California Woman

Part 2

Winter 2025

WHY HASN'T THE UNITED STATES ELECTED A WOMEN PRESIDENT?



I've been thinking a lot about the presidential election and wondering why it's always a white man (with one exception) being sworn in on January 20. Other far less progressive nations have women presidents and prime ministers.

In October, Mexico's first woman president was sworn into office. Mexico! Land of Machismo! Claudia Sheinbaum became the 66th president, making history as the first woman and the first Jewish person to hold the office.

Many other countries around the world have had women in top leadership positions. Here are some current examples. The prime ministers of Iceland, Bangladesh, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda are women, as are the presidents of Georgia and Uganda.

So, I asked my little AI pal at ChatGPT to give me some explanations to share with you. Here's what she told me.

Historical and Cultural Factors: The U.S. has a long history of male-dominated politics. The founding fathers were all men, and for much of its history, women were excluded from political power. This has created a deeply ingrained cultural expectation of male leadership.

Political System: The U.S. political system, with its two-party dominance, makes it difficult for outsiders, including women, to break through. In many other countries, parliamentary systems allow for coalition government, which can provide more opportunities for women to rise to leadership positions.

Media Representation: Women in U.S. politics often face harsher scrutiny from the media compared to their male counterparts. This can discourage women from running for office and can affect public perception of their capabilities.

Gender Bias: Despite progress in gender equality, implicit biases still exist. Voters may unconsciously favor male candidates, believing them to be more competent or authoritative.

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Role Models and Mentorship: In countries with female leaders, young women have role models to look up to, which can inspire them to pursue political careers. The lack of female president in the U.S. means fewer role models for aspiring politicians.

Campaign Financing: Running for president in the U.S. requires significant financial resources. Women often face more challenges in fundraising, as they may have less access to wealthy networks and donors.

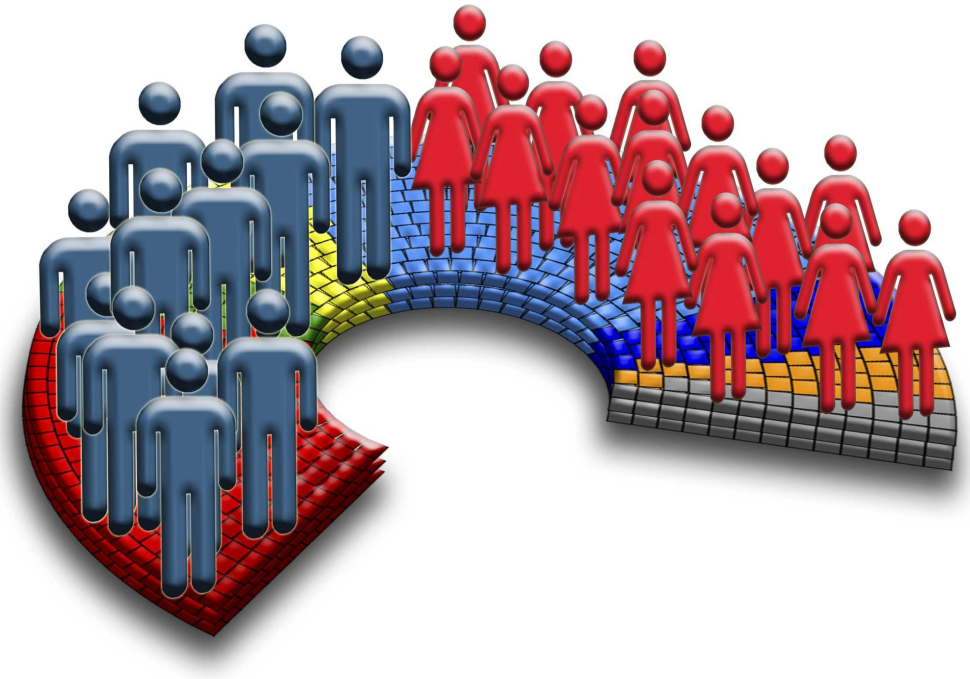
In short, the lack of a female U.S. president thus far is shaped by a combination of societal attitudes, structural barriers in politics, and historical gender inequality.

My little AI pal isn't terribly encouraging, but she does add that there is growing progress toward gender equality in politics. For example, nine states currently have female governors and record numbers of women serve in Congress—126 in the House of Representatives and 25 in the U.S. Senate.

What can we as women, and as BPW members, do to increase awareness and efforts to address these barriers so that there will be more opportunities for women to be elected to our highest office?

Think about it!

Rosemary Enzer



JUSTICE DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION (JDEI)

- Committee Chair - Sher Singh
- Present Committee Members: Monique Lee, Daneene Monroe Rusnak
- Committee Mission:

The JDEI Committee works to build awareness for and uphold the tenets of, the JDEI

Initiative that has a focus on:

• Encouraging a diverse membership across generations,

• Cultivating leaders from all walks of life and at every phase of their careers,

• Creating a more vibrant space for virtual interactions that span across the nation and globe and

• Increasing our relevancy by aligning with like-minded organizations so that we can achieve our mission more fully.

We post our events on the NFBPWC webpage and Monique has shared in her newsletter local, CA state, and internationally all we did.

NEW BIENNIAL TERM

As JDEI Chair, I am inviting you, at the start of this new Season, to join our 2025 JDEI Committee standing for Justice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion.

• It is my intension to speak with clubs and states **to give you full details on our commitments.**

• I am offering a meeting (*date to be specified*) but most likely on a third Monday at 3:00pm, this being the time we usually met in the past as it was suitable to many from New York to LA.

• My plan is to do 4 presentations over this year.

• The committee will invite panelists over (3 to 4) on different related topics.

• This year Committee members are interested in continuing the work we need to do on this subject.

• My wish is that, when so many things have gone wrong in the world, 2025 will be the year when BPW members respect and promote these 4 powerful JDEI principles which may not transform the world, but would certainly improve it in no small measure.

• In particular, our committee feels it is important for BPW to continue to have dialogues on these very important topics and their effects on women in the workplace and in all aspects of society. We must continue to support, bring awareness, and explore the opportunities for all women.

I warmly invite you, dedicated CFBPW members, to join our JDEI Committee by reaching out to me at

dei@nfbpwc.org. Thank you.

Sher Singh (JDEI) Chair



Arts & Culture Standing Committee Team – Coming Soon!

If you are a BPW member and interested - inbox me.

BPW International

BPW members globally – please reach out to me if you are interested in being a part of Arts & Culture Standing committee. Deadline for applications is **1/31/2025.** Just inbox me and I will give you further information.

Also, if you have any interest in other standing committees let me know.

The committees are:
Agriculture, Arts & Culture
Business, Trade, Technology,
Development, Training, Employment
Environment & Sustainable Development
Health
Legislation
Public Relations
Projects



Resilient Women:
The Intersection of Transpersonal Psychology and Leadership

In the shadow of towering bureaucracy, under the weight of relentless political power plays, I faced the defining challenge of my career.

As Chief of Finance in a United Nations agency—a male-dominated world where few women dared to climb the hierarchy—I was confronted with corruption and power struggles that tested not just my professional integrity, but my very sense of self. It was a battle fought not only in boardrooms but also in the inner recesses of my mind and spirit.

The environment was hostile. Corruption was rampant, and the corridors of power were dominated by men who dismissed the voice of women in leadership. My position required me to oversee financial integrity, but my efforts to introduce transparency were met with resistance and outright hostility. It was as if every step toward justice unraveled another knot of entrenched privilege. The battle was fierce and isolating, stretching over three to four years before I won my case at the International Labour Organization. (ILO)

But victories like this do not come from sheer determination alone. Something deeper was needed—something that no leadership manual or corporate handbook could teach. This battle led me back to school, not to pursue answers from traditional sources, but to delve into the transformative field of **transpersonal psychology**.

Transpersonal psychology became my lifeline, my compass, and ultimately, my armor. This field, which integrates the psychological, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of human experience, offered me tools to navigate not just the external chaos but also my internal turmoil. Through my studies, I realized that resilience is not about forcing oneself to "bounce back." It is about transformation—about using adversity as a catalyst to grow into a more authentic, grounded, and powerful version of oneself.

While the political struggles around me raged on, I turned inward. In moments of crisis, I relied on meditation to quiet my racing mind, reflection to reconnect with my core values, and visualization to hold onto the future I was fighting for.

…/...

These practices were not just survival mechanisms; they were acts of defiance. Every time I centered myself, every time I returned to my purpose, I was reclaiming my power in a system designed to strip it away.

For women in leadership, this kind of resilience is not optional; it is essential. We operate in systems that often resist our presence, let alone our voices. Whether it's in corporate boardrooms, government institutions, or international organizations, the challenges we face—gender bias, ethical dilemmas, systemic exclusion—demand more than technical expertise. They demand a deep well of inner strength, a connection to something greater than ourselves, and a fierce commitment to our values.

But resilience is not just an individual act; it is a collective call to action. My experience at the United Nations was not unique. It is the story of countless women fighting battles in male-dominated spaces. What makes our fight transformative is our ability to rise, not just for ourselves, but for the generations of women who will follow.

Transpersonal psychology offers a blueprint for this transformation. It teaches us that true power comes from within, from aligning our actions with our purpose and drawing strength from the interconnectedness of life. It is a path that embraces the complexity of human experience—the heartbreak, the struggle, and the triumph—and turns it into a force for change.

Winning my case at the ILO was a personal victory, but it was also a testament to what women can achieve when we refuse to give in. The battle scarred me, yes, but it also shaped me. It led me to uncover the tools that not only helped me survive but thrive. These tools are now part of my mission: to empower other women to face their own challenges with courage, authenticity, and an unshakeable belief in their worth.

To every woman in leadership who feels the weight of a system built to exclude her, I say this: resilience is your birthright. It is the quiet strength that carries you through sleepless nights, the unwavering voice that says "no" to compromise, and the fire that burns brighter with every attempt to extinguish it.

The intersection of transpersonal psychology and leadership is where we reclaim our power—not through force, but through transformation. It is where we learn that resilience is not about being unbreakable; it is about rising, time and time again, until the world bends to our truth.

The fight for justice and integrity in leadership is far from over, but it is a fight we are ready for. Let us meet it not just with strategy, but with spirit. Let us lead not just with authority, but with authenticity. And let us always, always remember that resilience is not the absence of struggle—it is the art of turning struggle into strength.

Elisabeth Carrio
https://elisabeth-carrio.com





CFBPW: A MENTORING SISTERHOOD?

This year is my fortieth year as a CFBPW member. They have been forty years of challenge, excitement, enrichment, anger, heartache and love, I have always been a joiner starting with Brownie Scouts to Senior Girl Scouts; Sodality in my church; Officers Wives club and family Services as a military wife and Toastmistress International.
I enjoyed them and they gave me a feeling of belonging in my nomadic military life. The comfort and support of being with other women with the same interests and goals was and is a vital part of my life. It helps me to thrive.

It has been BPW that has compacted all of attributes that I attained into one organization. The leadership and social skills of Girl Scouting; the sodality of women of faith; the responsibilities that go with rank; and the desire to help other through Family Services social work. I have been able to be on committees, learn Parliamentary Procedure and conduct meeting. I have learned how to and participated in lobbying in Washing DC, there I met members from all over the country as we visited official offices to champion our causes. The ERA being one of them.

The privilege of serving as CFBPW State President was unexpected and overwhelming. But, like in all my other BPW leadership positions I had mentors who guided, assisted and criticized. They were women like Joyce Morrissey Past President rip; Jackie Melvin Past President rip; Mary Stilwell rip; Ruth of Santa Barbara. The National President Diane Polignin. The support of my Club and my District. I had mentors.

It has been some time since we have addressed the mentoring aspects of our BPW mission. Are we mentoring? Are we encouraging, instructing new members? Do we recognize and encourage leadership talent in our members? Are we respecting the wisdom and experience of our long time seasoned members? I don't know, if anybody does how can we address it?

A Sisterhood can only thrive if everybody is included let's make CFBPW a mentoring sisterhood together. Look what we have done with the ERA by struggling and working together. We can do it!

Constance J. (Connie) Stahl
CFBPW Past President 2005-07
Chico Club



Hollywood BPW

is still intact after the sad and sudden passing of Club President Marjory Hopper.

Happy to report that we have 10 members:

•Armen Yedalyan, President

•Lusine Aleksanian

•Delia Mabagos -- Member since the early 1980s

•Jesse Espinosa-- Another longtime member who moved to Sacramento & continues to renew!

•Ashley-Maria -- PIONEERS IN SKIRTS filmmaker

•Dual Members: Linda Wilson and C-L Jacobson

•Rosemary Lord--President & Historian of the Woman's Club of Hollywood --

La Brea & Hollywood Blvd.
(Interesting note: Their parking lot holds over 100 cars!)

•Student Members Emily Richmond, granddaughter of Conejo's Connie Hansen-- UCLA

•Leah Rivera - Daughter of Cherri-Lou's friend, Beth, Owner of Hawk Hill Ranch and Into-Blooms Florist, a Woman-Owned Home Based Business.

Leah is a graduate student at Pepperdine and lives in Marina Del Rey and is looking forward to buying business card space on National 's website for her adorable Animal Crochets.

~~~HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD~~~



Lynn Brandstater

(Resting in peace. Passed away this past August)

and Cherri-Lou Jacobson -- Pickwick, Burbank 2019



Cherri-Lou Jacobson
State Membership Chair
Simi Valley CA

WARS

FIRES

FLOODS

EARTH-QUAKES



THE PEOPLE, thousands of whom were trapped in the ruins of Caen, were hurriedly evacuated after the British and Canadians took the city. When Fletcher Martin sketched this scene on Place du Lycée, near the spot where William the Conqueror was buried, the Germans were battering the town. These homeless and bereaved survivors tried to control their growing panic. A dozen wars in the past 800 years have desecrated the Norman treasures of Caen, sometimes called the "Norman Athens."

XR

PANDENIC

TSUNAMI

STORMS

HURRI-CANES

EVACUATION

A good time to list what to grab if you need to evacuate from your home.

--Meds

--Passport (You will already have your Driver's License and credit cards on you.)
--Besides underwear and extra pants/shirts/socks, grab an extra pair of shoes, your COAT, a couple pieces of jewelry only IF TIME permits, and a robe ... in case you are in an evacuation center sleeping on a cot amongst a hundred others.
--Now what else, please? What did I forget? A brush and comb, toothbrush, phone, computer, and from Bessie * Join in to add to this, please. A fav thing from the house?
--I go around clockwise to check since time is of the essence and we will be running on nervous energy.
--I had to evacuate due to **Tidal Waves** in Hawaii and having a blanket seemed to help. If you have not experienced a police car announcing to leave immediately, hope that you never have to.
--The silver lining is that we learn from and support each other here in BPW. How good is that?
--Please think of other preparedness ideas to share in the next issue. I need to stop and send this to Monique before the **MIDNIGHT** Deadline or beautiful Monique will turn me into a pumpkin!
Post Script: I found that if you have a personal insurance agent, they have all the necessary policy * phone numbers at their office.
--Pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens and Walmart and Costco can always give you a 3 to 7 day supply of your meds if you explain the situation.
--We have seen fire victims going through the rubble searching for anything so I have a few silly collectibles that I have in a TRADER JOE'S that is always in my car trunk.
Wrapped hard candy, too.
—Scissors
—First-Aid Kit
—Paper towels
—A couple of trash bags
—Windex
—Umbrella
What else???

Time to digitize fav photos~

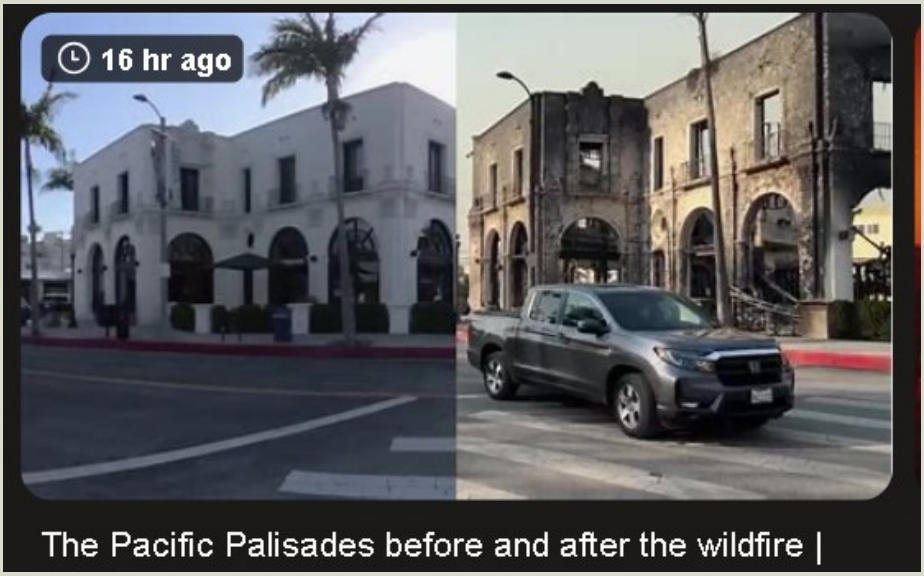
Cherri-Lou Jacobson
Simi Valley CA

Input from Bessie

I will add pets, pet food, meds, and water dish.

A bottle or two of water.

And if you don't remember it, write the combination of your safe!



https://www.reuters.com/world/us/see-pacific-palisades-before-after-devastating-los-angeles-fires-2025-01-11/

WE SHALL NEVER FORGET ...

It was The Summer of 2022 and Conejo Valley BPW members, Cherrl Jacobson and Sammy Kay Beron were looking forward to the KENNY LOGGINS CONCERT at the Hollywood Bowl. Thoughts of dinner in Sammy's *Bowl Box and listening to the song, "Footloose" were in our minds; but, that morning the show was canceled suddenly because Kenny Loggins had Covid.

So, C & S went to Duke's Restaurant in Malibu instead and on the drive down the canyon decided to drive all around the PALISADES. We now think of how fortunate we were to be able to see Pacific Palisades because it has forever changed with the destruction from the recent wildfire.

Do you have a similar experience? Please share it.

~CJ~

*The Hollywood Bowl Box Seats up at the front near the stage are passed down from generation to generation unless one becomes available to purchase.



Cherri-Lou Jacobson



Madam Lu is 3rd from left.

L to Rt Marjory Hopper, Rosemary Enzer, Former VP Lu,
Sandy Thompson, Linda Wilson, Anne-Marie Johnson

Back row L to Rt Jimmy Wu, Deputy Outreach L.A. County Supervisors.
Mary Ann Weston, Cherri-Lou Jacobson, Lynn Wen. Marie Clifton, Lynn's Husband Mr. Wen

March 2019

East Los Angeles



The day that the former and first female
Vice President of Taiwan Madam Lu
visited and spoke about her trials and tribulations.

Those were the days!



Here is my friend Marge when she was a child back East~~~

Marge is a retired teacher who was very active in Science Fairs. She and I, Cherrl-Lou, taught together at one of California's top elementary schools.

Marge is 2nd from the right.

Her mother was born in Berlin and was her father's war bride.



As for the fella in the photon he is The Mayor of Simi Valley which the Chumash used to call the VALLEY OF THE WIND.

The Mayor just won re-election.

I did not vote for him. (Sorry, Marge, but he has not done anything about the litter bug problem in the city so no, no vote from Ms. Cherrl.)

Cherri-Lou Jacobson

Just a few thoughts and memories ...



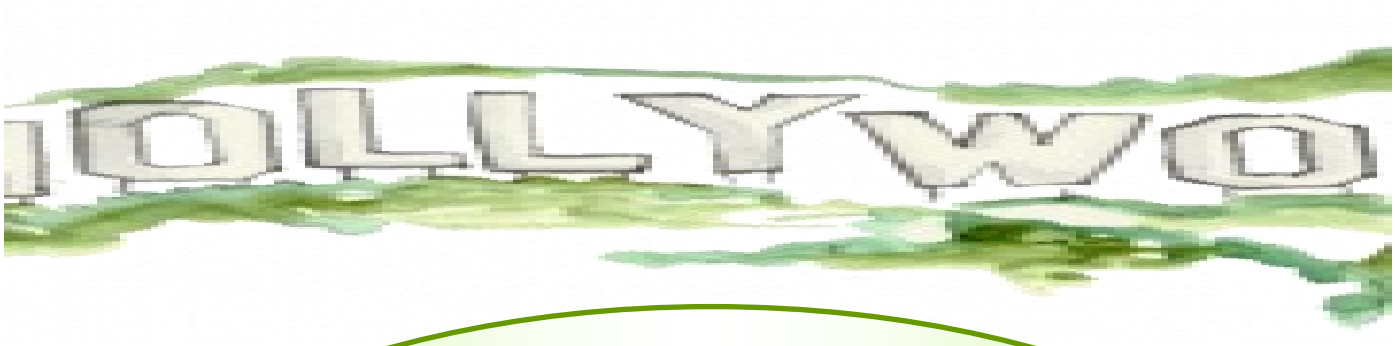


Before donating this I wanted to show that this branch is from Christmas time 1963 when we moved from the island of O'ahu and when visiting our Grandpa Roy Hedlund (from Stockholm), we drove up to Mt. Hamilton.

My mother, Louise cut this MANZANITA branch to take to decorate our hotel room not knowing that it was against the law to remove MANZANITA.

Now days floral wholesalers sell a lot of MANZANITA branches-- and, some are very tall!

Just wanted to share ...



HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

was what we'd say all the time but since it was in danger of being burned down in the recent Hollywood Fire, it now takes on an even more special meaning.

Our Hollywood BPW was saved from dissolving after the death of Ms. Marjory Hopper so I like to think that Marjory was keeping her fingers crossed while praying. Whew!

Marjory is resting in peace up on a hill in Forest Lawn in West Covina.

I'm looking forward to taking flowers out to her gravesite on a nice Spring day. I know that Lynn Brandstater liked Gladiolus in any color because my flower shop did her mother's funeral casket.

But, I do not know Marjory's favorite flower ? Most likely Linda will know, she and Marjory went to everything together.

Perhaps it would be fun to poll everyone asking their fav flower...

My shop's claim to fame was that Wayne Gretzky's was decorated twice by us before he moved away. The family and property and house managers gave us free rein!

CJ



My neighbors and I are collecting real nice items for fire victims and I have 2 LALIQUE birds to donate as I want to give them hope!

Birds of happiness so to speak...



University of California, Berkeley, Ca

The Berkeley Club members should know that their new student member was home, near me out here, in Wood Ranch which is across from the Reagan Presidential Library, and we had our twosome BPW meeting. Her college courses sound tough!

Cherri-Lou Jacobson
Conejo Valley, East L.A./Montebello, & Hollywood BPW Clubs ~~

The founder of Little Caesars Pizza, Mike Ilitch paid Rosa Park's rent for over 10 years. When Mike learned that the 81-year-old civil rights activist had been robbed and beaten in her Detroit home in 1994, he wanted to move her to a safer apartment, so he established a trust to cover the housing expenses and continued paying her rent every single month until she died in 2005



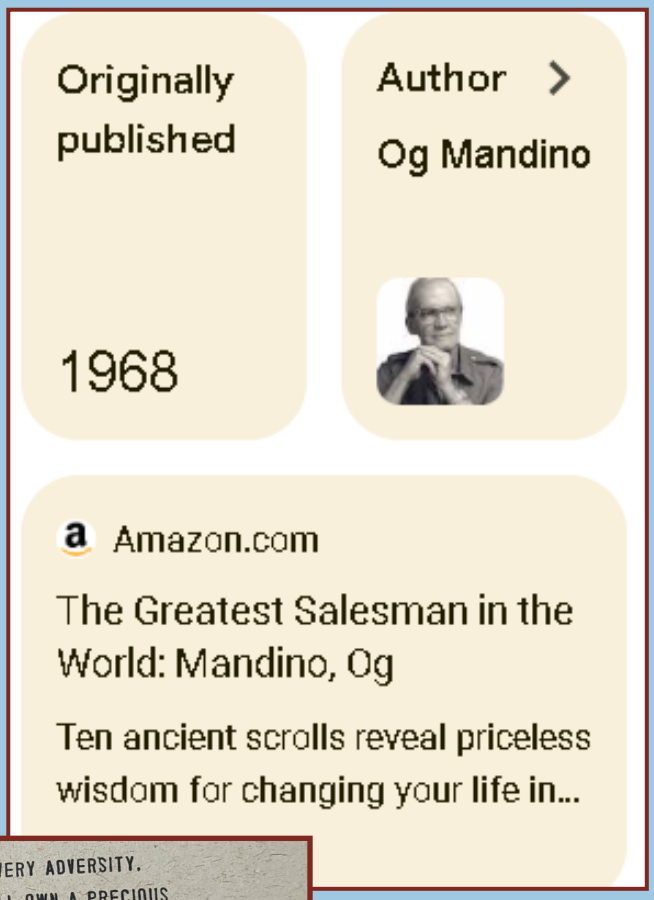


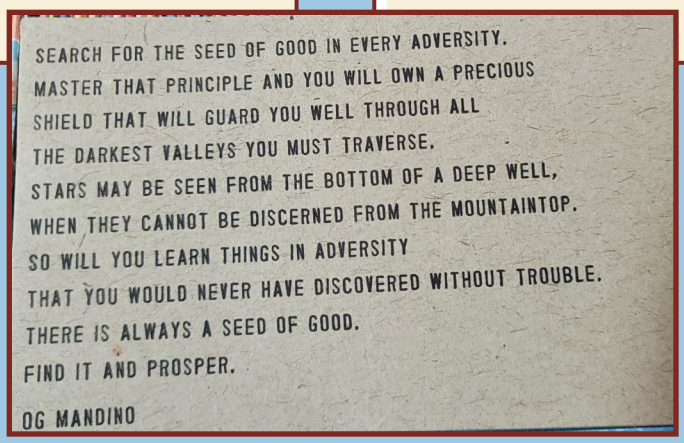


To-Day's Book ...

The Greatest Salesman In the World by Og Mandino | Animated Book Summary













Baby Shower

Just Mindy (@justmindy)
Here are some rules of etiquette I have seen young women break recently:

Your bridal or baby shower should not be hosted by yourself or your mother.

It can be hosted by your sister, a cousin, a friend or a group of people.
It is considered rude for you or your mother to host.

Cherri-Lou Jacobson









In Memory Of
Janet Elaine Walls
May 31, 1942-January 5, 2025

In our records, Janet was a member in 2017 but her involvement and membership go back many years prior to 2017.

She attended the NFBPWC conference in Hawaii in Joyce Morrissey's CFBPW presidency which was in from 1987-88 (*thank you Linda Wilson for that handy Sierra Mar Directory*). Janet was a member of California's Downtown Capitol BPW Club.

According to Katherine Winans, Janet's sister, Janet *"was on the BPW fringes for a long time, serving as my BPW chauffer for years. Drove me to BPW meetings in Sacramento for 24 years, and she used to cart me to meetings in Ontario."*

Janet was in the residential mortgage business for 50 years and she finished with her own business doing Quality Control auditing.

She was also active in her community. She served as president of the HOA, volunteered with Dangberg Home Ranch Park, worked with local ESL project and worked elections for many years.

Janet, our BPW sister will be dearly missed.



CALIFORNIA WOMAN
WINTER EDITION 2025

My heartfelt gratitude goes to the following contributing members, whose generosity and expertise brought this Winter Edition to life:

Anne Marie Johnson, President

Cherri-Lou Jacobson

Constance J. (Connie) Stahl

Elisabeth Carrio

Karen Roberson

Katherine Winans

Linda Wilson

Michelle Husby

Rosemary Enzer

Sher Singh

Trudy Waldroop

Very special extra thanks to Linda Wilson whose unwavering support as Content Reviewer has helped improve this edition tremendously.

Monique Lee, *Editor*

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF
BUSINESS and PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

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