

LAVENDER[®]

Since 1995

CRAZY LIKE

THE BUZZ
ON JASON
MATHESON

A FOX

Screen Actor's Gilt

STEPHANIE ZIMBALIST
TAKES TEA AT FIVE

Stages of Development

THEATER COMPANIES THAT
BREAK MORE THAN LEGS

Falling Away

THE HAYWARD-CABLE
CONNECTION

Like Bancroft, this year's award recipients also have conquered the unknown and accomplished many firsts.

past winners by local photographer Ann Marsden. Olympian Jackie Joyner-Kersey will present the keynote address.

"Our award recipients this year are a clear expression of our mission of helping girls and women reach their highest potential," Kathy Bardins, Executive Director of the Ann Bancroft Foundation, said in an e-mail interview. "[They] take that extra step forward to deal with the issues of the day and of their community."

The Ann Bancroft Foundation has worked over the past 17 years to support and encourage girls and women. And for the past 10 years, it has been recognizing individuals and organizations that show initiative and integrity, and inspire courage, risk-taking, and individuality in girls and women.

"We have evolved from a small nonprofit focusing on empowerment of young people using curriculum to focusing on disbursing small grants to individual girls to

in 1923, it wasn't until the age of 38 that Wahl entered law school at William Mitchell—one of only two women in her class.

Wahl told Minnesota Public Radio, "When I went to law school...I never saw a woman judge. I never had a chance to practice in front of one."

Today, the lack of professional women serving as mentors for girls and other women continues to be a problem. Price identified it as the root cause of issues of violent behavior among girls at North High School in Minneapolis. Volunteering as a guest speaker at the school for years finally led her to found the Girls in Action program, which has allowed more than 100 girls to interact with and learn from women leaders from all over the Twin Cities. The girls have improved their grades and their attendance, according to school officials. Violent behavior is down as well.

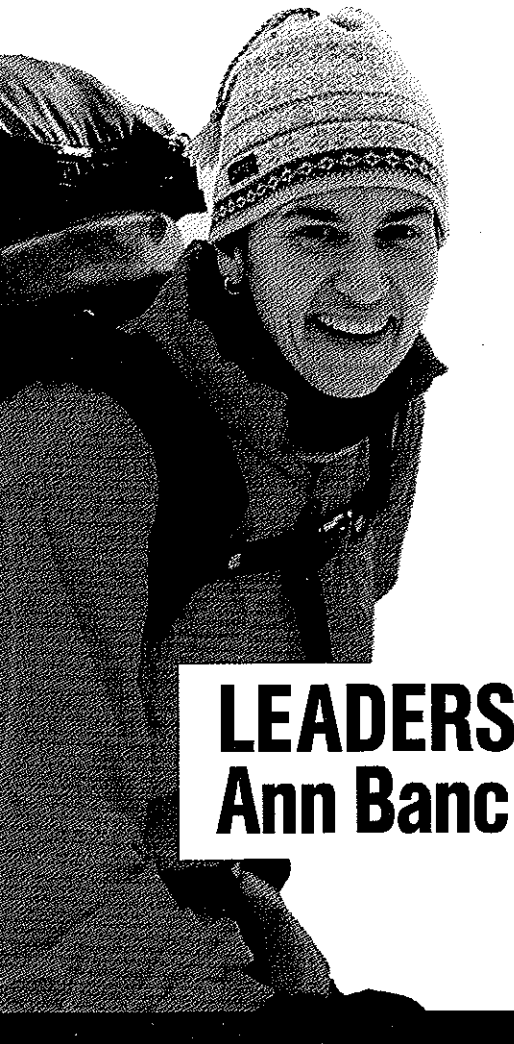
Robinson also has addressed issues of violence at her high school in South Minneapolis with an understanding that communication often leads to peace. She created a program in which students can have their problems confidentially mediated by a neutral third party who also happens to be a student.

"We really try to focus on lower classmen," Robinson explains. "We see them needing it the most. Not a lot of kids have both of their parents helping them."

According to Robinson, it is extremely important to "give them the support they're not finding at home or in the schools."

Rounding out the evening's ceremony is Perspectives, Inc., which supports homeless and drug-addicted women and their children by getting them off the streets, and into situations where they can receive counseling, along with job and financial-management training, and where their children can improve their academic and social skills. ■

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Ann Bancroft

LEADERS BY EXAMPLE

Ann Bancroft Awards

explore their interests," founder Ann Bancroft states.

Bancroft is referring to the foundation's relatively new Dare to Dream minigrant program, which has given more than \$210,000 to girls in Minnesota over the past five years.

The woman behind the foundation, polar explorer, author, Minnesotan, and out lesbian Bancroft, has had many firsts in her life. In 1986, she became the first woman to travel to the North Pole by dogsled. In 2001, she traveled with Norwegian explorer Liv Arnesen, each of them pulling more than 200 pounds of supplies, to become the first women to ski across the landmass of Antarctica. This expedition also made Bancroft the first woman to reach both poles by foot.

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In 1977, Wahl became the first woman appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court. Since then, she has had a profound effect on the statewide justice system. While a jurist on the state's high court, she chaired its task force on gender fairness and racial bias. Born

WHAT DO A RETIRED MINNESOTA Supreme Court Justice, a South Minneapolis high school student, and a professor have in common? For one thing, they're all women who have shown a great deal of vision and the determination to see that vision through. For another, they, along with Perspectives, Inc.—an organization that helps homeless and drug-addicted women and their families turn their lives around—are winners of this year's 10th annual Ann Bancroft Awards.

Retired Justice Rosalie Wahl, Dr. Verna Cornelia Price, LaTasha Robinson, and Perspectives, Inc. will receive their awards on September 26. The ceremony will be augmented with a retrospective exhibit of

Photo by Sophia Hamzas

10th Annual Ann Bancroft Awards

Sept. 26, 5:30-9:30 PM

Orchestra Hall

1111 Nicollet Mall, Mpls.

(763) 541-9363

<www.annbancroftfoundation.org>