

Dreams are theme of Starburst Luncheon

By **BOBBIE MONK**
For the Daily Facts

REDLANDS — Dreams CAN come true.

This was the thrust of the Starburst Luncheon held Saturday, April 21 at the Redlands Country Club.

Kathleen Ronald, an internationally recognized speaker, president of SPEAKtacular and a life coach, told the 140 women attending the event that no dream is impossible. She talked about a young Vietnamese woman who spent her formative years (ages 6 to 17) in jail.

At age 11 she was allowed to leave for the Philippines with her brother and sister, ages 10 and 9, but not her parents. At age 12 the three were able to come to Texas and attend school. She became a beautician to provide for them. She now owns two businesses and two homes.

She prevailed against seemingly overwhelming odds.

"Here we are in the land of plenty. What do you want to do?" Ronald asked the women.

"When you are young, dreams are limitless," she said. As you mature, life happens with its bumps, bruises and failed opportunities.

"The only difference between those who achieve and those who don't is their belief system," she said.

"Regardless of your age, it's never too late to fire up that dream again and share it with the world."

"Leg lifts are not enough," she said with a laugh that was echoed throughout the room.

She urged women not to allow themselves to be judged by society because much unhappiness is caused by comparisons.

"What you believe will be true for you. Monitor your self-condemnation and observe your conversations with yourself," she said, then cancel the negatives.

"The past doesn't equal the future," Ronald said.



Photos by **BOBBIE MONK** For the Daily Facts

Jan Fowler, founder of Starburst, thanks speaker Kathleen Ronald for her inspirational talk about following one's dreams.

She read one of her poems called "Angel Girl," which said, "God wants children to fly in the face of fear, hate, and the unknown."

"Believe God will guide you to new heights. All things are possible with God."

She gave this four-step recipe for success: Ask, Believe, Release (your problems to God) and say "Thank you."

This was the 23rd Starburst luncheon, said founder Jan Fowler, who said her dreams were being

realized. She called the luncheon an "attitude recycling center" where women could begin to rid themselves of negative emotions and become optimistic about the future.

The balloons, decorating the tables and the fake "jewels" represented dreams, and she urged women to take the "jewels" and use them to remind themselves of life's possibilities and help keep their dreams alive.

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Kathleen Ronald, center, the speaker at Saturday's Starburst Luncheon, talks with guests following the event.