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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH Honorees inspire, contribute



Photo courtesy of the office of Assemblymember Ed Hernandez

Assemblyman Dr. Ed Hernandez (D-West Covina) honors 10 women during the 2010 Women of Achievement Awards for the 57th Assembly District event on March 20 at City of Hope in Duarte, to recognize exceptional women who live and/or work within the district, as part of Women's History Month. **FULL STORY ON PAGE 3**

## Famous faces gone from Daggett past

By Claudia Heller Correspondent

Although the Mojave Route 66 town of Daggett shares a common history with its neighboring towns, it has many claims to distinction, such as the colorful characters who were familiar faces around



The naturalist John Muir was a frequent visitor in the dusty desert town of Daggett. He came to visit his daughter, Helen, who had moved to Daggett for health reasons. He was known to stay at the Stone Hotel, which was built in 1875. It stands today and is rumored to be the subject of future renovation. In 1914 Muir suffered his final illness in Daggett and died a few days later in Los Angeles.

Muir was not the only popular name to frequent the Stone Hotel. It was **ROUTE 66 A5**



# Ten local women receive achievement award

Assemblyman Dr. Ed Hernandez (D-West Covina), held the 2010 Women of Achievement Awards for the 57th Assembly District on March 20 at the City of Hope Cooper Auditorium.

Hernandez honored ten women who live and/or work within the district in commemoration of Women's History Month. Honorees were selected based on nominations submitted by people from their communities.

Hernandez was joined by Duarte councilwoman Lois Gaslon, Duarte Unified School District board member Reyna Diaz and Kristina Pugh, City of Hope Assoc. vice president for Govt. and Community Relations, to acknowledge the women.

Ten women were honored as 2010 Woman of the Year and one been was honored with the 2010 Emerging Leader Award.

The honorees were:

■ **Barbara Dickerson, Ph.D.**, of Azusa, is president of the Azusa Unified School District's Board of Education. She is co-founder of the Azusa Coordinating Council and serves in leadership roles at the Azusa Woman's Club and the Soroptimist of Azusa/Glendora.

Dr. Dickerson is also Board President and lead Executive Team Coordinator of Our Neighborhood Homework House. She was recognized as Woman of the Year during a special ceremony in early March in the Assembly Chamber at the State Capitol.

■ **Peggy Martinez** is a descendant of a six-generation family that arrived in Azusa in the early 1900's, and is considered an icon in the city.

She is president of the Golden Day Parade Committee and the Sister City Committee Azusa-Zacatecas, Vice-Chair of the Azusa Citizens Code Compliance Committee, director of the Annual Miss Azusa and Miss Azusa Outstanding Teen Scholarship Pageant.

Martinez is also a member of the Economic Growth Committee, Community Coordinating Council, and Downtown Red Team. She established the Downtown Azusa Military Banner Program, which pays tribute to all Azusa military heroes serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

■ **Terri Varnum** is at the forefront of serving the needs of abused, neglected and emotionally troubled boys and girls and their families, as vice president of Ette Lee Youth and Family Services in Baldwin Park.

Facing major cuts from the Department of Mental Health, Varnum has worked to re-invent Ette Lee so it can continue to provide services to disadvantaged youth. She has a 21-year career with the agency, serving many families and at-risk youth through the nine group homes and 30 foster family homes.

■ **Marci Smith of Covina** started her career in hospital rehabilitation unit for stroke and aneurysm patients whose average age was about 77 and so began her life-long interest in gerontology.

She is a member of the YWCA San Gabriel Valley Advisory Board and works closely with their Senior Services staff. Smith is also a long-time Meals on Wheels volunteer, and has delivered special restaurant meals to seniors on Christmas

Eve for 10 years as a member of the Covina Rotary Club.

■ **Anita Hernandez** is celebrating 14 years with MillerCoors this month, where she serves as both the Volunteer Coordinator and Special Events Planner for the Irwindale brewery.

Anita has been responsible for several brewery campaigns for local causes, including collecting and donating 217 new pairs of shoes for school-age children through the Shoes that Fit organization, 225 new bicycles and 363 backpacks filled with school supplies for the El Monte Boys and Girls Club, and she recruited and coordinated volunteers to decorate a float for this year's Tournament of Roses Parade. Anita is very active in the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce where she has served on the board of directors for three years and is the Chairwoman of the Board for 2010.

■ **Maxine T. Coleman** has dedicated the last 25 years of her life to advocating for and providing humanitarian support to vulnerable children of all ages.

In 2001, she founded Heart and Soul Community Services, a non-profit organization based out of Sunkist Elementary School in La Puente, that empowers at-risk, special needs and disadvantaged children and their families by providing essentials such as nutrition, health services, clothing, and educational support.

At the start of every new school year, Maxine sponsors the "Gift of Love" Back-to-school Giveaway, where 700 children and their parents are invited to receive

school supplies, clothing, backpacks and new shoes.

■ **Carol Facpointe-Malcolm** is a Realtor in West Covina. She is also a member of the Citrus Valley Association of Realtors, where she served as president in 2002.

She has also served as a chairperson on the Association's Affordable Housing Committee, co-chair of the Citrus Valley Real Estate Professionals Committee, and as a member of the Housing Committees of the California Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors.

Facpointe-Malcolm is a passionate advocate for children with disabilities, serving as a board director for the San Gabriel Children's Center since 2004. She also served as a board member for East Valley Hospital from 2006-2008, and the board secretary for East Valley Community Health Center from 2007-2009.

■ **Dr. Kimlin Tam Ashing-Giwa** is a professor and director of the Center of Community Alliance for Research and Education at City of Hope. She is the notable leader in examining cancer disparities, quality of life and survivorship, and has published over 30 articles and book chapters.

Ashing-Giwa is professor and director of the Center of Community Alliance for Research and Education at City of Hope. She is the notable leader in examining cancer disparities, quality of life and survivorship, and has published over 30 articles and book chapters.

As a woman of color raised in a multicultural (Chinese and Afro-Caribbean) and multilingual home, and the youngest of eight siblings, she recognized the salience of culture and context very early in her life. As the daughter of two former cancer

survivors and a psychologist, Ashing-Giwa is compassionate and passionate about her work to reduce health disparities and enhance health outcomes for underserved communities.

■ **Dolores Rivera** has served as Community Liaison for the Bassett Unified School District for 18 years. There she has organized health fairs to provide the community with resources, meeting their health, shelter, food and clothing needs.

Rivera helped coordinate the Cinco de Mayo Festival and the "I Love Bassett Day" event, and has organized many community programs, including the after school Homework Club at Edgewood Academy and Van Wig Elementary schools, both in La Puente.

She has also served on the School Site Council, Student Attendance Review Board, District Advisory Council, and the English Language Advisory Council.

■ **Amber Gaadex** was named the 2010 Emerging Leader Award for the 57th Assembly District.

The Baldwin Park High School junior is an example of the milestones young people can achieve, first by being an outstanding student and her extracurricular activities.

She is in track, cross country, student government, as well as serving as Pep Committeeholder for her high school, president of the Orchestra Club, Student Board Representative to the Baldwin Park School Board, and the list goes on. Outside of school, she is also involved with the group like the Metropolitan Educational Theater and the World Leadership Conference.

— From staff reports