



Girls Inc of the Island City

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6th Annual Celebration of Excellence Luncheon 2005

Saturday, May 14, 2005
11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Hilton Oakland Airport

Emcee: Noel Cisneros, East Bay Bureau Chief, KRON 4 news (*see bio below*)

Keynote Speaker: Gilda Gonzales, CEO, Oakland's Unity Council (*see bio below*)

Award Recipients: Ana-Marie Jones, Executive Director, CARD -Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters (*see bio below*)

Gretel Gates, Alameda Community Activist (*see bio below*)

Alexis Cavallaro (Youth Award Recipient)

Honorary Chairs:

- Renel Brooks-Moon, Radio/TV Personality, 98.1 KISS FM
- Dr. Cecilia Cervantes, President, College of Alameda
- Congressman Fortney "Pete" Stark
- Dr. Alice Challen, Alameda Icon and Retired Physician
- Joyce Denyven, Retired Alameda Girls Club Executive Director
- Sara Heaps, Student, Encinal High School and former Bay Area Science Fair Winner
- Janet Holmgren, President, Mills College
- Karen Kenney, Dean of Students, UC Berkeley
- Janice Lee, Partner, Edward Jones
- Melody Marr, CEO, Alameda Chamber of Commerce
- Kathy Moehring, Alameda Power & Telecom
- Jill Ottaviano, Sergeant, Alameda Police Department
- Dennis Pagones, President, Harbor Bay Realty
- Hon. Gay Plair Cobb, CEO, Oakland Private Industry Council, Inc.
- Barbara Price, CEO, P.K. Consultants, Inc.
- Bernida Reagan, Director of Social Responsibility, Port of Oakland
- Margie Sherratt, Retired Principal, Alameda High School
- Lateefah Simon, Executive Director, San Francisco's Center for Young Women's Development

Event Committee: Donnaluci Williams (Chair), Susan Adams, Romy Amos, Samarial Brown, Kristin Butler, Diann Castleberry, Monica Davis, Tristen Fredrickson, Karen Granados, Dorie Guess Behrstock, Mary Kenney, and Anna Vargas

Emcee: **Noel Cisneros, East Bay Bureau Chief, KRON 4 news**

Noel Cisneros is a general assignment reporter with a specialty in education reporting. She joined KRON 4 in 1994, and moved to the station's East Bay bureau in 1995.

Cisneros has won local, state, and national awards for education reporting. In 2001, she received an Emmy for her series "Crisis in the Classroom," which focused on teacher shortages in California. Cisneros is also a two-time recipient of the John Swett Award for Media Excellence from the California Teachers Association, and is the only television reporter in the state to receive that honor. She has been honored by the Bay Area School Reform Collaborative for her efforts to highlight inequities in urban education, and recognized nationally by the Education Writers Association. In 2002, Cisneros was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Reporter.

Most Bay Area viewers caught their first glimpse of Cisneros in 1995 when she was the only reporter on the scene during the Guerneville floods. Only a few weeks after joining KRON 4, Cisneros was assigned to report on the floods in this small Northern California town. She arrived in Guerneville just before floodwaters blocked the roads leading in and out of town. Even the National Guard couldn't get in, making Cisneros the only source of information available to the public.

Prior to KRON 4, Cisneros was a general assignment reporter for KOVR-TV in Sacramento, beginning in 1990. She reported live from the Los Angeles riots, Sierra forest fires and the Oakland Hills fire. Before that, Cisneros was a general assignment reporter and anchor at WCSH-TV, the NBC affiliate in Portland, Maine.

Cisneros received her Master's degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri, and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon. Cisneros enjoys scuba diving, travel and exercise. She has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe and the Caribbean. She is married with two children and lives in the East Bay.

*Keynote
Speaker:***Gilda Gonzales, CEO, Oakland's Unity Council**

Gilda Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer of the Unity Council, has a long history of public service. Ms. Gonzales began her professional career in 1987 as a State Assembly Fellow working in the California State Legislature. Following the fellowship, she worked on numerous state and national political campaigns. In 1989, Ms. Gonzales assumed the position of Legislative Aide of former Assemblymember Elihu Harris' office in the State Capitol. Assemblymember Harris represented Oakland in the State Legislature and had begun his campaign for Mayor of Oakland that same year. Ms. Gonzales worked weekdays in the State Capitol and traveled to Oakland on weekends to work on the Mayoral campaign. Her campaign focus was getting out the vote effort in the Fruitvale and San Antonio neighborhoods.

Mr. Harris became the Mayor of Oakland in 1991, and Ms. Gonzales left Sacramento to assume the position of policy analyst with Mayor Harris' office. Her initial responsibilities included extensive community outreach to the Oakland Latino community, city budget analysis, and policy overview of the Parks and Recreation Department. In 1995, Ms. Gonzales joined the City's Finance and Budget Office as a budget analyst and was soon promoted to Assistant to the Agency Director position. In her new capacity in the Finance Department, she assisted the Agency Director in the implementation of administrative oversight and policy development.

In 1997, Ms. Gonzales was asked to assume the position of Chief of Staff for former Oakland City Manager Robert Bobb. Her primary duties included press/media spokesperson, major city

policy development, community relations, and managing Oakland's state and federal legislative agendas.

In 1999, Ms. Gonzales became the dual Chief of Staff for City Manager Robert Bobb and Mayor Jerry Brown for three years. In addition to her regular professional duties, she served on the Oakland Unified School Board for seven months and taught Introduction to Public Administration for the University of San Francisco during this same time period.

In 2001, Ms. Gonzales was named the City of Oakland's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. In this capacity, she managed the City's federal lobbyist as well as serving as Oakland's state lobbyist.

In the fall of 2004, Ms. Gonzales was named the new Chief Executive Officer for the Unity Council. She leads a forty-one year old organization comprised of 150 employees with a \$15M annual budget. The Unity Council is a non-profit community development corporation committed to enriching the quality of life of families primarily in the Fruitvale District of Oakland. Its primary focus has been to create a healthier and safer community for families and residents by implementing and managing integrated programs addressing the economic, social, and physical development.

Gilda Gonzales was born in Roswell, New Mexico, but raised in the California Central Valley town of Atwater. She is the youngest of five children who grew up in a working class family. She received a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College in Industrial Psychology, and then a Master's of Public Administration from the California State University at Hayward.

*Award
Recipient:*

Ana-Marie Jones, Executive Director, CARD (Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters)



Ana-Marie Jones is the Executive Director of CARD (Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters), located in Alameda County, California.

CARD coordinates trains and supports community service organizations in disaster preparedness, response and recovery activities. CARD also serves as lead and fiscal agent for several other preparedness programs serving the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo.

Before joining CARD in April 2000, Ms. Jones worked for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Coastal Region for three years on projects supporting community organizations and people with special needs.

She has also served as the acting Executive Director of the Northern California Disaster Preparedness Network, a 5-year funding initiative dedicated to creating emergency preparedness and response resources for vulnerable and special needs communities.

Jones serves on several emergency preparedness/response planning programs and committees, including the Alameda County Bio-terrorism Planning Project, the Metropolitan Medical Response, the Alameda County Operational Area Council, the San Leandro Disaster Council, the City of Oakland's Emergency Management Board and the Statewide Emergency Volunteerism Advisory Group (SEVAG).

Ms. Jones is an instructor with the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI), where she teaches Planning for the Unthinkable - Everyone Survives. In 2001, Ms. Jones received the Disaster Resistant Community Leadership Award from the City of San Leandro.

In November 2003, at the request of the Japanese government and Japanese research institutes, Ana-Marie toured Tokyo and Kobe sharing CARD's disaster preparedness curriculum with government, emergency management, university and nonprofit leaders. She will return to Japan in January 2005 to provide more training.

*Award
Recipient:***Gretel Gates, Alameda Community Activist**

Gretel Gates is a longtime Alameda community activist and a wonderful example of a Woman Who Dares. She and her parents left Germany before World War II, leaving their home, business and most of their belongings behind. With very little money and almost no English skills, they settled in New York, where Gretel went to high school and did most of the work at home while her parents earned a living. She got married at 19, moved to a chicken farm in Vineland, N.J., and had two daughters, Sylvia and Brenda. In 1947, she was widowed and moved in with her parents on another chicken farm. While raising her daughters, she worked on the farm as well as part time off the farm doing catering to make ends meet. Despite all her responsibilities, she still found time to help others, including victims of a nearby hurricane. In 1952, she married Rabbi Gunther Gates, leader of Alameda's Jewish community and rabbi of Temple Israel and former Board Member for the Alameda Girls Club (now called Girls Inc.!). She had two more children, David and Mimi, and continued helping her community, volunteering in the local schools, for the PTA, the March of Dimes, the Red Cross, Campfire Girls, Brownies, and the Cub Scouts. She even walked in Georgia to demonstrate for civil rights. She was given the Volunteer of the Year award from Oakland Lodge No. 252, B'nai B'rith. Gretel was honored for her years of volunteer work with the Mayor's Committee of the Homeless Shelter, the American Heart Association in Alameda, Meals on Wheels, Haddassah, ORT and Temple Israel Sisterhood. In 2003, Mayor Beverly Johnson announced that Jan. 31 was "Gretel Gates Day" in Alameda.