

Montecito JOURNAL

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Save the Date

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria will host its annual "Women of Inspiration" luncheon on Monday, April 4, welcoming **Arlene Samen**, founder of One Heart World-Wide, who will serve as keynote speaker. A nurse practitioner in maternal fetal medicine for more than 30 years, Samen's life changed when His Holiness the Dalai Lama asked her to take her expertise to help pregnant women in Tibet, where one out of

10 newborns died due to preventable causes. In 2004, she left behind her clinical practice to help women in the most remote areas of the world have a safe, clean delivery.

Victoria Juarez, executive director of Girls Inc. of Carpinteria, tells us Arlene's story is one of courage and triumph. Samen's One Heart World-Wide organization has worked to set up centers that teach and educate local nurse practitioners, villagers, and expectant mothers on how to deliver and care for newborn babies. Today, her model for decreasing maternal and newborn mortality has reached over half a million people and creat-

ed a safe environment for more than 50,000 deliveries around the world. Samen was selected as an **Unsung Hero of Compassion** in 2001 by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and is the winner of the 2008 CNN Hero Award, along with many other awards and recognitions; she also presented a TED Talk in 2011. "We are thrilled to have her at this year's luncheon," Juarez said.

Girls Inc. Carpinteria will also recognize three local women with the Women of Inspiration Awards: **Natalie Orfalea**, co-founder and chair of the Orfalea Foundation; **Geri Ann Carty**, an active volunteer in the community;

and **Patsy Hicks**, director of education at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

This year's luncheon is co-chaired by **Nancy Koppelman**, **Nini Seaman**, **Sandra Tyler**, and **Amanda Kastelic**.

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria currently serves more than 700 girls ages 5-18 each year through a variety of programs, motivating them to take risks and master physical, intellectual, and emotional challenges. Tickets to the luncheon (11:30 am to 1:30 pm) are \$85 and proceeds will support the mission of Girls Inc. of Carpinteria. For tickets and info, contact **Ericka Loza-Lopez** at (805) 684-6364 or Ericka@girlsinc-carp.org. •M