VICA Recognizes Important Valley Businesses at Hall of Fame Dinner

"The businesses of the San Fernando Valley are the lifeblood - they are what gives us the quality of life and the economic vitality to have a beautiful place to live and work."

- Emcee Fritz Coleman at VICA's 2017 Hall of Fame

More than 300 Valley business and community leaders gathered Thursday at VICA's 10th Annual San Fernando Valley Business Hall of Fame Dinner, where five businesses were honored for their positive impact on the Valley. In his welcome speech, Chris Gerardi of JPMorgan Chase noted, "We will continue honoring the businesses and the people who make the Valley what it is." This year's inductees included: Alpert, Barr & Grant, APLC; Bunim/Murray Productions; Los Angeles Jewish Home; MGA Entertainment and UltraGlas, Inc. The event was presented by JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Valley Presbyterian Hospital, and co-sponsored by The Garland, Recology, Los Angeles Daily News and Southwest Airlines. Attendees were charmed by returning emcee Fritz Coleman of NBC4 Southern California. Fritz acknowledged the importance of San Fernando Valley businesses and the crucial role VICA plays in keeping those businesses alive.

Click here to view photos from the event on our Facebook page.

Alpert, Barr & Grant
Land Use Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 13
8 to 9:30 a.m.
The Garland
4222 Vineland Ave.,
North Hollywood

Government Affairs Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 14
Noon to 2 p.m.
Providence Tarzana Medical Center
18321 Clark St,
Tarzana
Click here to RSVP

Save the Date
Sacramento Advocacy Day
Wednesday, June 28
All Day
Sacramento, CA
Click here to RSVP

Congressional Luncheon
Friday, July 7
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
The Garland
4222 Vineland Ave.,
North Hollywood
Click here to RSVP

Transportation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 11
8 to 10 a.m.
The Garland
4222 Vineland Ave,
North Hollywood
Click here to RSVP

Sacramento Advocacy Day
Wednesday, July 12
All Day
Sacramento, CA
Click here to RSVP

Government Affairs Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 19
Noon to 2 p.m.
Providence Tarzana Medical Center
18321 Clark St,
Tarzana
Click here to RSVP

Healthcare Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 20
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Valley Presbyterian Hospital
15107 Vanowen St,
Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

Ambassador Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 26
8:30 to 10 a.m.
VICA Office

Presenting sponsor Chris Gerardi (JPMorgan Chase & Co.); inductees Adam Grant, Lee Alpert and Gary Barr (Alpert, Barr & Grant, APLC); award sponsor Rafael de la Rosa (Cal State University, Northridge), presenting sponsor Breanne Kamai (Valley Presbyterian Hospital) and California State Senator Henry Stern.

Established by Michael Mink and Lee Kanon Alpert in 1976, Alpert, Barr & Grant is a fixture for many Valley organizations, encouraging its members to be actively involved in the community. The firm’s proven legal expertise, commitment to the community, and reputation make them a firm where leaders look for solutions. During his acceptance of the award, Adam Grant praised his firm for their commitment to serving the San Fernando Valley and highlighting the accomplishments of the individuals that have been recognized for their actions by other organizations in the San Fernando Valley. Alpert, Barr & Grant’s award was sponsored by California State University, Northridge.

Bunim/Murray Productions

Since 1987, television networks and viewers have looked to Bunim/Murray Productions for groundbreaking, unprecedented and unforgettable reality entertainment. The Emmy Award-winning company is widely credited with creating the reality television genre with its hit series The Real World. They continued to innovate with the first reality game show, Road Rules; the first reality sitcom, The Simple Life; and the first reality soap opera, Starting Over. They recently worked with fellow Hall of Fame Member New
Hot Issues

Budget
As Budget negotiations are ongoing, Californians will have 72 hours to peruse the final bill thanks to Prop 54's new requirements.

Olympics
The International Olympic Committee has recommended that both Los Angeles and Paris be awarded the Summer Olympics - one in 2024 and one in 2028. The decision will be made by IOC membership next month.

Politics
The Legislature is considering significant changes to the Board of Equalization, raising concerns about accountability to taxpayers in California.

Transportation
Last Wednesday, the Los Angeles City Council voted to allocate $5.5 billion to create a centralized car rental return facility and a people mover to the terminals at LAX. The plan - called the Landside Access Modernization Program - also includes roadway improvements to increase vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian access.

Development
The Los Angeles City Council Planning and Land Use Management Committee delayed a decision last Tuesday on a proposal that would impose a fee on real estate developers to pay for affordable housing in the city. The committee plans to revisit the issue in August.

Environment
According to new data released by state regulators last Wednesday, California has continued to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. The announcement came as Governor Brown was visiting China with his key message focusing on climate change.

Los Angeles Jewish Home

Founded in 1912, the Los Angeles Jewish Home began when a small group of caring neighbors gave shelter to five homeless Jewish men during Passover. By the 1930s, the Home had 350 residents. Over the years, the Home built new clinics, residences, and facilities. Today the Los Angeles Jewish Home provides vital programs and services to more than 6,000 seniors each year. Molly Forrest accepted the award on behalf of the Los Angeles Jewish Home and noted all the important work the organization does for its residents. "We represent our community, we serve all, we are the Jewish Home, and I am so grateful for the award, which you have given us tonight. We have grown and we have thrived because of the environment in the Valley that has welcomed us to be the home that we are," said Forrest. The Los Angeles Jewish Home award was sponsored by U.S. Bank.

MGA Entertainment
A pro-charter majority is set to take over the governing board of the Los Angeles Unified School District with the addition of two new Board members who were backed by charter interests during their campaign. The two newly elected officials will take office in July.

Award sponsor Patrick Nygren (Wells Fargo), inductee Shirin Makabi (MGA Entertainment), Eli Makabi and presenting sponsor Chris Gerardi (JPMorgan Chase).

MGA Entertainment is a toy manufacturer that was founded in Van Nuys in 1979. MGA produces the Bratz fashion doll line and owns the Little Tykes Company. Throughout decades in the toy business, MGA’s talented creative team has been the industry’s biggest innovator and game changer. MGA Entertainment has built a reputation of creating top consumer brands across a wide variety of consumer product categories, continually providing innovative play patterns that appeal to girls and boys of all ages. Their next big project will be a 24 acre campus at the former Los Angeles Times site in Chatsworth. During her acceptance of the award, Shirin Makabi noted how great of an honor it was to be recognized by VICA for their contribution to the San Fernando Valley. MGA Entertainment was inducted by Wells Fargo.

UltraGlas, Inc.

California State Senator Henry Stern, inductee Jane Skeeter (UltraGlas, Inc.), Barron Postmus, award sponsor Jill Banks Barad (LADWP) and presenting sponsors Chris Gerardi (JPMorgan Chase & Co.) and Breanne Kamai (Valley Presbyterian Hospital).

The final inductee of the evening was UltraGlas, Inc. "This award is especially meaningful because I learned the value of my responsibility as a member of the human race. Each of us must care for each other and for our planet. This is why I am grateful to be receiving this award from an organization, which supports this cause and continuously advocates for"
these principles. Thank you, VICA,” said UltraGlas founder Jane Skeeter as she accepted the award. UltraGlas designs and manufactures all facets of specialty architectural glass. Its custom creations can be seen in commercial, private, and public buildings across the U.S. and around the world. UltraGlas was inducted by the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power.

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