

society

DAVID LAURELL can be reached at dlaurell@aol.com.

Zontians honor Woman of the Year



David Laurell
On the Town



Flanked by Zonta International District 9 Gov. Laura Peters, center-left, and Lt. Gov. Lori Montigel, center-right, are former Woman of the Year honorees, from left, Barbara Howell, Lucy Burghdorf and Mary Alvord.



Photos by David Laurell

Celebrating the accomplishments of the Woman of the Year Judith Arandes, fourth from left, are, from left, Jorge Montijo, Laura Arandes, Maggie Guzman, Jennifer Wyatt and Merisa Camacho.



Among those on hand to honor Judith Arandes were Brenda Lantieri, from left, City Treasurer Donna Anderson, Councilwoman Emily Gabel-Luddy and 1978's Woman of the Year, Elaine Paonessa.

Joining the ranks of 56 extraordinary women, **Judith Arandes**, who serves as the executive director of the Burbank Housing Corporation (BHC), was named Burbank's 57th Woman of the Year by the Zonta Club of Burbank this past Saturday.

Local Zontians and supporters gathered in the Mountain Room of the Castaway Restaurant to honor Arandes who, like her predecessors, has demonstrated a commitment through volunteerism that has helped shape and better the community.

"Judith holds a special place in the heart of Burbank," said the organization's president, **Jennifer Wyatt**. "A champion of the most vulnerable, she works to improve the lives of those who are easily forgotten."

A graduate of the University of Puerto Rico who received her master's degree from Rutgers University, Arandes has served on Burbank's Mayor's Youth Task Force, the Burbank Task Force on Homelessness and with the Leadership Burbank program. Since taking on her role



Toluca Guild of Children's Hospital Los Angeles members Marion Omara, from left, Sophie Goodsell, Barbara Clark Little and Shirley Norby at Lakeside Golf Club.

with BHC in 1999, she has been instrumental in preserving, upgrading and developing affordable housing opportunities in Burbank. She has also worked to expand outreach and create housing for victims of domestic violence, homeless families

and emancipated youth. With Arandes at the helm, BHC today supervises two childcare centers and four activity centers, and provides approximately 750 people with affordable housing in 306 units.

Among the notables in attendance to honor Ar-

andes were her life partner, **Maggie Guzman**, her son and daughter, **Jorge Montijo** and **Laura Arandes**, Mayor **Jess Talamantes**, Councilwoman **Emily Gabel-Luddy**, City Treasurer and Zontian **Donna Anderson**, former Mayor **Anja Reinke**, school board

member **Debbie Kukta**, Airport Commissioner **Sue Georgino**, Library Services Director and Zontain **Sharon Cohen** and former Woman of the Year honorees **Elaine Paonessa**, **Mary Alvord**, **Lucy Burghdorf** and **Barbara Howell**.

The Zonta Club of Burbank Area, composed of local business and professional women, works to improve the lives of women and their families through service and advocacy. The club was chartered in 1936 and in 1996 took over the Woman of the Year program from the Burbank Women's Club that established it in 1949.

This past week also saw the Toluca Guild of Children's Hospital Los Angeles gather at Lakeside Golf Club for their annual card party and boutique luncheon. Hosted by NBC Los Angeles weatherman **Fritz Coleman**, Wednesday's luncheon fundraiser was chaired by **Marion Omara** and presided over by the guild's president, **Barbara Clark Little**.