



Montgomery Women
leadership & political action
December 2009

Upcoming dates:

- December 4th-First Friday Power Breakfast
 - December 14th-Committee for Montgomery Breakfast (sign up ASAP!)
 - December 15th-Holiday party (members only)
 - January 8th-First Friday Power Breakfast will be held on the **SECOND** Friday because of the New Year's Holiday.
 - January 31, 2010 Women's Legislative Briefing
 - **A note from the Chair, Meredith Wellington:**
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I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving. I want to alert you to all that is going on in December, so that you can be there with us. **Our First Friday Breakfast is on December 4th at 7:30 AM at the Silver Diner on Rockville Pike.** In November, twelve of us shared a pot of coffee, lots of good news, and even better gossip! Hope you will be there in December.

On Monday, December 14th, Montgomery Women is sponsoring a table at the Committee for Montgomery breakfast. The breakfast is at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, and it starts at 7:00 AM. The keynote speaker is the Maryland House of Delegates Speaker Michael Busch. **We have a few seats left.** If you want to join us, please send a check for \$75, payable to Montgomery Women, to our Treasurer, Goldie Rivkin—7801 Fairfax Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Then, the next evening, Tuesday, December 15th, we hold our Annual Holiday Party. It's free to Members, or you can join at the door. The party is at my house, and you should already have your invitation. If you have been before, you know how much fun it is—with great food and wine and great women. So plan to be there. We have asked each person who comes to bring a package of disposable diapers for Interfaith Works. Last year we collected a lot.

We also have good news about membership. **Our membership is up 14% from last year at this time**—and if you will just take the time to go on line, or bring your checkbook to the Holiday Party—we'll be even bigger. When we speak for our members, the County listens, so, again, time to sign up.

Again, I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving, and that you were able to spend time with some of the people you love

See you soon,
Meredith

Commissioner (and Montgomery Women member) **Marye Wells-Harley** was selected As Montgomery County Planning Board Vice Chairman

At its meeting yesterday, members of the Montgomery County Planning Board elected Marye Wells-Harley to be vice chairman, effective immediately. The vice chair presides over Board meetings in the chairman's absence.

Appointed to the Commission in July, Wells-Harley is the retired director of the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, where she worked for 42 years.

As Parks and Recreation director, Wells-Harley was instrumental in the agency receiving an unprecedented five top awards from the National Recreation and Park Association. Wells-Harley's long tenure of public service brought her the distinction of being named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by the Daily Record newspaper in 2004.

Montgomery Council Seeks Applicants to fill vacancy on the County Planning Board. Deadline for Applications Is Wed., Jan. 13. Sadly, the vacancy was created by the passing of Planning Board and Montgomery Women Executive Board member Jean Cryor on Nov. 3. Ms. Cryor's term will expire on June 14, 2011.

Applications must be received no later than 5 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 13. More information:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Council/PressRelease/PR_details.asp?PrID=6027.

It's Live! Says Communications Chair and Webmaster, Ilaya Rome Hopkins.

If you haven't visited www.montgomerywomen.org recently, be sure to check out our new look. In addition to a facelift, we have added some new interactive features as well. You have the choice to register with the site, which involves entering your email and creating a personal password. As a registered member of the site, you can post items to the "Forum" for all to see. You can also see recent issues of the newsletter and check the calendar for upcoming events. The membership form as well as Shining Star nomination form is available for downloading. Please note that there is a current listing of openings for Montgomery County Boards and Commissions there for you to consider as well as information and resources provided by Dr. Carol Garvey as a follow up to our October meeting.

Thanks to Kim Foley for her advice and support in constructing the website. The site is hosted by webs.com. Please visit the site and let us know what you think by contacting ilayahopkins@verizon.net.

Shining Star Award Nominations Now Being Accepted.

The Montgomery Women Shining Star Award honors two beloved founding members of Montgomery Women, Delegate Jane Lawton and County Council

Member Marilyn Praisner. Both gave unsparingly of their talent, time, intellect and spirit of sisterhood. They modeled and championed women's full participation in public life. Montgomery Women has created the "Shining Star" Award in their memory. It will be presented at the annual Power Tea on March 21, 2010.

If you have a nomination for the Award, please complete and send the attached form to Lynn Olson (rlynnolson@verizon.net), Shining Star Award Chair, by December 31, 2009.

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Montgomery Women Is Seeking Rising Star nominations!

Do you know someone who is:

- Relentless, passionate, and innovative
- Making fundamental, creative, or unprecedented change in her community
- On the upward curve of her career/mission
- Building bridges
- Empowering others

We are especially interested in nominees whose age, ethnicity, or socio-economic status is underrepresented in recognized leadership positions.

The Rising Star award celebrates the life of Phyllis Campbell Newsome, a MW founding member who died too young. Phyllis cared passionately about her community and about social justice. This award recognizes other emerging women leaders and provides a public platform for their message.

The award will be presented at the MW Power Tea on Sunday, March 21, 2010.

The nomination form will be on the MW website shortly. Meanwhile, you can send a nomination to Fran.Rothstein@verizon.net. Please include:

- your name and contact information;
- the name and contact information of your nominee;
- your nominee's her current job, her affiliations, and memberships;
- your nominee's political, volunteer, and advocacy activities;
- your statement explaining why this woman is a Rising Star;
- your nominee's resume.

Please invite others who are not MW members to consider nominating someone as well.

Nominations are due by December 31, 2009.

From the Executive Board:

Shall We Have a Montgomery Women Table

... at the Committee for Montgomery Breakfast coming up Monday, December 14?

This annual event is a sort of pep rally and send-off for Montgomery County's delegation to Annapolis, focusing on positions to be represented before the 2010

legislative session. It is a good way to hear briefings on key County issues as well as to meet and greet important people.

If you would like to be seated at this breakfast where a table sign identifies Montgomery Women, here's what to do:

Make your reservation by sending us a check for \$75 made out to Montgomery Women. Send it to: Treasurer Goldie Rivkin at 7801 Fairfax Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

A table seats 10 people. The first 10 reservations will be honored. If we receive fewer than 10 reservations, we will not sponsor a table and we will reserve places for you elsewhere in the room.

MW Membership

Please welcome Cynthia Cotte Criffiths who is involved with Rockville Human Service Advisory Commission.

As a reminder if you have not paid your 2009-2010 dues, please send them to Goldie Rivkin (see below). We did not send out hard copy invoices this year so it may have slipped by your bill payment box. Thank you and we look forward to another successful Montgomery Women year. If you have any questions about membership, please contact, Beth Irons or Mary Ann Keeffe, Co-Membership Chairs. Beth at 301-942-4849, birons@Sail-Realty.com and Mary Ann at 301-946-3423, makeeffeconsulting@comcast.net.

Send you dues check for \$100 (\$30 for women under the age of 30) to Montgomery Women Treasurer, Goldie Rivkin, at 7801 Fairfax Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

PS: If you know anyone who could benefit from being a member of Montgomery Women, please pass this newsletter along and encourage them to join.

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Montgomery Women's next First Friday Power Breakfast will be held on December 4th Plan to join us at our regular gathering. It is informal, so drop in especially. Please note that for January, we will meet on the January 8th, the SECOND Friday because of the New Year's Holiday.

What: ! Power Breakfast

When: ! First Friday of the Month

Where: ! Silver Diner, Rockville go to

<http://www.silverdiner.com/locations/directory.html> for directions

Time: ! 7:30 am - 9:00 am

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Please visit our website, www.montgomerywomen.org, for updates. It has interactive features. Also, look for Montgomery Women on Facebook. We have our own group!

For your convenience, there is a membership form attached (We want to be sure we have your contact information correct.) along with the nomination form for the Rising Star Award and a Holiday Party Invitation.