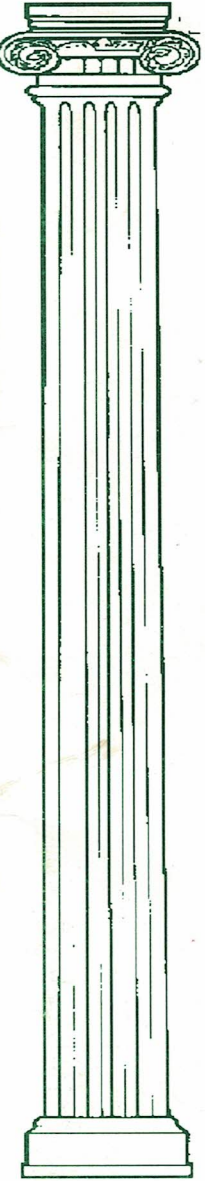


# TRIBUTE!

THE YWCA SALUTES WOMEN



TRIBUTE AWARDS LUNCHEON  
NOVEMBER 11, 1998  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

*The YWCA of Grand Rapids presents. . .*

# TRIBUTE!

1998 PROGRAM

November 11, 1998  
Noon - 1:30 p.m.  
Ambassador Ballroom  
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel



## WELCOME

Carla Blinkhorn  
YWCA Executive Director

Judy Lloyd  
1998 TRIBUTE Chairperson



## INVOCATION

Reverend Jo Wullenschneider  
Chaplain  
St. Mary's Hospital



## LUNCHEON



## PRESENTATION OF TRIBUTE AWARDS

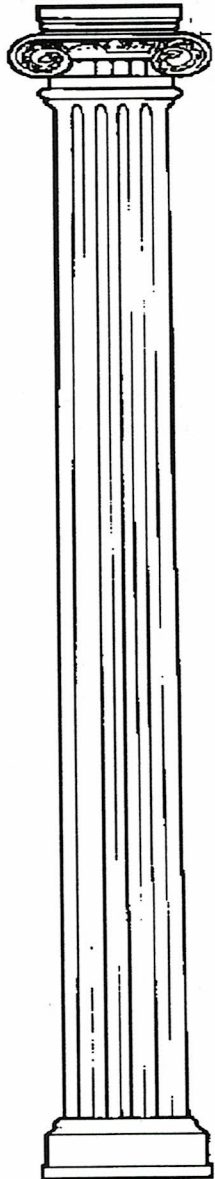
Peggy Bishop  
YWCA Board President

Judy Lloyd  
1998 TRIBUTE Chairperson

Carla Blinkhorn  
YWCA Executive Director

# TRIBUTE!

THE YWCA SALUTES WOMEN



1998 TRIBUTE Winner  
Advocacy



**Lee Nelson Weber**  
Executive Director, Fair Housing  
Center of Greater Grand Rapids

In her role as Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids, advocacy winner **Lee Nelson Weber** has successfully created a climate of education and has designed programs to assure compliance with the Fair Housing Act. Lee's office investigates complaints of housing discrimination and assists claimants in pursuit of action through litigation.

Lee understands the connections between poverty and racism and sexism and has served on the boards of organizations that increase her knowledge and skills in these areas. She then brings these skills and insights to all aspects of her own work. She has provided consultation and training services to government, community-based political organizations and the private sector, and is president of the West Michigan Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union.

She was a member of the boards of the Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan and the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts.

In 1997, Lee received the Liberty Bell Award from the Grand Rapids Bar Association, the highest honor the Bar bestows on a non-lawyer who has illustrated a commitment to equal protection and freedom under the law.

She currently serves on Grand Rapids' Local Initiative Support Corporation Board of Directors and has successfully encouraged local banks' financial investment in the central city. She was also involved in the development of Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW) and the Easttown Business Association. Lee works consistently, at the grass roots level, to ensure opportunities for poor people, people of color, and women.



1998 TRIBUTE Winner  
**Arts & Communication**



**Marjorie Kuipers**  
Executive Director, Urban Institute  
for Contemporary Arts

**Marjorie Kuipers** is being honored primarily for her leadership, vision, dedication and perseverance in bringing the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA) through the acquisition of its new home and the capital campaign to finance it.

Marj currently serves as UICA's Executive Director, but her involvement with the organization began as one of its most dedicated and valued volunteers. As a volunteer, Marj brought UICA's film program from sporadic events to a regularly scheduled and popular series. She also began what would be the first of many collaborations she arranged with other community organizations by working closely with the Grand Rapids Film Theatre.

Under Marj's leadership, UICA located a building at 41 Sheldon Blvd., SE, organized a \$2.75 million capital campaign, chose an architect, hired contractors, and plunged headlong into an extremely ambitious project for a small volunteer-driven organization. She accomplished all this while maintaining full seasons of programs at UICA.

Marj has also been an active board member of the Eastern Corridor Cultural Organization (ECCO), the World AIDS Day Coordinating Committee, the Heartside Art Committee, the organizing committee for the Grand Rapids Gallery Association, and was a representative of the city's arts community in a cultural exchange trip to St. Petersburg, Russia.

Marj helped to found the Womyn's Action Network and served on the board of the Grand Rapids chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. She currently serves as chair of the Art Committee for *Legacy 2000*, a celebration of women's history to be held in March of 2000.

1998 TRIBUTE Winner  
**Business, Management & Industry**



**Christina de la Garza**  
President of MICO Industries

**Christina de la Garza** is founder and president of MICO Industries, a company with an international market in automotive steel stampings, welding and assembly. With over 100 employees, MICO does metal work for Steelcase, General Motors, Ford Motor Company, Nelson, Chrysler, and many other companies.

Since her early days in college, Christina wanted to become an engineer, a profession her very protective father tried to discourage since he didn't feel his daughter should be "working around men all the time." Following her father's wishes, Christina got her degree in business administration, but she never gave up the desire to be an engineer.

In 1983, Christina found a way to combine her passionate interest in engineering and her degree in business by founding her own metal stamping company. Today, her company has over 100 employees, has won awards for quality, and has more than \$10 million in annual sales. Through her business, Christina has found a way to combine her administrative skills with her engineering dream. Christina's son Terry and daughter Tina have both joined their mother to work at MICO.

When asked about what led to her success, Christina credits her parents. "They never gave us everything we wanted. They taught us to work for things. Work, prayer and faith - that's the key," says Christina.

In her spare time, Christina can be found at home in Rockford, playing piano and entertaining the notion of setting up an organization to help other girls find ways and means to fulfill their dreams.



1998 TRIBUTE Winner  
Community Service



**Donnalee Holton**  
Community Volunteer

This year's Community Service award winner, **Donnalee Holton**, is a true "volunteer's volunteer." Her nominator writes, "Donnalee does so much to contribute to the improvement and enrichment of our community, both through large, encompassing efforts like the Children's Miracle Network Telethon, and through small private acts, such as holding the hand of a frightened emergency room patient."

Donnalee's volunteer work extends to the areas of public education, the Grand Rapids Symphony, and Butterworth Hospital. She is on the Board of Control of Grand Valley State University, has served as President of the Butterworth Hospital auxiliary, and has served on the board of Butterworth Hospital. On a statewide basis, Donnalee has been a board member of the Michigan Education Trust, and locally has been a trustee of the Public Education Fund Board.

Her early visibility in the community included lobbying for seat belt laws in Michigan and 10 years of service with the Kent Intermediate School District Board of Education. Her nominator says, "She is a 'can-do' problem solver who listens intently, studies thoroughly, learns quickly, weighs carefully, and then commits with all of her heart and soul."

Donnalee also knows that no single person or small group of people can carry an entire community, and she's very good at encouraging additional people to join in volunteer activities. Thanks to her efforts and encouragement, the number and diversity of volunteers has increased in all our community, a fact which may be her greatest legacy to us all.

1998 TRIBUTE Winner  
Professions



**Doretha Ardoin**  
Real Estate Agent

Since obtaining her real estate license in 1978, **Doretha Ardoin** has been a leader in efforts to promote fair housing throughout the Grand Rapids housing industry, particularly with regard to real estate sales. As a real estate professional, she has successfully overcome racial and gender barriers in a highly competitive field to become one of Grand Rapids' most successful and widely-known agents.

As a practitioner of fair housing, she has increased both employment and housing opportunities for women and minorities by her personal example of professional success and in effective adherence to laws which prohibit discrimination.

Through her long-term commitment to mentoring young professionals, particularly racial and ethnic minorities, Doretha has been instrumental in the difficult work of broadening the ranks of the local real estate industry to include African-American and Hispanic agents. Her public stance for equal access to housing opportunity, coupled with professional and economic achievement has served as a practical example to Realtor colleagues that offering housing without discrimination is not only right, but also profitable.

In 1989, Doretha received the highest lifetime award of the industry, *Realtor of the Year*, and in 1994 was chosen as the *Woman of the Year* by the Women's Council of Realtors. Earlier this year, she was awarded the *William Glenn Trailblazer Award* at the Giant's Banquet.

Despite having encountered discrimination in nearly every imaginable situation, Doretha approaches her work with a remarkable lack of bitterness and a depth of understanding which she shares freely to the benefit of those involved.



1998 TRIBUTE Winner  
**Sports & Fitness**



**Patti Butcher**  
Owner of *Golf Enterprises*

In the world of golf, **Patti Butcher** has demonstrated professional and community leadership in countless ways. Owner of *Golf Enterprises* and former Director of Instruction at the Meadows Golf Club at Grand Valley State University, Patti has used her talent, wisdom, skill and inspiration to introduce countless people to the joy of playing golf.

Patti was instrumental in establishing the Golf Academy at Grand Valley State, now recognized as West Michigan's premier golf instruction facility. As GVSU's Head Women's Golf Coach and member of the NCAA Golf Committee, Patti arranged for The Meadows to host the 1995 and 1997 NCAA Division II and III "Women's National Championship." Patti is a favorite on television and radio programs and often travels across the country teaching at golf seminars and playing in a variety of pro-am events.

Her volunteer involvement has included her role as sponsor and instructor for a day-long golf lesson marathon which benefited Gilda's Club, an organization devoted to helping people living with cancer. In 1997 and 1998, Patti co-chaired *Run, Jane, Run*, the YWCA annual fund raiser. Patti also started the *LPGA Junior Girls' Golf Program*, offering middle school-aged girls an opportunity to try golf. Patti has been a generous supporter of community events where she can parlay her golf skills to benefit a number of local charities and health care organizations as well as provide special support to young girls by introducing them to golf, but more importantly, inspiring them to pursue their dreams.

1998 TRIBUTE Winner  
**Student**



**Jennifer Johnson**  
City High School

From academic achievement to student leadership, City High senior **Jennifer Johnson's** accomplishments are truly remarkable. A 4.0 GPA student since the seventh grade, Jennifer has been honored in a variety of ways. She is listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*, was honored by the Grand Rapids Foundation as one of 50 outstanding high school juniors (1997-1998), and was recognized by "The Grand Rapids Times" as one of the area's 50 outstanding minority students.

Jennifer was also editor of her school newspaper in ninth and tenth grade and served as co-captain of the girls' varsity soccer team at Ottawa Hills High School. She completed two internships during the 1997-1998 school year, one at Fountain Elementary School and the other at the Humane Society of Kent County. Recognizing the importance of a good first impression, Jennifer single handedly re-instated City's ice cream social to welcome 7<sup>th</sup> graders to the school.

Her concern for others has been expressed in her participation in the Annual AIDS Walk and the Hunger Walk, and she serves on the Food Pantry Committee of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Jennifer's favorite quote, by author Stephen Grellet, is, "I expect to pass through this world but once; any good things, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."