

IN BUSINESS Las Vegas

2007

WOMEN of DISTINCTION

MARCH 30, 2007 | SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO IN BUSINESS LAS VEGAS

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ENTREPRENEUR of the YEAR

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

MAYA ANGELOU

(Renee Ryan-Thraikill's Inspirational Quote)



WINNER

Renee Ryan-Thraikill
Founder and Corporate Broker
Millennium Commercial

With over 26 years of experience, 13 of which were in Las Vegas, Renee Ryan-Thraikill has consistently been at the top of her commercial real estate game since she started in 1978 in Southern California.

Through the years, her knack for success has landed her positions with some of the industry's biggest names, including: Lee & Associates, Transwestern Commercial Services and The Olen Companies. At Lee she was a partner in the industrial division and won Rookie of the Year and Top Producer awards at the firm. At Transwestern, she oversaw the company's institutionally-owned Nevada properties, valued at \$50 million.

Ryan-Thraikill started Millennium in 1999. The firm handles office, industrial,

retail and land leasing, as well as sales and property management for commercial assets. The firm has been recognized among the largest commercial real estate management firms in metro Las Vegas in 2005 and 2006. Ryan-Thraikill was also recently honored with the "Enterprising Women of the Year for 2007" award by Enterprising Women Magazine.

Ryan-Thraikill's community involvement resume is extensive, including: president of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) – Nevada Chapter (2005-06), membership on the board of directors for the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors, the Commercial Alliance president (2003), and membership on the National Association of Realtors License Reciprocity Task Force in 2003, 2004, 2005.

CONGRATULATIONS

Women of Distinction Award Honorees

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Laurie Kalnin
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Jennifer Parker
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Congratulations to all of the Women of Distinction Nominees!

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FINALIST

Shelly Rounds
CEO
uptimeLV

With 20 years of business management and marketing experience, Shelly Rounds has helped supervise and restructure multiple companies since 1987. Prior to arriving in Las Vegas, she oversaw systems operations for Body Wise International Inc., overseeing the firm's commission run of \$22.8 million annually. She successfully streamlined and restructured operational procedures to handle 142 percent growth in four months.

Her current endeavor is uptimeLV, a local information technology firm, which she created in 2001. Since starting the company, it has experienced 201 percent growth. In 2006, uptimeLV was honored as the city's Innovative Business of the Year by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

Rounds earned her Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Chico, in 1987. She is currently in the process of obtaining her MBA from Regis University. She is also a 2006 graduate of Leadership Las Vegas, an intensive, 10-month program hosted by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. The course is devoted to educating local leaders on and encouraging active involvement in a variety of community issues.

An advocate of the community, Rounds is a member of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) and Women in Technology International (WITI). She recently accepted a board member position for the Technology Business Alliance of Nevada (TBAN), the state's largest trade association representing the high-tech industry.



FINALIST

Kathy Gillespie
President/Owner
A&B Printing and Mailing

After spending 19 years helping to run a farmer-owned cooperative, Agway, in New York, Kathy Gillespie was ready for a change. Having supervised more than 250 employees and overseeing \$350 million in sales, she was up to the challenge of running her own company.

So she moved to Las Vegas in the late 1990s and purchased A&B Printing in 1999. When she bought A&B, there were six employees – including herself – and annual sales were at \$265,000. Today, the company sees more than \$5 million a year in sales and employs 40. There has even been a slight name shift, to A&B Printing and Mailing. The company serves a broad range of clients, including casinos, doctors, event companies, management consultants, real estate companies, advertising agencies and more.

Gillespie, whose education is in horticulture, one time served as president of the Atlantic Seedmens Association, the New York Seed Association, and Western Seed Association, while working on the east coast. She is also a pioneer in that she was the first woman to work in the production and operation of a seed business, paving the way for other women to follow.

Kathy has served as past Women Of Distinction Awards chair for two years and has chaired various not-for-profit organizations involved with AIDS, gay and lesbian youth outreach and other not-for-profit groups in the valley.