

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF
GLENDALE INVITES YOU TO
THE 22ND ANNUAL BRAS FOR A CAUSE

BRAS

Goes Hollywood

APRIL 5TH, 2025
SATURDAY, 6 PM
OAKMONT COUNTRY CLUB

HONORING

RUTH SOWBY
JOURNALIST, COMEDIAN

KAREN AND MIKE SWAN
COMMUNITY LEADERS, PHILANTHROPISTS

PROGRAM BOOK



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams



Soroptimist International of Glendale
Bras Goes Hollywood
Program

Welcome

Jean Kagan, President SIG

Greetings

Ilena Blicher, V.P. Fundraising

Introductions of Guests

Master of Ceremonies

Ardy Kassakhian

Awards to Honorees

Honoree Ruth Sowby

Honorees Karen & Mike Swan

Decorated Bras Awards

Kathy Lefkovits & Desiree Portillo-Rabinov

Live Auction

Ardy Kassakhian

Fund-a-Dream

50/50 Drawing

**Thank You for helping us to make a positive change
for the future of Women and Girls.**

Greetings from President Jean Kagan

“If Glendale had an award for the most unique fundraiser, Soroptimist International of Glendale’s, **“Bras for a Cause”** would win every year.” Joyce Rudolph, Glendale News-Press, 2016



In 2004, the then Soroptimist International Glendale President, Kathy Lefkovits introduced a new fundraising idea to raise awareness of breast cancer: **“Bras for a Cause.”** The concept was, and is, still very simple. Bras become decorated works of art, are entered into a competition, and are judged. Over the ensuing 22 years, entries into the competition have demonstrated an amazing breadth of creativity among the contributors. Judges for the competition have exercised their due diligence in their scrutiny of the entries as they have determined the winners.

The decorated bras then become part of a silent auction with all proceeds garnered designated to fund programs which raise breast cancer awareness as well as service grants that provide women and girls with the education and training that they need to achieve economic empowerment.

Since its inception **“Bras for a Cause,”** has raised and distributed over half a million dollars in support of these two women’s initiatives.

This year marks our 22nd Annual **“Bras for a Cause,”** The theme for 2025 is **Bras Goes Hollywood.** Master of Ceremonies for our Gala Evening will be Glendale Councilmember Ardy Kassakhian.

Greetings from Ilena Blicher, Fundraising Chair

Welcome to ***Bras Goes Hollywood***, the 22nd Bras for a Cause. We are thrilled that you are here to participate in and support us in our mission to have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls.



The funds we raise allow us to provide scholarships to women who are heads of their family and are going back to further their education with our Live Your Dream program. The funds are also used to provide mentorship programs to teenage girls to open up the world of careers for them via our Dream It Be It program. We give grants to non-profit organizations in our community that develop programs to assist women and girls to be able to reach economic empowerment.

Among the things I was taught as a child, was that “to save a life is to save the world.” I would like to paraphrase that as “to improve the future life of a woman or a girl is the first step to improving the world.”

Honoree Ruth Sowby



Ruth started her career in journalism at 20 years-old as a KABC-TV staff reporter in 1964. At that time, she was the only woman reporter in Los Angeles TV news. She commuted to the station every day while enrolled in UCLA for four years. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree as an “Outstanding Senior,” Ruth continued in TV news, receiving an Emmy Award for her work at KNBC-TV News and another Emmy for “Rose & Katz,” a narrative short film she produced, directed and co-wrote at AFI.

Turning back to her education, Ruth received three Masters’ degrees from The American Film Institute (AFI), California State University at L. A. and the University of Southern California (USC) respectively. She also received a doctorate from USC in 2001, as well as the honor of “Best Dissertation” for 2001.

Deciding she was educated enough, Ruth began teaching English at Glendale Community College and writing a column for the Glendale News Press, a local media outlet of the Los Angeles Times. In 2013, she was designated a “Woman Achiever” by Business Life magazine.

Deciding she was funny enough, Ruth began stand-up comedy after watching comic Richy Leis host “Bras for a Cause” in 2019. Leis became her teacher and mentor. Today, Ruth is a reporter-photographer for the Crescenta Valley Weekly by day and a comedian by night. After turning 80 in 2024, her most recent stand-up set was at the Hollywood Improv Comedy Club.

Ruth is most proud of her family, husband Richard Rands, son Anson Sowby, daughter-in-law Roberta Sowby and two grandchildren, Luke, 15, and Sienna, 11.

Congratulations to Ruth

Honorees Karen & Mike Swan

Karen and Mike Swan are an amazing duo. It was love at first sight when they first met. Mike was in the army stationed at Fort Ord when he went to a night club and noticed a beautiful young woman looking back at him. Karen was that young woman. Well, they have been married for 55 years and still have that look of love.



After a 35-year career as a Glendale Unified School District Elementary Teacher, and two years before her GUSD assignment, as an elementary teacher for two years with the Monterey Unified School District, her focus now continues to be meeting the emotional, social, and academic strengths of children from diverse backgrounds as a Community Advocate.

She has served as a board member of many non-profit organizations, all of which promote supporting issues relating to the education, learning challenges, housing, health and wellness of children. The organizations include Glendale Kiwanis, Ascencia, Glendale Education Foundation, Cabrini Literary Guild, & Las Candelas. In addition, she has been an active sponsor of Home Again LA, Glendale Arts, Glendale Latino Association, YWCA Glendale-Pasadena the Salvation Army, and Soroptimist Int'l Glendale. Karen has received the Woman of the Year Award in 2020 from Glendale Latino Association and Business Life Women Achiever Award in 2017.

Mike after serving in the army, found that his father had left his successful employment as a manufacturing rep to found his own company. Mike joined his father in this new enterprise, which became the manufacturing arm of the rep business. The new firm was named by Mike, Crystal Mark. They were shortly joined by Mike's 2 brothers and over time expanded to three companies, Crytal Mark, CrystalMark Dental Systems and Cygnet Metal stampings. Mike is President of CrystalMark Dental Systems.

A week after Karen joined Kiwanis of Glendale in 2012, Mike joined so as not to miss out on anything. Together, they have both enjoyed working on many of the projects of the club and the friends they have made there.

Mike served as 101st President of Kiwanis of Glendale in 2021 during its 100th Year Celebration. He is also a member of Glendale Elks lodge 1289 and American Legion Post 127.

Congratulations to Karen & Mike

Thank You to all of our Sponsors

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Karen & Mike Swan

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Pearl

Paula Devine

Representative Laura Friedman

Anita Quinonez Gabrielian

Jean Kagan

Pamela & Ian Spizman

Turquoise

Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Robert Hall & Associates

Mary Lotz

Carl Povilaitis

Kathryn Van Houten

Decorated Bras

Bra #1 Cheers to Hollywood



Creator: Daniela Linsel
Sponsor: Daniela Linsel

Bra #2 Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend



Creator: Katherine Bulovic
Sponsor: Jean Kagan
In honor of: Maggie

Bra #3 Hollywood Walk of Fame



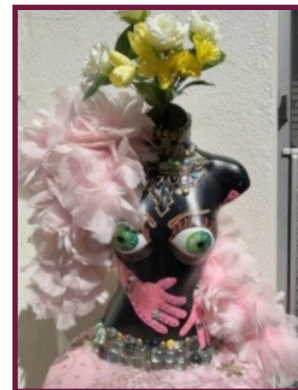
Creator: Vielka Rosalba Lopez
Sponsor: Jean Kagan
In honor of: Alisa Gaeta

Bra #4 Movie Avatar: Nyetiri in Lingerie



Creator: Catherine Yesayan
Sponsor: Catherine Yesayan

Bra #5 Gentlemen Prefer Boobs



Creator: Keryl Kris Reinke
Sponsor: Keryl Kris Reinke

Decorated Bras

Bra #6 Be Prepared



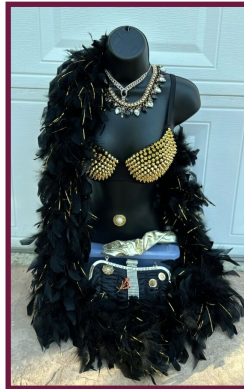
Creator: Caitlyn Brown
Sponsor: Adrienne Van Houten

Bra #7 Red Carpet Ready



Creator: Phin Carpenter
Sponsor: Adrienne Van Houten

Bra #8 When I'm Good, I'm Very Good, But Whem I'm Bad, I'm Better {Mae West}



Creator: Jennifer Bentson, Jane Karageorge
Sponsor: Jane Karageorge
In honor of John A Hammell

Bra # 9 "Tutti Frutti" Carmen & Josephine Tantalize Hollywood



Creator: Nancy Scott
Sponsor Carol Ann Burton

Bra #10 Adam Sandler Goes to the Oscars



Creator: Heather Ghermezian
Sponsor: Heather Ghermezian

Decorated Bras

Bra #11 Glamor Girl Gorgeous



Creator: Tina Marie Ito
Sponsor: Tina Marie Ito

Bra #12 Rosy Tinseltown Enchantment



Creator: Adventist Art Class-Healing Arts
Sponsor AHGL Foundation
In honor of: Breast Cancer Patients

Bra #13 Leaf Your Cares Behind, Go to the Movies



Creator: Denise Michele
Sponsor: Joan Allan

Bra #14 I Saw It in the Window



Creator: Michelle Wakeland
Sponsor: Carol Ann Burton

Bra #15 Hollywood Stars



Creator: Kathy Lefkovits
Sponsor: Kathy Lefkovits

Bra #16 The Black Dahlia



Creator: Paloma Rabinov
Sponsor: Desiree Portillo-Rabinov

Mahler and Korngold at the Hollywood Bowl

6 seats in a central box at the Hollywood Bowl to hear Mahler & Korngold with Gustavo Dudamel conducting.

Thursday, August 7 at 8 P.M.

2 Parking passes included.

Value \$850

Donated by Carol Ann & Alasdair Burton



Rachmaninoff Under the Stars

6 seats in a central box at the Hollywood Bowl to hear Rachmaninoff's dazzling third piano concerto and heartfelt second symphony, conducted by Daniel Harding and accompanied by pianist Daniil Trifonov.

Thursday, August 21 at 8 P.M.

2 parking passes are included.

Value \$850

Donated by Carol Ann & Alasdair Burton



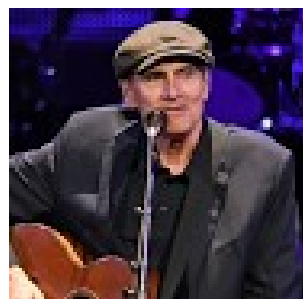
The Incomparable James Taylor

4 tickets to see James Taylor in San Diego at the Randy Shell at Jacob's Park on May 10th at 8 P.M.

Included are 2 hotel rooms at the Best Western Plus Suites Hotel on Coronado Island.

Value \$1720

Donated by Carol Ann & Alasdair Burton

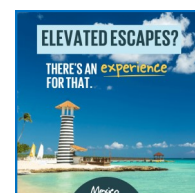


It's Vacation Time

Enjoy a week's vacation in a wide choice of places in the world you always wanted to visit. Choose from RCI's large inventory. The vacation must be requested by December 31, 2025.

Value \$2000

Donated by Carol Ann & Alasdair Burton



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You were
made to
dream big.

Adventist Health Glendale is proud to support Soroptimist International of Glendale and the 22nd Annual BRAS FOR A CAUSE gala. Thank you for inspiring change in our community and empowering women and girls everywhere to pursue their dreams.

AdventistHealthGlendale.org



The John S. Hamilton Family
wishes to celebrate
Soroptimist International of Glendale
for their years of commitment
to community service
and
for breast cancer awareness
in the Glendale area

**Congratulations on your
22nd Annual
Bras For a Cause,
and for your
ongoing commitment to
helping women and girls
in our community and
around the world
to live their dreams**

Doug & Sandy Schultz

RUBY SPONSOR



Moonlight Rollerway

Learn to Skate Program

Public Lessons

Tuesday - 7:15PM to 8PM - Adults and Older Teens
- Includes 8PM to 11PM Session -



Saturday - 9:15AM to 10AM - Kids Only
- Includes 10AM to 12PM Session -



Saturday - 12:45PM to 1:30PM - All Ages
- Includes 1:30PM to 4PM Session -



Private Lessons

One on One or Semi-Private with family or friends,
scan below or call the rink for more information.

Class Info



Tickets



Private
Lesson
Inquiry



Parties

Public Parties

Saturday: 10AM to 12PM or 1:30PM to 4PM
Sunday: 1:30PM to 4PM



Private Parties

Available 7 days a week.

Call the office for more information.



Party
Info



Moonlight Rollerway

5110 San Fernando Rd., Glendale, 91204
www.moonlightrollerway.com / 818-241-3630 ext. 0

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YMCA of Glendale

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the Y
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BRING THIS AD
WITH YOU TO THE
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TO REDEEM A
WEEK OF
COMPLIMENTARY
MEMBERSHIP

glendaleymca.org



Celebrating

22

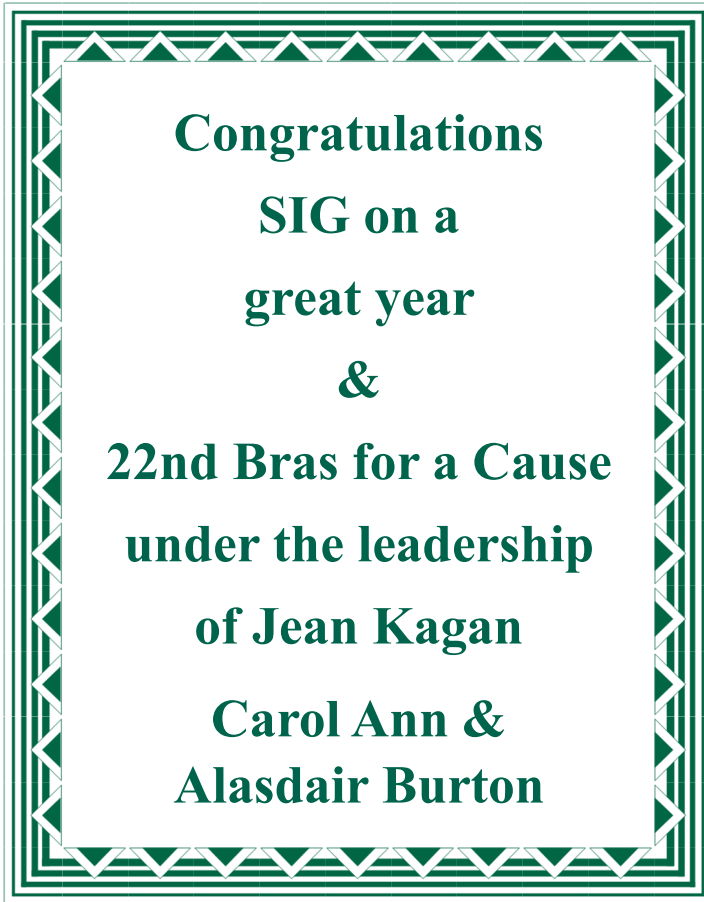
Wonderful years

of

Bras for a Cause

Susan Hunt

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PEARL SPONSORS



Thank you to
Soroptimist Glendale
for uplifting women
in our community!

Congratulations to Ruth Sowby
and Karen and Mike Swan for
your well-deserved recognition.



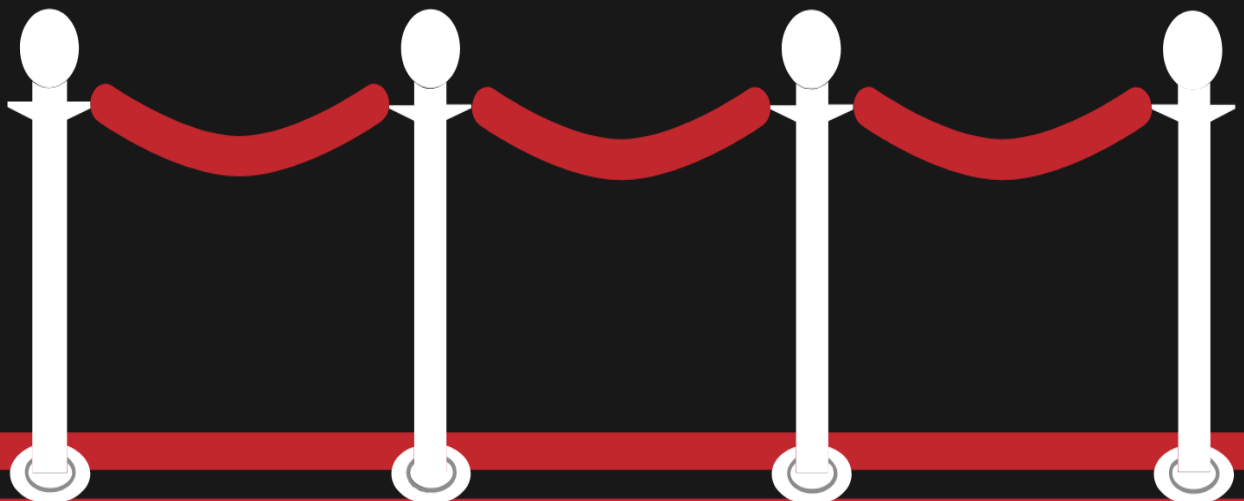
Kathryn
BARGER

Chair • Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors • 5th District



Thank you for 22 fabulous
years of
“Bras for a Cause”
and for your ongoing
commitment to women and
girls

HEATHER AND VARTAN GHERMEZIAN



*I want to thank
Soroptimist International of Glendale
for the many years of
my being a proud member*

*Thank you for all you have done and
continue to do to improve the lives
of women and girls in our community*

I miss all of you very much

Stela Fejtek



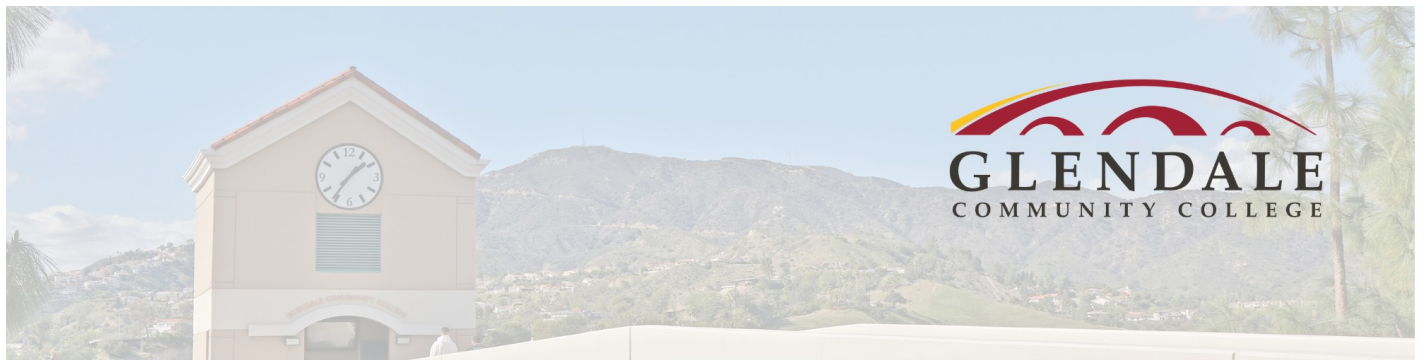
CONGRATULATIONS

**Soroptimist International of Glendale
on 22 years of Bras for a Cause!!**

**Your service to our local communities
is exceptional!**

Wishing you a very successful event!

Steve and Sue Wilder



**Glendale Community College
is proud to partner with
Soroptimist International of Glendale
to improve the lives of women and girls**

1500 N. Verdugo Road · Glendale, CA 91208
(818) 240-1000 · glendale.edu

The Finkelberg Family
Joins in the celebration of SIG's 22nd BFAC
Congratulations to deserving honorees
Karen & Mike Swan - Ruth Sowby

LOUIS I. FINKELBERG
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Celebrating
"Bras Goes Hollywood"
Business Life
May 1990 – May 2025

Congratulations
Soroptimist International
of Glendale!
Bras for a Cause
goes
Hollywood!

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