

Brad Kobb's

Sept. 2011

# In The Community

## Burbank News & Events

### Zonta Club of Burbank Area Announces 2011 Woman of the Year



Known primarily for her extraordinary leadership of Burbank Housing Corporation (BHC), Judith Arandes has also volunteered her time to various community projects, improving the quality of life for Burbank residents in many ways. It's for these reasons she has been selected as Burbank's 2011 Woman of the Year, sponsored by Zonta Club of Burbank Area.

Arandes will be honored for her accomplishments and contributions at the Saturday, November 5th Woman of the Year luncheon, to be held at The Castaway restaurant, Mountain View Room, 1250 Harvard Rd., Burbank at 11:30 a.m. The annual Zonta Club event recognizes outstanding women in Burbank, whose skills, energy and volunteerism have helped shape the community.

A graduate of the University of Puerto Rico, Arandes went on to obtain her master's degree in education from Rutgers

University. Concerned early on about the effects of poverty, lack of education and family violence, Arandes focused on avenues to address the issues. She realized that working in community development provided the perfect vehicle to bring about change. As the first and only executive director of Burbank Housing Corporation since 1999, Arandes has guided the agency in preserving, upgrading and developing affordable housing opportunities in Burbank, literally building the organization from the ground up.

While also raising three children, Arandes found time to volunteer on Burbank's Mayor's Youth Task Force, Burbank's Task Force on Homelessness, Burbank Association of Non-profit Directors, the Leadership Burbank program, the Transformative Women committee and Elmwood Community Garden. In addition to the above, Arandes also volunteers for BHC Centers and serves as a document translator for the city using her native Spanish.

It is through her many involvements that she has collaborated with other nonprofits to expand outreach and create

housing for victims of domestic violence, homeless families and emancipated youth. With Arandes at the helm, BHC is involved with supervising two childcare centers and four activity centers, and providing approximately 750 people with affordable housing in 306 units.

Luncheon reservations to join in honoring Arandes can be made by contacting Zonta Club President Jennifer Wyatt at (818) 238-5091 or emailing [zontaburbank@gmail.com](mailto:zontaburbank@gmail.com). Tickets are \$50 in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. Opportunities for sponsorships are available, as well, and can be arranged via Wyatt, as noted above.

The Zonta Club of Burbank Area, comprised of local business and professional women, works to improve the lives of women and their families through service and advocacy in our community and around the world. The club was chartered in 1936 by Zonta International, a worldwide service organization of executives and professionals working to advance the status of women. Zonta welcomes new members. Information is available at [www.zontaburbank.org](http://www.zontaburbank.org). ■