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## March 2023 Newsletter



### *Message from the President*

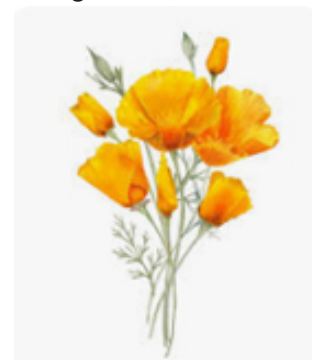
Dear Santa Barbara Associates and Friends,

I am honored to be your incoming President and would like to acknowledge the exceptional leadership provided by **Sue Larsen** during her tenure. I know I speak for all of us as we express our deep gratitude for her stewardship of Santa Barbara Associates during challenging times. Following in her footsteps, I have a great appreciation for the collective wisdom of our members that will guide us into the future of SBA. I look forward to working with Sue and our wonderful board members as we continue with the original mission to provide opportunities for members to network professionally and connect socially.

It was a full house for the **Annual Meeting** held on February 23rd in the main dining room of the University Club. Emcee **Calla Gold** guided us through an exciting program with featured speaker **Michele Jackman** keeping us entertained throughout. **Marci Friedlander** presented **Sharon Van Gundy as the Woman of Distinction** with a heartwarming introduction, and Sharon gave us an equally heartwarming thank you in return! To finish the evening, **Sue Larsen** graciously received a gift of thanks for her service from the Board, on behalf of all members.

Read on for more news about SBA events and activities and please be in touch with news of your own! We would love to share it with your fellow members.

Warm regards,



Susan Bradley, SBA President 2023

## Santa Barbara Associates 2023 Board of Directors

### Executive Board

Susan Bradley, President  
Lori Sullivan, Vice President  
Marci Friedlander, Secretary  
Carla Long, Treasurer  
Sue Larsen, Past President  
Sharon Van Gundy, Board Advisor

### Committees:

**Program Committee** - Chris Bashforth, Chair  
**Hospitality** -  
**Membership** - Marci Friedlander, Chair  
**Website** - Lori Sullivan, Point Person  
**Newsletter** - Kim Larsen, Point Person

### Board Members

Barbara Bartolome  
Chris Bashforth  
Tanis Hammond  
Denise Lockhart  
Ginny Milhoan  
Cecilia Ordonez



### Thank You...

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our Board, and to those who have done so much over the past few years: **Carla Long**, Treasurer who has kept us financially good. **Marci Friedlander**, Secretary, Membership Chair and overall go-to person. **Lori Sullivan** for being my backup and guiding me on the web-site issues. **Denise Lockhart** who has been a president and came back to guide us through the tough times. And **Sharon Van Gundy**, a past-president and advisor and now "Woman of Distinction", for all the help through the years. And to ALL our Board Members, who come to the meetings after a long day of work, I thank you.

Just another thanks to **Robert Ayers** for doing our photos and helping with the tech side of things. And a great big thank you to **Nikki Ayers!** Also to **Marina King**, who does our flyers/Zoom-Master, and **Christine Gregory** who handles our newsletter and more. I couldn't have done this without you all!



Sue Larsen, SBA President 2021-2022



## Santa Barbara Associates Woman of Distinction 2022

### Sharon Van Gundy

## *Presented by Marci Friedlander*

This year's Woman of Distinction has been a long-term active member of the Santa Barbara Associates.

I first met her in the mid 90's when I first joined Santa Barbara Associates. She was so outgoing and full of energy and kindness – I felt especially welcomed by her as a new member of the organization.

Nikki Ayers said the first time she met our recipient, it was at the Annual meeting where she was to be presented as the next SBA president. She wasn't supposed to chair the meeting, but the outgoing president at the time called her about a half-hour before the meeting started, and told her she couldn't make it. She handled the meeting with grace and style. One of the members who was the event chair, guided her through the night. In Nikki's words, if she were put in our recipient's position, *"she would have passed out."*



During her three terms as president, our award recipient moved us along from having everything done on paper and sent by mail, to using technology to perform these time-consuming and labor-intensive tasks that included newsletters, ballots, and anything else members needed. She invested a lot of her time setting up a new website, reaching out to new members, and keeping things together during one of many transitions of our organization.

Due to some unusual circumstances, besides leading the organization as president, she had to take over the treasurer's position. At that time, I was the secretary. I would pick up the mail at the P.O. Box, and leave it at my front door for her to pick up on her way to her office. I was worried about how she would be able to do everything – she and her husband were raising 5 children, she worked full-time in high level technology positions, and at one point was sponsoring a musical group she invited to live with her family!

Along the way, she has enjoyed additional grandchildren, several job promotions, and has been an asset to the SBA Boards for many years after her time as president. She is currently an Administrator of Information Technology Services at the Santa Barbara Education Office.

It is my pleasure to announce our **Woman of Distinction, Sharon Van Gundy**.



## ***A Thank You Letter & Poem to Santa Barbara Associates by Sharon Van Gundy***

My Dear Santa Barbara Associates,

I am honored beyond measure to have been selected as the Woman of Distinction 2022. You are each gifted in so many ways, and I am blessed to know and enjoy these many years with you.

I thank you, for this special honor, and I want you to know that in my heart, you are each a Woman of Distinction.

Marci, thank you for the sweet words you shared. I had forgotten that our very first website was developed by my teenage son, Matthew (when websites were just becoming known). It was so fun for me that Matthew, now 41, called me following the meeting and we were able to reminisce together about those days.

So many memories were shared... I marvel that these were pulled together without me knowing.

And Michele, what a fun and timely presentation you shared. A marvelous, fun, and wonderful evening together, all around.

Love and prayers for you all,  
Sharon



## ***Santa Barbara Associates***

*Friendships, life's lessons and business we share  
Beautiful hearts that really care  
Lifting one another high  
It is together that we thrive.*

*No two alike, in any way  
Stimulating conversations ensue each day  
We laugh, we cry, we lend a hand  
We're not afraid to take a stand*

*We're women first, business close second  
Opinions, advice, sometimes - course correction  
And when life sends those tidal waves,  
Friendships grow deeper, new paths paved.*

*40 years - relationships strong  
All that we need among members is found.  
Whether legal or housing, referrals, accounting,  
Investing, prayer or helpful counseling.*

*The thing that makes Santa Barbara Associates so special  
is that we're all different, yet each one essential.  
A beautiful picture of God's Creation,  
this tapestry woven yields joy and elation.*

*I'm personally humbled to be in association  
with marvelous women, exciting occupations  
I wish for you Proverbs 31 business-woman-success:  
Courage, Wisdom, Kindness... Your Best.*

***- Sharon Van Gundy***

## ***Photos from our 42nd Annual Meeting***

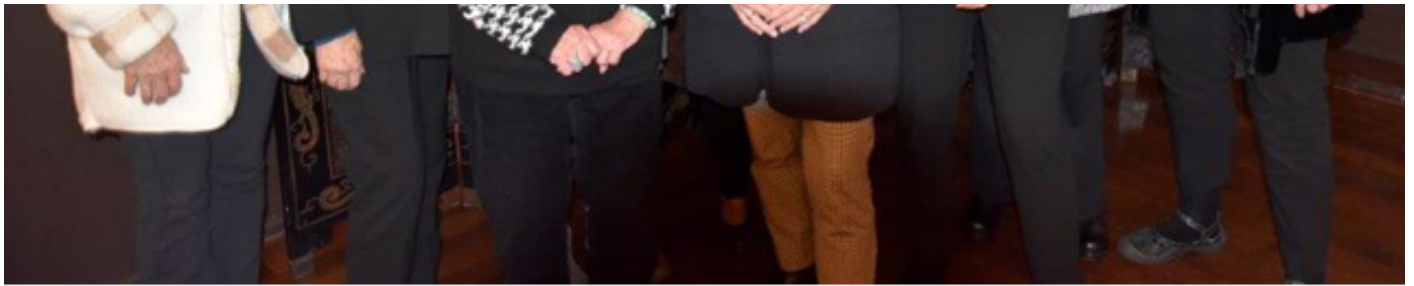
***Thursday, February 23, 2023 at the University Club***











[Read the article in Noozhawk about our meeting!](#)

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## ***What Are Our Members Doing?***

### ***Lori Sullivan - A Trip to Australia & New Zealand!***

My husband, Joe, and I spent the month of January traveling around Australia and New Zealand. We began the trip in Sydney where we welcomed 2023 with the Sydney firework spectacular!!



From Sydney we traveled to Port Douglas and spent a week exploring the rainforest, waterfalls, and my favorite, the Great Barrier Reef. On one of our snorkel trips we were greeted by a pod of close to 100 spinner dolphins!





After two weeks in Australia we flew to the South Island of New Zealand. Our first stop in New Zealand was to see the tiny blue penguins on the Otago Peninsula.



We spent the following two weeks hiking parts of the Milford Sound and Kelper Trek, and did several vertical hikes in Queenstown. The highlight was a three day, 26-mile hike across Abel Tasman National Park in the north part of the South Island. We finished up our 70 miles of hiking in the Bay of Islands outside of Auckland. We were there when they closed the Auckland Airport after 16 inches of rain! Luckily we only had 4 inches of rain and still managed to get in all our hikes. A bucket list trip for both of us and we can't wait to go back!





**"Thank You!"**

**from Kim Larsen**

**Family Services Manager, Friendship Center**

***24th Annual Festival of Hearts Fundraiser  
Saturday, February 4, 2023  
at the Rosewood Miramar Beach Resort***

**Cecilia Ordonez, Marcie Friedlander, and Barbara Bartolome** all attended the **Festival of Hearts** fundraiser at the Rosewood Miramar Resort on 2/4/23 in support of the Friendship Center.

These lovely associates, dressed in Kentucky Derby style finery, enjoyed a delicious lunch, fun auction, and the chance to support fellow SBA member, Kim Larsen. Thank you for your support!



***Members, tell us what you are doing!***

Please send an e-mail to [sbradley@sbma.net](mailto:sbradley@sbma.net) with a few lines about an event, a trip, or other things you are involved with. We would love to hear about it!  
Thank you, Susan Bradley

***Calendar of Events***

*(March - No Meeting)*

**Thursday, April 13, 2023**  
SBA Luncheon Meeting  
Noon / University Club



*(July - No Meeting)*

**Thursday, August 10, 2023**  
"End of Summer Party"  
6:00 pm / University Club

**Thursday, September 14, 2023**  
SBA Luncheon Meeting  
Noon / University Club

*(October - No Meeting)*

*(November - No Meeting)*

**Thursday, December 7, 2023**



**with Guest Speaker**  
**Greg Gorga**  
Executive Director  
Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

Holiday Party  
6:00 pm / University Club

*(May - No Meeting)*

**Thursday, June 15, 2023**  
SBA Luncheon Meeting  
Noon / University Club



**Watch your Inbox  
for details!**



### ***March Birthdays!***

**Joy Hollman**  
March 10

**Suzie Shomer**  
March 22

**Lynn Stewart**  
March 27



***Membership is Everyone's Job!***

**Annual Membership Dues**

**New SBA Membership**

**Membership Dues for 2022-2023**

If you have paid, great! **If not, please PAY ASAP! They were due June 30th:**

[\*\*CLICK HERE!\*\*](#)

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**Your Member Profile**

Do you need to update your member profile? Change your contact information? Please review and update your Membership Profile information.

(Contact [Sue Larsen](#) if you forgot your login and password.)

[\*\*CLICK HERE!\*\*](#)

If you know a prospective member please contact [Marci Friedlander](#).

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**Individual Membership in the University Club**

Since the Santa Barbara Associates is now deemed to be a **Firm Member of the Club**, members of the Associates for more than a year are able to join the club without an initiation fee and only have to pay their monthly dues. **For more information contact Susan Bradley (805) 884-6427.**

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***SBA Sponsorship Opportunity!***

***Support the Newsletter & Website, and Advertise Your Business!***

**Become a Member Partner!** Advertise your business in our monthly newsletter and on the **NEW [Marketplace](#)** page on our website for **\$125.00 per year**. We'll post your business information to our monthly newsletter and on our website for one year!

[\*\*CLICK HERE!\*\*](#)

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***Thank You Sponsors!***

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**Santa Barbara Associates**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

*Women in Leadership Positions, Making Connections,  
Sharing Expertise, Inspiring Confidence & Encouraging Growth*

**Contact Marci Friedlander**

**Marci.Friedlander@cox.net**

SantaBarbara-Associates.org

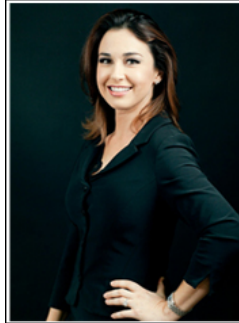


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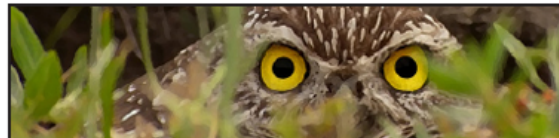


**Carla Long**

Director of Planned Giving  
Cottage Health

(805) 962-1100  
CottageHealth.org

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