

Western Gateway Gazette
Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women
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March, 2011



A message from your president

*Dear Members,
As I look out over the mountains of snow that surround me; I am heartened by the sight of squirrels playing in the bare tree branches. Could this at last be a small sign of spring? The sun is stronger now that it is March, and hope for winter's end is on the wing of chickadees come to visit the bird feeders. Mother Nature and I are braced for change.*

BPW welcomes spring with the State Winter Program set for March 12th at The Chateau Restaurant in Westboro, MA. A reminder that reservations are due by 3/4/11.

March is the month that we present our slate of officers for the next year. We encourage all who are interested in serving as an officer or who want to nominate someone, to please call or e-mail our chairperson, Gwen Boillat with your thoughts.

I would remind you that the raffle tickets for the Western District gift basket drawing should be returned at our March

23rd regular meeting. The gift baskets are always fine prizes, and are the only fund raiser for Western District. The drawing for the raffle is at the annual District Meeting on April 2nd. We have a busy program for our March meeting as we will have speakers from the Big Brothers Big Sisters and two young ladies representing the 4-H club. These girls wish to polish their public speaking skills, so please come to support them. It is opportunities like this that help to put NBBPW in the public eye. Perhaps we will be hearing from future members!

Enjoy Mardi gras, St Patty's day and the rites of spring on March 20th and I'll see you at the meeting.

*Best Personal Wishes,
Dot Ransford*



~~March Meeting~~

Date: March 23, 2011

Location: Williams Inn

Program:

1. "Big Brother – Big Sister"
Speaker – Sarah Kline
2. Officer Nominations

Menu: Soup de jour

Choice of:

1. Herb Roasted Chicken Breast
2. Poached Salmon with Dill Sauce
3. Cheese Tortellini with Marinara

Dessert: Brownie Sundae

Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$25.00

Hostesses: Fran Brooks
413- 743- 1709

Diana Margolis
413-743-1633

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

March 12 – Winter Board Meeting
March 13 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
March 20 – Spring Begins
March 23 – NBBPW General Meeting
April 2 – West. District BPW/MA Meeting
April 8 & 9 – IDP Seminar (BPW/VT)



March Birthdays

Diana Margolis – 3/26

IMPORTANT WEBSITES!!

www.bpwfoundation.org

www.bpw/ma.org

www.northernberkshirebpw.org



Women's History Month

March is [Women's History Month](#), a celebration honoring women's contributions in the arts and sciences, as well as their efforts in the struggle for equality.

This year's theme, according to [The National Women's History Project](#), is "Our History Is Our Strength":

Knowing the challenges these women faced, grappled with and overcame can be an enormous source of strength to all of us. During today's difficult times, Our History is Our Strength can serve as an important reminder to our nation that adversity can be overcome.

Women's History Month traces its origins to International Women's Day, which took place for the first time on March 8, 1911. This later served as the focal point of National Women's History Week, officially recognized by Presidential Proclamation in 1980. Finally, in 1987, Congress expanded this event into a month-long celebration.

The Huffington Post

Women of History....

Louisa May Alcott
1832–1888

Author who produced the first literature for the mass market of juvenile girls in the 19th century. Her most popular, *Little Women*, was just one of 270 works that she published.

Susan B. Anthony
1820–1906

The 19th century women's movement's most powerful organizer. Together with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony fought for women's right to vote. She was also very involved in the fight against slavery and the temperance campaign to limit the use of alcohol

Clara Barton
1821–1912

Clara Barton got involved with tending the needy when she treated injured Union soldiers on the battlefield during the Civil War. She later was the founder and first president of the American Red Cross.

Elizabeth Blackwell
1821–1910

First American woman awarded a medical degree by a college. Attended Geneva College in New York after she was rejected by all the

major medical schools in the nation because of her sex. Elizabeth Blackwell later founded a women's medical college to train other women physicians

Pearl S. Buck
1892–1973

With her novels about American and Asian culture, she became the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Marie Curie
1867–1934

This physicist was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize — she actually won it twice — and the first woman to earn a doctorate in Europe. Her investigations led to the discovery of radioactivity as well as the element radium.

Amelia Earhart
1897–1937

The first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, she opened the skies to other women. In 1937 while attempting to become the first person to fly around the world, Earhart's plane disappeared over the Pacific Ocean.

Mary Baker Eddy
1821–1910

Only American woman to found a lasting American-based religion, the Church of Christ, Scientist. She worked successfully to solidify and increase the popularity of The Christian Scientist movement.

Ella Fitzgerald
1918–1996

Considered one of the greatest jazz singers of all time, Ella Fitzgerald was the winner of 12 Grammy Awards and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Indira Gandhi
1917–1984

As the leader of India, the world's most populous democracy, Indira Gandhi became an influential figure for Indian women as well as for others around the world.

LaDonna Harris (born 1931)

Harris is the President and Founder of Americans for Indian Opportunity, a national multiracial organization devoted to developing the economic opportunities and resources of Indians. Raised by her grandparents with traditional Comanche values, Harris has been politically active all her life. She has crusaded for the rights of children and women and for the elimination of poverty and discrimination.

Grace Hopper
1906–1992

A computing trailblazer, Grace Hopper invented one of the first easy-to-use computer languages, which was a big advance in the field of computer programming.

Dolores Huerta
1930–

A spokesperson for the rights of workers, Dolores Huerta helped create the National Farm Workers Association. Among other issues, she has fought for the right to a minimum wage,

unemployment insurance, paid holidays, and retirement benefits for farm workers.

Shirley Jackson (born 1946)

Jackson is the former head of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, where she reaffirmed the agency's commitment to public health and safety. She is the first female African American to receive a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Jackson's outstanding leadership in education, science, and public policy demonstrates the capability of women to be leaders in the field of science and technology.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey

1962–

She dominated the Olympic sport of heptathlon, a series of six demanding events. Joyner-Kersey won the Olympic gold medal for the United States in 1988 and 1992, and set the world record. She was also the first American woman to win Olympic gold in the long jump.

Helen Keller

1880–1968

A childhood disease left her deaf, mute, and blind. Helen Keller became an expert author and lecturer, educating nationally on behalf of others with similar disabilities.

Maya Lin (born 1960)

As the designer of two of America's most powerful monuments — The Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama, and The Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., Lin has distinguished herself as the most acclaimed site-specific architect of contemporary America. Because of her concern for environmental issues, she uses recycled, living, or natural materials and focuses on sustainable and site-sensitive design solutions.

Ellen Ochoa (born 1958)

As an astronaut and researcher of advanced optical information systems, Ochoa flew her first shuttle mission in 1993 as a Mission Specialist with the *Discovery* crew, conducting atmospheric and solar studies in order to better understand the effect of solar activity on the Earth's climate and environment. The first Hispanic woman to be named an astronaut, she has logged over 500 hours in space.

Sandra Day O'Connor

1930–

As the first woman appointed to the position of U.S. Supreme Court justice, she carved a place for women at all levels of the legal profession.

Esther Peterson (1906-1997)

Peterson worked throughout her life for consumer protection, improved labor conditions for American workers, and equal opportunity for American women. Because of her work, working women have a legal right to equal pay and food labels by law must now list exact amounts of ingredients and the nutritional content. She served four U.S. Presidents in various capacities, including Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Vice-Chair of the first Presidential Commission on the Status of Women.

Dr. Sally Ride

1951–

The first American woman in space was also the youngest American astronaut ever to orbit Earth.

Eleanor Roosevelt

1884–1962

As a champion of human rights, she strove to further women's causes as well as the causes of black people, poor people, and the unemployed.

Margaret Sanger

1879–1966

Founder of the birth control movement in the United States, Sanger also started the organization that became the future Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Muriel F. Siebert

1938–

Her advanced understanding of banking and finance led Muriel Siebert to the first seat owned by a woman on the New York Stock Exchange. She created the Siebert Philanthropic Program, which lets investors help charities in their own communities.

Lillian Smith (1897-1966)

Honored in 1956 by the women who organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Smith was one of the nation's strongest European-American voices to expose the vicious ways that racism destroys the human spirit. She used her stellar writing talent and class privilege to expose and challenge racism. Smith co-published the literary magazine *South Today* to help give voice to progressive black and white southern writers.

Harriet Tubman

1820–1913

This abolitionist was born a slave. She eventually became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad — a system developed by a secret group of free blacks and sympathetic whites to help runaway slaves get to free northern states. Harriet Tubman led more than 300 slaves to freedom.

Victoria Woodhull

1838–1927

First woman to be nominated and campaign for the U.S. presidency. She was nominated by the Women's National Equal Rights Party. Woodhull and her sister were also the first two female stockbrokers on Wall Street.

Babe Didrikson Zaharias

1914–1956

One of the greatest athletes of all time, Zaharias won track and field gold medals at the 1932 Olympics, played professional basketball, and was a founding member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association.