers
  - Treva Diane Lee DDS, Treva Diane Lee
  - Creative Memories, Karen Bowser
  - Professional Print and Mail, Katrina  
Tonkogolosuk
  - Aerotek, Mary Anderson
  - Paradise Springs, Rhonda Salisbury
- Special thanks to California Pistachio Board

**Connection Newsletter Editor** –Katrina Tonkogolosuk, Professional Print & Mail, Inc., Contributor: Jennifer Wojtas, Willow Creek & Valley Healthcare Centers  
● **Production:** - Karen Sorensen, Mary Kay Cosmetics ● **Printing /Distribution** - Val Print Xpress

The Fresno Women's Network disclaims any liability for loss or personal injury, which might occur during the course of tours, trips, luncheons, dinners or other events. All tours, trips, luncheons, dinners or other events arranged by the organization are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. The organization does not assume responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or passengers or their property in any matter pertaining to said tours, trips, luncheons, dinners or other events.