

JOINT DISTRICT WINTER CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 19, 2008

Valley Sunset District and Sierra Mar District will come together on Saturday, January 19, 2008, at the University Club of California State University, Northridge, for a Joint Winter Conference.

The morning will be devoted to program events followed by luncheon speakers, and in the afternoon the District members will separate to conduct their individual district's business meeting.

District Presidents Elvira Orozco and Denise Rubin and Vice Presidents Jackie Melvin and Sally McMahon are in the process of creating a smooth and successful day event for the membership. Linda Wilson, Vice-President Legislation and Public Policy of the California Federation, will be the State Representative.

Among the morning programs will be a panel chaired by Sandra Thompson, District Parliamentarian and BPW representative to the International Federation's Project 5-0 event on March 12. BPW International is one of the Five Organizations together with Council of Women, the Federation of University Women, Soroptimists International and Zonta who join together to participate in international projects. The panel will consist of the representatives from each of the five participating organizations who will talk about their group and the upcoming event, "*Ending Violence Against Women: Make It Happen in LA.*" (see *Project Five-O Seminar, page 4.*)

A second morning panel, "*Success—Despite the Odds*", will feature Ronde Winkler as moderator/participant, US District Court Judge Florence-Marie Cooper, and other invited speakers.

The University Club is a wonderful meeting site with lots of free parking and comfortable meeting rooms. See you there?

— Jackie Melvin, Vice President Issues Management and Education

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN — A Worldwide Problem

HOW WIDESPREAD IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

- The United Nations agency, UniFem, reports that one out of every three women will suffer from abuse and violence in her lifetime.
- Each year 5,000 women are victims of so-called "honor killings."
- One out of five women will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.
- Women are more at risk of experiencing violence in intimate relationships than anywhere else.
- 130 million girls and women alive today have undergone Female Genital Mutilation.
- Hundreds of thousands of women and children are trafficked each year.
- Sexual exploitation can cause severe physical and psychological injuries.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Support the efforts of the United Nations Trust to End Violence Against Women and UniFem's Goodwill Ambassador, Nicole Kidman, through *Say No to Violence Against Women*. For more information, go to www.saynotoviolence.org

BPW/USA SPECIAL CONVENTION ON February 16, 2008

Editor's Note: The letter below was sent by Barbara Henton, president of BPW/USA, in order to clarify and explain the reasons for a special convention to be held in Washington, DC on February 16, 2008.

The 2007 convention body's intent was to allow every member to have a vote and to be able to participate in the election of their Area Representatives and National Officers. With all the changes made in July, there were several bylaws that were missed. Unfortunately, it is these bylaws, as currently written, which prevent us from fulfilling the intent of all members being able to vote. For example, Article XII of our bylaws still requires nominations from the convention floor, and Article XX requires that bylaws amendments be presented to the convention body.

To address these issues, the BPW/USA Board of Directors met via webinar/audio conference on November 15, 2007 for the purpose of considering Bylaw amendments that would be forwarded to the convention body for consideration. In addition, the BOD set February 16, 2008 as the date for the next Convention to be held in

Washington, DC. This convention is being held for the purpose of considering the bylaws currently restricting elections and voting by all members. The Bylaws recommended by the BOD to the convention body will be discussed and may be adopted/amended by convention action.

If all of the proposed amendments related to voting and elections are adopted, all members will have a voice in the upcoming elections. If not, only those members who can attend the National Conference in Atlanta will be able to elect their Area Representatives, National Officers, and vote on business issues.

As you know, we accomplish a great deal more than elections at National Conference so National Conference will still take place in Atlanta in July.

BPW/USA communications is a broad term that encompasses all of the means of

communication we have today, as well as, any we may use in the future.

I appreciate your concern about leaving members without Internet accessibility behind. I can assure you we take that into consideration when discussing communication to members. For example, any member without an email address received a letter prior to the 2007 National Conference explaining the significant changes that would be discussed. In addition, we are currently discussing the process for allowing every member to vote and all of our proposals include members without Internet service.

Communication will be key to our success as we move forward so there will be several pre-Convention webinar/audio conferences scheduled to ensure members have an opportunity to discuss the proposed changes.

VALLEY SUNSET DISTRICT

ELECTED DISTRICT OFFICERS

President
ELVIRA OROZCO
818-361-1920

President-Elect
VACANT

Vice President of Finance & Administration
ANNE MARIE JOHNSON
818-957-5050

Vice President of Legislation & Public Policy
SHIRLEY KELLSTROM
818-782-4236

Vice President of Membership & Marketing
MARJORY HOPPER
562-699-6288

Vice President of Education
& Issues Management
JACKIE MELVIN
818-592-2700

Recording Secretary
MARLENE GREENFIELD
818-990-8644

Nominating Chair
ROSEMARY ENZER
818-884-7204

LOCAL ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS

Burbank President
SANDY THOMPSON
818-848-2848

Conejo Valley President
MARY LOU WETTER
805-492-5698

Foothill Valley President
DONNA WHINNERY
909-626-8379

Greater San Fernando Valley President
ROSEMARY ENZER
818-884-7204

Hollywood President
MARY ETHEL PIERSON
213-386-9248

BPW of Orange County President
PEGGY ANDREWS
909-845-8295

San Fernando President
ELVIRA OROZCO
818-361-1920

Santa Barbara President
SANDRA SANDERS
805-9643-5928

Sunland-Tujunga President
SHIRLEY KELLSTROM
818-782-4236

Verdugo Hills President
KANDICE ASTAMENDI
818-618-0328

2007-2008 Theme: "WOMEN OF THE 21ST CENTURY"

President's Message

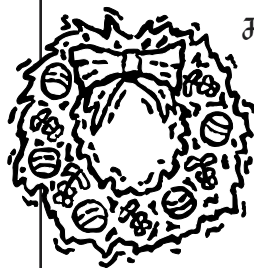


First, I want to thank Carolyn Blundell for volunteering to be the chair of the Women of Achievement Luncheon, and for working so hard to make it the successful event that it was. I also want to thank Anne Parlapiano and Rosemary Enzer for their participation. Thank you to the LO presidents and all who attended. Congratulations to the honorees. They are all truly deserving of this recognition.

My thanks go out to Anne Marie Johnson and her committee for all their work in making the Holiday Tea and Fundraiser a success.

We are now looking forward to the Joint Winter Conference with Sierra Mar District on January 19, 2008 at the CSUN University Club. Both districts are planning this conference together, so please plan to attend. Make your reservations early. See you there. **Happy Holidays!**

— Elvira Orozco



Happy Holidays from Valley Sunset District Officers and Chairs
Wishing you and your family a season of love, joy, and peace.

Christmas Blessings and a Happy, Healthy New Year
to my BPW friends. — Joyce Morrissey

Warm wishes for the Holiday Season from The ValSun Staff!

WANTED: 2008-2009 District Officers

Valley Sunset District is looking for members who are willing to serve as District officers in the coming year. Since we revised our by-laws last April, there are only five elected officers: President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. So now we need five individuals who are dedicated and willing to assume a leadership role in our district. Volunteers, please step forward!

With the exception of the Recording Secretary, only members who have served as local organization presidents are eligible for elected office. Only individuals who have served as LO president and served one year on the Executive Committee are eligible to be President-Elect.

By January 1, 2008 candidates must submit to the Nominations Chair the endorsement of their local organization, a signed consent to serve, and a summary of qualifications. These official forms were sent to local organization presidents in October. Elections will be held at the Annual District Convention in April.

For additional information or nomination forms, please contact Rosemary Enzer, Nominations Chair, at 818-884-7204 or renzer3335@aol.com.

— Rosemary Enzer, District Nominations Chair

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

Valley Sunset District BPW bpwvsd.org
California Federation BPW bpwcal.org
Business & Professional Women/USA bpwusa.org
BPW International bpwi.org

SECOND ALERT: BPW Members are Needed!

Bring your friends, colleagues and business associates to your local organization meetings and invite them to our Valley Sunset District Conference in January. It is a great way to start the new year of 2008! *Note: Membership is the responsibility of all BPW Members.*

— Marjory Hopper, Vice President Membership

BPW FOUNDATION – Helping Women Since 1956

The Foundation was established in February of 1956 and was granted tax exempt status on June 27, 1956. The purpose of the Foundation is to improve employment opportunities, career development, and economic status of women. BPW Foundation Career Advancement Scholarships are targeted at women 25 years or older who have critical financial needs and clear career plans.

Contributions can be made to Foundation at any time, so please take a minute from your busy day and make a donation that can change a woman's life. It would be wonderful if you could fund a full scholarship by giving \$1,000 or more, but a gift of any size — \$15, \$25, or \$50 will be greatly appreciated.

Remember each and every contribution, no matter the amount, counts. Our combined efforts make the difference. Complete a donation form and write a check now. You can mail the form, along with your check, to Marlene Greenfield, Foundation Chair, give it to her for mailing, or contact her if you need Foundation donation forms.

— Marlene Greenfield, District Foundation Chair

INTERNATIONAL REPORT



Valley Sunset District, along with members from Sierra Mar District, hosted a luncheon with International President Dr. Chonchanok Viravan (Nok). We met in Pasadena and had a wonderful lunch and had the opportunity to speak with her and learn more about BPW International. President Nok also gave us a presentation on the upcoming International Congress which will be held next October in Mexico City. Due to difficulties with the hotel and weather concerns, the venue has been moved to Mexico City. Plans are underway for a great Congress, as well as opportunities for sightseeing.

On the International front BPW participates —

- BPW was represented by 22 members from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Egypt, Russia and Thailand, among them Dr. Chonchanok Viravan, BPW International President, and Dr. Bettina Schleicher, President BPW Germany, at the Global Summit that was held last June in Berlin, Germany. The Global Summit was a gathering of 1000 strong-minded women from 95 countries with lots of high caliber participants. Fifty government ministers attended the conference and came together at the ministerial roundtable.
- Today's women leaders from business, politics and society exchanged best practices and different points of view, connecting and working towards transforming the 21st century economy. The conference also showcased what women are able to achieve and how they can reach their full potential.
- BPW successfully nominated six speakers for the breakout sessions at the Summit. They shared with summit participants their experiences on how to develop win-win negotiating skills, to use technology to build a brand, how to market yourself internally within a corporation, and how to learn from business downturns.

The next Summit will be held in Vietnam in 2008.

— Sandra Thompson

LOCAL ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS

Have you paid your VALSUN subscription fee?

\$10 per Member

Your members can receive the newsletter online or by mail.

VALLEY SUNSET DISTRICT

APPOINTED OFFICERS & CHAIRS

Parliamentarian
SANDRA THOMPSON

President's Adviser
CAROLYN BLUNDELL

Conference Coordinator
ANNE PARLAPIANO

Registration & Reservations
MARGARET PRICKETT

Young Careerist
VACANT

Women of Achievement
CAROLYN BLUNDELL

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www.bpwcal.org



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Full Page	\$125
1/2 Page	\$ 75
1/3 Page	\$ 70
1/4 Page	\$ 60
1/8 Page	\$ 40
Business Card	\$30
2 issues	\$60
3 issues	\$75

Contact Advertising Editor,
Anne Marie Johnson
626-577-0681



Legislative Update

Our State Federation President, Kathryn Hopkins, sent an urgent email to Legislation chairs on Oct. 29th. I regret this chair was out of the State, and didn't catch up with this email until it was too late for her urgent request. However, I am including some of the basic information for you. It is still pertinent. **There is**

still action needed from all of us at the grass roots level in Southern California. Our sisters to the North have been actively involved in lobbying and getting publicity. They need our support!

The employer-based health plan, AB8, was introduced and moved. There was a huge opposition from many organizations. Some of the problems argued were cost control, affordability, and lack of universal coverage. This bill was vetoed by the Governor. There has been no action on any health bill since the Governor introduced his employer based plan.

When the Legislature held its first hearing on Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal at the end of October, among the protesting organizations were: Health Care for All, It'sOurHealthCare.org, BPW, NOW, and the League of Women Voters. There was also written support from thousands of individuals throughout the State.

The Governor's plan is to require everyone to buy insurance, whether or not they can afford it and regardless of whether it actually protects them. After months of talking to him about the need for meaningful healthcare reform this year and the need for healthcare to be affordable, the Governor has stayed with a plan that is employer-based. That just won't work for regular people who could be stuck with thousands of dollars in deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses.

YOU can help to change that. Contact your representatives and let them know by email, telephone, or fax that you are not satisfied with the current bill. It won't work for everyday workers and regular people. We can still get meaningful healthcare reform this year, if we can bring the Governor to the bargaining table and get him to propose something realistic. This issue is too important to give up on, but junk insurance, out of control costs, and unaffordable healthcare are not the solutions to our problem.

To contact your representatives in the Senate and Assembly, simply type their names in the address bar. Each legislator has a website and most have contact information listed. **Do it now.** This is a hot topic! If we can help stop this, when SB840, the Kuehl affordable, comprehensive, single payer bill is reintroduced, it will have a better chance of passing.

Our Legislative Screening Committee has the current health bills on their agenda. This is a platform issue. Be pro-active! And let's see some meaningful results!

— *Shirley Kellstrom, Vice-President Legislation*

Project Five-O Seminar

Plans are progressing for the Project Five-O Seminar to be held March 12 at the California Endowment. The Seminar, entitled "*Ending Violence Against Women – Making It Happen In L.A.*", is being sponsored by four of the five members of Project Five-O. They include Zonta International, Soroptimist International, AAUW and BPW. We have several collaborators from various government and private agencies on board who are helping to plan the program and get speakers.

We will need volunteers to help on that day, so please mark your calendars and plan to be a part of this wonderful opportunity to help end violence against women. At our Winter Conference you will have the opportunity to learn more about the other organizations, as well as the upcoming seminar.

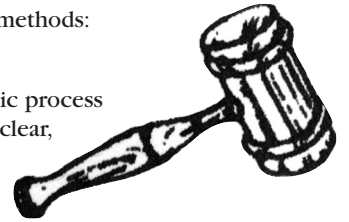
— *Sandra Thompson*

Parliamentary Procedure

Here is an explanation of some parliamentary methods:

DEMOCRACY

Robert's Rules of Order advocates the democratic process because it is the most effective; the subject is clear, the discussion is to the point, and is concluded by taking a yes or no vote that binds the assembly unless it is rescinded.



GENERAL CONSENT / UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Robert's no longer uses the phrase *General Consent*, considering *Unanimous Consent* to be clearer. In Unanimous Consent the chair presumes a motion and at the same time puts the question - "If there are no objections we will/shall - - - (pause), since there is no objection we will/shall - - -". If, in the pause, someone says "I object" the chair says "the question is on - - -, is there any discussion?", as if it were a motion from the floor. Unanimous Consent should be used judiciously; to avoid appearance of "trying to railroad" something through.

PRESUMED MOTIONS

The use of *Presumed Motions* is perfectly legitimate; it is used when no motion is forthcoming on a subject, and enables the chairman to get business on the floor. The chairman's phraseology is "The next business in order is world hunger; the question is, shall we all plant beans in our yards, and give them away on the street corner; is there any discussion?"

CONSENSUS

Consensus is the process through which the majority beats the minority into submission, by wearing it down until it surrenders. It doesn't even use a motion to start the discussion because that would be considered too restrictive. The subject is introduced by the moderator saying something like, "What do you think we should do to eliminate world hunger?" Only one person may speak at a time, but since the subject was not narrowed, the discussion continues 3-4-5 times as long as in the democratic process. When the subject finally narrows, the moderator says something like, "I sense that you feel we should all plant beans in our back yards and give them away on the street corner. Is that correct?" Those who don't agree say, "No", and the discussion continues; when the minority appears to be weakening, the moderator repeats his/her statement, and the process repeats itself. When the minority finally surrenders, the moderator declares that consensus has been reached.

Those who favor the consensus process believe that, at the end, everyone is in agreement; they object to the democratic process because they believe it creates winners and losers. They don't accept General Henry M. Robert's statement in his book *Parliamentary Law* that "The great lesson for democracies to learn is for the majority to give to the minority a full, free opportunity to present their side of the case, and then for the minority, having failed to win a majority to their views, gracefully and cheerfully, recognize the action as that of the entire organization and assist in carrying it out, until they can secure its repeal."

— *Sandra Sanders*

LOCAL ORGANIZATION REPORTS

BURBANK REPORT, Sandra Thompson, President

The Burbank Local Organization has had a busy fall. We joined with three other locals for two joint meetings and have two more planned for the winter and spring. These events have been great and we are looking forward to the upcoming meetings. In December we had our Christmas Party and continued our long tradition of putting together and delivering a Christmas Basket to a needy family in Burbank.

In January we will be celebrating our birthday. March 16 will bring our annual trip to the races at Santa Anita and we invite all to join us. This is a fun filled day and, for some, it can be financially beneficial. Proceeds from the day will go to support Camp BPW.

We look forward to a busy time during the winter and spring and to participating in District and State happenings.

SANTA BARBARA, Sandra Sanders, President

Santa Barbara BPW is focusing this year on perfecting itself as an organization. We had our first financial review in years, have our first budget in years, and will revise our bylaws and standing rules.

With the exception of our most senior member, Ruth Schneider, every member has a responsibility this year. Although she hasn't assumed a responsibility, Ruth is faithful in attendance.

Doreen Newsam was recognized at our Woman of Achievement in October. Members of Hollywood BPW joined us in honoring her.

Our most recent program was a presentation from Direct Relief International, an organization that provides medical services throughout the world.

Since the L.O. has a healthy treasury, its annual fashion show has been cancelled this year to enable us to focus on operational issues and launch a vigorous membership campaign.

SUNLAND – TUJUNGA, Shirley Kellstrom, President

The local organization of BPW Sunland Tujunga is pleased and proud to announce our Woman of the Year honoree, Abby Diamond. Abby is a resident of Sunland Tujunga whose pretty neck was stretched way out when she accepted the co-chairmanship of the "No on Home Depot" committee. The committee was acting for the community by insisting that Home Depot do an extensive Environmental Impact Survey as required by law, proving their existence on Foothill Blvd in the heart of town would not unduly impact traffic. When Home Depot did not follow through, the committee took them to task through the legal channels of LA City. Abby spearheaded the action for three long years until finally the permit for Home Depot was set aside. Now the City and our Council Member, Wendy Greuel, are being sued by this huge company. Abby and her committee are already at work preparing a rebuttal. Go, Abby! We are proud to have you represent us as an active Woman of the Year!

Our second honoree, Ron de Lamare, known affectionately by the girls and boys he coaches, as "Coach de", has been a volunteer coach for 35 years in Sunland Park and at Verdugo Hills High school. We first met him last year when at our request, he came to our 2006 Woman of the Year dinner. He told the community about the inequity in funding for his girls' softball team, as compared with the boys teams at the high school. He explained the value of the leadership, sportsmanship, and team work he strives for with his teams. The collection at that meeting helped the team greatly, and prompted our District 2 City Council Member to take some action as well. As a result, the district school board and the City added to the funding and the girls' softball team had a good year. Coach de will be back again this year, fighting for gender equity in the sports program.

To quote Susan B Anthony, "Failure is Impossible!" when citizens such as Abby and Coach de are in the front lines!



Conejo Valley Members INVEST IN THE FUTURE

Six years ago members of Conejo Valley BPW formed an investment club which meets monthly. Meetings are held at the Westlake Hyatt Hotel just prior to their regular BPW meeting. The members study and propose stocks, then vote on which ones they will buy. Among their most successful purchases are Sony and the Las Vegas Sands. Conejo Valley has become very knowledgeable about investments and finances, counting among their members, Lee Riggan, who is a member of the Economic Council of Venture County.

BPW President Mary Lou Wetter, when asked about the Investment Club, stated, "Women can take charge of their own lives, especially through investing in our own future." She believes that knowledge of the financial world is a key toward empowering women. Visitors are always welcome to attend their meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

Foothill Valley Mourns President

Foothill Valley BPW regrets to inform you of the passing away of our dearly loved BPW sister and LO President, Donna Whinnery. Donna passed away peacefully Sunday morning December 2, 2007.

A memorial service is planned for January 2008, and once we receive the date, time and location we will email the information.



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VSD Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon VS District Fall Conference



Our canine visitor from *Paws for a Cause* at the Valley Sunset District Fall Conference.



Debi Vasques
Investment Representative

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**VALLEY SUNSET DISTRICT AND
SIERRA MAR DISTRICT BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN
JOINT WINTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
UNIVERSITY CLUB
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHRIDGE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2008**

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone (H) _____ (B) _____
 Cell _____ Fax _____
 Email _____
 Local Organization _____

CONFERENCE CAPACITIES (check all that apply)

___ State Officer ___ Special Chair
 ___ District Officer ___ LO President
 ___ Member ___ First Timer
 ___ Standing Chair ___ Guest

Medical/Dietary Restrictions (check if applicable)

___ Vegetarian
 ___ Medical (be specific e.g. "no chocolate", etc)

REGISTRATION

___ Registration \$ 20.00 = \$ _____
 ___ Lunch \$ 25.00 = \$ _____
 ___ **TOTAL PACKAGE** \$ **45.00** = \$ _____
 ___ **Late Fee** \$ **5.00** = \$ _____

RESERVATIONS DUE BY JANUARY 12, 2008

Send checks payable to **Valley Sunset District BPW**,
 with this form to:

Margaret Prickett,
 13790 Oro Grande Street
 Sylmar, CA 91342-2208
 Telephone: 818-367-0010

Registration postmarked after January 12, 2008,
 will be charged a \$5.00 late fee.

**Business and Professional Women USA – California Federation
 VALLEY SUNSET AND SIERRA MAR DISTRICTS
 JOINT WINTER CONFERENCE – JANUARY 19, 2008**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

8:00 a.m. Registration 9:00 a.m. Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance Inspiration Introductions First Timers Welcome from State Representative Panel Discussion — Project 5-0	10:15 a.m. BREAK 10:30 a.m. Program Event 12:00 p.m. LUNCH 2:30 p.m. District Meetings 4:15 p.m. State Representative's Critique 4:30 p.m. Adjournment
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2007-2008 Theme: "WOMEN OF THE 21st CENTURY"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2008

January 19, 2008	Winter District Conference CSUN University Club, Northridge
February 13-16, 2008	BPW/USA Interim Board Policy & Action Conference Washington, D.C.
Feb. 28-March 2, 2008	CFBPW Winter Board/Government in Action Hawthorn Suites, Sacramento
April 11-13, 2008	District Annual Convention Grand Vista Hotel, Simi Valley
April 22, 2008	Equal Pay Day
May 16-18, 2008	State Annual Convention Milpitas Sheraton (Tentative location)
July 22-26, 2008	BPW/USA National Conference Atlanta, Georgia
October 24-28, 2008	BPW International Congress Mexico City, Mexico

LOCAL ORGANIZATION EVENTS 2007-08

December 29, 2007	Sunland-Tujunga – Secret Santas
January 7, 2008	Santa Barbara Luncheon Meeting
January 8, 2008	GSFV Business Meeting Sherman Oaks Fashion Square Community Room
January 13, 2008	Hollywood Salute to the Men of Hollywood Woman's Club of Hollywood
January 14, 2008	Verdugo Hills Luncheon Meeting Pasadena Women's City Club
February 10, 2008	Hollywood – 21st Century Women in Leadership Roles Susan E. Docherty, Western Regional Manager, General Motors
February 11, 2008	Santa Barbara – "Workplace Leadership"
February 12, 2008	Joint meeting hosted by San Fernando "International Woman of the 21st Century"
March 9, 2008	Annual Susan B. Anthony Luncheon BPW Hollywood's 87th Anniversary
March 10, 2008	Santa Barbara – Women's History Month and International Women's Day
March 19, 2008	Joint meeting hosted by Burbank "21st Century's History Makers" Burbank Holiday Inn
March 16, 2008	Burbank Day at the Races – Santa Anita

**REGISTRATION INSIDE
UNIVERSITY CLUB, CSUN
JOINT WINTER CONFERENCE
and Sierra Mar District BPW
Valley Sunset District
Saturday, January 19, 2008**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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VALLEY SUNSET DISTRICT**