



2019 Woman Extraordinaire Award Celebration

November 8, 2019 | The Standard Club, Chicago

International Women Associates (IWA) founded in 1978 by Doe Thornburg, is a 501(c)(3) Chicago cultural and educational organization whose members engage in cross-cultural exchange, community service, philanthropy, dialogue and friendship. By creating connections among people of diverse international backgrounds through our programs and with other organizations, IWA works toward establishing a more just and peaceful world. IWA has a membership of over 400 women representing 58 countries.

Since 1996 IWA has presented the Woman Extraordinaire Award to a woman with ties to Chicago whose international humanitarian efforts in her field of endeavor advance the welfare of women and children and inspire constructive action by others. **This year's award will be presented to Amy Maglio on November 8th at the Standard Club of Chicago.**

Amy Maglio is the Founder and Executive Director of Women's Global Education Project (WGEP), an international NGO focusing on girls' education and gender equality, womensglobal.org. WGEP is on a mission to enroll every girl in Africa in school, and Amy is a tireless activist who campaigns for the advancement of underserved girls and women. WGEP subverts the traditional top-down, big development approach by operating on micro-levels within communities to identify girls who are not in school and provide them with the tools necessary to enroll and excel in school.

Amy and WGEP have been hailed for their innovative women's empowerment programs by the Obama Foundation, IBM, and the UN Girls Education Initiative. Amy leaves no stone unturned in the quest for universal education, gender equality, and empowerment of women, factors critical to a society's development. In 2010, Amy presented WGEP's model as a "Best Practice" approach to girls' education at the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative Conference in Dakar, Senegal and was a drafter of the UN Declaration on Gender Equality. Her latest effort is to partner with Michelle Obama and the Obama Foundation's launch of The Girls Opportunity Alliance which profiled WGEP's work with girls in Kenya in a 2019 documentary, entitled "Rebecca's Story."

Amy has strong ties to Chicago. She was selected as an Emerging Leader by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Class of 2014, received an Impact Award from the Chicago Foundation for Women, and is a regular guest on Chicago Public Radio's world affairs program, Worldview. Amy holds a master's degree from the School of International Service at the American University in Washington, D.C. and a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She began her career in girls' education as a volunteer in the United States Peace Corps in West Africa where she first decided to send her village sister to school.

Amy's work and passion exemplify the power of the IWA mission -- using dialogue, diverse friendships, cultural exchange, and women's leadership to increase global understanding and create a more just and peaceful world. IWA invites you to support our mission by becoming a 2019 Woman Extraordinaire event sponsor and attending this special program. Sponsorship offer supporters increased visibility in the Chicago business and civic community and within the influential IWA membership; details are attached.

Thank you for your consideration!