

THE ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST WOMEN



**Woman of the Year &
Champion of Justice
Awards Ceremony**

October 8, 2022



**The Association
of Adventist Women
want to give a warm
thank you to the following
for their support:**

**Loma Linda University
Loma Linda University Health
Pacific Union SDA Conference
Columbia Union SDA Conference
Jim and Priscilla Walters
Dr. Eric and Amabel Tsao
Dr. Elmar and Darilee Sakala
North Pacific Union Conference
Sheila Hodgkin for table flowers
Ledy Ann Patel for the program**

**Join us in support of women in the Adventist
Church by becoming a member.**

**Thanks to board members for
valuable contributions.**

**If you appreciate the services given today:
The harpist, Natasha Thomas, can be reached
at info@ntharp.com**

**The photographer, Bobby Chi, at
bchi521@gmail.com**

Najwa's Catering at www.najwascatering.com/

The AAW Team

CURRENT OFFICERS

- President: Nerida Taylor Bates
- Secretary: Rita Mercer
- Treasurer: Priscilla Walters
- Director of Development: Georgia Hodgkin
 - WOTY Awards: Linda Wysong Becker
 - Communications Director: Frances Priest



BOARD

- Ruth Peeters
- Delia Gutierrez
- Dana Stelian

To access vespers, the award ceremony, or join AAW
Visit associationofadventistwomen.com

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MISSION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST WOMEN

Advocate for the participation of women in all leadership roles in Seventh-day Adventist organizations, congregations, and communities around the globe.

- Enhance the church's effectiveness by fostering a grass roots movement to recognize women's services as leadership and allow full partnership of women in the entirety of church life
- Promote leadership skills among Adventist women of various ages and backgrounds
- Establish a network for Adventist women to inspire and support each other in leadership
- Work amicably with the church to create more significant opportunities for women in all levels of administration and ministry, including ordination
- Highlight Adventist women's contributions so their skills can be fully valued
- Demonstrate open and collaborative models by working in complementary ways with other church organizations

PAST WOMAN OF THE YEAR & CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AWARDEES

1984 - 2010	Visit AssociationOfAdventistWomen.com	
2011	Myrna Costa Casado Bonnie Wharton Dwyer	Professional Life Outstanding Achievement
2012	Cynthia J. Prime	Outstanding Achievement
2013	Christine P. Crosby Judith Lloyd Storfjell	Lifetime Achievement Outstanding Achievement
2014	Frederica Harris Sandra Roberts	Community Life Spiritual Leadership
2015	-	-
2016	Carolyn Slepnikoff Lacy Iris Landa Adeny Schmidt Fritz Guy Randal Wisbey	Distinguished Service Community Life Professional Life Champions of Justice Champions of Justice
2017	-	-
2018	Durdica Garvanovic Porobija	Youth Life
2019	Carole Ferch-Johnson Linda Mendez Chris Oberg Corene Stennis Dan Jackson	Outstanding Achievement Youth Life Spiritual Leadership Community Life Champion of Justice
2020	Dynette Elaine Hart Nyslie Guerrier Juana Dina Salas Montoya Hilde Thorkildson Huru Ginger Hanks Harwood Dan Jackson Ricardo Graham David Weigley	Community Life Community Life Spiritual Leadership Spiritual Leadership Outstanding Achievement Champion of Justice Champion of Justice Champion of Justice
2021	Dianne Sika-Paotonu Helen Hopp Marshak Phyllis Ware Lee Charles Sandefur Henry Fordham III	Scholarship Leadership and Administration Leadership and Administration Champion of Justice Champion of Justice

AAW PRESIDENTS



**Josephine Griffin
Benton**
1980-82



**Georgia Willey
Hodgkin**
1999-2001



**Betty Hogan
Howard**
1982-86



Patricia Clark Foster
2001-04



**Nancy Eastman
Marter** 1986-90



Verla Michel Kwiram
2004-08



**Peggy Curtice
Harris**
1990-92



**Patricia Pearson
Johnston**
2008-10



**Elisabeth Appleton
Wear**
1992-94



**Linda Wright
Wysong Becker**
2010-12



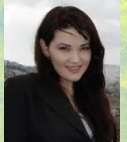
**Nancy Eastman
Marter**
1994-95



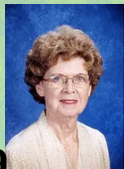
**Lourdes Morales-
Gudmundsson**
2012-19



Betty Hogan Howard
1995-96



Whitny Braun
2019



**Alyce Thornton
Kiesecker Pudewell**
1996-99



Nerida Taylor Bates
2020-present

Award Ceremony Program

October 8, 2022 | 6:30pm

Harp Music

Natasha Thomas

Introduction

Linda Becker

Presentation of Champion of Justice

RANDY ROBERTS

Music Interlude

President's Address

Nerida Taylor Bates

Woman of the Year

Georgia Hodgkin introducing
SYLVIA KLINGER, Outstanding Achievement

Patty Marruffo introducing
NANDI FLEMING, Church Life

Bonnie Dwyer introducing
CARMELA MONK CRAWFORD, Outstanding Achievement

Elissa Kido introducing
MARGARET SOLOMON, Professional Life

Ruth Peeters introducing
VERNA ALVA, Lifetime of Service

Ruth Bradburn introducing
JUDY LELLO, Community Service

Prayer

Dana Stelian



SYLVIA KLINGER *Woman of the Year Awardee*

Sylvia Klinger's CV merely says she consulted for Quaker Oats. In reality, every tall cylinder opened has Sylvia's recipe for raisin/oatmeal cookies on the back of the lid! She is a sought-after consultant for Pillsbury, ConAgra (a huge grain commodity firm), and Disney. She is a spokesperson for multiple fruit and vegetable commissions. She has written a Hispanic Family Nutrition Complete Counseling Kit designed to help RDNs treat Hispanic patients more effectively through a better understanding of Hispanic culture, family dynamics and food. One of her current endeavors is an orphanage in Africa.

Sylvia's career began as a Supervising Nutritionist for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental feeding program, creating a robust teen pregnancy program at the University of California Irvine Medical Center, lessons for the Los Angeles WIC program and online nutrition lesson plans for the Texas WIC program. She trained health educators throughout Texas for It's Time Texas program.

As Senior Culinary Development Specialist and Supervisor of consumer test kitchens at the Quaker Oats Company for 8 years, she successfully supervised hundreds of Product Knowledge Trainings to food brokers who gained valuable knowledge to close million-dollar contracts. Her work led to development of successful product innovations including the popular oatmeal express cups, pancake flour fortification, as well as numerous point-of-sale marketing materials. Sylvia actively participates in leadership roles in food, beverage, agriculture, pharmaceutical, and non-profit health organizations such as the



In 2015, he preached a series on women in ministry at LLUC entitled, "Unsung Heroes." Although he went prepared to speak on behalf of women's ordination at the 2015 General Conference, he was one of many waiting to speak when time was called. As an Executive Committee member Randy voted for Sandy Roberts' election as SECC President and often publicly spoke in support of women's ordination. On a personal note, he and his wife Anita have a son and a daughter, and he's a Dallas Cowboys fan!! Randy, we appreciate your willingness to speak up about how you have witnessed God blessing the church through women ministers. AAW honors you as a Champion of Justice for 2022. Congratulations!





RANDY ROBERTS *Champion of Justice Awardee*

Randy Roberts, senior pastor of the LLUC for almost exactly twenty years, came to the Loma Linda community as a chaplain in 1987. While working for seven years at Loma Linda University Medical Center he helped develop and lead their grief recovery program. During this time, he completed a Master of Arts degree on Marriage and Family Therapy. It was in early 1994 that he began teaching at LLU School of Religion, first as Associate Professor of Theology and Ministry and Associate Dean of the School of Religion. He completed his Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1996.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Randy serves as Vice President for Spiritual Life and Mission for LLUH. Randy has spoken to many and varied audiences both nationally and internationally; written articles for various publications; and authored one book for Pacific Press, entitled, *Waiting and Longing* (formerly published as, *The End is Near [Again]*). AAW appreciates Randy's courage in speaking up for women's ordination repeatedly over the years, specifically the 2016, 2017, and 2018 Annual Councils. Women's ordination loomed as a theme at the specially called Pacific Union Conference Constituency Session in August of 2012. It was Randy's Spirit-filled speech which helped turned the tide and carried the vote for Women's Ordination in Southeastern California Conference (SECC). Thank you, Randy!



Grain Foods Foundation Medical Advisory Board, Global Rise Executive Board, and the Committee of Lifelong Learning of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Additionally, Dr. Klinger has been a visiting adjunct professor at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Targu Mures, Romania. As a The Alliance of Food and Farming board member at large she communicates nutrition messages on the benefits of fruits and vegetables to consumers and health professionals. With energy unbounded, she has spread the message of healthful eating she learned from her SDA roots. She has made appearances on NBC, ABC, Fox News, CNN Spanish, Univision, America Teve, TV Azteca, Telefutera, Despierta America, Un Nuevo Día and Telemundo Chicago News. She also contributes to Hispanic radio talk shows and popular publications including *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Vanidades*, *Bakery and Snacks Magazine*, *Convenience Store Decisions Magazine* and written for *Huffington Post*, *Latino Voices*, and *Healthy Eating* blogs.

Sylvia, for your work as a dynamic global nutrition expert who holds 35 years of experience as a sought-after bilingual consultant, international speaker, communications professional, business owner, award-winning author, mentor, and board advisor for several associations and Fortune 500 Companies

AAW proudly presents you with an Outstanding Achievement Award.

The world needs more people like you!!!





NANDI FLEMING

Woman of the Year Awardee

Perseverance and determination best describe Nandi Fleming. She has always wanted two things in life; to serve God and to be as close as possible to nature. Nandi's initial desire was to be a medical missionary. She pursued her theology degree (with Honors) only for the knowledge, never thinking of actually being a pastor. Nandi tried congregational pastoring for three years defending herself amongst discrimination and rejection. Refusing to give up, she went on to serve as school chaplain but was told she could not advance her career. Frustrated, Nandi 'accidentally' began part-time pastoral counseling at the local Adventist psychiatric clinic. After two years the conference was still struggling to find a position for her. Nandi asked if there was a position that used both the training and talents God had provided. She was hired as fulltime pastoral counseling for the Northern Conference of Seventh-day Adventist in the South Africa union Conference of South Africa, Indian Ocean Division. Determined always to serve, she studied and received her Honors and Master's Degrees in Practical Theology, and is currently studying for a Doctoral Degree.

Nandi Fleming has been chosen to be recognized for two major achievements. She has facilitated the communication of all English-speaking female pastors in the Adventist church worldwide. This safe egalitarian discussion space has had a significant impact in encouragement and planning. Out of these informal meetings women have found that they are not alone and that together they can organize any task God has called them to do.



For 26 1\2 Years Judy has worked among the Amish and Mennonite people of south-central Pennsylvania. She has sold thousands of Adventist books there and in surrounding areas. Graham believes there are more books per square mile there than in the rest of the United States! She is widely known in that area as "The Bible Story Lady." One of the recent developments here is the formation of the West Salem Mission, a group of forty to fifty Amish who have become Adventists led by an Amish man who read *The Great Controversy* and *The Desire of Ages*.

Thank you, Judy, for allowing God to work through you as a literature evangelist! For your lifetime of dedication and humble service, AAW presents you our 2022 Community Service Award.





JUDY LELLO *Woman of the Year Awardee*

Would you believe Judy Lello has been a literature evangelist for over 50 years!

According to Graham, her husband, her greatest supporter, she has sold \$3,449,808 and wore out eight to ten of their cars driving at least 750,000 miles!

Marvin Creelman who worked as an LE Leader with Judy for three plus years in the early 1980's, stated he wasn't a letter writer, but his time with Judy made him step out of his comfort zone to write a glowing endorsement partially given here.

He stated, "In the thirty-two years as the District LE Trainer, I learned there are four areas one must excel in to be a successful LE. You must have an abiding love for Jesus, an unbiased love for people, you must have extraordinary work habits, and you must be very well organized. Judy excelled in all these areas due to her study of the Bible and her claiming the promise daily for the Holy Spirit to work in her life. She was the hardest working LE I ever worked with. Her standard work year was 2,000 hours!"

Marvin Creelman went on, "On a scale from 1 to 10, I would rate her a 9+! Our homes, our churches, our neighborhoods, and our country needs a million more like her!"

Even after the tragic accidental death of their son John Lello in Papua New Guinea while he was working for Frontier Missions in 2012, Judy continued her work.



Second, during the pandemic when she was not allowed to do face to face or online counseling due to South African Law, she developed, wrote and recorded the NCSA Mental health devotions podcasts. These innovative, short weekly mental health topics have been impactful. She has been very careful to reduce the size of each podcast to limit download cost for less affluent listeners. These devotionals have also been published in a beautiful book and are now being filmed.

The Church Life Award recognizes her major contributions to supporting and encouraging women pastors throughout the world. She has been courageous in moving the church toward inclusiveness, fairness, and justice, and in being a role model and mentor for other women. Her NCSA Mental Health Devotionals programs have improved the quality of spiritual and communal life in the church. She has shown exemplary dedication and service to the church in the challenging circumstances of the pandemic. She says, "God took me on a life journey that would enable me to be a medical-type missionary in my own home country and also touch the lives of many in other countries." Thank you, Nandi, for your determination to find a place where you could serve!





CARMELA MONK CRAWFORD *Woman of the Year Awardee*

Carmela Monk Crawford, J.D., a feature writer, reporter, and radio host is driven by the work of advocacy. Inspired by the legacy of historic activist journalists such as Ida B. Wells Barnett, Ms. Monk Crawford found her niche in the dramatic stories of the human condition. Her early work followed low-income and voiceless communities caught in urban-redevelopment and gentrification. Armed with compelling stories of police abuse, human trafficking, domestic violence and social justice, she sought to change the conversation in communities and in the denomination.

In her law practice, Ms. Monk Crawford advocated for children and families caught in destructive cycles of abuse and neglect. She defended adults and children in criminal cases. She also found herself in the painstaking fight for immigrants seeking legal status. She was honored with citations and awards for her pro bono work, and work to defend children in the juvenile justice system.

Then, she answered the call to return to Message Magazine and reframe the 120 year-old ministry for the new millennium. (If you haven't seen Message lately, check out MessageMagazine.com. Follow them on all social media.) She prizes her conversations and interviews with inspiring modern civil rights icons such as Equal Justice Institute CEO Bryan Stevenson, New Jim Crow author Michelle Alexander, the late congressman and civil rights icon and activist John Lewis, media personality and activist Shaun King, and our very own Barry Black, Chaplain of the United States Senate.



She received the Metal of the National Institute of Mental Health in 2016.

The Ministerial Secretary of the Southern Peruvian Union says, "Dr. Verna Alva is a faithful member of the Adventist Church in Miraflores, Lima Perú and is a great inspiration in the lives of many young people and adults in our church. In the professional area, Dr. Verna Alva has had an outstanding career as a professor at several universities of great prestige in our country and holding responsibilities in national and international organizations, which has given her the opportunity to testify her faith in Jesus Christ in the highest academic and social spheres. I can testify to her people skills, her simplicity and charisma to treat people from different social backgrounds, with the same respect and courtesy that makes her a person with multiple significant relationships, which undoubtedly enrich the lives of those who meet her. May the blessings of our God always accompany our beloved and admired Dr. Verna Alva and may that blessing also reach those who are part of the Association of Adventist Women." Signed, Ruben Montero Guerrero (Translated by Ruth Peeters) .

Verna, for your wide contributions both in Peru and Internationally in the fields of mental and physical health throughout your long life and your witness for Christ, we are grateful for your example and your service. Therefore, we award you the 2022 AAW Lifetime of Service Award.





VERNA ALVA *Woman of the Year Awardee*

Verna Alva has had so many lives rolled into her lifetime! First she is an academic studying child psychiatry and being a lifelong advocate for children. She was president of both the Peruvian society of child psychiatry, and the Peruvian Society of Psychiatry Neurology and Neurosurgery. As well as writing articles and chapters, she edited on two academic journals. She became head of Child Psychiatry, then Associate Dean of the School of Medicine at Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, where she taught epidemiology, physiology and lifestyle and health.

Early in her career she took a Master in Public Health at the University of Jerusalem in Israel, studying with many international health providers. She became Vice President of the National Commission of Primary Health Care, then head of the Public Health Department. She was invited to assist the Ministry of Health as Director of Maternal Child Health, then as the Director of Mental Health. These public service jobs led her to be named candidate for the senate of Peru in the 1985 elections.

In her spare time, (pause for laughter) she nurtured other career women, rising to Vice President for Latin America of the World Association of Medical Women. She is active in organizations that work to prevent smoking, alcohol and drug abuse. In her church work Alva was on the executive committee of the South American Division for General Conference 1991-1995.

Obviously, this is not Alva's first award. She has been recognized by her city municipality and university.



Ms. Monk Crawford is married to David Crawford, a talented artist and IT systems administrator. Together they have three young adults: Kharis, Langston, and Nathan.

Ms. Monk Crawford is the first woman, and the first lay member to be editor of Message. This fact is important to her in these times of change and the increasing nearness of Christ's return. She states, "It means all can—and must—step up to finish the work together."

AAW Recognizes your commitment to social justice, your modernizing Message Magazine, your writing and recording of today's civil rights promoters, and your wish to be a part in finishing God's work by presenting you our Outstanding Achievement Award for 2022.





MARGARET SOLOMON

Woman of the Year Awardee

Margaret Solomon was raised in India as a third generation Adventist with all its traditions and beliefs. Her Grandparents were among the first SDA members in the first established SDA church in India. Her parents provided her with the Adventist education from Kindergarten to College laying the foundation for her educational career. Her teaching work began when she graduated from Spicer Memorial College, India. Then it continued in Grand Rapids Public Schools in Michigan after she finished her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction at Andrews University. She was a special education teacher there for 17 years and the Vice-principal of the largest high school in the district for 5 years. During this period she completed her Ph. D in Educational Administration from Michigan State University where she was recognized with the Best Dissertation Award.

The US State Department gave her the Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Scholar Award, Council for International Exchange of Scholars in both 2010-11 and 2017-18 for developing curriculum for resource and technology poor communities. She then taught implementation training for teachers in marginalized inner cities and rural India. Margaret wrote that, "My experience in exploring the educational status in the Indian slums impacted me very much. I found that planned instruction to improve the cultural capital of children from marginalized communities would improve their self-esteem, sense of hope and locus of control of their lives. The positive results I saw inspired me to write a book with teaching and learning strategies for improving the cultural capital of poor children."



Margaret teaching in higher education began at Redlands University in 2003, then in 2010 she was hired in Educational Administration at La Sierra University School of Education where she continues today. She has co-authored two books: "Sustained By God's Grace: A Brief History of Prakasapuram SDA Church in South India" (with Samuel Raj) and "Instructional Adaptation as an Equity Solution for the English Learners & Special Needs Students" (with Jose Lalas). She made her expertise available through numerous journal articles and book chapters, focusing on bilingual and special education for both rural Indian children and Mexican immigrant children in California. Additionally, Margaret has made a significant number of scholarly presentations at the international national level.

She is currently in India where her husband runs an Adventist Ashram to reach out to the Hindus and Muslims, so will receive her award through Zoom. Thank you, Margaret, for your dedication to the many disadvantaged students worldwide, and for giving children of all abilities the opportunity to be engaged in learning, and for your commitment to teaching the next generation of students companionate education. AAW awards you the 2022 award for Professional Life.

