

The Uptown News Beat

Edited by Mona Bethany - mona@tbobamthor.com

midlandbpw.com

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Letter from our President:

Valentine's Day is upon us and hearts abound. This month is Women's Health Issues Month and I hope all is well with each of you in that area. This month's Program Luncheon is February 13th and we will have Health South doing a presentation on this very important matter. As women we tend to push ourselves to the limits and often time over look the warning signs as they present themselves. It is my hope that after our program we will each have a better understanding of the health care options in the event of a stroke or heart attack or even a broken bone that will require medical attention or rehab. The rehab part can also be for an aging loved one and what treatments are out there for us in the event of one of these medical needs.

Plans are now under way for the upcoming Style Show scheduled April 23rd. Chair, Jo Fite has called her first official committee meeting for February 7th at 5:30. I am sure she would love to have everyone's help. This is our scholarship fund raiser. Every dollar raised funds one of our 4 \$500 scholarships we award each semester. Over the past few years we have had great generosity from the community to help us in this worthwhile project that helps us give back to the community. We are a fortunate community to have

caring people who help make others lives a bit easier.

Our By Laws Chair, Mary Ann Brock is busy making the changes to our By-Laws and Policies & Procedures. We recently had a committee meeting and made great strides in coming into line with the BPW/Texas language. We will be getting more information to the membership as it becomes available.

The Board Meeting of January 16th was another example of Uptown's desire to give back to the community. We unanimously voted to get an ad-hoc committee together for the purpose of partnering with Midland College and Upward Bound. Jennifer Birkla has volunteered to head this committee up and bring a report to the body at the business meeting at the end of February. We will find out how much money is needed and what events we can plan on to mentor the young ladies in Upward Bound. Upward Bound is a program that the college does to mentor at risk girls in grades 10 thru 12, giving them the tools they need to be a first generation college graduate. So with our help we can be a vital role model in the lives of these young ladies.

I look forward to seeing each of you in the coming events.

Building Powerful Women

Sheila Warren

Uptown Business and Professional Women President



February 13, 2008

We held our luncheon meeting at the Petroleum Club. All the members attending were privileged to hear Ellen Shankles and Wayne Warren of Health South, do a presentation on Women's Health issues. Wayne, who just happens to be the other half of the President Warren team also presented each of the ladies with a lovely red gift bag that contained red valentine heart suckers and other goodies. Below is a picture of President Sheila Warren and Ellen Shankles and Wayne Warren of Health South.



Visitors in attendance were:

Kristine Ashley, Marilyn McGaff, and Norma Valdez. We welcome you and hope you will visit again.

MID YEAR BOARD

Four local members went to mid year board held in Bryan College Station. I am including some pictures made while there. One will show you the fun that everyone had at the MD Anderson fund raiser, where everyone owned a Duck in the Duck Race. Shirley Harris, Donette Marble, Chris Hagan and Glenda Knox attended.

Many items of business were brought to the floor including upgrades and corrections to the National and State By Laws.

At present the President's Circle in Uptown is working diligently to get our own cleaned up and re-worked to better suit our present needs and the state requirements.



Left to right : Glenda Knox, Chris Hagan, Shirley Harris (back) and Donette Marble in their official 'Duck' attire.



Duck Race Officials

The theme will be Spring Flowers and Leadership in the 21st Century.

All hands are requested to help implement these plans. Workers are needed for the floor that day and all the behind the scene things that make the magic happen on time. Please contact Jo Fite or any committee member for your choice of appointment.

This is the major fundraiser of the year for our scholarship fund. We need to surpass last year.

LOG ON AND LEARN

About our organization. Here are instructions for those who have not logged onto the BPW USA and Texas web sites. Also our log on for our local web site is midlandbpw.com. Shirley Harris has worked hard to revamp and update it to make it more appealing and more informative. You would be surprised at all the information you can find out there.

Your login and password:

On bpwusa.org

Login is your member ID number

Password is bpwusa01 if you have not changed it

On bpwtx.org

Login is your first initial and last name, lower case, no space

jdoe

Password is your 7-digit member ID number

1234567

The BPW/TX website has been revamped! It looks great - get out there and check it out.



These Young ladies are with the ROTC at Texas A & M. They proudly represented the Core by presenting the colors at the Mid Year Board.



BPW in Bloom

We are out the gate and running with the style show plans. It is our hope to make this the biggest and best style show ever.



*The following article made its way around the internet and I am sure some of you have read it or watched the Marvelous production of *Iron Jawed Angels*. This struggle is so vital and is so taken for granted, especially by the younger generations of women. I personally feel we are starting to lose ground and this is a reminder to us, that our freedoms were hard fought by this generation of very courageous women.

To My Women Friends,

No Matter Who we vote For, what matters the most is to **VOTE**. What a great history lesson with awesome timing.

"Courage in Women is often mistaken for insanity"

A short history lesson on the privilege of voting

The women were innocent and defenseless. And by the end of the night, they were barely alive. Forty prison guards wielding clubs and their wardens blessing went on a rampage against the 33 women wrongly convicted of obstructing sidewalk traffic.

They beat Lucy Burn, chained her hands to the cell bars above her head and left her hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air. They hurled Dora Lewis into a dark cell, smashed her head against an iron bed and knocked her out cold. Her cell mate, Alice Cosu, thought Lewis was dead and suffered a heart attack. Additional affidavits describe the guards grabbing, dragging, beating, choking, slamming, pinching, twisting and kicking the women.

Thus unfolded the Night of Terror on Nov. 15, 1917, when the warden at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia ordered his guards to teach a lesson to the suffragists imprisoned there because they dared to picket Woodrow Wilson's White House for the right to vote.

For weeks, the women's only water came from an open pail. Their food, "all of it colorless slop," was infested with worms. When one of the leaders, Alice Paul, embarked on a hunger strike, they tied her to a chair. Forced a tube down her throat and poured liquid into her until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks until word was smuggled out to the press.

So, refresh my memory. Some women won't vote this year because why, exactly? We have carpool duties? We have to get to work? Our vote doesn't matter? It's raining?

Last week, I went to a sparsely attended screening of HBO's new movie "Iron Jawed Angels." It is a graphic depiction of the battle these women waged so that I could pull the curtain at the polling booth and have my say.

I am ashamed to say I need the reminder. All these years later, voter registration is still my passion. But the actual act of voting had become less personal for me, more rote. Frankly, voting often felt more like an obligation than a privilege. Sometimes it was inconvenient.

My friend Wendy, who is my age and studied women's history, saw the HBO movie, too. When she stopped by my desk to talk about it, she looked angry. She was beside herself. One thought kept coming back to me as I watched that movie, she said. What would those women think of the way I use or don't use my right to vote? All of us take it for granted now, not just younger women, but those of us who did seek to learn. The right to vote, she said, had become valuable to her all over again.

HBO will run the movie periodically before releasing it on video and DVD. I wish all history, social studies and government teachers would include the movie in their curriculum. I want it shown on Bunco night, too, and anywhere else women gather. I realize this isn't our usual idea of socializing, but we are not voting in the numbers that we should be, and I think a little shock therapy is in order.

It is jarring to watch Woodrow Wilson and his cronies try to persuade a psychiatrist to declare Alice Paul insane so that she could be permanently institutionalized. And it is inspiring to watch the doctor refuse. Alice Paul was strong, he said, and brave. That didn't make her crazy. The doctor admonished the men: "Courage in women is often mistaken for insanity".

Please pass this on to all the women you know. We need to get out and vote and use this right that was fought so hard for by these very courageous women.

Author Unknown

NEW MEMBERS:

Please join me in welcoming two new Members to our group, Christina Ashing and Lacy Bavousett.

Welcome ladies. If you have any questions or need a helping hand just ask anyone. We are glad to have you in our group.

Renewals Due for February:

Feb Renewals
Tiffany Blakely
Stacy Nelson
Penny Crosson
Jo Fite
Cynthia Maes



Birthdays in February:

Feb Birthdays
Evie Adams 2/23
Kathy Blackman 2/8
Mary Ann Brock 2/20
Stacy Nelson 2/24