The Legends Award pays tribute to women whose work embodies the mission of the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM). The award was created in 2009 to honor trend-setters, visionaries and innovators. The recipients have mastered their field and use their knowledge and skills to better the community. Nominated by their peers, a select group of women are honored each year through original art and prose that will tour the Mid-South with the Legends Award Art Exhibition. The pieces are created in a collaborative effort between an artist and a writer to represent the honorees’ life.

There are now 66 Legends Award Honorees. A body of art and prose that communicates their strength, grace and vision are on permanent display at The Hall of Legends in the Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women.

ANNouncing the 2018 Legends Award Honorees

**Rev. Sonia Louden Walker**

**Catalyst Award**

Sonia currently serves as the associate pastor at First Congregational Church in midtown Memphis. When she arrived in Memphis in 1974, the mother of three sons and wife of the new president of LeMoyne-Owen College, she had already had a career in education and healthcare. She took a job as Director of Community Relations at WHBQ-TV, beginning a 16-year term as manager of public affairs programming and community service projects for the ABC affiliate. The station’s annual Feeding Families food drive provided food for hungry families. This lead to her involvement with the Mid-South Food Bank and life-long commitment to help end hunger in the community. She was instrumental in helping the Mid-South Food Bank expand their food ministry from a small snack program to providing over 900 meals and groceries to almost 400 households each month. She served on public boards, hosted “A Closer Look” and delivered editorials, addressing social issues and solutions. Out of a lifelong commitment to education and children, she staffed and equipped the first office of Partners in Public Education and served as executive director. Sonia has served on numerous boards and advisory committees including the Chamber of Commerce, the Memphis Literacy Foundation, the Mid-South Food Bank, the Memphis Jobs Conference and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She is a founding board member of Leadership Memphis and was the first woman and the first person of color to serve as chair. She is an honorary trustee of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis.

**Anita S. Vaughn**

**Innovation Award**

Anita S. Vaughn is a lifelong Memphian and registered nurse who worked with Baptist Memorial Health Care for over 40 years. A champion for raising the level of women’s and children’s health, she is a trailblazer for making quality health care and information more accessible and convenient for women and their families. After directing the five Critical Care Units at Baptist Medical Center, she was promoted to Chief Nursing Officer of Baptist Memorial Hospital Memphis. In 1998, she was selected as CEO to lead the planning and development team for Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women. Her most recent accomplishment is leading the effort to transition pediatrics from Baptist Memorial Hospital Memphis, the Baptist System’s flagship hospital, to a pediatric addition now known as the Spence and Becky Wilson Baptist Children’s Hospital.
Fredrika “Freddi” Felt

PHILANTHROPY AND LEADERSHIP AWARD

Fredrika “Freddi” Felt has served as president of the Lichterman Loewenberg Foundation since 1993. Founded in 1945, the foundation supports youth services, education, the Jewish community and other agencies whose work brings about lasting improvements in our community. The foundation funds the Loewenberg College of Nursing, Pink Palace Family of Museums, Lichterman Nature Center, and proudly supports the Levitt Shell. Freddi is retired from aquatics at the Memphis Jewish Community Center, having taught all levels of swimming, including lifeguarding. Freddi is an active Girl Scout, serving as leader for 25 years of Girl Scout Troops 26 and 51 at the Brownie, Junior, Cadet and Senior Levels. She has served on the Board of Directors for Girls Scouts Heart of the South for several terms helping to organize troops and raise funds, and also served on the camp planning committee. As a council trainer, she has taught new leaders outdoor skills, CPR/First Aid, canoeing, sailing and water safety. She has been honored by the National Jewish Girl Scout Committee with the Ora Award, by the Tenn-Ark-Miss Council with the Thanks Badge, and by the Girl Scouts Heart of the South Council with the 2007 Woman of Character Award and the One Smart Cookie award in 2017. Freddi currently serves on the board and committees of the Memphis Jewish Community Center, the Children’s Museum of Memphis, and is on the Dean’s advisory Board of the Loewenberg College of Nursing at the University of Memphis. Fredrika is married to Joel Felt and has three children.

LEGENDS AWARD ARTIST – NJ Woods | LEGENDS AWARD WRITER – Melanie Schild

WOMEN’S FOUNDATION FOR A GREATER MEMPHIS

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