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Diablo magazine recognizes five honorees at Threads of Hope Awards Ceremony celebrates 2017 recipients and their philanthropic contributions

December 8, 2017
Walnut Creek, CA

Diablo magazine, in partnership with Wells Fargo Private Bank, honored five outstanding volunteers at the annual [Threads of Hope Awards](#) on December 7. The 2017 award recipients include Kitty Cole from STAND! For Families Free of Violence, Lee Stimmel from the Bluewater Foundation, Aaliyah Washington from Christmas in Richmond, Ruth McCahan from Lamorinda Village, and Kristi Yamaguchi from the Always Dream Foundation.

Kristi Yamaguchi was recognized as the 2017 Steven J. Rivera Visionary Award recipient.

The awards ceremony, which took place at the Orinda Theatre, was sponsored by Wells Fargo Private Bank, Contra Costa Oncology, Comcast, and Xfinity.

Since 1995, individuals and organizations have nominated outstanding volunteers who provide philanthropic services in various fields, including the arts, youth, children and families, education, health, the environment, athletics, and more. A panel of judges from the community has then selected the nominees who are featured in the [December issue of *Diablo magazine*](#). These honorees strengthen the fabric of our community and are recognized at the Threads of Hope Awards ceremony.

"It is such an honor to share the stories of our Threads of Hope recipients," Barney Fonzi, president of Diablo Publications said. "These amazing volunteers do so much to make the East Bay community the special place it is. We are so grateful for their generous gift of their time and passion."

The 2017 panel of judges include: Jeri Boomgaarden, managing director of donor services and senior development for the East Bay Community Foundation; Mark Flower, senior vice president and regional managing director of Wells Fargo Private Bank; Gaby Ghorbani, founder and director of Pledge to Humanity; Christine Wente, president of the Wente Foundation Board, and Carol Wynstra, board member of the Walnut Creek Library Foundation.

Jessica Aguirre, weeknight co-anchor of NBC Bay Area News at 6 p.m. and 11 p.m., and host of *Class Action*, a weekly segment on public education in California, was the Mistress of Ceremonies.

To hear the stories of each honoree, visit diablog.com/threadssofhope. If you know an exceptional volunteer whom you wish to nominate for the 2018 Threads of Hope Awards, visit diablog.com/TOH18.

ABOUT DIABLO MAGAZINE

Covering topics ranging from travel, culture, and personalities to entertainment, recreation, and food, *Diablo* magazine is written specifically for the San Francisco East Bay market—from Central Contra Costa, into the Oakland and Berkeley hills, and throughout the Tri-Valley. With locally driven editorial content, beautiful photography, and resource listings, *Diablo* is a unique celebration of the San Francisco East Bay. Published since 1979, *Diablo* has been recognized for its editorial and design with numerous awards, including previous Maggie Awards for Best Overall Publication and Best Regional and State Magazine in the consumer category.

ABOUT DIABLO PUBLICATIONS

For over 38 years, Diablo Publications, an employee-owned company, has been creating award-winning publications, including *Diablo* magazine, *Napa Sonoma* magazine, *Diablo Weddings*, *Diablo Arts*, *Concierge Wine Country*, and the *Tri-Valley California Visitors Guide*. Diablo Publications' custom content division, *Diablo Custom Publishing (DCP)*, provides complete print and online marketing communications and customer publishing services for corporate clients nationwide. For more information visit diablog.com to view our retail publications and dcpubs.com to learn more about custom publishing.