



Global Arts and Education Inc.

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PRESS RELEASE

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International Women's Day Breakfast to Honoree Contributions of Six Outstanding Bay Area Women and Organizations

SAN FRANCISCO – FEB 2010 In celebration of International Women's Day Global Arts and Education Inc. (GAE), will honor six outstanding Bay Area women and two organizations at the International Women's Day Breakfast, Monday, March 8, 2010, from 8am to 10am, at the Holiday Inn Civic Center, 50 Eight Street, San Francisco, CA. Tickets for the breakfast are \$65.00 per person / \$650 for table of ten and can be purchased on line at www.globalartsandeducation.com. For additional information on the breakfast, contact Shelley@globalartsandeducation.com.

This year, the ***Extraordinary Public Services award*** is given to **California State Assemblywoman Fiona Ma** for her consistent authoring of legislation to protect women, children and families. Assemblywoman Ma has authored into law many bills designed to protect the rights of women and families. Most recently she convened a hearing on budget cuts to domestic violence shelters and authored AB 258 designed to prevent confusion for law enforcement on domestic violence charges by replacing the term "primary aggressor" with "dominant aggressor." Assemblywoman Ma, successful authored laws that provide safer transportation and healthier schools for children, and co-authored legislation against predatory mortgage lenders.

Along with Assemblywoman Ma, the other 2010 International Women's Day honorees recognized for their contributions are:

- **Zula Jones**, of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, will receive the Community Advocacy award, for paving the way for greater opportunity and access for communities of color regarding sustainable business contracting with the City of San Francisco.
- **Lynette Sweet**, BART Board Director, will receive the ***Annie M. Powell Community Leadership Award***, for her many years of community service including creation of a micro lending program for small businesses, community granting program for Bayview Hunters point, and her leadership at BART following the tragic Oscar Grant murder.

Two Organizations will also be recognized for their outstanding contributions. The Filipina Women's Network and the Sirona Cares Foundation. Each has demonstrated leadership at the time of most urgent need.

Continued next page



PRESS RELEASE (CONTINUED)

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- **Marily Mondejar**, Executive Director of **Filipina Women's Network**, will receive the **Organization of the Year award**, for FWN's unwavering dedication to demanding stronger sentencing and removal of special circumstances loopholes that lead the San Francisco Superior Court to reduce the sentence of a man convicted of murdering his wife. FWN became the voice for the silenced victims of domestic violence within the Filipina community. What began as a grassroots movement became a California initiative. FWN raises money each year, in collaboration with V-Day's global campaign to end violence against women and girls with performances of Eve Ensler's, "Vagina Monologues" .
- **Farah Makras and Michelle Lacourciere**, Executive Director of **Sirona Cares Foundation** will receive the **Unsung Heroine Award**, for its long-standing work assisting those in need living in Haiti. When the earthquake hit, Sirona Cares worked even harder, filling warehouses with urgently needed items such as medical supplies, clothing, towels and sheets. Through its mission to build sustainable communities, Sirona Cares began collecting and distributing clothing, medicine and other goods to Haitian Orphanages and Pastors over one year ago. When the earthquake struck, Sirona Cares was in a position to help, and is happy to serve as the coordinator for aid to Haiti in Northern California.

History of International Women's Day

In 1975, during International Women's Year, the United Nations began celebrating 8 March as International Women's Day. In December 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States, in accordance with their historical and national traditions. For the United Nations, International Women's Day has been observed on 8 March since 1975. The Day is traditionally marked with a message from the Secretary-General. The 2010 United Nations Theme is: **"Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All"**

About Global Arts and Education Inc.

Global Arts and Education was created in 2007, Global Arts and Education Inc. is a 501c3 organization (pending). Our mission is to provide youth a global understanding of life through firsthand experience in other cultures. Using art to explore environment, health, education and economic conditions globally, our participants connect with peer groups around the world. In the end they build life-long global-reaching friendships.

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