



**Montgomery Women**  
leadership & political action

**March 2010**

Upcoming dates:

- March 5-First Friday Power Breakfast 7:30-9:00 AM at the Silver Diner
- March 21-Power Tea 3-5 PM at Strathmore Mansion

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Message from the Chair:

February can be summed up in one word: SNOW! We have all wrestled with snow shovels, grocery store lines, and cancellations. And, for some of us, lost power and a little uncertainty that a snowplow was coming our way. That is behind us now (we hope). So it's time to party!

Montgomery Women never cancelled. We had our February First Friday breakfast right on schedule—between the two major snowstorms. Now it's time for our March breakfast. Please join us this coming Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM at the Silver Diner on Rockville Pike. As always there will be lots of hot coffee and dish about all of the important happenings in the County.

*The most important date for your calendar: **Power Tea, Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 3 to 5 pm at the Strathmore Mansion.*** The invitations are in the mail, and most of you have yours by now. **Remember, this very special event is free to our members. For non-members the cost is only \$25 per person. RSVP now!** If you haven't received your invitation, please let us know, and we will make sure you get one.

This year we are honored to have Nancy Kopp, Maryland's Treasurer, as our Honorary Chair, and Sarah Bloom Raskin, Maryland's Commissioner of Financial Regulation, as our keynote speaker. 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. **BE THERE!**

We are planning other events for April, and our annual meeting will be in May—again at the home of Jenny Sue Dunner. Thanks, Jenny Sue. We will be following up with the details.

Montgomery Women is on a roll!

See you soon at the Power Tea!

*Meredith*

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**A new opportunity to help!**

When you receive your official invitation to the Power Tea on March 21st, think about what the Tea represents. It is our occasion to honor women who are rising to a serious leadership level and outstanding women who have reached that height. None of these achievements could be done without education. We also present the Trawick Scholarship award to Montgomery College to give to a deserving woman.

Montgomery Women is raising funds to offer a second award, a Montgomery Women \$1000.00 scholarship, to the College to assist another worthy woman. We are halfway there! Please send your tax-deductible contribution made out to the MONTGOMERY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND to Merle Steiner, 3206 Woodbine Street, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815. We can make a difference to another well-deserving woman.

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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**Have you visited our website?** Communications Chair and Webmaster, Ilaya Rome Hopkins says if you haven’t visited [www.montgomerywomen.org](http://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](mailto:ilayahopkins@verizon.net).

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**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. 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](mailto:birons@Sail-Realty.com) and Mary Ann at 301-946-3423, [makeeffeconsulting@comcast.net](mailto: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 March 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](http://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.