

Women's History Project 42nd Woman of the Year Awards

Moving Forward TOGETHER!
Women Educating & Inspiring Generations



The Women's History Project of the Akron Area became a program of the Society in 2013 with an event in collaboration with the University of Akron.

Keith Dambrot, son of Faye Hersh Dambrot - WHP co-founder, name, Ted Curtis, Leianne Neff Heppner, Kitty Endres, Ph.D., Theresa S. Beyerle, Ph.D., Bill Hyde, Candace Campbell Jackson and Amani Abraham.



St. George Fellowship Centre
March 12, 2025



2013 – WHP becomes a program of SCHS



THE
SUMMIT COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AKRON, OHIO

History Within Reach

1983 – Our Founding Mothers



Elaine Young (right) represented the Girl Scouts of the Western Reserve when she signed WHP papers in November 1983.

Carole Garrison (right) represented the Akron Branch of the AAUW. After she and Faye founded Women's Studies at UA, Carole became director of that program but remained active in WHP.

Faye Dambrot (left) had the vision to start WHP -- and remained a force behind it until her death in 2000.



Marjorie Capotosto Shanahan (left) played many roles in the 1983 event, including modeling this historic dress.

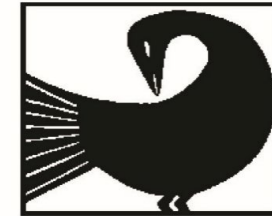
Marjorie Thiell (right) was one of the leaders of WHP's first Woman of the Year events in March 1983.



Sister Martha Leyden (left) organized the 1984 Woman of the Year awards.



Business and
Professional
Women/OH
Akron Local



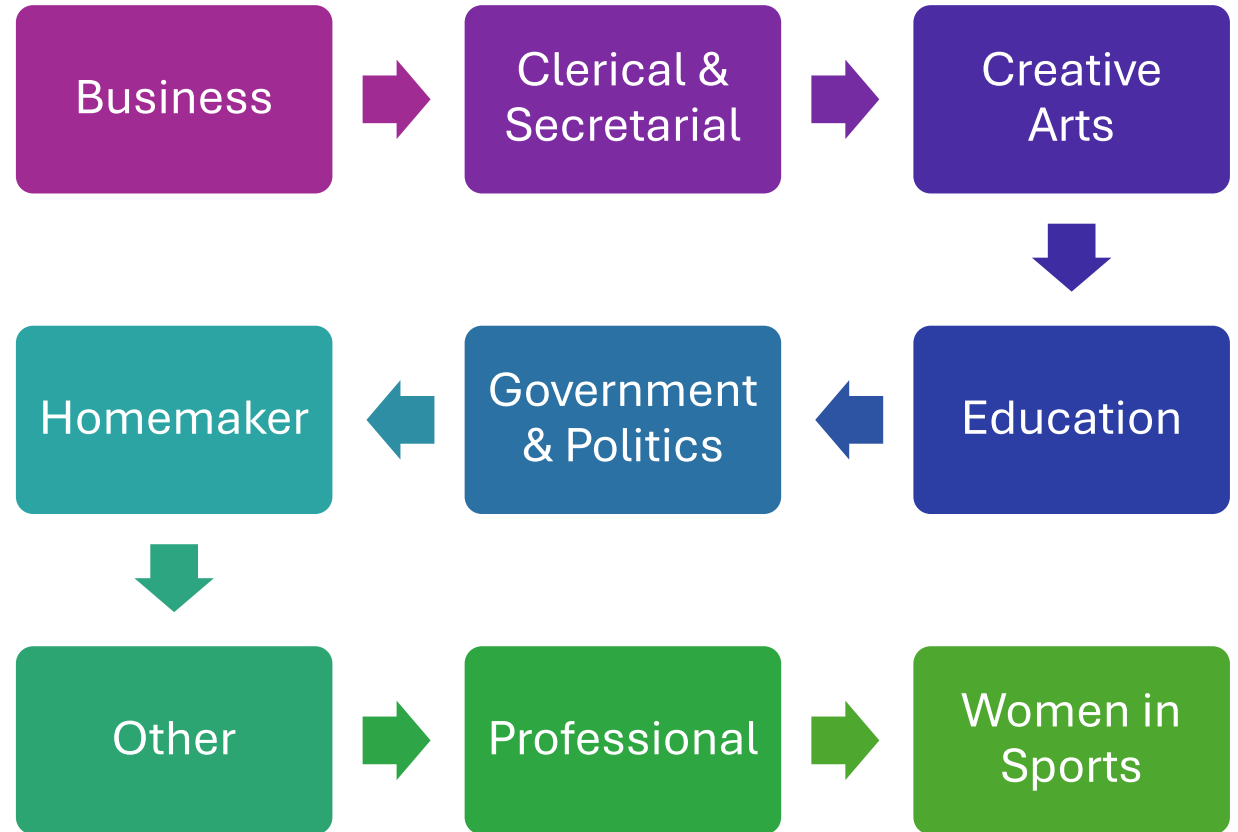
Institute for Life Span Development and
Gerontology, The University of Akron



Akron, OH



1983 Award Categories



1983 – First WHP Award Recipients

Evangeline Doyle, O.P. – Creative Arts

Flora Flint – Clerical & Secretarial

Judge Joyce George – Government & Politics

Marie Greathouse – Community Service

Penelope House Hauser - Homemaker

Dorothy O. Jackson - Other

Martha Nelson - Business

Judith Nicely – Professional

Karen Oldham - Sports

Kathryn Vegso - Education

1984 Categories



Community Service



Home

40th Anniversary

Woman of the Year Awards



Women's History Week set

In honor of Women's History Week, March 4-10, women in Akron will celebrate by putting the emphasis on *her* instead of *his* for a weeklong celebration that kicks off Sunday, March 4, with an awards program called *HerStory in the Making*.

More than 100 Akron-area women have been nominated by 40 women's social and professional organizations for 1984 HerStory Awards. The awards will recognize the achievements of women in three categories: professional, community and home. A total of 10 awards will be given. Each winner will receive a woven wall-hanging by artist Jennie Hutchings. In addition, the 40 participating groups each will honor an outstanding member of its

1987 Award Categories

Non-
Traditional

Senior

Youth

1990 Award Categories

Courage

Creativity

Faith

Imagination

Initiative

Inspiration

Integrity

Perseverance

Pioneer

Posthumous

Woman to
Watch

Additional Award Categories

1992

Pioneering Leadership

1995

Innovation

2004

Ellet



1990 – (Judith Resnik) Inspiration Award

1990 –
(Minnie Ellet)
Faith Award





1990 – (Margaret Chapman Barnhart) Integrity Award



1990 – (Rita Dove) Creativity Award



Virginia Wojno-Forney - 2022

1990 – (Marietta
Evaline Atwood)
Imagination Award



1990 – (Elizabeth A. Thompson) Perseverance Award

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

283 East Buchtel Avenue

ELIZABETH A. THOMPSON, *Professor of History and Dean of Women*
A. M., Municipal University of Akron.



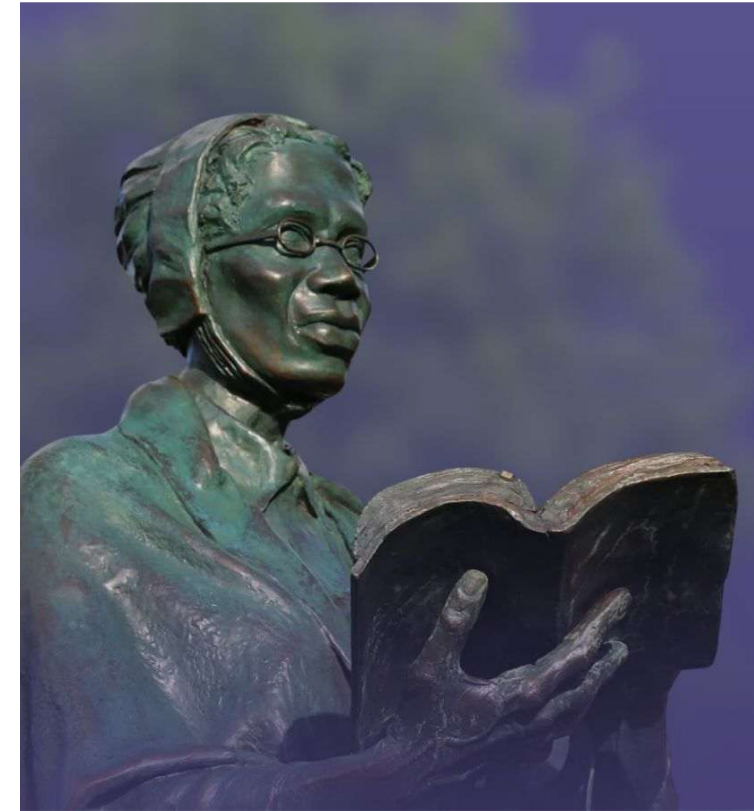
1990 – (Sister Mary Ignatia Gavin) Initiative Award



1990 – (Mary Perkins Raymond) Pioneer Award



Katy Miller - 2017



1990 – (Sojourner Truth) Courage Award

1990 – Posthumous Award



Judy Read
2017



Betty Dalton
2020



Olive Husk Beason
2021

WOMAN TO WATCH

Madison Radke

It's hard to believe that Madison Radke is only 25 years old. She's already director of admissions at the village of St. Edwards at Green, the third and newest campus of the large, regional senior living complex. She is also president of the Chamber of Commerce in the city of Green and is setting up a "Young Professionals" group for the community. Born in Medina, she attended Kent State University majoring in Human Development and Family Studies with an emphasis on Gerontology. Radke draws her strength and inspiration from her family and she advises young women to find a mentor.



Madison Radke - 2023



Amani Abraham - 2011



Nicole Mullet - 2014

1990 – Woman to Watch



Marie Covington - 1997



Christine Amer Mayer - 2015



Marcella Kanfer Rolnick - 2008

1995 – Innovation Award



TRUTH

SOJOURNER TRUTH **EDUCATION** COMMITTEE

2004 – Heroine, Faye Hersh Dambrot Award

How can you get involved?

Nominate



Women's History Project of the Akron Area 2026 Woman of the Year Award Nomination Form

Nominee:

Nominee's address: _____

Nominee's phone number and e-mail address: _____

Award Categories (check as many as apply):

Courage Imagination Pioneer Creativity Innovation

Perseverance Faith Inspiration Initiative Integrity

Woman to Watch (A woman age 30 or under) Heroine Posthumous

Please **attach** a document describing the Nominee's qualifications for an award.

Nominations:

- Should include an explanation of why the nominee fits a category/categories.
- Should also show relationships outside of work that make a difference in our community including volunteerism and leadership roles.
- May include letters of support or additional documentation.

Nominator's name, phone number and e-mail address: _____

Please submit applications via email to WHP@summithistory.org or mail to "Woman of the Year Award" Committee
c/o The Summit County Historical Society of Akron, Ohio
550 Copley Road
Akron, Ohio 44320
Deadline: November 1, 2025



Attend



2026 Woman of the Year Award Recipients

Award Ceremony - March 25th at St. George Fellowship Centre



County of Summit · The High Point of Ohio



**ILENE
SHAPIRO**
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Sponsor the event

Patron Ticket	\$100.00
Women's Empowerment Sponsorship	\$2,500.00
Heroine Sponsorship	\$1,000.00
Women at the Table Sponsorship	\$800.00
Women's Rights Ad	\$400.00
Lifting Women Up Ad	\$150.00

WHP Committee

Theresa Susan Beyerle, Ph.D., chair

Katie Byard Carney

Kathleen “Kitty” Endres, Ph.D.

Amy Freels

Carrie Herman

Karen Hrdlicka

Judy James

Holli Mallak

Towanda Mullins

Willette Riley

Zulekha Sharp

Rose Vance-Grom

Leianne Neff Heppner, ex officio



THE
SUMMIT COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AKRON, OHIO™

History Within Reach

Thank you!

Leianne Neff Heppner, President & CEO
SummitHistory.org

