

Western Gateway Gazette
Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women
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December, 2010

A message from your president...



Dear Members,
Here we are once again in the season of spirit and light. The holiday season is upon us with all of its hustle and joy, and as we gather with our families and our friends we remember this is the season of giving. This year instead of sponsoring just two children, NBBPW voted to give a gift of \$200.00 to the Food Pantry so that our gift may be shared by more local people. This spirit of giving unites us as BPW women and enables us to be beacons of hope for those most in need. The spirit of giving is powerful, and because we don't act alone, but combine our efforts, we are a mighty force for good.

The 15th of December has been marked for our Holiday Party, again hosted by Inna and Pauline, who have made this celebration our annual joy to anticipate. Pauline and Inna make this a clever and fun evening so don't miss it. These

ladies know how to throw a party! We will have a little business to attend to as we mark our ballots for Member of the Year, so please come and vote for your choice for the member who has done the most for NBBPW this year.

At this time may you see the beauty of the world and of your fellow beings, and may you have the company of family and friends as you enjoy the spirit of this season. While gathering with family and friends, and counting your many blessings, remember what you do as a NBBPW member is surely a blessing to some working woman.

From my family to yours, with thanks for the blessings we have enjoyed throughout this year, may you have a very happy, safe and joyous holiday season.

With my sincere wish for a blessed and happy holiday,

Dot Ransford
NBBPW President



DECEMBER MEETING

(Note Date!)

Date: Dec. 15, 2010

Location: Williams Inn

Program: Holiday Party

Menu: Tomato-Cucumber Salad

Choice of:

1. Petite Filet Mignon
2. Baked, Stuffed Shrimp
3. Vegetable Lasagna

Dessert: Chocolate Yule Log Cake

Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$25.00

Hostesses: Pauline Davis - 413-663-7844

Inna Gertje - 413-663-6580

Please remember: Reservations are due by the Friday before the meeting. If you haven't been called, call one of the hostesses above.

Also, you are responsible for reservations made and not honored. We must pay for meals ordered.

Networking - 6:00

Meeting opens - 6:30

Dinner - 6:45

Guests are welcome!



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2-9 - Hanukkah

December 15 - NBBPW Holiday Party

December 21 - First Day of Winter

December 25 - Christmas Day

December 26 - Kwanzaa Begins



December Birthdays

Fran Czarnecki - 12/9

Deborah Blood - 12/20

Chris Ciskowski - 12/24

IMPORTANT WEBSITES!!

www.bpwfoundation.org

www.bpw/ma.org

www.nbbpw.org

Reminder!!!

...at Holiday Party

- *Voting for Member of Year to occur*



Hanukkah known as the Festival of Lights is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar. The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a unique candelabrum, the nine-branched *Menorah* or *Hanukkah*, one additional light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. The typical Menorah consists of 8 branches with an additional raised branch. The extra light is called a *Shamash* and is given a distinct location, usually above or below the rest. The purpose of the *Shamash* is to have a light available for use, as using the Hanukkah lights themselves is forbidden.



Christmas Day is a holiday observed generally on December 25 to commemorate the birth of Jesus, the central figure of Christianity. The date is not known to be the actual birthday of Jesus, and may have initially been chosen to correspond with either the day exactly nine months after some early Christians believed Jesus had been conceived, the date of the winter solstice on the ancient Roman calendar, or one of various ancient winter festivals. Christmas is

central to the Christmas and holiday season, and in Christianity marks the beginning of the larger season of Christmastide, which lasts twelve days. Although nominally a Christian holiday, Christmas is also widely celebrated by many non-Christians, and many of its popular celebratory customs have pre-Christian or secular themes and origins. Popular modern customs of the holiday include gift-giving, music, an exchange of greeting cards, church celebrations, a special meal, and the display of various decorations; including Christmas trees, lights, garlands, mistletoe, nativity scenes, and holly. In addition, several similar mythological figures, known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas and Santa Claus among other names, are associated with bringing gifts to children during the Christmas season.



Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration held in the United States honoring universal African heritage and culture, observed from December 26 to January 1 each year. It features activities such as the lighting of a kinara and libations, and culminates in a feast and gift giving. It was created by Ron Karenga and was first celebrated from December 26, 1966 to January 1, 1967. Families celebrating Kwanzaa decorate their households with objects of art; colorful African cloth such as kente, especially the wearing of kaftans by women; and fresh fruits that represent African idealism. It is customary to include children in Kwanzaa ceremonies and to give respect and gratitude to ancestors