



WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

MARCH 2024

NSPRE





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INSPIRE.

What a beautiful, uplifting word and as it turns out — just the right word to describe the women we honor in our 36th Annual Women of Excellence celebration.

Here is an overview: They are funny, smart, enthusiastic, committed, caring, and compassionate.

- · Shelia loves to play Candy Crush.
- · Julie believes there is a perfect shade of red lipstick.
- · Pam can get serious about her dog Muffi
- Ruth will give you a run for your money on her Peloton.
- · Janelle is a scuba diver.
- Nancy will play Mah Jong with you any time you want a game!
- · Jeye loves to bake and owns the Polka Dot Patisserie.
- · Amanda's favorite snack is a Hershey bar and a Sonic Coke.
- Betsy is a poet!
- · Misty loves a good book, a movie or a show at Buddy Holly Hall

In addition, they are leaders, innovators and seem to have more time than physics allows. As a group, they could probably conquer the world. As individuals, they are humble and simply driven to leave this world a better place. Not one of them thinks they have done anything special and yet each of them has demonstrated grace under fi e and each will leave a legacy of hard work and integrity. Most importantly, they have broken past barriers and then turned around to lift thers up with them.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the YWCA, I am deeply honored to present the 36th Annual Women of Excellence honorees. I know you will fi d inspiration in each of their stories.

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When someone becomes an honoree of Women of Excellence, they are members of "The Academy". We entrust them to hold the flame of what it means to be a Woman of Excellence. From our experience, they continue to excel, use their talents and give of themselves in extraordinary ways. We have a few of their inspiring stories to share in this issue.

Finally, iNSPiRe, the magazine, was conceived as a way to connect the community to the work of the YWCA and so, there are stories about what we are doing in the community. We expect 2024 to be a banner year. We are serving the families of more than 300 preschoolers, 1100 after-schoolers and 1600 teens. We have approximately 250 staff embers. It is hard for people to imagine that would be an atmosphere of joy, but it is. We get to see babies take their fi st steps, preschoolers learn the alphabet, afters-schoolers discover their unique strengths and teens learn to fi d their way and use their voice.

We are grateful for your support and hope the pages that follow nourish your spirit and inspire you to keep your own dreams alive while you support the dreams of others.

Enjoy the evening. Be inspired.

Sincerely,

ende Mathie

Glenda Mathis, CFRE

iNSPiRe Volume 2, Issue 1

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WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

JEYE JOHNSON

Youth Leadership Award

Jeye is a student at All Saints Episcopal School and very active. She does not let her age get in the way of anything. Besides being a relentless volunteer for the community and a determined student, she is also a business owner. Last year, she took her love for baking and opened her own business, Polka Dot Patisserie.

Jeye has faced many challenges. In her freshman year of high school, she struggled with an eating disorder. School became more difficult for her and she was taken out of sports. With unconditional support from teachers, coaches and the school administration, she overcame her disorder.

Volunteering is something that means a lot to Jeye. She explains that she loves to volunteer with family and friends because it brings them closer together and creates a special bond. One of her commitments is to "May No Soldier Go Unloved." The goal of the organization is to give a morale boost and let those deployed know that their service is appreciated. Jeye is a registered Team Angel member and in that role, she sends cookies, brownies, cakes and other delicious treats to service members.

School, family, and other commitments make it difcult to volunteer as much as she would like. To keep her balance, Jeye tries to schedule time to reflect pray and recharge in order to be able to give to others.

When Jeye wants a break from her demanding schedule, she enjoys reading a book, sewing and being with her family and friends. She loves to attend plays and musicals and to discover new music. Jeye learned at an early age to never let anyone hold you back from achieving your dreams, even in her down time she loves to bake and perfect her skills.

Jeye is an outstanding student, and her counselors and teachers describe her as a natural leader. She is active in National Charity League and the National Honor Society. Her goal is to become a clinical or developmental psychologist and specifically assist individuals with eating disorders.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

BETSY BASS

Mary Nell Strong Community Service Award

f you have ever attended a production of Moonlight Musicals, you have seen the talent of Betsy Bass on display. As Dimitri Pappas enthusiastically says, "Betsy is the heart and soul of Moonlight Musicals."

Betsy has served on the Board of Directors for Moonlight Musicals since 2018. She is actively involved in every aspect of the productions from costumes to staff and finances She has been a performer in seventeen (17) of the productions and is a talented ambassador for the organization's mission to produce high quality theater and provide performance and educational opportunities for the community.

Betsy is generous with her support of the arts and artists. She is a member of the Lubbock Chorale and is on the Board of Civic Lubbock. She was instrumental in the development of the Buddy Holly Hall Performing Arts Center and lends her philanthropy and talent to these causes, specificall . However, she is known for her kindness and boundless caring for others, whether in the arts or not. "Betsy gravitates toward those in need, whether it's a small financial boost a kind word of affirm tion, life advice or just a warm pat on the shoulder."

Betsy was born in Rochester, New York. Her family lived in Springfield Massachusetts until she was six years old and they moved to El Paso. She graduated from Texas Tech in 1972, majoring in English and Spanish. She was active on campus, serving as President of her sorority Kappa Alpha Theta and a member of the Goin' Band from Raiderland. Later, she graduated from University of San Francisco with a degree in Marriage, Family and Child Consulting. She is fluent in English Spanish, Italian and sign language.

Her career has included teaching at Alderson Jr. High and for the Department of Defense in Goose Bay Labrador and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She also work in education for the deaf and hearing-impaired at Galludet University in Washington, DC.

Her many accomplishments include authoring two books of poetry: Spirited Poems for Spirited People and Messages at Midnight.

Betsy is vibrant and full of energy. Nothing stops her. She is positive and widely respected for her endearing qualities, abundant talent and zest for life.

Betsy and her husband Mark are active in their church and have four children between them and six grandchildren.



master.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

AMANDA MEAD

Jane O. Burns Award

The YWCA gives the Jane O. Burns Award to someone who has supported the YWCA in an exceptional way. This year, Amanda Mead will receive the award in honor of her outstanding work and dedication to the YWCA and its mission to serve the families and children of Lubbock.

Amanda Mead has lived in Lubbock her whole life. She graduated from Coronado High School and continued her education at Wayland Baptist University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She also received an interior design degree from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

Amanda planned on becoming a banker. Instead, she describes herself as a stay-at-home mom and a full-time volunteer. Her idea of volunteering, however, is not merely as someone who shows up to help on a Saturday. She jumps in 110% and more, making the term full-time an understatement. Consequently, she joined the Symphony Guild and quickly advanced to serve as Chair of the Winter Ball and ultimately President of the Guild.

Amanda has been very active in her children's education at All Saints School. She was on the capital campaign for the middle school at All Saints and served as president of the parent board which was tasked to manage the search committee for a new headmaster.

She currently serves on the UMC Foundation working on the campaign for Integrative Medicine. Whatever she does, her end goal is "to knock it out of the park".

In April of 2019, Amanda joined the Board of Directors for the YWCA and immediately became involved in the finance and Wine Women & Shoes (WW&S) committees. Perfect for her talent and drive, the WW&S committee tapped into her talents for design along with her understanding of what it takes to assemble and lead a really good team.

In 2023, she chaired the WW&S committee and worked to push boundaries and subsequently set a revenue record. Dollars raised will be combined with previous Wine Women and Shoes proceeds to build a new splash pad at the YWCA on University.

When people describe volunteerism, they often misunderstand the complexity of the tasks involved and the impact such work has on the mission of the organization.

Amanda is a powerhouse of energy and determination and has now expanded her role to include chair of the YWCA building committee. This committee requires a serious commitment of time not to mention skills for negotiating, designing and gaining support.

Amanda is married to Zane and has sons Caden and Caleb to keep her busy with their many academic and athletic activities.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

JANELLE BARRINGTON-SPIVEY

Any artist will tell you, it is very hard to make a living as an artist but that did not stop Janelle Barrington Spivey. She held a comfortable career job in the travel industry for 20 years. Then one day, after some encouraging words from a colleague, she boldly proclaimed she was an artist and left her job to prove it.

"I have never seen anyone pursue it with such energy and passion. She is a versatile and prolific painter th t has achieved a level of professionalism faster than anyone I have ever known, " said James Johnson, a fellow artist.

"Janelle's work has shown in a variety of places: the McLarry Modern Gallery in Santa Fe, LHUCA in Lubbock, Rick Husband International Airport in Amarillo, McPherson Cellars in Lubbock, The Funky Door in Lubbock, Trilogy Cellars in Levelland, Hemline in Lubbock, The West Texas Home Builders Association Parade of Homes, Canyon Road Contemporary Art in Santa Fe and Art on the Llano Estacado Exhibition in Lubbock. She has designed multiple wine labels for Burklee Hill Vineyards and has outdoor graphics at Burklee Hill and Two Docs. She has also won first place in the juried gallery t the Lubbock Arts Festival." - Stacy Keith, Director Lubbock Cultural Arts Foundation

In 2021, Janelle took another leap of faith and opened the Broadway Contemporary Fine Art Gallery. The gallery is a perfect demonstration of her commitment to the arts industry and to other artists in our community. The gallery offers one of the largest collections of local and national art in West Texas and it allows artists of all mediums the opportunity to showcase and sell their work. In addition to the 26 artists currently showing at The Gallery, Broadway Contemporary holds a monthly "Call for Artists." Artists are invited to submit themed artwork with no submission fee. The goal is to offer a spotlight for fresh, new talent and support upcoming artists in our area.

Janelle is highly involved in the community and often will donate one of her custom pieces as an auction item. She has done that for the YWCA and helped raise thousands of dollars to support the mission.

Janelle is highly regarded for her creativity and skill as well as her innovative leadership working as an astute entrepreneur in a challenging field

Janelle is married to musician and artist Ryan Spivey. She is delighted by her two sons Drake and Mitchell. She was born in Longview, Texas and to show how careers can never be predicted-she started college in pre-nursing before recognizing that her ultimate path was to use her creative drive to make art and spread joy through that talent.



WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE RUTH ROBILLARD

Ruth Robillard, along with her husband Rick, is the owner and operator of all McDonald's franchises in Lubbock, Texas. Together, they encourage their 500+ employees to reach their goals either within the McDonald's system or through the paths they want to create for themselves. Ruth was born and raised in Herford, Texas and graduated from Hereford High School. She went on to attend West Texas A&M University pursuing a degree in nursing. McDonald's became her career path instead.

Ruth and Rick have been operating the McDonald's restaurants for more than 25 years. They have endured plenty of challenges typical in business, like navigating a major expansion or doubling the employee load almost overnight. Despite times like those, people think of Ruth, the businesswoman and then describe her empathy, warmth and kindness.

"Some of their employees have struggled to get hired elsewhere due to their background checks but the Robillards gave them a chance. One of these participants has been employed almost two years with McDonald's. During that time, she moved up in the workplace, completed her GED and now takes advantage of the college program McDonald's offers to employees. This single mother of two often speaks of the influence o Ms. Robillard to keep going even when things are dif cult," recounted Jaime Wheeler of Open Door.

Ruth is an active volunteer and supports many nonprofit organizations. She serves on the board of directors of Open Door and the Lubbock Christian University Foundation. She is also a Ronald McDonald House Charities board member. She has won many awards and honors due to her support, philanthropy and commitment to serving others in need.

Outside of Ruth's busy career, she loves spending time with her family and traveling. She and her husband Rick are proud parents of two children, Trey Robillard who graduated from LCU in 2022 and Marissa Robillard, who is a student at OSU.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE MISTY LYNN RIEBER

Misty Rieber is the Chief Academic Officer for the ubbock Independent School District. Her duties include overseeing the special services division, the curriculum and instruction department and district professional development. After completing her initial degree at Texas Tech, Misty went on to get a Master of Education degree from Lubbock Christian University in addition to a rigorous superintendent certific tion. She began her career in education with Lubbock ISD at Dunbar Junior High and Estacado High School and then became an assistant principal at O.L. Slaton Middle School.

Through her journey in the classroom, Misty developed her unwavering dedication to the success of every child and she is passionate about equitable educational opportunities. In 2003, she joined the administration department as a social studies coordinator, supporting teachers through training, modeling, collaboration and curriculum development.

During the pandemic, Misty was charged with the task of coordinating with curriculum specialists, technology support personnel and campus administrators to keep learning on track as much as possible. She worked tirelessly to develop a plan to educate students during the summer months and spent hours helping parents and concerned citizens.

Misty believes in data and uses it to effectively measure and monitor progress within the district. "As a result of her focus on quality instruction, data disaggregation and focused goal setting, our district has demonstrated some of the highest gains in accountability ratings. With her leadership, Lubbock ISD has moved from 42% of students being educated in A or B campuses to 75%." said Kathy Rollo, LISD Superintendent.

"Misty is fondly known as the 'go-to' for anything related to teaching and learning. She is always well-prepared for meetings and studies the details, looking beyond the surface and always asking why," stated Erin Gregg, Executive Director of Communications for LISD.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Misty generously volunteers her time to various organizations within the Lubbock community. She has served on the Teacher Education Council for Texas Tech University and on the board of directors at the Work Force Solution. Currently, she is a board member for Lubbock Entertainment and Performing Arts.

In her leisure time, Misty finds comfo t in the company of loved ones. She enjoys moments with her husband, Blake Rieber, and their children, Jackson and Taylor.



WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

PAMELA RODDY

Pamela Roddy is the Executive Director at Life Care Services and Carillon Senior Living. She became the Executive Director back in 2019 and has made history while being in her position. Carillon is 48 years old, and Pamela is the first woman to ever hold the position o Executive Director.

Pam was a single mother of two, working a full-time job at the TTU Health Sciences Center in the cell biology and biochemistry department. She decided she wanted something better for herself and her children and began her journey toward an MBA in Healthcare Administration. By enrolling in night classes, she completed two years of leveling and two years of master's coursework to achieve the MBA. She calls it a leap of faith and a calling to serve older adults.

"Pam serves on the board of directors of LeadingAge Texas, has participated on various national committees, made presentations at national conferences and continually advocates for increased attention, understanding and resources for seniors in Texas and around the world. Her work has landed her in the offices o state and national representatives and led to increased funding and much needed aid," said Greg Williams, Life Plan Communities.

During the Covid pandemic, Pamela and her staff faced unprecedented challenges. With her dedication and "think out of the box" approach, they devised innovative ways to support the families and residents. Pam implemented guidelines to keep the residents and 276 employees safe. She communicated regularly with the board, residents and their families. "She guided staff in implementing and exacting standards of infection control, and meals were delivered to all apartments along with messages and gestures to keep spirits high, reported Bess Haley, Carillon board member.

In 2022, the Lubbock City Council presented a congratulatory resolution to Carillon in recognition of the U.S. News and World Report which identified arillon as one of the top seven senior living facilities in the US out of more than 2,500 senior living groups. Additionally, Carillon has received 5-star ratings from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services and the "I'm Still Here" Center of Excellence for their memory care program.

Pamela loves getting to spend time with her daughter, Hannah and her son Micah and her precious grandchildren.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE NANCY RUTH NEAL

or Nancy Neal, medicine is a fundamental part of her life. She earned a Registered Nursing Certific tion and then later a BSN from Texas Tech University. She became a school nurse, carefully attending to the needs of her students. In 1986, she ran for and won a seat on the LISD School Board with the goal of making a bigger difference. It was her characteristic way –looking for a way to find the best outcome wh tever the situation.

As fate would have it, two to three months into her term, Lubbock ISD was the first school district as ed to accept an HIV+ student. This was a healthcare journey she would never forget and was proud to give the district and guidance and support they needed to handle this uncharted territory.

Nancy has since been involved in the medical profession at every level serving as president of the Texas Medical Association Alliance, American Medical Association Alliance Legislation Committee, the American Medical Association Political Action Committee and the Laura W. Bush Institute of Women's Health. Governor Bush appointed her to the Texas State Board of Regents. Governor Perry appointed her to The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents. Currently, she also serves on the Advisory Board of the Talkington School for Women and is a role model and mentor to many young girls. She remains active at TTUHSC and is on the Advisory Board of the School of Nursing. She works to give them the best learning atmosphere and still takes time to encourage students to strive for excellence.

Nancy serves on the Science Spectrum Board and was an original incorporator more than 30 years ago. Her support of women led to service on the Texas Tech President's Gender Equity Council from 2017 through 2019. She keeps her nursing license active and volunteers for the City of Lubbock Health Department's vaccine program. Nancy has spent time working with the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Commission (SACS), the national organization that accredits colleges and universities.

Nancy is a hardworking and dedicated woman who clearly stays busy with her many board appointments and volunteer activities. Nonetheless, she and her husband Tom travel have traveled extensively and joyously crossed many places off their bucket list. The Neals also love spending time with family, they have three children and five g andchildren.



WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE SHELIA PATTERSON HARRIS

School, the only black-owned and directed private school in the city of Lubbock at the time. She graduated from Dunbar-Struggs High School and, because of her rankings in UIL tournaments, earned a speech and communications scholar-ship to attend the University of North Texas where she graduated with a degree in radio, television and film She then burst into the work world as an account executive at KFYO radio. She soon realized she needed a job that would connect her to people and where she could make a difference.

She decided to study communication disorders and attended Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. In early 1994, she began a career in the juvenile justice field t the Lubbock County Youth Center (now, LCJJC). She served more than 20 years working with children and families and later guiding and developing staff. For Shelia, it was more than a job. She was committed to the youth and families and easily conveyed that their wellbeing and success were important to her. She held her youth to a high standard and let them know that she was willing to do all she could to help them succeed beyond their situation. To this day, former clients seek her out to let her know the impact she made on them. Even though retired, she continues to make a difference in this arena and serves as a transitional specialist for Lubbock ISD. In this role, she works to ensure that students leaving LCJJC can return to their school and finish their educ tion.

For Shelia, all work is a mission and her purpose is to meet others where they are. She wants them to find their own voice and their own strategies to succeed. This same philosophy guides her in role on the City Council. She is dynamic and 100% authentic. She wants to empower and educate so that citizens understand the process and their responsibility to participate. She is a passionate advocate for giving people the tools they need to be a part of the solution they want.

She is the wife of Shaun Andre Harris and mother to son, Zairreus Patterson and daughter Asya Harris and a very devoted "Glam-ma", (glamorous grandmother) to Zaya, Zairreus, Jr., and Zamira. Family and faith are at the heart of her being.

She has received an array of honors and awards but she is probably best known for her amazing smile and heartfelt laugh. It is no surprise that she is a member of "It's a Clown Thang" which is a clown performance group spreading fun and laughter for more than 10 years. In addition, to her great joy, she joined a very elite group when she was chosen to star as "Mother Ginger" in the 2023 Lubbock performance of The Nutcracker.

WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

JULIE DOSS

University and more importantly, Texas Tech University Law School.

Her list of accomplishments and service to the community are inspiring and clear evidence that she is always ready for a challenge. When asked how she has done it all, Julie replied, "I think true accomplishment stems from working together, learning from each other and supporting one another's aspirations." It is no surprise then, Julie's professional work is focused on external relations allowing her to maximize her creativity and caring about people.

She has excelled throughout her career--- first as an ttorney and then as a member of the leadership team at the TTU School of Law where she became Associate Dean of External Relations. She served at the TTU Health Sciences Center and the TTU Rawls College of Business in similar positions before moving into her current role over external relations for the entire TTU System. "Over the past year, Julie has led and built a team with courage and kindness, which has elevated the visibility and impact of our \$2.6 billion higher education enterprise with five universities " said Dailey Fuller, Chief of Staff, Office o the Chancellor.

Julie remains active in the legal community as President of the TTU School of Law Chapter of American Inns of Court and serving on the State Bar of Texas Standing Committee on Public Affairs.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals named Julie as the 2018 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser. That is not surprising given that she has served on almost every major gala event in Lubbock and donated time to an impressive array of nonprofit o ganizations in the community. She has an unparalleled resume of volunteer work: American Cancer Society Cattle Baron's Ball, Lubbock Symphony Guild, Lubbock Women's Club, Lubbock Junior Women's Club, Junior League, Toastmasters, Lubbock Area Foundation, National Charity League, LHUCA, Susan Komen Race for the Cure, UMC Foundation. She served as President of the Board for the YWCA and her work on Wine Women and Shoes has been crucial to the organization and the event.

Her enthusiasm for life, leadership and hard work is contagious. As one of her nominee's stated, "when Julie walks into a room, she lights it up!"

Her husband Larry Doss is Justice, 7th Court of Appeals and they are proud parents of Grace, Abby and Matthew.





2020s

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WOMEN OF EXCEL

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YWCA IS ON A MISSION

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2000 *Louise C. Allen	1993
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2000 *Rita P. Harmon	1993

Susan Singer Hendrick, PhD	1993
Katherine Anne Lucas	1993
Mary Tom Riley O'Bar, EdD	1993
Sandra Sabatini, PhD, MD	1993
*Barbara L. Sommerville	1993
Kirsten Storin Doty	1992
*Marjorie C. Kastman	1992
Carolyn Lanier	1992
*Elizabeth Skidmore Sasser, PhD	1992
Marsha Sharp	1992
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Melanie Weed Barnes	1991
Michelle Leslie Erickson	1991
Jane F. Goldthorn, MD	1991
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*Virginia M. Sowell, PhD	1991
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Elizabeth G. Haley, PhD	1989
Marilyn Jantz Dickey	1989
*Elizabeth Creson Sisco, JD	1989
Teddy L. Langford, RN,PhD	1989
Kamie Ethridge	1989
Yumi Christina Koh	1989

*deceased

Celebrating TRAILBLAZERS

The Impact of the Women of Excellence Academy

n the heart of Lubbock, Texas, a remarkable group of women gathers a couple of times a year to catch up, share experiences and inspire one another. They are members of the Women of Excellence Academy, a prestigious initiative by the YWCA of Lubbock, dedicated to recognizing and honoring outstanding women.

Comprised of exceptional women from diverse backgrounds and fi lds of expertise, the Academy serves as a catalyst for positive change and collective action. These women are not only leaders in their respective professions, but they also extend their influence beyond workplace boundaries, actively engaging in volunteer work and community initiatives. What does it mean to be a part of this esteemed group? It means being part of a sisterhood of trailblazers, women who have shattered glass ceilings and defi d expectations to achieve their dreams and make a difference. These are women who lead by example, who embody resilience, determination, and unwavering dedication to their craft

As we reflect on the achievements of the Women of Excellence Academy, one thing becomes clear: their impact extends far beyond the boardroom or their office ors. They are leaders, mentors, and role models, inspiring future generations of women to dream big and pursue their passions with confide ce and determination.











gratulations

2024 WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS



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for being honored with the **JANE O. BURNS, PhD AWARD** YWCA Women *of* Excellence 2024



A LEGACY OF



Reflecting on th Impact of Two Distinguished Women of Excellence

In honoring the legacies of two esteemed members of the Women of Excellence Academy, we celebrate the remarkable lives of Kathy Gilbreath and Jane Burns, whose impact resonates far beyond their time with us. Kathy Gilbreath, a dedicated advocate for her community, exemplifi d unwavering commitment to service and compassion. Similarly, Jane Burns's trailblazing spirit and unwavering dedication to empowering women shaped her extraordinary journey. Though they may no longer be with us, the legacies of Kathy Gilbreath and Jane Burns continue to inspire and uplift, eminding us of the transformative power of service, perseverance, and compassion.

KATHY GILBREATH

1951-2023 | WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE IN 2018

"Kathy didn't rest; she lived to make a difference," said Jan Taylor, speaking of her longtime friend Kathy Gilbreath. "Being with people and fi ding a way to help them was most important to her."

In 2018, the Women of Excellence Mary Nell Strong Community Service Award was given to Kathy Gilbreath for a lifetime of service. She loved Lubbock and Texas Tech, investing herself in countless initiatives, from



Kathy Gilbreath (left) ecieves her award from 2016 award winner, Karen Gibson (right).

healthcare to the arts, higher education and social services.

Kathy was good at connecting people to solve problems. While working at the Lubbock Area United Way, she conducted two feasibility studies that led to the formation of Women's Protective Services and the South Plains Food Bank. She helped launch the Lubbock Chapter of the Komen Foundation, raising awareness and funding for breast cancer research.

A charter member and president of the Lubbock Association of Fundraising Professionals, Kathy was one of the fi st certifi d fundraising professionals in Lubbock. She shared her expertise in endowed giving to provide longterm fi ancial support for non-profit endeavors across the city. While on the development staff t Methodist Hospital, Kathy was responsible for programs to provide education grants and scholarships to nurses and allied health professionals, as well as hospital facilities serving residents of the South Plains.

Working on the development team at Texas Tech University, Kathy participated in two endowment campaigns and was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of the College of Human Sciences. A dedicated supporter of the arts in Lubbock, Kathy served as a key consultant for the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts and Lubbock Entertainment and Performing Arts Alliance (LEPAA), which spearheaded the performing arts crown jewel, Buddy Holly Hall.

In addition to her numerous professional accomplishments, Kathy served on several community boards, was a certifi d Master Gardener, elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Kathy is survived by her husband Jim Gilbreath, daughters Tracy Fenter and Kaki John, and six grandchildren.

JANE BURNS 1939-2023 | WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE IN 1996

Jane Burns passed away on November 6, 2023. She was a much-beloved member of our Academy of Women of Excellence and an irreplaceable supporter of the YWCA. Th s year, her Women of Excellence table is empty for the fi st time in 28 years.

In her career days, Jane broke through many barriers. She didn't like the term "feminist" and instead thought of herself as a trailblazer — creating a path for other women. She was the fi st woman to earn a Ph.D. in Business at Penn State and the third female CPA in the state of Kentucky. She was also a world traveler, a private pilot and a crack shot with a pistol.

Her specialty was taxation. She was president of the American Taxation Association and served as editor of the journal of that organization. She was coeditor and contributor to three of the most widely adopted textbooks in taxation and was the program chair for the 7th International Conference on Accounting Education.

She became active on the YWCA Board and served in several positions guiding us through some lean times. Jane was an optimist believing that anything was possible when you put your mind to it and commit to hard work. Even though she was very frugal for her own budget, she was generous in her philanthropy to causes she believed in. Without any fanfare, she helped many women further their education or handle difficult life situations.

She loved the Lady Raiders and supported them through thick and thin. She had season tickets right up front and traveled with them when she could. There was nothing pretentious about Jane. She was straightforward and loyal. She was a strong, independent woman who believed in working hard and doing the right thing. She was transparent and authentic long before those were buzz words. She was funny, smart and not ashamed to say, "don't call me before noon because I'll be sleeping."

There was so much to admire and love about Jane. We will miss her dearly.



Dr. Jane Burns (right) presents the 2023 Jane O. Burns Award to Nanette Deso (left)



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YWCA IS ON A MISSION

Congratulations!



Shelia Patterson-Harris

2024 Woman of Excellence

Your dedication to the community and tireless efforts in various roles, from your impactful work as a probation officer to your service on the City Council, exemplify true leadership and commitment to making Lubbock a better place for all. Thank you for your unwavering service and congratulations on this well-deserved honor!





n 2018, we began construction on the YWCA on University. It was an exciting time, we had 183,000 square feet to renovate! We planned on two phases of construction but we did not plan on the pandemic. Everything was put on hold. Like the rest of the world, the YWCA longed for a return to normalcy but instead, prices soared and priorities shifted.

Characteristically, our board of directors used the time wisely. We saved money and continued to have our major fundraiser, Wine Women and Shoes in the shell space. Finally, we have regrouped sufficiently to begin construction on Phase 2 in the coming weeks.

Here is what it will include:

TTUHSC Combest Center will have a medical clinic. What a great enhancement for the building! Along with Covenant Health System and Upbring, the community will now have easy access to a full range of medical services. Families using the YWCA for childcare will now have a doctor's office in he same building. There will be enormous benefits in terms of time off rom work and transportation issues alone.

When fin shed, the building will also include:

- an indoor playground for cold and rainy days
- a teen center
- a café
- a computer lab and training center
- an art and creativity room
- meeting and conference room spaces

Most importantly to the children in the community, the renovations will include construction of a splash pad with plenty of room for special events like birthday parties. There is a little something for everyone in the upcoming renovation. We will keep you updated as it progresses.







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Congratulations to the 2024 Women of Excellence Recipients



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Crafting EXCELLENCE

GLASS ARTIST BENNA ELLIS CREATES SYMBOLIC AWARDS FOR WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE HONOREES

ut from the kiln emerges a beautiful orange starburst of color, into the hands of glass artist Benna Ellis to be crafted into the award given to YWCA Women of Excellence honorees. "It's like Christmas when I open the kiln," Ellis says, "no two pieces are exactly the same."

Just like the women who will receive them, the awards are unique and what began as tiny breaks in the powdered glass becomes an opening for the light to shine. "There is some symbolism in the awards," says YWCA CEO Glenda Mathis. "The awards are circular, a nod to the inclusiveness of the YWCA, beautiful and full of light like the lives of the women who are honored with the Women of Excellence awards."

Benna Ellis has been involved in making the awards from the beginning; however, in 2019 the awards took on a new shape. Ellis explained that powdered glass is layered into a circular form, then tiny slits in the powder expand during the fi ing process to become openings for the light. "We love the new awards and the symbolism," added Mathis. The stands are also made by local crafts en at Sanco Metal Fabricators.

Pursuing glass art has been a labor of love and a creative expression for Ellis. In 1997, after 28 years in the safety of her management position at JC Penney, Ellis was weary of long work hours and increasing stress. She saw an ad for an administrative assistant position at a local glass art and supply studio. At the time, leaving a predictable paycheck to make for a drastic career shift eemed crazy, but with the wholehearted support of her husband Tom, Ellis decided to pursue her love of glass art. She accepted the job offer and also began teaching classes at the studio while creating her own artwork to sell at local shows. Benna





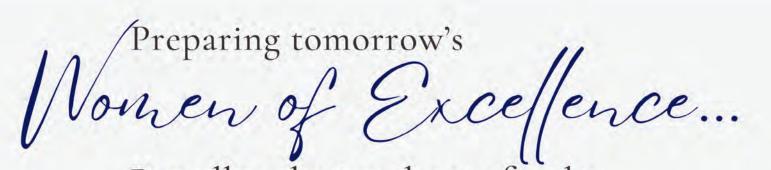




Ellis learned from master glass artists across the United States and even took a class in Canada from a South African artist. Eventually, the home workshop Benna's husband Tom, a fi efi hter, had for his side remodeling business included her kilns. "Tom's workshop became my 'she-shop' and studio," Ellis laughed.

Pursuing a passion was a breath of life for Ellis. The awards she creates honor women who have channeled their passions into positive influences in our community.





Proudly saluting those of today.



listy Rieber

Education

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YWCA 2024 Women of Excellence Recipient

Julie Doss



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CONGRATULATIONS 2024 Women of Excellence

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Celebrating A CENTURY

velyn Davies received the Mary Nell Strong Community Service Award as part of the Women of Excellence celebration of 2017. At the time, she overcame many obstacles to attend because she had experienced a bad fall and was recovering. With her characteristic tenacity, she made the ceremony and wowed the audience with her stories.

On February 3, 2024, she celebrated her 100th birthday with a beautiful party at the Texas Tech Museum where she has given a signifi ant amount of her time and talent. Evelyn's story includes the challenges of living on a ranch during the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and World War II. She ultimately earned a degree in English and taught for a while at the University of Houston until she decided to go back to run the family ranch. She was "Tiny" to the family but mighty to the ranch hands as they quickly discovered that she could wear a cowboy hat as easily as they could. She is a smart and adventurous woman who has traveled the world and spread her unique sense of joy at every stop. Evelyn has given so much to our community and she inspires everyone with her quick wit and insight. She is gracious, delightful and a beautiful example of what many call our Greatest Generation. Happy Birthday, Evelyn.



Congratulations!

Mancy Ruth

Margaret Randle, Women of Excellence, 2003 Nettie Edwards, Women of Excellence, 2005 Billie Caviel, Women of Excellence, 2010



Congratulations to these outstanding women!

-Steve & Stephanie Massengale

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AWARD RECIPIENTS

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

SURATER SURATER CAMP Learning through fun

While summer is full of fun in the sun, it also provides a challenge for working parents to find reliable childcare that not only ensures their child's safety but also nurtures their growth and development.

Enter the YWCA. Serving as a pillar of support for working families, the YWCA's summer camp program offers a safe environment filled with adventure, learning, and friendships. Beyond the supervision of our dedicated staff, our camp serves a crucial role in maintining a child's engagement during the summer break. Through a blend of structured activities, educational curiculum, and recreation, YWCAmp strives to keep minds stimulated and bodies active.

But don't take our word for it. Here's a glimpse into what parents have to say about their child's experience at YWCAmp. "I love how busy the kids are and that they're not just stuck in a room all day. I am thankful for the kindmas shown to my son even when he's having a bad day."



"The summer started off rocky, but with consistent communication, consequences, and understanding, my child has made such a turn around on behavior. She *loves* the curriculum and does great with it. I appreciate the academic structure as it helps her not forget over the summer."

"My child always looks forward to camp. He love his teachers and he always has so much fun every day. We will be coming back every summer! It's comforting knowing my child is taken care of by such wonderful staff!"

THANK VOU

HONORING THE IMPACTFUL SERVICE OF 4 BOARD MEMBERS

he YWCA Board of Directors works very hard for our organization. We would keep them with us forever if we could. However, there are Best Practices for nonprofit boards and one of the fundamentals is term limits. There comes a time when those precious people who have voluntarily given you heart and soul to help you do your work you must roll off the board. his year, four of

our key board members will give their seat to a new recruit but you can bet we will do our best to keep them involved in other ways! Each has made a major contribution to the YWCA and to our community and given generously of their time and talent. Each of them is a Woman of Excellence and a gift to our community. We want to acknowledge them publicly for their years and years of service to the YWCA. Linda Greenstreet joined the board at a time when we had big ideas but no money. She served as president during a difficult time and has guided us through an expansive period — building Sun 'n Fun and the YWCA on University. She helped us in making connections, raising money and using her creativity and eye for detail to make sure we always put our best foot forward. When there's a job to be done, Linda will roll up her sleeves and not stop until there's an exclamation point at the end

Nanette has served in many roles at the YWCA. She rolls off he board and then a year or so later, we roped her back in. She has been our president and she has been treasurer—which is no small task since we rarely have any money. She kept fi ances front and center at every meeting. We counted on Nanette to keep us on track and to help us remember that wild enthusiasm is no substitute for practical reality.







Lynn Sanderson joined the YWCA to help with the Women of Excellence Committee in 2011. We never let her go. Every year, she strives to make the event better and more elegant than the year before. She manages the budget and the timeline with unmatched organizational skills and a ready smile. Her enthusiasm and support for others is contagious and she fully participates. You can count on her to be at every event and be a voice of encouragement at every turn whether she's in the back making the punch for the event or up front delivering the opening remarks.



Gail Spivey has been on a committee or in a board position with the YWCA since 1989 when we fi st launched Women of Excellence. Every year since then, she's been on the front line — helping bake cookies for the Father Daughter Dance, building centerpieces for Women of Excellence and stuffing swag bags for Wine Women and Shoes. She can manage a checklist better than anyone. If you want something done, give it to Gail.



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CONTINUED excellence

The almost 300 Women of Excellence we have honored in the last 35 years are not "one hit wonders", they are women who embody excellence every day of their lives. Here are two academy members who stood out recently.



Aliza Wong

Woman of Excellence, 2018

In April of 2022 Aliza Wong was appointed the 25th director of the American Academy in Rome (AAR) following a national search process. Appointed to a three-year term, Wong is maintaining her faculty position at Texas Tech throughout her directorship.

Wong studied at Amherst College before earning her doctorate from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2001. A dedicated educator, she has taught for more than twenty years at Texas Tech where, in addition to being a professor and interim dean, she is the director of European Studies.

"To be offered the opportunity to work at the American Academy in Rome and envision what the next century might bring

is awe-inspiring and humbling," Wong said. "I look forward to working with the incredible AAR staff o cultivate and nurture the community's creative arena and to continue challenging ourselves to do better."



Laura Vinson

Woman of Excellence, 2014

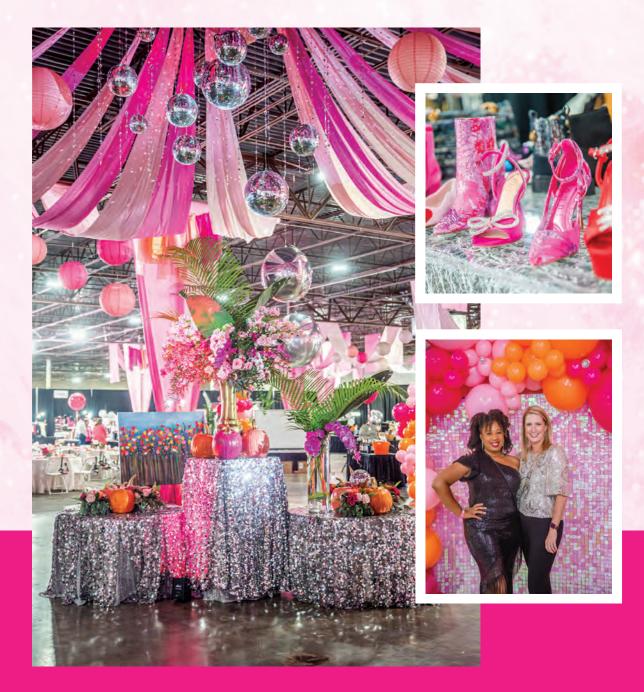
Early this year, Laura Vinson was awarded the Lubbock Area United Way's Rita Harmon Volunteer Service Award.

Th s well deserved honor recognizes Laura's dedication to our community, as evidence by her tireless efforts as the chair of the 2022 United Way campaign and her numerous roles benefiting Lubbock over the years. Her remarkable spirit of giving and her readiness to assist others at a moment's notice make her a shining example of excellence.

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

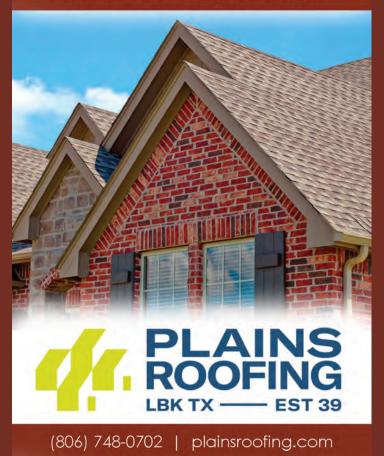


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Amanda Mead Community Advisory Board member

Faura W. Bush

INSTITUTE for WOMEN'S HEALTH TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



Congratulations!

Shelia Patterson Harris

Margaret Brannon Randle, Women of Excellence 2003 Nettie Edwards, Women of Excellence 2005 Vernita Woods-Holmes, Women of Excellence 2006

YWCA IS ON A MISSION





he YWCA of Lubbock, in collaboration with the Council for Professional Recognition, is proud to offer the CDA program to early childhood professionals in our community. Th ough a grant provided by the city, the YWCA facilitates training sessions that equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in their roles. Whether working with infants, toddlers, or preschoolers, the CDA credentialing process provides a powerful professional development experience, emphasizing refl ctive practice and evidence-based strategies.

Since 1985, the Council for Professional Recognition has administered over 800,000 CDA Credentials, both in the United States and abroad, recognizing the competence of early child care professionals. Th s credential serves as a testament to the dedication and expertise of individuals committed to providing high-quality care and education to young children. In addition to offering the CDA program to current early childhood educators in Lubbock, the YWCA is expanding its reach by partnering with Lubbock Independent School District. Starting this year, the YWCA will collaborate with LISD to provide CDA classes to students interested in pursuing a career in early childhood education. By introducing the CDA program to aspiring educators at the high school level, the YWCA and LISD aim to cultivate a new generation of skilled professionals dedicated to making a meaningful difference in the lives of young children, laying a strong foundation for their future success.

As the YWCA continues its commitment to promoting excellence in early childhood education, the partnership with LISD marks a signifi ant milestone in their efforts to support and uplift he dedicated professionals who play a vital role in shaping the next generation. Together, they are creating a brighter future for the children and families of Lubbock.

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Hannah Fish Redina Franklin Karen Gibson Linda Greenstreet

Lory loppolo Margaret Randle Emily Ratcliff Kerri Schoonvelt Gail Spivey Lisa Stane





MISSION

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VISION

The YWCA of Lubbock impacts lives daily and advances the power of women and diversity to strengthen our community.

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