



MONTHLY NEWS February 2024



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- January events set the 2024 stage for our town, organization, and next generation of leaders.

The BIG REVEAL

At the **Annual Members' Meeting** on January 20, Impact100 Sonoma kicked off its 15th-anniversary year by making history.

\$350,000

annual grants pool--our largest ever!

\$4,025,485

cumulative grants total since 2010

331

member philanthropists,
including 75 new members, the largest class since our founding year,
and our largest-ever class of NextGen members!

Read the details [HERE](#).

Log in and access meeting content via Member Portal/Member Resources on our website [HERE](#).

- View the full set of presentation slides.
- Read messages from Co-Founders **Christine Dohrmann** and **Annette Lomont**.
- Watch *The Granting Tree*, the story of our organization, created by **Kathy Bloch** (author/narrator) and **Dana Simpson-Stokes**.

CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We did it! We launched the celebration of our **15th Anniversary** with a wonderful and well-received (based on the compliments), **Annual Members' Meeting** on January 20. The event was hosted and sponsored by the Sebastiani Theatre.

The program opened with a presentation of *The Granting Tree*, the charmingly told story of our organization's beginning and history in the valley, and how we have endured and evolved over the past 15 years. We also read special messages from our two founders, **Christine Dohrmann** and **Annette Lomont**. You can access all of this content via the Member Portal.

The panel discussion about our past, present, and future was moderated by founding member and President Emerita **Lynne Lancaster** and included founding member **Lorraine Ashton**, past board members **Cheryl Hannon** and **Gera Vaz**, winner of the Philanos Willoughby Award **Katherine Fulton**, and NextGen member and winner of an Alumni Changemaker Award from 10,000 Degrees **Dayane Mendoza Solis**. The panelists also took audience questions.

Then the Grants Team announced that for the fourth year in a row, Impact100 Sonoma will award multiple Impetus Grants of up to \$25,000 to selected valley-serving nonprofits. We will also debut a multi-year Encore Grant, which will give one 2024 Impetus Grant recipient a second grant of the same amount in early 2025.

The meeting concluded with the "Big Reveal," and as you can see above, it was truly something to celebrate. Now through March, our Grant Review and Financial Review Committees will be busy evaluating this year's grant applications, making site visits, and selecting finalists for presentation to and voting by our 2024 member donors in April.

Meanwhile, we all have the opportunity to be engaged and educated at the Spotlight Series events, with a thought-provoking new topic and guest speaker each month. We're also working to increase our visibility in the community via involvement in the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, sponsorship of an American Red Cross blood drive, and more. Read on for details.



Claudia Sims and **Debbe Noto**, Co-Presidents

GRANTS UPDATE



The Grants Team was very excited to introduce our new Encore Grant at the Annual Members' Meeting. Although we had announced it at the Garden Party last September, many in the audience were hearing about it for the first time, and the enthusiasm was palpable! If you missed the meeting or want to know more about the Encore Grant and Impetus Grants, read the **Member FAQ for Grants 2024** [HERE](#).

Grant applications have been received, and the review process is in full swing. We look forward to presenting the shortlist of prospective Impetus and Encore Grant recipients at **Meet the Finalists** on **April 20**. Then we'll honor your selections at the **15th Annual Grant Awards Celebration** on **May 4**. Save the dates!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



The Membership Team is proud to announce that Vote 2024 has achieved yet another year of record-breaking donations. Thank you all for your generous support.

To warmly welcome the record number of new members, a series of New Member Orientations will begin in the next few months. Watch for your invitations.

We always welcome new members! Now is a great time to join. While unable to vote in 2024, those signing up early will enjoy all other benefits of membership this year and be set for Vote 2025. An excellent value! Learn more [HERE](#).

VOLUNTEER OPENINGS



Events Team Members

Want to get more involved without ongoing commitments? The Events Team needs help with preparation details, setup, and breakdown for member parties and meetings. You'll receive only one email before each event that invites you to choose your assignment. So help out when you can and have fun doing it! For more information, contact **Karen Sherman** at ks@axlecom.com.

Impact100 Cares—About YOU!

If you or a member you know is going through a difficult life transition such as a family loss or serious illness or is celebrating a milestone event, the Impact Cares team is standing by to offer encouragement or cheer.

To reach out, contact **Mary Jane Stolte** at 415-518-3389 or mjstolte7@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Impact100 Sonoma Rejoins Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce

In January, after a brief hiatus, Impact100 Sonoma renewed its membership in the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. For a modest annual fee, we join grant recipients and other nonprofits, in-kind donors, vendors, member employers, and members in supporting the business community we ask to support us. As we work to foster a more just and thriving Sonoma Valley, the Chamber works to develop, sustain, and enhance a diverse and resilient local economy.

Membership enables us to list our information in the Chamber's online directory, community calendar, and other communications; display our brochure in the Chamber lobby; exhibit in the annual LOCALFest expo; and pursue other opportunities to increase our visibility and connect with women who are building their careers and businesses.

Learn more about the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce [HERE](#). To get involved, contact NextGen Co-Leader and Chamber staff member **Amy Gallagher** at amygallagher33@gmail.com.



Impact100 Sonoma Offers Rare Opportunity to Donate Blood Locally in Time of Need

The U.S. blood supply is the lowest it's been in 20 years. You can help! On **Friday, March 15**, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, we will again team up with the American Red Cross for a blood drive at the Sonoma Community Center. Make an appointment to donate or encourage someone else to participate. To sign up, visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code **Impact100 Sonoma**.

There are **39** donor slots available. Let's make sure all are filled for this important cause! Learn more about donating, eligibility, and other requirements **[HERE](#)** or call 1-866-236-2376.

We also need **four volunteers** to help check in and direct donors, two for each shift. If you are interested in working from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM or 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM, contact **Bobbie Collins** at bobbie.collins4@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



Thursday, February 22, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Spotlight Series/The Healing Power of Indigenous Cultures



Gain new insights by meeting **MaDonna Feather Cruz**, a Native American woman living with disabilities who demonstrates an unwavering commitment to making a difference. She is a longtime, much-honored advocate for Native wellness, missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW), and cultural preservation. Hear how she is bridging the gap between traditional practices and the modern world. And discuss how we can work together toward a more inclusive and just society for all. See your invitation or register [HERE](#) for this free event at the Pueblo Serena Clubhouse on 5th Street West.

Bring a prospective member!



To suggest topics for future Spotlight events, contact Sherry Preiss at shpreiss@aol.com.

- **Expand** your knowledge about the needs and concerns of our community and the wider world.
- **Experience** new ideas, perspectives, and ways of thinking while interacting with local leaders engaged in unique, inspiring work that fuels and informs our philanthropic commitment.
- **Extend** your network while enriching your membership experience.



Friday, February 23, 6:00 PM
NextGen Wine & Wisdom/Grants

A new series begins! Wine & Wisdom brings NextGen members and senior leaders together for conversations about philanthropy, community—and life. The first mixer will focus on our 2024 grants strategy and ways to participate in the process. NextGen members are invited to bring a prospective NextGen member. For details, contact **Emma McCulloch** at dremmamcculloch@gmail.com or **Amy Gallagher** at amymgallagher33@gmail.com.

OUT AND ABOUT

Annual Members' Meeting Celebrates 15 Years

On Saturday morning January 20, some 125 members attended the Annual Members' Meeting at the Sebastiani Theatre to launch our 15th anniversary year, look back at our inspiring history and look ahead to all that we can achieve together. Record grants and membership numbers gave us much to cheer.

Thank you to our host and sponsor!



Anita Anderson (left) and **Sherry Preiss**



Events Co-Chairs **Gigi Pflieger** (left) and **Karen Sherman** with the Sebastiani Theatre's **Roger Rhoten**

Spotlight Series Continues with Focus on the Future of Sonoma

On January 25, Sonoma City Manager **David Guhin** engaged an attentive audience of some 40 members who demonstrated a keen interest in the current challenges and future aspirations of our community. The discussion covered essentials such as development of the city's General Plan, community involvement strategies, and budget status, as well as hot topics such as the need for a parks and recreation department, potential annexation of the Springs, and the shortage of affordable housing. Participants posed relevant and insightful questions that led to a lively discussion.



NextGen Members Sip Cider and Set Goals for 2024

On January 26, NetGen members gathered at the **Pomme Cider Shop & Tap Room** on Broadway, kicking off the year by supporting a local woman-owned business and celebrating woman-owned cider producers. Participants created vision boards for their 2024 personal goals as well as 2024 NextGen cohort goals.

Learn more about **Pomme Cider Shop & Tap Room** [HERE](#).



The animal print theme demonstrated the cohort's fun and fierce attitude about the new year.

15th ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTES



"Who could have imagined in 2009 that the germ of an idea talked about between two dear friends while taking a walk around the Plaza would grow into the organization we are all so proud of and celebrating today. As Annette and I used to say, the power of friendship knows no bounds."

—**Christine Dohrmann**, Co-Founder

"My co-founder Christine Dohrmann and I tested the viability of the Impact concept by talking to influence centers in Sonoma. One interview was with a man who said he couldn't think of 10 women who would join Impact. That was all we needed to hear! We left his office determined to show him."

—**Annette Lomont**, Co-Founder

