

HONOREES:

Olena Gordon

Founder, UMANA

Cassandra Ma

Founder and Executive Director, Reclaim13

Susana Mendoza

Illinois Comptroller, State of Illinois



10th Annual ROTARY/One Chicago Woman of the Year Awards

MAY 16, 2023

Timo Rehbock, President, ROTARY/One
Lisa Russ, Chair, Woman of the Year Committee

Rotary
Club of Chicago



HONORING SERVICE

The Rotary Club of Chicago is the founding Club of the world's premier international business and service organization.

Rotary members are business and community leaders who volunteer their expertise, compassion, and resources to improve communities at home in Chicago as well as in communities around the world.

It all started in 1905 at the corner of Randolph and Dearborn. The Rotary Club of Chicago, known as ROTARY/One, was founded by four businessmen who decided to meet on a regular basis for professional synergy and friendship. They soon began to pull their collective talents together and started solving community problems. Within 10 years, Rotary was on the east and west coasts and in Canada. 118 years later, Rotary is an international organization of women and men, over 1.3 million strong, part of 33,000 clubs and in almost every country in the world.

The common thread has been sharing fellowship, business synergy, and Service Above Self. This year, at our 10th Annual Chicago Woman of the Year award luncheon, we again honor women who exemplify the principles on which Rotary was founded.

Thank you for being with us today, made all the more meaningful by your presence.

PROGRAM

Welcome

Timo Rehbock, President, ROTARY/One

Higher Thought

Aleta Williams, President-Elect, ROTARY/One and Chair, JOB1 Committee

Chicago Woman History

Lisa Russ, Chair, Woman of the Year Committee

Keynote Speaker

Gayle E. Littleton

Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, Exelon

Chicago Woman of the Year Award Presentations

Olena Gordon

President, UMANA Illinois

Introduced by: Nitha F. Nagubadi

Cassandra Ma

Founder and Executive Director, Reclaim 13

Introduced by: Sarah Buck

Susana Mendoza

Comptroller, State of Illinois

Introduced by: Neli Vazquez-Rowland

Closing Announcements

Timo Rehbock, President, ROTARY/One

Meeting Adjourned

Esther Hana - Pianist



HONOREES



Olena Gordon

Doctor Olena Gordon was born and raised in a small town in Ukraine. After graduating from Ternopil State Medical University in 2001 she went through residency in Ternopil, Ukraine. Shortly afterward, she immigrated to the United States with a 2-year-old daughter.

After several years of learning English and studying and passing Medical Board exams, she began residency at St. Mary's and Elizabeth Medical Center in Chicago. Since completing the residency in 2013, she has practiced as a Family Medicine physician.

She is a small business owner of a Family practice in Niles and is an active member in the Ukrainian community. In 2020 she was elected as president of UMANA (Ukrainian Medical Association of North America) IL branch. Upon the beginning of the war in Ukraine, she co-founded UMANA IL Medical relief project which is still going strong, having shipped 350 tons and estimated \$27 Million of medical supplies and equipment.



HONOREES



Cassandra Ma

Dr. Cassandra Ma, Psy.D., is the Founder and Executive Director of Reclaim13, a non profit organization dedicated to providing healing services to survivors of sexual abuse, trafficking, and exploitation. Dr. Ma received her doctorate in clinical psychology and post-doctoral fellowship in marriage and family therapy at the

Family Institute at Northwestern University, where she joined the staff team teaching and coordinating the Bette D. Harris Family and Child Clinic.

Reclaim13 provides services that focus on three broad areas: healing, prevention, and engagement. The healing programs include two residential homes: Cherish House, a home for commercially sexually exploited youth, ages 10-17, and Courage House, a transitional living program for trafficked survivors, ages 18-25. The Child and Family Program, serves survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation and their families by pairing them with trained mentors and opportunities to meet with licensed therapists who specialize in trauma informed therapy. The prevention and engagement initiatives equip individuals from communities all over Illinois to help raise awareness and educate the public in the fight to end the cycle of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

In 2017, Dr. Ma and Reclaim13 were recognized by the Office of the U.S. Attorneys for the Northern District of Illinois for their work with victims of sex trafficking. She has been recognized by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services for her compassion, dedication and commitment to the children and families of Illinois and has served on various advisory boards, including the Illinois Children's Justice Task Force, and College of DuPage's Human Services.



HONOREES



Susana Mendoza

Prior to serving as comptroller, Susana was the first woman elected Chicago City Clerk. In her first term as Chicago City Clerk, Susana successfully transitioned 1.3 million customers away from an inefficient and archaic annual Chicago City Vehicle Sticker sales program dating back 105 years.

She also took on the horrendous puppy mill industry and won. Working closely with animal rights groups, primarily the Puppy Mill Project, Clerk Mendoza spearheaded and passed the Companion Animal and Consumer Protection Ordinance.

Before City Clerk, Susana Mendoza proudly served six terms as a Democratic member of the Illinois House of Representatives from 2001 to 2011 for the 1st District. Elected in 2000 as the youngest member of the 92nd Illinois General Assembly, she was publicly recognized for her leadership and legislation on social services, education, law enforcement, job creation and animal welfare. She was a leading sponsor of HR 1650 which created the panel to impeach former Governor Blagojevich and she served as an active alternate member of the impeachment committee.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Gayle Littleton

Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer

Littleton was named the company's general counsel in November 2020. She serves as the top legal advisor to Exelon's Board and senior management, and she oversees the company's legal and corporate governance departments.

Prior to joining Exelon in 2020, Littleton was Co-Chair of the Investigations, Compliance and Defense Practice at Jenner & Block, LLP, where she led complex investigations and litigation matters.

Littleton was Chambers USA-ranked in white-collar investigations and was named on the Global Investigations Review's list of 100 "Women in Investigations" globally. She served on Jenner's Management Committee and co-chaired the firm's Women's Forum Steering Committee, comprised of women partners across offices. Before joining Jenner, Littleton was an Assistant U.S. Attorney with the Department of Justice for over a decade, where she prosecuted complex federal cases in the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago and in the Northern District of Florida. Littleton is a former law clerk to the Honorable Gerald W. Heaney of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and a former law clerk to the Honorable Joseph L. Tauro of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Littleton received her law degree, magna cum laude, from Cornell Law School and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Stetson University.



PREVIOUS HONOREES

May 2022

Kelly Fair, Deloris Jordan, Jennifer Soble

April 2021

Trish Atha, Barbara Best, Hedy Ratner

May 2019

Rosa Berardi, Cindy Housner, Terry Savage

May 2018

Yvonne C. Jones, Amanda Lannert, Deborah Steiner
Public Service Award: Dr. Janice K. Jackson

May 2017

Karen Eng, Maricela Garcia, Diana White
Lifetime Achievement: Barbara Monsor

June 2016

Paula Fasseas, Evelyn Jones, Maria Paz Salas

June 2015

Theresa Mintle, Marcenia Richards, Barbara Zawacki

June 2014

Toni Preckwinkle, Deborah Rickert, Janice Rodgers

June 2013

Victoria Brander, Patricia Jahn, Lisa Madigan



Timo Rehbock
President, ROTARY/One

Timo Rehbock is a Partner at Barnes & Thornburg where he practices in international corporate and commercial law. Timo has more than a decade of experience in representing clients on complex inbound and outbound matters.

Fluent in English, German, French and Spanish, Timo advises clients on acquisition structures for cross-border transactions and investments between the U.S., Europe, Latin America and Asia. He has led both buy-side and sell-side teams on diverse transactions.

In addition to serving as a Board member and the 119th President of the Rotary Club of Chicago (2022-23), Timo is also a member of The Union League Club of Chicago, Board member of the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc. and a member of the Economic Club of Chicago.

Timo was educated at the University of Cologne, LL.M., Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Maitrise en Droit, Cornell Law School, J.D. and Cornell Law School, LL.M.



Lisa Russ
Chair, Woman of the Year Committee

Lisa Russ has been involved with the Rotary Club of Chicago since 2001, serving in a number of capacities including President, 2012- 2013. She represents artist Nina Irwin and her luminous works in the Chicago area. Lisa lives in Evanston with her husband, Ken, and "bonus daughter", Barbara.



JOB1 SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The JOB1 Summer Internship Program was created 20 years ago, in 2003, when the Rotary Club of Chicago was looking for a vocational services program that would deliver significant community value and that would engage Rotary members as well as the community it serves. Then, in 2005, JOB1 started as JobStart, a part of the City of Chicago's KidStart Corporate Initiative. Rotary has remained a collaborative partner with the city and Chicago Public Schools and its Career and Technical Education department.

As the signature program for ROTARY/One, JOB1 prepares City of Chicago High School 11th grade and graduating seniors, who are sixteen and over, for the workplace by providing job readiness training, as well as, substantive paid summer internship opportunities with local businesses and not for profits in the Chicago area.



For more information on the JOB1 program please visit www.rotaryone.org/job1.

ROTARY/One BOARD AND OFFICERS

ROTARY/One BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Timo Rehbock - President
Aleta Williams - President-Elect
Sarah Buck - President-Elect
Nominee
Matthias Amberg - Treasurer
Robert Harney - Secretary
Marga Hewko - Immediate Past
President

Directors

Waymon Anderson, Chuck Groebe,
Laura Inns, Hervé Jacquiau,
Betsy Meisenheimer,
Nitha Fiona Nagubadi,
Theodore Nebel, Mark Smith

ROTARY/One FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marshall Schmitt - Chair
Michael Faris - Vice Chair
Jim Buik - Treasurer
Steve Weihmuller - Secretary

Trustees

Sarah Buck, Martha Maugh,
Theodore Nebel,
Jodi Santeford, Aleta Williams

CHICAGO WOMAN OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE

Chair - Lisa Russ

Sarah Buck
Tamra Drees
Megan Evans
Shelbi Hoffman

Clint Krislov
Ryan Kuro
Betsy Meisenheimer
Nitha Nagubadi
Jody Stawicki

Walter Stawicki
Neli Vazquez-Rowland
Wes Westerfield
Aleta Williams

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

6/6/2023

Stephen Jackson, Dir. Equity-Inclusion
Oak Park Public Library

6/24/2023

2023-24 District Governor Installation - Conor Gee

JULY

7/11/2023

ROTARY/One 120th Presidential Installation of President Aleta
Williams

AUGUST

8/8/2023

JOB1 Annual Awards and Appreciation Luncheon