



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator (510) 272-6984

NEWEST ALAMEDA COUNTY WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES GATHER TO PLAN MARCH 24 CELEBRATION



Pictured above are, left to right, Janet Liang, Roxana Perez, Shonda Scott, Dr. Stacy Thompson (Chair, Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women and Event Co-Chair), Wendy Sommer, Beena Ammanath, Leilani Shaffer, Hilary Bass, Susan S. Muranishi (Alameda County Administrator and Event Co-Chair) and Rona Popal. Honorees not pictured are Winda I. Shimizu, Trina Ostrander, Amanda Berger, Liisa Pine Schoonmaker and Nicole Curran.

Thirteen women who will soon be inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame took part in a reception in Oakland on February 18th to get to know one another and to plan for an inspiring luncheon and awards ceremony next month that will be the focus of Alameda County's celebration of March as Women's History Month.

It was the third year in a row that Alameda County has held a pre-event reception to allow the latest Women's Hall of Fame honorees to learn about the program's rich history and its mission of supporting vital nonprofit community partners and a youth scholarship.

"Our February reception always gives everyone a jolt of excitement – especially this year as we prepare for our 25th Annual Women's Hall of Fame," said Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, event co-chair. "As usual, the reception left us all inspired and impressed by the amazing achievements of our newest honorees."

This year's Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon and Awards Ceremony 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 celebration will include the program's first inductee in the **new category of Emerging Leader**. This honor will go to **Hilary Bass**, Executive Director of the Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Activities League (DSAL). Bass has led a vast expansion of the nonprofit DSAL's reach by launching wildly successful youth boxing, dance and soccer programs, as well as other innovative initiatives to build a healthier community.

In addition to Bass, the 2018 Women's Hall of Fame inductees are:

- **Shonda Scott**, Business and Professions. Shonda is the creator and CEO of 360 Total Concept, 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 guides worldwide campaigns to end child marriages and other hardships faced by Afghan women.
- **Winda I. 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.
- **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 gardening programs at eight California state prisons that bring vocational gardening and landscaping training to incarcerated people to allow them to reconnect to self, community, and the natural world. The program also aims to transform lives and end cycles of incarceration.
- **Liisa Pine Schoonmaker**, Non-Traditional Careers. Liisa is Chair of the welding department at Laney College in Oakland, and the department's only female instructor. In a 27-year 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 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 an Oakland police explorer, a leader at the East Oakland Youth Development Center and a driving force in a program that delivers food to homeless encampments. She attends Aspire Golden State Preparatory Academy in East Oakland, captaining the girls' soccer team and maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.

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 for additional information.