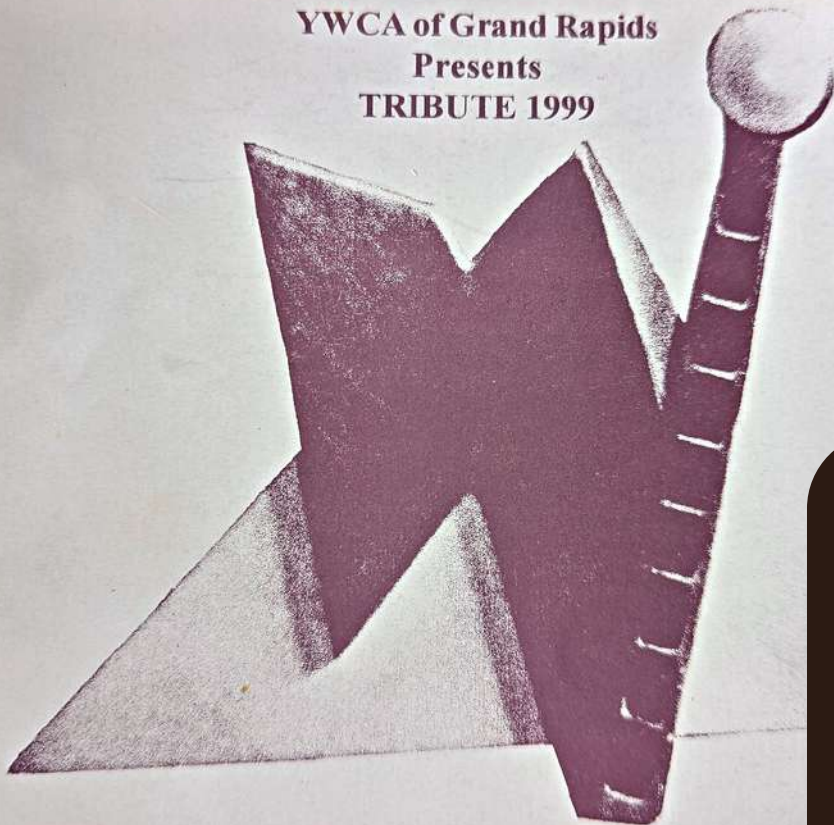


**YWCA of Grand Rapids
Presents
TRIBUTE 1999**



**November 10, 1999 - Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Ambassador Ballroom
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel**

Welcome

**Carla Blinkhorn
YWCA Executive Director**

**Kevin Kabat, President
Old Kent Bank**

**Joan Bennett
1999 TRIBUTE Chairperson**

Invocation

**Karen Mehlman, President
Grand Rapids Hadassah**

Luncheon

Presentation of TRIBUTE Awards

**Peggy Bishop
YWCA Board President**

**Joan Bennett
1999 TRIBUTE Chairperson**

ADVOCACY

MARY COPELAND

Social Worker, Grand Rapids Public Schools

Mary Copeland has been an outspoken advocate for children and their parents for over 25 years, challenging existing structures and policies and developing programs that meet children's needs.

She is the founder and past president of Black Educational Excellence Program (BEEP), which supports African-American students in maintaining B averages, and supports those students with scholarships. BEEP is credited with contributing significantly to the large number of black high school students who are now honor students.

Mary also started Creating Equity - Changing the Odds (CECO), a program to prepare students of color for the SATs and ACTs. Mary's research showed that minority students do not generally do as well as they should on college admission tests. The CECO program has shown that with proper preparation, minority students can achieve competitive scores on college preparatory tests.

The role of parents has been an increasing focus of Mary's work. In 1993 she founded Parents Empowering Network (PEN), to seek and encourage employers to institute "parent-friendly" practices in the workplace.

Many organizations have benefited from Mary's energy and commitment as a volunteer, including: Grand Rapids Association of Black Social Workers; the Frederik Meijer Gardens Board of Directors; Inner City Christian Federation and the Children's Law Center, to name just a few. She was awarded the Giant Award in 1998 and the Parent Award from the Grand Rapids Public Education Fund in 1995.



ARTS

MARGARET VEGA
Associate Professor of Fine Arts
Kendall College of Art & Design

Margaret Vega has made her mark as visual artist, educator and arts activist for our community. She has taught at Kendall College of Art and Design for 13 years, serving as coordinator of the Fine Arts Department for three years. While at Kendall she has written new courses and crossed boundaries in design by designing furniture and interiors as well as being an accomplished painter.

Recognizing the importance of experiences in cultural diversity for students, Margaret has taken students to the Accademia di Belle Arte in Grand Rapids' Sister City of Perugia, Italy, for the past five years. In the summer of 1997, Margaret formed the first professor exchange between Grand Rapids and Perugia. With her contacts in Perugia, she collaborated to bring the prestigious Massari Exhibition to Kendall College. The opening of the Massari Exhibit at Kendall coincided with the opening of the Perugino Exhibition at the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

Margaret has often donated her paintings to support local organizations and causes, including UICA (Urban Institute for Contemporary Art), St. John's Home, Very Special Arts, and AIDS research.

As a painter, Margaret has exhibited her work widely throughout the United States, Canada and Germany. Her work is currently part of a show in New York. Her collection of new work, called "Silent Voices," addresses the topic of children's rights and is scheduled for display in October of 2000.



BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, INDUSTRY & LABOR

CARROL COOK Co-Owner, Presto Print

Carrol decided early on that to be really successful in the printing business she would need to have her own company. So, she begged and borrowed money, got credit from paper vendors who respected her work and abilities and she started Presto Print. Her print shop now employs eight women and two men, and provides those employees with both health care and 401K plans - unusual for many small businesses.

Six months after opening Presto Print, Carrol was joined by business partner Pam Olsen, whose drive to succeed and passion for community service rivals Carrol's. Carrol credits Pam for being equally responsible for the success of the business.

Carrol's vision for her business was to make it a place where she could employ and empower women in a traditionally male-dominated business. She envisioned a work place with flexible hours so women didn't feel like they had to make a choice between their families and their jobs.

With a commitment to both community service and women's issues, Carrol was a founding board member of GROW (Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women), an organization dedicated to helping women start their own businesses. She has also served as a steering committee member and sponsor for the YWCA's Run, Jane, Run event throughout its 13-year history.

Carrol has shared her time, talents and financial resources with groups too numerous to mention, but including the Women's Resource Center, Hospice, Zonta, the Children's Law Center and the Grand Rapids AIDS Resource Center.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

CAROL MOORE **Community Redeveloper**

Carol is the vision, the brains and the mover and shaker behind the renewal of the Wealthy Street neighborhood and, most notably, the Wealthy Street Theater Project. Since she first spotted the vacant, boarded-up theatre, Carol took an immediate interest that would take her on a 10-year quest to guide the theater's restoration.

Convincing the City to sell the building for \$1 and raising \$10,000 more to patch the roof leaks were just the first steps. Carol went on to work on every phase of the project including hands-on involvement in an incredible array of repairs and reconstruction efforts.

Working with Southeast Economic Development (SEED), Carol helped write and secure a Community Development Block Grant for \$65,000, which provided funds to fully repair the roof. Next came the master plan that would provide direction for the restoration process and give potential donors a vision for the \$2.3 million project.

By 1997, the money had been raised and construction began. For the duration of the construction period (over one and a half years), Carol met with the construction committee every two weeks to review details and see that the project stayed on track. Her vision and commitment never faltered.

The Wealthy Street Theater celebrated its grand re-opening in September, and the community now has a wonderful resource - a place for local music and drama groups to showcase their talents and celebrate the arts.



PROFESSIONS

RUTH JONES

Principal, Park Paideia Academy

When Ruth was approached with the challenge of taking over the helm of Henry Park Elementary School, her decision was made with much thought, prayer and consultation with family and friends. Ruth knew what the school's problems were, and she also knew the scope of the challenge that faced her if she accepted the position.

Not only was the Henry Park building in disrepair – there were attendance problems, a lack of parent involvement, frequent teacher turnover, and poor staff morale. Ruth had a vision for Henry Park, and she set to work to turn her vision into a reality.

Ruth's accomplishments during her six years as principal at Henry Park have been amazing. When needs arise at the school, she immediately finds resources, asks others for help, and establishes and maintains relationships that will help her students. She has revitalized the staff. Today, the staff is enthusiastically committed to following Ruth's vision for her "babies" (as she calls all Henry students).

Ruth has put much effort into parental involvement, which has increased dramatically. Henry is the only Grand Rapids Public school program where 100% of parents now show up for conferences in person.

Ruth has recruited hundreds of volunteer tutors and secured funding for field trips to expand students' horizons. There is now a list of families waiting to enroll.

For the community surrounding Henry Park Paideia Academy, Ruth is the beacon who has brought hope for the future back into the lives of many families.



SPORTS & FITNESS

SUSAN BARTHOLD

Teacher and Coach, East Kentwood High School

Susan's leadership and dedication to girls' high school sports has been widely recognized during her 31-year career at East Kentwood High School. Her talent for coaching has been obvious: she's coached softball, basketball and cheerleading and her win/loss record has been remarkable.

Many honors have come Sue's way, including *Softball District "Coach of the Year,"* which she was named eight times! She was among the first to be honored by the Michigan Women's Foundation, who in 1993 recognized Sue with the "The Athletic Educator" award. Her colleagues, who in 1997 named her to the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Hall of Fame, revere her. In 1999 she was inducted into the *Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.*

A motivator on and off the field, Sue is a popular speaker on the subject of girls and sports. She has been a leader on a number of task forces and special committees of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, including the Baseball/Softball Committee, the President's Council, the Scholarship Committee and the Swimming Committee.

Sue's contributions at East Kentwood High School go beyond the athletic arena. She is a popular history and sociology teacher, serves on the High School's Gender Equity Committee, is a senior class advisor, and student council advisor. She has served on the Senior All Night Party Committee for 29 years. Sue has devoted her life to realizing the dream of athletic achievement for girls.



STUDENT

LISA WALKER Horizons Community High School

Lisa's traditional high school experience started out as painful and unrewarding. Her lack of success had led her to self-doubt and low self-esteem, and she struggled socially and emotionally to find a place where she belonged. In Lisa's view of the world, she would only be accepted by others if she followed their lead and did what they asked of her, despite her own feelings and values.

Once enrolled at Horizons Community High School, Lisa began to question her relationships, and to identify some of them as abusive and controlling. As she examined her friendships with peers, Lisa began to understand that she allowed herself to be taken advantage of because of her desire to belong. This new understanding brought an amazing change both in her beliefs about herself and about the choices she had made.

She has taken charge of her life and has become a leader at Horizons. Her self-esteem and her grades have soared, and Lisa now views herself as both successful and worthy. She has won numerous student and academic all-star awards, citizenship awards, and is an active volunteer with several local organizations.

Lisa is preparing to attend Grand Rapids Community College to pursue her dream of becoming a firefighter and an EMS. Lisa's courage, strength and her willingness to undertake self-examination have transformed her into a young woman with an inspiring future ahead of her.

