



2003 Gala Awards Reception and 25th Anniversary Celebration

Clockwise (from top left): Roseanne Antonucci, Rosemary Jordano, Alair Townsend; Ed Lewis (original AWED board member); Board Members Susan Kennedy, Mike Blumenfeld, Eugene McGrath and Jo-Ann Friedman-Rapaport; Evelyn Berezin (original AWED board member); Alair Townsend, Jeanette Wagner; Roseanne Antonucci, Former NYC Mayor David Dinkins, Elisa Moore; Philip Murphy, Lynn McCormick; Bea Fitzpatrick (AWED Founder).



Spotlight on \$uccess!



Artist Transforms Weight Loss Into ArtWare!

Inspired by an art journal that she kept along her 50 lb. weight loss journey, AWED alum Janice Taylor has created an entire collection of beautiful, witty and useful art for her unique company, "Our Lady of Weight Loss." These collaged works, created on a variety of mediums

from glass plates (Last Supperware) to pillows (Prayer Pillows); cards (Glorious Greetings) to tee-shirts (Righteous Rags), are filled with images that relate to food, body image, fashion and religion.

Our Lady of Weight Loss offers art for all people – for any



Focusing on Women and Retirement

Is Ellen Edwards' New Mission

As Ellen Edwards sees it, retirement isn't easy for women workers. She cites two items from a "Top Five Reasons Why Retirement is a Challenge for Women Workers" list. First, women retirees receive only

half the average pension benefits that men receive. And, women's earnings average 76 cents for every onedollar earned by men, a lifetime loss of over \$300,000.

"These facts are startling," says Ellen, a financial planner who wants to help more women better prepare for their

occasion. These original pieces are affordable, ranging from \$3 to \$500. From one-of-a-kind pieces to limited editions to multiples, all objects of art are individually handcrafted by Janice herself, as she mysteriously mixes together gold gild, vintage and delicate papers, as well as other fat-free ingredients to a deliciously pleasing affect.

While beautifully crafted, Our Lady's ArtWare also carries an inspired story and gives pause for reflection and hope to all in our weight obsessed society. "Our Lady is merely suggesting that one add art to their diet," proclaims Janice, "Feed your soul!" Now an energized size 6 (from an 18!), Janice guarantees that "Our Lady's ArtWare will not cause you to gain even one ounce!"

Janice's work has been published in TimeOut New York, FiberArts, Smoke and Bust magazines, and is currently on exhibit in Berlin at the Berlin Kuntsproject, the Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum in Coshocton, Ohio, and at Denise Bibro Fine Art in Chelsea, New York.

"AWED's business classes were invaluable in assisting me to set up and define my business," explains Janice. "They provided a comprehensive approach of what needed to be done from business cards to business plans, from contact lists to press releases, from advertising to public relations to networking.

"Each week presented a new topic with a new speaker, a new energy to add to the mix, as well as a place to meet other aspiring entrepreneurs," she continues. "I am still referencing my materials and hearing the voices of those who inspired me. And I am still practicing my 'elevator' speech, one of the best defining tools ever invented."

retirement needs. "By starting early, being realistic about your retirement goals and working with an experienced financial professional, women can dramatically improve these statistics and have a more comfortable retirement."

Ellen, who started out on a far different professional track, learned firsthand how women in business stacked up differently than men. In the early '80s, she started her own jewelry company and operated a very successful accessory store in New York at 34th Street near Macy's. Through seminars and classes offered by AWED on starting and managing your own business, she met numerous women who did not have a good grasp of their financial needs or shortcomings. "No one was helping them figure this out," she states. "I wanted to do something but I wasn't quite sure what that was."

By 1996, Ellen used her business management background to venture into the financial planning area. Today, as an Associate Financial Planner with MetLife, she's found her answer and helps women on a regular basis through workshops and seminars. Previously she worked as a Corporate Registered Investment Advisor with Cowan Financial Group and as a Financial Services Representative with the Mony Group.

She serves on several boards including the Philipsburg Performing Arts Center in Yonkers, New York and is a member of the Yonkers and Westchester Chambers of Commerce.



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