

Madrona Neighbor Appreciation Day 2011 Honors Special People

Neighbor Appreciation Day is a time we can all come together to recognize a few of the people who make our neighborhood so special. The Madrona K-8 library was filled with many smiles—and a few tears—on March 26 when the 2011 awards were handed out. Thanks so much to the Hi-Spot and Cupcake Royale for donating pastries, and to the Bottlehouse, St. Clouds, Kismet and Conrow Porcelain for providing thoughtful gifts for the award winners. Special thanks to the Madrona K-8 Girl Scouts for the entertainment, to Madrona K-8 for hosting, and to event organizers Jon Hughes, Barney Mansavage and Stacy Kryman for pulling it all together.



Madrona Resident for Life Award:

Given to a long-time, active resident who has left Madrona but is dearly missed.

As business owners of Dulces Latin Bistro at 34th and Pike for over 16 years, **Julie Guerrero and Carlos Kainz** brought much good cheer—and great food—to Madrona. Julie one of the pre-eminent female chefs in the city, Carlos, her business partner/husband/oenophile/maitre d/ restaurant manager, made an enormous contribution to the vibrant business life of Madrona. Gone now from our neighborhood, we'll always consider Julie and Carlos part of Madrona and eagerly await news of their next extraordinary restaurant.

The Nora Award:

Given to a Madrona resident who, over time and in ways both large and small, has left a personal mark on the community.

Audrey Seale created the Madrona Dining and Sipping Society, which brings neighbors together monthly to socialize while supporting Madrona's local restaurants. She works closely with restaurateurs to plan special menus and entertainment (including belly dancing at Turkuaz) and brings imagination to this concept, most recently organizing an evening at the Central Cinema for participants to meet local artist Trimpin and view a film about his remarkable musical inventions. Audrey helps our neighbors connect and build lasting ties that strengthen our community.



Go Panthers Award:

Given to an individual who has made extra and extraordinary efforts for the education and growth of Madrona K-8.

Parent volunteer **Julie Hansen** always seems to be asking: "How can I help?" When something needs doing, she's always the first one to volunteer, and she follows through on every task with grace. She's the PTSA Treasurer, a position that intimidates many volunteers, and does a great job, day-in and day-out.



The Tyrone Love Unsung Hero Award:

Given to a Madrona resident for service to others in the larger community.

The CDSA Preschool Teachers at Madrona School have an amazing impact on the children in our community.

Ms. Heather and **Ms. Dora** have both been at Community Day School Association (CDSA) for 18 years, and **Ms. Gwen** has been there seven years. Besides teaching at CDSA, Ms. Heather and Ms. Dora teach dance for kids at Spectrum and Epiphany. Ms. Heather has also contributed in countless ways at Madrona K-8 and St. Therese. Ms. Gwen grew up in this neighborhood and has faced a hard couple years. Her brother, Tyrone Love, was murdered two years ago, her house was foreclosed this past summer, her mother Roberta Harrison died this past fall, and Gwen now is the guardian of her younger sister. Gwen's resilient spirit is a constant reminder for all of us to get up, brush ourselves off and start a new day. All three women have a passion for the children at CDSA that is inspiring. They are a very visible and important part to our community and allow the children of CDSA to enjoy what Madrona has to offer.



Left to Right: Ms. Dora, Ms. Gwen, Ms. Heather

Madrona K-8 Student Awards (K-2, 3-5, 6-8):

Celebrates student achievement in three different grade categories.



K-2 Winner: Elijah Woolms, 2nd Grade. He is dependable and thoughtful—teachers know he will follow through with assignments. He is kind and other students—older and younger—look up to him.



3-5 Winner: Louis Moreno Vasquez, 3rd Grade. He is a student who takes a positive attitude toward his learning, sometimes staying after school voluntarily to do extra work. He's great at math and recognizing patterns, advocates for other kids, and loves baseball.



6-8 Winner: Bridget Laffite, 8th Grade. She is a hardworking and thoughtful model for her peers on what a Madrona student should be. This is her first year at Madrona—she transferred in from Washington Middle School—and is an asset to our middle school.

Kaaren Andrews & Mary Bass Award:

Given to a person who goes above and beyond the call of duty linking the community and the school.

Madrona has **Victoria Romero** (aka Mo' Money) to thank for its association with the Seattle Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She is always full of energy and ideas and gets people excited. She's a great coach and friend who loves to see the light of learning go on in the kids, especially the girls, she mentors at Madrona K-8.



Doris Baptist Hickman Staff Award:

Given to a Madrona K-8 School staff person who has made a significant contribution to the school.

Ms. Barbara Rockey and **Dejon Hush**.

Instructional Assistant Barbara works as a tutor and chips in wherever she is needed. She has an inspirational smile and loves working with families who believe in their children. Hush (not pictured) always goes the extra mile, whether it's in the classroom or in the kitchen. He is a Special Ed teacher, the JV basketball coach and an all around great guy.



The Local Hero Award:

Given to a Madrona resident for an act of heroism, singular kindness or generosity.

Barbara Schwartz is best known as the pie maker extraordinaire who supplies St. Cloud's with their delectably flakey confections. Little did her neighbors know that she used to be an ob/gyn physician! Those skills proved invaluable in October when neighbor Rebecca Richards-Diop went into labor and her baby made a speedy entrance before husband Thierno Diop could even get her into the car. Frantic, he headed to neighbor Barbara for help, not knowing about her secret skills. Barb, who'd already retired for the night and hadn't attended a birth in years - rushed into action. Before the EMTs arrived she got Rebecca into bed and delivered a beautiful baby boy! All the EMTs could do was marvel at her work and take Rebecca, Thierno and their new son to the hospital. What a night!

