



OJAI WOMEN'S FUND



Autumn Update

THANK YOU FOR VOTING FOR OUR 2017 GRANT AWARDEES!

How wonderfully amazing to find ourselves already three quarters through our second year!

Here's the latest news:

We've raised over \$65,000 via 300+ OWF members

Special thanks to all OWF members who've spread the word about OWF's good works, invited new members to join and/or increased personal donation amounts. Your support and involvement ensures the Ojai Women's Fund can continue to evolve as a vibrant, nourishing heartbeat of the Ojai community.

We have voted for 2017 Grant Awardees

OWF individual members and member groups have received 2017 ballots and have selected grant awardees from a pool of very worthy nominees. Thank you for making your voice heard! Voting closed on October 23 and the results will be announced soon.

We'll celebrate OWF's 2017 Grantees at Nov. 30th Event

Mark your calendars now to attend the Ojai Women's Fund **2017 Grantee Celebration Party, Thurs., Nov. 30, 6:00 p.m. at the Ojai Valley Woman's Club.** Meet and honor those who serve our community through creative programs and important resources; celebrate OWF's second year of local philanthropy; and share the joys of giving, receiving and caring for each other and our Ojai Valley.

Many who attended last year's awards celebration event remarked how incredibly heartwarming it was to witness OWF grantees be publicly recognized and awarded. Such a joyful mixer! You won't want to miss it this year.— OWF Education Committee Co-chair Aryna Swope

Remember, as an OWF member you fund the grants, you select grantees, and you make it possible for your Ojai neighbors to receive special community care. Your dollars and votes change lives. Thank you!

An OWF Group Feature: **The Transplants** by Ilona Saari



These boots are made for walking... well, in our case, flip flops, espadrilles, sneakers, loafers and sandals.

Like all the women in the Ojai Women's Fund, **the Transplants**, a group of six women, feel fortunate to live in Ojai and want to give back to the community that has brought them such joy, and the Ojai Women's Fund gives them the opportunity to do just that.

Headed by our footloose leader, Heidi Dietschi, each "Transplant" found her way to Ojai from as far off as Macau and as close as Santa Monica.

As a child, **Heidi** first repotted herself from Valley Forge to Rio de Janeiro where she and fellow Transplanter, Kyle Crowner, forged a lifelong friendship. After high school, she returned to the states for college in Baltimore and D.C., ending up in Manhattan as a young professional. When she became a mom, Vermont became home where she embarked on a career as the owner of a fashionable clothing store. But she held fast to her teenage dream of living in California. So, when her kids flew the coop, she sold her store, moved to the "inland empire" for a short stint, eventually finding her way to our Shangri-la and reuniting with Kyle.

Joy Brown is a native Californian, and though she never lived outside the state, her happy feet took her from the cool ocean breezes off the beaches in Santa Monica to the hot and arid Santa Ana winds in the San Fernando Valley. For twenty-five years, Joy tended the sick at Holy Cross and Valley Presbyterian hospitals as an RN, then became a Medicare Fraud Investigator for the next fifteen years. It's not surprising that Joy, an avid reader, loves detective novels. Happily retired in Ojai, Joy is one of the organizers of our annual Lavender Festival and is an animal advocate.

Kyle Crowner began her globetrotting life at the age of three when her physician father moved the family to Shanghai, then to Macau (when Mao Tse-Tung took over), Bangalore, ending up in Rio where she and Heidi were schoolmates. After high school, Kyle attended college in Massachusetts and North Carolina, then lived in D.C., Philadelphia and Sherman Oaks, California. She worked in media planning, wrote a book on planning new schools with community participation, and was an associate producer for the HGTV and DIY networks before she "discovered my true home" in Ojai and stitched together an identity as a fiber artist.

Margo Haas grew up on a dairy farm in Petaluma, California and "couldn't wait to live on a street with sidewalks!" She found pavement and more at UC Berkeley, spent a year abroad in Europe and then relocated to the even bigger city of L.A. After graduating law school, Margo spent her career working in the Los Angeles area, eventually transplanting herself to Ventura with her husband and son in the 1980's. She began to miss the unpaved roads and rural atmosphere that she had once longed to escape, and found the perfect compromise when she and her family made their way into the enchanting Ojai Valley.

Born in Brooklyn, **Hona Saari** was raised in Bayside, Queens L.I., N.Y. After college in Boston, she settled in Manhattan eventually migrating west to L.A. with her husband, all while

branching out into a myriad of jobs including “junior house” model, script story editor, TV production executive, and a guest designer on HGTV, to supplement her writer’s income. After asking her friend Kyle why she was trading life in the San Fernando Valley for a life in the Ojai Valley, she found the answer after visiting. Soon Ilona followed Kyle’s footsteps and moved to Ojai where roots have sprung from the bottom of her feet as she works on her second novel and writes for Huffington Post and the Ojai Quarterly magazine

Debbie Finley-Delamore is the newest addition to the Transplants, who first found her footing in Ft Lauderdale, Florida. She was five when her family moved to California where she got to step into school and careers in Hollywood, Anaheim, Compton and Long Beach. Her first career was that of a preschool teacher, but she longed for something more challenging. Working full time and raising a daughter, Debby enrolled in law school, eventually becoming an attorney specializing in Family Law. When she retired, she and her husband replanted themselves in our inspirational valley where she is currently writing and singing songs about her life’s experiences.

We LOVE our OWF Groups!

Thank you to "The Transplants" for sharing your story with us. If you have a story about your group that you would like to share, please email us at info@ojaiwomensfund.org.

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