

Women Making a Difference

2008



**THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL
CELEBRATES L.A.'S INSPIRATIONAL
WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS**

THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL held its seventeenth annual Women Making a Difference Awards Reception and Luncheon event at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles on Tuesday, May 6th, 2008.

Described by attendees as an uplifting and inspirational event, the celebration honored Los Angeles based women who "lead by example," successfully blending effective business vision with a passionate commitment to positively "making a difference," both in the world of business and in the communities they serve.

Over 200 prestigious nominees were submitted to the judges this year, who then had the unenviable task of narrowing the field down to five honorees for this year's event. Judges this year included: Diane Williams of Union Bank of California; Elise Buik of United Way of Greater Los Angeles; and Los Angeles Business Journal's Vice President of Advertising Bernice Burns.

Bernice Burns kicked off the event by introducing the diverse crowd to keynote speaker Jessica Jackley Flannery, Co-Founder and Chief Marketing Officer of Kiva, who shared some powerful insights.

Specifically categorized Awards of Recognition were presented to a group of women who have truly blazed a path of leadership and inspiration for all Angelenos.

The 2008 Women Making a Difference honorees included: Martha de la Torre, El Clasificado, (Business Owner/CEO of the Year Award); Diane B. Dixon, Avery Dennison (Executive of the Year Award); Michelle Bholat, M.D., UCLA Family Medicine (Rising Star of the Year Award); Julia Gouw, East West Bank (Philanthropist of the Year Award); Elise Buik, United Way of Greater Los Angeles (Non-Profit Owner/CEO of the Year); and Jan Cloyde (Volunteer of the Year).

Congratulations to all the nominees!



Speaker Jessica Jackley Flannery inspired attendees with her personal story of founding Kiva.org, a site dedicated to microfunding entrepreneurs in underdeveloped coun-



LABJ Vice President Bernice Burns with honorees and special guests. From left: Burns, Michelle Bholat, Melissa Hartmann, Elise Buik, Diane Dixon, Diane Williams, Martha de la Torre, speaker Jessica Jackley Flannery, and Ninon deVere deRosa