

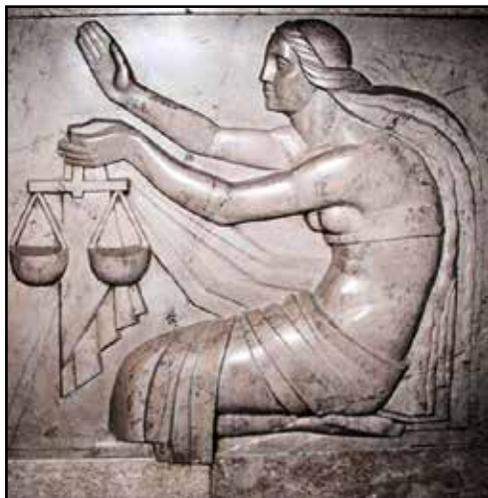
## Women's Justice Center with Marie De Santis

Thursday, January 31, 7:00 p.m.

Admission is \$5 at the door

Activist Marie De Santis, founder and director of Women's Justice Center in Santa Rosa, is speaking at Gualala Arts Center on Thursday, January 31 about her work to end violence against women and children. The center has a special focus on Latina and other underserved communities in Sonoma County. Founded in 1998, the Women's Justice Center has helped over 4,000 individual victims of rape, domestic violence and child abuse. The organization has also provided counseling to many more clients. The center makes special efforts to insure the women and children do not lose their housing and can remain in the area. It works with police and the courts to restrain the perpetrators of these acts.

De Santis will provide an overview of the current situation in Sonoma County and describe the work she does to assist the victims as well as proposals to improve conditions. She adds, "The need is obvious as our website - [www.justicewomen.com](http://www.justicewomen.com) - is visited by over 1,800 people a day from all around the world." Spanish-speakers may also use [www.ayudaparamujeres.com](http://www.ayudaparamujeres.com).



The organization publishes daily accounts of violence-against-women news, distributes bilingual materials and a newsletter, conducts workshops, and investigates civil rights legal cases. One such case in 2002 resulted in establishing a woman's constitutional rights to police protection in 11 western states. This judgment stemmed from the case of Theresa Macias, who unsuccessfully called police twenty-five times for help before she was murdered.

After graduating from the University of Chicago in 1969 with a degree in chemistry, De Santis was drawn into the civil rights movement. She also worked for nine years as a captain of a commercial fishing vessel and authored two books on west coast fisheries. After selling her boat she worked on various fish related environmental issues for ten years.

In 1991 she turned her interest to helping other women as she realized her freedom grew from the struggles of women before her, especially victims of rape and domestic violence. With a belief that this problem is completely solvable once it receives the proper attention, she founded the Women's Justice Center seven years later.

There will be time for questions after the formal presentation.

## CALL TO ARTISTS FOR 2013

**July 5 - August 4, 2013**

**The Auto Show** does not have an "open call to artists." However, the curator John "Simon" Burnett is interested in hearing from artists that specialize in artwork related to cars, trucks and motorcycles.

**August 15 - September 1, 2013**

**The 52nd Art in the Redwoods Fine Arts Exhibit** is the heart of the festival. It is an huge exhibit of fine art. Art entry deadline is the 3rd Monday in July.

**October 4 - October 27, 2013**

**Gualala Salon** is still being defined. It will be a juried and judged show, with monetary prizes. Stay tuned for future announcements!

**December 6 - December 29, 2013**

**Glass Exhibit** celebrates glass in all its varieties: blown, fused, lamp-worked, molded, stained, and glass beads etc. A curator is needed for this exhibit. Please contact Sharon Nickodem at [sharonnickodem@aol.com](mailto:sharonnickodem@aol.com) if you are interested.