



Girls Inc of the Island City

1724 Santa Clara Avenue ■ Alameda, CA 94501 ■ Tel: (510) 521-1743 ■ Fax: 510-521-4417 ■ Internet: <http://www.girlsincislandcity.org>



9th Annual Women Who Dare Awards Event 2008

Saturday, May 3, 2008
11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Scott's Seafood Restaurant Pavilion
in Oakland's Jack London Square

Emcee: Janelle Wang,
co-host of the popular Bay Area television show "The View from the Bay"



Janelle Wang is a co-host on ABC7's daytime talk show, "The View from the Bay." The live, one hour show airs every weekday at 3 p.m. It's the first local program to be streamed live on the Internet each day at www.viewfromthebay.com. The show can also be seen on the digital channels of other ABC owned and operated stations around the country, including Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston.

Janelle joined ABC7 in February 2003 as a news reporter. She covered a wide range of issues including crime, politics, and transportation. Her reports have included the deadly Paso Robles earthquake on the Central Coast, the Steroid Scandal in professional sports, and the inauguration ceremony of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

She was also assigned to cover the Scott Peterson murder trial, where she provided extensive live reports. Her daily trial notes from inside the courtroom were posted on abc7news.com and read by people as far away as South America and Europe.

Prior to joining ABC7, Janelle worked in Portland, Oregon, where she anchored one of the city's top rated morning shows. Her many reporting assignments included the violent WTO protests in Seattle and the Thurston High School Shooting. She was also honored for her coverage of a massive landslide that destroyed dozens of homes in Washington State. Besides Portland, Janelle has worked in Salinas, California, and Medford, Oregon. But she is a Bay Area native and thrilled to be home.

Janelle graduated from University of California, San Diego, where she studied Communication and Economics. Fluent in Mandarin Chinese, Janelle enjoys working with the Asian community. She also dedicates her time to cancer education and awareness. In her spare time, Janelle enjoys swimming, skiing, and playing the piano, which she has done since the age of 3.

Award
Recipient: Alice Lai-Baker

Alameda County Supervisor, District 3



Alice has served as an [Alameda County Supervisor for District 3](#) since 2000. During her tenure, she has been a strong advocate for increasing health care for children, spearheading the “No Wrong Door” policy in Social Services that allows services to be given quickly and efficiently. Her work on domestic violence includes “A Day of Remembrance,” honoring victims of domestic violence, and assisting in getting federal funds for a Family Justice Center to streamline services to families suffering with domestic violence.

Prior to serving on the Board, she served as a staff assistant to Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan from 1995 to 2000 and was instrumental in shaping the county's policies and programs related to social services and health care, particularly mental health, child welfare, and welfare reform.

Alice worked as a social worker at Asian Community Mental Health Services. During her ten-year career as a social worker and clinical supervisor, and she became well versed in mental health policy issues and advocated for these issues. She is a co-founder of the Association of Chinese Families of the Disabled and the East Bay Chinese Alliance for the Mentally III.

Alice received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Hong Kong Shue Yan College in 1981. She earned a Master's degree in Social Work at San Francisco State University in 1987 and has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 1990. Alice came to the United States in 1983 and has lived in Alameda with her family since 1988.

Award
Recipient: Maya Harris

Executive Director, ACLU of Northern California



In October 2006, Maya was appointed Executive Director of the [ACLU of Northern California](#) and is a statewide leader on civil rights and civil liberties issues. As head of the 72-year-old organization, she oversees the work of 50 staff members, including nine attorneys and three lobbyists in Sacramento. With 55,000 members, the ACLU-NC is the largest affiliate in the nation.

Harris joined the ACLU-NC in 2003 as Director of the affiliate's Racial Justice Project. In 2005, she became the Associate Director, developing and implementing the ACLU-NC's priority campaigns and overseeing the Policy Department, including work in the areas of racial justice, police practices, and the death penalty. Most recently, in 2006, she served as lead counsel for the ACLU-NC in *League of Women Voters v. McPherson*, a successful lawsuit

restoring the voting rights of over 100,000 Californians who were wrongfully disenfranchised.

Before joining the ACLU, Harris was a Senior Associate at PolicyLink, where she conducted research and policy advocacy on policing issues. Prior to that, she served as Dean of Lincoln Law School of San Jose. Harris has also served as an adjunct law professor at several Bay Area law schools and worked in civil litigation at the San Francisco law firm of Jackson Tufts Cole & Black, LLP.

She received the Junius W. Williams Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the National Bar Association and was named one of the Top 20 Under 40 lawyers by California's leading legal newspaper, The Daily Journal. Harris is a graduate of University of California-Berkeley and Stanford Law School.

*Award**Recipient:* **Cristi Hegranes***President and Founder, Press Institute for Women in the Developing World*

Cristi is the President and Founder of the [Press Institute for Women in the Developing World](#), an international nonprofit organization and citizen journalism initiative. The institute was founded on the belief that journalism is an empowering tool that can bring voice, strength, and light to issues that are hidden and people who are oppressed. It is in this vein that the institute trains people in developing countries to serve as reporters in their own communities.

The institute recognizes the unique social position and distinct advantages of providing education and skills training to women in developing countries. In addition to its journalistic pursuits, it also establishes free literacy centers in every community where it operates.

Prior to her work with the institute, Cristi worked as an investigative reporter for some of the world's premier magazines and weekly newspapers, covering stories from New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Nepal.

In 2007 she received a Clarion Award and a Lifestyle Journalism Award for her reporting on global AIDS policy, immigration, and social justice issues. In January of 2008, she was awarded the Ida B. Wells Award for Bravery in Journalism and was named one of the 21 Leaders of the 21st Century.

Cristi holds a B.A. from Loyola Marymount University, where she is now an adjunct professor teaching journalism. She also earned a Master's degree from New York University. Cristi was a writing fellow in residence at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Florida in 2003. She now resides in Oakland, CA.

*Award**Recipient:* **Misha Gonzalez***Alameda High School, Alameda*

Misha is a senior at Alameda High School in Alameda. She is a leader who upholds the character values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Misha has participated in the [YMCA Youth & Government program](#) at her high school through the Oakland YMCA since 2005. Last year she was a candidate for Youth Governor, the program's highest office. She also served as her local Delegation President; authored bills, including one to fight global warming; and was a YMCA Youth of Character Award recipient. She was also selected from among 2,200 California teens to represent the state at the Conference on National Affairs at the 40th conference in North Carolina.

She is a Girl Scout and received her Gold Award last year for leading an Alameda shore preservation and improvement project. She was also a workshop leader at the 6th Annual San Francisco County's "Young Women's Health Conference" hosted by Senator Jackie Speier.

Misha is the team captain of both the varsity cross country and track and field teams at her high school and is president of the Mediation and Eastern Philosophy Club. She is also a former Girls Inc. girl who participated in Best Foot Forward and handed an award to one of her favorite role models, radio personality Renel Brooks-Moon, at our 2001 Women Who Dare Awards.

Misha plans to attend Honors College at Washington State University to study architecture and she plans to become an architect.

Award
Recipient: **Leilani Hopson**

Far West High School, Oakland

Leilani is a senior at Far West High School in Oakland and is a media producer at [Youth Radio](#). She draws on her creativity as a spoken word artist and her technical skills to produce compelling media features including public affairs shows for radio, graphic design for websites, and video clips showcasing youth talent.

Leilani is passionate about bringing issues impacting youth to the center of media attention. Her radio shows have delved into critical societal issues that are often overlooked by mainstream media including treatment of urban homosexual youth and teen-on-teen violence and its impact on Oakland. Her commitment to social justice gives depth to her media productions and allows her to create pieces that particularly resonate with her peers.

Leilani was a featured presenter at the City of Oakland Cultural Arts and Marketing Commission meeting recently where she recited her powerful spoken word feature "Just for the Youth." She has also been selected to be an exhibit coordinator for the Oakland Museum where she will be leading the music aspect of the *Cool Remixed* Exhibit that will showcase hip trends from the 1950's until now.

Award
Recipient: **Madeline Ing**

George Washington High School, San Francisco

Madeline is a sophomore at George Washington High School in San Francisco. She is an accomplished young woman who works to create lasting change in her community.

Madeline is a member of the Department on the Status of Women Girls Committee in San Francisco, where she discusses and advocates for social, economic, educational, health, and criminal justice policies that directly affect girls. The Committee is currently revising the commission's "Report on Girls in San Francisco, Benchmarks for the Future," a resource used by politicians, policy makers, governments, and community-based organizations throughout the state.

Madeline is also involved with [Oasis for Girls](#), a center that offers programs to support girls at every stage in their development. She has participated as a Rise Life Skills Education intern for the organization, is a youth staff member, and also represents Oasis in a South of Market youth led action research project.

In addition, Madeline is a member of the Youth Empowerment Fund Advisory Board for San Francisco's DCYF (Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families) and participates in planning, evaluating, and grant making work with the agency.

Madeline says she hopes to attend Miss Marty's Hair Academy & Esthetics Institute and the Academy of Art University and hopes to pursue a career as a hairstylist and make up artist, a fashion designer, an artist (drawer or illustrator), a photographer, a model, an actor, or a community activist.