

2010 Dedicated Alliance Member Gina Merwin

*The SCMA Alliance is pleased to
nominate Virginia "Gina" Merwin
2010 Dedicated County
Alliance Member*



"It would appear that volunteering is a fulltime job and it is for me. I love being involved with these organizations; the friendships have been so important and fulfilling." -Gina Merwin

Gina has been an active member of the Sonoma County Medical Association Alliance since moving to Petaluma in the fall of 1996. She is passionate and focuses her efforts on the Health Careers Scholarship Program in which she was a committee member from 2003 to 2006.

Gina has also served as the Chair of Health Careers Scholarship Program from 2006 until present and has brought it to a new level of excellence. She maintains contact with the awarded students. Gina gathered testimonial quotes from previous scholarship recipients which added an inspirational touch to the 2009 Holiday Card. Gina's unique perspective, intuition and efforts raised a remarkable \$9,695 in contributions. She took the initiative to apply for a grant which awarded the Scholarship Program with an additional \$5,000 this past year. Gina also participates with the SCMA Alliance largest fundraiser, the Garden Tour. She has been a Garden Captain for 4 years and has served as a SCMAA Foundation Director for 3 years. Gina's excellence in teamwork is undeniable.

In addition to the SCMA Alliance, Gina is currently active with the Petaluma Valley Hospital Auxiliary. She held positions of Recording Secretary, Escort Chair, Day Surgery Chair, Gift Shop Chair, Scholarship Chair, and Membership Chair. Gina was Co-President of the Petaluma Valley Hospital Auxiliary from 2008-2010. She was honored with the award, "Volunteer of the Year" for the Petaluma Valley Hospital Auxiliary in 2004-

2005. Gina also helps the PVH Education Coordinator with preparation for the Skills Lab which is given three times a year. Following Skills Lab, she collates the paper work for the nursing home. And last but not least, she works in the Physician's Medical Library checking in the journals. She consistently demonstrates an unflinching commitment and willingness to stand out from the crowd.

This is the third Auxiliary/Alliance that Gina has served as a member. She started in San Joaquin County in 1964 to 1974. While a member of the Alameda District II, she served as Co-President from 1987 to 1989, participated as the Scholarship Committee Chair for ten years. Lastly, she served as a member of CMAA Finance Committee from 1990 to 1991.

Gina is married to Dr. Robert Merwin, a retired non-invasive cardiologist. He retired in December 1995 from his practice based at Eden Hospital in Castro Valley, CA. They have two daughters, Rebecca and Katherine, and a granddaughter, Hailey.

Gina brings a compassionate commitment to health care and to the practice of medicine. I love her originality, charisma and ever present smile. She has been a wonderful role model in the SCMA Alliance with her positive attitude, empathy and genuine compassion.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Soto
SCMAA & SCMAAF President



2009-2010 Scholarship Report

By Gina Merwin, Chair

Committee: Barbara Ramsey, Janaleen Scavarda, Joni Schmidt, Victoria Soto-Ex Officio, Lisa Sugarman, Drs. Kirk Pappas, Elise Sullivan, and Helen Yee

The Health Careers Scholarship Committee started the year with real concern as to how we would be able to renew current scholarship recipients and take on new applicants. The Community Foundation Funds were in the same state as IRA's and 401K's were not really an option unless we were willing to invade principle, which we were reluctant to do.

A series of events turned this picture from dim to bright. A grant request was written and submitted to the Pacific Foundation for Medical Care for \$5,000. It was with real joy that we learned that our request would be granted. Barbara Ramsey chaired the Holiday card which was well done and well received. We were able to add \$7,200 to our available funds. Thank you, Barbara, for your time and thought which made this fundraiser such a success. The SCMAA gave us \$1,000. In March, the Community Foundation of Sonoma County informed us that there would be \$11,700 available to grant. Suddenly the picture looked bright as we reviewed the applications.

It is with real pleasure that I report that we have awarded \$24,000 in Scholarships to twelve students. This is an all time high for this committee, up from the \$17,500 from last year. We want to thank each and every one who opened their hearts and wallets to this most



Scholarship recipients, from left: Raeleene Adams, Anna Brunn, Jennifer Domich, Janet Anguiana, Ben Nguyen, Yiching Bell

Our scholarship recipients are as follows:

Re-Applicants \$2,500 each

Yiching Bell – Sonoma State, Physical Therapy Tech; Elizabeth Kenney - University of San Francisco BS/RN and Jennifer Domich, UCLA BS/RN

Post-Graduates: \$3,000 each

Taylor Manton – USC Keck School of Medicine, First Year and Sophie Lu – University of Washington – Masters of Nursing

New College

Raeleene Adams \$2,500 – Empire College Medical Assistant; Anna Brunn \$2,000 – Dominican University BS/RN; Jessica Greaney – UC Davis Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics and Janet Anguiana – Sonoma State University Pre Med \$1,500 each

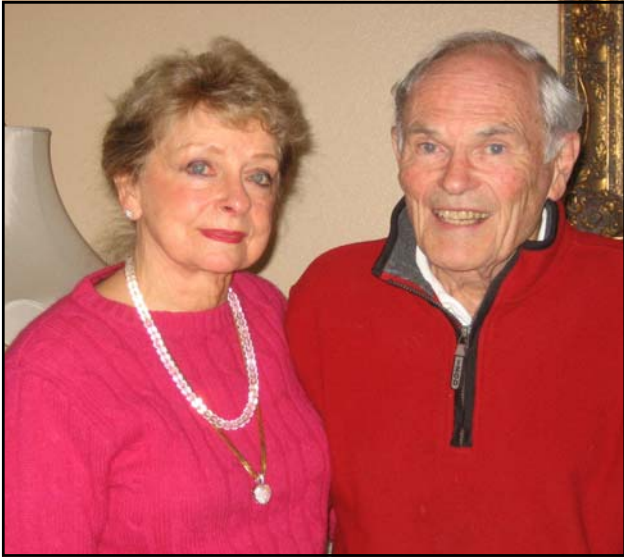
High School

\$1,000 each to three Pre-Med students: Caitlin Kirkpatrick, Santa Rose High School - UC Irvine School of Nursing; Ben Nguyen, Elsie Allen High School – pre-med Dartmouth College and Ryan Powers, Healdsburg



Thank you to the Pacific Foundation for its \$5000 grant to support the Health Careers Scholarship program

Friend of the Foundation Profile



Elly Werner & Leo Hoefer

Meet the dynamic Elly Werner. For the past eight years, she has been committed to improving the social climate in our schools. It is because of her generosity that numerous local students and educators have received training in anti-bullying and violence prevention.

Ms. Werner says she firmly believes that bullying and anti-violence education should be a part of mainstream curriculum.

"We have to change our attitude about education," she says. "The basis of education is the freedom to learn," she adds. "If a child does not feel free to go to school, to participate, to learn, what is there? There is fear, and fear blocks the mind."

In 2002, Ms. Werner and her friend, Alliance member Karen Erickson established the SCMA Alliance Foundation's Safe Schools program. Since then, Ms. Werner and her husband, Leo Hoefer, have been generous financial supporters of the program.

Even though schools are mandated by the State of California to have anti-bullying programs, they often lack the funds to implement them. Through the Safe Schools program, the SCMA Foundation works in partnership with the Sonoma County Office of Education to provide mini-grants to schools requesting bullying and violence prevention education.

Since Safe School's inception, Elly and her husband, Leo Hoefer, a retired professor of chemistry and physics, have donated \$5000 per year to support the program.

"The basis of education is the freedom to learn. If a child does not feel free to go to school, to participate, to learn, what else is there?"— Elly

Elly Werner: Safe Schools Benefactor

Elly says she believes bullying is a health issue and she is pleased that it is being addressed in the national media.

"We always wait for a disaster to wake up," she says, "It must be a unified effort. What greater developments can come than from a unified effort? The results are always good if the spirit is good."

Alliance member, Karen Erickson, has collaborated with Elly other projects, as well. She speaks of Elly's energy and commitment to projects with awe.

"Elly is a fireball and passionate," Karen says. "And she has a great heart. She really cares about how you treat people and people being thoughtful and kind with one another."

Elly and her husband, Leo, have made it a priority to leave their community a better place.

"There are absolutely things we can do," she says. "We talk about 'love,' which is a loose word. We need to put it into action."

Elly, the Sonoma County Medical Association Alliance & Foundation thank you and Leo for your heart and action in our community.

—Submitted by Lisa Sugarman

SCMA Alliance & Foundation Installation May 23th, 2010 St. Francis Vineyards, Santa Rosa



Barbara Ramsey, Christine Huebner-Beakes, Tricia Hunstock, Gina Merwin, Victoria Soto, Lisa Sugarman, John Gnam, Ann Hurd



Victoria Soto, Ann Hurd, Barbara Ramsey, Tricia Hunstock, Debbi Ricks

Executive Board 2010-2011

President: Lisa Sugarman

Treasurer: John Gnam

Past President: Victoria Soto

V.P. Membership: Meta Lightfoot

Membership co-chair: Tricia Hunstock

Secretary: Carol Stone

Programs: Christine Huebner-Beakes

Historian: Mary Schroeder

Website: Margaret Peterson

Grant Review: Victoria Soto

Nominating/Bylaws/Parliamentarian: Victoria Soto

Foundation Officers & Directors

Sori DeVore, Tricia Hunstock, Ann Hurd, Gina Merwin, Maria Pappas, Barbara Ramsey, Sudha Schlesinger, Charlene Staples, Nancy Sumida

Program Chairs

Grapevine: Mary Lou Sullivan

Health Promotions: Cindy Popovich

Garden Tour: Sori DeVore, Mary Schroeder

Doctors Day: Tricia Hunstock

Holiday Card: Barbara Ramsey

Give a Gift: Ann Hurd

Scholarship: Gina Merwin

Safe Schools: Kathleen Cortez



Garden Tour dinner guests listen as raffle tickets are drawn.

Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner

Thank you to our hosts Cheri and Marty Olhiser for hosting the Garden Tour Appreciation Dinner on May 19th. Their beautiful home and garden was the perfect setting to say thank you to the many people who contributed to this annual event.

Garden Tour Volunteers

Garden Tour Committee

<i>Meta Lightfoot</i>	<i>Maria Pappas</i>	<i>Charlene Staples</i>	<i>Louanne Labbe</i>
<i>Sandy Chute</i>	<i>Barbara Ramsey</i>	<i>Lynn Davis</i>	<i>Patty Jones</i>
<i>Sori DeVore</i>	<i>Janet Shane</i>	<i>Pat Anderson</i>	<i>Lois Grace</i>
<i>Mary Schroeder</i>	<i>Nancy Sumida</i>	<i>Margaret Peterson</i>	<i>Mary Johnson</i>
<i>Bruni Thyllin</i>	<i>Sudha Schlesinger</i>	<i>Susan David</i>	<i>Audrey Chapman</i>
<i>Cheri Olhiser</i>	<i>Lynda Angell</i>	<i>Janet Polson</i>	<i>Sandy Sugarman</i>
	<i>Kim Cooper</i>	<i>Elizabeth Huang</i>	

Garden Captains

<i>Janna Stein</i>	<i>Victoria Soto</i>
<i>Joan Gates</i>	<i>Gina Merwin</i>
<i>Tricia Hunstock</i>	<i>Lisa Sugarman</i>
	<i>Carol Stone</i>

Garden Owners

<i>Maryl & Wayne Lindahl</i>	<i>Cindy & Pat Gallaher</i>
<i>Karin Beam</i>	<i>Maureen & Michael Merrill</i>
<i>Glenda & Stephen Castelli</i>	<i>Pam & Daryl Nunes</i>

Hosts & Hostesses

<i>Valerie Stamps</i>	<i>Pat Schaefer</i>	<i>Sharon Klay</i>
<i>Lynn Bennett</i>	<i>Rose Smith</i>	<i>Sue Bisbee</i>
<i>Ingrid Dunlap</i>	<i>Maureen Stein</i>	<i>Ray Holley</i>
<i>Gai Robinson</i>	<i>John Chute</i>	<i>Sharon Quenelle</i>
<i>Ann Pride</i>	<i>Kirk Veale</i>	<i>Marilyn Koehn</i>
<i>Sheela Hodes</i>	<i>Penny Fossat</i>	<i>Marilyn Turner</i>
<i>Roger Hall</i>	<i>Geni Houston</i>	<i>Gail Dubinsky</i>
<i>Mary Ann Goodman</i>	<i>Maria Curiel</i>	<i>Sharon Mordecai</i>
<i>Joni Schmidt</i>	<i>Mary Lou Sullivan</i>	<i>Isabel Taylor</i>
<i>Shelby Belogorsky</i>	<i>Lynn Mortensen</i>	<i>Jan Marsiglia</i>
<i>Ann Hurd</i>	<i>Kim Nielsen-Glynn</i>	<i>Marty Olhiser</i>
<i>Sonda Anderson</i>	<i>Jack Neureter</i>	<i>Pat Veale</i>
<i>Lynn Rambach</i>	<i>Sally Welch</i>	<i>Dave Hanbury</i>
<i>Jeanette Bauer</i>	<i>Midori Miranda</i>	<i>Dorothy Hanbury</i>
<i>Judy Dieter</i>	<i>Charlene Powers</i>	<i>Liz Lange</i>
<i>Suzanne Palleschi</i>	<i>Connie Marianella</i>	<i>Michelle Bellefuielle</i>
<i>Janet Lakshmanan</i>	<i>Donna Moore</i>	<i>Laurie Wonnenberg</i>
<i>Pat Crosley</i>	<i>Victoria Shieh</i>	<i>John Gnam</i>
<i>Kim Klein</i>	<i>Cathy Kaufman</i>	<i>Pat Levenberg</i>
<i>Wendy Smit</i>	<i>Kathryn Koh</i>	<i>Ulla Flemstrom</i>
<i>Barbara Hoffman</i>	<i>Muriel Kingsbury</i>	<i>Marie Totman</i>
<i>Bev Zahl</i>	<i>Jesika Jennings</i>	<i>Judy Wellock</i>
<i>Kay Ward</i>	<i>Diane Olson</i>	



Be A Part of
the 20th
Anniversary
Garden
Tour!

*You are invited to share in the
planning of the 2011 Garden Tour
There are many ways to get involved.*

Our first get-together is on
Thursday, July 15th, 9:30 a.m. at
the home of Mary Schroeder. A
light lunch will be served.

Please call Mary at (707) 578-
0444 or Sori DeVore at (707) 538-
4990. Or email Mary at
alanmary764@comcast.net

Garden Tour Donors



Bouquet Level

Press Democrat

Rose Level



*Celebrate Community
Kaiser Permanente—Santa Rosa
Medical Center
Digestive Health Consultants, Endo
Center of Santa Rosa, Inc.
Redwood Regional Medical Group
Sonoma County Medical Association
St. Joseph Health System -Sonoma
County
The Shane Family*



Tulip Level

*Codding Foundation
Dr. Michael A. and Lynn C. Davis
Joan Gates and Steve Marlowe
4th Street Laser and Surgery Center
Barbara and William Ramsey, MD
Marcia Luisi, MD and Richard
Strunin, MD
Pacific Foundation for Medical Care
Dr. and Mrs. David Soto
Dotty and Jim Walters
Westamerica Bank*



Poppy Level

*Patricia Anderson
Lynda Trombetta Angell
Eugene Belogorsky, North Bay Sleep
Medicine
Lauren Bower, MD
Patsy Davis
P. Patricia Dervin
Karen and Joel Erickson
Karen and Ralph Hanahan
Steve and Patty Levenberg
North Bay Vitreoretinal Consultants
Jean Schulz
Peter and Trish Shapiro
Mary and Al Schroeder
Dr. Kristin Steuerle and Kevin
Swanson
Roy and Nancy Sumida
Dean and Christen Thompson
Jean Turner
Marcia Hahn Westrom
Wright Contracting, Inc.*



Forget-Me-Not Level

*Dr. Richard Andolsen
Belle Feuille Garden Design
Barbara Chown
Gary and Kathy Comstock
Brad Drexler MD and Pamela Drexler*

*Tom and Ingrid Dunlap
Dr. David and Cecilia Elliott
Barbara and Richard Ferrington
Barbara Greensweig
Dr. Michael and Jean Martin
Catherine Marquez, Quest Realty
Services
Bob and Gina Merwin
William and Colleen Meseroll
Michael and Ellen Mundell
Newton Medical Group
Virginia Norman
Karen and Norman Panting MD
Janet and Craig Polson
David and Sharon Quenelle
Susie and John Reed
Dee Richardson
Mary Ann Rovai
P. Jacqueline Senter & John Gnam
Yoga for Gardeners
Willow Creek Financial Services*



*Left: Musician Elisa Spalding
& Pat Anderson*



*Right: Carol Stone, Pat
Schaefer, and friend*