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women's Times

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- EASTERN EUROPEAN WOMEN
—DEE AKER
- GLOBAL BEHEMOTHS
- THE SUM OF ALL HOPES
—LINDA ELLERBEE

SAN DIEGO COUNTY EDITION • VOL. 2 • NO. 11 • DECEMBER 1992

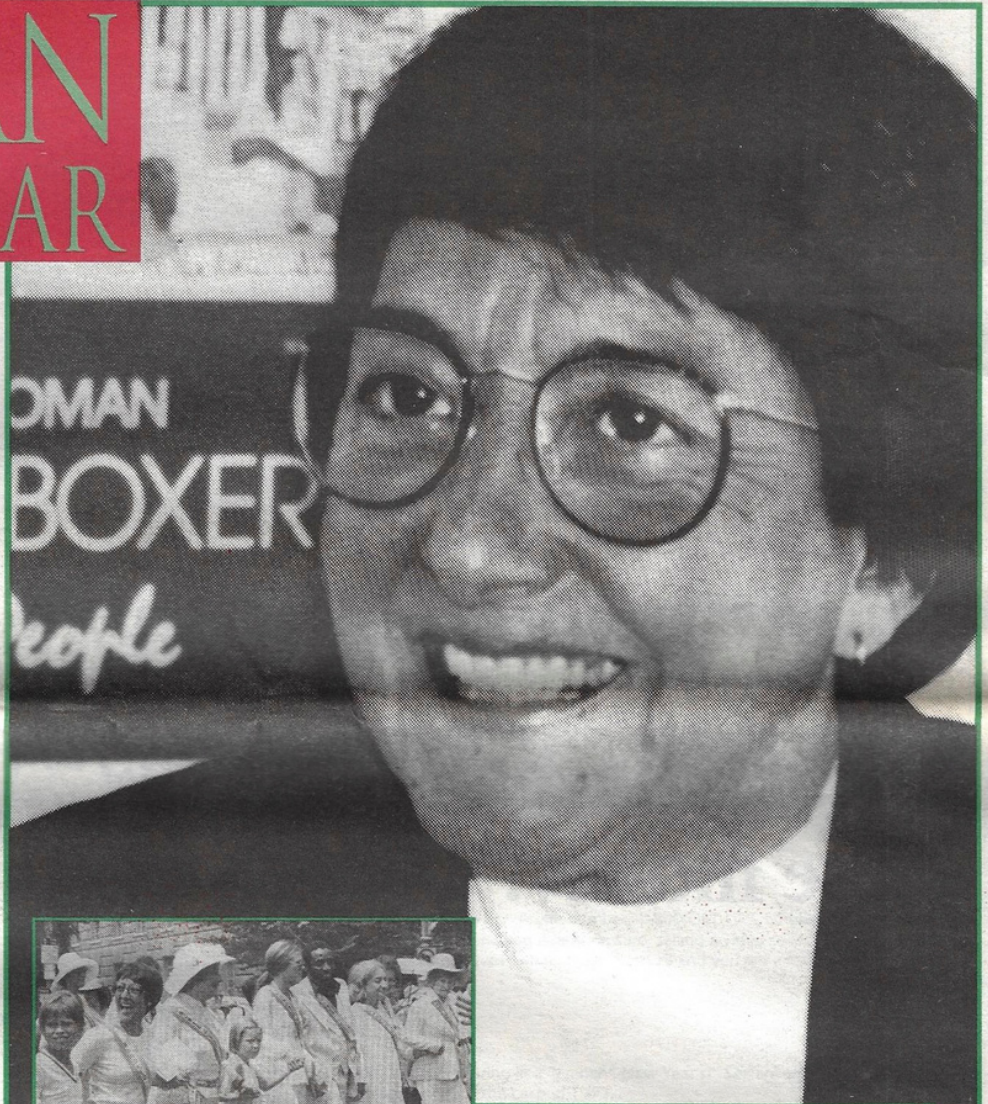
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

“**T**hey” said 1992 was going to be the “Year of the Woman” and “they” were right. But it wasn’t just in politics. This year *Women’s Times* set out to name its first “Woman of the Year” and what we found were women in all arenas of life doing amazing things. From the arts to science to business to community service, the number of San Diego women who have helped advance the lives of other women through their work was staggering. Obviously the decision-making process was not easy.

But in the midst of this crowd of talent loomed a five-foot giant named Midge Costanza. With her absolute dedication to women’s causes through the decades and her tireless effort this year to see Barbara Boxer elected as one of the two first women senators from California, Costanza has revolutionized more than 200 years of political history for women. We watched in amazement this year as she doggedly worked her magic on the voters of San Diego. Her achievement is a gift to our community, to our state. We thank her and are honored to name Midge Costanza as *Women’s Times* 1992 Woman of the Year.

And there were others, many others, who we felt also deserved our community’s attention and appreciation. We salute their hard work and considerable contribution to making 1992 truly the “Year of the Woman.”

SEE PAGE 6



ABOVE: The first march on Washington for women’s rights – July 9, 1978.

(L - R) Midge Costanza, Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem, Dick Gregory, Betty Friedan

RIGHT: Midge with Senator-elect Barbara Boxer



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WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

Lynne Schuette

With the arts community under siege both financially and, it seems, culturally, it takes creativity, stamina and one tough skin to keep a cutting-edge program afloat. As the executive director of Sushi Gallery and Performance Art, Lynne Schuette has been the backbone of the organization since its founding 13 years ago and in that time has shown herself to be a tenacious protector of her turf. Within the arts community, she is recognized as a model arts administrator as well as one of the best grants writers in the city. Sushi — named after Schuette's own nickname — is the only female-directed arts organization in San Diego and now brags of having an all-female staff.

With a mission to challenge the mainstream orthodoxies people have about art, Schuette's philosophy is that the artist is royalty, to be supported unequivocally and regardless of controversy. This year, despite funding cuts and a conservative onslaught, she and Sushi have not backed off or backed down, instead continuing a tradition of promoting the works of female performance artists, including lesbians and women of color who might not have a venue elsewhere. "We've kept on producing all the radical artists who have been censored everywhere else," she says.

This year, Sushi has also continued to present national performance artists like Rachel Rosenthal and Rhodessa Jones to the San Diego community, at a time when other cutting-edge arts groups in cities across the country have cut back on these more costly offerings by necessity.

A painter herself, Schuette supports female visual artists whose works are regularly installed in the Sushi Gallery. This is no blue-blood dabbler in "pretty things." Schuette serves as a role model and advocate of women in the arts.



Lynne Schuette, Executive Director Sushi Gallery & Performance Art, Inc.

Rosemarie Johnson, M.D. and Natasha Raney

When Dr. Rosemarie Johnson, an anesthesiologist, and Natasha Raney, a UCSD pre-med student, met by chance last fall through a mentor matching service offered by the Association for Women in Science they had no idea that their relationship would spawn a physician-student mentoring program of their own. But motivated by their experience, the two women established a program that in less than a year has paired more than 150 physicians with an equal number of students on the campuses of UCSD, USD, and SDSU. The majority of the doctors participating in "Pass It On" are women.

Johnson, the newly-elected president of the San Diego County Medical Society, says that mentoring played a significant role in her medical education, "When I graduated from medical school, I should have cut my diploma into 50 pieces to thank all those who helped," she explains. The program's name comes from an expression she heard from her grandmother, who taught her that the best way to repay a good deed is to "pass it on."

Raney, born with a visual impairment that she was told would make higher education too challenging, is now a senior at UCSD. Inspired and encouraged by doctors and teachers, her dedication reflects the determination to go the distance that the medical profession requires.

Together these women represent the future of a more humane, outwardly-focused practice of medicine.



Rosemarie Johnson, M.D. & Natasha Raney, creators of "Pass It On" mentoring program

Julie Rocha

The publisher of *El Sol de San Diego* since 1987, Julie Rocha has made the bi-weekly, bilingual newspaper the leading Latino publication in San Diego County. A former Peace Corps volunteer, Rocha has become a champion of Latinas and their achievements. This year, either personally or through her paper, Rocha has been an active sponsor of and participant in events such as the "Adelante Mujer Conference," which encourages women to continue their education. Her *El Sol* series, "Reflections/Reflecciones," written by exceptional women in the community, has been a popular source of inspiration for the next generation of leaders — high school and college-age women. Her own articles this year on issues like sexual abuse and AIDS reflect her passionate focus on educating her community, and her repeated efforts through her columnists to "get out the vote" demonstrated her commitment to making sure her fellow Latinos had a voice in their government.

Rocha, as they say, walks the talk. Recently, when a SDSU student told Rocha of her difficulty in raising \$150 needed to enroll in the Chicano Federation's Leadership Training Institute, Rocha, recognizing this young woman's outstanding background, donated the funds. Her courageous reporting of AIDS in the gay and Latino communities has earned her awards, including a \$500 prize this year from the San Diego County Medical Society that she gave to the subject of her article. Rocha speaks frequently to young people, particularly young women, encouraging them to stay in school and reach their goals just as she did.



Julie Rocha, Publisher of *El Sol*

Ruth Hendricks

Ruth Hendricks' customers at her Mission Hills restaurant, The Huddle, are her friends. And in 1991, when some of her friends became ill with the AIDS virus, Hendricks decided to help. Together with Herm Neely and John Joy, Hendricks established a volunteer organization called Special Delivery/San Diego. The group's purpose was to improve and extend the quality of the lives of AIDS patients by preparing and delivering a nutritious hot dinner and the next day's lunch for \$5 a day. Last year, S.D.S.D. had four clients; this year the organization has provided 100 meals daily, thanks to the help of more than 150 volunteers and the crucial support of financial donations. S.D.S.D. also publishes a bi-monthly newsletter that strengthens connections between clients, donors and volunteers.

Hendricks' energy and determination to combine business with devotion to her special friends is said to be an inspiration to her volunteers. Her philosophy is that volunteers know each client as a friend. Their clients are not just nourished, says Hendricks, they're nurtured.



Ruth Hendricks, general manager, owner of the Huddle and organizer of Special Delivery San Diego

Women of Note:



San Diego Mayor Maureen O'Connor — Thank you for your creative, enduring service to the city! We can't wait to see where you'll channel your civic energies in private life.

San Diego Mayor-Elect Susan Golding — Congratulations on winning a very tough election. You served us well as a supervisor. We look forward to your surpassing those achievements as mayor.



State Senator Lucy Killea — In a year that saw political opponents sling more mud at each other than a group of four-year-olds on a sugar high, we were grateful for your clean campaign. Now, Lucy, row your boat ashore.



Lynn Schenk, newly elected Congresswoman for the 49th District — San Diego's first female representative to D.C. — is there a movie in this ("Ms. Smith Goes to Washington")? We can't wait for your first missive to *Women's Times*.



Phyllis Pfeiffer, general manager, San Diego edition of the *Los Angeles Times* — You brought another perspective to the San Diego community,

which we'll sorely miss. Our breakfast reading ritual won't be the same without the estimable *Times*.



Betty Wheeler, former legal director of the ACLU's San Diego chapter — You've been our town's legal eagle. Keep fighting the good fight wherever you land!



Janet Gastil, Democratic candidate for the 52nd Congressional District — You challenged the status quo. While you didn't make it to Washington this time, we'll remember the bouncing head, uh, ball for months to come.



Judy Jarvis, Republican candidate for the 49th Congressional District — Imagine, a two-woman race in San Diego for Congress! You made history.



Lynn Carrier, political reporter for the *Daily Transcript* and former editorial writer for the *Tribune* — Your sexual harassment lawsuit against the *Tribune* was a daunting effort. You are another fighter we're proud to call a colleague.

Sh Small, artist, activist — It was hard to keep our eyes on the road. Your "NHI" (no humans involved) billboards and other controversial installations keep the pow-

ers that be looking over their shoulders.



Patricia McQuater, president of the San Diego Convention Center's board of directors and attorney at Solar Turbines — Your work on behalf of the Convention Center is bringing more and more visitors to our city. Now we have to expand. Good job!



Margaret Sellers, District Manager, San Diego Customer Services District, U.S. Postal Service — Your determination to open up the main branch of the post office to shelter homeless women overnight gives us reason to believe that government bureaucracies do have faces and hearts and souls.



Dr. Shirley Weber, member, Board of Education, San Diego City Schools; professor at SDSU — You keep us honest... and you keep us guessing about your political aspirations. Is there a mayor in the making?



Conny McCormack, San Diego County Registrar of Voters — You did what seems the impossible for us mere election junkies. You made our votes count and you counted our votes.