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Sharing Stories...Sharing Victories

In her honest and inspiring new book, *Common Threads: How Women Weave Tribulation into Triumph* (Life Tapestry Press, \$13.95, April 2010), Michelle Candland shares her personal story as well as the stories of nine other amazing women who have overcome pain and adversity to lead happy and successful lives.

The book is a compilation of almost sixty years of Michelle's personal experiences, ranging from early childhood memories to adult "ah ha!" moments. It is a collection of little somethings that would later prove to be the cause of big somethings, joyful muses, sad observations, sources of pride, causes of embarrassment, and even periods of disgrace...all threads of experience that have woven together to make up the tapestry of her life.

Also woven into the chapters of *Common Threads* are profiles of other women who have been an inspiration to Michelle in creating their own path beyond the status quo, including:

- Laurie Black, former San Diego Port Commissioner
- Suzy Spafford Lidstrom of *Suzy's Zoo*
- Angelina Salinas, first female Latino Brigadier General of the U.S. Marine Corps

Women have the incredible ability to take difficult situations and turn them into personal triumphs regardless of their circumstances. Michelle's hope is that every person who reads this collection of stories will take away from it something positive, something empowering, and something inspiring that will help spark a passion to find their place in the world and make a difference no matter what the past has held.

Michelle Candland retired from a very successful commercial real estate career. Through the San Diego Rotary Club, she was instrumental in a capital campaign that raised millions for the Monarch School for the homeless. She lives in Alpine, California with her husband.