



Girls Inc of the Island City

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1st Annual Celebration of Excellence Luncheon 2000

Saturday, May 13, 2000
Scott's Restaurant, Jack London Square, Oakland

Keynote Speaker: Dawn Riley (*see bio below*)

Award Recipients: Arlene Blum (*see bio below*)
Missy Park (*see bio below*)
Poorva Pandey (Youth Award Recipient)

Honorary Chairs:

- Wilma Chan, Alameda County Board of Supervisors
- Gail Greely, Alameda Board of Education
- Janet Holmgren, Mills College President
- Beverly Johnson, Alameda City Council
- Pam Moore, KRON-4 News Anchor
- Isabel Carter Stewart, Girls Inc. President & CEO

Event Committee: Deidre Araujo (Chair), John Abrate, Tatiana Auer, Kim Byrne, Rose Farhi-Doss, Melissa Mischak, and Shirley Weishaar

*Keynote
Speaker:***Dawn Riley**

Growing up in Detroit, Michigan, where she sailed on Lake St. Clair, Riley became obsessed with racing at the age of 13. She joined North Star Sail Club and became commodore of the junior sailing program. Years later she was the first woman in the world to lead an America's Cup challenge - the coed America True team. She is also the first American to have raced on two America's Cup teams and two Whitbread Round the World teams. In addition to her racing career, Riley strives to bring the sailing world to everyone through the True Youth program. This program aims to build confidence and enhance teamwork and communication skills while expanding the sport of sailing to those who would not usually have the opportunity to participate.

*Award
Recipient:***Arlene Blum**

Not only did Blum lead the first American (and all-woman) climb of Annapurna (26,500'), the world's tenth highest peak, but her research while at UC Berkeley was instrumental in banning tris, a cancer causing chemical used as a flame retardant on children's sleepwear. She holds a doctorate in biophysical chemistry, authored a book Annapurna: A Woman's Place, and has been published in National Geographic, Smithsonian and Science magazines. Currently she helps others achieve their potential by conducting leadership workshops. These seminars take participants on an expedition to discover their own leadership skills and team-building abilities.

*Award
Recipient:***Missy Park**

After quitting her secure job at The North Face in April, 1989, Park started her own business, Title 9 Sports and had it up and running out of her own home by November. That's not to say there weren't challenges or obstacles along the way. Park freely admits the first catalog was a huge flop. But by 2000, Title 9 Sports had moved twice, mailed over 15 million catalogs and was on the World Wide Web. She also opened a retail shop in Berkeley and has dreams of starting a health club. The company's name references the historic piece of legislation that required all schools receiving federal funds to provide girls and women equal opportunity to compete in sports. A former collegiate athlete herself, Park recognized the trend that most manufacturers catered to men and only offered women unisex sizing or scaled down men's products in "women's colors." Title 9 Sports seeks out suppliers who make products specifically for active women.