

Western Gateway Gazette
Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women
Lucy A. Milette, editor. Elizabeth Manns, copyist/production.

September, 2009

My Dear Members,

Welcome to September and the beginning of the new NBBPW year. Your Executive Board gathered throughout the summer, and led by Vice President Nancy, we have arranged for informative and fun monthly meetings, planned for your enjoyment. Of course we will have all of the subjects and activities you would expect from a great and active BPW local.

We'll enjoy local history, honor achievement, and support the USA. consider our health, our finances, and the modern direction of our families as well as our local environment. We'll learn about our inner selves and personalities, and of course, we will party and have fun; all the time we will be doing this for and by working women.

Our mission is still strong and moving forward for the goals of all women. You may recall that a special state convention was called on July 25th. This meeting concerned a motion for the MA Federation to consider dissolution from the BPW Foundation, and to become an individual entity, standing alone under BPW/MA (name not then determined). This motion was defeated by a small margin, therefore, we the locals, will continue as we are, with the state and district councils and officers remaining as they are.

Massachusetts has until early spring to decide if it will join with many other states under the BPW Foundation. Should the states, including MA, choose to join with the BPW Foundation, there will be a per member affiliation fee (Licensing) payable to the BPW Foundation for use of the BPW/USA programs which the Foundation assumed in the merger between BPW Foundation and the then

BPW/USA. BPW/USA is now dissolved. At this time, nothing has changed on the Local, District and the State MA Federation levels. It is for us, business as usual, until further notice. I am sure there will be many questions, but any changes will need to be voted on by the membership. This will be an important year to be a NBBPW member. Be informed and get involved.

I am very pleased and proud of all of you who have stepped up and volunteered to fill the chairs and committees for our club.

Involvement is fun and spreading the labor makes it all lighter for everyone.

Our spectacular autumn season is just around the corner so get out and enjoy the harvest, fairs and country roads, and don't forget put items aside for our fund-raiser tag sale on Sept. 26th; and to volunteer for B-Fair at the MINI golf fund raiser on Sept. 12th as planned.

From the entire Executive Board, Committee Chairs and myself, we look forward to welcoming you back to NBBPW. So come in and let's do some 'women's work' and let's have some fun.

Best Personal Wishes,

*Dot Ransford
NBBPW President*



September Meeting

Date: September 23, 2009

Location: Williams Inn

**Program: Martha Dailey, Director
Susan B. Anthony Museum**

Menu:

Caesar Salad

Choice of:

- 1. Asian Chicken Stir-Fry with Fried Rice**
- 2. Poached Salmon with Dill Sauce**
- 3. Grilled Vegetables with Mushroom Risotto**

Dessert: Lemon Cake

Cost: \$25.00

For reservation call:

Paulette Remillard 413 663-7945

Dawn Shrade 413-663-5008

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

www.mabpw.org

www.northernberkshirebpw.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 12 – BFAIR Family Day

September 13 - Grandparents Day

**September 19 – Rosh Hashanah
begins**

**September 20 – Rosh Hashanah
Ends**

September 22 – First Day of Autumn

**September 23 – NBBPW General
Meeting**

September 26 – NBBPW Tag Sale

September 28 – Yom Kippur

September Birthdays



Liz Manns – 9/6

Next Up: Green Jobs for Women, Kinda

Health care reform is dominating the debate in every corner of Washington, DC right now but what is next on the agenda? The answer is green jobs for women, sorta. While Congress, the media and the general public are focusing on passing or killing health care reform, a select few are hammering out the details of climate change legislation, which is number two on the Obama Administration's agenda.

The climate change bill, known officially as the [American Clean Energy and Security Act](#), passed the House and is awaiting Senate consideration. The bill contains funding for projects that target green jobs and training opportunities for women and other underserved communities.

In many ways, the greening of jobs is a new approach to old "non-traditional" occupations. Green jobs will be created in manufacturing, constructions and information technology--all sectors where women are underrepresented. In workforce jargon, these occupations are known as "nontraditional jobs" for women, because women make up 25 percent or less of that workforce. Nontraditional jobs for women often pay 20 to 30 percent more than those traditionally female jobs and often provide better benefits, greater career and training opportunities and higher job satisfaction.

While the U.S. workforce faces many obstacles with unemployment and under-employment, there are new opportunities for the future.

Labor Day was created to celebrate the economic and social achievements of our nation's workers. For [Business and Professional Women's \(BPW\) Foundation](#)--- we're reminded of the many ways women can excel in the nation's newest labor sector: [the green economy](#).

Since BPW Foundation's inception, we have worked to create opportunities for women in non-traditional fields to improve their earning potential. And we have some great ideas on how women can capitalize in newly created green jobs. The latest step in this vital effort is our project, [Moving from Red to Green: Workingwomen in the Green Economy](#). This initiative will increase training opportunities for women ready to join the greening of the workforce.

The *new* green economy is the perfect start. Together we have the power to shape a labor market that can be both inclusive and equal for working women. And as women move into decision making roles within the green sector, according to BPW Foundation research, women's salaries and career advancement opportunities increase; therefore women are better able to support themselves and their families.

Fast Facts

- In 2008, 6 out of every 10 women were labor force participants, compared with 7 out of 10 men.
- The most common single occupation for women is 'secretary and administrative assistants,' employing over 5% of all full-time women workers
- 41% of women work in occupations that are 75 percent or more female (where at least three out of four workers are female).
- There are more than 3,400 companies in the solar energy sector that employ 30,000 to 40,000 workers
- Revenue for the three major clean-energy sectors — solar photovoltaics, wind power, and biofuels — grew by 53% from 2007 to 2008.

Thought for the day.....

*Attitude is a little thing
that makes a big
difference!*

Winston Churchill

