

# The Uptown News Beat

[www.midlandbpw.com](http://www.midlandbpw.com)

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A monthly Newsletter for the Uptown Chapter of Business & Professional Women  
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Well, it's time for a new year at Uptown Midland. I have some big shoes to fill following our past presidents from Uptown, but I know there is that limitless well of knowledge and experience that will be there for me to fall back on during this year. We have many decisions to make this year plus all of our usual responsibilities as Uptown members. We have witnessed history in watching what we are familiar with change into what we hope to be a new beginning for our organization. Moving from BPW/USA to BPW Foundation, we will soon be voting on whether to affiliate with BPW Foundation. There is also the change for our State Federation that has voted to stand apart from BPW Foundation and begin a whole new organization of career women. Our Texas sisters will be looking to us for support and that is a relationship that we will surely want to continue to nurture as we can. Our Region 6 will be changing too and again we should consider our long time friendship with our sisters when making these difficult decisions. I hope to help make this an extraordinary and upbeat year for all of us despite the seriousness of what is ahead of us.

I'm looking forward to continuing the excellence we surpass each year when we make our plans for National Business Women's Week and the Style Show during the 2009-2010 year. I am never surprised when I hear all of the praise we receive after these events. Each year since I joined Uptown we have always WOWed the attendees when we put on a party. And the generosity abounds at these events. There are also the BPW trademark programs featuring Young Careerist, Individual Development Program, Women Joining Forces, Legislative Hotline, Electronic Advocacy, WOMENomics, Well-behaved Women Never Make History, Building Powerful Women, and Equal Pay Day which will be additional opportunities for all of us to develop our professionalism. And so we will proceed with business as usual until we can determine what the future holds for Uptown Midland BPW. I'm sure it will be a "BPW magnificent adventure".

Our next business meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2009, at noon at The Petroleum Club of Midland. I hope each of you can attend. Please RSVP to Jennifer Birkla, 2nd Vice President / Membership Chair at 262-6323 ([jenniferbirkla@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniferbirkla@hotmail.com)), or Shirley Harris, Webpage Chair at 684-4692 ([shirley@tbobamthor.com](mailto:shirley@tbobamthor.com)). The cost of the luncheon is \$17.00 unless otherwise noted for special events. Please connect with us as we trek through this new adventure for Uptown and continue the spirit of BPW for others in our futures.

**Building Powerful Women,**

**Very truly yours,**

*Debrah Gann*

*Uptown Midland BPW President 2009 - 2010*

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## Highlights from our 2008 – 2009 Year Program Speakers and Meetings



August is  
**“Women’s Equality Month”** and we had a presentation from Terri Gilmour a Professor at Midland College on Women’s Equality. Our luncheon was on August 13th. From the left are Uptown President Sheila Warren, Speaker Terri Gilmour and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP in charge of programs Glenda Knox.

### Your Vote Does Count!!

Our first speaker was Chris McCormack, Democrat County Chair and on State Democratic Executive Committee. “Pay attention to the judgment they have used while in office.” (left front in photo)

Our second speaker was J.D. Faircloth, Republican, Vice Chair, Precincts gave us some info about the Texas Republican Platform. He urged us to go to the various political / candidate websites and check out the information that is available. (right front in photo) Sept. 09



For National **Business Women’s** Week which we held on October 20, 2008 Uptown honored Dr. Eileen Piwetz as our 2008 Woman of Achievement with an evening event which was held at the Petroleum Club. (photo at left, from left Chris Hagan, Dr. Piwetz and Mary Ann Brock ) Uptown also named their Woman of the Year – Shirley Harris (photo at right, Patti Humphry and Shirley Harris.)



Lily White gave us an informative history of CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocate for children who are removed from their homes by the state. Lily came to speak about their book *Just for Now – Kids and the People of the Court*. It explains to the child what is going to happen from the time they are removed from the home, lets them know it is not their fault and that other children go thru this and they are not alone. Who / What to expect. She was asking Uptown BPW for \$500 to purchase 50 books. Nov. 09



In December Uptown held our Annual Christmas Party in the evening at the Grassland Club House and held a silent auction for the benefit of MD Anderson Cancer Research. Our meal was catered by Johnny's Barbecue and members were asked to bring a can of food to be donated to a local food bank. Fun was had by all and we supported a cause close to our hearts!



Jan. 09 - Jimmy Patterson the online editor for the Midland Reporter Telegram and MyWestTexas.com. This is his 2<sup>nd</sup> time to speak to us – he is a very humorous speaker – he draws from his own life.

“We all have days, weeks of doing good and then we fall down.” So we just have to get back up and dust ourselves off and start again.”

At left is Jerri Ripplinger and Jimmy Patterson

Our February program was Denise Johnson from the Midland Library on how laughter is good medicine. She gave us a “ha..ha..” lesson!



In March Joan Baskin “who has been around forever!!” spoke on the upcoming plans for Midland and some rich history of Midland as well.

She urged each of us to participate in the community forum and state what our dreams are for Midland's Future.

[www.midlandvision2020.com](http://www.midlandvision2020.com)

In April - Uptown put on its - 9<sup>th</sup> Annual BPW in Bloom Style Show. We held it at a different venue -The Midland Center which was a great success. This event funds our Scholarship program

Check out [www.leavethecamera.com](http://www.leavethecamera.com) for great photos!!



Stacy Baccus with Safe Place came and spoke to us in May 09. This is their 31<sup>st</sup> year in the Permian Basin – serve 15 Counties. SERVICES offered: Shelter, transportation (work, school, court), Advocacy-personalized to each client to determine direction and needs, Legal Advocate- lawyer goes with client/protection order/whatever is needed, Children's Program-allows Mom a bit of alone time/court time/lawyer or whatever she needs, required that children stay in school and Counseling-physical, emotional and psychological issues, Volunteers- have community and civic organizations, Traveling Advocate-goes to out-lying communities and provides support groups, 1 on 1, whatever is necessary. Their services are no cost to the client – 2,000 women and children served in our area.

In June we held installation of our 2009 – 2010 Officers – It was a Texas themed installation presented by Glenda Knox. From the left:

Mona Bethany - Secretary  
 Jennifer Birkla – Membership  
 Stacy Nelson – Programs  
 Debrah Gann – President  
 Jerri Ripplinger - Treasurer



As you can see – we have had quite the year! I hope you have enjoyed this brief pictorial revue of this past 2008 – 2009 year. Hope to see you this year!!  
 – thanks Shirley D. Harris, Editor

New Business:



July 12 - Delores Schuler  
 July 20 - Lesley Smith  
 July 23 - Glenna Haskell  
 July 30 - Patti Humphrey  
 July 31 - Sherry Ladd