

HIDDEN CAVES, SPEAKEASIES, SECLUDED TRAILS, OFF-MENU ITEMS, AND MORE **PAGE 82**

# SanDiego

MAGAZINE

# SECRET

## SAN DIEGO

**TOP CHEFS  
TAKE OVER  
OUR  
RESTAURANT  
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**THE WOMEN  
TELL ALL:**

**CAREER,  
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HIGH PEAK MINE 1870



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# 2016 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

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## ➤ CRITERIA FOR WINNERS

- 1 Has been in the business for over five years
- 2 Manages three or more part- or full-time employees
- 3 Contributes to her company/ organization above and beyond the normal position requirements
- 4 Commitment to community service

## ➤ JUDGES

*San Diego Magazine* would like to extend a warm thank you to the judging panel, which is composed of the immediate past five Woman of the Year winners.

2015

**Dr. Karen Haynes**

*President*

**CALIFORNIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS**

2012

**Susan Salka**

*CEO, President & Director*  
**AMN HEALTHCARE**

2014

**Judi Sheppard Missett**

*CEO and Founder*  
**JAZZERCISE, INC**

2011

**Kathleen Sellick**

*Retired President & CEO*  
**RADY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

2013

**Anesa Chaibi**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
**OPTIMAS OE SOLUTIONS**

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## ➤ NOMINEES

# ➤ NOMINEES

currently developing a restaurant and open-air market in the East Village.

**AMANDA CHEYNEY**  
*Lead Program Specialist,  
Youth Programs  
SAN DIEGO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP*

Cheyney oversees \$3 million in federally funded programs that serve more than 2,000 young adults experiencing barriers to education and employment. She volunteers with numerous organizations, including serving as vice president of programs for MANA de San Diego. A LEAD San Diego graduate, she was awarded the prestigious Herbert G. Klein Memorial Award for Exemplary Leadership.

**ANN CLARK**  
*CEO and Founder  
ACI SPECIALTY BENEFITS*

After a successful tenure as a college professor, Clark decided to pursue a new career that combined her psychological expertise with a desire to help people. In 1983, she founded ACI Specialty Benefits from her La Jolla condo. Over the past 30 years, she has continually led the company into the nation's top ten ranking of the largest Employee Assistance Program (EAP) providers.

**LISA COBBLE**  
*Executive Level  
Technical Consultant  
COBBLE CONSULTING*

For the past 10 years, Cobble has been a consultant to AMN Healthcare, Sempra Energy, LPL Financial, and Kratos Defense Systems. She also spends countless hours volunteering for the community as executive vice president of the Junior League of San Diego, working in programs for foster children, and advocating for the prevention of human trafficking.

**TARA COLEMAN**  
*Owner & Clinical Nutritionist  
TARA COLEMAN*

Following a career in the biopharmaceutical industry as an analytical chemist, Coleman shifted her focus to disease prevention and nutrition. She has helped over a thousand clients in her private practice, has become a leader in the nutrition community, and serves as a mentor to students and nutritionists entering the field.

**RANDA CONIGLIO**  
*Chief Executive Officer/President  
PORT OF SAN DIEGO*

Coniglio is the first woman to hold the CEO position in the port's 53-year history. Among her biggest accomplishments to date are presiding over an increase in automobile cargo volumes at the National City terminal that rival pre-recession numbers, and securing a competitive \$10-million grant from the U.S. Department of

Transportation for the first phase of a proposed 20-year plan for the Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal.

**CAROL COX**  
*Executive Vice President, External  
Affairs and Corporate Marketing  
NUVASIVE*

Cox is a visible figure in San Diego's health care industry as a member of NuVasive's executive leadership team, on the board of directors at Biocom, and as the executive director of the NuVasive Spine Foundation—a nonprofit that has provided surgeries for 850 people in 30 countries. She also participates in the Padres Pedal the Cause, a cycling fundraiser for cancer research.

**ALISON AGUILAR LOPEZ GUTIERREZ  
MCLEOD CROTTY**  
*Director of Religious Education  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF SAN DIEGUITO*

Crotty has been the religious director at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito for more than 10 years. She ensures that the principles of everyone's inherent worth and dignity, and the acceptance of everyone regardless of race, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs are taught and learned.

**AIMEE CUELLAR-MARTINEZ**  
*Teacher & Coordinated Intervention  
Services Coordinator  
SWEETWATER HIGH SCHOOL*

An immigrant and former English Language Learner, Cuellar-Martinez is a teacher dedicated to supporting at-risk youth with academic, leadership, and career goals. Through countless hours volunteering in her school and community, including as assistant director of MANA de San Diego's Hermanitas Program, she hopes to set an example and make positive connections within the community.

**SUSAN PLATT DALATI**  
*Executive Director  
NORTH COUNTY ABUSE PREVENTION SERVICES*

Platt headed legal counsel at the North County Violence Prevention Center, and when funding was cut, she took on the extra responsibility of leading the office while still providing counsel to victims in crisis. She started North County Abuse Prevention Services so that these vital services would still be available to those who needed them.

**HILARY DARGAVELL**  
*Executive Assistant  
RJS LAW*

Dargavell grew up in a single-parent household and was taught the importance of a strong work ethic. In high school, she worked part-time at a local dry cleaner, volunteered weekly, and graduated at the top of her class. She is an instrumental part of RJS Law and handles everything from leases and acquisitions to training new employees.

**KATHY DAVID**  
*President & CEO  
IT TECHPROS INC.*

David is an award-winning entrepreneur whose company specializes in providing IT managed services to a wide range of industries. She is passionate about mentoring youth and is an advocate for women business owners through her work with Women Business Enterprise Council West (WBEC-WEST).

**CHRYSTAL DE FREITAS, MD**  
*Pediatrician  
CARMEL VALLEY PEDIATRICS*

Dr. de Freitas is a pediatrician, author, and mother of three who has a special interest in health education. At her private practice, Dr. deFreitas is committed to her patients for their entire lives. In addition, she is the president and founder of the nonprofit group Healthy Chats, and donates to children's literacy groups.

**CHANDARA DIEP**  
*Senior Associate Attorney  
THE LAW OFFICES OF RONSON J. SHAMOUN, APC*

Diep began at RJS Law as a paralegal and over time grew into her role as a senior attorney. She is responsible in leading and guiding all incoming staff and law clerks. She has helped paved the way for women, minorities and first-generation Cambodian American citizens through her mentorship and volunteer efforts.

**BESS EBERHARDT**  
*Director of Advertising  
& Concierge Services  
SAN DIEGO CONVENTION CENTER*

Eberhardt cares about the productivity of the downtown area, and the prosperity of the businesses and families that reside there. She is a role model in the Downtown/Gaslamp community, where she always lends an ear and uses her vast experience to help businesses reach their potential.

**AMBER ECK**  
*Partner  
ZELDES HAEGGQUIST & ECK*

Eck tirelessly advocates for consumers, employees, and shareholders. She is currently co-lead counsel in two class-action lawsuits against Donald Trump/Trump University, and is unafraid to take on high-profile, well-funded defendants who aggressively contest and fight her at every turn.

**CHARLENE ESPINOZA**  
*Founder & CEO  
BOSH BOSH*

Bosh Bosh is a nonprofit that hires women in Liberia, at approximately five times the living wage, to make products that sell throughout the world. The money is reinvested in their communities, specifically to provide tuition to girls. Espinoza

was invited to speak at the White House multiple times. Last year, she introduced President Barack Obama when he launched the Let Girls Learn initiative.

**NAHID FARHOUR**  
*Owner  
NAHID'S GLOBAL EVENTS*

Farhour's company serves clients planning ethnic weddings. She is a founding board member of the Wedding Industry Professionals Organization, helping to support local chapters and create standards that the entire wedding industry can follow. She also donates her time to March of Dimes, assisting in planning events and galas that help raise crucial funds.

**AIMEE FAUCETT**  
*Executive Vice President &  
Chief Operating Officer  
SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE*

Faucett is the most influential person in city politics that you probably haven't heard of. Working behind the scenes, she is the trusted adviser to many, including both the former and current mayors, and the strategist working to ensure San Diego's future as a global competitor.

**KRISTEN FOGLE**  
*Executive Director  
SAN DIEGO WRITERS, INK*

The young executive director of San Diego Writers, Ink has overseen incredible growth in just two years at the helm of the nonprofit organization that serves as the 550-member literary hub of San Diego. Under her leadership, programs have increased threefold and the annual budget has increased by 200 percent.

**SHARON FORD**  
*Vice President, Wealth Management  
UBS FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.*

Professionally working as a financial adviser, Ford is also an artist who aims to further the arts in San Diego County. In 2015, she received the Branch Leadership Award for Volunteer of the Year, and is involved with several local nonprofit art organizations.

**KIMBERLY GALLO**  
*Executive Director  
FIRST 5 SAN DIEGO*

Gallo oversees First 5 San Diego, an organization that provides programs and services for children ages 0–5 and pregnant women. She guides funding to areas that have the greatest impact on the lives of young children. Last year, her agency served nearly 70,000 children, parents, caregivers, and providers.

**TRACY GARMER**  
*Executive Vice President & Chief  
Operations Officer  
HEALTH CENTER PARTNERS*



# ➤ NOMINEES

Garmer's work at HCP directly benefits its 17 nonprofit member health centers and the nearly 800,000 low-income and uninsured patients they serve annually. She currently sits on the board of directors for San Diego Employers Association, and teaches in the business departments of University of Redlands and the University of Phoenix.

## POLLIE GAUTSCH

**Owner**  
**G&A LEGAL, APC**

Gautsch is the managing attorney at her boutique trademark law firm. She has 15 years of experience assisting clients in the area of intellectual property. She is passionate about the environment and oceans and does pro bono legal work for various environmental groups. She also does pro bono work for local educational institutions.

## KATE GLENN

**Owner**  
**PAWTAILS PET SITTING**

Glenn owns an award-winning pet sitting company and is a dedicated community leader. She has served on the Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council as member and officer, and currently serves as its vice president. She also coaches and mentors other small businesses on success-driven strategies.

## ALI GRANT

**Founder**  
**BE SOCIAL**

Grant launched her public relations and influencer marketing agency at age 23. Five years later, Be Social represents international clients and has earned national recognition in PR and marketing. Featured in PRWeek's Innovative 50, Grant is recognized as one of San Diego's top entrepreneurs.

## CINDY GREATREX

**Vice President**  
**MEDWEB**

Greatrex sits on more than a dozen philanthropic and civic boards in San Diego, including Hatech, a foundation that designs pediatric cochlear implants and provides surgery to children in need; United Nations San Diego and Rotary International, where she focuses on aid for women and refugees in Tijuana and Afghanistan; and Access Youth Academy, which is building a new school in City Heights.

## EMILY GREEN

**Director of Education**  
**UROK LEARNING INSTITUTE LLC**

Green's goal at UROK Learning Institute, which provides supplemental literacy education to Title I schools, is to create an equal playing field for all San Diego students. She advocates for current and transition-age foster and homeless youth, and has played

an active role in bringing human trafficking awareness to San Diego.

## GEORGIA GRIFFITHS

**President & CEO**  
**G2 SOFTWARE SYSTEMS**

Griffiths founded G2 Software Systems in 1989, and now employs more than 150 people. She spearheaded Women in Defense's SDSU STEM scholarship for women, has personally endowed two scholarships at CSULB, and sits on Angel Flight West's executive board. She also voluntarily pilots charity flights.

## MIMI GUARNERI, MD

**Co-founder, Medical Director**  
**PACIFIC PEARL LA JOLLA & GUARNERI**  
**INTEGRATIVE HEALTH**

Dr. Guarneri's health clinic offers a blend of conventional, integrative, and natural medicine. She founded the Scripps Center of Integrative Medicine and served as its medical director for 15 years. She also is a professor at UCSD and authored the book *The Heart Speaks*. She serves as current president of the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine.

## CHRISTINA GUSTIN

**UBS Financial Services Inc.**  
**ACCOUNT VICE PRESIDENT & FINANCIAL ADVISOR**

Gustin oversees daily activities for a leading wealth management team, providing innovative approaches to wealth management and a fresh perspective to clients and the industry. She is an advocate for arts education and is involved in several local nonprofit organizations aiding disadvantaged youth.

## ALREEN HAEGGQUIST

**Managing Partner**  
**ZELDES HAEGGQUIST & ECK**

Haeggquist has dedicated her career to representing aggrieved employees, and the majority of her clients are women who have been wronged by their employers. She is a past recipient of the California Innocence Project's Distinguished Alumni Award and is a founding board member of Think Dignity (formerly Girls Think Tank), a nonprofit that works to advance basic dignity for those facing homelessness.

## JAMIE HAMPTON

**Founder & CEO**  
**MIXTE COMMUNICATIONS**

Hampton started her public relations company with a vision to work only with clients that make the community a better place—an idea that colleagues said would never work. Three years in, she has eight employees and works with some of the biggest organizations in Southern California.

## MERVAT HASSAN

**Vice President, Wealth Management**  
**UBS FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.**

Hassan, a Muslim from Egypt who immigrated to the United States at 17, has overcome cultural and political barriers to become a successful financial adviser. She was named a San Diego Five Star Wealth Manager by San Diego Magazine in 2008 and 2010. She supports several charitable organizations, including Susan G. Komen and the American Cancer Society.

## ANGELA HASTINGS

**Sales Transaction Coordinator**  
**Sharp Business Systems**

Hastings manages the billing and tracking of more than \$10 million in business, and volunteers her time with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This year, she helped raise more than \$67,000 and was honored as the Woman of the Year Campaign Manager by the society. She has also secured in-kind sponsorships for which Sharp equipment is donated to better support existing LLS programs.

## CHARLOTTE HOBGOOD

**Founder & President**  
**TAVI NOIR**

Hobgood founded her luxury sock and lifestyle company to create grip socks for barre, yoga, and Pilates workouts that are stylish enough to wear outside the studio. She and her husband, who is a professional surfer, are active supporters and volunteers of Walking on Water and the 100 Wave Challenge.

## CANDISE HOLMLUND

**Senior Consultant & Partner**  
**WEATHERLY ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Holmlund has more than 30 years of experience in the financial services industry and specializes in financial, tax, and estate planning issues. As a partner of a majority-women-owned firm, she inspires the entrepreneurial spirit for young women throughout the county. She is also active with numerous charitable organizations and serves on several boards.

## RANDI HOSKING

**Owner**  
**INDIGO SALON & SPA**

Hosking is a 20-year salon owner and local philanthropist. As a breast cancer survivor, she holds yearly fundraising events and donates to Keep A Breast and the Susan G. Komen Foundation, while counseling cancer patients. She also donates to the hearing impaired, Jewish Family Services, the San Diego LGBT Center, and the Emilio Narez Foundation.

## STAR HUGHES-GORUP

**Director**  
**HUGHES MARINO**

Hughes-Gorup has established herself as a leader within Hughes

Marino's San Diego brokerage team. She is not intimidated by the male-dominated world of commercial real estate, and inspires young women to work toward their dreams. She is a vocal advocate for gender equality and is an active member of the Lawyers Club of San Diego.

## JACQUELINE ISAAC

**Partner**  
**LAW OFFICES OF JACQUELINE ISAAC**

Isaac has spent more than a decade supporting refugees and advocating for the rights of minorities and women across the Middle East. She has testified before Congress and the U.K. parliament on human rights issues and leads trips to Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan, while helping refugees in San Diego through the Seeds of Hope mentorship program.

## SHARON JENKS

**CEO**  
**6 DEGREES BUSINESS NETWORKING**

Jenks began her career in banking, earning the title of senior vice president by age 27. After surviving a battle with cancer in her early 30s, she started her own management consulting firm in 1993 and became CEO of 6 Degrees in 2015. The membership-based networking organization hosts more than 500 meetings each year.

## ALISA JOHNSON

**President & Co-founder**  
**DOGS ON DEPLOYMENT**

Johnson is a KC-130J Super Hercules pilot for the Marine Corps. In 2011, she co-founded the nonprofit that helps service members find volunteers willing to board their pets while their owners fulfill military commitments. Dogs on Deployment has grown from its local roots into a nationwide all-volunteer organization.

## CARMELA KEENEY

**Executive Director**  
**SPAWAR SYSTEMS CENTER PACIFIC**

Keeney is responsible for the performance of the entire SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific Command. She directs the efforts of 5,000 scientists, engineers, and administrators at the Navy research and development lab, and manages an annual budget of \$2.5 billion. The daughter of immigrant parents who didn't complete high school, she is an avid supporter of educational outreach, particularly programs centered around STEM fields.

## DIANA KELLY

**Regional Vice President**  
**THE HOME DEPOT**

Kelly started in 1991 as a part-time cashier and worked her way up to regional vice president, where she is responsible for 82 stores and a team of 14,000. She is a champion for the company's philanthropic