A Message from the President...

Greetings to all of you and hopefully you are enjoying the summer weather. This newsletter is designed to provide information on happenings that have already occurred and to highlight the coming events. We want to keep you informed and active as a members of the HWC.

The HWC Annual Retreat was held on March 23, 2013, hosted by Mary Frances Santistevan in her beautiful home. We welcomed two new members to the Board, Marcela Sandoval and Yvonne Grimes, and elected new board officers: President elect—Lenore Armijo, Vice President – Micha Rinaldi, Secretary – Vangie Samora, Treasurer – Raqui Martinez and our past president Carol Vigil will continue this year to guide and help with the transition. A special note of appreciation to Carol for the leadership she provided this past year. The Retreat was very productive, and an aggressive agenda was developed to raise funds for the scholarship fund and to promote the work of Hispanic women in various venues over the coming year. The work of the HWC this year has a two-fold focus: 1) activities to raise funds to support Hispanic women wishing to pursue higher education; and 2) to communicate and connect more with Hispanic women by holding events that bring us together as an organization with purpose and common interests. It is important for us to share ideas, knowledge, and expertise. Hence, we have decided to hold several functions this year that will bring us together often. In this issue you will read about the Mother & Daughter Brunch, Mitote Power Hour networking events, a Meet & Greet with scholarship recipients and the dinner and dance event in the fall.

Vi Florez

Annual Membership Meeting

Our Annual Membership meeting was held at the Marriott Pyramid on February 10, 2013. This is always a great way to start the year—a time to reconnect and talk about what we want to accomplish this year. The attendees heard from President Vi Florez about her goals for the year and the traditional round-robin allows everyone to say a few words about themselves. We are always inspired by the collective wisdom, experience and accomplishment that is HWC.
Annual Peña Femenina

The 6th Annual Peña Femenina event, in partnership with Women & Creativity, was held at the National Hispanic Cultural Center with “standing room only.” We featured talented community performers: Las Flores del Valle singing duet with Leila Flores-Dueñas and Carol Vigil; Trupthi Panikor, a trained Indian classical dancer; vocalist Sandra Montoya; musical ensemble L@SOTRAS; Blues singer Sherri Gonzales; and Mariachi Buenaventura from Santa Fe. We hope you plan to attend next year.

Scholarships Awarded 2013-14

The HWC is in its fifth year of supporting Hispanic women to complete their educational degrees. The application process for this year has been completed and the Scholarship Committee has awarded 24 scholarships for 2013-2014. A special thanks to all of the donors who consistently contribute and make a positive difference for Hispanic women pursuing higher education.

Mitote Power Hours-Networking Events

On June 14, 2013, the HWC sponsored “Self Care for the Care-Giver” to learn about health care of SELF while caring for loved ones with long-term health needs. The event was hosted by the Alzheimer Association, New Mexico Chapter, and presented by Annabelle Montoya, Regional Manager. The session offered new insights on how to care for elderly parents and at the same time seek support from others on how to take care of ourselves in the process. We plan to continue providing opportunities for women to learn more about being healthy in multiple ways.

On August 16, 2013, a Mitote Power Hour was held at the home of Carla Aragon and sponsored by the HWC Board Members. In this beautiful setting, the evening was delightful, fun, and rich in conversation and networking. A special thanks to Carla for hosting this wonderful event. Hope more of you can join us for the winter gathering.

HWC Traditional Hispanic Recipes Cookbook

As a fundraising activity, the HWC is planning to develop and publish a cookbook of traditional Hispanic recipes that have been in our families for years. Vi Florez is leading this project and has made two solicitations so far. Some recipes have been collected, but we need more, so please send us your favorite recipe. We are hoping to design the Cookbook to reflect the foods of the southwest along with wonderful traditions and treats. Email your recipes to Vi Florez at Vflorez1@gmail.com or mail them to P. O. Box 27271, Albuquerque, NM 87125.

Fashion Show Models at the 2013 Mother-Daughter Brunch

L-R: Veronica Tighe, Anna Herrera, Corine Trujillo, Novella Herrera, Francela Valdez, Maria Gutierrez, Rebecca Florez, Jennifer Baca Morris, Geraldine Gallegos, Bernadette Cordova
The Mother/Daughter Brunch was held on May 5, 2013 at the Embassy Suites. The Brunch was a special opportunity to connect and reconnect with *comadres* and celebrate our mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, best friends...the women who have nurtured us. The participation was wonderful, with over 95 in attendance.

The Brunch included a Fashion Show sponsored by Dillard's Department Store and featuring the newest fashion trends for spring and summer. The fashion models were HWC members, UNM students, & scholarship recipients. Special thanks to Mary Frances Santistevan and Jo Martinez for organizing the show.

A successful Silent Auction was organized by Vangie Samora, Raqui Martinez and Micha Rinaldi. Thank you to the HWC members who donated wonderful gifts and solicited services from the business community.

The Event was a resounding success, and we were able to raise some funds for scholarships and operations of the HWC. We are already planning for next year and have set a date of May 4, 2014, so get this on your calendar. If you would like to join the Planning Committee, please contact Mary Frances Santistevan at: ilovegreenchile@yahoo.com.

**Upcoming Events**

**Masquerade Charity Ball Dinner & Dance, October 26, 2013**

The HWC is hosting a Masquerade Charity Ball to raise funds for the scholarship fund and mentorship program. The event is October 26, 2013, at the Embassy Suites and will feature a reception, dinner and dance, a 50/50 Raffle, and the ABQ *Nouveau Retablo™* Silent Auction featuring the work of celebrated local artists. Tickets are $100 per person; tables are $1,000 for a table of 10.

We are soliciting sponsors and have set the sponsorship levels at $250, $500, $1,000, $5,000 & $10,000. If you would like to be a sponsor or can help us approach a business or corporation, please contact Vangie Samora at vsamora7@gmail.com.

A successful event will help us to continue awarding scholarships to deserving Hispanic women students. Our scholarship was created in 2007 to create a legacy of educating Hispanic women and supporting them to become influential leaders in our community. Since its inception, the HWC has awarded an impressive 104 scholarships totaling $40,100 and provided mentorship to each recipient.

Thank you for all of your efforts. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Meet & Greet Our Scholars, September 27, 2013**

The Meet and Greet event provides an opportunity for Scholarship students to meet the HWC Board and members of the organization. This gathering provides an opportunity to connect with these young women as they pursue their aspirations to earn a college degree. More details to follow.
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Yvonne Grimes, HWC Scholar
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