



## WOMEN OF THE YEAR 2006

### PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA



P A R A I S O  
V I N E Y A R D S



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**Thank you to our sponsors,  
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forces with the Professional  
Women's Network of the  
Monterey Peninsula to  
make this a successful and  
memorable event.**

#### ■ PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA NAMES PHYLLIS GRILLO-WEINBRENNER, WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2006



In front of a crowd of nearly 150 members, friends, local political representatives, and family members, the Professional Women's Network of the Monterey Peninsula (PWN), in conjunction with

Presenting Sponsor Monterey County Bank, honored Phyllis Grillo-Weinbrenner of Sweeney, Grillo & Associates as their 2006 Woman of the Year. The Woman of the Year honors the member whose outstanding accomplishments reflect the ideals and goals of PWN and exemplifies the professional woman. Phyllis was chosen not only for her years of dedication to PWN, but also for her many contributions to the business community throughout Monterey County.

The reception to honor Phyllis was held on November 1st, 2006 at the beautiful Embassy Suites on Monterey Bay in Seaside and featured the award winning wines of Paraiso Vineyards, Wine Sponsor, delicious appetizers, a silent auction and the presentation of a long list of awards from local politicians, including the offices of Senator Sam Farr, Congressman Abel Maldonado, Assembly John Laird, Monterey County's Board of Supervisors, Mayors from the Cities of Carmel, Marina, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Sand City, Seaside and Salinas.

“We are honored that Phyllis is a member of our organization,” said LuAnne Hutchings of My Private Liaison and the 2005 Woman of the Year. “Phyllis strongly believes in the power of women and has worked tirelessly to improve our organization as it has grown to over 200 members. In addition to running her own business and raising a large family, her boundless energy allows her to contribute to the Monterey County business community in countless ways. We are proud to have her represent PWN for the upcoming year.”

Grillo-Weinbrenner continually demonstrates her commitment to giving back to the community that has given her so much. She is involved in a number of non-profits, including serving as the Secretary to the Professional Women's Network of the Monterey Peninsula, the Program Chair of Soroptimist International Carmel Bay, and the Vice President of the California Restaurant Association-Monterey County Chapter. She also serves on the board of the Old Monterey's Business Association, serves as the Float Chair for the Festa Italia/Santa Rosalia Organization, Team Recruitment Chair for the Alzheimer's Association, and is a member of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, the Marina Chamber of Commerce and the Salinas Valley Business Women's Network. She attends Shoreline Community Church where she serves as a greeter and usher.

A native of Monterey, Phyllis spent more than 20 years in the hospitality industry, specializing in marketing, special events and public relations. She joined Primerica in 2003 and opened the first offices of Sweeney, Grillo & Associates, an independently operated office of Primerica Financial Services, a subsidiary of Citigroup, in Marina in April 2005 with her business and life partner, Joseph Sweeney. The agency offers an emphasis in women's and family finances, senior care market, hospitality employee programs and small business retirement plans. Their business philosophy is to work with clients to cast vision, add value and serve well.

Grillo-Weinbrenner shares her home with her four children; Rainer, 21, Garrett, 17, Nick, 15, Laura, 13, her nephew, Domenico, 16, several cats and a dog.

The Professional Women's Network, founded in 1983, is the Monterey Peninsula's largest organization of professional women, with approximately 220 women representing a wide spectrum of professions. Membership is comprised of entrepreneurs, professionals, employees, and retirees. Guests are welcomed to all PWN events. More information may be gathered by visiting our website at <http://www.pwnmonterey.org>.

## WOMEN OF THE YEAR 2006 - PHYLLIS GRILLO-WEINBRENNER

### ■ ABOUT PHYLLIS GRILLO-WEINBRENNER



Phyllis Grillo-Weinbrenner was born into a large Italian fishing family and was raised on the Monterey Peninsula. An entirely local product, Grillo-Weinbrenner graduated from Pacific Grove High School and Monterey Peninsula College, and

attended San Jose State to study business and event management.

Phyllis spent more than 20 years in the hospitality industry, specializing in marketing, special events and public relations. She joined Primerica in 2003 and opened the first offices of Sweeney, Grillo & Associates, an independently operated office of Primerica Financial Services, a subsidiary of Citigroup, in Marina in April 2005 with her business and life partner, Joseph Sweeney. The agency offers an emphasis in women's financial, hospitality employee programs and small business retirement plans. Their business philosophy is to work with clients to cast vision, add value and serve well.

In addition to running her own financial services business, Grillo-Weinbrenner is in the process of raising five children; four of her own and her nephew (Domenico): The oldest, Rainer, 21, is a Senior at San Francisco State, majoring in Cinema/Animation. Garrett, 17, a senior at Monterey High, is an avid soccer player, with a career goal of being an architect. Domenico, her nephew, is 16 and a Junior at Monterey High School. He splits his time between soccer and basketball. Nick, 15, is a 9th grader at Monterey High School and is the starting quarterback for the Freshman team. Laura, 13, is in 8th grade at San Benancio Middle School. She is an all around athlete,

playing 3 sports a year (softball, basketball, soccer) while managing to fit multiple social and shopping engagements into her schedule. Her career goal is to write or work for a Christian Girl's magazine. Phyllis shares her home with her children, her dog and 5 cats.

Grillo-Weinbrenner is committed to giving back to the community that has given her so much and is involved in a number of non-profits, including serving as the Secretary to the Professional Women's Network of the Monterey Peninsula, the Program Chair of Soroptimist International Carmel Bay, and the Vice President of the California Restaurant Association-Monterey County Chapter. She also serves on the board of the Old Monterey's Business Association, serves as the Float Chair for the Festa Italia/Santa Rosalia Organization and is a member of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, the Marina Chamber of Commerce and the Salinas Valley Business Women's Network. She attends Shoreline Community Church where she serves as a greeter and usher.



## PHYLLIS' ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

### ■ SPEECH

"The first thing I would like to do is ask my family to join me on the stage.

Many people ask me why I volunteer? This is my answer. My kids, my partner, my family. Each of you. My community.

I was born into a family that believed in volunteering. For as far back as I can remember, my parents set the example of giving back to the community.

I am called to do the same. To give back to this community that has given me so much.

My dad was a fisherman. He loved to fish, but more than anything he was a champion for a cause. My dad spoke on behalf of fishermen everywhere he could: in the state of California, state of Alaska, at Fish & Game meetings, at City Council meetings. I'm sure a few of the public officials here tonight to honor me had the opportunity to hear my dad speak, passionately, about fishing.

My mom volunteered for every school project known to motherhood. Whether it was painting signs, faces, making goodie trays or cleaning up. She volunteered because she believed in us, her children, and wanted to do whatever she could to help out.

My Nana Mary she was my role model of what a strong woman can do. And she's still doing it at 96 years young. She worked in the cannerys, she owned her own business in a time when women didn't, she was the decision behind buying their first house. She's strong and stubborn. I guess I have a lot of her in me.

You see, it doesn't matter if you are changing laws to better fishermen's lives or baking cookies to give you kids a sweeter day or walking a path that is different from others. It's getting involved that it is important.

And so I do. I walk the path of an independent woman, mother, partner as much as I can for the issues that are important to me.

For me the importance issues are those affecting women and their children. I started early and I never stopped.

I know my mom will remember with a cringe the long conversations on women's rights, the ERA, and even date rape I had with my dad at the kitchen table. You can only teach that kind of passion to your kids when you show it yourself.

So my call to you this evening, because as my friends know, I am a woman who is constantly on the move, constantly asking people to do or for something, get involved. Don't stand on the side lines. Pick your passion and jump in ... just up to the ankles, head first.

I'll close with a quote from Betty Ford, one of our more courageous first women, when she was asked about whether or not she believed in women's liberation. Her response struck a cord. She replied, and I'll paraphrase her "I believe a woman is liberated when she is free to do whatever she desires – whether it's to stay home with her kids or to work in the career of her choice. That's liberation."

### ■ THANK YOU'S

#### Professional Women's Network

- Members
- Board of Directors
- Selection Committee
- > For the honor of being selected as WOTY

#### Monterey County Bank

- Charles & Sandra Chrietzberg,
- Their family & staff of MCB
- > For saying yes when I came to you three years ago and for your ongoing support of women, women owned businesses & PWN

#### Paraiso Vineyards

- Claudia & Richard Smith
- Their family & Staff of Paraiso Vineyards
- > For their personal friendship and for sponsoring this event without question



## OUR PROUD HISTORY

The Professional Women's Network of the Monterey Peninsula is proud to present our 23 year history of recognizing women who have accomplished something outstanding that reflects the ideals and goals of the PWN and exemplifies the professional woman.

### ■ WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Grace Darcy	1984
Carol Donald	1985
Karin Strasser Kauffman	1986
Riane Eisler	1987
Betty Phillips	1988
Betty Powell	1989
Sue Parris	1990
Mary Looman	1991
Sara Kilpatrick-Pashin	1992
Bonnie Baker	1993
Ripple Huth	1994
Jane Deuber	1995
Donna Aikins	1996
Audrey Pierson	1997
Sandra Collingwood	1998
Sarah Lincoln	1999
Lee Whitney	2000
Jean Stallings	2001
Loralyn Thompson	2002
Rosemary Leonard	2003
Theresa Ream	2004
LuAnne Hutchings	2005
Phyllis Grillo-Weinbrenner	2006



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

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### ■ THANK YOU TO OUR SILENT AUCTION SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

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 Grace Rubio, Cookie Lee Jewelry  
 Sandra & Dave Collingwood, Collingwood Carpet Care  
 Emy Ledbetter, Ledbetter Art Studios  
 Kirk Probasco, Stokes Restaurant & Bar  
 Sylvia Schuck, Harbor Realty  
 Mags Pasadilla, CMT  
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 Jeanette Kern, DDS  
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 Skyye Song, CMT  
 Mike Miele, The County Fool  
 Denise Kaku, Turning Point  
 Julie Ann Lozano, Cookie Lee Jewelry  
 Lucy Williams, Crossroad's Shopping Center  
 Barbara McHale, Chris' Classic Confections  
 Tony Tollner, Rio Grill  
 Bill & Theresa Lee, Bixby's Bistro  
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 Alan & Barbara Bienenfeld, Bienenfeld Fine Jewelry  
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 Donna Briley, Briley Acupuncture  
 Lori Benak, Energia Body Centre  
 Jeanette & Vince Liguori, Liguori Design  
 Terry & Theresa Ream, Excel Carpet Cleaning  
 Renati Mannan, Real Estate Investor  
 Jean Stallings, Registered Parliamentarian  
 Jane Deuber, Direct Selling Women's Association  
 Lori Silver, Attorney at Law  
 Alan & Barbara Bienenfeld, Bienenfeld Fine Jewelry  
 Cheryl Beller, All About Business

## SPONSOR APPRECIATION

FIRST AND FOREMOST, a sincere **THANK YOU** to our Presenting Sponsor – **Monterey County Bank**. Charles Chrietzberg, along with the rest of the incredible staff of Monterey County Bank, who have gone far above and beyond to support the Professional Women's Network of the Monterey Peninsula, as well as supporting professional women and women owned businesses on the Monterey Peninsula. 2006 marks Monterey County Bank's 30th year of serving the Monterey Peninsula. Monterey County Bank opened its doors for business in May 1977. Monterey County Bank is the oldest locally owned and managed community bank in Monterey County, with branches located primarily on the Monterey Peninsula area and serving all of Monterey County with our Small Business Administration (SBA), mortgage and construction lending programs. Monterey County Bank specializes in SBA loans with experts in our lending department that can "talk business with people who do business." Having attained "Preferred Lender" status in 1993 from the Small Business Administration, Monterey County Bank can approve SBA loans in-house, which means a much faster turnaround for small businesses obtaining SBA financing. Monterey County Bank offers our customers a wide variety of banking services expected of a locally owned, independently operated bank. We offer a personal, friendly atmosphere, providing an avenue of access right up to top management at our community located branches.

### PRESENTING SPONSOR

**Monterey County Bank**  
Sandra & Charles Chrietzberg



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Donna Briley, Briley Acupuncture  
Jeanette Liguori, Liguori Design  
Mary Marlene Warburton, Washington Mutual Bank

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LuAnne Hutchings, My Private Liaison  
Theresa Ream, Ream Construction  
Mary Jean Vincent, WorkWise  
Roberta Young, Assessment Strategies

**THANK YOU!**

# WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2006 EVENT GALLERY



For more photos visit our website at [www.pwnmonterey.org](http://www.pwnmonterey.org)

