

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Girl's Incorporated Honors Women and Young Women Breaking Barriers**

**ALAMEDA** - On Saturday, March 16, 2013, Girls Inc. of the Island City will honor six women and young women from the Bay Area at our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Women Who Dare Awards Event. The event will take place at the Albert H. DeWitt Officers' Club from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. **Tickets are \$50/\$55 and must be purchased in advance** by visiting [www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org) or by calling (510) 521-1743 ext. 225.

The Women Who Dare Awards is an annual luncheon where Girls Inc. of the Island City celebrates the strides women and young women have made in their chosen career or service. This year's theme, "**Breaking Barriers**" connects to the work Girls Inc. is doing on both a national and local level to inspire all girls to reach for equality and success.

The event will be hosted by the members of Girls Inc. of the Island City's, award-winning *Best Foot Forward Program*. The Best Foot Forward program--a multi-workshop program developed at Girls Inc. of the Island City earned a National Program Award for Outstanding Program in Self-Reliance and Life Skills in 2002.

Girls who participate in the program interview all of the Women Who Dare award recipients and learn to write and make presentations. At the event, participants also gain valuable experience in public speaking because they introduce and present the awards.

This year's honorees include:

**Teri McKeever** is regarded as one of the best swimming mentors in the United States. She is in her 21st year as head coach of the University of California-Berkeley women's swimming and diving program. At the international level, Ms. McKeever was the first woman to serve on a U.S. Olympic swimming staff, in 2004, and the first woman to serve as a U.S. head coach, when she led the women's national team in the 2006 Pan Pacific Championships and the 2012 London Olympics. (See Cal Berkeley [website](#))

**Nancy O'Malley** is revered for her legislative expertise locally, state-wide, and nationally. Ms. O'Malley was appointed District Attorney of Alameda County in 2009 and became the first female elected to the position in 2011. Under Ms. O'Malley's leadership and vision, Alameda County opened the Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC), a one-stop center for victims of family violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and child abuse. The ACFJC is a model throughout the country. ([Office of the District Attorney, Alameda County](#))

**Shauna Rosenblum**, is an acclaimed winemaker and one of the youngest wine judges in the country. Ms. Rosenblum is the Head Winemaker at Rock Wall Winery, which comprises one of the 9.8% of California's wineries that have women as the main or head winemakers (Gilbert, L.A., 2011). Shauna has a master of fine arts degree from the San Francisco Art Academy and

tutors youth in artistic expression.

**Tram Huynh** (Alameda Science & Technology Institute) participates with Forward Together and has lobbied with Advocates for Youth in Washington, DC for the Real Education for Healthy Youth Act.

**Maraena Spencer Yochelson** (NEA Community Learning Center) organized the first Suicide Awareness Day campaign at her school and through her church leads social justice workshops for youth across California.

**Carmen Zheng** (Oakland Technical High School) has been a member of Girls Inc. of the Island City for 5 years. She has received accolades for her writing and for her technical innovations.

Girls Inc. of the Island City is proud to have the following sponsors:

Strong: Alameda Alliance for Health

Bold: Alameda Hospital, Greer Family Mortuary, and Alameda Pediatric Dentistry

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*Girls Inc. of the Island City is an affiliate of the national organization Girls Inc. Since 1964, Girls Inc. of the Island City has provided the only program in Alameda designed specifically for girls. Our programs “fill in the gap” on issues that parents and schools do not always have the time or resources to cover. We provide more than 25,000 hours of programming each year to girls ages 6 to 18. At Girls Inc. of the Island City, girls and teens are challenged to explore science, math and computers, sports and health, friendships and conflict resolution, as well as to examine how money is earned and invested, and to ask questions about and take leadership roles in the world.*

*We also offer a licensed childcare service called Alameda Island Kids for both girls and boys at seven elementary schools around Alameda, including Bay Farm, Earhart, Edison, Franklin, Lum, Otis, and Paden. For more information about Alameda Island Kids, call (510) 521-1743 ext. 202 or visit our website at [www.girlsincislandcity.org](http://www.girlsincislandcity.org).*

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