

11 Area Women to Be Honored for Service

By David Nicolette

Tribute will be paid to local women of achievement at a special ceremony starting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the auditorium of the St. Cecilia Music Society building, 24 Ransom Ave. NE.

The meeting, which will feature as speaker Maya Angelou, author of "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," is titled "Tribute! The YWCA Salutes Women."

Eleven local women, selected by the YWCA Tribute Awards Committee from those nominated by various persons in the community, will be honored for their individual achievements.

Similar recognition was given local women by the YW in 1977 and again in 1979.

The women to receive Distinguished Contributor Awards are:

Dawn Bush-Anders, for community service. She has drawn community attention to the native Americans, their concerns and their needs.

Donna Jean Cart, for education. She is associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction in the Grand Rapids Public Schools system and has been recognized for her individual effort to increase educational opportunities for both young people and adults in the state.

Ann Mulder-Edmondson, for education and arts. She is dean of academic services at Grand Rapids Junior College, JC's first woman dean, and has been a leader in the field of women's programming in the education field. She also has been a leader in the arts in the community, serving in various official capacities with the local Arts Council.

Jennifer Eileen Franklin, for criminal justice. She has been a member of the Grand Rapids Police Department for six years, earning a position in the law enforcement organization at a time when women in general and minority women in particular were struggling for recognition of their capabilities. Despite having been shot twice and critically injured while trying to talk an armed man into surrendering, she has recovered and returned to full duty.

Wendy Stock-Howie, for business/banking. She is vice president and regional administrator at Union Bank, a senior officer responsible for 14 offices, involving 100 employees and resources totaling \$200,000,000. She also is active with the Grand Rapids Symphony Society and the Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids.

Sister Marie Michael Jacobs, for education and community service.

She is principal of St. Andrew's School and responsible for the educational stimulation of students from all cultures. Her work in education has been recognized at the state and national levels. She also seeks out other people seeking ideas and ways of bringing new life to the neighborhoods near the school.

Carol Landheer, for politics and community service. She was one of the first women named to the Kent County Commission and served with distinction. She also has served on the Board of Health and the Kent County Community Mental Health Board, serving the latter as chairman. Recently Gov. William Milliken named her to the Kent County Board of Social Services.

Zoraida Sanchez, for community service. She is a native of Puerto Rico and is director of Latin American Services for the Kent Community Action Program. She has worked with senior citizens programs and was a state delegate to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging. She uses her skills to help other Hispanics in the community through working with individuals and special groups.

Named to receive the Distinguished Life Award are:

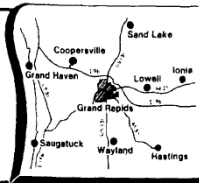
Ara Charbonneau Cary, for community service, for her exceptionally unselfish work in behalf of the poor, the handicapped, the elderly and the disturbed. As a professional social worker and as a volunteer, she has demonstrated devotion to her fellow man and the community. She was a consultant to many agencies and projects in the state and has been recognized by the University of Michigan for her dedication to knowledge and service.

Marie Mylan, for human rights, because of her interest and efforts in the cause of status of women. She was a member of the Governor's Committee on the Status of Women and founder of the Women's Coordinating Committee.

Aggie Kempker, for politics and community service. The late Aggie Kempker was one of the first women elected to the Kent County Commission and was a leader in drawing women into the political life of the community. She was a strong feminist and a champion of the underdog.

The program will include musical performances by the Women's Day Trio, made up of members of the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra and the Eddie Russ Ltd. jazz ensemble. The works of local women artists also will be displayed.

Tickets for the ceremony and reception which will follow immediately are \$5.



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Section
B

Poetess Angelou Communicates Best Through the Verse of Blacks

By Vanessa Waters

Maya Angelou walked onto the stage and opened her performance the best way she knows how — by communicating through the verses of black literature.

"She does not know her beauty. She thinks her black body has no glory. If she could dance naked under palm trees and see her image in the river, she could see her glory ..."

The poem, written by a black author of the 1930s, described a woman — any black woman — who was unaware of her virtues.

Pride, self-respect, and overcoming oppression through dignity were the themes the poet chose for her address Tuesday at the annual

YWCA Salutes Women program at St. Cecilia's Music Society auditorium. Ten women were honored at the event.

Perhaps best known for her autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," Angelou used poetry, stories and music to reach her audience.

The selections reflected the title of one of her books, "And Still I Rise."

The oppressor, she said, first convinces himself and then his allies that the victim is sub-human, and then commits the worst offense of all — he convinces the victim of oppression that he is without value.

"The initiator can stand away from the deed and say why don't

you like yourself more," she said.

Black literature, said Angelou, has held black Americans together over the years. "We in this country, all of us, should not only be proud of that great literature, but converse in it, because it speaks for us all.

"Until you've sung 'Steal Away' or 'Go Down, Moses,' you're not aware of the literature."

Angelou recalled touring with the musical "Porgy and Bess" in Morocco when the conductor told her to sing a song even though she was not prepared. Following the conductor's suggestion, she sang a spiritual. Remembering a song her grandmother sang every Sunday morning in their southern Baptist church, Angelou sang the spiritual alone on

the stage: "I am a poor pilgrim of sorrow, and I'm lost in the whole world all alone, no hope for tomorrow" Angelou said at the time she could not understand why the audience stood and stomped their feet, but later realized their reaction was one of understanding.

She also recited black love poems to counter what she said was the poor portrayal of black love by some white authors.

"They make us believe that white people make love and black people just have sex," she said.

Her poem about a black household maid who constantly laughed, even in situations where there was no humor, effectively relayed her message about blacks she said must

hide behind masks and pretend all is right in their world.

Her poem was from the maid's point of view:

"When I think about myself, I always laugh myself to death. My life is such a joke ... Sixty years in this old world, the child I work for calls me girl ... I laugh until I start to cry when I think of myself ..."

Angelou told the audience that if something is humanly possible, to strive for it. "If someone dares to dream a great dream, dares to write a great masterpiece, dares to love someone, and have the unmitigated gall to love someone back, you can do it, too."

Her poem "Phenomenal Woman" detailed the talents and powers

unique to women.

"I'm a woman, a phenomenal woman. And then there's my mother, and all your mothers. And my grandmother, and all your grandmothers. And my great-grandmother, and all your great-grandmothers."

She ended the performance with the poem, "And Still I Rise," which produced a standing ovation.

"Does my sassiness upset you? Don't take it so hard, just because I walk like I've got gold mines growing in my backyard."

In the poem answered the question of why blacks continue to survive despite obstacles.

"I am the hope and the dreams of the slaves, so I rise."