



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2009

Nancy Barker Honored as 2009 Art Sweetheart

What: *Art Sweetheart Luncheon Honoring Nancy Barker*
When: February 12, 2009, 11.30 am – 1 pm
Where: Creative Spirit Center, 1517 Bayliss Street, Midland
Cost: \$40.00 registration, due by February 9
Information: Call 989-837-1885 or visit [www:creativespiritcenter.org](http://www.creativespiritcenter.org)

[Midland] – At a gala luncheon on Thursday, February 12, Nancy Barker of Midland will be named Creative Spirit Center’s 2009 Art Sweetheart. The award is presented annually to a mid-Michigan individual who has made significant contributions to the support and advancement of the arts and culture through exceptional vision, leadership, and commitment. The Valentine-themed luncheon will include a 3-course meal from Catering by Rachel, opportunity for tributes from guests, and a talk by the honoree reviewing her fascinating life as an arts advocate within a business environment. The event is a fundraiser for Creative Spirit Center.

About Nancy Barker

Barker has achieved wide-ranging acknowledgment for her accomplishments as an arts advocate and cultural ambassador. A graduate of the University of Michigan, she served on the founding committee of the Midland Center for the Arts, chaired both the Midland Art Council (now the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art) and the Midland Symphony League, and is a past chair of Matrix: Midland. In the 1950’s she wrote a *Teacher’s Guide to Arts and Crafts*. In the 1970’s she chaired Northwood Institute’s Fashion Marketing and Merchandising Department and also helped to found and for many years supervised the Northwood National Arts Programs, including the Northwood Gallery, the Northwood Orchestra, the International Costume Collection, the university’s Art Collection, the university’s Achievement in the Arts award in New York City, and the Alden B. Dow Creativity Center. In the 1990’s her office of Vice President of External Affairs at Northwood University incubated Creative Spirit Center. Her community service and professional milestones were achieved while rearing nine children with her husband, attorney Bill Barker. She is a member of the Zonta Club of Midland and the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce, which presented her with its prestigious ATHENA award in 2007. She was presented a special 25th Anniversary Award by the Midland Art Association and recently was named one of the “Leading Ladies” of the Midland Center for the Arts. Currently, she serves as Vice Chair of the ArtServe Michigan Board of Directors and sits on the board of Michigan Women in Higher Education..

About the Art Sweetheart Award

For the past seven years, Creative Spirit Center has honored an area resident for contributions of vision, leadership, and advocacy for the arts. Honorees meet the following criteria:

- an advocate and supporter of the arts and humanities in the Tri-Cities area for at least 10 years
- publicly identified with the arts and humanities
- volunteers in activities that support the arts and humanities
- involved with more than one arts agency or organization

Past recipients of the award:

2003 – Dorothy Yates, Midland journalist and author

2004 – Virginia (Ginny) Morrison, Midland arts and humanities advocate

2005 – Janet I. Martineau of Saginaw, arts and entertainment editor of the *Saginaw News*

2006 – Barbara Prince-Sovereign, Midland writer and human potential guide

2007 – Sally Moss of Midland, early childhood educator

2008 – Judy Rapanos, arts advocate, chair of the Michigan Humanities Council, and Presidential appointee to the National Museum and Library Services Board

About Creative Spirit Center

Creative Spirit Center is a not-for-profit community arts organization founded in 1994. The Center's mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, conferences, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, psychological and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities.

Printed Winter/Spring 2009 schedules showing all classes and events at Creative Spirit Center are available at no charge. Telephone 837-1885 to have schedules delivered to your business or location, or mailed to your home.

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Nancy Barker of Midland, Creative Spirit Center's 2009 Art Sweetheart