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GEE'S BIRD QUILT 39 USA
 2006

Ms. Lupe Angiano
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Dear Suzanne -

Congratulations - you are a
STAR!

(I send a copy for your use)

Love,
Jean



Eric Parsons / Star staff

Lupe Anguiano, who is known for her work on women's rights, social justice and protecting the environment, appears at UCLA for a ceremony marking the opening of the Lupe Anguiano Archives.

Steinem, others praise Anguiano at UCLA event

By Cheri Carlson

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Standing in a hallway on the UCLA campus, two old friends hugged and talked a little politics.

The women, both policymakers and women's rights leaders, had met nearly four decades earlier. They had shared the same fight.

Gloria Steinem was working with the National Welfare Rights Organization when she first heard of a woman named Lupe Anguiano.

Anguiano was living in San An-

tonio housing projects and organizing mothers on welfare. They began to work together after the National Women's Political Caucus was founded in 1971.

"We know that houses and revolutions are built from the bottom up," Steinem said. "She (Anguiano) always understood that."

The two reunited in Los Angeles on Monday night to celebrate the opening of the Lupe Anguiano

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Six decades of memorabilia are donated

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always understood that.”

The two reunited in Los Angeles on Monday night to celebrate the opening of the Lupe Anguiano Archives at the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. Anguiano came from her Oxnard home, and Steinem flew in from New York.

Spanning six decades, the collection of photographs, personal letters and articles are the first addition to the research center's Mujeres Initiative — created to preserve the history and culture of Chicanas and Latinas in the United States.

It's a history that Steinem said has been ignored for too long.

“I'm so happy to be here honoring someone who so richly deserves honoring,” she said. “She

kept grapes out of Michigan after organizing a boycott for Cesar Chavez.

When she walked into an auditorium of more 300 of her colleagues, friends and family Monday night, the room erupted in applause.

An unsung hero

With the addition of her archives, officials said Monday that they are recognizing one of the “unsung” heroes of the U.S. civil rights movement.

Anguiano beamed from her seat in the front row. As each speaker stepped down from the stage, she stood and thanked them with a big hug.

“I feel like a kid who wakes up in the morning and has everything she has ever wanted,” Anguiano said later from the stage.

She had been approached by several places asking to keep her

people who are part of my life,” Anguiano said, adding that they were memories she treasured.

Some of her collection was on display Monday, and people lingered by the announcements of national awards and photos of Anguiano posing with presidents and a first lady.

Amelia Hammonds and her husband, John, came from Camarillo to see her friend honored at the event, which coincided with Anguiano's 78th birthday.

Amelia Hammonds worked at the Port Hueneme Navy base with Anguiano after the two graduated from high school. At the time, she said, she would have never guessed her friend's future.

But, she said, she knew that Anguiano wanted to enter a convent and that “she would do anything for everyone.”

Leaving the convent

and helped reform welfare programs for women, including in San Antonio.

Henry Cisneros, former U.S. secretary of Housing and Urban Development, was a city councilman when she came to the city decades ago. The former San Antonio mayor described her as passionate, relentless, someone who worked at the street level and never took “no” for an answer.

Anguiano has never had to pound her fist on a table or shout, Cisneros later told the crowd. “She just wears you down with her relentless niceness and warmth,” he said.

At a time in her life when others might rest and relax, Anguiano continues to fight, Cisneros said. Anguiano volunteers for the California Coastal Protection Network, hoping to protect Oxnard wetlands and marine life. Her latest efforts are to stop a