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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE 2026 VALLEY BUSINESS AWARDS LUNCHEON HONORING EDWARD M. KASHIAN

Tuesday, February 3rd, Fresno, CA — Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are now available for the Fresno Chamber of Commerce’s 2026 Valley Business Awards, featuring the presentation of the prestigious Leon S. Peters Award to Edward M. Kashian, CEO and Principal of Lance Kashian & Company.

This year’s Valley Business Awards will take place as a full luncheon on Friday, March 13, 2026, at Pardini’s Catering and Banquets, with the program beginning at 12:00 p.m. The luncheon will celebrate excellence, leadership, and service within Fresno County’s business community.

The Leon S. Peters Award is the Chamber’s highest business honor, recognizing individuals who exemplify ethical leadership, professional excellence, and a lasting commitment to community service. Edward M. Kashian was named the 2026 recipient for his decades-long impact on the Central Valley through visionary development, philanthropy, and civic leadership.

“The Leon S. Peters Award represents the very best of what business leadership can and should be,” said Scott Miller, President & CEO of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. “Edward Kashian is exceptionally deserving of this honor. His integrity, generosity, and lifelong commitment to strengthening our community embody the legacy of Leon S. Peters. We are equally proud to recognize this year’s Valley Business Award recipients — each of whom reflects the innovation, leadership, and service that make Fresno County’s business community so strong.”

In addition to the Leon S. Peters Award, the 2026 Valley Business Awards will recognize outstanding individuals and organizations across multiple categories, celebrating innovation, entrepreneurship, community leadership, student achievement, and child-friendly business practices.



2026 Valley Business Award Recipients

- Harold Zinkin Entrepreneur of the Year Award: Liz McIlvaine, Total Concept
- Community Champion of the Year Award: California Teaching Fellows Foundation
- Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award: Jasmine Ruiz, Cry Baby Cookies
- Child-Friendly Business of the Year: Art of Comfort

Tickets are now available, and a limited number of sponsorship opportunities remain for businesses seeking prominent visibility and engagement with regional leaders, elected officials, and community stakeholders.

For more information on tickets, sponsorships, or the 2026 Valley Business Awards, please contact: Tatevik Hovhannisyan Events Manager Fresno Chamber of Commerce
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The Fresno Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest business organizations in the Central Valley, with approximately 1,000 member businesses representing over 78,000 employees. The Chamber's mission is to "promote and support the success of the regional business community through effective advocacy, education, and relationship building."