



## 25th ANNUAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON AND AWARDS CEREMONY

February 12, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### ALAMEDA COUNTY WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME TO INDUCT 13 OUTSTANDING WOMEN AT 2018 CELEBRATION

Thirteen local women representing the region's rich diversity as well as a remarkable range of achievement will be inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame at its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on March 24<sup>th</sup> in Oakland.

"The outstanding achievements of this year's Women's Hall of Fame honorees will inspire us all as we celebrate Women's History Month and our 25th Year of recognizing the many contributions women make in our communities," said County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, Co-Chair of the Women's Hall of Fame.

This year's celebration will include the program's first inductee in the new category of Emerging Leader. That honor will go to the leader of the Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Activities League, who has driven the nonprofit's vastly expanded reach by launching new youth sports leagues and other innovative programs to build a healthier community.

The 2018 inductees also include a Fremont resident who leads efforts to support Afghan refugees; a Berkeley woman who leads a gardening program that teaches vocational skills and promotes healing for people incarcerated at eight California prisons; and a 17-year-old high school senior from East Oakland whose wide-ranging volunteer work is having a lasting positive impact on her community.

These are but a sampling of the inspiring stories that will be the focus of the 2018 Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, which will take place **at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 24, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 4700 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland.** Tickets to the event are available at <http://acgov.org/whof/>.

The program, co-sponsored by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the County's Commission on the Status of Women, will once again raise funds to support important local partners serving women and families in Alameda County. In addition, it will support local girls' academic pursuits through the Mary V. King "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship Fund, named after the former Alameda County Supervisor and Women's Hall of Fame co-founder who died in 2015.

This year's inductees are:

- **Shonda Scott**, Business and Professions. Shonda is creator and CEO of 360 Total Concepts, an Oakland-based management and marketing company. She is also a civic leader and philanthropist who has spearheaded efforts to assist Oakland schools and to promote cancer research and support cancer survivors.
- **Rona Popal**, Community Service. Rona leads the Afghan Coalition, a Fremont nonprofit supporting Afghan refugees. She is a tenacious leader who promotes community dialog to heal misunderstandings in the post 9-11 world, and spearheads worldwide campaigns to end child marriages and other hardships faced by Afghan women.
- **Winda Shimizu**, Culture and Art. Winda is a master creator, coordinator and supporter of the arts who has had an invaluable impact on expanding arts programming in communities of central Alameda County and beyond. Winda has been pivotal in expanding arts programming in local schools, while driving scholarship programs and other efforts to promote local artists.
- **Trina Ostrander**, Education. For more than 20 years, Trina has driven cross-sector partnerships to promote education and career opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), leveraging prominent positions with Bayer life sciences and now as Executive Director of the East Bay STEM Institute at Cal State East Bay.



- **Hilary Bass**, Emerging Leader. As Executive Director of the Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Activities League (DSAL), Hilary has led the nonprofit to vastly expand its influence in fighting crime and building healthy communities. She has spearheaded youth boxing, dance and soccer programs, and secured private sector support allowing DSAL to become one of the region's most creative, action-oriented nonprofits.
- **Wendy Sommer**, Environment. Wendy is Executive Director of Alameda County's Waste Management Authority, or StopWaste. She has been at the forefront of sustainability leadership for more than 25 years and has launched standard-setting programs for green building, bay-friendly landscaping and resource conservation.
- **Janet Liang**, Health. Janet is President of Kaiser Permanente's Northern California Region and a leader in the use of technology to advance clinical excellence, address disparities in health access and provide more affordable care to thousands of people across the northern part of the State.
- **Amanda Berger**, Justice. The Berkeley resident oversees the Insight Gardening programs at eight California state prisons. Insight programs bring vocational gardening and landscaping training to people in prison to allow them to reconnect to self, community, and the natural world, while aiming to transform lives and end ongoing cycles of incarceration.
- **Liisa Pine Shoonmaker**, Non-Traditional Careers. Liisa is Chair of the welding department at Laney College in Oakland, and the department's only female instructor. In a two-decade welding career, Liisa has found herself to be the only woman on many welding jobs. This experience has ignited her passion about opening the field to women as a source of stable work, good pay and intellectual challenges.
- **Nicole Curran**, Philanthropy. Nicole is Board President of the Warriors Community Foundation. Under her leadership, the charitable arm of the Golden State Warriors basketball team has delivered about \$9 million in impact to support education and youth development in the Bay Area – making it one of the most generous foundations in professional sports.
- **Beena Ammanath**, Science, Technology, Engineering. The Pleasanton resident is Global Vice President of AI, Data and Innovation at Hewlett Packard Enterprise. Beena has been instrumental in bringing analytic innovations to some of the world's top companies, while leading longstanding efforts to increase the ranks of women and minorities in technology and to make Artificial Intelligence accessible to all.
- **Leilani Shaffer**, Sports and Athletics. The San Lorenzo resident is a longtime volunteer coach and team manager with Special Olympics of Northern California. Initially motivated by a desire to find a sports program for her active, developmentally disabled son, Leilani has become a driving force in the exponential growth of Special Olympics sports activity in Alameda County and across the East Bay.
- **Roxana Perez**, Youth. At just 17, Roxana has already assumed the role of community leader in the City of Oakland. She Chairs the Oakland Youth Advisory Commission, advising city leaders on matters such as youth-police relations. She also is a police cadet, a leader at the East Oakland Youth Development Center and a driving force in a program that delivers food to homeless encampments. She pursues these and many other activities while maintaining a 4.22 grade point average at Aspire Golden State Preparatory Academy in East Oakland.

Tickets to the luncheon and awards ceremony are \$100. For ticket information and on-line purchase, visit <http://whof.acgov.org>. Sponsorship opportunities that include the sponsoring of tables/seats for youth to attend are available at <http://whof.acgov.org> or please e-mail [countyadministrator@acgov.org](mailto:countyadministrator@acgov.org) for additional information.