



Montgomery Women
leadership & political action

April 2010

Upcoming dates:

- April 9- Friday Power Breakfast NOTE to be held on the SECOND Friday in April from 7:30-9:00 AM at the Silver Diner
- May 7-Back to FIRST Friday Power Breakfast as usual
- May 13- Annual Meeting at Jenny Sue Duffers

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Message from the Chair:

WOW! What a sensational afternoon for Montgomery Women and the women of Montgomery County! The Power Tea rocked the house! **A special thank you to our chairs, Donna Barron and Bev Denbo.** They made this happen. Donna presented a program that was riveting, as speaker after speaker mesmerized us with her personal story and her expertise in her chosen field. Over 110 women and men were there—many, many members, some new members and many guests—sipping tea, eating sandwiches and delicious pastries in the elegant setting of the Strathmore Mansion. There was a buzz in the air as friends met, women networked, and everyone caught up on what is happening in Montgomery County, the state of Maryland, and even the nation with a vote on health care pending.

Maryland's Treasurer Nancy Kopp, Honorary Chair of the Tea, kicked things off with remarks about the job of Treasurer, the financial picture for Maryland, and how things have changed for women since she ran for office almost 30 years ago. Lots of good changes, she said, but more are needed. She had high praise for Sarah Bloom Raskin, Maryland's Commissioner of Financial Regulation, the Power Tea's keynote speaker, and an outstanding public servant who is being considered for the Board of the Federal Reserve.

Merle Steiner, Montgomery Women's Recording Secretary, presented Bobbi Shulman, a member of Montgomery Women and a trustee of Montgomery College, with two scholarships. First, she presented the "Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation Scholarship", and thanked Carol Trawick for her generosity. Carol, we all thank you, too for your outstanding philanthropy. Then, Ms. Steiner presented the new Montgomery Women scholarship, which Ms. Shulman also accepted on behalf of the College, noting that it is particularly needed now during this difficult economic time.

We then heard from Sarah Bloom Raskin, Maryland's Commissioner of Financial Regulation. Ms. Raskin transported us with her analysis of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure", and its message (albeit unintended) that women must participate equally in the body politic for government to truly function effectively for all of the people. She also paid tribute to Judge Irma R. Raker, Montgomery Women's 2010 Shining Star, for the role Judge Raker has played in advancing the equality of women.

Then came the central focus of the program: the awards. Theresa Testoni received the 2010 Rising Star award for her passionate and tireless work to foster volunteerism in Montgomery County and Maryland. She has spent many hours fostering partnerships between companies and nonprofits; she advocates for many Montgomery County nonprofits; and she has been a longtime Special Olympics volunteer—implementing a mileage donation program that has collected more than 1,100,000 miles for athletes to attend competitions. She graciously accepted, and shared with us her passion for her work.

Judge Irma S. Raker received the 2010 Shining Star award for her trailblazing contributions to jurisprudence, the administration of justice, and the advancement of women and of all persons facing discrimination and challenges. Through her work she has lifted not only the citizens of Montgomery County and the State of Maryland but also the entire nation. In 2007 she received the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the highest honor bestowed by the American Bar Association. In 2009 she received the H. Vernon Eney Award, the highest honor given by the Maryland Bar Association. She rose from an Associate Judge in the District Court (appointed in 1980), to the Circuit Court, and then to Maryland's highest court, the Court of Appeals, where she served for 14 years. As a judge, for more than 30 years, she has chaired the Standing Committee to Draft Pattern Jury Instructions in Civil and Criminal Cases. The Committee's recommended standard instructions are now used by almost every trial judge in every courtroom in Maryland. She is the Chair of the Maryland Commission on Access to Justice. She was the first woman prosecutor in Montgomery County, and the second woman appointed to the Court of Appeals. She has mentored women throughout her career and modeled for them the task of melding a public life with a private one. Judge Raker was pleased to accept the award, and she introduced her family members, a new generation of young women, and her helpmate and spouse, Sam Raker.

It was truly an afternoon to remember, and to inspire all of us to work harder to mentor and help other women, and to step back and appreciate how things have changed for women, and what other changes are needed.

One last thing—On a practical note, we are awaiting the final numbers of how much we raised from the Tea, but we know that the Tea did very well, and we will have final numbers next week.

One more last thing! I hope everyone saw the hard working Montgomery Board and members who were at the Tea greeting guests, taking photos and checking everyone in. In addition to Donna Barron (who was everywhere!) and Bev Denbo, there was Merle Steiner, Goldie Rivkin, Mary Ann Keefe, Fran Rothstein, Lynn Olson, Marilyn Pierre, Deborah Stoll, Julie Davis, Tedi Osias, and Jenny Sue Dunner. We also owe thanks to Tedi, Karen Czapanskiy, and Kathy Stevens for helping with the program and to Nancy Floreen for arranging for us to use the beautiful Strathmore Mansion.

REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING: Thursday, May 13th in the evening at home of Jenny Sue Dunner. Details to follow.

Montgomery Women is on a roll!

See you soon.

Meredith

Have you visited our website? Communications Chair and Webmaster, Ilaya Rome Hopkins says 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. . Please note that there is a current listing of openings for Montgomery County Boards and Commissions there for you to consider.

The site is hosted by webs.com. Please visit the site and let us know what you think by contacting ilayahopkins@verizon.net.

MW Membership

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 your 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 Friday Power Breakfast will be held on April 9, the SECOND Friday this month because of holidays. Plan to join us at our regular gathering. It is informal, so drop in.

What: ! Power Breakfast

When: ! Friday, April 9, 2010

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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Once again, please visit our website, www.montgomerywomen.org, for updates. It has interactive features. For those members who are aspiring to elected political office, consider announcing your views and events via the interactive forum from the website. 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.