



# CALIFORNIA FASHION ASSOCIATION

444 South Flower Street, 37th Floor · Los Angeles, CA 90071 · ph. 213.688.6288 · fax 213.688.6290

Email: [info@calfashion.org](mailto:info@calfashion.org) Website: [www.californiafashionassociation.org](http://www.californiafashionassociation.org)

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### ***CFA's Metchek Honored at FGI Luncheon***

*By Alison A. Nieder*



**Photo Gallery:** [FGI Luncheon](#)



Ilse Metchek, president of the **California Fashion Association**, was the guest of honor at a recent luncheon hosted by the Los Angeles chapter of **Fashion Group International**.

The event, held June 26 at **Fig & Olive** in West Hollywood, Calif., was hosted by the FGI-LA board—Michelle Calvert, Christine Chiu, Leanna Lewis, Linda Arroz and Michelle Dalton Tyree.

At Tyree's request, Metchek shared a little Fashion Group history with the guests:

"In 1961, when I joined Fashion Group, I was a showroom girl for a pants house called **Pants International**," she said. "I had to have three sponsors to join—and I've paid my dues ever since."

In 1983, Metchek said, Fashion Group was threatened with a lawsuit because its members were all women. She said the board was happy to admit men as long as they paid their dues. Later that year, the group honored four new members: Sydney Morse, then general manager of the **CaliforniaMart** (now called the **California Market Center**); Michael Gould, then chairman of **J.W. Robinsons** (now the chairman and chief executive officer of **Bloomingdale's**); Allen Questrom, then president of **Bullocks**, who became CEO of **JCPenney**, and Terry Lundgren, then the "mere VP" of Bullocks Wilshire (now the chairman, president and CEO of **Macy's Inc.**).

At the luncheon, FGI presented Metchek with a check for the scholarship fund of the CFA's charitable arm, the **California Fashion Foundation**.

Lewis praised Metchek for her work on behalf of the fashion industry. "She's been nothing but a huge supporter. She's amazing," she said. The LA chapter of Fashion Group will next host its "Meet the Designer & Muse" event on Oct. 24. For more information, visit [www.fashiondistrict.org](http://www.fashiondistrict.org).