

# **Western Gateway Gazette**

**Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women**

**Lucy A. Milette, editor. Elizabeth Manns, copyist/production.**

**March, 2010**



## *A message from your president...*

*I heard a bird, a Berkshire County bird; it wasn't a robin, but it wasn't a crow! A sure sign that winter is losing out to spring at last! March is upon us with all of her hope and mud; and there will be celebrating with corned beef and cabbage for all of the Irish and those who are Irish for one day. People always smile more when spring is on the wend, and NBBPW women look to the business ahead. Check the calendar on this newsletter to know what is coming up.*

*Our March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting offers a program on the Hoosac River Initiative presented by Judith Grinnell, which will prove most informative. Those of us who are old enough and who are locals may*

*remember the Hoosac as a river in which beavers built dams and water foul played; but industry, time and neglect caused the current state of unuse. The Hoosac River Initiative is making a concerted effort to help return the river once again to a source for recreation and pride. Please plan to be at this important meeting.*

*March is the month that we present our slate of officers for next year. If you are interested in serving as an officer or want to nominate someone, please call or e-mail our chairperson, Gwen Boillat. I will have a pleasant announcement to give, but you'll have to be at the meeting to learn first hand.*

*Enjoy 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 24, 2009

**Location:** Williams Inn

**Program:**

1. "Hoosac River Initiative"  
Speaker – Judy Grinnell
2. Officer Nominations

**Menu:** Caesar Salad

**Choice of:**

1. Chicken Cacciatore with Pasta
2. Poached Salmon with Dill Sauce
3. Grilled Vegetables with Mushroom Risotto

**Dessert:** Lemon Meringue Pie

Coffee, Tea

**Cost:** \$25.00

**Hostesses:** Francine LaJoie  
413-663-5500

Fran Brooks  
413-743-1709

**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!**

## IMPORTANT WEBSITES!!

[www.bpwfoundation.org](http://www.bpwfoundation.org)

[www.bpw/ma.org](http://www.bpw/ma.org)

[www.northernberkshirebpw.org](http://www.northernberkshirebpw.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 13 – Winter Board Meeting

March 14 – Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

March 20 – Spring Begins

March 24 – NBBPW General Meeting

March 30 – First Day of Passover



## March Birthdays

?



**Facts about**  
**BPW Foundation**

## Advocating for Successful Workplaces for Women & their Employers

Business and Professional Women's Foundation works with women, employers and policymakers to create successful workplaces that practice and embrace diversity, equity and work-life balance. Through our groundbreaking research, our network of national supporters and our unique role as a neutral convener of employers and employees, BPW Foundation leads the way in developing and advocating for policies and programs that "work" for both women and businesses.

### BPW Foundation policy focus areas:

**Equal Pay for Women** — Forty-six years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act, the average woman working full time still earns 22 cents less than the average man. BPW Foundation supports the Paycheck Fairness Act (HR 12/S 182) which will update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act, closing loop holes and improving the law's effectiveness.

**Work-Life Balance** — One-third (1/3) of women believe that the difficulty of combining work and family is their biggest work-related problem and nearly three-fourths (3/4) think the government should do more to help. BPW recognizes that this is a family issue and proposes attacking it from all sides – through workplace standards legislation, by developing employer tools and by empowering working women. That is why BPW Foundation supports the Healthy Families Act (paid sick leave) and the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act (paid parental leave). Paid sick leave, paid parental leave, workplace flexibility and affordable child care are all necessary tools in the quest for work-life balance.

**Working Women in the Green Economy** BPW Foundation is developing research and programs to dispel myths about women and green jobs, help to identify jobs, and broaden the capacity of workforce, education, and community organizations to make sure women have access and take advantage of career opportunities in the green economy.

**Women Veterans in Transition** — BPW Foundation was the first organization to research women veterans transitioning from active duty to the civilian workforce and provide support

to them. BPW Foundation's extensive research on the needs of women veterans and how to ensure their successful re-entry and advancement in the workplace is especially critical as veterans become an increasing percentage of the workforce. **Successful Workplaces** — For the first time in history, there are four generations in the workforce at the same time. That presents new challenges and opportunities. How do we mobilize, motivate, and mentor young women and men (Generations X and Y) and provide them with the tools for success in the workplace? Since 2005, BPW Foundation has studied inter-generational workplaces and the resulting issues. As a neutral convener of employers and employees, BPW Foundation is in a unique position to support research and programs to tackle this emerging issue.

Foundation is in a unique position to support research and programs to tackle this emerging issue.

### **Advocacy Center**

#### *Empowering Women to Be Great Advocates*

BPW Foundation provides tools and resources so working women can get involved in public policy development and activities in their own workplaces and government.

- Talking points and background information on working women's issues
- Draft letters to legislators
- Links to voting records
- "Legislator Look-Up" for Congress and state legislators
- Committee assignments and biographical information on federal legislators

### **Equal Pay Day**

Equal Pay Day symbolizes the point in the year at which women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous year. Working women recognize Equal Pay Day by lobbying their state legislators, holding press conferences and hosting "Unhappy Hours."

*From BPW Foundation Website*



**March, 2010**  
**Bizarre and Unique Holidays**

- 1 [Peanut Butter Lovers' Day](#)
- 2 [Old Stuff Day](#)
- 3 [I Want You to be Happy Day](#)
- 4 [Hug a GI Day](#)
- 5 [Employee Appreciation Day](#)
- 6 [National Frozen Food Day](#)
- 7 [National Crown Roast of Pork Day](#)
- 8 [International \(Working\) Women's Day](#)
- 9 [Panic Day](#)
- 10 [Middle Name Pride Day](#)
- 11 [Johnny Appleseed Day](#)
- 12 [Girl Scouts Day](#)
- 13 [Ear Muff Day](#)
- 14 [National Potato Chip Day](#)
- 14 [National Pi Day](#)- Why today? Because today is 3.14, the value of Pi.
- 15 [Ides of March](#)
- 16 [Everything You Do is Right Day](#)
- 16 [Freedom of Information Day](#)
- 17 [Submarine Day](#) - the hero sandwich or the boat??

- 17 [Saint Patrick's Day](#)
- 18 [Goddess of Fertility Day](#)
- 19 [Poultry Day](#)
- 20 [International Earth Day](#)
- 21 [Fragrance Day](#)
- 22 [National Goof Off Day](#)
- 23 [National Chip and Dip Day](#)
- 24 [National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day](#)
- 25 [Waffle Day](#)
- 26 [Make Up Your Own Holiday Day](#)
- 27 [National "Joe" Day](#)
- 28 [Something on a Stick Day](#)
- 29 [National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day](#)
- 30 [Take a Walk in the Park Day](#)
- 31 [National Clam on the Half Shell Day](#)

