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# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE GIRSH / HOCHMAN FAMILY  
AS THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE'S 2006  
DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

# CALIFORNIA

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**WHEREAS**, Viola Girsh and her husband Lester came to Santa Barbara in the Roaring 20's and quickly established themselves as community leaders, generously making contributions to the community, the most notable of which took place following the 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake which destroyed one of the Santa Barbara Mission's Bell Towers. Lester offered to help by making a contribution and securing bank funds for the rebuilding of the Mission. By 1927 Viola and Lester had helped to found Congregation B'nai B'rith, forever establishing a formal Jewish presence in Santa Barbara, and;

**WHEREAS**, Viola, at 99 years young, is still the head of the Girsh / Hockman family. She has been an ever-present force in the community over the years in Sisterhood, Hadassah, and many other organizations. Following Viola's lead, her daughter Ruelene, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren all share the concern for community and generosity that have put this family at the forefront of Santa Barbara. They continue to support Santa Barbara with their work having an emphasis on community affairs, youth, and the arts. Beyond Tolerance, Congregation B'nai B'rith, Planned Parenthood and the Santa Barbara Family YMCA being just a few of the causes that they have supported, and;

**WHEREAS**, As the only child of Viola & Lester Girsh, Ruelene Hockman and her husband Louis have had the joy and privilege of raising the rest of the Girsh / Hockman family. Ruelene first learned the meaning of community service when she joined the Girl Scouts at age seven. Ruelene not only benefited from the kindness of her Scouting family, she also realized the power and satisfaction that comes from helping others. She now continues that tradition by serving on the Tres Condados Girl Scout Council. Among Ruelene's other community efforts are her years of participation with the University Religious Conference Auxiliary, serving as President of the Parkinson's Board and as Financial Secretary of Congregation B'nai B'rith's Sisterhood, and;

**WHEREAS**, Viola's grandson Daniel has also given much to Santa Barbara. Since childhood he has lightened the lives of others by acting, singing, and dancing on any stage he could find including the Santa Barbara Youth Theatre, the Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera and other regional theatres. Daniel delights in playing woodwinds for symphony orchestras, bands and pit orchestras. He is a key member of the popular Congregation B'nai B'rith Band and directs temple cabarets and youth productions. Daniel's non-profit work started fifteen years ago when he began working with the American Federation of Musicians to secure funding to provide free professional musical concerts to the Santa Barbara area. As President of the Greater Santa Barbara Lodging Association he fought to ensure the passage of Measure B to clean local creek and ocean waters and continues to work on the City's Creeks Advisory Committee. Daniel is an officer of the Santa Barbara Family YMCA, Congregation B'nai B'rith and is currently President of the Foundation for the Lester A. & Viola S. Girsh Park in the heart of Goleta.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED** that this Board of Supervisors recognizes the **GIRSH / HOCHMAN FAMILY** for the indelible mark they have made on the Santa Barbara community and congratulates them on being selected as the **ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE'S 2006 DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**. **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2006 by unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
Clerk of the Board

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 1st District

*[Signature]* *Rose*  
Supervisor - 2nd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 3rd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 4th District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 5th District