



Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, Inc.

Post Office Box 353, Agoura Hills, California 91301



The voice and conscience of the Santa Monica Mountains for 45 years

FEDERATION NAMES SUPERVISOR LINDA PARKS 2012 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR!

In the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains, at its 45th annual banquet, the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation (LVHF) honored Ventura County District 2 Supervisor, Linda Parks, as **2012 Citizen of the Year!**

Supervisor Parks has been an open space and environmental superstar for more than two decades. She received two standing ovations from the packed crowd at the Malibu Lake Mountain Club for her outstanding record of environmental stewardship.



LVHF honors 2012 Citizen of the Year Supervisor Linda Parks.



LVHF is the oldest and **largest federation of homeowner associations** and groups in the Las Virgenes region of the Santa Monica Mountains. The Federation has been the strong and unwavering voice of the Santa Monica Mountains since 1968.



The banquet was once again a very successful forum - with the Federation continuing its tradition of inviting distinguished members of the community to reflect on the future of the Santa Monica Mountains and share their vision with fellow activists, agencies and **government officials who play important roles in formulating local land use and environmental policy.**



The guest list “reads like a virtual who’s who of government and environmental movers and shakers.” Topanga Messenger



PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUPERVISOR PARKS, OUR 2012 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR....



Above all else, our Citizen of the Year, Supervisor Linda Parks, is a person who has made a difference.

Passion, conviction and an unwavering environmental ethic are all features that define her. She is a leader, a standout, among standouts.

Supervisor Parks has been a force for “good” in the Santa Monica Mountains, having overseen the purchase of **thousands of acres** of open space and trails. She has tightened protected tree ordinances, scenic and hillside grading protections and achieved a moratorium on



development in open space to protect the greenbelt.

Our Citizen of the Year has also received the Heal the Bay “Walk the Talk Award” and the Environmental Defense Center’s Carla Bard Award.

We are privileged to call her “ours” – she once ran and **won** against an opponent who accepted \$90,000 from a single developer!

Supervisor Parks authored standards requiring a two-mile radius around Rocketdyne/Santa Susana Field Lab be tested for TCE and perchlorate. She was also instrumental in moving a precedent-setting wildlife corridor forward.

From 1998 to the present, she has served as a member of the Board of Directors of SOAR (Save Open space and Agricultural Resources), which works to minimize urban sprawl, preserve agricultural land and open space.

She ensured the removal of anti-coagulant-rodenticides from county parks, golf courses and landscaping, and brought attention to its effect on mountain lions, bob cats.

Supervisor Parks serves on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy - and opposed the Edge project in Malibu – as did the Federation. Interestingly, her father was the voice of Smokey Bear! For 17 long years, Supervisor Parks fought for the preservation of Ahmanson Ranch’s 3,000 acres of open space and --- what a win it was!

The admiration and response to this year’s honoree is profound and a tribute to the impact Supervisor Parks has had on enhancing and protecting the quality of life in our mountain communities and to the partnership efforts to preserve open space.

Congratulations Supervisor Parks and thank you for inspiring us all!

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The Federation also welcomed two other unequivocal environmental **champions** - our State Senator Fran Pavley and our Los Angeles County, Third District Supervisor, Zev Yaroslavsky.

Senator Pavley is one of the greatest environmental stewards the Santa Monica Mountains has ever had. She



gave guests an interesting update of what is transpiring in Sacramento and the many outstanding legislative policies she is working on. Senator Pavley welcomed the new communities encompassing *her and our* newly drawn Senate District.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky, the Federation's 2010 Citizen of the Year, spoke about the important projects he is planning on bringing to fruition in the Santa Monica Mountains before he is termed out. There would be no North Area Plan, Grading and Ridgeline Ordinance or a multitude of other great policies and principals like, "let the land dictate the use", without Zev. Zev will leave a legacy of environmental stewardship in the mountains like no other.

The Federation was also honored to host elected officials from the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas and Malibu. They included: Agoura Hills Councilmembers Harry Schwarz and Bill Koehler; Calabasas Mayor Mary Sue Maurer, Mayor Pro Tem Fred Gaines and Councilmembers Lucy Martin, James Bozajian and David Shapiro, as well as former Councilmember Michael Harrison; and from Malibu, the Mayor Pro Tem Lou La Monte and Councilmember John Sibert.

A number of environmental greats joined the Federation's HOA's, delegates and members: Joe Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; California State Parks District Superintendent Craig Sap and Senior Resource Scientist, Suzanne Good; Melanie Beck and Kate Kuykendall from the National Park Service; the Resource Conservation District's Executive Director Clark Stevens, and Director Nancy Helsley, Melina Watts and Rosi Dagit, the rockstar behind the County's Oak Woodland Conservation Management Plan; from the Las Virgenes Unified School District, upcoming Superintendent Dan Stepenosky and Board Member David Moorman; Board members Glen Peterson and Lee Renger from the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District; Jay Lopez – Forester with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department who has been working with the Federation's Oak Tree Committee; from the Mountains Restoration Trust, Debbie Brushaber, Executive Director and President of the Board, Steve Hess, who is also a Federation past president; from Save Open Space, Board Member Cynthia Maxwell and Fran and Bob Coutts; Ruth Gerson, president of the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council; and the mighty list goes on!

Our favorite Zev staffers, Ben Saltsman - Planning Deputy and Susan Nissman - Senior Field Deputy, were also in attendance, as well as Timothy Lippman from Assemblymember Julia Brownley's Office. Calabasas Commissioners included: Dave Brown and Robert Lia - Planning; Linda Stock - Communications and Technology; Arlene Bernholtz and Judy Jordan – Historic Preservation; Clark Canfield – Traffic and Transportation; Richard Thompson - Public Safety.

The Federation also acknowledged the superlative efforts of three activist leaders this past year: Suzanne Goode from the Cold Creek Community Council, Jody Thomas from our Old Topanga HOA and Liat Samouhi from the Greater Mulwood HOA.

The Federation is most appreciative of its dedicated delegates and member associations for their efforts, integrity and commitment to the continuing preservation and protection of our natural resources.

The Federation's **keynote speaker was Dr. Brad Shaffer**, a professor of evolutionary and conservation biology, and the new Director of the La Kretz Center for California Conservation at UCLA.

Brad came highly recommended to speak to our passionate and savvy audience by none other than Woody Smeck, our 2011 Citizen of the Year, and former National Park Service Superintendent of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.



Brad's credits and accomplishments captured everyone's attention - particularly his research on California reptiles, amphibians, frogs, turtles and our **endangered salamanders**, which is incredibly important to conservation across our great state. Brad described his past battles where science really has made a difference to preservation, and how he will be applying cutting edge genetics to conserve the precious biodiversity of our Santa Monica Mountains.

Attendees were also thrilled when Brad brought out his endangered California salamanders...and asked how many people had ever held an endangered species? That was a popular question and many flocked to the front to hold one and, as you can see the salamanders were pretty cooperative...!



After 24 years at UC Davis – he is ours now! The Federation looks forward to collaborating with and contributing to the esteemed efforts of Dr. Shaffer.

LVHF also said farewell to two wonderful individuals, delegate Peter Rothenberg from our Westhills HOA, whose unexpected and tragic death shocked us all, and Ruth Willer, the Federation's past treasurer and delegate from Calabasas Village HOA.

To quote Robert Southey, *"No distance of place or lapse of time can lessen the friendship of those who are thoroughly persuaded of each other's worth."*

How lucky we are to have known these two special people who it is so hard to say goodbye to.

The Federation is committed as ever to conserving the wild and wonderful things in the Santa Monica Mountains for everyone and for future generations. We will continue to stand with these outstanding environmentalists as we share in the responsibility of protecting and preserving our finite natural resources.

"A society is defined not only by what it creates, but by what it refuses to destroy."

John Sawhill

LVHF Citizen of the Year 2012 – Supervisor Linda Parks

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