

BEACON POINTS

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: To achieve equity for all women in the work place through advocacy, education and information



December, 2017 Volume 18 #6

BPW related websites:

www.greensburgbpw.com

www.bpwpad3.org

www.bpwpa.org

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This Month's Meeting:



(Greensburg BPW Tree "Women Helping Women" at the Ramada Inn)

This month we will be celebrating the holidays at Rodney's Restaurant in Irwin, PA on Wednesday, December 13 at 6 pm. Marilyn Tallant has made the arrangements. With members and guests from across the District we expect to have approximately 20 in attendance. If you have not made your reservation or cannot remember if you made it please contact Marilyn immediately.

We will not be collecting food items for the Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry this month. However, if anyone would care to donate cash, President Shirley will ensure that it is delivered with our wishes for a Joyous Christmas.

As a reminder for those of us who have ordered Colebrook's Chocolates, the order will be picked in this week and can be picked up the night of our party.

We will be back at King's Restaurant on Route 30 West, in Greensburg at 5:30 pm.

Our program for January 2018 will be a tax update provided by Catherine Caccia, CPA.

We will use a standing reservation, so if you are not attending please notify Susan Reimer.

If you are not on the standing reservation list, you will need to let Susan know that you will be attending the meeting that month. Please, feel free to invite a friend, acquaintance or co-worker to a meeting.



Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and Holiday Season and a Bright New Year filled with Joy, Health and Prosperity.

In the Beacon:

This year our interviewees for "In the Beacon" will respond to questions based on our theme for this year, "Bridge to the Future"

Part of the "Bridge to the Future" is new members. This month we will learn more about one of our new members, Emily Frye is our

newest member and our first student member and Nancy Shaler, D.C. an established member.

Emily, it was such a pleasure to hear about your internship abroad last month.. We have some members who were not able to attend our annual scholarship awards or last month's meeting so they have not met you yet. Could you please remind us where you are going to school and what you are majoring in?

I am a senior at Pitt-Greensburg where I am majoring in Management with a minor in Psychology and Actuarial Science.

Other than your academic life what you like our members to know about you?

I will be completing my undergraduate degree in April 2018. I am currently in the process of looking for graduate programs in -Industrial/Organizational Psychology where I hope to go into organizational development and/or HR management.

I also am highly-involved at my school. I am the president of two clubs on campus, play tennis for my school, and actively continue my education in leadership through conferences, events, etc.

Since you are a new member and a student, How can we help BPW be a bridge to your future?

I joined BPW because I believe in empowering women towards becoming outstanding working professionals. I feel that BPW can be a great resource for me, and so many other women everywhere, to make connections, find resources, and ultimately have the support that they need to be successful in their respective fields.

Next month we will meet another one of our new members.

Also in the spot light this month is our member Nancy Shaler. As you all my know Dr. Shaler is a chiropractor here in Greensburg.

However, Nancy has recently received her Master's Degree of Science in Human Anatomy and Physiology. In August of this year Nancy Graduated with Academics Honors from the New York College of Chiropractic.

The program was two years from September 2015 to August 2017 and was very time consuming. However, even with her busy home life (husband and two sons very involved in hockey), her practice, and with some time for BPW, Nancy maintained a 4.0 GPA.

In addition to maintain full time office hours, Nancy is also an Adjunct Instructor at LaRoche College teaching Microbiology for Health Sciences.

Congratulations Dr. Shaler, we are very proud of your achievement.



(Nancy in her cap and gown with her husband, Tom and sons Nolan and Trent)

Ramada Inn Parade of Trees:

Annually the Ramada Inn (formerly the Sheraton by Four Points) in Greensburg has an event called the parade of trees. Various entities, some for profit and non profit, decorate six foot trees provided by the hotel these trees are on display from the end of November through the beginning of the New Year. The viewing public has an opportunity to vote on their favorite tree by placing money in a box labeled with the name of each organization participating.

President Shirley had suggested that Greensburg BPW participate this year in order to get some name recognition within the community and hopefully raise some funds for "Our Club House", the BPW/PA state project. Our members quickly approved of Shirley's great idea.

On Saturday, November 18th we met at Dr. Shaler's residence for an ornament making party.



(President Shirley making angels for the BPW Tree at Ramada Inn)

President Shirley Wolinsky, Dr. Shaler and Cathy Caccia spent the morning making ornaments for the tree with the theme of Women Helping Women.

After making the decorations and laying out our plans we enjoyed a delicious brunch of homemade egg casseroles (I'd call them quiches) made by Nancy.

On Tuesday evening, the decorating commenced. Shirley, Marilyn Tallant, Dr. Shaler, Cathy Caccia and our new member Emily Frye arrived at the Ramada at 5:30. We located our tree and found out that actually another group claimed our designated tree. We were to have a tree with white lights but ended up with multi colored lights. The Ramada was quite accommodating and went and got a couple sets white lights for us.

Marilyn, Shirley and Emily proceeded to put purple and white lights on the tree.

Unfortunately, Emily could not stay until the tree was finished.



The Tree is decorated with angels with BPW messages, tags that had our mission statement and website on, purple and white lights, snowflakes and purple ball ornaments.

After all the decorating was done, the Ramada provided free refreshments for everyone there.

If you were not able to join in the decorating, you can still participate. Stop by the Ramada when you're out doing your Christmas Shopping at Westmoreland Mall and put some money in our box. Tell all your family and friends to do the same. The voting boxes actually they are tubes is located in the lobby this year and not by each tree.

Also, we will be undecorating the tree on January 4th and volunteers are needed.

Recap of November's Meeting:



Immediately following the business meeting, this month's program was a presentation by two of our members, Kate Frame and Emily Frye, about their recent trips abroad. Kate told us that she spent a week in Amsterdam, Brussels and London in July. She flew into Iceland and then went on to Amsterdam and stayed with her friend's nanny. She described the houses there as very small but that everyone is very "laid back". A "Coffee Shop" there is a shop that sells marijuana and they

are plentiful. Amsterdam is also well known for its “Red Light” district, which is the legal prostitution trade there. She explained that she and her friends took a very quick daytime tour of that area. Kate told us that everyone there uses bicycles for transportation but that no one actually owns one, they all share whatever bicycles are available for use. She mentioned that the food in Amsterdam was very good and that waffle stands are everywhere in Brussels. Kate was able to tour the Anne Frank house/museum and St. Paul’s Cathedral. She also rode the Euro Star train from Brussels to London, spending two days in London. The bus transportation system in

London allows people to pay a lump sum and get on and off busses as they travel about in the city. She saw the very popular London Eye which is like a Ferris wheel with compartments that can each hold 20 people. Kate was also able to see the Tower Bridge. The Rooftop Bar in London is very exclusive. In what they call the “posh” district, everyone is well dressed and women wear dresses or skirts, but never slacks. The food in London, unfortunately, was not as good as elsewhere on her trip. All in all Kate told us that it was a wonderful trip and we certainly enjoyed her presentation.

Emily spent several months (May through August) living in Prague while participating in her college internship in Human Resources (International Internship Program). She has studied abroad twice. Emily noted that the economy in the Czech Republic is thriving and that businesses are recruiting from outside the Republic. Interestingly, they are known for having the largest beer consumption in the world. Although the Republic is multi-national, the Czech people are quite nationalistic. In terms of their work environment, Emily explained that there are not as many legal prohibitions regarding sexist behavior in the work place as we have in the United States. However, the people are very reserved because of the Communist influence, although they don’t like their behavior being described as rude. Even so, the Czech people enjoy talking about subjects as personal as the amount of their income and their political beliefs even with someone they have only just met. They enjoy political arguments and Emily mentioned that President Trump’s name came up frequently in conversation. The Czech Republic is the most atheist country in the world. When it comes to food,

meat and potatoes and goulash are popular. The celebration of birthdays is not important in the Czech Republic, but they do celebrate what they call their “name day”. There is a list of names and each is assigned to a particular day on the calendar. On your name day, you are expected to bring cake to work and small gifts for your coworkers. Emily also visited Berlin, Germany and Slovakia. She hiked a mountain range in Slovakia and visited the famous Blue Church. On a trip to Croatia, she went to Zagreb and a national park. She also visited Budapest where she noted a strong eastern European influence. Emily was able to visit the Holocaust Memorial where there is a display of a line of shoes along a river commemorating a location where many Jews were executed. Emily also visited Ireland and described the people there as very friendly. She took a “whiskey tour” and learned about the Pub culture, where local musicians will come and play spontaneously as opposed to having recorded music and televisions in the pubs. Emily mentioned that she is thinking about moving to Europe after graduation. We thoroughly enjoyed her presentation

District 3 BPW Events:

November 5, District 3 Fundraiser – “Cutting Out Cancer was an event held at Valhalla Indoor Axe Throwing. This was a very unique event. We actually threw axes for two and a half hours.

We had about 16 members and spouses attend the event. We received instructions on proper throwing techniques, axe etiquette and safety measures. We each had practice time before participating in a light hearted tournament.



We had lots of fun at this event just ask BPW/PA State President Marilyn Tallant and President

Elect Theresa Rusbosin. It sure looks like they had fun in the following photo with Eleanor.



In addition to having fun throwing axes we enjoyed some light refreshments and participated in basket raffles and a 50/50 drawing.

If you missed out on this event, you may get a second opportunity. Director Tara is considering another event after the first of the year. It was such a blast everyone enjoyed the event.

BPW District 3 ID Program:



District 3's ID program was held Saturday, November 11 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Latrobe. There were 7 participants from across the District. Our Facilitators for the event were: Marilyn Tallant, Theresa Rusbosin, Karen Schmeich and Cathy Caccia.

It was a very productive meeting with lots of discussion and participation by the group. Several of the members taking the class expressed interest in participating in the BPW ID and/or YC speak off at next year's convention. Since there are several

interested we can look forward to a Speak – off at District meeting.

Our Scholarships Pay Off:

Do you ever wonder what becomes of the women we give our scholarship money too? If so, continue reading for an update on one of our 2015 recipients.

Hello ladies! Hope you all had a good Thanksgiving holiday and are doing well.

I was not sure if any of you noticed the article in the November 27th Tribune-Review newspaper article was titled "Norwin Grads Collaborate on Gender-Neutral, Race-Neutral Children's Book" by Joe Napsha on Alyssa Minko and her friend Rachel Bindas. They are collaborating on a gender-and-race-neutral book for children. It will be entitled "Before the Sun Wakes Up".

Rachael is doing the writing and Alyssa, the excellent artist that she is, is doing the art illustrations. They started a Kickstarter campaign to raise money for it. I thought that was pretty ingenious.

Alyssa was the young woman we gave the Greensburg BPW 2015 \$500 Scholarship in memory of my mom and dad. She came to our meeting at Hoss's. She is one of the most talented artists I have ever seen and is doing well at college - Rochester Institute of Technology. I had stayed in contact with her the first year she went to college and it was quite a struggle as her home life was not good if you remember. Her parents are divorced and have drug and alcohol issues so she really never had any support from them and she lived with her Grandmother near Debbie Croyle in Irwin when she was going to high school. She won first place in the 2015 Congressional Art Contest and her pencil drawing was displayed in the US Capitol for a year. If you check out her Facebook page, you will see how talented she is from her artwork there.

I just wanted to let you all know how proud we should all be of the good we do with giving out our Greensburg BPW Scholarships. Even though at times it does not seem like much money with the high cost of college tuition, it does make a difference in these ladies lives.

Alyssa told me time and again that us believing in her and giving her that money and hearing our stories of what we had all accomplished in our lives made her feel she could accomplish her goals also. We were a real inspiration to her which I am sure we have been to many of our scholarship recipients.

Hope we can keep up the great work we do with awarding scholarships.

Mary Catherine Motchar



(Our 2015 Scholarship recipients-Alyssa Minko is next to Mary Catherine)

St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry:

This month, it is suggested that we make a cash donation for the food pantry. This way Our Lady of Grace can put it to the best use. If you wish to donate bring cash or check made payable to Greensburg BPW and we will submit one check.

Shirley Wolinsky will collect the items and deliver them to Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry.



December Birthdays:

Karen Schmeich 12/13

Happy Birthday to all



Dates to remember:



- **December 2017 Happy Holidays-** we will celebrate at Rodney's
- **January 15, 2018**
- Deadline for BPW/PA Candidate Application to State Nomination Chair, Susan M. Vladika
- LO and District Budgets due to BPWPA
- Proposed By-Laws Changes due to BPW/PA By-Laws Chair, Mary Ellen Bayuk
- **February 2018 women's history month**
- **March 9-10, 2018** BPW/PA Mid-winter board meeting the Penn Stater.
- **April 15,** LO contest entries due to District Chairs.
- **April 30,** Histories are due to BPW/PA Historian
- **May 1,** Contest entries are due to BPW/PA Chairs
- **May 1,** ID and YC Candidate information is due to the BPW/PA Chairs
- **May 1,** Convention Manual Reports are due to the Manual Editor
- **May 15,** Contest winner information due to BPW/PA Issues Management Chair
- **May 15,** BPW/PA Chairs report contest participation to BPW/PA Vice President for inclusion in the Eleanor Briner Calculation.
- **June 7-10,** 98th BPW/PA Annual State Convention at the Crown Plaza, Reading PA, Installation of Incoming Officers and Incoming President's Reception.

A Night before Christmas, T 'was the Night Before Christmas and a Visit from St. Nicholas are all interchangeable titles for the poem attributed to Clement Clarke Moore in 1837.

The popular poem was adapted into a children's book in 1905. Most of us, seemingly without deep thought can recite parts of the poem such as:

T'was the night before Christmas.... The stockings were all hung by the chimney with care. Not a creature was stirring not even a mouse.



And as he drove away we heard him exclaim Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

And Rudolph:



Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer was not one of the eight tiny reindeer in the Night Before Christmas.

Rudolph first made his appearance in a Montgomery Wards' advertising campaign in 1939. He was later immortalized in a song by Gene Autry in 1949.

Rudolph and his red nose finally made their way to the big time in 1964 when Autry's song was adapted into an hour long movie special that aired on Universal Acclaim on December 6, 1964.

The movie introduced additional characters that we have come to know such as:

Sam the Snowman with the voice of Burl Ives,

Yukon Cornelius and his pick ax searching for a peppermint mine

Hermey, the elf who wanted to be a Dentist

and



the villainous abominable snowman, Bumble.

