

# Girls Inc. of Carpinteria

## Women of Inspiration Luncheon

By JEANETTE CASILLAS / CASA

**J**OINING IN ON THE MARCH CELEBRATION of “Women’s History Month,” Girls Inc. of Carpinteria hosted the third annual Women of Inspiration luncheon where they recognize and honor the great women who have made an impact in our community. This year’s event honored three women, Julia Springer, Tina Fanucchi, and Michelle Perry for their contributions to Santa Barbara County communities.

“This event is one of the three major fundraisers we have each year,” shared Ruthie Tremmel, Girls Inc. of Carpinteria Executive Director. “We hope to bring awareness to Girls Inc. of Carpinteria and raise money for scholarships for the girls and for our programs.”

The number of women honored at the event has changed throughout the years. The first year ten women were honored, six the second year, and this year only honored three. “This change was made so that the event could focus more on the honorees, allowing them more time to speak,” noted Tremmel.

For the first time this year, the honorees were divided into three categories: Pioneer (Springer), Icon (Fanucchi), and



Tina Fanucchi, WOI Honoree; Ruthie Tremmel, Girls Inc. of Carpinteria Executive Director; Julia Springer, WOI Honoree; and Michelle Perry, WOI Honoree



Erika Sanchez; Crystal Santana; Mariana Vega; Tania Martinez; and Jessica Rodriguez

Emerging Leader (Perry). The event featured a keynote address by daytime television actress, dancer, and author Finola Hughes. Paula Lopez, anchor woman for KEYT, served as emcee.

Several young women were invited to speak and take part in the luncheon. “We would love to have more of our girls attend but due to school it is difficult,” said Tremmel. “The girls are what this organization is about. It is the reason we are here. The girls’ words speak volumes.”

Tremmel noted that for the past three years, the event has raised approximately \$25,000. All proceeds raised will support programs and scholarships to benefit Girls Inc. of Carpinteria in their mission to inspire girls and young women to be strong, smart, and bold.

“The highlight for me each year is listening to the girls tell their stories. I always walk away from this event knowing that I am in the right place and at the right time. The girls keep me motivated,” concluded Tremmel.

For more information call 684-6364 or visit [www.girlsinc-carp.org](http://www.girlsinc-carp.org).



Dorothy Campbell, Co-Founder of the Carpinteria’s Girls Inc. and Patricia Densmore



Ginni Dreier, Owner Dreier Museum; Hanna Dreier of Dreier Museum; Monica Spear, Girls Inc. of SB Executive Director; and Sarah Stokes, Board President at GI of Santa Barbara



Nancy Swanson, Executive Director of Linked Foundation; Mary McCarty, Venoco; and Nico Cervantes of Nico Designs



Paula Lopez, KEYT Anchor; Tracy Beard, Event Chair; and Finola Hughes, Keynote Speaker

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