



2nd ANNUAL FIRST LADIES' LUNCHEON

CITY OF CHANDLER FIRST LADIES' LUNCHEON

Honoring and recognizing the unique contributions of great women within our community



About CITY OF CHANDLER FIRST LADIES' LUNCHEON

She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. - Proverbs 31

The First Ladies' Luncheon is an Initiative of Council Member Christine Ellis in the City of Chandler, Arizona.

Being the "First" Black Female Council member and the only female in the Council at present, she envisioned bringing women together to be agents of peace in their sphere of influence.

A wife, mother, businesswoman, a nurse and community leader, she recognized the amazing responsibilities of being a woman in leadership in this world.

Councilwoman Christine Ellis together with the support of the City of Chandler, collaborated with Women's Federation for World Peace, the Universal Peace Federation and other community leaders started this annual event in 2021, recognizing the valuable contributions of women in our community and their huge role in realizing a peaceful world starting in their families and work places.

Councilwoman Ellis is very grateful for All those who supported the first event and as we forge on this 2nd Annual celebration, we wish that you can join her and her collaborators in continuing to empower and uplift women in making a difference in this world."

In HIS service.

Christine TD Ellis
Council Member
Chandler, Arizona

Rhia Luz
Women's Federation for World Peace
Arizona Chapter Chairwoman





CHRISTINE ELLIS

Council Member City of Chandler

Councilmember Christine Ellis was born and raised in Haiti and moved to the United States in 1982. She has resided in Chandler since 1987. She has been married to her husband, Benjamin, for 32 years and have two children, Sean and Taliah. Councilmember Ellis has a Bachelor of Science, in Nursing from Grand Canyon University and has worked as an RN for many large hospitals and care facilities, while holding many high-level positions such as Director of Nursing in the Metro Phoenix area.

She has also taught medical assistant and certified nursing classes in Arizona's community colleges. From 1998 to 2015, she founded and operated Cedar Sanctuary LLC, realizing that families needed an alternative to caring for their loved ones. In addition to caring for the elderly, she has been a part of the foundation of the The Bridge/FCS Ministry for more than 17 years which helps feed the local homeless population and provides to their spiritual needs, partnering with other ministries in Arizona.

As a Councilmember, Christine serves on local and regional committees, including:

- Chandler City Council subcommittees for Community Services, Economic Development, Neighborhood Resources and Cultural Development; and Communications and Public Affairs, Information Technology, Management Services, Facilities and Fleet
- Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Domestic Violence Council

Councilmember Ellis also volunteers with:

- Co-founded Oppression Healing Ministry
- Advisory Board Member of HASCED (Haitian American Center for Social Economic Development)
- Committee Member - For Our City
- Chair of Pollack Haitian Hope Center
- Board Member of Midwest International Food Bank AZ

Her past service in Chandler and beyond included the following:

- Citizen Bond Exploratory Public Works Subcommittee for 2020
- Member, Governor-Appointed Board, Infection Control, State of Arizona, Assisted Living Rep
- Chandler SDA Church Building Committee Board
- Co-Founder of non-profit The Bridge for Community Services
- Co-Chair HID (Haiti Infrastructure and Development)
- Co-Founder, Village D'Esperance Orphanage in Haiti
- Co-Founder, Haitian Disaster Relief, Board President
- Co-Chair, Haitian American Center for Social Economic Development - HACSED



RHIA NKULU

Aka Rhia Luz

Women's Federation for World Peace
Arizona Chapter Chairwoman



Women's Federation for World Peace - Arizona Chapter Chairwoman since 2015. Founder and Host of the multiple award-winning Filipino radio show, 'Buhay Buhay Sa Amerika', broadcasting at Entremujeres Radio in Phoenix, Arizona. She is a Registered Nurse and mother to three amazing young ladies. She has been married for almost 30 years to a very supportive husband from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She has been a proud City of Chandler resident since 2008, and is honored to partner and work with one of the most hardworking Council members, Councilwoman Christine Ellis of the City of Chandler, in recognizing various women's accomplishments for the second year of this event.

On behalf of the Women's Federation for World Peace and the Universal Peace Federation, the co-Sponsors of this event, Rhia is grateful to have the privilege of working with Councilwoman Christine Ellis. She feels that Councilwoman Ellis' intention and purpose to bring attention and recognition to the First Ladies contributions in our City and State annually is highly commendable. Please join and support her again next year and let's continue to empowHER one another for the greater good of our community and this nation in creating a peaceful world.





GAYLE BASS

TV Host

Master of Ceremony



Gayle Bass, MMC has 20+ years experience in radio and television. She currently hosts the nationally syndicated TV show *RightThisMinute*. Gayle is an award-winning journalist who has hosted breaking news, political, entertainment and lifestyle shows. She enjoys reporting on travel, hosting events and volunteerism in the community. Gayle is also the president of the Phoenix Film Critics Society. She has a bachelor's degree in European History from UC Berkeley and as a proud Sun Devil, she earned her graduate degree in Mass Communication and Journalism from the Cronkite School at ASU. Gayle enjoys, hiking, traveling, and riding her motorcycle.

LYNNE HARTKE

First Lady of Chandler
Author of "Under a Desert Sky"

Keynote Speaker



Lynne Hartke celebrates life with her husband Mayor Kevin Hartke where they have also pastored a church for over thirty-five years. When not on hiking trails avoiding rattlesnakes, Lynne writes, volunteers, and keeps up with their four grown children and four grandchildren. She is the author of *Under a Desert Sky: Redefining Hope, Beauty, and Faith in the Hardest Places*. As a breast cancer survivor, Lynne was named a Voice of Hope with the American Cancer Society in 2018.



REV. ANGELIKA SELLE

President, WFWP USA & Vice President WFWP
International, North America

Keynote Speaker



Angelika Selle, born in Pforzheim, Germany, studied Catholic Theology, German, and English at the University of Freiburg. She has worked with government officials in Europe, Korea, Japan and the United States, and has held the position of editor-in-chief of two magazines -- *Neue Hoffnung* (New Hope) in Germany and *Today's World*, based in New York City. In 2004, based on her work with racial reconciliation in the United States, she received the Crown of Peace Award for Exemplary Leadership in Reconciliation and Peacemaking from the International and Interreligious Council for Peace. She was ordained in 2005 under "God's Vision International," an interdenominational ministry. Since 2010, Mrs. Selle has been

the President of WFWP USA and Vice President of WFWP International, focusing on empowering women (and men) of all ages as peace leaders of the heart, especially the next generation.

In 2012, she was appointed as the National Chair of the Global Women's Peace Network USA, a project of WFWP International, which seeks to bring together NGOs, government officials and social influencers to solve pressing social ills based on the philosophy of Living for the Sake of Others. Mrs. Selle settled here in the United States in 1983 with her American husband, Robert Selle. They are the parents of four children and have four grandchildren.



PASTOR BECKY DAVIS

Co-Founder Desert Springs Church

Becky and her husband felt called to Chandler 24 years ago. They started Desert Springs Church in their living room and they have been serving the people of Chandler and the East Valley ever since. Pastor Becky has a passion to see people connect with their true identity that is found in God. She is passionate to serve women and provide a place for them to experience God and build healthy relationships with others. She is deeply

committed to the spiritual health of our city and continues to equip and encourage people through community and prayer. She is devoted to her husband and kids. Her grandkids, that call her Lovie are her pure joy!

For fun she loves music, design, decorating and early morning coffee with her dog Beau.



CYNTHIA A. HARDY

First Lady of Congregational AME
Church in Chandler

Cynthia Hardy is grateful for this honor. For the past twenty years, she has inspired hope in our community through her volunteerism.

She currently holds various volunteer positions with these organizations: Chandler HHSC Commission Board, Chandler-Tullamore Sisters Cities Board of Directors, CPD-CPAAC, Arizona Alliance of Black School Educators Faith-Based and Community Support Com-

mission Board, For Our City Chandler, Norfolk State University Alumni Association; ASU Humanity 101- Project Humanities Founder; Chandler4Change, East Valley Branch of NAACP; Arizona Faith Council, ABILITY 360 and National Association of Congregational Christian Churches Racial Justice Task Team of North America.

Lastly, Ms. Hardy treasures her position as a CUSD#80 Willis Jr. High School Greeter with utmost pride.



JANE POSTON
Owner of J2 Media

Jane Poston has spent her career telling stories through video via her award-winning work in the public and private sectors. As owner of J2 Media, a video production and communications company, Poston prides herself on helping her community. She has generously given of her time, supporting nonprofits focused on financial education and scholarships to the local fire depart-

ment, Holocaust education and domestic violence. Her passion is uplifting other women. As the Chandler Chamber's Past-Board Chair she enjoys writing columns featuring "Women Doing Well." Jane is a candidate for Chandler City Council and hopes to leverage her leadership skills in service to the city.



CYNTHIA BROOKS LAMB

Founder/Owner/Operator of White
Rose Hospice Phoenix, Arizona

Cynthia Brooks Lamb is the owner and operator of White Rose Hospice in Phoenix, Arizona. She comes from a long background in hospice care. She has spent the last 24 years serving the community and sharing hospice care with families, doctors, clinics and adult care homes across the state. Over the years, through her work, she has helped to provide hospice care to over 6000 patients. Not only has she seen the important role palliative care played in so many families lives, she too has seen it up close and personal with her very own sister and brother utilizing the services at the end of their lives.

She was born and raised here in Arizona. Her deep roots and knowledge for this community and their needs is like

no other. Her passion is bringing education and awareness to families facing end of life decisions. Teaching and sharing this way of care within the assisted living homes has been her biggest accomplishment. Her sister Connie was the first person to bring hospice care into the care homes in 1994 and Cindi followed suit expanding the services to this day and has developed a unique Care Home Program that serves the owners, patients and families in a beautiful and team-based approach.

Cindi holds a degree in Interior Design, she is the recipient of the Access Leader Award and Patient Advocate Award for American Hospice. Cindi lives in Paradise Valley and enjoys spending her free time with her family and friends.



FARHANA SHIFA

Artist, Author, Educator, Small Business owner and Social Political Leader.

Artist, Author, Educator, Small Business owner and Social Political Leader. Most importantly, a mother of two daughters. Her family is a military family, her husband served in the US Navy. She is living in Chandler for last 16 years and she loves Chandler, it represents the American values of Faith, Family, and Freedom. For eight years, she has been operated a local art academy. Her love for art has led her to serve as an Arts Commissioner for our city and state and to teach at the K-12 and university levels. As a native of Bangladesh and naturalized US Citizen, she has a profound appreciation for America. Living here has inspired her to be active in our community.

She has a Masters Degree in Mass Communication, a Bachelor Degree in Education, a Bachelor Degree in Fine Arts, and PMP certification. She is a graduate of Dodie Londen Excellence in Public Service Series, Leadership Program for women – batch of 2017. Farhana's all works are intended to empower the women and secure a better future for our children. Having a unique background and living in different countries embolden her to celebrate our differences but uniting us as one. Currently she is running for Chandler City Council election 2022.



PAIGE FAIRBANKS-GUNN

CDP, Relationship Manager—Arizona
Region, Koelsch Communities

I've had the pleasure of helping seniors and their families since 1997. I'm extremely compassionate about helping our seniors and families find the right fit and setting. I love serving this great generation to help guide them through the changing seasons of their life. I've worked in skilled nursing, hospice, dementia care, transitional care, assisted, and independent living. Senior Housing Industry Roles: Admissions/Marketing, Social Services Director, Director of Community Relations, Executive Di-

rector for a memory care, Regional Sales Director (AZ & CA) and currently the Relationship Manager for Arizona. I have been with Koelsch Communities for since 2011. I have been involved in several new startup communities and helped open all our 7 Arizona Communities. I have worked with over 3000 families in my career. I was born and raised in Kansas. I moved to Arizona in 2007. I am married with 2 children, son, Rey, 24 and my daughter, Sydney, 17 and 2 dogs, Jaycee and Roxie.



DARLA GONZALEZ

Advocate and
Founder of 501c3 Organization

Darla Gonzalez, born in Salem, Oregon and moved with her family to Chandler, AZ in May 2004. Darla describes her priorities as God, Family and Advocate. Feeling grateful to be born in this great country, she is burdened by the injustices of the world. She founded a 501c3 organization which advocated for various outreach causes such as disaster relief, human trafficking,

homelessness, clean water, feeding the hungry, foster kids and was the President of the Board of Directors for Mission Africa serving the village of Sapele, Nigeria. Her motto is "Refuse to do nothing". Darla is passionate about people working together for the good of the community.



JUDGE NORINE RICHARDSON

Judge. Community Advocate.
Activist.

Norine LeAnn Houston Richardson was born in St. Louis, Missouri, as the eighth child in a family of eleven children. She had the benefit of learning from her parents, sisters and brother and credits them for her wisdom. Her parents, Elizabeth and Kenneth Houston stressed education, religion, hard work, and honesty. Norine is the mother of 3 children: Devvin, Derrick, and Derriann and 5 grandchildren, her greatest accomplishments. She is the Godmother and adopted parent to many. Norine has taken in over 15 children into her home, practicing her philosophy of "No child left behind."

Richardson spearheaded her two youth programs, The Arizona Cheetahs' and United Sisters in 1989, as the

founder, minister and coach. The programs continue to be successful. It services 150 to 200 children per year, ages six to eighteen years of age. She has been very instrumental in the success of the South Chandler Self Help Foundation Inc. as a volunteer since 1993, the Word Family Church (now Life Changers Center), the Chandler Regional Hospital Community Grants & Benefits, Mesa Municipal Court as City Magistrate, and the USATF National Board that services the Youth, Open, Masters and the Olympians of our Nation. In continuing to focus on the youth, Richardson has a message for them. "Life is about CHOICES." Each person has a different calling in their life. Set your goals high.



CINDY BIGGS

Chairman of the Gilbert County
Island Fire District Board

Cindy Biggs was born and raised in California. She moved to Arizona in 1978 and has been married to Andy Biggs for 41 years. Together, they have 6 children and 8 grandchildren. Cindy served on the Boards of United Families of Arizona, Arizona Chapter of Eagle Forum, the Mesa City Band, and the original Gilbert Republican Women's Club. She is currently a member of the Mesa Republican Women's Club and the Chandler/Gilbert Republican Women's Club.

She serves as the Chairman of the Gilbert County Island Fire District Board (first elected in 2010) and is a Board Member of the national organization: Right Woman PAC. Cindy portrays Caesar Rodney (signer of the Declaration of Independence). She co-founded Constitution in the Classroom.

Cindy also plays trumpet in the Mesa City Band.



NICOLE STANTON

Vice President and General Counsel of
Trulieve Cannabis Corp.

Nicole Stanton is a veteran commercial litigator and legal ethics counsel who serves as the Vice President and General Counsel of Trulieve Cannabis Corp., the largest multi-state operator in the United States. Ms. Stanton recently assisted in closing Trulieve's \$2 billion acquisition of Harvest Health & Recreation, where Ms. Stanton served as Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary. She now leverages her experience as defense counsel to navigate multidimensional matters that cut across business practices. She has been recognized by top publications for her work, including AZ

Business Magazine's Top 100 Lawyers in Arizona and Phoenix Business Journal's Most Admired Leaders. Ms. Stanton holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication from the University of Utah and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona College of Law. In her spare time, she enjoys exploring new local restaurants in Phoenix and attending Phoenix Mercury basketball games. She is married to Greg Stanton, former Phoenix Mayor and current U.S. Congressman, and is mom to Trevor (15), Violet (11), and her one dog and four cats.



MAYOR BRIGETTE PETERSON

Mayor of Gilbert
First Lady of Gilbert

Brigette Peterson has proudly served the Gilbert community over the last 25 years in many roles including as a member of numerous stakeholder groups, as a Town Zoning Hearing Officer, a Town Planning Commissioner, a Town Councilmember and since January 2021, as the Town Mayor. As Mayor, she proudly represents Gilbert by serving currently on more than 15 boards, commissions and committees.

Mayor Peterson moved to Gilbert in 1995 with her husband, Mark and her daughter, Jenn. She happily resides in Gilbert with her husband and 4 rescue pets from local rescues. When she's not busy with her mayoral duties and community outreach, she enjoys reading, creating holiday decor and crafts, taking and viewing digital photos and scrolling through social media.



JUDGE ALICIA SKUPIN

Presiding Magistrate,
Chandler Municipal Court

Judge Skupin serves as the City of Chandler's Presiding Magistrate and has been a judge in Chandler Municipal Court for over 7 years. Prior to joining the bench, she owned her own law firm with her husband. She practiced criminal law and also served as a judicial law clerk for the Arizona Court of Appeals.

She is a faculty member for the annual Arizona New Judge Orientation, is an editor for the Arizona Limited Jurisdiction Bench Book, and serves on the Arizona Supreme Court's Commission on Diversity, Equality, and Justice in the Judiciary. Alicia is an Arizona native, busy wife and mom of four children, and resides in Chandler with her family.



INVOCATION

Pastor PhoxZee Elliot

is a wife, mother of 3 beautiful girls, and a grandmother of 3. At present a Children's Pastor at Desert Spring Church- Chandler Campus in Arizona.

A Real estate agent, and owner and operator of a Woman Own Business in Gilbert. With her husband Daren Elliott she previously owned two large businesses.

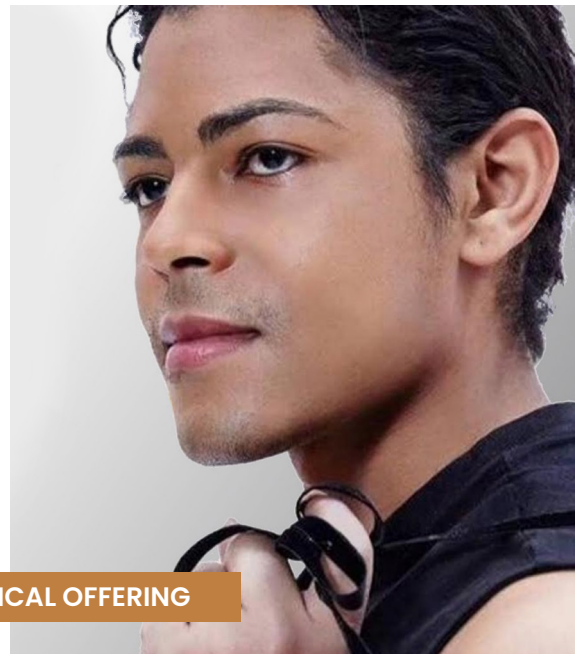
PhoxZee Elliott is a spiritual leader who's passion for intercession prayer coupled with her love for people drives her to help others put their trust and faith in God in order to experience freedom and healing.



NATIONAL ANTHEM

Miss Trina Forti

Silver Medalists singing competition from World Championship of Performing Arts 2017 .She's a Junior in Chandler High School and 16 years old.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Brandon Howard

(aka 'B. Howard')

is an American recording artist, producer, songwriter, and a rising star in the global music scene.

PROGRAM

Registration

Invocation

National Anthem

Opening remarks

Councilwoman Christine Ellis

Musical Offering

Honorees Recognition
(12 Ambassador for Peace)

Cythia Brooks Lamb

Page Fairbanks

Cynthia Hardy

Jane Poston

Darla Gonzales

Farhana Shifa

Pastor Becky Davis

Judge Norine Richardson

Mrs. Cindy Biggs

Mrs. Nicole Stanton

Gilbert Mayor Brigette Peterson

First Lady Award

Judge Alicia Skupin

Keynote Speakers:

Lynne Hartke

City of Chandler First Lady

Angelika Selle

WFWP-USA President

Raffle Drawing

Closing Remarks & Call to Action

Christine Ellis



MENU

Hors D'oeuvre:

Egg rolls

Entrees:

Chopsuey

Teriyaki Salmon

Chicken adobo

Beef Caldereta

Rice

Dessert:

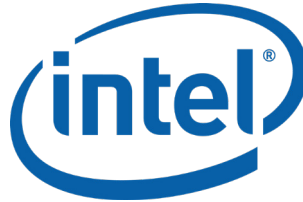
Buko Pandan

Catered By:

Flaming Pig

FIRST LADIES' LUNCHEON 2021





Peddler's Son™ STINSON & ASSOCIATES



WHITE ROSE HOSPICE
Because Every Life is Beautiful



AVEDA

Booklet designed by Muriel Santos
Decorations by Pinoy Elegance
2nd Annual First Ladies' Luncheon 2022. All right reserved.



Locally-owned and operated.

Northeast Corner Chandler Blvd and Dobson Rd
1900 W Chandler Blvd #15
Chandler, AZ 85224
480-855-9740
store3460@theupsstore.com
theupsstore.com/3460

Southwest Corner Riggs Rd and McQueen
975 E McQueen Rd #12
Chandler, AZ 85249
480-782-9211
store4060@theupsstore.com
theupsstore.com/4060

The UPS Store® locations are independently owned and operated by franchisees of The UPS Store, Inc. in the USA and by its master licensee and its franchisees in Canada. Services, pricing and hours of operation may vary by location.

Copyright © 2018 The UPS Store, Inc. 13258112918

We print.

- Business cards
- Flyers
- Banners
- Posters
- Postcards
- Photo & canvas prints

The UPS Store®

Hours:
M-F 8 am - 7 pm
Sat 9 am - 6 pm
Sun 11 am - 4 pm

Hours:
M-F 8 am - 6 pm
Sat 9 am - 5 pm
Sun 11 am - 4 pm

10% OFF PRINTING SERVICES

Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with other offers. Restrictions apply. Valid and redeemable only when presented at a participating location. The UPS Store centers are independently owned and operated. © 2018 The UPS Store, Inc.

The UPS Store® 

85¢ SHREDDING* PER POUND

*Visit theupsstore.com/shredding for full details.

Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with other offers. Restrictions apply. Valid and redeemable only when presented at a participating location. The UPS Store centers are independently owned and operated. © 2018 The UPS Store, Inc.

The UPS Store® 