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Your weekend: Women Who Dare



Participants in Girls Inc.'s "Best Foot Forward" program

Lori Shannon may not have looked like your typical marathoner when she first decided to run one, many moons ago, in her then-home of New York City. At least, that's how Shannon, who was 5'3" and wearing a size 16, was treated at the running shops she visited in her hunt for gear. The poor treatment inspired her to open her own San Francisco-based shop, [See Jane Run](#), for women athletes of all shapes and sizes.

Now Shannon's got four shops (and several marathons) under her belt, and is supporting a variety of nonprofit causes. And she is being recognized for her work this Saturday by [Girls Inc. of the Island City](#), one of six honorees at their 10th Annual Women Who Dare awards.

The event celebrates the strides women have made and inspires girls to reach for equality and success, and raises awareness in the community about the work that still needs to be done. This year's theme, "Women Entrepreneurs," is a tie-in to Girls Inc.'s new Y.E.L. (Young Entrepreneurial Leaders) program, which will teach teen girls everything they need to know about starting a business.

It will honor six women and teens for their positive influence, both locally and worldwide. The event, which is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at [Scott's Seafood](#) Restaurant Pavilion in Oakland's Jack London Square, will be emceed by [Judy Grant](#), principal and president of Grant and Associates, and the awards will be presented by teens in Girls

Inc.'s Best Foot Forward program, a workshop series for girls ages 6 to 12 that teaches interviewing, public speaking, etiquette and other skills. [Tickets](#) are \$35, and can be purchased here. The event will include a prize drawing.

Besides Shannon, who will receive a "Women for Women" award for earning a national or global influence, the other honorees are:

***Sejal Hathi**, teen winner of "Women for Women" award, founder and CEO of [Girls Helping Girls](#), an international nonprofit that works to empower all girls to become social change makers and acquire a holistic education. Hathi is also a member of the national board of directors for Girls for a Change, Youth Service America's National Youth Council and Fremont's Youth Advisory Commission. She is a USA Ambassador for Ashoka's Youth Venture;

***Suzanne McKechnie Klahr**, winner of a "Catalyst for Change" award and CEO and founder of [BUILD](#), an entrepreneurship program that serves more than 300 students at eight public high schools. She is a sought-after speaker and multiple-award winner for her work who is also a faculty adjunct at Stanford Law School teaching "Introduction to Social Entrepreneurship";

***Warda Ali**, the teen "Catalyst for Change" winner and creator of Sure Shot Cricket Gear, an online cricket shop she set up so her father and uncles could get the equipment they needed to play their favorite sport;

***Julie Baron**, winner of the "Grass Roots" award, who opened [Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden](#) in 2005 after a decade of work in the wholesale coffee and tea business;

***Lashaelia Smith, Cassie Linzie and Georgia Hale**, teen winners of the "Grass Roots" award for their work with the Alameda Point Collaborative's [Growing Youth Project](#). All three were nominated to attend the "Rooted In Community" summer youth conference on sustainable food and health systems. Both Georgia and LaShaelia were also nominated to attend this year's "Just Us For Food Justice" track at the annual Bioneers Conference and Cassie attended the USDA Western Listening Session for the Child Reauthorization Nutrition Act, where she prepared and administered a statement to promote changes in this year's bill.

Congratulations, ladies!

Stay tuned for information about Girls Inc.'s other big event, the "See Jane Run" half marathon, to be held on May 30.