

VALLEY VISTA

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Neighbors

An exclusive, private magazine serving the Ventura County communities of Santa Rosa Valley, Lynn Ranch and Somis



Nancy Chaconas: **Inspiration and Empowerment**

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- Boys & Girls Clubs Gala
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Cover Photo by Julie Campbell

Nancy Chaconas: Inspiration and Empowerment

Nancy is a lady of many talents, with a helping heart and a creative spark. Photo by Rita Rogers Bishop.



Tools for Nancy Chaconas at her Fine Heart Studio. Photo by Julie Campbell.

Somis resident Nancy Chaconas is an executive director for 21 years with LegalShield, helps families, individuals and businesses make smart legal coverage simpler, easier and more affordable, but, in fact, she is a self-described visionary, who works tirelessly helping others realize their best selves. Inspiration and empowerment are her mantras, connecting with people who want to grow and make a difference in this world.

From an early age, Nancy's parents guided her to give back and help others in need. This legacy is being passed on to her family. Son Jonathan is 31 years old and a mechanical and aerospace engineer, who volunteers with Make Life Skate Life, a non-profit building world-class skate parks in underserved countries. Her 28-year-old daughter Robyn is an environmental engineer, involved in urban planning projects that focus on improving sustainability of the planet.

Husband Jim, with whom she has been married 34 years, is a mechanical engineer in the oil and gas industry. He shares Nancy's passion for helping others in need and in encouraging others to reach their potential for better lives.

Nancy said the tight-knit Chaconas family honors her parents, who believed strongly in their compassionate role in life to focus on "love and service." She reflected, "We are blessed to have so many opportunities and we are grateful to share and find ways to give to others to make the world a kinder and better place."

When Nancy was six years old, she already knew she would become a teacher. Little did she know then how her desire would manifest itself as she reached adulthood. She received her bachelor's degree in Anthropology, then, a teaching certificate, and, finally, a master's in Education.

She taught in Fillmore and Santa Paula school districts, everything from Kindergarten through high school. She instructed teachers in Ventura County schools about drug prevention and self-esteem education. She ran adult literacy programs and was a tutoring specialist at the Camarillo Library.

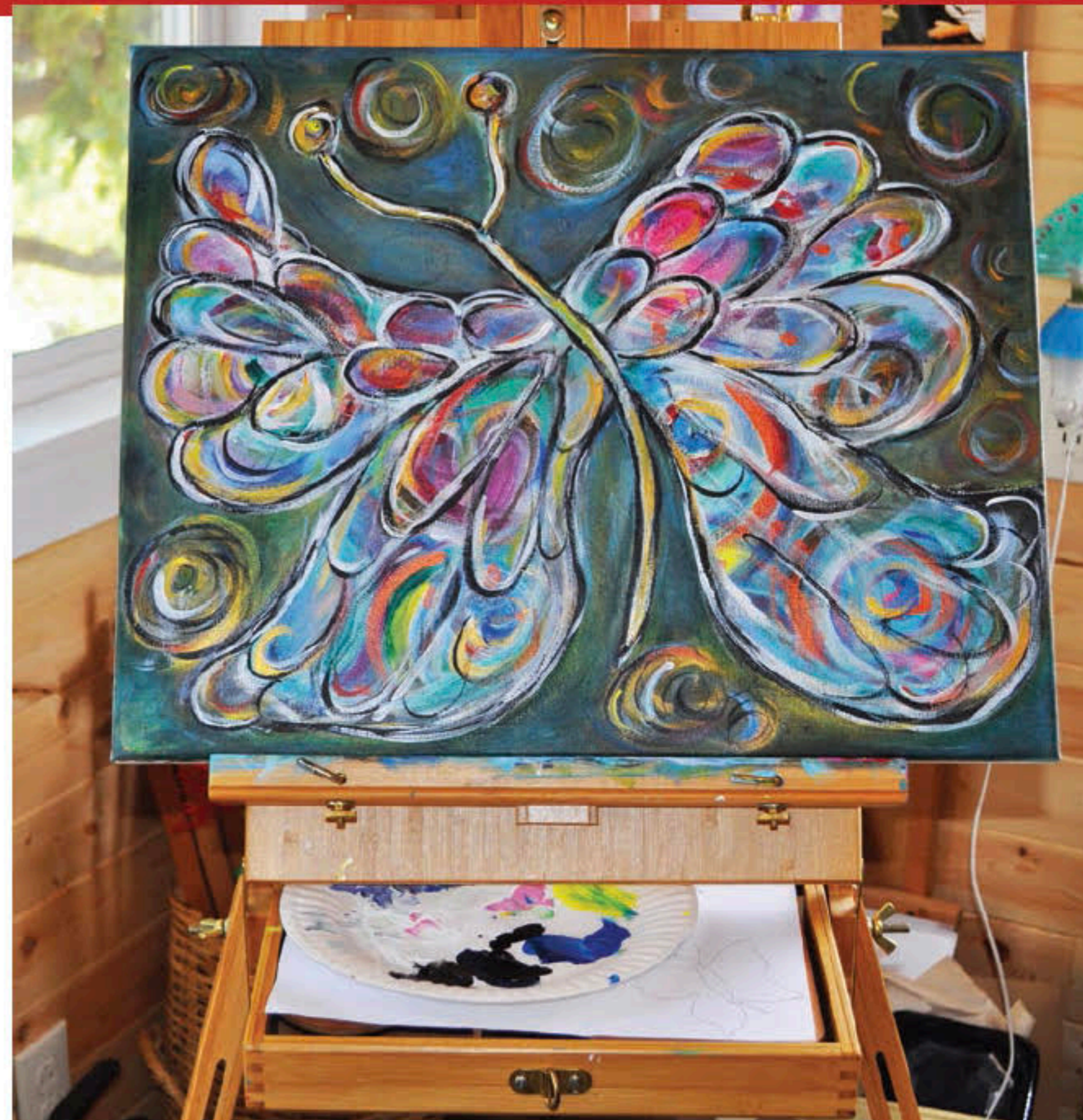
Nancy spent much of her time in her 20s on personal development training. In the 1990s, she worked for a personal development company, but, in 1998, it was purchased by her present business, LegalShield.

Today, Nancy leads LegalShield's training and mentoring programs designed to help others level the legal playing field and take charge of their legal rights. She also created a business called Vision Makers Unlimited, pulling together many of her past experiences and life lessons to empower and inspire women to create their best lives and manifest their dreams through nature, art, and the law of attraction.

Driven by her creativity and being around uplifting people, she is a lifelong student and a relentless pursuer of a life well lived through her contributions to the wellbeing of others. She calls herself an "evolutionary hostess and teacher," sharing her expertise and passion for life with those she mentors and aids.

For 30 years, she assisted on Women's Wilderness Experiences with naturalist Jood Lee, who inspired her love of the wilderness and how to share it with others. She is certified as a Law of Attraction Practitioner, Creatively Fit Art Coach, and Irlen Screener for reading and learning disabilities. She became a student of futurist Barbara Marx Hubbard and a Conscious Evolution Mentor. For nearly 10 years, Nancy studied and co-led workshops and training seminars with Jack Canfield, self-help author of many motivational books, including his "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series.

With everything Nancy has going on, she finds time for gardening, collage designing and painting, hiking and organizing wilderness retreats for women, and helping out monthly at the Somis Food Pantry. She is also a 30-year member of Somis Town and Country, a local service organization focusing on providing college scholarships to area youth.



Nancy Chaconas often uses her mornings creating her own, meditative artworks. Photo by Rita Rogers Bishop

To say Nancy is a busy lady is an understatement. But how does she do so much? She shared, "Years ago, I learned to plan my day the night before and maintain a consistent schedule." The mornings are her time – spiritual, walking, exercising, having breakfast, and, possibly, working on some art project.

By 10 a.m., it's time for work. Between 10 a.m. and noon, she does "the 20 percent of activities that bring 80 percent of the results." Her time management allows her to fill in with many of the other things she wants to do.

As a family, the Chaconas clan enjoys the outdoors and travel. They like connecting with other people and cultures and enjoy experiencing nature and the wilderness. From their mountain cabin to ski and snowboarding holidays to camping and backpacking to international sojourns, they love spending time

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together. One of their most memorable trips was for a family reunion in Greece (where Jim was born) during the 2004 Olympics.

Jim and Nancy have lived in Somis for 30 years, moving from Fillmore. They liked the rural Somis area, which Nancy calls the "best kept secret in Ventura County." She said, "It's a true community – fun, neighbors helping one another, book club, social events, resource sharing, providing services to the larger community. I think it's a model community. People here are not nosy, just interested."

Nancy concluded, "I have created the life I want and I am expanding and improving as I go along. The only thing I would change is just having more ease and grace in the process.

"I see myself as a visionary, who quietly goes about my life making connections with like-minded people, who want to make a difference in the world. My mission is to inspire and empower others to have more love and joy in their lives. My greatest passion is seeing people take action toward manifesting their cherished desires."

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Nancy shares Meditative Art projects to heal and inspire. Photo by Julie Campbell



Nancy continues her mother's love of succulent plants in a living wall outside her art cottage. Photo by Julie Campbell