

Debbie Peterson – Author, Entrepreneur, Former Mayor, Real Estate Broker

BIO

Debbie Peterson was the first directly elected female mayor of Grover Beach, California, after serving as a city councilwoman and planning commissioner. Debbie chronicles those years in her latest book, *The Happiest Corruption: Sleaze, Lies and Suicide in a California Beach Town*.

Prior to her work in government, Debbie helped her mother launch The Brownie Baker, baking handmade family-recipe cakes and cookies, and expanded her mother's concept into a successful wholesale bakery, retail cafes, specialist bakeries, and trucking and distribution outlets in Scotland and London. By 1992 the company had annual sales of \$7 million and nearly one hundred employees.

The Scottish Association of Master Bakers named her an honorary Scottish Master Baker and she received the Clydesdale Bank Scottish Young Business Personality of the Year award in 1992 in addition to several other business vision, training, and efficiency awards, including one presented by prime minister, Margaret Thatcher. Her first book, *The California Cake & Cookie Cookbook* in 1987 sold in Border Books, Barnes & Noble, Fortnum & Mason, and Harrods. She was a sought-after speaker at women's and business conferences and universities, and consulted for development agencies, helping business startups and manufacturers in business planning, marketing, and restructuring after selling her companies. The Scottish Development Agency commissioned her to write *Great Scotswomen in Business*. She was featured in industry, business, and women's press and media including BBC TV, *The Sunday Times*, *Financial Times*, *Company Magazine*, and *House & Garden*.

Debbie returned to California to raise her son, where, in addition to her public service, she and her team have closed more than five hundred win-win residential real estate transactions and she has served on several local service boards. Debbie continues to write, advocate for good government, and travel and ski with friends and family.

She studied journalism and radio-TV at California State University, Fresno, before completing an undergraduate degree in communications and public relations at the University of Idaho and an Entrepreneurship course at the Scottish Business School.

Please visit DebbiePeterson.com to listen to Debbie's podcast *Corruption Chronicles*, sign up for her online course, *Double Dais*, read her blog, invite her to speak, for an interview, and learn about other books she has written. Go to Linktr.ee/DebbiePeterson.com for links to social media.