

# Girl Power Press

A publication of Girls Incorporated of the Island City  
Volume 5, Issue 4, Spring 2006

## Women Who Dare Benefit

Girls Incorporated of the Island City will honor six outstanding women and girl leaders from Alameda and the Bay Area at its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Women Who Dare (formerly Celebration of Excellence) benefit luncheon - entitled *Vision, Voice and Passion* - on Saturday, May 20, 2006 from 11am to 2pm at Caffé Verbena in downtown Oakland.

The event celebrates women who dare to follow their dreams, pursue their passions and inspire those around them. Carolyn Tyler of KGO-TV, Anchor of ABC 7 News and Emmy-nominated reporter, will be emcee and six women and girls will receive awards.

The *Visionary Award* will be given to Roma Pauline Guy, member of the San Francisco Health Commission, a women and human rights activist, and policy leader in public health, women's rights, poverty, and homelessness. By leading and initiating community movement and transcending the "usual" approach to solving problems, Guy's vision is recognized worldwide with a nomination for the 2005 "1,000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize."

The *True Voice Award* will be given to Daisy Newman, a former international opera singer and current Director of the Young Musician's Program at UC Berkeley. Newman identifies musically gifted students who cannot afford the specialized training essential for the development of their innate abilities and provides them with comprehensive music education, academic reinforcement and personal guidance on a full scholarship basis.

The *Passion Within Award* will be given to Alameda native Anna Towata, a Japanese

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Girls Inc. teen members Nicole Oliver, Sara Heaps, and Natasha Walls win national scholarships.

## Girls Inc. Teens Win Big Scholarships!

Three outstanding members of Girls Incorporated of the Island City's teen program have won cash scholarships to college.

Sara Heaps, Nicole Oliver, and Natasha Walls are three of only 27 young women in the United States and Canada who won the merit-based scholarships from the Girls Inc. national organization this year.

The Girls Inc. National Scholars and Awards Program was created in 1992 when Lucile Miller Wright, a long-time supporter of Girls Inc., made a bequest from her estate to fund scholarships expressly for young women members. Since 1993, over \$1 million in scholarships have been awarded to high school women.

The goal of the scholarship program is to inspire outstanding young women to pursue secondary education and to give them access to a broad range of career possibilities. Application is open

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Scholarship Winners (continued from page 1)

to young women who are in the 11th or 12th grade and who are and have been members of a Girls Inc. affiliate for two years.

All three local winners are founding members of *Blueprint*, a Girls Inc. social action program that focuses on teen issues such as teen dating violence, depression, and body image. Girls in *Blueprint* choose a topic that is relevant to teens, conduct research about it, and give presentations or lead activities to educate the community.

Sara Heaps, a senior at Encinal High School, is one of only nine girls to win a \$15,000 scholarship from Girls Inc. this year. In addition to the work she has done in *Blueprint*, Sara has participated as a presenter at Girls Inc.'s *Girls Take Charge Summit* and has been both an award-winner and an honorary chair at the annual *Women Who Dare Benefit* (formerly Celebration of Excellence Luncheon).

Sara was class president for two years at her school; is a member of Encinal Leadership; started a recycling program; was on the varsity basketball team; and is an excellent student. She will attend Stanford University.

Nicole Oliver, a senior at Holy Names High School in Oakland, also won a \$15,000 scholarship. In addition to the work she has done in *Blueprint*, she also participated as a presenter at the organization's *Girls Take Charge Summit*, speaking passionately about the problem of teen dating violence; was a part of the *FacilitatHER* program, facilitating activities for elementary school-aged girls; and participated in *Courageous Girls*, a program that allows girls to interact with women from the community and explore future career options.

She is also a talented soccer player and an

excellent student. Nicole is planning to attend UC Santa Cruz.

Natasha Walls, a senior at Alameda High School, won a \$2,500 scholarship. In addition to the work she has done in *Blueprint*, Natasha participated as a presenter at the organization's *Girls Take Charge Summit*; was a part of the *FacilitatHER* program; writes, edits, and promotes the teen "zine" *Out Loud: Thoughts of a Teenage Mind*; and was a finalist for the youth award at Girls Inc.'s *Women Who Dare Benefit* in 2005.

Natasha is president of the Gay Straight Alliance at her school, is class vice president, has a part-time job at Tucker's Super Creamed Ice Cream, and is an excellent student. She was also recently featured as a "Wonder Girl" in Bay Area BusinessWoman News. Natasha is planning to attend Chabot College.

For more information about how to apply for a scholarship or join the Girls Inc. teen program, contact Teen Specialist Gina Vittori at 521.1743.

Other Important News:

- Meyers and Activity Center summer program registration is ongoing
- The spring issue of the teen zine, "*Out Loud: Thoughts of a Teenage Mind*" is now available at Girls Inc. and local libraries
- Girls Inc. will celebrate Girls Rights Week throughout the country May 8-12
- Girls Inc.'s *Women Who Dare Benefit* is May 20 (see pages 1 & 3)
- Girls Inc. Women of the 21st Century Club's speaker program, "The Impact of Sports on Girls' Self Esteem," is June 7 (see page 3)

For info., call 510.521.1743 or visit [www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org)

***Girls Inc. is dedicated to inspiring all girls to be Strong, Smart, and Bold<sup>(SM)</sup>***

### The Impact of Sports on Girls' Self-Esteem

Girls Incorporated of the Island City's Women of the 21st Century Club will be hosting its next community-wide speaker event in Alameda from 6:00-8:00 pm on June 7, 2006, (location TBD).

The topic will be "The Impact of Sports on Girl's Self-Esteem" and the event will include a dynamic discussion about how sports impacts girls' self-esteem, both positively and negatively.

This important topic will explore such questions as: why do girls leave sports in their teen years? Does having good role models keep them involved? Are certain socioeconomic groups more likely to stay or drop out? Are achievement incentives like scholarships influential? Does participation lead to taking on leadership roles later in life?

Dimensions of the discussion will include risk taking, personal development, body image, achievement, confidence, and opportunity.

The evening will include expert testimony from girls in the Girls Inc.'s Meyers Center program, who will address the impact of participating on athletic teams and in Girls Inc.'s *Adventure Girls* program. A panel of coaches, athletes, sports psychologists and thought leaders in the field of female leadership will discuss these topics and questions raised by the audience.

Tickets are \$10 at the door. For information, contact Development and Communications Director Kristin Butler, 510.521.1743 or [kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org](mailto:kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org) or visit [www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org).

The Women of the 21st Century Club is a volunteer group that raises awareness about, and money, for Girls Inc. programs. Membership is \$250 annually.

### Women Who Dare (continued from page 1)

internment camp survivor from World War II who possessed unwavering enthusiasm for her goals regardless of challenges or setbacks she has experienced and who continues to harness her own spiritual and intellectual power to follow her dreams, give back to the community, and ignite drive and creativity in those around her.

These three awards will also be given to girls ages 6-18 who are "emerging leaders" and the winners will be announced prior to the event.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the benefit will include a "Daring Experiences" live auction that includes a chance to meet an author or take boat cruise around the bay, and an "If You Dare" prize drawing that includes a timeshare in Las Vegas.

Also, a "Dare to Dream" contest will allow attendees a chance to win a pair of beautiful diamond earrings from Seelenbacher Jewelers. By selecting the right box from a collection of cubic zirconium earrings, someone will go home with the real diamonds.

The *Women Who Dare Benefit: Voice, Vision and Passion*, will take place at Caffé Verbena located at 1111 Broadway, Lobby Level, Oakland, and free parking will be available to guests.

Tickets are \$65 per person or \$120 per pair and can be purchased by calling Girls Incorporated of the Island City at 510.521.1743.

For more information, contact Development and Communications Director Kristin Butler, 510.521.1743 or [kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org](mailto:kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org) or visit [www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org).

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Thank you, Volunteers and Donors!

The Women of the 21st Century Club Program on Media Literacy and Body Image on Feb. 22 was a huge success thanks to:

Corporate Sponsor Esurance and Kristin Brewé

Club Steering Committee Members: Dorie Guess Behrstock, Beverly Blatt, Christina Ellwood, Judy Grant, and Sandy Sidorsky.

Panelists Lori Hope, editor, author, journalist, and Emmy-winning documentary producer from the newspaper Bay Area BusinessWoman News; Rebecca Randall, Director of Outreach for the nonprofit Common Sense Media; Emily Schmookler, Production Assistant and Project Associate for Youth Radio; Andi Zeisler, editorial and creative director for Bitch Magazine; Robin Raj, Creative Director and partner at the advertising agency Collaborate; and, Connie Sobczak of The Body Positive, a nonprofit dedicated to creating a cultural shift in people's attitudes about weight, health, movement, and beauty.

Thank you volunteer Derryl Zeller and fellow members of Alameda's Philanthropic Education Organization for volunteering at a mailing party to stuff and send Girls Inc.'s Winter newsletter!

Thank you to Cheryl Principato and C'era Una Volta in Alameda for hosting an International Women's Day Celebration and Fundraiser for Girls Inc. on March 7!

Thank you to Michael Schiess and Melissa Harmon, owners of Alameda's Lucky Ju-Ju Pinball Gallery, which hosted a fundraiser for Girls Inc. on March 26!

Thank you to volunteer Karla Dayton for leading the Workplace Employee Giving Fundraising Campaign for Girls Inc. this spring!

Thank you to volunteers Linda Williams and Arlette Walls for helping during registration in April!

Thank you to the following Courageous Women participants: Deirdre Abrons, Certified Doula with DONA; Felicia Roche, Certified Doula; Cheri Galan, student and Chemist; Cathy Rodrigues, owner and teacher from Quilt Fans; Sue Bevins, Masters Student at New College of California; and Rachel McKosky, Marketing and Media Relations Manager at AMB Property; and Kristin Butler, harpist!

Thank you to Volunteers and Donors!

Thank you to the following volunteers for conducting our spring fund drive phone-a-thon on March 6 and March 13, and to Dennis Pagones and Harbor Bay Realty for hosting the event: Dorie Guess Behrstock (phone-a-thon organizer), John Abrate, Susan Battaglia, Juelle-Ann Boyer, Christina Ellwood, Judy Jacobs, Mary Kenney, Melissa Mischak, Paige Pryor, Kate Rezucha, Eileen Savel, and Donnaluci Williams!

Thank you to volunteer Sue Bevins for helping organize our personnel department materials!

Thank you to our intrepid and hard-working board members Melissa Marsh, Dorie Guess Behrstock, Dawn Wade, Ellen Chin, Juelle-Ann Boyer, Diann Castleberry, Susan Adams, Samarial Brown, Luci Gigli, Alicia Faugier, Karen Granados, Gail Graves, Jill Ottaviano, Kate Rezucha, Lillian Taddei, Neil Tam, Charlotte Tlachac, and Gayle Uchida!

How to Help Girls Inc

- Give a generous personal or corporate donation
- Donate money in honor of or in memory of someone special in your life in celebration of Mother's Day
- Purchase a Girls Inc. perpetual calendar, Christmas ornament, or book
- List Girls Inc. as a recipient in your Workplace Employee Contribution Program
- Help your company make a matching gift or grant to Girls Inc.
- Remember Girls Inc. with a bequest
- Donate stocks, bonds, or real property
- Become a member of the Women of the 21st Century Club
- Participate in the "Sharing Sheroes" Small Business Partnership Program
- Attend a Women of the 21st Century Club or Women Who Dare event
- Give an in-kind donation
- Host a fundraising event for Girls Inc.
- Participate in Albertson's Community Partners Program (once you sign up, Albertson's donates to Girls Inc. #49000113676 whenever you use your Albertson's card! )

***For more information about ways you can support Girls Inc., call Development and Communications Director Kristin Butler 510.521.1743 or write to [kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org](mailto:kbutler@girlsincislandcity.org)***

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