



MAY 2019 // ISSUE 8 // VOLUME 35

# UPTOWN NEWS BEAT

## Letter from the Vice-President

Hello BPW Sisters,

*I wish it were under different circumstances that I am the one writing this letter this month, but even to say that is not entirely accurate because it would presuppose that Shellie Robbins was not our president. The truth is that Shellie's leadership as our president this last year has been exemplary and it has been a great honor to get to know her and serve as her Vice President.*

*As a result of Shellie's fiancé, David Medlin, recently passing away, I will be temporarily presiding over presidential duties to give her the much needed space of beginning to sort through all the things that unexpectedly become necessary at a time like this.*

*For those of you in our membership that do not know what happened or it has felt uncomfortable to ask, David passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Sunday, April 14 from a series of heart attacks, just two days after our annual Bunco tournament. We were all in shock because David was at the Bunco fundraiser and seemingly appeared to be fine. Shellie even won the cash prize for the most buncos, so it was a night of celebration, and then reportedly neither David nor Shellie felt well the next day. At the time, they were thinking it was something they'd eaten and in short order, Shellie's nausea passed, but David's did not. Eventually, he had to be taken to the hospital as his condition worsened where she and David's family waited as ER staff tried to stabilize his heart. She and David's family were informed during that time that the difficulty in stabilizing him was because his heart was badly damaged from a series of multiple heart attacks, all of which had been unknown to David or Shellie, so this news followed by his ultimately passing certainly landed as utter shock and disbelief.*

*I could not be more proud of our BPW sisters during this time of tragedy though. Stacy Nelson was with Shellie at the hospital and by her side as the news of David's passing was delivered and she and Lesley Donnell immediately rallied to make the executive decision, once David's funeral arrangements were announced, to send flowers from the BPW sisterhood (see the thank you card from Shellie below). Emily Weinberg, who puts this newsletter together each month, afforded me so much latitude and grace to write this letter and submit it well past the deadline, so any tardiness for this month's newsletter is mine, not hers. We have all continued to stay in touch with Shellie and send little drops of love so she knows she is supported during this difficult time. I am reminded of the slogan that has become the mantra for our upcoming membership drive, "Never underestimate the power of women helping women."*

*How amazing is it to be a part of an organization of women with a mantra like that? Personally, I think it's priceless to have relationships with other women who uplift, encourage and support each other whether it be in times of triumph or tragedy. It was actually Shellie's vision to have a membership drive and set a goal of our membership reaching 100 women this year, which is part of a trifecta of celebrations, the others being that 2019 is the 100th year anniversary of BPW being founded and, our chapter, Uptown BPW, fully funded our scholarship endowment of \$100,000 this year at Midland College. So this is a year of 100s.*

*I encourage you to think of all the strong, fierce, kind and amazing women you know in your life and invite them to our Membership Mixer on May 7, which is coming up quickly next Tuesday. It will be held downtown at Kelly D. Kennedy Fine Art from 5-7 PM. Our BPW sister, Donna Bruno, has done a great job of organizing the event, where we will have wine and lite bites. Spouses and significant others are also invited. Abby Moreau, our membership chair is coordinating a list of shifts for us to take turns manning a table where new members can sign up, so please email her at [abby@probityswd.com](mailto:abby@probityswd.com) if you can help with this, and Lesley Donnell, our Community Projects Chair, has made arrangements for us to collect wish list items for Rays of Hope Children's Grief Centre. Lastly, BPW Communications Chair, Tina Fields has offered to send out invitations from the organization on your behalf to the women you'd like to invite to the Mixer, so please email her your list of names at [tina@promisingprojects.com](mailto:tina@promisingprojects.com).*

*Looking back over the month of April, we held our 4th annual Bunco tournament of which all of the proceeds will go into a special account we use to provide women returning to school with scholarship assistance for things like computer purchases, day care, etc. that can help cover essential expenses that more traditional type scholarships do not cover. Hats off to Stacy Nelson, our Bunco Chair this year and her committee, for raising a net \$7,500 that will be deposited toward this endeavor of women helping women, whether they are among our membership or not.*

*Looking forward, besides our Membership Mixer, we will have our last program meeting of the year on May 15 and our speaker will be Dr. Sally Rand, Chief Audiologist of All About Hearing, who will be talking to us about communication, followed then by our annual business meeting on May 29 where we will vote in our 2019/2020 slate of officers. Thank you to Shirley Harris for running point on our nominations committee. This business meeting is for members only and lunch will be provided, so please be sure and RSVP to [Lesley Donnell](#) if you plan to be there so we can have an accurate headcount for lunch.*

*Our last engagement before we take summer break will be our installation luncheon in June, date and place to be announced soon, so be on the lookout for this communication.*

*Ladies, we are quickly springing forward into summer and I truly believe, as an organization, we have already accomplished so much, and yet, we are just getting started. So cheers to all of us! Individually we are great, but together we are even better. I'll close with this question to ponder: How can we outcreate what we've already done and be even better? I wonder...*

In honor of our sisterhood,

*Lisa J. Grissom*

Vice President Uptown BPW



**A "Thank you"  
from BPW President,  
Shellie Robbins**



## **UPCOMING BPW MEETINGS**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019**

***Program Meeting***

Time: 11:30 am- 1 pm

Location: Petroleum Club,

Buffet Lunch: \$30



Speaker: Dr. Sally Rand, Chief Audiologist for All About Hearing

## **Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 29, 2019**

Location: Midland Chamber of Commerce

Board Room

303 W Wall St, 2nd floor Midland, TX 79701

Time: 11:45-1pm

This is a closed meetings for members only.

Elections will occur.

## Member Highlight: Jennifer Conner

### Where did you grow up and what was your family like?

I am what you might refer to as a rare breed in this oil patch community as I am born and raised in good ole Midland, TX. I was raised by my mother after my father passed away suddenly when I was only 6 years old. My maternal grandparents had a huge impact on my development and helped my mother a lot when I was growing up. This taught me from an early age the value and importance of family. Which carries on now as I am raising a very handsome teenage young man that is my son who I named Preston after my father.

### What was your favorite subject in school?

Always curious and wanting to know the “why” behind things, my two favorite subjects in school were math and science.

### What was your first job? What did you learn about yourself?

My first jobs were working for my family. So, old time Midlander’s might remember our family business Conner’s Car Wash and Conner’s Delicatessen. This was my father business and I can remember sitting on his lap with a 5-gallon jug of quarters and we rolled them together at night and then he let me pay myself out in Tootsie Rolls from the deli. Then I worked for my uncle in his furniture store. And in a uniform way I learned that a good work ethic and a commitment to how you deal with customers will go a long way.

### What is the best piece of career advice you’ve been given?

That you can’t lead the business unless you know the business. You should be able to step into any role and keep things running if you want to be at the top. Work smarter, not harder may sound cliché but it’s the one of the best pieces of advice I’ve been given. You have to be able to give your all when at work but still know how to find the most effective way to get the job done. I also believe that you can never ask someone to do something that you would never do yourself. When the need arises, roll up your sleeves and get down to business with the front line.

### What is the most rewarding part of your job?

I’m an Account Manager at InSource Insurance Group, LLC and the most rewarding part of my job is my amazing work family and the clients we serve! We are a local independent insurance agency that provides commercial property and casualty insurance, employee benefit packages, and risk management services.

### What do you love to do?

I love to enjoy life’s simple pleasures! Spending time with my family and friends is what makes me the happiest. Listening to live music, reading a good book, traveling, and giving back to the community that has given me so much are a few of the things that keep me going.

### If you could host a dinner party with any five-people living or dead, who would be there and why?

My dad so he could see how I’ve grown and we could talk about all the things I’ve accomplished in life. Stephen Hawking because I can’t imagine all the amazing things held inside his brain. Johnny Cash so I could listen to him tell his stories of overcoming so many obstacles to become the man he was (and of course hear him sing in person). Princess Diana so she could see what brilliant men her sons have turned out to be and talk to her about her humanitarian efforts so that I could follow in her footsteps. And lastly, Gerard Butler. I mean, have you seen that man? I’d just like to take him out on the town and listen to that accent!



"I also wanted to share that I was baptized on Easter Sunday at Stonegate Fellowship Church"



# Member News

From Lisa Grissom (Tall City Blues Fest):

I am so excited to share some great news with you this month. Just this past Saturday, we held our 15th Wang Dang Doodle featuring Memphis blues singer, Gracie Curran. The room was packed even in spite of several other very significant events happening around town.

Special thanks to Probity SWD and Kelly D. Kennedy Fine Art for co-presenting this Wang Dang Doodle. It was a blast!

Have you ever wondered why we would call these Tall City Blues Fest special events Wang Dang Doodles? They are named after an old famous blues song by the same name, most notoriously made famous by Cora Anna Walton, more commonly known in the blues as Koko Taylor.

It was a busy week last week in the Tall City Blues Fest office. In addition to the Wang Dang Doodle we pitched on Saturday night, we also made a very special announcement on Thursday about a partnership with To read the article go to [MRT Senior Life Midland Partnership](#).

At the joint press conference to make this announcement, I shared the following:

“Music heals hearts and lifts spirits, especially a unique American form of music like the blues.

The term “blues” is a bit of a misnomer, I think, because the blues is a creative expression of the essence of life. We all have happiness and sadness, exhilaration and heartbreak, victory and failure, triumph and tragedy in our lives. These things are the fabric of our lives and it is the spectrum of all these things, along with all the messy middle, that give our lives meaning and fullness, depth and perspective. In this way, blues music is a metaphor for life, a celebration of life, all the good and all the bad, wrapped up into this dynamically beautiful package that we call the “blues”.

In the spirit of this statement and the recent personal tragedy for our President, Shellie Robbins, Tall City Blues Fest will be donating the gift of music to Shellie and her family with a complimentary three-year Friends of the Fest membership that includes free admission to every Wang Dang Doodle we pitch for the next three years, as well as this year’s Fest and the next two to follow.

Shellie and David attended our first Wang Dang Doodle of the year back on February 2, as BPW and Bosworth were the co-presenting sponsors, and after I’d talked about our Friends of the Fest membership from the stage, Shellie & David stopped me and asked me about it, indicating interest. Being able to gift this membership to her in this time of grief and deep sorrow is a small thing we can do to help and maybe, just maybe, it might lift her spirit and help heal her heart a little bit.

Continuing with the energy of celebration, in April, we also launched the Tall City Blues Fest Silent Art Auction, which will be hosted this year by Kelly D. Kennedy Fine Art. The Auction is a juried selection that takes place during the Fest, which will be held in downtown Midland July 12-13. The art selected to be showcased will be on display inside the Doubletree both days of the Fest and available for silent bidding. Artists will receive 70% of the highest bid on their work and the combined net 30% proceeds will be donated this year to Basin PBS.

Visual artists of all types are encouraged to submit their work for jury evaluation to be showcased at this year’s Fest. A submission form can be found at the Tall City Blues Fest website and multiple submissions are welcome, so please help us spread the word about this opportunity.

Other big announcements about Tall City Blues Fest community partnerships and projects will be coming later in May, so stay tuned!



**BPW President Shellie Robbins with BPW sister Abby Moreau and Abby's husband, Adam (L) and Shellie's fiancé, David Medlin (R) at the February 2 Wang Dang Doodle that BPW co-sponsored”.**



# Member Events!

## From Lisa Grissom:

I was asked to be a part of this year's Chamber membership drive by BPW sister, Donna Bruno. Donna was a team captain for Team Purple, headed up by another of our BPW sisters, Team Leader, Lesley Donnell. Team Purple killed it, like in a good way. They exceeded every goal there was to exceed, and frankly it was not because of me. I only closed one new membership to put points on the board for our team.

Check out these Team Purple stats:

Coming in first place, Team Purple added 43 new members for a total contribution \$19,200.

To put this in perspective, the second place team added 22 new members for a total contribution of \$14,625.

That's a difference of 21 additional memberships and \$4,575!

Go Team Purple! Team Purple was donned with every award there was to win, and our fearless Team Leader was crowned "The Godmother" at the post-drive celebration. As a result of Lesley's leadership and passion for our community, Team Purple awards included the "Most Competitive Group", the "Most Enthusiastic Group", "Consumed the Most Alcohol" and "Top Group Sales". How fun is that?

Thank you, Lesley Donnell, for your outstanding leadership, for all that you do in the community and the impact you make. You are a bright, shining star! It is truly a privilege to know you and to count you among my sisters.



## From Donna Bruno:

(from left to right) Steven Palma, Donna Bruno, Clayton Black and Jen Chase at the Crystal Ball benefiting the High Sky Children's Ranch.



BPW members and friends networking at April's THE CONNECT event at Green Tree Country Club.

## From Lisa Grissom:

Promising Projects, the parent company for Tall City Blues Fest, also produces events for area non-profits. One such event is coming up this Friday, May 3 featuring tributes to Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash.

The concert is FREE to attend and will promote awareness about aphasia and the resources the Aphasia Center of West Texas offers to the West Texas community.

This year marks the 10-year anniversary for this awareness concert, so please plan to join us for this event spectacular this Friday, May 3 at the Horseshoe Amphitheater.



**APHASIA CENTER**  
of West Texas  
REPAIRING COMMUNICATION AND HOPE

# BPW MEMBERSHIP MIXER!

Please go to our BPW Facebook Page and share the invitation to this Membership Drive Mixer. Ask your friends and business associates to join you at this event. What a wonderful way to meet new people, network for your business and help women obtain scholarships!

Enjoy complimentary libations and lite bites as well as delight in viewing original works of art by over 30 fabulous artists, but most of all JOIN BPW for 2019-2020!"

**Kelly D. Kennedy Fine Art located at 100 N. Main Street, Suite 102 from 5 to 7 pm  
Tuesday, May 7th!**

The party is free and you are invited to bring a significant other.  
We will have a sign up table for members to renew their membership and new members to join us.  
The cost is only \$50 for a year! See you at the party!



Please bring  **Wish List Items to this event**



## Gift Cards

- 1 ALBERTSONS
- 2 HEB
- 3 HOBBY LOBBY
- 4 HOME DEPOT
- 5 ITUNES
- 6 LOWES
- 7 MICHAELS
- 8 OFFICE DEPOT
- 9 SAM'S CLUB
- 10 STAPLES
- 11 TARGET
- 12 WALMART
- 13 WALGREEN

## Items

- 1 ZIPLOC FREEZER BAGS- QUART AND GALLON SIZE
- 2 LYSOL OR CLOROX WIPES
- 3 PAPER TOWELS
- 4 SCOTCH TAPE
- 5 ADHESIVE
- 6 NAME TAGS
- 7 SHARPIES
- 8 ANTI-BACTERIAL HAND SOAP
- 9 HAND SANITIZER
- 10 KLEENEX
- 11 PAINT PENS
- 12 COLORFUL DUCT TAPE
- 13 ART SUPPLIES

## Snacks

- 1 BOTTLED WATER
- 2 CAPRI-SUNS
- 3 SODAS
- 4 HOME-BAKED COOKIES  
(NO NUTS OR RAISINS, PLEASE)
- 5 INDIVIDUAL-SIZED FRUIT SNACKS
- 6 INDIVIDUAL SNACK PACKS  
(CHEEZ-ITS, CHEX MIX, RITZ BITS, ETC.)

## BPW Members



**NEVER UNDERESTIMATE  
THE POWER OF WOMEN  
HELPING WOMEN**

Membership Drive Mixer  
Tuesday, May 7th, 5-7pm  
Complimentary Wine & Lite Bites  
Kelly D. Kennedy Fine Art  
100 N. Main St, Ste. 102 Midland  
(Free Parking Behind The Wall St. Lofts)



Uptown Midland Business  
and Professional Women  
[www.MidlandBPW.com](http://www.MidlandBPW.com)





# Who We Are. What We Do

## Our Mission

To equip all women for success in the workplace through education and information;

To recognize and honor the accomplishments of working women

## Nominations of Officers for 2019-2020

**Director: Abby Moreau**

**Director: Deborah Williams**

**Treasurer: Stacy Nelson**

**Secretary: Lesley Donnell**

**Vice President: Lisa Grissom**

**President: Shellie Robbins**

These ladies have graciously agreed to serve if elected.  
Nominations will be accepted from the floor on the day of the elections at our Closed Meeting (Members Only) on May 29, 2019 which will be held at the Midland Chamber of Commerce Board Room.

## Scholarships

Uptown Midland BPW awards 4 - \$500.00 scholarships to women both Spring and Fall semesters. Our scholarship recipients are "non-traditional students" women returning to school for career advancement. Many of our scholarship recipients are single moms.

The great thing about our scholarship program is the money can be used for anything. Some recipients use the money for babysitting while they are at school. We allow our scholarships to continue to receive money each semester as long as they maintain a 2.5 grade point average. As a result we have seen many scholarship awardees graduate and fulfill their goals.

Please contact Abby Moreau, Scholarship Chair for application details [abby@probityswd.com](mailto:abby@probityswd.com)

*Happy Birthday!!*

**5/20 Caline Martinez**

**5/21 Mona Bethany**

**5/27 Krystal Atwater**

**5/29 Shellie Robbins**

Newsletter submissions:  
Email Emily: [eweinberg10@gmail.com](mailto:eweinberg10@gmail.com)

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