

2011 Twin Cities International Citizen Awards Gala

This year's 2011 Twin Cities International Citizen Awards recipients are **Marilyn Carlson Nelson, M. Nazie Eftekhari and the Pentair Corporation**. International Citizen Award winner, **Marilyn Carlson Nelson**, was honored because of her many achievements in business, contributions to local communities and boards, and leadership in international business affairs. Under her leadership, Carlson Inc. was the first major North American travel company to take a stand against the sexual exploitation of children in the tourism industry. Her nomination was submitted by Mrs. Reatha Clark King. For more information see the May issue Twin Cities Business magazine.



The 2011 Immigrant Achievement Award winner, **M. Nazie Eftekhari** was honored with this long standing award because of her achievements in business and establishment of the Foundation for the Children of Iran. Throughout her career, she developed ways for self-insured employers to provide health-benefit programs for their employees and ways to implement information technologies in health care. Another component of this award is that she has reached back to your homeland to support the development and education of children in Iran. Her nomination was submitted by Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas, III.



Pentair Inc. was the 2011 International Corporate Award recipient. Pentair has taken a leadership role in sustainable water solution projects in-country and globally. As a Minnesota based company, Pentair directed research funds directed research funds for Project Safewater in Colon Honduras, and is working to improve safe water resources around the world. Also, since 1998 the company has committed two percent of its pre-tax income through charitable giving through The Pentair Foundation. The Pentair award was accepted by **Mike Meyer**, Vice President of Tax and Treasury. This nomination was submitted by Paschal O Nwokocha of Paschal Nwokocha Law Offices LLC.



Two Rekindling the Flame awards were also presented at the TCICA gala this year. The Rekindling the Flame award recognizes international, national and local Minnesota individuals for their work and sacrifices in the promotion of social justice and tolerance. **The 2011 recipients were Asad Zaman, Executive Director of Tarek ibn Academy, and Ethel Lee Norwood, Director of Friendship Academy of Fine Arts.**

Students from the **Tarek ibn Ziyad Academy** presented their *Freedom Day Vital Voices* essays for South Africa's Freedom Day presentation at the gala. ILI board member John Stout was the masters of ceremony along with Judge LaJune Lange, Honorary Consul for South Africa for Minnesota. The Twin Cities International Citizen Awards recognize the depth and breadth of the Twin Cities' international connections, concerns and commitments - in business and trade, research and human rights, agriculture and technology, the arts and medicine, education and journalism, and in hospitality and humanitarian relief.



The 2011 TCICA gala was supported by AJASA Technology, South African Consulate General, International Business Resource Group, LLC, Fredrikson and Byron P.A., Faegre and Benson LLC, Clinton Collins, MN Best Enterprise, Inc., Paschal Nwokochid Law Office, Women of Africa Resource Development Center, TIZA Academy, Milestone Growth Fund, Minority Economic Development Association (MEDA), Friendship Academy of Fine Arts, Organization for Strategic Development in Jamaica (OSDJ), and Twin Cities Business Magazine May issue. Music presented by T. Mychael Rambo.

