



Association of Adventist Women

# Verla Michel Kwiram

— Woman of the Year —

Church Life

2002

“Verla is a prime example of a woman dedicated to serving her family, community, and church. What makes her so ‘above and beyond’ is the way she does it—with stamina, humor, time commitment, and wisdom. Verla tackles hard issues with grace,” says Helen Thompson Zolber of Walla Walla.

Almost forty years ago, Verla and Alvin Kwiram began their lifetime commitment to creating a supportive network for scholars at Adventist colleges and universities, and to forging links between Adventist scholars attending non-Adventist institutions of higher education. They worked with numerous young scholars scattered around the country to

establish the Association of Adventist Forums. As a founding member of the AAF board, Kwiram played a key role in drawing world-wide attention to the role women play in the Seventh-day Adventist community. Often working behind the scenes, she supported and mentored young Adventist women studying in the SDA Theological

Seminary and at other seminaries such as Claremont and Berkeley. In 1976, Kwiram was given a lifetime recognition award by the Association of Adventist Forums.

For more than 30 years, Kwiram has nurtured graduate students, minorities and young people in the Green Lake Church in Seattle. In addition to her work



in the children's Sabbath Schools, Kwiram has served as treasurer and church board member.

Karla Walters, one of Kwiram's "adopted" graduate students, said, "Quite simply, Verla cares about the women and men and children in this world who need love and encouragement. Doing the work that lies closest to her, she has created a life of achievement."

Joyce S. Brewster, Colleague, Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra Board describes Verla as "A natural leader who combines the drive of a 'doer' and the intellectual and moral gifts of a deeply reflective thinker."

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