

WOMEN

In Business

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



Denise Fairweather

Fairweather House & Gallery



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN YOUR LINE OF WORK AND WHAT GOT *you* STARTED?

"I am a farmer's daughter so I knew a bit about gardening. I made azalea corsages for my girlfriends mothers and sold them in middle school. I used that experience to get my first job in a flower shop and then at 21 I purchased a flower shop and then at 28 I purchased another flower shop. And then additionally, I ended up founding an art gallery. an art gallery and had that for 27 years. And then came into this area in 2001 and it's been 16 years in this gallery."

WHAT IS A CHALLENGE *you* HAVE HAD TO OVERCOME?

"I've had several mishaps but I guess my motto is always "Why not?" or "What if?". In my career I was an interior designer and did many peoples homes and I'm accredited with ASID (American Society of Interior Designers). We were opening a show called "Forrest Heights" in Portland, it's a huge development now but it was the first housing development and that was in 1996. That was also the Flood of Portland so the road fell out and our house was on the top of Forrest Heights and we weren't going to be able to get our draperies installed. And I thought "what if?" What can we do differently? So I thought hmm... commercial! Because this house is built on a ridge and it had 2-story windows. So, I brought in a commercial window tinter similar to what I have here in the Gallery to protect the art from the sun. It proved a successful challenge to specify a commercial application on a residential project. It was a huge challenge."

AS WOMEN WE OFTEN DON'T BRAG ABOUT OURSELVES. TELL ME SOMETHING YOU'VE DONE THAT *you* ARE PROUD OF.

"Well I'm a farmer, so every week I spend one day on our family farm, from ancestors who settled in Clark County in 1854. It grounds me and I do a lot of my thinking on the drive there and back and during my gardening, so what I am proud of is me returning to me roots and building on that legacy."

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WISH YOU COULD TEACH ALL YOUNG women?

"Step forward and raise your hand, you know I've raised my hand all my life and I brought people along with me and that's the way to do it. And thank people."

WHO INSPIRES YOU AND WHAT DRIVES *you?*

"My second-grade teacher, Mrs. Bobst, my second-grade school teacher, inspired me to step forward. I have a lisp, a speech impediment and she really helped me overcome that. I don't have any hesitations about talking in front of people. In my lifetime, I have taught classes at colleges, spoken at Junior League conventions, and offered an art lecture every month during the **Seaside First Saturday Art Walks**. What drives me is the inspiration to do. I love what I do, and I do what I love."

WOMEN

In Business

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



LUM'S
AUTO CENTER

"Advice for women? Go for it. Do your thing. Don't hold back" - Lori Lum

"Be strong, yet willing to take chances" - Julie Lum