



*Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce*

*Presents*

*The 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation of*

*Directors & Officers*

*and*

*Awards Ceremony*

*February 22, 2017*

*94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron Restaurant*

*Granada Hills, California*



*Serving the Community of Granada Hills since 1927*



*“The Valley’s Most Neighborly Town”*

## **OUR MISSION**

The Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce is the voice and advocate for business and residents in the community, while striving to increase communication and economic cooperation between all members.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Our Chamber has supported, organized and/or assisted with the following:

- \* The Annual Granada Hills Street Faire
- \* The longest running Holiday Parade in the San Fernando Valley
- \* Veteran’s Park at Chatsworth Street and Zelzah Avenue
- \* Supporting the Granada Hills North and South Neighborhood Councils
- \* Supported and participated in the creation of the Granada Hills Business Improvement District (managed by the Granada Hills Improvement Association)
- \* The Granada Hills Community Plan Revision
- \* One of the longest running Government Affairs meetings in the valley
- \* Grubfest - Friday night food truck event





# PROGRAM

11:30 AM REGISTRATION/MEET & GREET

Master of Ceremonies: Larry Fleck

Flag Salute.....Jim Lofhdal  
 Welcoming remarks.....Larry Fleck  
 2016 Board Recognition.....Despina Crassa  
 Honorary Mayor of Granada Hills..... Presented by Despina Crassa

## LUNCH SERVED

**Winner of Gil Benjamin Award**  
**Presented by Alison Robinson**

**2017 Board Installation Conducted by**

Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitchell Englander

Presidential Address.....Sal Moncibais  
 Raffle.....Larry Fleck  
 Concluding remarks.....Larry Fleck





HONORING THE 2016 BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT**

*Despina Crassa*

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

*Paul Nelson*

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

*Frankie Ramirez*

**TREASURER**

*Mark S. Freedman, Mark S. Freedman CPA, Inc.*

**SECRETARY**

*J. Michael Kabo, Cal. State University Northridge*

**PAST PRESIDENT**

*Laine Caspi*

**DIRECTORS**

*Bradley Klimovitch.....North Valley Anger Mgmt*  
*Lillian Goodman.....Resident Member*  
*Maria Schwartz.....Granada Hills Woman's Club*  
*Paul Nelson.....Viewpoint Financial Advisors*  
*Richard Fisk.....Resident Member*  
*Sal Moncibas.....Sal's Painting & Drywall*





HONORING THE 2017 BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT**

*Sal Moncibias, Sal's Painting and Drywall*

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

*Madlena Minasian*

**TREASURER**

*Mark S. Freedman, Mark S. Freedman CPA, Inc.*

**SECRETARY**

*J. Michael Kabo, Cal. State University Northridge*

**PAST PRESIDENT**

*Despina Crassa*

**DIRECTORS**

*Alisa Altman.....Keller Williams*  
*Lillian Goodman.....Resident Member*  
*Maria Schwartz.....Granada Hills Woman's Club*  
*Richard Fisk.....Resident Member*  
*Sal Moncibias.....Sal's Painting & Drywall*  
*Larry Fleck.....Liberty Tax Services*  
*Raoul Corzo.....New York Life - Woodland Hills*



---

## GILBERT G. BENJAMIN



1990 CHAMBER PRESIDENT  
1984 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

### **The Gil Benjamin Citizen of the Year Award**

**The Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce Gilbert Benjamin “Outstanding Citizen of the Year” Award** is named in honor of its past recipient **Gil Benjamin** who lived and served the community of Granada Hills for many years.

Gil served on the Board of Directors of the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce and was elected President in 1990. He served in the United States Armed Services, held a distinguished career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation as well as being an avid USC football fan. He and his wife Ruth served the local Granada Hills community in a myriad of civic activities. They were the official community Historians whose collective efforts assisted in the writing of the “The History of Granada Hills,” by author Jim Heir in 2007.

The “Granada Hills Citizen of the Year” Award has been presented by the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce since 1982. The annual civic award is the highest recognition bestowed and presented to an outstanding selected individual for distinguished and exemplary volunteer service with the local community. The special citizen award was renamed in Gilbert Benjamin’s honor in 1994 that personally epitomized the highest attributes of the presented award and highlighted selfless volunteer service.





**GIL BENJAMIN  
CITIZEN OF THE  
YEAR AWARD**

**NOMINEES FOR 2016**


*William Hopkins, JR*

*Bill Cotter*


*Ray Pollok*

*Debbie Pietraszko*





---



*Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce*  
*Gil Benjamin*  
*CITIZEN OF THE YEAR*  
*Past honorees*

1982.....	Jo Erickson
1983.....	Carl Melnik
1984.....	Gil Benjamin
1985.....	Al Squatrito
1986.....	Paula Boland
1987.....	John Ciccarella
1988.....	Michael Casey
1989.....	John F. Weitkamp
1990.....	Richard E. Yeakel
1991.....	Jean C. Seratti
1992.....	William S. O'Connor
1993.....	Rick Gibby
1994.....	Ruth Benjamin
1995.....	Lin & Clark Squires
1996.....	Millicent Ford
1997.....	Yolanda Petroski
1998.....	John Rennie
1999.....	Evelyn Stanfield
2000.....	Mary Jo Koos
2001.....	Don Cosby
2002.....	Caroline East
2003.....	Becky Bendikson
2004.....	Hank Miller
2005.....	Maryann Adams
2006.....	Robert N. Norris
2007.....	Cheryl Ford
2008.....	Rob Dickey
2009.....	Jake Parunian
2010.....	Virginia Snow
2011.....	David Beauvais
2012.....	Jane Stanton
2013.....	Bonnie Bursk
2014.....	Laura Andrews Clemens
2015.....	J. Michael Kabo







---



## Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce

### PAST PRESIDENTS

1928-30	W.G. Nelson	1976	Carl Melnick
1931	E.M. Howard	1977	Angela Robertson
1932-33	T.S. Culley	1978	Carol Kaufman
1934	Hector Davis	1979-80	Paula Boland
	Ed Howard	1981	Jim Ward
1935	Dr. Olive Spaulding	1982-83	Mike Casey
1936-38	H.H. Powell	1984-85	John Ciccarella
1938	L.G. Bassett	1986	John F. Weitkamp
1941	John Wise, Jr.	1987	Floyd L. Beck
1947	Julius Johnson	1988	Jean C. Seratti
1948-49	Cecil Russell	1989	David R. Miller
1950	Bob Lang	1990	Gilbert G. Benjamin
1951	Cecil Russell	1991	Kathleen A. Yeakel
1952	Col. Martin	1992	Robert L. Lilley
	Mr. Martinson	1993	Ron Morgan
1953	Alvin Kleeb	1994	Gary Farajian
1954	Roy Paul	1995	Mona Wooden
1955	Joe Gaskill	1996	Ron Ford
1956-57	Fred Weitkamp	1997	Dave Cash
1958	Dr. George Garabedian	1998	Richard Colon
1959	Murray Jensen	1999	Hank Miller
1960	Lawson Riddle	1999	Hank Miller
1961-62	Don Arries	2000-01	Robert Heyd
1963	Roscoe Womer	2002-03	Robert Norris
1963-64	John Bedrosian	2004-05	Bonnie Bursk
1965-66	Burk Humphrey	2006	Rob Dickey
1967	Wally Adolphson	2007	Steve Baker
1968	Gerald Bailey	2008-09	Irv Selman
1969-71	John Maoriarty	2010-11	Alison Robinson
1972	Hugh Smith	2012	Wynne Ritch
1973-74	Duane Feuerhelm	2012-13	Jerry Askew
1975	Al Sherman	2014-15	Laine Caspi
		2015-16	Despina Crassa





---



HONORED MEMBERS FOR  
CONTINUOUS CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

**5 + YEAR MEMBERS**

J. MICHAEL KABO  
LAW OFFICE OF TAMILIA JENSEN  
PARK REGENCY REAL ESTATE  
VALLEY LIFE IMPROVEMENT

**10 + YEAR MEMBERS**

DON & JAN COSBY  
MCDONALDS  
RICHARD FISK  
VAN'S JEWELRY

**15 + YEAR MEMBERS**

ALL VALLEY RENTALS  
ANDREWS & VAN LOHN INS.  
BAYSINGER PLUMBING  
CHATOAK PET CLINIC  
DON & JAN COSBY  
HAMER TOYOTA  
HERITAGE CHRISITAN SCHOOLS  
NORTH VALLEY YMCA  
REMAX OLSON (KEITH MYERS)  
RICHARD & CAROLINE EAST  
STATE FARM (STEVE BAKER)

**20 + YEAR MEMBERS**

GRANADA HILLS BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
GRANADA HILLS ROTARY  
LAW OFFICE OF SAVIN & BURSK

**25+ YEAR MEMBERS**

ARPI MECHANICAL  
BOSTON FIRST PRIVATE BANK &  
TRUST  
CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING  
GRANADA HILLS OPTOMETRY  
KENN CLEANERS  
KIRBY VACCUUM  
PORTER VALLEY COUNTRY  
CLUB

**50 + YEAR MEMBERS**

COLONIAL COACH WORKS  
GRANADA HILLS WOMAN'S  
CLUB  
FREDERICK J. WEITKAMP  
OFFICES





## **2017 INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Chamber Members, Members of the Community and Granada Hills Residents,

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead our Chamber in 2017, a year which will hopefully see us taking greater strides to further the missions of advocacy and strengthening the business networks in the community. Though we finished 2016 in a strong position, we cannot rest on our laurels as there is much work to do for the business community of Granada Hills.

We start off the year with this luncheon that I hope provides an opportunity for everyone to ask questions and really get involved with the events coming up this year. I ask of everyone to reach out to board members and to myself and tell us what you want to see happen in 2017. I want everyone to know that this is their Chamber and I am here to listen to them. With over 200 members from within this community and the surrounding San Fernando Valley, we are a force and in order to be stronger we need to keep talking to each other, sharing ideas, supporting each other and showing up! 2017 is the year to promote our Chamber and lean on our Chamber in order to get business thriving.

I am looking forward to the return of our annual Golf tournament, the Street Faire and the beloved Holiday Parade. Most of all I'm looking forward to engaging with all of you.

Sal Moncibais

2017 President of the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce



---



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016

## **88<sup>th</sup> Installation and Awards Ceremony**

We kicked off the year by honoring the 2016 incoming Directors, Mike Kabo, 2015 Gil Benjamin Citizen of the Year recipient. An evening of fun and laughter was enjoyed, and featured councilmember Mitchell Englander's office hosting the live auction.

## **37<sup>th</sup> Annual Mike Casey Golf Classic**

Our annual Golf Tournament continues to get better and better each year. This year, over 100 golfers descended on Porter Valley Country Club. The day culminated with an awards dinner and silent auction.

## **Government Affairs**

These monthly meetings are a great way to access our elected officials: representatives from local Congressman, State Senators, State Assembly, and City Council. For decades, the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce has been proactive with our government affairs committee in combating business-killer legislation.

## **Joint & Alliance Breakfasts & Mixers**

This year, the Chamber united with local Chambers for several networking events. Joint events are incorporated with Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce. Alliance breakfasts provide our members access to interact with chamber members from Studio City, Encino, Sherman Oaks and Chatsworth/Porter Ranch.

## **Street Faire & Car Show**

Our rejuvenated Street Faire and Car Show was a huge success, with over 130 vendors and 90+ car show entrants competing for trophies sponsored by Hammer Toyota. Galpin Motors returned with "Paint the Truck" fun for kids and family alike. We had two stages of live music and dancing from local clubs, residents, and musicians.

## **33<sup>nd</sup> Holiday Parade**

December 4<sup>th</sup> saw one of the largest parades yet, with over 110 entrants and a crowded street filled with residents and business people! Our Grand Marshals were First Responders from the community. Afterwards, an awards ceremony was hosted at Highlander Hall at Granada Hills Charter High School.



# RECOGNITION AND THANKS



DODGE BROS. AUTOMOTIVE  
**(818) 360-5581**

**Madlena Minasian, REALTOR®**



