

How Many Fabulous Women Can Fit Inside Our Red Tent? Lots... Men, Too!



More than one hundred people — men, women, and children — participated in the Red Tent events from June 21–26, 2011, marking the celebration of the 35th anniversary of Womanspace. The labyrinth solstice walk and overnight vigil that opened the series of events were a great success despite the threat of storms — thanks to the newly inaugurated Anjali Pavilion. After opening ceremonies on the outdoor labyrinth, as thunder sounded, the participants withdrew to the shelter of the pavilion. There they found a magical space with fairy lights, a chalk-drawn labyrinth, rafters draped with red fabrics and the gentle glow of luminarias, enabling the vigil to proceed as planned.

The stimulating Red Tent events that followed included art exhibits, discussions of Anita Diamant's landmark book *The Red Tent*, poetry and narrative readings from the new *Red Silk: A Red Tent Anthology* published

by Womanspace, a preview of the film *Things We Don't Talk About* by Isadora Leidenfrost, panels of experts sharing insights on women's and girls' health, and an international food festival at the close of the program.

Gallery 3 in New Dimensions was also transformed by Chrissy Stanfa and Mary Stiles into a glorious textile space draped with lush red fabric, contributed by Carol Valaitis,

as well as rugs, pillows, and quilts made by Womanspace members and friends. The gallery became a symbol of the unifying experience of the Red Tent, and the quilts, an enduring legacy of the anniversary celebrations. Becki Dennis, Fiona Fordyce, Anne Johnson, and Una Ryan conducted several workshops where the colorful squares were designed. They encouraged creative designs by many who had never worked in this medium before. After the quilts were assembled, Stephanie Gauerke of Quilters Haven provided the professional quilting. Stephanie also contributed the sashing and the backing fabric. ♡



 **developments**
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Our mission: **Connecting, empowering, creating and transforming our world — one woman at a time.** Womanspace seeks to inspire individuals to discover new talents, interests and friendships, and is dedicated to helping people live their best lives through programs that enhance mind, body and spirit. Situated on a seven-acre campus with art studios and galleries, Gallery2Go gift shop, beautiful gardens and a labyrinth, Womanspace has touched the lives of more than 25,000 men, women and children since its founding in Rockford, Illinois in 1975. Womanspace operates as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Visit our web site to donate now.

Lovely Anjali Pavilion Attracts Admirers, Provides Outdoor Shelter—Rain or Shine



Neither rain, nor damp, nor power outages after overnight storms—nothing deterred some 70 dignitaries, including guests, neighbors, and other supporters, who came to celebrate the dedication of the Anjali Pavilion at Womanspace on June 9th. The graceful structure was generously donated by Sunil Puri, president of First Rockford Group Inc. The weather cleared shortly before the dedication ceremonies, enabling everyone to enjoy the beauty of the new pavilion.

With Mayor Lawrence Morrissey and Rockford Chamber of Commerce President Einar Forsman in attendance, as well as members of the Womanspace board, the Advisory Council, and the Womanspace Ambassadors, Executive Director Elaine Hirschenberger thanked Mr. Puri for this most recent gift and for his many other contributions to Womanspace. She commended his wise counsel and that of his professional colleagues in all aspects of the design and construction of the structure. The resulting well-crafted pavilion is suited to a wide array of uses.

Mr. Puri's nine-year-old daughter Anjali, for whom the pavilion is named, cut the ceremonial ribbon, marking the official opening of the structure. Anjali was welcomed into the Womanspace community with a Junior Membership. The ribbon cutting and dedication was reported on 13 News by WREX.



A granite boulder memorializing the dedication of the Anjali Pavilion features a plaque with Mother Theresa's "Anyway" poem, which includes these phrases: "If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy

anyway. The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway."

As the sky brightened through the morning, the visitors admired the detailing of the pavilion, including elegantly shaped wood pillars, hip-roof with scalloped trim, bright white ceiling, smooth concrete floor, ample overhead lighting and many practical electrical outlets, all surrounded by plantings to enhance the setting at the edge of the pine forest.

The Anjali Pavilion became the central gathering space for the Red Tent events in June (see page 4). Before the dedication, the pavilion was put to good use at the Glitz Garage Sale. Future plans for the pavilion include outdoor concerts, art classes, and other programs, including the popular Fairy Festival with Rockford Dance Company on July 23rd. Rental of the pavilion for weddings, family events, and other gatherings, will be offered to the public depending on the schedule of Womanspace activities.

Sunil Puri, a member of the Advisory Council of Womanspace, is co-founder and sole owner of First Rockford Group Inc., a diversified real estate development firm. Born in Bombay, India in 1960, Mr. Puri immigrated to the United States in 1979 to attend Rockford College, where he graduated in 1982 with a B.S. in Accounting. He has pursued advanced studies at Rockford College, London Business School, and Harvard Business School. He serves on several community boards and is an avid supporter of the Rockford arts and cultural community. ♡





Joy Valentine: A Teacher's Sunny Legacy Enabled Womanspace to Weather Storm

Joy Valentine was one of those lively, dedicated teachers you admired when you were in school. Joy taught 5th grade in the Rockford school system from the mid 1960s until 1994. During those decades in the classroom, she undoubtedly inspired many students with her love of life and the natural world. The well-rounded individuals that emerged from her classes are an enduring legacy in Rockford today.



when they were both teachers. As their friendship grew, the McKean family soon welcomed Joy as part of their family. "I know she brought her philosophy of life and love of nature into the lives of my children, for which I am always grateful," said Linda. The McKean family dedicated a brick in the Womanspace Celebration Garden to Joy, "Our Sunshine."

Joy also gave a special gift to

everyone who has enjoyed Womanspace over the past few years. She included a bequest to Womanspace in her will. When she passed away after a long illness in 2008, the Womanspace community was surprised to learn that Joy had designated a portion of her estate to "Your Place." Joy's gift enabled Womanspace to weather the recent years of economic distress without the drastic cuts to programming and staff that many other nonprofits had to undertake. Joy's love of life and nature live on in her legacy to all of us. 🌻

But her generosity of spirit did not stop there. Joy became an active member of Womanspace following her retirement from teaching middle school. She taught photography and guitar classes at Womanspace, participated in many programs, and served in various volunteer roles, including several of the original "Reach for the Arts" benefits, according to her good friend Linda McKean, a former Womanspace member who now lives in Surprise, Arizona. Linda remembered the sunshine that Joy brought into so many lives. Linda and Joy met

What Kind of Legacy Will You Leave Tomorrow's Women?



Daughters, nieces, neighbors, friends. . . so many women need a special place — Womanspace. And you can ensure that Womanspace is there when needed. Ask your lawyer how you can create a bequest for Womanspace in your will or estate plans. Or consider naming Womanspace as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy that no longer fits your family needs. Whatever kind of legacy you leave, you can be sure that women will remember and be grateful.

Insights

If you live in a place called here and in a time called now, trust will suddenly appear and belief in change will energize you. You will dream what is possible like children or wise elders do. Living in here-and-now presence reveals time as an illusion and space as elastic.

Womanspace Center's growth over the past 35 years reflects PRESENCE, a blessing for our community. I've watched men and women raising tents for a summer garage sale, intense children painting in art camps, women choosing leadership roles, counselors listening with compassion, and much more. Recently we celebrated Red Tent activities under our new pavilion. Women of all colors, creeds and ages read their poetry and prose; others displayed their quilts. All were energized through true presence.

For all who volunteer, staff, participate in and sponsor programs, create works of art and share your financial resources, we THANK YOU for supporting who we are becoming together!

Dorothy Bock
Dorothy Bock
Development Director

Dynamic Trio of Events Raise Funds, Foster Vibrant Community Programs

Four keys to success in fundraising events: fun, innovation, value, and purpose. The major fundraisers for Womanspace this year featured plenty of all four.



Art2Go

The season started with a blast of creativity as six amazing works of art were raffled off at "Art2Go," this year's Outreach for the Arts program. Artists Elaine Hirschenberger, Cindy Hughes, Scott Mount, Gary Simon, Dee Santorini and Nancy Von Lugossy donated striking pieces that stirred the senses and evoked contemplation. In addition, 30 works of art were contributed by artists for a silent auction conducted throughout the evening. Enhanced by wine, a delicious buffet, and the live music of the Burns Brothers, the evening's entertainment moved along at a lively pace thanks to emcee Jeannie Hayes of 13 News (WREX-TV).



The program raised more than \$14,000 this year for youth art scholarships, outreach to seniors, and general operations. Committee members Dorothy Bock, Jan Clinton, Cherie Heck, Elaine Hirschenberger, Norm Knott, Cindy Linnabary, Lenora Maier, Dee Santorini and Chrissy Stanfa artfully brought all the pieces of this gala event together.



The Road Back to Yourself

In a break with tradition that turned into a breakthrough, the annual Spring Luncheon featured keynote speaker Joan Anderson, best selling author of *A Year by the Sea*, who spoke on the theme of *The Road Back to Yourself*. Kristin Kofoed and Lisa Loudin led the committee that made this daring move. The step out and up proved a huge success. The sellout crowd at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center snapped up the upgraded \$10 mystery gifts, attractively presented by Carol Valaitis and her merry band of donors and wrappers, long before everyone was seated.



Raffle sales continued briskly until the final call for chances to win an enticing array of upscale prizes. Prizes included vacation getaways, such as a stay in Sedona, Arizona (contributed by Jan and Lance Cargill), or a week in Door County (given by Trish and Jim Black). Also offered was a gourmet dinner for six adults (at the lovely home of Carol and Joe Valaitis), complete with wine from Artale's and limo service from AAA Quality Limosines; an RV Daytrip for 12 (hosted by Jill Goldman); an EEA AirVenture in Oshkosh (from Kristen Kofoed and Kathy Phillip); and a family photo package (donated by Clabough Photography). Net proceeds of the Spring Luncheon totaled nearly \$13,000.



Kristin and Lisa, in their first turn as co-chairs of the event, welcomed the active support of their committee members: Kelly Epperson, Barb Giolitto, Judith Loudin, Linda Murphy, Shelly Volden, Kay Strand, Carol Valaitis, and Mary Tuite.

Glitzy Goes Glam

Delores and Bob Burkholder orchestrated the army of volunteers that created this year's legendary Glitzy Garage Sale. The new Anjali Pavilion was filled to the rafters with clothing ranging from designer glam to collectible t-shirts, from ball gowns to nightgowns, from winter coats to summer pajamas — all neatly sized, hung, or folded by the cadre of volunteers. Jewelry had a home of its own in New Dimensions studio. Toys, lightly used and antique furniture, electronics, house wares, bicycles, luggage and fitness equipment filled three circus-sized tents. Two of these tents now belong to Womanspace, thanks to the generous donation of Trish and Jim Black, (eliminating a large portion of the rental expense).



One lucky buyer snared an elegant living room suite in elegant white brocade upholstery. Others found treasures from their youth or serviceable items at great discounts. The weather mostly cooperated, and this dramatic form of recycling netted more than \$13,000 for Womanspace. The Glitzy brigade of volunteers, too numerous to mention but each deeply appreciated, was supported by core committee members Lynn Andreini, Trish Black, Bess Boyer, Jan Cargill, Jan Henningsen, Elaine Hirschenberger, Ruth Jackson, Bryn Jakeway, Pam Lonsway, Polly Olson, Tracy Pease, Kay Strand, and Mike Strand.

Sponsors Rise to the Occasion

Altogether, these three events raised more than \$40,000, including more than \$21,000 in sponsorships — a significant increase over previous years. We are especially grateful for the sponsorship support of the Law Office of Jim Black & Associates, Midwest Acupuncture & Pain Treatment Center, Alpine Bank, State Farm Agent Lisa Mawyer, Attorney Sandra Slaga, Leadership Communication Inc., Dick & Kit Conner, Stanley Steemer, Swedish American Hospital, Rockford Memorial Hospital and Helen Seger. 🌻