



**ANNUAL
WOMAN OF THE YEAR &
CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE
AWARDS CEREMONY**

October 30, 2021

THE ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST WOMEN

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Our Mission and Goals

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

Our 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

- **Board Historian:** Bernie Beck
- Delia Gutierrez
- Dana Stelian

Award Ceremony Program

October 30, 2021 | 6:00 pm PST

PRELUDE

WELCOME

DR. NERIDA BATES, PRESIDENT

PRAYER

DR. RITA MERCER (VIA ZOOM)

MUSICAL SELECTION

JULIA BRATOSIN

SPEECH

"God is Just"

ELDER CHARLES SANDEFUR

MUSIC

SPEECH

DR. HELEN HOPP MARSHAK

LITURGICAL READING

(FOUND ON PAGE 5 OF PROGRAM)

WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

DR. LINDA BECKER

Dr. Dianne Sika-Paotonu (via Zoom)

Dr. Helen Hopp Marshak

Phyllis Ware Lee

CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE

Elder Charles Sandefur

Elder Henry Fordham— (presented posthumously)

CLOSING REMARKS AND PRAYER

PRISCILLA WALTERS



God's Justice

Liturgy Reading

Reader 1:

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." (Jeremiah 31:3 NIV)

Reader 2:

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of thy throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before thee." (Psalm 89:14 RSV)

Reader 3:

"He is the Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He." (Deuteronomy 32:4 RSV)

Reader 4:

"Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream." (Amos 5:24 RSV)

Reader 5:

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8 NIV)

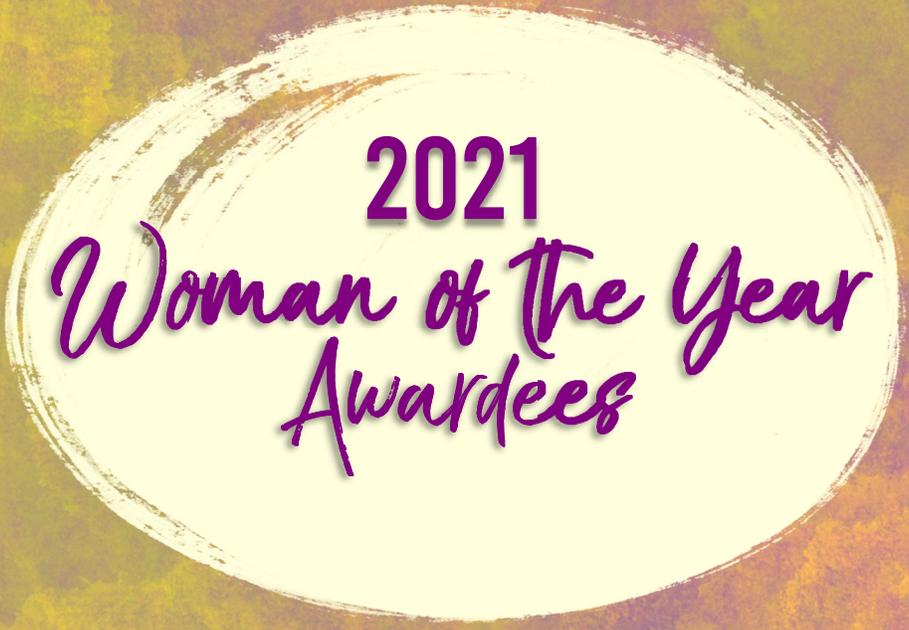
All:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NIV)

All:

This is why, in Christ, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28 NIV)

All: Amen.



2021
Woman of the Year
Awardees

Dr. Dianne Sika-Paotonu – Scholarship

Dr. Helen Hopp Marshak – Leadership and Administration

Phyllis Ware Lee – Leadership and Administration

Dr. Dianne Sika-Paotonu

Woman of the Year, 2021 | Scholarship

Dr Dianne Sika-Paotonu is the Scientific Lead for the Rheumatic Fever and Penicillin Research Programme based in New Zealand and the Associate Dean (Pacific) at the University of Otago, Wellington. She is also a member of the Royal Society Te Apārangi Council, National Science Challenge Healthier Lives Science Leadership Team and Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) Pacific Health Research Committee. She holds service and leadership responsibilities within the Pacific community and is an HRC Pacific Emerging Research Fellow, and recent recipient of the Sir Thomas Davis Te Patu Kite Rangi Ariki Health Research Fellowship from HRC. Dianne is also a member of the Takiala Pacific Leadership Network within the Health Sciences Division and Pacific Academic Staff Caucus Committee for the University of Otago. She sits on numerous local and University of Otago based Committees, in addition to International Governance Boards. She also functions as Chair and Convenor for Rheumatic Fever and Penicillin related Pacific Research Advisory Groups.

Selected major projects within the Rheumatic Fever related Penicillin Research portfolio that Dianne is currently leading include: Benzathine Penicillin G (BPG) Reformulation Preferences study for children and young people receiving secondary prophylaxis with BPG, the BPG Pharmacokinetics Study in New Zealand, the Reformulation Preferences of health professionals administering BPG for Rheumatic Fever prevention and the perspectives of Families with a Child/Young person receiving BPG injections for Rheumatic Fever prevention. These projects among others, are contributing to global collaborations and efforts to reformulate BPG for Rheumatic Fever prevention. This work is also extending into the Pacific Region in partnership with Pacific Researchers and Collaborators based in Oceania.

In the past, Dianne has worked at the Telethon Kids Institute (TKI) in Perth Western Australia where she remains an Honorary Research Associate and functioned as the Scientific Lead for the Penicillin Research work within the Group A Streptococcal Disease team based at the Wesfarmers Centre for Vaccines and Infectious Diseases. Dianne is also an Associate Investigator working on National and International projects such as "Towards a new long-acting penicillin formulation for rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease" and the National Science Challenge/Healthier Lives funded work "Circulating tumour DNA for better cancer management", among many others. She is also a member of the New Zealand based research team investigating the Immunogenetics of Rheumatic Fever connected with the Genome Wide-Association Study International Consortium.

Dianne completed her PhD in Biomedical Science at Victoria University of Wellington specializing in Immunology based at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research. While there Dianne was a member of the cancer vaccines team and undertook work that explored the modification of these vaccines to generate stronger immune responses against cancer. Her work showed that increased numbers of cancer-killing immune cells could be generated when synthetic compounds that mimic infected tissue were incorporated into the cancer vaccine preparation. Her work also highlighted the role of specific sub-populations of immune cells in generating these cancer killing immune responses. Dianne's work overall aimed to improve of the potency of these cancer vaccines for the treatment of all cancers.

Dianne has received numerous awards for her PhD and other research work including the MacDiarmid New Zealand Young Scientist of the Year-Advancing Human Health & Wellbeing, Colmar Brunton Research Excellence Award, Australasian Society of Immunology BD Science Communication award, Asia Pacific Science Technology Studies Networks New Contributions to Science Technology & Innovation Award-Indigenous studies and the Australasian Society of Immunology Buck Memorial Award among others. Dianne was also recipient of the Royal Order Award the Most Illustrious Royal Order of Queen Salote Tupou III-Commander, awarded by the late King George Tupou V of Tonga in recognition of scientific achievement.

Dianne's research interests include Immunology, Rheumatic Fever, Immunogenetics, Cancer and Pharmacology. Dianne is of Tongan descent and also has strong research interests in areas of health research relevant to Pacific populations living in New Zealand and in the Region. Dianne is an Honorary Research Associate with the Wesfarmers Centre for Vaccines & Infectious Diseases, Telethon Kids Institute, Perth, Western Australia and Victoria University of Wellington, and is an Affiliate with the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery, University of Auckland.

Dr. Sika-Paotonu was also a Fulbright Scholar in 2016, studying at Harvard and Oklahoma State University.

Dianne currently serves as the President of the Adventist Student Association, a group of university students and young professionals that facilitate university student ministry in Wellington, New Zealand. They now have a branch in Fiji. They will be organizing a nationwide convention for university students.

We are delighted to recognize Dr. Dianne Sika-Paotonu as Woman of the Year 2021 for Scholarship. She is a wonderful testimony to living life to the fullest as a professional, and servant of Christ.

Dr. Helen Hopp Marshak

Woman of the Year, 2021 | Leadership and Administration

Dr. Marshak was named Dean of the School of Public Health (SPH), Loma Linda University in 2015. She was bequeathed a School in disarray from the previous dean's eliminating departments to create centers. This included physically moving faculty from their offices to different spaces, at considerable expense. Several faculty and staff were terminated in the process, resulting in considerable unrest and discontent. Dr. Marshak rose to the circumstances and restored peace among the SPH faculty.

Many situations have been quickly and pleasantly resolved when Dr. Marshak speaks in her gentle, soothing voice to summarize the situation with words of wisdom. She has a gift of listening well, articulating a reasonable solution in a voice that rings of integrity and competence.

Dr. Marshak is not only a Dean, but the Vice President for Public Health Education for Loma Linda University Health. In 2010 she became the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for SPH. She was an Associate Professor in SPH 1991-present, School of Medicine (SM) 1991-2002, Graduate School 1995-present, SM Family Medicine, 1991-1993. She was a research assistant 1988-1991 in Seattle and LLU 1983-1985. She had 57 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, of which she is listed as the first author in two. She has participated in 27 research and evaluation activities for SPH, USDA, US Dept of Education, CA Dept of Health, San Bernardino County, CA Dept of Education, Riverside, and Imperial Counties.

She has been a reviewer for the CDC and several journals. She served as a consultant to several (8) San Bernardino County projects. In SPH, she has taught 19 courses through the years in Health Promotion and Psychology along with 8 guest lectures including a workshop and Grand Rounds. She has 60 presentations at annual meetings of APHA, Cancer Congress, APA, SBM in Atlanta, Indianapolis, DC, Toronto, NYC, San Francisco, Chicago, New Orleans, Boston among others.

Dr. Marschak has served with distinction on 8 committees within SPH and 14 at the University level. She has given generously of her time, energy, and expertise within the University and outside LLU. She is a scholar and a leader. Her contributions include so many areas – the classroom, research, policy-making and within the academic community beyond LLU.

Tonight we are honored to recognize Dr. Helen Hopp Marschak as Woman of the Year 2021 for Leadership and Administration.

Phyllis Ware Lee

Woman of the Year, 2021 | Leadership and Administration

What does it take to manage 7 states, 56 churches/companies, 70+ employees and a 39 acre campus? This is what Phyllis Ware Lee does as the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer for the Office of Regional Conference Ministry and the Regional Conference Retirement Plan.

Phyllis Ware Lee began serving as Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer for the Office of Regional Conference Ministry and the Regional Conference Retirement Plan in October, 2008.

Prior to coming to the ORCM/RCRP she was the Treasurer for Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventist headquartered in Kansas City Kansas for 20 years including 13 years as Secretary-Treasurer and served as acting President of the Conference, following the death of Elder Paul Monk, the Conference President. She served in this capacity for several months until a new President could be selected. She is the only woman of color to have served as a regional conference president.

Phyllis is a native of Kansas City, Missouri and a graduate of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. She is a certified public accountant (CPA) and received an MBA in Finance from DeVry University. She is a member of the American Institute of CPA's and the Alabama Society of CPA's.

In addition to her work for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Phyllis worked for Arthur Andersen and Co. CPA's and gained valuable experience working in banking and government accounting.

She is married to Preston E. Lee, Sr. and they resided in Toney, Alabama.

Her distinguished service can be characterized by a Frank and Ernest cartoon which shows a woman telling Frank and Ernest that, "Sure, Fred Astaire was great, but don't forget that Ginger Rogers did everything he did . . . backwards and in high heels."

We are delighted to honor Phyllis Ware Lee, as Woman of the Year 2021 for Leadership and Administration.



2021
*Champions of
Justice*

Elder Charles Sandefur
Elder Henry Fordham III

Elder Charles Sandefur

Champion of Justice, 2021

Charles Sandefur was born in Seattle, Washington in 1946 and has served for over 40 years as a Pastor (Sligo, 3 Virginia churches and Corona, California), Chaplain (Columbia Union College), Ministerial Director (Southeastern CA Conference), local Conference President (Hawaii and Rocky Mountain), Union Conference President (Mid-America), President of the Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA), and Vice President for Mission for Adventist Health.

He completed his BA degree at La Sierra University in 1968 and completed his Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University in 1970, followed by graduate studies in Ethics at Princeton in 1974-77.

In 2014, Elder Sandefur officially retired from church employment which gave him more time as Chairperson of the Versacare Board of Directors.

Versacare was established as an independent philanthropic Adventist-affiliated organization focused on providing financial resources to Adventist missions, institutions, schools, and churches through its grant making efforts. He has led Versacare in their decision making that has resulted in providing \$1 million in funding to improve technology for girls and boys attending Adventist K-12 schools. His leadership has also resulted in Versacare providing over \$100,000 dollars in funding to support Adventist women prepare for ministry through scholarship funding provided to Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry (TEAM). In addition, through his leadership, Versacare provided funding for media productions like the film "CALLED" produced by TEAM that has been distributed to every local and Union conference in the North American Division to help conferences address the barriers for placement of women in pastoral positions at the local church level.

Elder Sandefur has been an advocate for the ordination of women throughout his tenure as a Pastor, Conference leader and member of the Seventh-day Adventist church and currently as a member of the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist church. He serves on the Spectrum Board of Directors and is a co-leader of the Faith and Reason Sabbath School class at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist church as well as serving on the Kinship Board. Most recently, he served as chairman of the Sligo pastoral search committee. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this Sligo Sabbath school class has moved to a virtual platform offering weekly Sabbath presentations on Zoom that have featured 16 women speakers.

Elder Sandefur was also one of the co-founders of the "End It Now" campaign to stop violence against women that was a joint effort of ADRA and Women's Ministries, of the General Conference. He, along with Heather Dawn Small, developed a slogan, posters, and process for communicating the need for ending the abuse many women have suffered both in and out of the church.

Because of their founding work the North American Division now has an official statement that reads: "The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes that abuse affects children, women, and men within the church and community. In response, the North American Division and Adventist Risk Management created the #enditnowNAD campaign to be launched in your church and community to help break the cycle of abuse. "This campaign serves as a voice for those who have no voice in a brutal world".

Today we recognize Elder Sandefur for his leadership in supporting women and issues that subjugate women.

Elder Henry Fordham III

Champion of Justice, 2021

Henry Joseph Fordham III, known affectionately as "Butch" to family and friends, was born to parents Henry Joseph Fordham II and Geneva Duncan on August 27, 1943 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Oakwood Academy in 1961 and was voted "Most Versatile" in his high school yearbook. Henry could play multiple instruments, including the piano, organ, clarinet, and trumpet, and enjoyed roller skating, bowling, and other sports. He went on to work at Monsanto in Dayton, Ohio. Henry was a remarkably responsible and dependable worker. Sometimes, in the absence of transportation, he walked 14 miles to get to work. At the age of 19, Henry married his first and only love, Sharon Elaine Wright (lovingly known as "Sherry") on July 20, 1963. To their union they added four children: Joseph (Joey), Shawn, Donovan and Danielle.

After answering God's call to the ministry, Henry and his family moved to Huntsville, Alabama where he earned a Theology Degree from Oakwood College in 1973. He later received a Master's Degree in Theology from The Ohio State University. While completing his coursework and awaiting a call into the ministry, Henry worked various jobs to provide for his family as they moved to various cities, including working as a welder, an X-ray technician, and while living in Philadelphia he worked with the Street Brothers selling hotdogs in their vending business. In 1974, the family moved to Pine Forge Academy where Henry was offered a job as a teacher. In 1976, Luther Palmer, then president of Allegheny East Conference, extended him an offer to join the Conference. His first assignment was the Sharon Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wilmington, Delaware.

Henry followed God's call and faithfully pastored several Adventist Churches, including in successive order the Emmanuel Brinklow Seventh-day Adventist Church, Brinklow, MD; Berryville Seventh-day Adventist Church, Berryville, VA; Berea Temple Adventist Church, Baltimore, MD. He also served as an interim pastor for Cedars of Lebanon Seventh-day Adventist Church, Chesapeake VA; Capitol Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, Washington DC; Germantown Seventh-day Adventist Church, Philadelphia, PA; Dupont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, Washington, DC; and Trinity Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, Newark, NJ. Henry also evangelized portions of India and several countries in Africa.

Henry's ministerial career assumed greater leadership responsibility in the early 1990s. He was elected to serve in the Allegheny East Conference as Director for Ministerial, Personal Ministries, and Religious Liberty Director. He was elected Executive Secretary in 2000 and conference President in 2012, a position he held until his death. Henry's selfless service in the cause of God spanned more than 45 years.

Elder Fordham believed that the church needs every man and woman working together in teaching and preaching this gospel to help bring this work to a close. To that end, he supported women in ministry in the Allegheny East Conference. Two women were ordained in the Allegheny Conference this past year, and a third woman serves as Pastor in the Washington, DC, metro area. We are deeply grateful for the legacy of leadership in support of women in ministry that has been left by Elder Fordham and recognize him tonight as a Champion of Justice, 2021.

AAW Presidents



Josephine Griffin Benton
1980-82



Betty Hogan Howard
1982-86



Nancy Eastman Marter
1986-90



Peggy Curtice Harris
1990-92



Elisabeth Appleton Wear
1992-94



Nancy Eastman Marter
1994-95



Betty Hogan Howard
1995-96



Alyce Thornton Kiesecker Pudewell
1996-99



Georgia Willey Hodgkin
1999-2001



Patricia Clark Foster
2001-04



Verla Michel Kwiram
2004-08



Patricia Pearson Johnston
2008-10



Linda Wright Wysong Becker
2010-12



Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson
2012-19



Whitny Braun
2019



Nerida Taylor Bates
2020-present

Past Woman of the Year & Champions for Justice Awardees

1984	Anita Johnson Mackey Lenora Ford McDowall Mary E. Walsh	Work Life Home and Community Life Church Life	1995	Linda L. Ammons Ellen Bresee Janet Oteng Fordjour Anita Requeñez Moses Virginia-Gene Shankel Rittenhouse Hyveth Bent Williams	Professional Life Church Life Family Life Community Life Outstanding Achievement Church Life
1985	Eleanor Brady Hetke Rosa Lee Jones Kathleen Keen Zolber	Home and Community Life Church Life Work and Professional Life	1996	Hertha Ehlers Patricia Breedlove Habada Erna Steinmann Krüger Leona Glidden Running Otilie Frank Stafford Helen Ward Thompson [Zolber]	Lifetime Achievement Lifetime Achievement Lifetime Achievement Lifetime Achievement Lifetime Achievement Lifetime Achievement
1986	Rosa Taylor Banks Del Delker Irene Felice Osborne	Work and Professional Life Church Life Home and Community Life	1997	Adly Castrejon de Campos "Elsie" Check-Yan Leung Chan Mable Anderson Dunbar Gertrude Green Margaret "Peg" Hempe Shirley Ann Munroe Helen Tarasenko Sprengel [Lutz] Laura Carlson Sundin	Lifetime Achievement Lifetime Achievement Lifetime Achievement Lifetime Achievement Lifetime Achievement Lifetime Achievement Church Life Youth Life Family Life Lifetime Achievement Spiritual Leadership Professional Life Lifetime Achievement Community Life
1987	Alcyon Logan Fleck Joyce Wilson Hopp Carmen Lopez de Morales	Home and Community Life Work and Professional Life Church Life	1998	Maxine Blome Dorothy Minchin Comm Charlotte Patterson Hamlin Kay Humpal Kuzma Kathryn Haycock Proffitt Lang "Aileen" Van Brenda Blackmon Wood	Community Life Lifetime Achievement President's Award Family Life Outstanding Achievement Spiritual Life Professional Life
1988	Barbara J. Blackston Anita Cavagnaro Ford Judy Harris Lovett Blythe Owen	Outstanding Achievement Home and Community Church Life Work and Professional Life	1999	Jocelyn Fay Thesba Yeaton Johnston Arlene West McFarland Carolina Castillo Rose Beulah F. Stevens Phyllis M. Ware Elisabeth Appleton Wear	Church Life Lifetime Achievement Community Life Professional Life Spiritual Life Outstanding Achievement Family Life
1990	"Nancy" Nongnuch Yudhasaraprasithi Bassham Mercedes Pereda de Bernal Virginia Osgood Clark Virginia Rittenhouse Fagal Ruthita Fike Twyla Reimche Gimbel Chessie Walker Harris Rowena Rick Iris Stahl Schantz Arlene Taylor	Church Life, FED Professional Life, SAD Church Life, TED Professional Life, NAD Professional Life, NAD Professional Life, EAD Home Life, NAD Professional Life, FED Professional Life, TED Church Life, NAD	2000	Elaine Estes Drury Karen Christoffel Flowers Effie Jean Potts Ketting Rebekah Wang Cheng [Scriven] Dorothy Ellen Valcarcel Penny Estes Wheeler Miriam Brown Wood	Family Life Church Life Lifetime Achievement Outstanding Achievement Community Life Professional Life Lifetime Achievement
1991	Hazel Budd Burns Mary White Henderson Lonna Tachenko Milburn Lilya Vinglas Wagner	Church Life Home and Family Outstanding Achievement Work and Professional	2001	Joan McCallister Bova T. Grace Emori Gwendolyn Winston Foster Donna Lugenbeal Habenicht Betty Hogan Howard Gladys Jeremiah Merlene Ann Ogden Minnie Iverson Wood	Church Life Lifetime Achievement Community Life Family Life Lifetime Achievement Spiritual Life Professional Life Lifetime Achievement
1992	B. Lyn Behrens Ramona Perez Greek Wilma Jones Hepker Eline Looper Holland Catherine B. "Kit" Watts	Professional Life Outstanding Achievement Community Life Home Life Church Life			
1993	Nyla Juhl [Imler] Nancy Eastman Marter Sheree Parris Nudd Cheryl Nystrom Stowers Lorna Clevenger Tobler	Community Life Church Life Professional Life Family Life Outstanding Achievement			
1994	Gayle McCoy Clark Madelynn Jones Haldeman Frances "Penny" Gustafson Miller Carol Doe Porter Karen Scott Penny Shell	Family Life Church Life Professional Life Community Life Outstanding Achievement Pastor/Chaplain			



Donors

- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
- COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
- DR. ERIC & AMABEL TSAO
- PRISCILLA & JIM WALTERS

Special Thanks

- NERIDA BATES, MD, PHD — PROGRAM CONTENT
- GEORGIA HODGKIN, EDD, RD, FADA — PROGRAM CONTENT
- LINDA BECKER, PHD — AWARDEE BIOS
- ALEX HODGKIN — MUSIC SUPERVISOR
- SHEILA & STEVE HODGKIN — FLOWERS
- LEDY ANN CORDERO, MS, RDN, DIPACLM — PROGRAM DESIGN

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