

**WE HAVE LOOKED FORWARD** to working on this issue since last year, after we held our first Pasadena Star-News and Rose Magazine Jewels of Pasadena: Women of Distinction Awards.

The women who have been nominated the past two years by their peers, families and others in the community are truly inspirational. They balance family, work and volunteer commitments with grace and compassion, and their acts of giving are fueled by passion and love for life — theirs and others'.

To most, community service is a lifelong commitment. Take Nadine Washington, last year's Woman of the Year winner. Growing up in a small town in Mississippi, she had a choice: work in the family's farm or get involved in the community. As a young girl, she joined every school and church activity she could sign up for and, there in her impoverished town of 2,000 residents, she laid the groundwork for a lifetime of community service.

Read her story on Page 66.

Meet this year's Women of Distinction

finalists, starting on Page 72. They will be honored at a special gala on April 21, and the winners for each category will be announced that same night.

We also recognize one of Pasadena's special organizations, the Mothers' Club Learning Center, which was chosen by our publisher as this year's Nonprofit of the Year. Learn more about them on Page 70.

I would be remiss if I didn't give a shout-out to our amazing Pasadena Star-News and Rose Magazine staff photographers, who have been making the pages of this magazine so beautiful because of their collective body of work. They raised the bar again with our Spaces section — starting with our peek at the guest cottage of the 2011 Showcase House of Design (Page 26) to the homes and living areas featured in our Elements of Style package (Page 30). The architecture and design of these places are wonderful on their own; our photographers made them truly spectacular.

I hope you enjoy this issue!

## FROM THE EDITOR

Pia Abelgas Orense

# On the cover

What happens when 35 of Pasadena's most distinguished women and youth get together for a photo shoot at the crowded Pasadena Star-News office?

For one, they make friends.

During the very busy shoot, our 2011 Women of Distinction finalists could be heard networking, sharing and laughing.

Each has quite a story to tell, and you can read all about it later in the magazine. These women are the power players and unsung heroes of our city, all working behind the scenes in roles that should make any fellow citizen proud.

For the cover,

we envisioned a representation of a portrait wall, not unlike what you might have seen hanging in a parent's or grandparent's home over the years — mismatched frames of all shapes and sizes, placed with care in a hall of memories.

Rose Magazine's Jewels of Pasadena: Women of Distinction awards are in their second year. For our sophomore effort, we could only hope to match the level of accomplishment of last year's nominees.

And, not surprisingly, the community of Pasadena yielded some fantastic finalists again this year. A huge hat-tip goes to all of those who sent in nominations. We can't wait to see who turns up next year.

### WEB EXTRA

For more coverage on the upcoming Women of Distinction awards, stay tuned to our blog at [insidesocal.com/rose](http://insidesocal.com/rose).



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