

Montecito JOURNAL

Inspiring Women

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria raised around \$50,000 from its third annual Women of Inspiration lunch with 270 guests, which helps fund the Eureka! college-bound program.

Nancy Koppelman, Sandra Tyler, and Nini Seaman chaired the event, hosted by Carpinteria High School freshmen Ana Delgado and Maria Zamora, which honored Cynder Sinclair, Rebecca Costa Smith, Lindsey Connolly, and the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara.

Alix Generous, 21, an undergraduate student in Vermont working toward a degree in neuroscience, was the entertaining speaker, recounting a childhood challenged by undiagnosed Asperger's disease until she learned to harness her gifts.

An international traveler, she has even spoken at the United Nations.

"Alix is a tremendous role model not only for women, but also people who are living with challenges," says Victoria Juarez, executive director. "She is a true star and her story proves that when we invest in our youth, we enable them to do big things – and in turn, the community is stronger for it."

Turning out for the non-profit, which helps more than 700 girls aged 5 to 18 annually, were Patty DeDominic, Judi Weisbart, Janet Garufis, Ellen Goodstein, Jodie Ireland, Stephanie Slosser, Larry Koppelman, Kandy Luria Budgor, Daniella Elghanayan, and Julie Bifano.