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**TICKETS ON SALE FOR CENTRAL CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**  
**MOTHER OF FOUR, AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST, BESTSELLING AUTHOR,**  
**FORMER FIRST LADY OF CALIFORNIA, AND FOUNDER OF THE WOMEN'S ALZHEIMER'S MOVEMENT**  
**MARIA SHRIVER TO KEYNOTE**  
[www.ccwc-fresno.org](http://www.ccwc-fresno.org)

Fresno, CA – Tickets are now on sale for the Central California Women's Conference where icon Maria Shriver will keynote. CCWC is the largest women's event in the region and will be held from 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018 at the [Fresno Convention & Entertainment Center](#).

Maria Shriver is a trailblazer for empowering women and is one of the world's leading advocates for women and Alzheimer's. Maria serves as an inspiration for others to become "Architects of Change" and make the world a better place. Her life is driven by her fervent belief that everyone has the ability to make a difference.

"I've always enjoyed my time in Fresno and I look forward to returning there on September 25," said Shriver. "I am pleased that I will get to engage with so many women in the Central Valley who are seeking to make a difference in their lives, in their community, and in the world."

Shriver is the mother of four, an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning journalist, a seven-time New York Times bestselling author, an NBC News Special Anchor, and the founder of Shriver Media and The Women's Alzheimer's Movement. Her new book is *I've Been Thinking...Reflections, Prayers and Meditations for a Meaningful Life*. As the former First Lady of California, Shriver coordinated Women's Conferences from 2003 to 2010 that set the bar for all other conferences.

CCWC Board president Nené Casares shared, “We are using a special Q&A format for the luncheon this year so attendees will get new insight into Maria’s life-changing ideas.”

The theme of this year's CCWC is *Be the Difference*. Attendees will celebrate their differences and be inspired to move forward in making a difference in all areas, including careers, relationships, and, most importantly, their own personal growth.

The morning Warm-Up Session kicks off the conference by honoring 20 under-served young women who will receive the Wells Fargo/CCWC College and Career Preparation Scholarships. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of need, promise and the students' commitment to create positive change. Also in attendance at the conference will be the five AT&T/CCWC/Central California Education Opportunity Center (CCEOC) Re-Entry Scholars.

The morning keynote speaker is Mallika Chopra. Chopra, a media entrepreneur, author, and the founder of Intent.com, speaks to audiences around the world and has shared her passion about Intent at [TedXBerkeley](#), [Business Innovation Factory](#), [Sages & Scientists](#), and many more events and conferences. Her most recent book is *Living With Intent: My Somewhat Messy Journey to Purpose, Peace and Joy*. She is also the founder of The Chopra Well, a premiere YouTube channel she launched with her brother, Gotham Chopra, and father, Deepak Chopra.

Attendees choose three [breakout sessions](#) to attend throughout the day from 21 options. Topics include career development, health and fitness, money and finance, relationships, courage, service and activism, and strength and change. “This year’s lineup is so diverse and rich in valuable information,” said Casares. “Our board and team couldn’t be more excited about the day we have planned for our attendees. This unforgettable conference will be a day of information, networking, fun, great food, and ‘retail therapy’ for our hard-working women of this Valley.”

Attendees also have the opportunity to visit the conference Marketplace and Community Corner where more than 175 businesses and non-profits share information about their products and services. Visitors will be treated to samples, gourmet tastings, information and shopping. “There’s really no other event like this in the Valley,” said long-time conference-goer June Boyce. “I love it – I come at 7:15 a.m. and leave at 5:30 p.m. and I really feel pampered all day long – and this year includes Maria Shriver – WOW!”

The day winds down with the Cool-Down Session where women enter to win prizes, kick off their shoes and relax. This year's Cool-Down speaker is Karen Mills. Mills has been a nationally touring comedian for 25 years and can be heard daily on Sirius/XM comedy channels. She has appeared on ABC, GAC and most recently on season 12 of America’s Got Talent. Even her experience with ovarian cancer couldn’t stop her from turning pain into punchlines. Diagnosed in 2013 after a routine checkup, Karen was determined to take on the disease with hope and humor. Now cancer free, her mission is to love, laugh and take on everything life hands you with a positive attitude.

This year's event is expected to be an exceptionally early sellout. Tickets are \$125 each. Admission includes continental breakfast, all seminars, the celebrity keynote speaker luncheon and the afternoon reception. Tickets are limited to the first 3,500 attendees. Early registration is encouraged. Visit [www.CCWC-Fresno.org](http://www.CCWC-Fresno.org) for tickets and additional information.

The conference is made possible through the [support](#) of national and Central Valley businesses. The presenting sponsor is Community Medical Centers. Founding sponsors are The Fresno Bee and ABC 30. Valley

Children Healthcare is the Keynote Speaker Sponsor. Major sponsors include Wells Fargo, Saint Agnes Medical Center, Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino, Fresno Smile Makeovers, AT&T, Nor Cal Acura Dealers, Macy's, Fresno Lexus, Kaiser Permanente Fresno, Fresno State, Pepsi, The Brownie Baker, Inc., Cumulus Media, Univision Fresno, FTB Print & Mail, Chevron, The Wonderful Company, Deli Delicious, and many more.

In addition to the one-day conference, CCWC has given \$1 million during its 31-year history to community benefit organizations supporting women and children in the Valley.

[Sponsorships](#) and a limited number of [exhibit booths](#) are still available. For sponsorship information contact Jan Edwards [jan@ccwc-fresno.org](mailto:jan@ccwc-fresno.org); for exhibit booth information contact Mary Stabelfeld at [mary@ccwc-fresno.org](mailto:mary@ccwc-fresno.org).

More information about the [conference](#) and [speakers](#) is available at [www.CCWC-Fresno.org](http://www.CCWC-Fresno.org).

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The **CENTRAL CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE** was founded in 1988 by the late State Senator Ken L. Maddy of Fresno, Calif. The conference is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, non-political organization, and the event is designed to educate, motivate and inspire women to be the best they can be in their professional and personal lives. (Tax I.D. #77-0178140).