

Ruby Iwamasa

Her Lifetime Supply of Lemonade Serves the Entire Community

Childhood “lemons” from Poston, an infamous WWII internment camp for Japanese-Americans, left Ruby Iwamasa not bitter, but cheerful, caring and charismatic, her personality engaging others in her vision of service.

From her early career teaching pre-schoolers through her years with Delta Public Broadcasting — as a volunteer, then in managerial positions — to Rotary and Midland 100 clubs; volunteering at Jefferson’s Diversity Day; service on the boards of the Midland Center for the Arts, Mid-Michigan Children’s Museum, Family and Children’s Services, and MATRIX: MIDLAND; to VOICES steering and education committees, Ruby Iwamasa has had one vision: make the world a better place by serving its people.

Her head is un-turned and un-inflated either by her numerous awards and honors or by the spontaneous “Ru-by! Ru-by!” chant that erupts at Delta College and Rotary group functions. “She is extraordinary, caring and charismatic. There is so much to admire about her as a role model for adults and young women.”

— Betty Jones



Ruby Iwamasa, c. 2008.



In 1977 Ruby Iwamasa was an auctioneer during Delta College’s Public Broadcasting fundraiser on channel 19, “The Great TV Auction,” an annual collaborative effort involving hundreds of volunteers from the tri-cities area, was held at the Delta College Gymnasium.

Marge Darger

“A Courageous Soul” - Jeanne Lound Schaller

“I find [being a volunteer] spiritually very rewarding,” says Marge Darger. Her greatest satisfactions have been in her lay ministry to the sick and dying and in her jail ministry.

Marge Darger, awed by so many Ph.D.s in Midland when she arrived in the 1950s, quickly volunteered in her church and community. Eventually graduating from Saginaw Valley State University and then earning an M.A. in pastoral ministry, she became a pastoral minister at Bay City All Saints High School, and then a commissioned lay minister and a spiritual director at Blessed Sacrament.

Marge organized programs at the Midland jail, bringing Delta College teachers and local artists to work with inmates. She also initiated a pastoral ministry to sick and dying hospital patients that became a model for the Diocese of Saginaw.

A peace activist as well, Marge was arrested with Helen Casey in the 1980s for a peaceful protest, entering a Michigan military base where nuclear weapons were being built.



Marge Darger, c. 2005.