



Montgomery Women
leadership & political action
November 2009

Upcoming dates:

- November 6th-First Friday Power Breakfast
- December 15th-Holiday party (members only)

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A note from the Chair, Meredith Wellington:
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The first thing I want to do is thank Dr. Carol Garvey and Del. Heather Mizeur (Dist. 20) for their excellent discussion on health care options for low income women in Montgomery County that took place on Monday, October 19th at the County Council. Our moderator, Lynn Olson, did a great job asking the questions that were on all of our minds, and then opening up the floor to discussion. We learned that the County does offer real health care help, but that services are diffuse, and that with the passage of some state legislation, services could be a lot better. New members also signed up, so welcome to them!

I hope to see you all at our next First Friday breakfast on November 6th at 7:30 am at the Silver Diner on Rockville Pike. We had eleven dynamic women at our October breakfast, and I think each of us learned something that we needed to know. Lots of breaking news, sharing of information, and hot java, so don't miss the next one-- please join us on November 6th.

If you haven't renewed your membership, or joined for the first time—now is the time. You can join online or send in your check—all of the information is on our website, www.montgomerywomen.org. You can also come to any event, and join there. The main thing is to be a member—our next event is the Holiday Party (members only) on Tuesday, December 15th.

See you all soon, and thanks for all of the support that you give to Montgomery Women.

Meredith

Mizeur and Garvey on Health Care for Low-Income Women

Delegate Heather Mizeur (District 20) and Dr. Carol Garvey, founder of Montgomery's Primary Care Coalition, presented their perspectives on women's health care and health care reform at the October 19 Montgomery Women meeting. Approximately 25 people turned out for the program.

Dr. Garvey explained the services available in MoCo—attached is a one-page information sheet on who provides what and how to get involved. She lamented the decline in family planning services and the fragmentation of the current service delivery model. There is no one place or agency where low-income and uninsured

residents can go to receive preventive and primary care. The State and the County are both looking to cut costs due to budget shortfalls and the Collaboration Council has already suffered cuts from the state. Despite these problems, Dr. Garvey said that Montgomery County was better than many others around the nation in providing health services for low-income and undocumented immigrant residents.

Delegate Mizeur explained that a Medicaid expansion was likely to pass as part of the federal health care reform bill. Also likely to be in the final bill are provisions that ban insurance companies from denying insurance coverage based on pre-existing conditions and from charging higher health insurance premiums for women than for men. On the state level, Mizeur explained that she had introduced a bill in the last session that would provide funding for family planning services for low-income women prior to these women becoming pregnant. As it now stands, women are eligible for these services only after they have had their first child. She plans to re-introduce this bill in the 2010 session and asked for support from members of Montgomery Women.

Lynn Olson, October Program Chair

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Our chair, Meredith Wellington, (former M-NCPPC Commissioner) was on a panel at the Chevy Chase Town Hall Monday, October 26 with Royce Hanson, Montgomery County Planning Board Chair, Patricia Harris (attorney with Holland and Knight) and Ilaya Hopkins of the Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board, (and Montgomery Women member) discussing the 2010-2013 County Growth Policy and proposed revisions to the zoning ordinance.

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 1, 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 News

We welcome four new members:

Bonnie Cullison, Asst. to MCPS Superintendent, Silver Spring

Tara Flynn, attorney, Garrett Park

Ginny Gong, Author among other hats, Gaithersburg

Jennifer Russel, Director of Planning, Rodgers Consulting, Bethesda

As a reminder if you have not paid your 2009-2010 dues, please send them to Goldie Rivkin (see below). Please don't be one of those that the Executive Board will be calling to remind about dues payment. 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 Keefe, 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 November 6th Plan to join us at our regular gathering. It is informal, so drop in!

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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Montgomery County Council Seeks

Applicants for Grants Advisory Group

Application Deadline is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 4

See full information attached

Look for Montgomery Women on Facebook. We have our own group! Our website is undergoing a major renovation. Watch for an exciting new look to be unveiled soon. For a sneak peek, go to www.montwomen.webs.com.

There is a lot of good information attached:

a membership form. (Please be sure we have your contact information correct.), the nomination form for the Shining Star Award, the nomination form for the Rising Star Award, and full information to apply for the Grants Advisory Group.

