

# The Pueblo Chieftain

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## Community contributors

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### *YWCA honoring 13 at annual tribute*

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By MARY JEAN PROTER  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Thirteen women will be recognized for their accomplishments and contributions to the community at the YWCA's eighth annual Tribute to Women on Thursday at the Pueblo Convention Center.

Mary Lou Retton, Olympic gold medal-winning gymnast, will be the keynote speaker for the event, which starts at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

All the women will be honored that night, but five will be given the Anna Taussig Award, which remembers the former head of foreign languages at the University of Southern Colorado who was a staunch YWCA supporter. Selection of the five award-winners was made by a committee of women at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs, according to Pat Klomp, a Pueblo YWCA board member and a co-chairwoman of the recognition event.

Patty Kester, YWCA development director, says recognizing outstanding women is a way for the Y to fulfill its purpose of eliminating racism and empowering women. "Not only for their accomplishments, but because they serve as role models for other women."

Tickets still are available. They cost \$60 and can be purchased by calling 542-6904. Proceeds from the event support YWCA programs, which include the Family Crisis Shelter, Child Witness to Domestic Violence counseling program, Children's Learning Center, Teresa's Place and the warm-water aquatics program. The honorees:

## **South Faculty member and South Graduate among Thirteen Women honored by YWCA**

- A career educator, **Sue Applbaum** will retire from South High School in June. In her role as "first lady" for Colorado State University-Pueblo during her late husband Ron's tenure as president (2002-2006), she was involved with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. She currently is active in the Broadway Theatre League and the Pueblo Symphony.
- **Teresa Baros** operates her own day-care business. She volunteers for Court Appointed Special Advocates and serves as a board member for Hope for Children. She is an activist against domestic violence and the namesake for Teresa's Place, a neutral setting for child visitation for families who have experienced violence.
- An active volunteer with the Democratic Party, **Norma Becco** has had a leadership role in several successful political campaigns. She also is active in Our Lady of the Meadows Church and as a volunteer for St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center, and she helped in the restoration of Bessemer Park.
- **Jovita Chavez** has raised money for Fulton Heights Recreation Center, where she is facilities manager. She was instrumental in raising funds for and acquiring sewer service and adequate street lights for Salt Creek. She chairs the annual community cleanup and also is on the St. Joseph Council of Catholic Women.
- **Paula Chostner**, assistant principal at Pitts Middle School, has demonstrated long-term dedication to education. She is a former president of the Pueblo Symphony and was instrumental in gaining state recognition for the symphony. As a NeighborWorks representative, she helped establish the Bessemer Festival.
- **Eileen Dennis** long has been active in Pueblo's health-care community. She is chief nursing officer and vice president of patient services at Parkview Medical Center. She has served on the Pueblo City-County Health Department board and currently is on the boards of Sangre de Cristo Hospice, United Way, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Pueblo Chamber of Commerce and the Optimist Club.
- **Sally Mara** has owned and operated Dee's Too Gourmet Gift Shop for more than 25 years and long has been active at the Pueblo Zoo. She's served as board president, board member and docent at the zoo and has hosted the Zoofari for years, establishing it as a major money-making event. She also helps needy people through volunteer activities at her church.
- Development specialist with Pueblo County, **Fran McClave** has raised more than \$14 million for projects to benefit the Pueblo community. She serves on the board of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and she helped establish Friends of the Pueblo Animal Shelter.
- **Marcie Reynolds**, executive director of the Pueblo Cooperative Care Center, has been instrumental in raising funds for the organization. She also has raised money for the National Association of Letter Carriers. Reynolds was employed for many years at

Colorado State University-Pueblo and is the 2009 outstanding alumna for the Mass Communications Department. She is active in children's programs.

- **Rose Romero** is a lifetime resident of Pueblo who's volunteered at Posada and the Community Soup Kitchen. She cares for disabled people in her neighborhood, frequently delivers donations to Centro de Los Pobres in Avondale and volunteers for the Cooperative Care Center.
- Chairwoman of the Southern Colorado Seniors Club, **Dorothy Sanchez** has organized several events. She is active in many committees at her church. She has served more than 15 years as the chairwoman for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, and has been involved with breast cancer awareness, the Orchard of Hope and the Boys & Girls Club.
- **Sueyko "Sue" Takaki**, a well-known community volunteer focused on the health needs of women and children, chaired the 2007 Susan G. Komen Golf Tournament, which raised \$13,000 for the fight against breast cancer. She is a former trustee and a current honorary trustee for the Women's Foundation of Colorado. She is the co-chairwoman and organizer of the Pueblo Community Immunization Child Health Work Group.
- **Jan Williams** has served on the board of the Pueblo Child Advocacy Center, including two terms as president. She is the fund development chairwoman for Court Appointed Special Advocates and serves on the board of Colorado Bluesky Enterprises. Williams is a member of the Women's Foundation of Colorado steering committee for Southern Colorado and is president of the Broadway Theater League.

Retton's appearance at the Tribute to Women was underwritten by St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center.