



Kip Hughes, Cindy Halaby, Betsy Mangone and Ellen Fisher



Sunny Brownstein and Gerri Bader Saltzman

Geena Davis wants parity for women

By **GLORY WEISBERG**

Academy Award and Golden Globe-winning **Geena Davis** ignited the 2,200 women at the Women's Foundation Luncheon last week with an energy born of her depth and fire, discussing her TV and movie career while noting she isn't an actress, she's an actor.

Her burning desire is to get women in this country to wage parity and improve the way women are represented in the acting field. We don't call a female doctor a doctress, so why call a woman who acts an actress, she asked.

A member of Mensa, the rather tall Davis was also a past semifinalist for an Olympic team, but her passion for parity is what foundation staff led them to select Davis as a keynote speaker. She verbalized statistics many in the audience were already hot about. Davis noted that the U.S. is 90th in congressional representation

male/female balance and women actors are often sexualized. The exception: *Commander in Chief*, the show where she played the president of the United States.

"If we continue at the present rate of growth, we'll have parity in 500 years, I want to raise that to 250 years," she said.

Of course that drew chuckles and smiles and Davis had the audience in the palm of her hand as she further went on to say that there is gender inequality all around the world and "the time for change is now."

Louise Atkinson is president and CEO of the Women's Foundation, which is celebrating its silver anniversary. Part of the luncheon program brought out past board chairs starting with former Colorado first lady **Dotie Lamm**. High school students **Aztin Lopez** and **Ginny Creager** won the scholarship award



Geena Davis



Catherine, Louise and Caroline Atkinson

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Davis wants gender parity in '250 years'

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Martin STEM Awards went to **Ashlen Lemon** of Heritage High School and **Jigyasa Sharma** of St. Mary's Academy.

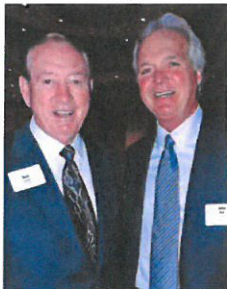
Foundation donations this year support their Public Policy Cliff Effect, Girls' Dropout Prevention and research.

Carol Burt is foundation board chairperson and **Margie Gart** is immediate past chairperson. Others on the present board include chair-elect **Barbara Bridges**, **Stephanie Bruno**,

Susan Campbell, **Kelly Condon**, **Christine Daly**, **Paula Edwards**, **Veronica Figoli-Fleisher**, **MaryAnn Franklin**, **Nayantara Ohsoh**, **Cathy Hart**, **Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins**, **Patti Klinge**, **Anahita Pazirandeh Kemp**, **Lynda McNeive**, **Kit Mura-Smith**, **Kim Patmore**, **Lisa Pease**, **Pam Smith**, **Sandy Stein**, **Elaine Torres** and **Gaye Woods**.

For more information, visit www.wfco.org.

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Walt Imhoff and John Ikard



Carol Burt, Cathy Hart and Margie Gart

Photos by Glory Weisberg