

IN OUR OWN VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM & EDUCATIONAL CENTER

SNEAK PREVIEW—A New and Exciting Permanent Exhibit to Open in May

BY Dawn M. Riggs, Ph.D

Spring is a time for renewal and rebirth that is celebrated annually by many peoples around the world. The San Diego Women's History Museum will join in that celebration with our spring-time renovations and the opening of a new permanent exhibit titled: ***All Our Grandmothers***. Without giving too much away I would like to share the highlights of our permanent exhibit.

In keeping with our overall mission, this exhibit will celebrate the diverse experiences of San Diego women from a century ago. We will commemorate and honor the lives of women who were responsible for shaping the communities in which we all live and enjoy today. Some of the past exhibits at the museum honored the leaders of the suffragist movement in San Diego, those women who had access to the

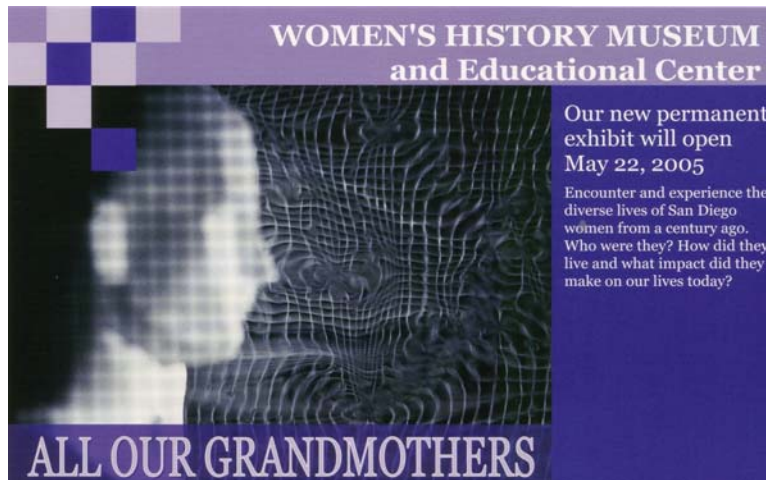
politics and power that altered the permanent legal status of women in the United States.

All Our Grandmothers will present experiences of those sisters whose stories are often left out of main-

stream accounts of women's history. Their equally important contributions are often overlooked because traditional historical interpretation does not tend to recognize the evidence, sources and value of these diverse stories. The first phase of this exhibit will present the experiences of our Native American sisters titled: ***Through My Ancient People I Am*** and our Afri-

can American sisters titled: ***For I am my mother's daughter and the drums of Africa still beat in my heart***. These stories, largely neglected in local histories, are critical to all San Diegans who wish to have a more inclusive and complete understanding of their community's past.

Continued on pg. 3



Inside this Issue:	
WHMEC Speaker's Bureau	2
85 for 85 Club	2
WHMEC Calendar of Events	3
Membership Corner	3
Hall of Fame Photos	5
President's Message	5

WHOF 2005—An Intimate Success by Ashley Gardner

Always memorable, the 4th Annual Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, once again filled with joy, awe and inspiration.

The UCSD Price Center Ballroom was transformed into an elegant backdrop so suited to this uplifting and momentous occasion that is the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Each and every year I am struck by the singular

underlying emotion of the proceedings – gratitude.

Gratitude for those who spent many unpaid hours to bring the Hall of Fame event together with such pinache and love; gratitude for those who sat around a table 4 years ago and embraced the idea to create such an event; gratitude for the women whose work and lives are permanently acknowledged through in-

duction into the Hall and gratitude for the inspiration and hope their stories bring to us all.

This year the addition of the San Diego Women's Chorus and the haunting voice of Deborah Liv Johnson added just the perfect musical notes to the proceedings.

Continued on pg. 5

The mission of the WHMEC is to educate and inspire present and future generations about the experiences and contributions of women; we preserve, share, and integrate their stories for a more complete understanding of history.

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COMING SOON TO AN ORGANIZATION NEAR YOU! WHM Speakers' Bureau Reaches Out to the Community

Why is a Speakers' Bureau so valuable for the WHM?

First, the museum receives several requests each month from other organizations to talk to their club or group about the museum. We try to honor their request and speak to the topic they wish to know more about. Usually our speakers discuss women in history. If we talk to an educational group, we try to select women educators. This

past month the Rancho Bernardo AAUW requested a speaker and the speaker shared information about Mary McLeod Bethune and Gabriela Mistral. After speaking about each educator, the speaker then compared and contrasted the two women, both of whom were educators in the same early 20th century, with Bethune from the US and Mistral from Chile.

Another reason for

establishing a Speakers' Bureau is to invite our members and nonmembers to join us as speakers. Many of us specialize in an area and could give an outstanding talk around our own expertise. As an educator, I am able to talk about important women educators. You, as a lawyer could talk about famous women in law, in civil rights or women in the aspect of the legal field.

Continued on pg. 4

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE; DOUBLE OUR FUND! JOIN THE 85 FOR 85 CLUB!

Notes from the Executive Director, Sue Gonda, Ph.D.

It's been 85 years since the women of America were granted the right to vote! That right is taken for granted today, but it happened during many of our mothers' lifetimes. On May 17, 2005, the women of Kuwait were just granted the right to make their election choices.

Do something daring and be a part of this empowering history: celebrate these historical landmarks by joining the Museum's "85 for 85 Club" and watch your contribution double with our Challenge Grant. Join at \$85 a month, as I just have. It's less than a credit card payment, yet you become an elite corps of individuals to make women's history. This Museum is at a crossroads: the demand for our services exceeds our ability to teach about women to all San Diegans. You

can get us to the next level of visibility in the community--watch us become a more known, celebrated entity and become celebrating women through history.

If \$85 is too much each month—try \$42 (that's the \$500 a year level, giving us \$1,000).

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

Because the Museum has received an \$85,000 challenge grant, each \$85 donation becomes \$170. Double your money! For those of you who love numbers, your \$85 a month amounts to \$1,020 a year. U.S. Women received the right to vote in 1920—85 years ago. The Museum, however, will receive twice that: \$2,040. There has never been a greater chance for you to

have such an impact on social change—on education—with a painless monthly contribution. Set your online banking, like I did, to automatically send the \$85 a month to the Museum. It couldn't be easier!

WHAT'S THE MONEY FOR, other than making women's work visible?

* These funds will allow us to increase Program Coordinator's hours from half time. It's a FULL TIME JOB! We can't say no to people who ask to learn about women. When will little girls learn that Sarah Bradless Fulton planned the Boston Tea Party that helped spark the American Revolution—if not from us?

* HIRE an Executive Director to launch this Museum into its rightful place among San Diego's largest...

Continued on pg. 4

EXHIBIT—Continued from pg. 1

One of our limitations in doing this exhibit is access to the material and archival items that could illustrate the story we plan to tell. The museum's holdings at this point primarily focus on the experience of women in the suffrage movement and the first and second waves of 20th century feminism. In an effort to make this exhibit an inclusive and important contribution to our historical knowledge, we are forging new partnerships with other local small museums that will collaborate in this interpretation. Among those groups interested in lending their expertise are the Barona Cultural Mu-

seum, the Chinese History Museum and the Black Pioneers Society.

Ultimately it is my hope, as Director of Collections and Archives at the Women's History Museum, that we will soon have a facility that will allow us to embark on a program of acquiring and preserving new collections of archives and materials of all women in the region. We hope that someday the women of San Diego will look to our facility as a place where their stories will be treated with the honor and sensitivity they deserve.

...we will present experiences of those sisters whose stories are often left out of mainstream accounts of women's history.

What's Going On At The Museum!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2005

Saturday May 7 3:00PM

An afternoon with Baseball Legend Alice "Lefty" Hohlmayer. This will be a multi-media event featuring rarely seen footage, film clips of *A League of Their Own*, Lefty's historical perspective, refreshments entertainment and autographs!

\$15.00 General Admission \$10.00 Members. Those who join or renew their membership at the door receive free admission.

Sunday May 22 5:00PM

After months of remodeling, spring cleaning and makeover, the Museum is celebrating their **Grand Re-Opening!** This reception will feature a new permanent exhibit entitled: **All Our Grandmothers**, refreshments, entertainment, community and more. The event is free with a suggested donation.

JUNE 2005

Permanent Exhibit—**All Our Grandmothers** on display
WHM Film Screening Thursday June 23rd 6:00PM

JULY 2005

Saturday July 7 3:00PM

Women's Hall of Fame Conversations Series Kick Off! Join us for an afternoon featuring a WHOF Inductee, refreshments, oral history, entertainment and more!

Friday July 15 6:00PM

Opening Reception: Girls and Zines— A DIY Historical Timeline
The Museum celebrates the opening reception of an exhibit featuring the history of zines, girls and feminism. On display through August 12th, 2005



MEMBERSHIP CORNER



Diana Avila
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Millicent D. Froehlich

Georgianna Galas
Deborah Garvin
Kathryn Gestiehr
Sue Gonda, Ph.D
Tara Hands

**The WHMEC takes this opportunity to say
THANK YOU! to our members.**

Bill Hawkins
Suzanne and Lawrence Hess
Dorothy Hewes, Ph.D
Anne Hoiberg
Donna Johnson
Seth Kleir
T Ladue
Gillian Lancaster

Rona Lechtenberg
Jolene Matson
Anita Merrit
Maureen O'Neill Ceccarelli
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Eneri Rodriguez
Judith Rosselli
Amanda Roth
Eileen Samuels
Marcia Showley
Faustina Solis
Alejandra Sotelo-Soliz
Bob and Betsy Stevens
Angela Talbot
Elle Vandermarck

85 for 85—Continued from pg. 2

institutions. (I'm volunteering in my interim role!) A paid, full-time leader will help connect us with corporate donors and the national scene. The uncompromising black leader and educator, Mary McLeod Bethune began a school in Daytona, Florida in 1904 with just \$1.50 and five black female students at a dump site. Today, the Bethune-Cookman College remains an institution that changes the lives of African-American and white students alike. Think of what your monthly contribution and full-time staff at our Museum can do!

* **Relocate** in two years: we're busting at the seams in our small space!

"...imagine what an impact role models like these could have on a 13-year-old girl in San Diego's poorest neighborhood."

We are investigating a move into 5000 square feet (we have 1100 now) to allow us to create the San Diego Women's Hall of Fame, a full-size museum, and to bring all our archives—some are in separate storage—under one roof where they can be preserved and studied. If Albuquerque's Juana Hurtado could do it, so can we. She was captured by the Navajo in an 18th century skirmish, became trilingual while living among them (her mother was from the New Mexico Zia Pueblo, her father a Spaniard), and found unique status once she was released. She became a skillful negotiator for both Spanish and Pueblo societies. When she died, she owned her own *rancho* with three houses and managed large herds and flocks.

It's an exciting time! If you didn't know these historical facts, imagine what an impact role models like these could have on a 13-year-old girl in San Diego's poorest neighborhood. Girls need to know

they can overcome obstacles and fulfill their dreams.

Please join me in the *85 for 85 Club*. **YOU CAN KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING!!!** We have recently been remodeled; we are now a member of the County's Museum Council; Board members are joining you by making generous financial commitments; and during the past year, museum programming has increased in every way – variety, attendance, and locations throughout the county—all with just the half time Program Coordinator.

REMEMBER: YOUR GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED!!! Join today at whatever level is appropriate for you. Even as a poor grad student I made monthly contributions of \$5 or \$10 a month to my favorite organization—it was painless, but terribly meaningful—for me and the institution. At \$85, \$42 or what's comfortable—learn what it feels like to make history.



Bureau—Continued from pg. 2

Those of us who are business women could talk about some successful business women who proved the male establishment wrong. We could talk about our idols. Our heroes or women we have admired for whatever reasons. How many of us could talk about how women opened up the field of medicine, science and math for all of us? Women from different cultures could open our eyes to our lives and your country.

Our goal is to open up the Women's History Museum to the

entire community. We know an excellent way to do this is to publicize our Speakers' Bureau which will in turn, publicize our museum. We are asking for some of you to volunteer for one to two talks a year. There is no limit to your topic or to sign on as a speaker, give us an area or areas you feel comfortable speaking area of interest. There is no limit to your topic or to sign on as a speaker. Give us an area(s) in which you have demonstrated expertise.

Members of other organizations

want to learn more history. They want to be taken on routes they have never traveled. They want to "ooh" and "aaw" when hearing about the Victorian woman who traveled the USA on horseback. They want to go places they never thought were possible then or now for women to experience cultures and be thrilled to hear new ideas.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Museum's Speakers' Bureau, please contact us at 619-233-7963 or info@whrp.net.



Alice "Lefty" Hohlmayer with San Diego Girl Scouts



Inductees Evelyn Clarke and Bill Hawkins with City Councilwoman Donna Frye



Inductees Ruth M Heifetz, Anne Ewing, Alyce Smith Cooper

WHOF- Continues from pg. 1

The younger generations were well represented by the Girl Scout Color Guard and the Youth Art Project participants and reminded us of how important it is to acknowledge and promote the accomplishments of women in our community and our world.

One of the evening's highlights had to be accomplished veteran of the World War II Era All-American Girl's Professional Baseball League **Alice "Lefty" Hohlmayer**, our "Hall of Fame Spirit of 2005" and her rousing rendition of the "Victory Song" along with the spontaneous accompaniment of the voices of the Women's Chorus. Goosebump time!

And to have Bill Hawkins receiving the posthumous Award for his wife, **Dr. Helen Hawkins** for her work as producer & host of KPBS humanities programs, an historian, co-founder and first president of San Diego

N.O.W. along with all their offspring present was truly a special moment..

We are so proud to have another set of 5 exemplary women to add the Hall of Fame roster. Along with Helen Hawkins, the 2005 Inductees are:

Ruth M. Heifetz, M.D., M.P.H., from UCSD School of Medicine, a physician and humanitarian, who attained safer conditions for workers and neighborhoods as community and government advisor about oxyc waste.

Anne D. Ewing who has worked to remove restrictions in women's private, civic and political lives. Anne founded San Diego's Chapter, National Women's Political Caucus; led a statewide reform of racist and sexist language in primary school readers and faced Catholic excommunication for her support of women's

reproductive rights.

Rev. Alyce Smith Cooper has combined her expertise as minister, an RN specializing in psychiatry, and an African-American Ancestral storyteller and actor to provide healing, motivation and cultural understanding in our community.

And **Evelyn L. Clarke** who has worked for decades on behalf of San Diego's first women's and human rights organizations and preserved their histories through photographs and videotape.

Each year we come away from this event asking... how can we top that? And each year we do!

Please mark your calendars for the 5th Annual Hall of Fame Event for March 25, 2006!

"...this was an event filled with joy, awe and inspiration."



Youth Art Coordinators Jeanette Wooden Betsy Coldwill



San Diego Women's Chorus

WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM & Educational Center

2323 Broadway Street
Suite 107
San Diego, Ca 92102

**...to educate and inspire present and
future generations...**

*The mission of the **Women's History Museum** is to educate and inspire present and future generations about the experiences and contributions of women; we preserve, share, and integrate their stories for a more complete understanding of history. The WHM was incorporated in 1983 and features exhibits, archives, library, oral histories and educational programs dedicated to women's history.*

Hours of operation are:

Tuesday—Friday 11:00am—4:00PM

Saturdays by Appt.

Phone: 619-233-7963 Fax: 619-233-6327

Email: info@whrp.net

We're on the Web! Visit us online
at www.whmec.org

President's Message— A Message from Olivia Puentes-Reynolds

"Greetings to Our Members and Friends,

As newly elected president I want to thank Dr. Sue Gonda for her many years of valiant leadership as president since 1998 and acknowledge the passion and talent she has brought to that demanding role. I am so proud to serve on this Board of committed individuals who are working hard to grow and expand our precious little museum.

We are pleased to share the many exciting developments happening at the WHMEC!

This Sunday, May 22nd, at 5PM you are invited to attend an Opening Reception for our permanent exhibit, "**All Our Grandmothers**" — an exhibit completely unique locally, nationally, and probably

internationally.

This exhibit is the creation of Dr. Dawn Riggs and Professor/Artist Lee Huai; it provides a woven tapestry of all women's lives of 100 years ago in our community; It's an Exhibit that is cleverly designed grow to include all heritages. The exhibit is the outcome of many volunteers who value women's history with their heart and action.

We are extremely fortunate to have Professor Riggs volunteer as the Museum's Collections & Archives Director and Professor Huai as the Museum's Art Consultant. In addition, Kathleen Wheatley (a 20-year library professional) has agreed to donate her talent as the Museum's Reference Librarian, and Professor Catherine Kineavy, a long time volunteer, is directing the Oral History Division. Lastly, our imme-

diate Past President, Professor Sue Gonda is the Museum's Historian overseeing the Museum's speaker's bureau and Docents.

And added to this stellar line-up — the Museum's benefactor, Bill Hawkins, is providing an \$85,000 Challenge Grant: for every dollar raised, he'll match it!

We know that Mary Maschal and her friends' dream can continue to grow and flourish with your help, your financial contribution, and your volunteerism. And we, volunteers at the Museum, know that you, too, value women's history!! We look forward to seeing you this Sunday and at our other upcoming events!

In Sisterhood,

Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
President