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Day With Creative Women 2001 a magical event for everyone involved

By Sandra Pendell

On August 11 Mission Park, San Luis Obispo, was filled to the brim with creativity and magic as artisans, musicians, poets, children, writers and visitors gathered in an eclectic blend of color, sight and sound. From the opening hours to the final moments, the DWCW was the place to be for many locals and out of town visitors who relished the opportunity to view and purchase handcrafted items, enjoy a wide-ranging variety of musical styles, and visit with new and old friends.

The source of the magic of DWCW's 27th Annual Day With Creative Women was the high-energy and impeccable organizational talent of co-chairs Dawn Williams and Renee Heller. Janelle Younger of KOTR-FM not only brought together a musical line-up that can only be termed as "the best yet," but also created eye-catching posters, managed press releases and media promotion. Dorothy Riggs and Leslie Jones gave paint and encouragement to visitors who had the opportunity to create their own magic by contributing to a colorful mural which contained messages for women. The mural was subsequently displayed and added to at SLO-NOW's Women's Equality Day. Carly Stair organized and managed a children's center, complete with story-telling and arts and crafts. New to this year's DWCW was The Spoken Word Canopy where poets and writers shared their work verbally.

Local businesses supported DWCW's children's center with contributions including arts and crafts materials from Beverly Fabrics and Law's Hobby Center. Abbey Carpet provided carpet squares for children's seating needs during story-telling sessions. Other businesses providing supplies and materials for the event included Trader Joe's, Albertson's, Long's Drugs, Von's, Office Max and Ralph's.

The annual event, described by one visitor as "the best DWCW ever," raised much needed funds for the Women's Community Center allowing us to continue and expand our services to women. The Women's Community Center thanks all volunteers, contributors and participants for their support.

San Luis Obispo mural offers global legacy of hope

By Leslie Jones
and Dorothy Riggs

If you ventured to this year's Day with Creative Women, you might have seen a set of colorfully painted murals being created throughout the day. Community members enthusiastically added their inspirational words and visuals to this global legacy of hope, which was featured the next day in the Tribune.

Conceived by local artist Dorothy Riggs with the help of promotional marketing consultant Leslie Jones, the focus was geared towards writing inspirational messages to women and children throughout the world, those who could possibly use a ray of hope in their lives.

Painted with acrylics on primed canvas, these six-foot long murals can be easily rolled into a tube and forwarded to their intended destinations, both overseas and closer to home. Some of the possible destinations include sending these murals to the women of South Africa and Arabic nations, women in prisons, abused and homeless women's shelters, women and children's hospitals, and homes for pregnant teens.

Dorothy Riggs enjoyed working with the public on this interactive mural project.

"This gives women the opportunity to speak up freely through painting imagery or writing statements of inspiration," she explained.

After being featured at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in conjunction with Women's Equality Day on August 26th, its global legacy began.

"We hope to begin a new tradition through this venue," explained Leslie. "It's so easy to take for granted just how fortunate we are. There are a lot of women and children out there who could use some inspiration in their lives! This is just a creative way of giving something back to the world!"

If you have any additional ideas or contacts for locations that these murals of hope might be sent to, please contact the Women's Community Center at 544-9313.

We will also encourage those who receive these murals of inspiration to send something of their own back to us. And in doing so, the legacy of hope will live on!