

Girl Power Press

A publication of Girls Incorporated of the Island City
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Women of the 21st Century Club Speaker Event

The online car insurance company *Esurance* will be the Presenting Sponsor at the Women of the 21st Century Club's next Speaker Event on **July 19**. The theme will be "**Women and Girls in Science, Math, and Technology.**"

The evening will include a presentation by a panel of experts who will speak about the issues facing women and girls who want to work in these still non-traditional fields. It will also include a presentation by girls in our *Operation S.M.A.R.T. (Science, Math, and Relevant Technology)* program. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for teens. Members and non-members are welcome. Call 521-1743 or visit www.girlsincislandcity.org for information about the location and panel of speakers.

The **Women of the 21st Century Club** is a membership group created for women who want to support Girls Inc. of the Island City. Members pay a \$250 annual membership fee, raise funds to support Girls Inc. programs, and serve as ambassadors for Girls Inc. in the community. Members and the general public are invited to attend Speaker Events where they can learn about important issues impacting girls; hear guest speakers; and listen to girls in our program showcase one of the issues they are exploring.

Our Speaker series began in January with "Violence Against Girls and Women," when guest speaker Tara Shabazz, Director of Programs and Operations for the California Alliance Against Domestic Violence shared the podium girls with from our *Blueprint "Preventing Teen Dating Violence"* program. In March, the series continued with "Women and Girls in Leadership," when guest Speaker Helen Waters, president of the Institute for Women's Leadership, shared the podium with girls from our "*In Our Own Hands*" leadership program. May's theme, "Women, Girls, and Economic Literacy," included guest Speaker Lynn Jimenez, business reporter for KGO, and girls from our "*She's on the Money*" program.

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www.girlsincislandcity.org



Gilda Gonzales smiles with Best Foot Forward Girls

6th Annual Celebration of Excellence Fundraiser

Girls were encouraged to confront their fears, ask questions, and give back to their communities at our *6th Annual Celebration of Excellence Luncheon* on May 14. Themed "Women Who Dare," the luncheon was an opportunity for Girls Inc. to honor women and girls who represent excellence.

Noel Cisneros, East Bay Bureau Chief for KRON 4 News, was a rousing and enthusiastic emcee and our keynote speaker, awardees, youth nominees, and Best Foot Forward girls were inspiring.

Awardee **Ana-Marie Jones**, executive director of CARD (Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters), spoke eloquently about the strong, smart, and bold girls she met on her visit to our Meyers Center and encouraged attendees to continue their support for our programs. Awardee **Gretel Gates**, a longtime Alameda Community Activist, offered girls the wise advice that when the world gets you down, the best way to lift your spirits is to get involved and give back to your community.

Keynote Speaker **Gilda Gonzales**, CEO of Oakland's Unity Council, urged girls to hold onto their dreams, face fear with courage, and never back down just because they think they don't fit in.

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But the most inspiring part of the day were the stories told by our four youth nominees - **Kate Rockwell, LaDonna Smith, Kayla Simonson, and Natasha Walls** - and Youth Awardee **Alexis Cavallaro**, and the poise of our *Best Foot Forward* girls, who introduced all our guests. Special thanks goes out to the following people and businesses for supporting this event:

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Thank you also to **Stay Stylish.net** for it's support at the luncheon. Stay Stylish.net offers private labeled, high-quality, affordable designer-inspired handbags and purses without the designer price tag. Products are suited to the lifestyles of moms, girls, and "fashionistas" They change their products every three months and name their bags after women and girls that inspire them! On-line sales only at www.staystylish.net or call 415.244.6443.

What's New at Girls Inc.

- Executive Director **Romy Amos** retired on May 31. The Board of Directors appointed Activity Center Program Director **Pam Williams** as Interim Executive Director while it conducts its search. To apply, visit: <http://www.girlsincislandcity.org/html2/jobs.htm>
- On June 1, we launched our new teen magazine - "**Out Loud: Thoughts of a Teenage Mind**" created for and by Alameda youth in partnership with Homebase Alternatives in Action and Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth, and Families - at Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden
- On June 14, we held an appreciation event to thank the wonderful women who participated in our **Courageous Women** program this year. To be a *Courageous Woman* and talk to our girls about your career, call Gina Vittori at 521-1743.
- On June 21, "**Leaders of a Strong Tomorrow**" - members of Girls Inc.'s **In Our Own Hands Leadership Program** in partnership with Alameda Animal Shelter - held an **Animal Safety Event** at the Starbuck's at South Shore.
- At the *Celebration of Excellence Luncheon*, we unveiled and began selling our new **Perpetual Calendars**. Artwork for the calendars was designed by Alameda youth who participated in an art contest in honor of our 40th Anniversary. Calendars are \$15 and can be bought in Alameda at our Meyers Center; Alameda Art Center; Art and Soul; Books Inc.; Daisy's; Frank Bette Center; Island Eyecare; Urban Forest; and Wolf & Hare on Bayfarm. Proceeds support our girls programs. For information call 521-1743.

Upcoming Events ...

- **Girls Inc. Annual Awards and Installation Dinner:** 6:00 to 8:30 PM July 14; Elks Rathskeller, 2255 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. Tickets are \$40, donations accepted, call 521-1743 for information.
- **Women of the 21st Century Club Speaker Event:** *Women and Girls in Science, Math, and Technology;* 6:30 to 8:30 PM July 19; for info., call 521-1743 or write to kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org

In-Kind Donations Wish List ... Crayola Markers, Scissors, Laminator, Pencils, Kickball, rubber ball, Jump ropes, 10' aluminum pole for tetherball, 2 bags of dry cement for tetherball pole, 10 relatively new PCs (personal computers) with monitors and Windows ME, and a new refrigerator. Call (510) 521-1743 or write to kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org.

Girls Inc. is dedicated to inspiring all girls to be Strong, Smart, and Bold^(SM)