



of the desert southwest
southern new mexico
& west texas

Women of Distinction

33rd Annual Celebration

Honoring:



*Brittany
Halbert*



*Iris
Hall Sanders*



*Katie
Purdy*



*Larisa
Lopez*



*Susan
Clark*



Invest in our Girls

Proceeds from the Women of Distinction event provides scholarships and leadership experiences for girls.

With your support, girls can discover their potential, connect with others, learn to work together with compassion, and take action to change the world.

Visit gsdsw.org to learn more and make your donation online or use the QR code to make your gift today.

Donate Now



Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong,
and responsible for what I say and do,
and to respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place,
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Program

Welcome

Elizabeth Inskeep

Invocation

Carol Ann Hunt

Opening Remarks

Patty Craven

Outdoor Fun

Lilley Rose

Grace: Johnny Appleseed

Girl Scouts

Dinner is Served

Sponsor Appreciation

Bernadette Granger

Award Presentation

Brittany Halbert presented by Elizabeth Inskeep

Iris Hall-Sanders presented by Maia Guess

Katie Purdy presented by Abby Delozier

Larisa Lopez presented by Rebekah Niehenke

Susan Clark presented by Haleigh Green

Recognitions

Bernadette Granger

Silent Auction Bidding Closes

Live Auction

Patty Craven



Guest Speakers

Bernadette Granger

Board Chair, Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest

Girl Scouts Alum

Community Affairs Director

Lilley Rose

Junior Girl Scout

Troop 27512, Odessa

Archer

Mistresses of Ceremony

Abby Delozier
Troop 29777, Midland

Elizabeth Inskeep
Troop 29777, Midland

Haleigh Green
Troop 38823, Midland

Maia Guess
Troop 29777, Midland

Rebekah Niehenke
Troop 38823, Midland



Brittany Halbert



Brittany Halbert is the Human Resources Director at Lynch, Chappell & Alsup, and is also a wife, mother, friend, and community volunteer. Brittany is grateful and deeply honored to be named a Woman of Distinction.

Growing up in the Houston suburb of Katy, her mother stressed the value of being party of something bigger than yourself from a young age. She cultivated a passion for service and leadership and was involved in church, Girls Scouts, National Charity League and later joined Chi Omega Fraternity where she served as active member, alumni and advisor.



LYNCH, CHAPPELL & ALSUP

A Professional Corporation

After graduating from Texas Tech University, Brittany channeled her passion for people to develop a career in Human Resources that has allowed her to walk alongside friends and coworkers through some of the highest highs and lowest lows life can offer.

Although Brittany stays busy balancing work and her two active sons with her husband, Matt, she is passionate about serving others and investing in the community. She serves on the Board of Directors for Hospice of Midland and Boys and Girls Clubs of Midland and will graduate from Leadership Midland through the Midland Chamber of Commerce in May 2025. She also volunteers her time with United Way, American Cancer Society, Chi Omega, and enjoys sharing the passion with her boy as they volunteer together with Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign.

A stylized logo consisting of a large, bold, black number '2' followed by a lowercase letter 'w'. The '2' is positioned above the 'w', and they are connected by a horizontal line that extends from the right side of the '2' to the left side of the 'w'. The entire logo is set against a white background.

Iris Hall-Sanders



Iris Hall-Sanders is the Senior Center Coordinator for the Southeast Senior Center in Midland, Texas, where she is dedicated to advocating for senior citizens and ensuring they have access to vital resources, wellness programs, and community engagement opportunities. With over six years in this role, she works closely with healthcare professionals, social workers, and volunteers to provide educational workshops, fitness classes, and enrichment activities that enhance the quality of life for seniors.

Born in Rotan, Texas, Iris moved to Midland in 1956. She pursued higher education, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from West Texas State University and a Master's in Education from Sul Ross State University.



Her career in public service began in 1975 with the Texas Department of Public Welfare, where she served for over three decades in roles such as Child Support Investigator, Child and Adult Protective Services Worker, Regional Personnel Specialist, and Foster Home Developer & Faith-Based Recruiter. After retiring in 2009, she continued her commitment to education with the Midland Independent School District until 2017.

Iris has always been deeply involved in community service. She has served on numerous boards, including Midland Habitat for Humanity, the League of Women Voters, and the Midland Memorial Hospital Chaplain program. She is an active member of Macedonia Baptist Church, where she serves as Minister of Education, and has been a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. since 1971.

The Girl Scouts' motto and slogan sum up her philosophy well: "Be Prepared" and "Do a good turn daily." Iris thanks God for the opportunity to serve Him and others in whatever capacity she can. She finds daily inspiration in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Use me, God, show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself."



SENIOR LIFE
M I D L A N D

Katie Purdy



Katharine “Katie” Frances Purdy has lived in Pecos, TX for the past four years with her husband, Dr. Geff Purdy—Executive Director of the Rec—and their three children: Lilani Frances (7), Kelsea Quay (5), and Zander Allen (2).

Katie is the proud Owner and Operator of Memory Lane Equestrian Performance, where she works with individuals of all ages in equine training, riding lessons, and project horse development. She trains horses in both English and Western disciplines, preparing them for new homes and successful futures. Her passion for teaching extends to riders ranging from 4 to 75 years old, many of whom compete in IEA, 4-H, OHSET, and local horse shows.

She holds a CHA Master Instructor certification and was honored in 2018 with both the Regional and National Instructor of the Year awards from the Certified Horsemanship Association.



In recent years, Katie has enjoyed breeding and showing her thoroughbreds at the prestigious Thoroughbred Makeover through the Retired Racehorse Project in Lexington, KY. This experience has become a cherished family tradition, shared with her children, father, and stepmother. She's also embraced the role of "show mom," attending local playdays and passing on her love of horses to her daughters.

In 2024, Katie added a new chapter to her professional journey by becoming a certified Realtor. She now works with Sovy Realty Group, helping clients buy and sell homes and manage rental properties across the region.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Katie is an active volunteer in the Pecos community. She coaches her children's youth sports teams, helps at Austin and Zavala Elementary Schools, supports her daughter's Girl Scout troop, and gives her time to organizations such as the 20th Century Women's Club, her local church, the animal shelter, and the community garden.



Larisa Lopez



Larisa Lopez is a consultant, bookkeeper, tax professional, and NASM-certified personal trainer whose journey exemplifies resilience and determination. A first-generation college graduate, Larisa holds an associate's, bachelor's, and master's degree in accounting.

In 2009, Larisa founded LL Services, the cornerstone of her career and family's support. LL Services has grown into a thriving business that provides bookkeeping, payroll, consulting, QuickBooks training, and assistance with business formations and permits. Serving over 380 small businesses, Larisa takes pride in empowering entrepreneurs to launch and grow their ventures.

Crystal  Rodriguez
P H O T O G R A P H Y

Her second business, Metro HR & Tax Services, trains future tax professionals and provides tax preparation services, while her third, MLN Trucking, is a family-run business specializing in flatbed and equipment hauling. As a personal trainer, Larisa has transformed her own life, shedding over 140 pounds and inspiring others to prioritize their health. She is certified in STRONG Nation, CIRCL Mobility, WARRIOR Combat, and WARRIOR Strength, leading fitness programs in her community.

A proud mother of four, Larisa's passion for helping others extends beyond her businesses. She volunteers with organizations like the West Texas Food Bank and Keep Odessa Beautiful, organizes annual school backpack drives, and helps women start businesses, often at no cost. Her mission is to leave a legacy of love, resilience, and empowerment for her children and community.

***Mary Lou
Cassidy***

Susan Clark



Susan Clark began her dance journey in Midland, Texas, where she moved at age three and took her first ballet class with Georgia Harston. By ten, she was a Junior Company member of the Permian Civic Ballet Association, training under William-Martin Viscount. Inspired by guest artists like Violette Verdy, Susanna Benavides, and Anne Burton, Susan knew by age eleven that she wanted to become a professional dancer.

At twelve, she earned a merit scholarship to study at the National Academy of Ballet in Illinois, where she balanced academics and intensive dance training. At sixteen, she launched her professional career with American Ballet Theatre's Ballet Repertory Company in New York City, continuing her training with esteemed teachers like Patricia Wilde and Valentina Pereyaslavic.



Susan went on to dance with the Atlanta Ballet, earning her first Principal contract under Robert Barnett, and performing lead roles in Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Scotch Symphony, and Giselle. She later joined the Milwaukee Ballet, dancing as a Principal for eight seasons before transitioning to Ballet Mistress under Basil Thompson.

Her career also included working with Twyla Tharp in the film Hair and winning honors at the International Dance Competition in Osaka, Japan.

For the past 27 years, Susan has served as Artistic Director and School Director of Midland Festival Ballet, helping to grow the organization and inspire the next generation of dancers. She remains dedicated to sharing her passion for dance with students and the wider community, believing firmly that "it takes a village to keep the arts alive."

Congratulations to all of our Women of Distinction. You make a difference in people's lives and we so appreciate it.

**Sincerely,
Patty & Chris Craven**

Thanks to Our Committee

Volunteers

Audrey Curry
Danielle Green
Gerianne Green
Kathleen Kirwan-Haynie
Tanya Lowery
Andrea Quiroz

Staff

Amy Alvarado
Patty Craven
Ron King
Teresa King
Haley Rose
Sharida Stacy
Alicia Wright

Special Thanks To

Katie Craven, Audio/Visual Specialist
Thomas Wilkinson, Movie Maker

Honoring Women

Each of these women have been recognized by the community for being a leader, role model, mentor or someone who goes above and beyond regularly.

Please thank them for all they do.

Ms. Janis Chapman

Ms. Audrey Curry

Ms. Iris Hall-Sanders

Ms. Amy Hendrick

Ms. Shelby Landgraf

Ms. Elizabeth Inskeep

Ms. Willie Parchman

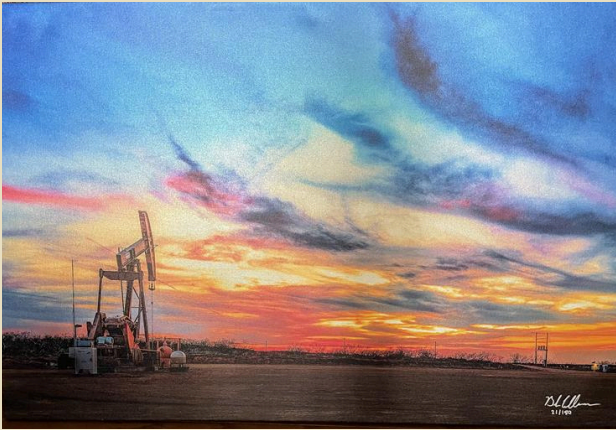
Ms. Katherine Prementine

Ms. Ella Taylor



Live Auction Donors & Items

Callendar's Framing and Gallery



“Colorful Heavens” photo on canvas
Size 45" x 30" Limited Edition - #21/150
Photo by Bob Callender

Cathy Eastham Fine Jewelry



Frederic Sage 14K White Gold , Small Fleur D'Amour ,
All Diamond Pendant, Featuring 29 Diamonds,
Weighing 0.37cts on a 14KT Yellow Gold 18" Cable
Chain. Diamond Pendant is approximately 10mm wide.

Live Auction Donors & Items

Folger Galleries

"Victorian Vase"
by Connie Moxham
20" x 16" original
acrylic painting

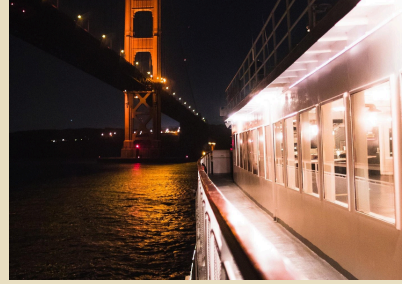


Original Watercolor Painting



"Not Touching
that Fence Corner"
by Thais Ahlstrand
14" x 18" watercolor

Live Auction Donors & Items



Romantic Getaway to San Francisco for Two

Enjoy an unforgettable trip to San Francisco featuring wine country charm and bay-side romance!

Napa Valley Tour

Ride in style on a luxury minibus to Castello di Amorosa and Artesa Winery for wine tastings, appetizers, and chocolate pairings.

Explore the City

Spend a day enjoying iconic sights on your own, then cap it off with a romantic dinner cruise on the San Francisco Bay.

Dinner Cruise Includes

- A gourmet multi-course meal
- DJ entertainment and dancing
- Stunning views of Alcatraz, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the city skyline

A perfect blend of adventure, indulgence, and romance.

Live Auction Donors & Items



Dinner for 8 Prepared by Chef Michael

Have an exceptional meal for you and seven of your favorite people in your home or other local location. This meal will be prepared by Chef Michael Olivas from Exquisite Catering. You and Chef Michael will work together to create the perfect menu and he will make it magical. This item will include dinner for 8, wines and other delectable bites!

Silent Auction Donors

2W Whatley Ranch

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Brand & Iron

Carter's Furniture

Casa de Amigos

Cork and Pig Restaurant

Crumbl Cookie

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Home Charm Realty

Julian Gold

Kathy Hassell

Kendra Scott

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Longhorn Steakhouse

Meraki Realty

Midland Community Theatre

Midland Rockhounds

Patty Alvior Craven

Petroleum Club

Pinkie's Liquor

Prime Lending

Sarah Allison

Scott Haynie & Senior Life Midland

Service First Mortgage

Star Jewelers

The Canopy

The Ivy Cottage

Torchy's Tacos

Weight Loss Solutions

Welcome Home by OBR

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Silver



2w

Bronze

*Mary Lou
Cassidy*

*Patty & Chris
Craven*



Friends



girl scouts 
of the desert southwest
southern new mexico
& west texas

*Girl Scouting builds girls of
courage, confidence and
character who make the world a
better place.*