



Front, from left: Rosie Casals, Cal State LA's executive director for Athletics Daryl Gross, Tam O'Shaughnessy, Billie Jean King, and Dolores Huerta. Back, from left: Elizaveta Sokolova and Sam Croucher. (Photo credit: J. Emilio Flores, Cal State LA)

Cal State LA alumna, tennis great Billie Jean King honors humanitarians, celebrates student success at 20th gala

California State University, Los Angeles honored a civil rights legend and an education champion and celebrated two outstanding student-athletes during the 20th Billie Jean King & Friends Gala.

Legendary labor union trailblazer Dolores Huerta was awarded the California State University, Los Angeles Presidential Medallion and STEM education leader Tam O'Shaughnessy received the Joe Shapiro Humanitarian Award.

"You know what I love about this university? I love the fact that we came out No. 1 for upward mobility," Billie Jean King said to the crowd gathered in the ballroom of the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena for the fundraiser. "It's about helping create leaders – leaders in life, leaders wherever you go."

Ms. King was referring to a groundbreaking study that ranked Cal State LA number one in the United States for propelling a higher percentage of students from the bottom fifth of income into the top fifth of U.S. earners.

A world champion athlete and global advocate for social justice, Ms. King has helped support hundreds of Golden Eagle student-athletes during the past two decades. The gala was one of a number of events during Cal State LA's 70th anniversary year.

Ms. King won her first Wimbledon title in women's doubles while she was a player on the Cal State LA women's tennis team. Her experience at the university opened her eyes to the inequalities that existed

involved in planning and promoting the event since its inception.

Cal State LA President William A. Covino thanked Ms. King for her unwavering support of the university's student-athletes over the years.

"Billie Jean King has influenced history on a grand scale. But she has also left her mark on the personal histories of our students," Mr. Covino said. "For 20 years, she has helped raise scholarship funds for our student-athletes. These funds have helped them turn the tides in their lives."

Tam O'Shaughnessy, the Joe Shapiro Humanitarian Award recipient, is the co-founder and executive director of Sally Ride Science at UC San Diego.

Ms. O'Shaughnessy grew up in California and played professional tennis from 1971 to 1974. She has dedicated much of her career to promoting young people's interest in and women's representation in STEM, or science, technology, engineering, and math. She has authored 13 children's books, helping to promote science literacy among youth. Ms. O'Shaughnessy was the life partner of the late Sally Ride, the United States' first woman in space.

Ms. O'Shaughnessy was introduced by the gala's emcee, tennis Hall of Famer Pam Shriver, whose late husband is the namesake of the honor. The Joe Shapiro Humanitarian Award is presented in memory of Joe Shapiro, who was a member of Ms. King's executive committee. Mr. Shapiro was known for working enthusiastically to help student-athletes reach their educational

Auto Club reveals ways to deck holiday travels with festive fun

As Alhambra residents make plans to travel this holiday season, hotels and restaurants are unpacking decorations and spicing up menus to help their guests get into the holiday spirit. Travelers and diners looking for the comforts of home without the stress of hosting during the holidays can find festive and family-friendly activities, extravagant light displays and décor, sensational seasonal menus, and much more at AAA Diamond-rated properties across the United States and Canada.

The Automobile Club of Southern California's team of professional inspectors, who conduct annual evaluations of local hotels and restaurants, have selected a few of their favorite festive Diamond-rated properties to visit this holiday season. To make reservations at these holiday favorites or any lodgings around the world, travelers can visit the Auto Club's Alhambra branch, 401 E. Main St., phone 626-289-4491, or use the AAA.com website.

In Southern California, several AAA Diamond-rated properties offer special ways to celebrate the season, including these inspector picks:

• **AAA Five Diamond Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village in Westlake Village, California and AAA Five Diamond Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore in Santa Barbara, California**

Both these iconic properties will celebrate the Christmas season in family-friendly style with tree-lighting ceremonies, special holiday dinners, kids' stories and crafts with Santa Claus, and cookie decorating with Mrs. Claus — all amid breathtakingly beautiful surroundings transformed from Southern California oases to festive winter wonderlands. Events are complimentary for resort guests. —Inspector #546

• **AAA Four Diamond Ritz-Carlton Bacara in Santa Barbara, California**

Holiday magic abounds at the beachfront property, from tree-lighting festivities featuring hot cocoa to seasonal treatments at the spa and celebration-worthy menus at the on-site restaurant. And, what's that sound? It's the friendly staff, caroling and bringing cheer to guests

throughout the magnificently decorated hotel. —Inspector #546

• **AAA Four Diamond Westlake Village Inn in Westlake Village, California**

At holiday time, the already beautiful and charming inn shines bright with multiple brilliantly decorated Christmas trees and on-site events including holiday-themed brunches and a New Year's Eve celebration overlooking the property's enchanting lake. —Inspector #546

The year-end holiday season is one of the busiest times of year, when millions of travelers take to the roads and air to spend time with family and friends. To help those who will set out on a holiday getaway this year, AAA's travel experts offer these travel tips:

• **Plan ahead** – Book early for the best deals and availability on hotels, airfare, car rentals, and more.

• **Work with a travel agent** – Travel agents often have access to extra amenities and added benefits to help plan a magical holiday getaway. They can also be a tremendous help in the event something changes or goes wrong on your trip.

• **Be flexible** – If your schedule permits, consider traveling on the holiday itself to encounter less congestion and fewer crowds.

• **Safety first** – Get plenty of rest before setting out on a holiday trip. If driving, schedule breaks every two hours or 100 miles to remain alert and avoid driving drowsy.

• **Make sure your vehicle is road trip ready** – Motorists should check the car battery and windshield wipers, inspect tires, and pack a winter emergency kit containing a snow shovel, flashlight, ice scraper, jumper cables, warning devices, and extra warm clothing for everyone riding in the vehicle.

• **Be patient** – The holiday season is one of the busiest times of year for traveling. Expect heavy crowds and allow plenty of time to get to your destination safely.

For more information to plan a holiday getaway, visit AAA.com/HolidayDiamonds.

the community and Cal State LA.

Ms. Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers labor union, first started her activism while she was a high school student in Stockton and went on to pursue a lifelong crusade to fight economic injustice and advocate for the working poor, women, and children.

Ms. Huerta expressed her appreciation to Cal State LA and Ms. King for the work

He has been one of the team's top players and leaders. He received All-California Collegiate Athletic Association honorable mention, was named to the CCAA Championships All-Tournament team, and earned a CCAA All-Academic Award for the second straight year.

Computer science major Elizaveta Sokolova received the Joe Shapiro Scholarship. Ms. Sokolova earned an Intercol-