

# CORAL GABLES GAZETTE

## Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce announces finalists for Axa Advisors 2008 Businesswomen of the Year Awards

MARCH 27 - APRIL 2, 2008

The Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce will honor excellence in business at the AXA Advisors 2008 Businesswomen of the Year Awards on Friday, April 4, at 11:45 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables, 50 Alhambra Plaza.

The AXA Advisors Businesswomen of the Year Awards were created to recognize women, living or working in Miami-Dade County or who are members of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, who demonstrate excellence in their business or profession as well as a commitment to serve as role models for other women. This year, the presentation has been expanded to honor one woman in each of five categories: Entrepreneur, Corporate, Philanthropy, Public Service/Non-Profit and International Business.

Two-time Emmy Award winner Laurie Jennings, Anchor, Reporter, WPLG - Local 10, will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies, to acknowledge the outstanding women in the community.

The following are the finalists for the AXA Advisors 2008 Businesswomen of Year Awards:

### **Entrepreneur Category**

- Claudine Claus, President & Chief Executive Officer, Home Financing Center
- Danneliz Segrera, President, Photo Offset and Impressions of Miami Company
- Jeannett Slesnick, President, Slesnick & Associates, LLC
- Patricia Thorp, President, Thorp & Company

### **Corporate Category**

- Tere Benach, Senior Vice President and Marketing Manager, Mercantil Commercebank
- Kalpana Mistry, Senior Vice President of Human Resources, VITAS Healthcare Corp.

- Penny Shaffer, South Florida Market President, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida

### **Philanthropy Category**

- Irela Bague, Owner & President, The Bague Group
- Linda Peterson, Co-Owner, Peterson's Harley-Davidson of Miami
- Jami Reyes, Chief Executive Officer, Jami Reyes & Company

### **Public Service/ Non Profit Category**

- Virginia Jacko, President & Chief Executive Officer, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind
- Vivian Sanchez, Chief Financial Officer & Senior Vice President of Administration, Florida International University
- Dr. Gemma Santos, Teacher, Miami Dade County Public School

### **International Business Category**

- Dr. Joyce Elam, Executive Dean and James L. Knight Professor of Management Information Systems, College of Business Administration, Florida International University
- Dr. Vendulka Kubalkova, Professor of International Studies, Director of Master of Arts in International Administration Program, Assistant Provost for University-wide International Studies, University of Miami

The cost of the luncheon is \$45 for Chamber Members who RSVP by 12 p.m., Monday, March 31, and \$55 for Guests and On-site registration. Tables of 10 available for \$500.

The Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce is a 1,600 member, not-for-profit business association whose mission is to foster and enhance the economic interests and quality of life in the Coral Gables community.