

ROTARY CLUB OF CHICAGO

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May 14, 2019

The Union League Club of Chicago



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David Phelps, chief administrative officer



HONORING SERVICE

The Rotary Club of Chicago is the founding Club of the world's premier international business and service organization.

Rotary members are business and community leaders who volunteer their expertise, compassion and resources to improve communities at home in Chicago as well as in communities around the world.

It all started in 1905 at the corner of Randolph and Dearborn. The Rotary Club of Chicago, known as ROTARY/One, was founded by four businessmen who decided to meet on a regular basis for professional synergy and friendship. They soon began to pull their collective talents together and started solving community problems. Within 10 years, Rotary was on the east and west coasts and in Canada. 114 years later, Rotary is an international organization of women and men, over 1.3 million strong, part of 33,000 clubs and in almost every country in the world.

The common thread has been sharing fellowship, business synergy, and Service Above Self. This year, our 7th Annual Chicago Woman of the Year award luncheon, we honor women who exemplify the principles on which Rotary was founded.

Thank you for being with us today.

Khaled Akkawi, 115th President, Rotary Club of Chicago
Lisa Russ, Chair, 7th Annual Chicago Women of the Year



LISA RUSS

Lisa Russ has worked in professional communications, writing, marketing and sales for the majority of her career. She has always had a passionate interest in art and music, having grown up in a family where both played a major role in her every day life. After spending almost 20 years in communications, training and marketing roles with CBIZ, a national business services firm, the opportunity to represent Nina Irwin brings two important worlds together. In addition, Lisa works for Blueprint Wealth Advisors as a financial assistant, keeping her hand in the client services arena.



Lisa has been involved with The Rotary Club of Chicago since 2001, serving in a number of capacities including President, 2012-2013. Part of her inspiration for Chicago Woman of the Year came from her experience with serving on a CBIZ internal board designed to develop, attract and retain female talent. Developing opportunities for Nina's work also ties directly into Lisa's interest in supporting and showcasing women's contributions.



The Rotary Club of Chicago has provided summer youth employment and training for over twelve years, assisting Chicago Public Schools junior and seniors. Become a sponsor, employer or donor. A \$4160 gift will provide a full time eight week summer job at a Chicago charity. Help a student...help a non profit.



KHALED AKKAWI

While Khaled Akkawi is recognized as a highly accomplished entrepreneur, his story starts with the humble beginnings of the American Dream.



Khaled emigrated from Jordan to the United States at 15, balancing school work with working in the family-run grocery business. After completing his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from IIT, Khaled discovered that his true passion was business.

Khaled has enjoyed a successful career as a serial-entrepreneur, leveraging his operational expertise to build and grow his ventures in retail, tax and consumer services, finance and investment services and real estate. He owned and operated several Jackson Hewitt franchises throughout Chicagoland and received numerous national franchisee awards. Khaled was also one of the founders of the first ever US Arab-American formed federally chartered bank, United Trust Bank, where he served as Vice Chair of the Board. Khaled's current business focus is LIYA Investment Group, Ltd., specializing in residential and commercial real estate investment, development and management.

Khaled has always been committed to local and global community outreach as well. He served as a delegate to the Middle East North Africa Economic Summits, which provided him with the opportunity to form an Amman-Chicago Sister Cities Committee, designed to foster and facilitate best practices through citizen to citizen connections and charitable causes. He supports the annual St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Four Stars of Chicago fundraiser and the fundraising efforts for an orphanage in the Middle East. In 2014, Khaled was honored with the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Phoenician Club and past Parish Council President of St. John the Baptist Church.

Khaled is fluent in Arabic and enjoys spending time with his family, a passionate sailor and a member of the Columbia Yacht Club and the Union League Club.



CHICAGO WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Program

- 11:30 Registration and Reception
- Noon Welcome – Khaled Akkawi
Chicago Woman History - Lisa Russ
Higher Thought – Pedro Cevallos-Candau
- Lunch
- 12:40 Keynote: Kate Bensen, President & CEO of the Chicago Network introduced by Marshall Schmitt
- 12:55 Chicago Woman of the Year Presentation
- ◆ Rosa Berardi introduced by Paul McConville
 - ◆ Cindy Housner introduced by Jody Stawicki
 - ◆ Terry Savage introduced by John Romans
- 1:25 Closing: Khaled Akkawi
- 1:30 Meeting adjourned

Mary Lukas, Music

Photography by Larry Engelhart, DejaViews

Logo design by Nina Irwin Arts

THANK YOU TABLE SPONSORS



ROSA BERARDI

The Coleman Foundation



For over 20 years, Rosa Berardi has guided philanthropic investments that fulfill the Foundation's mission to foster independence, self-determination and personal empowerment for individuals in Chicago Metro communities. She is responsible for identifying effective non-profits and creating programs that address three main areas of interest:

entrepreneurship education, cancer support, services for individuals with developmental disabilities, including rehabilitation and conductive education.

Rosa works with high school programs that encourage students to start business ventures and/or follow a pathway to higher levels of entrepreneurship education. In collaboration with INCubatoredu, the Foundation has provided funding to over 30 schools in Illinois, which exposed hundreds of students to the concept of "creating a job", rather than "getting a job".

Rosa leads the Foundation's Supportive Oncology Initiative, a collaboration that involves hospital leadership and oncology teams from over 35 organizations. The Collaborative has led to improvements in oncology care across the Chicago Metro area.

Since 2012, Rosa has led the Coleman Palliative Medicine Training Program, which addresses the critical shortage of trained palliative care providers. Over 40 local hospitals have participated in educating and mentoring more than 100 clinicians including doctors, nurses, social workers and chaplains on how to improve their practice.

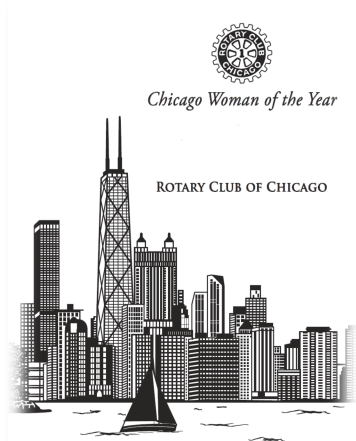
Rosa was instrumental in creating Teaching Together Chicago, which helps adults with developmental disabilities gain work experience through internships. Since 2017, 15 social service agencies have secured employment for 75 adults with developmental disabilities at 55 schools.



TABLE SPONSORS



CHICAGO WOMAN OF THE YEAR



Prior Honorees

May 2018

Yvonne C. Jones, Amanda Lannert, Deborah Steiner and
Public Service Award: Dr. Janice K. Jackson

May 2017

Karen Eng, Maricela Garcia, Diana White
Lifetime Achievement: Barbara Monsor

June 2016

Paula Fasseas, Evelyn Jones, Maria Paz Salas

June 2015

Theresa Mintle, Marcenia Richards, Barbara Zawacki

June 2014

Toni Preckwinkle, Deborah Rickert, Janice Rodgers

June 2013

Victoria Brander, Patricia Jahn, Lisa Madigan



CINDY HOUSNER

Great Lakes Adaptive Sports

Cindy Housner is the Founder and Executive Director of Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association (GLASA), a nationally recognized adaptive and Paralympic sports club that provides sports programs to youth and adults, including veterans, who have a physical or visual disability.



Cindy's credentials include:

Current Track Coach for Team GLASA; Games Director for the Great Lakes Regional Games and Adult National Open 2006-present; Member of the Athletics for All National Task Force;

Co-Team Leader 2015 & 2018 International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Foundation; World Junior Games, Team USA; Past Board Member of Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA; Former Executive Director for the National Wheelchair Athletic Association; Games Director of the 2010 National Junior Disability Championships; Team USA Athletic Manager for Seoul Paralympic Games.

Recognition for Cindy's accomplishments include the Jan Elix Legacy Award, 2018 Adaptive Sports, USA Hall of Fame Inductee, Governor's Path Award.

Cindy earned her Bachelor of Science in Therapeutic Recreation Adaptive PE from UW La Crosse and a Master of Science in Education from UW Milwaukee.

She and her husband Randy have two children, John and Katee, and reside in the Chicagoland.



TERRY SAVAGE

Terry Savage Productions



Terry Savage is a nationally recognized expert on personal finance, the economy and the markets. She writes a weekly personal finance column syndicated in major newspapers by Tribune Content Agency.

She is the author of four best-selling books on personal finance. The Savage Truth on Money was named one of the top ten money books of the year by Amazon.com in its first edition. Her other recent book is: The Savage Number: How Much Money do You Really Need to Retire?

Terry appears frequently on national television and radio programs, commenting on the financial markets and current economic events. She is featured on WGN Radio and WGN-TV in Chicago, with a weekly personal finance segment. And in days past you saw her often as a money expert on Oprah!

You can read Terry's weekly columns and commentaries, watch videos, check out links to her favorite websites and calculators, and check out Q&A on her "Ask Terry" blog at www.TerrySavage.com.



KATE BENSEN

Keynote

President & CEO, The Chicago Network



Kate Bensen joined The Chicago Network in April 2010 as Executive Director and became its President and CEO in 2013. Previously, Kate led the nonprofit capacity building practice for Conlon Public Strategies and was a partner at the law firm of Schiff Hardin LLP, specializing in corporate and public finance.

Kate chairs the board of the Grammy award winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird and is a director of the Arts Club of Chicago and the Chicago Club. Kate is a member of the Commercial Club, Economic Club, Chicago Club, International Women's Forum, Executives' Club and the Women's Board of the University of Chicago (past Chair). She also serves on the President's Advisory Council for Governors State University. Her board work focuses on governance. In 2008, she received the University of Chicago's Alumni Service Medal for her work in securing an Alumni House for the University.

Kate received her AB in economics from the University of Chicago and her law degree from Loyola University of Chicago School of Law. Linked-In: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/katebensen>.



THE CHICAGO NETWORK

