

Press Release: The Junior League of San Francisco's 2025 Women's Leadership Gala
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Junior League of San Francisco Celebrates 114 Years of Community Involvement and Women's Leadership at Annual Gala

San Francisco, CA — On Thursday, November 13, 2025, The Junior League of San Francisco (JLSF) hosted its annual Women's Leadership Gala at The Green Room at the War Memorial Veterans Building. The celebration brought together League members, community leaders, and supporters for an evening of inspiration honoring 114 years of JLSF's commitment to strengthening the San Francisco community and uplifting women who dedicate themselves to service.

The evening was emceed by Jan Yanehiro, Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist and co-host of the pioneering television program *Evening Magazine*, which aired for 15 years on CBS-5. Yanehiro has produced eight documentaries on the incarceration and redress of Japanese Americans during World War II and has been recognized with numerous honors, including the Girl Scouts' Woman of Distinction Award and the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award. She serves as Chair of Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Legacy Circle, sits on the board of the San Francisco–Osaka Sister City Association, and previously chaired the board of The Representation Project. She is also the co-author of four books, most recently *This Is Not The Life I Ordered...60 Ways To Keep Your Head Above Water When Life Keeps Dragging You Down*. Yanehiro is the mother of three adult children and grandmother of three—so far.

The evening's program was anchored by the 2025 Gala Chair, Vanna Chen, who highlighted the critical role the Gala plays in the League's longevity. Following her remarks, Director of Fund Development, Karen Yee, led a fundraising appeal, emphasizing that the evening's proceeds are vital to the organization's operational sustainability. As a training organization, these funds allow the JLSF to continue its mission: delivering high-level leadership development to women while providing direct service to the San Francisco community.

Funds raised at the Gala directly underwrite the League's training curriculum, which equips women with essential skills in non-profit governance, fiscal management, and community advocacy. JLSF President, Kalla Vieaux, highlighted how the skills gained through her League experience have helped her to serve other community non-profits in fundraising and board roles. Ashley Daniels, JLSF Executive Vice President, underscored how contributions given to the League help further its mission – from bringing in talented instructors for workshops to purchasing equipment to support volunteer activities surrounding the League's community focus area. By investing in this mission and JLSF, supporters ensure the JLSF remains the gold standard in women's leadership.

The event featured catering by A Black Tie Affair and The Caviar Company, who presented a fall-inspired menu highlighting cranberry-glazed steak and seasonal fruit tarts. Dynamic florals were provided by Nigella that complemented the beauty of the Green Room's architecture. Guests enjoyed a live performance by Bay Area Jazz & Soul, an award-winning quartet that has appeared at major jazz festivals across the country and at Rockefeller Center.

2025 Honorees: Each year, JLSF recognizes two outstanding women—one League member and one community leader—who have made exceptional contributions to the Bay Area through their service and dedication.

2025 League Honoree: A fourth-generation San Franciscan, Tammy Braas-Hill began her lifelong commitment to volunteerism in high school, supporting children with special learning needs and adults with developmental disabilities. She continued her service through college and into her professional career in retail fashion and visual merchandising. In 1992, she joined the Junior League of San Francisco, marking the beginning of 33 years of extraordinary leadership and service.

Her extensive League experience includes roles with La Casa de las Madres, Transfers, Empowerment Project, Provisional Education, Strategy Planning, Finance, Fund Development Ad Hoc, and the Centennial Celebration, where she helped produce A Century of Commitment. She has chaired multiple committees—including Next-to-New/Consignment Boutique, Merchandise, Cookbook, the 16th Annual Home Tour, and The Women at the Center Honors (WATCH)—and served on the Board of Directors in several capacities. She received the Active of the Year Award in 2004 and The Spirit of the League Award in 2013. As a Sustainer, she continues to share League history with incoming members.

Beyond JLSF, Braas-Hill has held leadership roles with the San Francisco Garden Club, serving as President from 2016–2018, and with the San Francisco Auxiliary of the Fine Arts Museums, where she co-chaired the 40th anniversary of Bouquets to Art in 2024. Even during her recent health recovery, her commitment to service has remained unwavering. She and her husband Randy will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in 2026.

2025 Community Honoree:

Eva Sage-Gavin is a respected Fortune 100 business executive, board director, and thought leader on organizational transformation and the future of work. Most recently, she served as Senior Managing Director at Accenture, leading the global Talent, Organization, and Human Potential practice and advising C-suite leaders on digital transformation and workforce innovation.

Her previous executive and CHRO roles span leading organizations including Gap Inc., Disney Consumer Products, PepsiCo, and several technology companies. She has served as a Senior Advisor to the Boston Consulting Group and G100 companies, guiding top CEOs and boards on emerging workforce trends.

Sage-Gavin has held positions on numerous public and private boards and, in 2025, was appointed to the National Academy of Sciences Board on Human Systems Integration.

She has been honored by the NACD Directorship 100 and named among HR Executive's Top 100 HR Tech Influencers. She currently chairs the Women Corporate Directors Bay Area chapter and contributes to advisory councils at Stanford University, Santa Clara University, and the Innovation Resource Center for HR. A Fellow of the National Academy of Human

Resources, she holds a B.S. from Cornell University, where she serves as Executive in Residence at the ILR School.

Our 2025 Women's Leadership Gala Chair: Vanna Chen served as the 2025 Women's Leadership Gala Chair.

Quotes:

"It was a beautiful evening and so fun to bring our membership together to recognize the power of JLSF and the importance of supporting women in our community." - Teresa Weeden, Treasurer-Elect of JLSF

"What an inspiring and uplifting celebration of impact." - Eva Sage-Gavin, Community Honoree

"Attending the Junior League of San Francisco Gala was an exceptional experience — an inspiring evening that showcased community, purpose, and the incredible women who impact JLSF." - Brittany Clarke, Gala Committee Member

"It is a joy to look out and see a room filled with the very essence of what makes the Junior League of San Francisco extraordinary: women who serve, women who lead, and a community that shows up for one another." -Kalla Vieaux, JLSF President

"The Junior League is an incubator for women's leadership. We are the place where women come to practice being bold." - Ashley Daniels, Executive Vice-President of JLSF

About The Junior League of San Francisco:

The Junior League of San Francisco is a non-profit organization with a rich history of community engagement and a mission to empower women as leaders. For over a century, JLSF has remained steadfast in its dedication to creating a positive impact in San Francisco through various philanthropic initiatives, volunteerism, and training women leaders.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:

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Photos and Additional Resources:

High-resolution photographs from the gala are available for purchase through Drew Altizer Photography. Please contact the provided media contact for any additional resources.