



Montgomery Women
leadership & political action

February 2010

Upcoming dates:

- February 5-First Friday Power Breakfast 7:30-9:00 AM
- March 21-Power Tea 3-5 PM

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Message from the Chair:

A lot is happening!

Over 650 women registered for the briefing, and it looked to me like most attended. Our own Jaclyn Lichter Vincent, Montgomery Women member and President of the Montgomery County Commission for Women, opened the Legislative Briefing Session. We cheered Lily Ledbetter, the Keynote Speaker, as she told of her fight for equal pay, her loss before the Supreme Court, and the federal legislation—the first piece of legislation that President Obama signed—that remedied the Supreme Court’s ruling.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski, one of the primary sponsors of the legislation, introduced Ms. Ledbetter. She was there along with Reps. Van Hollen and Edwards, and County Executive Ike Leggett and Council President Nancy Floreen. We then broke up into a series of workshops dealing with the pressing issues facing women: economic security; poverty; aging; domestic violence; women’s health care; and the solutions through understanding the legislative process and achieving elected and appointed office on the local and state levels. Finally we heard from economist, Dr. Heather Boushey, about the highlights of the recently released Shriver Report: A Woman’s Nation. It was a spectacular afternoon, and Montgomery Women was front and center because of the participation of our members. Including myself, and Board members Beth Irons, Deborah Stoll, Tedi Osias, Fran Rothstein, Marilyn Pierre, Ilaya Hopkins and Lynn Olson, close to thirty Montgomery Women attended. Members Del. Heather Mizeur, Del. Kathleen Dumais, Sen. Jenny Forehand, Council President Nancy Floreen, Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg, Tedi Osias, and Karen Czpansky, all moderated or presented in one of the workshops. In the audience I saw School Board members Judy Docca and Shirley Brandman, as well as Becky Wagoner, Dana Beyer, Anne Sanderoff-Walker, Karen McManus, Marion Ballard, Reggie Oldak, Jane de Winter, Wilma Holmes, Sharon Dooley, Pam Saul, Marilyn Balcombe, Jane de Winter, and Lyn Peters. Others who have supported our mission, Del. Ann Kaiser, Rep. Donna Edwards, and Joan Kleinman from Rep. Van Hollen’s office, were also present. If I have missed any of you, I apologize, and please shoot me an email. We are so proud of our members, and the role they play in advancing the concerns of women in Montgomery County.

SAVE THE DATE! The Power Tea is coming! Reserve Sunday, March 21st from 3 to 5 pm at the Mansion at Strathmore. Donna Barron and Bev Denbo are our excellent co-chairs, and they have much good news to report. Many women in positions of responsibility in Montgomery County and Maryland will be there. The Honorary Chair this year is Nancy Kopp, Maryland’s Treasurer who is renowned for her public

service. The Keynote Speaker is Sarah Bloom Raskin, Maryland's Commissioner of Financial Regulation. The Rising Star Award goes to Theresa Testoni, a Commissioner on the Governor's Commission for Service and Volunteerism, and an exemplary volunteer herself. Our Shining Star this year is the Honorable Irma Raker, who served as a judge on the Maryland Court of Appeals, Maryland's highest court, from 1994 until April 2008. Those who know Judge Raker know her contribution to the advancement of women and the disadvantaged in general. We are thrilled with this year's program, and excited to be able to offer the Tea to our members. This is the year to come out! REMEMBER THE TEA IS FREE TO MEMBERS. If you are not paid up to date, you must pay the \$25 nonmember rate. Please mark your calendars and register early since there is limited capacity at Strathmore.

Even though as I write this it is the last day of January, we can already feel the days getting longer. Spring is coming, and a sense of renewal for the women of Montgomery County.

See you soon,

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Meredith
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A new opportunity to help!

Montgomery Women is very fortunate that Carol Trawick has generously donated \$1,000 for so many years for a scholarship for a needy female student at Montgomery College. We present this check every year to the College at the Power Tea in March. This award has now been named the Trawick Scholarship in honor of her generous gesture.

It would be such a great benefit, especially during these difficult financial times, if members of Montgomery Women also contributed towards a separate scholarship. We are an organization that promotes women to achieve leadership, and education is the first step on this road.

Two members have already offered \$400.00 so we have a great start. We are asking others to make a donation so that at the Power Tea in March Montgomery Women will have a second scholarship to present on behalf of our members. This would be a strong show of support for women's education.

If you are interested in contributing, please send your tax-deductible check, made out to the Montgomery College Scholarship Fund, and send it to Merle Steiner. 3206 Woodbine Street, Chevy Chase, Maryland. No amount is too small!
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The Sixth Annual Awards Reception and Power Tea

*Honorary Chair
The Honorable Nancy K. Kopp
Treasurer of Maryland*

*Keynote Speaker
Sara Bloom Raskin
Commissioner of Financial Regulation
State of Maryland*

*Sunday, March 21, 2010
Three to five o'clock in the afternoon*

*The Mansion at Strathmore
10701 Rockville Pike*

Please reply with your name, telephone number and email address to Merle Steiner RSVP Merle Steiner 301.652.0895 or merlejsteiner@gmail.com

OUR STARS!

Judge Raker to Receive Shining Star Award at Power Tea

Former Court of Appeals Judge Irma S. Raker will receive the Montgomery Women Shining Star Award. After a long and distinguished career on the bench, Judge Raker retired in April of 2008. She is now Chair of the Maryland Access to Justice Commission. She is the founder of the Women Judges and Legislators' Association, which has worked to provide a number of opportunities and programs for women in prison or recently released from prison, including the creation a college degree program at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women. A former member of the Family Violence Council and President of the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Women Judges, Judge Raker is a shining star of public service.

The 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. With their energy, expertise and persistence, they were "shining stars" of public service. They modeled and championed women's full participation in public life. Montgomery Women has created the "Shining Star" Award in their memory. Each year, Montgomery Women will present the Shining Star Award to an outstanding woman leader who continues Jane's and Marilyn's legacy.

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Rising Star, Theresa Testoni, to be honored at the Power Tea

It is with pleasure that Montgomery Women recognizes Theresa Testoni as the recipient of the 2010 Rising Star award. She has been a leader in the field of volunteerism and community relations, currently serving on the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. She participates on the MCPS Superintendent's Advisory Board on Student Service Learning and has worked with many aspects of volunteer activities from developing corporate programs to working with the Special Olympics, Impact Silver Spring and Shepherd's Table.

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.

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In Memory of Board Member and Good Friend, Jean Cryor

The Board of Directors of Montgomery Women voted to contribute in Jean Cryor's memory to the charity indicated by her family, the Society of the Sacred Heart Retirement Fund. Any member of Montgomery Women who wishes to make an individual contribution that will be sent together with our organization's check is welcome to do so. Just make out a check to the Fund named here. Make sure your name and address are shown on your personal check and mail your donation to Montgomery Women c/o Goldie Rivkin, Treasurer, 7801 Fairfax Road, Bethesda, MD 20814 before February 14. Goldie will mail all individual contributions she receives, together with Montgomery Women's check, on February 15.

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

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 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 First Friday Power Breakfast will be held on February 5, 2010. 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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Once again, 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.