



Connecting Citizens, Shaping Solutions

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2007 Valley Vision Legacy of Leadership Award Winners

(notes from our event program...)

Environment Leader Award: *Illa Collin, Sacramento County Supervisor (retired)*

Illa served on Sacramento County's Board of Supervisors for 28 years and retired with the distinction of having served the longest tenure as a supervisor in county history. She has been and continues to be an active voice in the community, speaking out on preserving trees, against nuclear power and on the need for female representation in government. Illa was appointed to the State Reclamation Board in 1976, and in 1977 became the first woman to serve as its president. As a Supervisor she participated in the creation of the Sacramento Tree Foundation and the American River Parkway Foundation, participated in the creation of the original Measure A sales tax program and has actively promoted the development of public transit and other alternatives to auto travel.

Economic Leader Award: *Dan Kennedy, Publisher, Sacramento Business Journal*

Dan has served as Publisher of the Sacramento Business Journal since May 1985, providing a constant source for accurate business reporting in the region. He is also the voice for the daily business news reports on KXJZ Public Ratio during "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered." When not at the Journal, Dan teaches the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders about management communications as an adjunct professor with the UC Davis Graduate School of Management. He has also committed his time to numerous community organizations including the Sacramento Make-A-Wish Foundation, United Way and the American Leadership Forum.

Social Equity Leader Award: *May Ying Ly, Cofounder, Hmong Women's Heritage Assn.*

May Ying co-founded Hmong Women's Heritage Association and serves as its Executive Director. The nonprofit community-based organization provides an array of services for Hmong women and their families, including youth wellness programs, interpreter trainings and social resources and referrals. May Ying has over ten years experience working with immigrants in three counties: Merced, Yolo and Sacramento. Previously she was a Human Services Supervisor with Sacramento County's Department of Human Assistance, where she supervised and provided training to staff. She was also the Cultural Broker and Interpreter in author Anne Fadiman's award-winning book about a Hmong child, her doctors and the collision of two cultures, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*.

Regional Connector Award: *Jean Runyon, Founder, Runyon, Saltzman & Einhorn*

An actress and entertainer at heart, Jean began her public relations career in the late 1950s, when she organized theater parties for Music Circus. By 1960 she had formed Runyon & Associates and was serving a variety of clients, ranging from car dealerships to savings & loans. Her knack for PR was quickly recognized, leading her to be the first woman to enjoy the irony of earning the Sacramento Public Relations Roundtable's "PR Man of the Year" award. Mention Jean to just about anyone in town and each will have a unique way of describing her – visionary, activist, partner, actress, philanthropist, communicator, strategist, crusader, board member and leader.