



IN OUR OWN VOICE

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

THE JOY OF IT ALL THE 5TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

by Ashley Gardner, 2006 Hall of Fame Chair

As a producer, I love the moment when the all the many and varied parts of a live event come together and you know - it's working.

The room darkens, the music begins, a hush falls over several hundred individuals as they become one: an audience, ready to share a common experience for the evening; willing to be part of something extraordinary.

And in that moment, I am filled with joy!

On March 25th, at 5 in the afternoon, the 5th Annual San Diego

County Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony took place in the spacious and gracious Price Center Ballroom on the campus of UCSD.



2006 Hall of Fame Inductees (from left): Ruth Hayward (for Kate Sessions), Nona Cannon, Lucy Gonzales, Jeri Dilno, Ashley Walker and Deborah Lindholm.

As the 2006 Event Chair, I was intimately acquainted with every aspect of the evening, from the food on the tables to the stories of the 7 women being honored that night. But to see the many weeks of planning and preparation pay off in real-time, is well worth

the time and effort and lost sleep.

I have participated in this event since it started and am always personally struck by the experience. This year was no exception. One participant stated: "It was an elegant and moving ceremony which makes those in attendance aware of the hardworking and influential women who have shaped San Diego County. It is a night of inspiration and entertainment that will leave you with a craving to follow your own passions." Several interns from SDSU volunteering for the event commented that they had "no idea the Hall of Fame ceremony was such a big deal!" It is a big deal.

See *WHOF* on pg. 2.



Singer Ishé performs at the Induction Ceremony.

Inside this Issue:

Program Highlights	2
Personnel Changes	3
Membership Corner	3
Archives Update & Historian's Corner	4
Women Leaders in Africa	5
Volunteer Profiles	5
President's Message	6

The mission of the WHMEC is to educate and inspire present and future generations about the experiences and contributions of women by collecting, preserving and interpreting the evidence of that experience.

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2006 FIRST QUARTER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

(below) Sally Ride at the 2006 Hall of Fame



Standing-room only at the Old Women's Project film screening in March



(Left) SDSU Interns pose in period clothing from the Neff LeClair collection at the 2006 Hall of Fame. (Above) Annual Sisters of '77 film screening with delegates Lucy Gonzales, Gracia Molina de Pick, Evelyn Clarke and Jeri Dilno.

Academics in Motion: Women's History Around the County

The WHM employs a corps of dynamic, enthusiastic and knowledgeable speakers just poised to appear at your next community meeting! Our speakers are experts on:
• women of note in San Diego history • women in the military • the suffrage movement • the history of women's fashion • women musical composers • women in sports • women and activism • any topic geared toward your organization.

Call **Sarah at 619-233-7963** to book a speaker for your event or society meeting!

WHOF—continued from pg. 1

Each year, our circle grows larger, we make more friends and partnerships in the community, and a larger audience tunes in to the extraordinary stories of women in San Diego County. Sometime half-way through the ceremony, I glanced away from the stage to see 7 male wait staff standing on the side-lines watching the proceedings. Dinner had already been served and cleared, and they could have been back in the kitchen but there they were, totally engrossed in what they were seeing and hearing. And, they were smiling, clapping and cheering. They were moved by the stories of the women being inducted that night into the Hall of Fame, and this said everything to me. The Women's Hall of Fame is an important event for everyone in San Diego County.

New Personnel Additions to the Women's History Museum!

SAY HELLO TO SARAH!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



If you haven't been by the Women's History Museum in the past 3 months, then you haven't had a chance to meet Sarah Williams. She has been skillfully managing the Museum Administrative Office since February of this year. We are so pleased and proud that Sarah has agreed to come on board as the Museum Executive Director and chief bottle washer!

It's a huge job requiring constant multi-tasking, creativity, dedication and energy in an effort to pack 40 hours of work into 28. We know Sarah is the right person for this challenging job at this time in the Museum's evolution.

Sarah comes to us from the great state of Wisconsin and spent the last 7 1/2 years in Chicago where she worked for the world famous John G. Shedd Aquarium and completed a doctorate in historical musicology from Northwestern University. Currently a resident of North Park, Dr. Williams often bikes to work, is learning to surf, enjoys all things outdoors and, in her "free" time, teaches piano lessons and is a music history instructor at Southwestern College. Stop by to say hello, Tuesday-Friday, 11-4pm, Saturdays 12-4pm.

Membership Corner

We gratefully acknowledge our members!

Deborah Barry
Hisae S. Batchelder
Byrna Bicknell
Diane Black
Ginger Blackmon &
Mary Logomasini
Rebecca Booth
La Noel Brazil
Francine Busby
Linda & Edgar Canada
Nona Cannon
Joan T. Casale
Susan Cayleff
Edith Chapman
Evelyn L. Clarke
Jane Clune
Barbara Cohen
Nancy Coker
Carol Council
Phyllis R. Davis
Clara Doss
Paula Doss
Kristine & Robert Downey

Sandra Duncan
Kathleen Evan-Calderwood
Mary & Fred Fee
Angela Feres
Barbara Fitzsimmons
Amy Fraber
Millicent Froehlich
Georgianna K. Galas
Ashley Gardner & Peter Meisen
Deborah Garvin
Anita Gillett
Takamichi Go
Susan Gonda
Lucy del Rosario Gonzales
Edward E. Gray
Donna Guthrie
Devon Hansen
Juanita Harrell
Ruth M. Heifetz
Suzanne & Lawrence Hess
Dorothy Hewes
Anne Hoiberg
Patricia Hughes

Phil Johnson
Lucy Killea
Catherine Kineavy
Gillian Lancaster
Rona Lechtenberg &
Seth Kleir
Midge Neff LeClair
Denise M. Legrand
Vicki Leon
Jill Lines
Maria Clara de Pilipinas
Sorority
Marjorie McLaughlin
Anita Merritt
Gracia Molina de Pick
Emma Jane Patton
Gloria Penner
Magdalena Peraza
Mildred Pilot
Ruth Porte
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Helen Redman & Family
Craig Roberts

Eneri Rodriguez
Cathy & Gordon Romanas
Judy Rosselli
Amanda Roth
James Royle
Stephanie Saline
Eileen Samuels
Bonnie Kime Scott
Barbara Shaver
Elizabeth Smith-Chavez
Faustina Solis
Amalia Solorzano
Cindy Stankowski
Joan K. Stein (in memory of Dee Fuller)
Betsy & Bob Stevens
Gabriella Swift
Angela Talbot
Gaye Taubensee
Barbara J. Templeton
Susan K. Webber
Sarah Williams
Bonnie Zimmerman

Devon Hansen Archivist and Co-Curator



Our new **Archivist and Co-Curator** Devon Hansen received her Bachelors Degree in American History from UC Santa Barbara. She then moved east to pursue Masters

and Ph.D. degrees in American History at Boston University, and recently returned to California to finish her dissertation. Her doctoral thesis studies the historical impact and relevance of sun tanning in American history and popular culture from the early 1920s through the present. Devon currently teaches Early and Modern American History at Grossmont College and is a huge Red Sox fan.

Need A Space?

Rent the Women's History Museum for up to 50 people. A great venue for your next meeting or event!

Call 619-233-7963 to discuss options

- - - - - Historian's Report - - - - -

by Sue Gonda, Ph.D., Historian and Co-Curator

In early February, the WHM acquired a small wonderful archive, thanks to an estate sale in South Park near the museum. These newspaper clippings and other extraordinary materials had been accumulated by Ella Robbins and Alta Ellison, dating primarily from the 1890s - 1930s. Robbins and Ellison were "clubwomen," part of a national movement of activist women dating back to 1868. These archives document the California and San Diego activities of the Federation of Women's Clubs, of which both women were officers.

I found in our new archives: "An Outline History of the Southern District of the California Federation of Women's Clubs to October, 1913." Photos of women presidents during these years are included in the pamphlet. At the first meeting in 1900 San Diego "had more clubs than the other three counties combined."

Lest you think we're discussing "quaint" club ladies entertaining themselves, it may surprise you to learn that these clubs commenced to

improve parks and playgrounds, provided educational programs on "The Advancement of Woman," discussed education strategies ("Mrs. O.S. Barnum, famed in educational work, gave a brilliant address on 'The Socialization of the Schools.'"), and created "Children's Homes" and Y.W.C.A. chapters. Across the nation, by 1904, women's clubs had helped establish 474 free public libraries. In 1906--when contaminated canned milk, meat and other goods killed thousands, and over-the-counter medications contained combinations of opiates and alcohol, even marketing for infants with colic--national clubwoman helped convince lawmakers to pass the Pure Food and Drug Act. At a 1938

Convention, Ella Robbins introduced an "emergency resolution" to support President Roosevelt's protest to Germany: "Whereas, citizens of Germany are suffering persecution for racial and religious reasons..." it began. These archives teach us San Diego and U.S. history, and are a valuable addition to the museum.

★ WHM Wish List ★

We're always in need of In-Kind donations at the museum.

Recycle your used office or storage equipment for a good cause!

We need:

- **A used black & white photocopier**
- **A computer monitor**
- **Two mini-DVD cameras to be used by SDSU student volunteers conducting oral histories**
- **A tall ladder**
- **Your volunteer time and energy!**

Contact Sarah at 619-233-7963

Archives Update

by Devon Hansen, Archivist and Co-Curator

Since I am new to the Women's History Museum, I have spent the last few weeks just going through the Archives to take stock of the museum's holdings and figure out how best to organize all the great documents we've collected! I'm working with volunteers to log all of our archives and will write a grant proposal to fund the purchase of appropriate

archiving materials. Business aside, it's been enjoyable for me to dig into our amazing archives and look at the papers of California suffragist Alice Park or former state legislator Lucy Killea. It's been equally interesting to check out the PTA scrapbook from a local school, photographs from a San Diego women's clinic, feminist buttons and t-shirts, and tracts on childcare, job searching, and violence against women. We

also spent some time setting up a new display to accompany the "All Our Grandmothers" exhibit. We found some great material in our archives, including utensils that would have been found in a 1950s kitchen, old sewing supplies, pill boxes from the 1960s and 1970s, toothpaste and mouthwash from the mid-twentieth century, and an advertisement booklet produced by a San Diego drugstore during the early twentieth century.

Global Women's Issues: Emerging Women Leaders in Africa

by Sarah Williams, Ph.D.

We like to think the United States and other Western countries are the progressive nations in the world—the most advanced technologically, the most tolerant and accepting, or the most liberated socially and cultural. Yet in Africa, a developing continent that otherwise dominates the airwaves with news of genocide, poverty and AIDS, women are taking on larger and more visible roles in leadership positions.

This year Liberia chose Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, former political prisoner and grandmother of three, as Africa's first democratically-elected female President, a feat even the United States has yet to accomplish. Women make up 49% of the lower house of parliament and 40% of local government leader

in Rwanda, while the US Congress can boast only 15% women in its membership. Women's contributions in this war-torn African country became so important that the president recognized a need for them in leadership and created a ministry of gender. Women, indeed all members of Rwandan society, are invited to participate and are included in the decision-making process in an effort to stop the bad government policies that led to 1994 genocide in the first place.

Women in Africa began their rise to political power in traditional fields such as healthcare or education. They used the teaching skills they employ in classrooms to move into the community and lobby for better health resources, prevention and AIDS awareness. In Zimbabwe, women are

establishing small nonprofits to protest the government, lead campaigns and get news and information to isolated villages. Women rose up from grassroots organizations to become government health ministers in the small South African nation of Lesotho where AIDS affects women at a higher rate than men. Even in Northern Africa, groups are working to redefine Islam to include a more empowered role for women.

We can all learn from Africa's example: with organization and courage, every voice can be heard. Contemporary women can, and do, affect change through grassroots movements, leadership and education. No step is too small.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Profiles of the people who make the museum a special place...

Gabriella Swift

Gabriella is a new volunteer at the museum. She helps Sarah out in the office on Thursdays. A "born again feminist", she rediscovered the women's movement late in life by attending events at the Women's History Museum and Women's Studies classes at City College. Gabriella has worked in the mental health field for years and hopes to do public speaking to educate people about mental illness. She is an art collector and loves all things political.

FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN ~ JEWELRY ON SALE ~



The WHM is pleased to offer a beautiful selection of handcrafted jewelry by women refugees in the Micro-Credit Program of the Foundation for Women.

Through this project the women are able to borrow money to begin a small business enterprise as a way to feed and house their families and to become sustainable and productive citizens of the community.

Necklaces, bracelets and earrings made of semi-precious gems and glass beads are available for purchase in the museum gift shop and online at www.whmec.org!

Look fashionable AND support a great cause!

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

Last summer the Board of Trustees adopted the recommendations of a Museum Assessment which was based on the standards of the American Association of Museums and the Institute of Museums and Library Services; the Assessment was conducted by Dr. Dawn Riggs.

Subsequently the Board of Trustees has used the Assessment's recommendations as a Work Plan for the Museum. As a result, I am pleased to share that the Board adopted revised By-Laws in March 2006, and currently is in the process of reorganizing accordingly.

This reorganization brings new opportunities for volunteerism at many levels.

Those of you who may have less time yet wish to meaningfully contribute monetarily to the Museum, may be interested in becoming a Trustee. The annual donation is \$2,500 and there are only two Trustee event-meetings annually.

Another opportunity is at the Board of Directors level which is a labor intensive involvement. Individuals with the following expertise may be interested in participating as a Director in Public Relations and Marketing, Membership or Funds Development.

Lastly, the Museum is recruiting for volunteer staff positions of Programs, Women's Hall of Fame Event Chair and Gift Shop Manager. We also welcome those interested in aiding with future events including the Museum's new signature event

"Women Chefs Extraordinaire," the Women's History Street Fair and the Women's History Film Festival and, of course, the annual Women's Hall of Fame.

Altogether, volunteers, docents and interns are the main-stay of continuing the positive benefit this Museum brings to the San Diego region and beyond. From my perspective, it is a labor of love and a joy to be a part of the Museum and to watch the positive affect it has on groups, families, individuals, young and old, of all economic levels, heritages and genders. We hope you are interested in joining us. We wish you well and look forward to your participation.

—O.P.R.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM
AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER
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We're on the web!
Visit us online at
www.whmec.org

*The mission of the **Women's History Museum** is to educate and inspire present and future generations about the experiences and contributions of women by collecting, preserving and interpreting the evidence of that experience. 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 12:00pm - 4:00pm
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