

## **Emerald Spotlight February 2011**

*The GSGLA Emerald Spotlight is a monthly award that recognizes a former Girl Scout who shows courage, confidence, and character in her current role as a community leader.*



### **Cyd Brandvein**

Cyd Brandvein is a senior executive with AECOM, one of the largest and most respected providers of technical and management support services worldwide. As Cyd reflects on her successful career in infrastructure, facilities and environmental sciences, she thanks the women “game changers,” including US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and NASA astronaut Sally Ride, who were pioneers in their fields and who personally inspired her with their journeys, ideas, talents, and discoveries.

Cyd participated in many diverse activities as a Girl Scout in New York City and in the San Fernando Valley. As a Brownie, her passion for innovation was ignited by science projects she undertook to earn badges. As a Junior, she was proud to sell 3,000 boxes of cookies in one year. As a Senior, her Mariner Scouts Sovereign of the Seas troop excelled in mariner skills.

Her favorite Girl Scout experience was also one of her most memorable birthdays ever! On her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, she represented her troop on The Ed Sullivan Show singing God Bless America with composer and lyricist Irving Berlin. During the dress rehearsal, breakthrough entertainers and special guests Diana Ross and the Supremes sang “Happy Birthday” to her and presented her with an autographed picture, a gift which she continues to treasure today.

Cyd’s advice to Girl Scouts is to always aim high, to set a path to achieve your dreams, and to be proud of all your accomplishments because you will need a strong, confident spirit as well as sharp focus in order to succeed.