Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis Legends Award

The Legends Award pays tribute to women whose work embodies the mission of the Women’s Foundation. The purpose of the Legends Award is to applaud these Honorees, whose visionary and innovative work is paramount in their specialized areas of outreach. Legends Award Artists and Writers create works of art and prose that personify the Legends Award Honorees’ accomplishments and contributions to this community.

Legends Award Reception
Tuesday, April 16, 2013 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
The Columns at One Commerce Square | 40 South Main Street

2013 Legends Award Honorees

Rosie Phillips Bingham, Ph.D.
A prolific writer, presenter and leader in the field of psychology, Dr. Rosie Phillips Bingham became the first African-American to serve as Vice President of Student Affairs at the University of Memphis in 2003. She has served as president of three national professional organizations—the Association of University and College Counseling Center Directors, the International Association of Counseling Services, and the Society of Counseling Psychology of the American Psychological Association (APA). Rosie was an organizer of the first National Multicultural Conference and Summit of the APA. She was selected as one of 15 women from around the world to participate in the Women of Color Development Incubator Project funded by the Kellogg Foundation and used that training when she served as Chair of the Board of the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM). She also served on the Board of Directors for American Psychological Association and on the Council of Student Affairs for the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities. Locally, she serves on the Baptist Women’s Hospital Board of Directors and on the Boards of Trustees for New Memphis Institute and WFGM.

Kathy Buckman Gibson
Kathy Buckman Gibson stands on a legacy of entrepreneurship, philanthropy and dedication to Memphis. As Chairman of the Board at Buckman Laboratories International, Inc., Kathy succeeds her father, Robert Buckman, as head of the company that her grandfather, Stanley J. Buckman, created in 1945. Following in the footsteps of one Memphis’ most well-known philanthropists – her grandmother, Mertie Buckman – Kathy has given her time and attention to improving education and the local economy, as well as the arts. She serves on the Board of Trustees of the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis, the very organization her grandmother started in 1995. Kathy is involved in almost every aspect of the community, serving as co-chair of the Memphis Talent Dividend: College Attainment Initiative, and on the boards of the Tennessee College Access and Success Network, the National Civil Rights Museum and the national board of Girls, Inc., where she was recently elected treasurer.

Carolyn Chism Hardy
Taking the road less traveled by women in business, Carolyn Chism Hardy has been an executive in Memphis for more than 30 years. A trailblazer, innovator and job creator, she started her career at the J. M. Smucker Company where she successfully managed Finance, Quality, and Human Resources before becoming the first African-American female Plant Manager. Carolyn left Smucker to serve as Vice President of Services, responsible for national software implementations for Honeywell-POMS Corporation. In addition, Carolyn was former Vice President/General Manager for Coors Brewing Company. She was the first African-American female Vice President/GM of a major brewery. In this role, she was responsible for manufacturing and distributions, serving the southeastern US and 100 percent of international distribution and military bases around the world. In 2006, Carolyn had another first when she started Hardy Bottling Company, making her the first African American female to own a major brewery with the ability to manufacture over 100 million cases.
Hazel G. Moore has spent more than 40 years as a cosmetology professional and licensed instructor. She is a successful businesswoman and the sole proprietor of Hazel’s Hair Fashion. As a trailblazer in the beauty industry, she was appointed by the Governor of the State of Tennessee to the State Board of Cosmetology to assist in regulating state laws, a position she held for more than twenty 20 years. Affectionately known as “the Mayor of Whitehaven,” Hazel is often called upon by city leaders to participate in strategic planning meetings to address problems, projects, programs and initiatives that impact the community. Hazel has been instrumental in the advancement of the Whitehaven community, working with city leaders to aid in the construction of the Whitehaven Branch Library. For the past 20 years, Hazel has sponsored several annual events in the Whitehaven community has served on a number of boards and committees and held several leadership positions. Presently she is a member of Methodist South Healthcare Community Board, President of Community Relations Council Board of Dr. Benjamin Hooks Job Corps Center, Remington College Memphis Campus Advisory Board and the Mayor’s Advisory Board on Education.

Barbara U. Prescott, Ph.D. Dedicated to educating children in Memphis and Shelby County, Dr. Barbara U. Prescott has worked on the front lines to improve the education system for 30 years. She is presently the Executive Director of PeopleFirst Partnership, the education and talent component of Memphis Fast Forward. Starting her career as a teacher and guidance counselor, Barbara was co-director for the Optional Schools Program and is a former three-term member of the Memphis City School Board where she served twice as President and Vice President. During that time, she sat on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA); was named to the All Tennessee School Board; chaired the Ethics Advisory Board; earned the distinction of Master School Board member and served as the President of TSBA. She has been an instructor for TSBA’s Vision Academy and the Board/Superintendent Relations Academy and has worked with school boards and systems across the state in team building and strategic planning.

Dr. Prescott was recently appointed to the Transitional Planning Commission (TPC) in 2010 and elected chair. The TPC was tasked with creating the plan for the merger between Shelby County and Memphis City Schools. She is also a licensed professional counselor.

Rachel Shankman was born in a displaced persons camp in Munich, Germany and was brought to the United States at an early age. Her life experiences led her to join the staff of Facing History and Ourselves in 1991. Prior to joining Facing History, she was director of the Jewish Student Union at Memphis State University, educational director of Beth Sholom Synagogue, regional director of the B’nai B’rith Youth Organization, and a casework associate with Family Services of Memphis. Rachel served as the first woman President of Beth Sholom Synagogue, has served on numerous boards and was a graduate of Leadership Memphis, Class of 1994. Rachel was selected to be listed in Who’s Who for the year 2000 and the recipient of the Women of Achievement Award in the category of initiative. In November 2004, she was awarded the Bishop Carroll T. Dozier Award for Peace and Justice from Christian Brothers University. Most recently, Rachel received the 2012 Ruby R. Wharton Award for outstanding service in the field of race relations.

2013 Legends Award Honorees, Artists and Writers

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*Each Honoree’s Artist and Writer appears beside the Honoree’s name.

2013 Legends Award Committee
Rosemarie Fair, TaJuan Stout Mitchell, Co-chairs | Andrea Bienstock | Gale Jones Carson | Gadsby Creson | Elizabeth Edwards | Erin Harmon
Carissa Hussong | Mariana Pacini | Susan Stephenson | Anita S. Vaughn | Regina Walker | Becky Jones West | Ellen Abbey Westbrook