

# Berkshire Business & Professional Women



September 2018

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## President's Message

Greetings Members!



*Claire Richards*

What a glorious summer it has been. A bit hot and humid for me but still a glorious summer.

Our Vice Presidents of Programs, Shela Hidalgo and Sopheap Nhim, have lined up a fabulous and interesting year for our monthly dinners. They are fun, interesting, and new. I can't wait!

We will kick-off the year with our September meeting celebrating our scholarship recipients. We will be celebrating 12 beautiful and fabulous recipients. I am so excited to meet them and hear what amazing work each are doing. Our monthly meetings are usually the first Monday of the month; however, as the first Monday in September is Labor-day and this year the second Monday is Rosh Hashanah, we have moved the recipient monthly

dinner to the third Monday, the 17th.

Over the past year, the Board has been reviewing a number of our procedures and programming and tools, and looking for ways to improve our members' experience with BBPW. One such change that many of you have already experienced is at the meetings where we have changed the agenda and programming to include a reflective exercise, the Trinity, that facilitates getting to know each other better and to have a chance to reflect on our lives.

Another thing we identified was a critical need to update our website to be more user friendly, engaging and appealing. In that vein, the Board has sent out an RFP to solicit proposals to migrate and update our website so that we can more easily share information with our membership and to improve the functionality. The projected date for our new website is November 1st.

Another aspect that we revisited is the timing of the Woman of Achievement dinner. Based on historical precedent from the National BPW, this dinner was always held in the Fall. It is one of our largest fundraisers for the scholarships that we award, yet the money raised in October was not disbursed until the following September which we felt was a lost opportunity to make a stronger connection between these two events.

For this year, we are trying something new by moving the WOA dinner to May so that it is closer in date to the scholarship dinner in September. We are discussing ways to connect these two events strategically such that we can use the WOA as a capstone to the end of the year and the scholarship dinner as a launch of the new year, and designing the program in such a way that we bridge the energy and the donors of the WOA to the scholarship recipient dinner in September. We hope you agree. In October, we will hold our regular program event the first Monday of the month.

What makes Berkshire BPW so wonderful, fun and interesting? All of you! If you have ideas, thoughts or want to volunteer on one of our committees, please let us know.

Please welcome Andrea Wadsworth to our raffle committee. She will be joining Christine Carpenter for our 18-19 season of organizing the fabulous items we have for our monthly raffles. The raffle money also supports our Scholarship program. Thank you, Andrea and Christine. We look forward to a great and fun year.

Do you have news to share about your organization or events or services you are offering? We want to hear from you. Please send your submissions via email to Lori Gazzillo Kiely at [bbpwnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bbpwnewsletter@gmail.com) no later than the 10th of each month for inclusion in that month's newsletter.

Warmly,

Claire Richards  
[bbpwpresident@gmail.com](mailto:bbpwpresident@gmail.com)  
646-361-7509

## September Spotlight...



By 2020, 65% of the American workforce will need some form of postsecondary education or certificate program, meaning that the prospects for women with a bachelor's degree will continue to grow. Berkshire Business and Professional Women is committed to ensuring that women in Berkshire County have the financial resources needed to achieve higher earning potential. In Berkshire County:

- Only 30.7% of Berkshire County residents have a high school diploma;
- The median household income in Berkshire County is \$53, 030;
- 9% of all households and 15.7% of female headed households in Berkshire County live in poverty;
- There is only a small percentage (36%) of homes considered affordable for families making an income at or below \$35,000 a year;

In Berkshire County the need to support education is an economic reality. On average, a woman with a college degree will make almost \$1 million more than a woman with only a high school diploma. This in turn has a positive correlation with homeownership, economic mobility and community engagement. As the Lumina Foundation President Jamie Merisotis noted in an August 2014 commentary: "By providing greater postsecondary access and success for all Americans, we build stronger economies, thriving communities and a greater quality of life. It's clear that higher education remains the best avenue to prosperity, opportunity and a stronger nation."

Through BBPW's annual scholarship program, we assist women reach their dreams of furthering their career and advancing in the workplace. But present-day adult women students will not be the only ones to gain from a college degree, A Shriver Report indicates that "parental education attainment is now more important than family income in predicting a child's future opportunity."



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Dear Members,

Did you know that if you've been a Member of Berkshire BPW for two or more years, you can apply for up to \$600 in grant money from our Massachusetts BPW Mass Educational Assistance Fund? This is a reimbursement available for educational programs, such as this one.

To access the application form, visit [bpwma.org](http://bpwma.org) then click on the Members Only section. The password is lucystone. The form is MEAF Application.

These funds are available for Educational purposes, including textbooks. There are a few restrictions on how often you may receive funds, and a lifetime cap.

How awesome would it be to support a local leadership conference and do so through the generosity of BPW?

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Donna Collins  
VP, Membership



Looking for a powerful way to advance your career success?

The Berkshire-based Gen Now Retreat on Nov. 2-4 offers comprehensive, compelling professional development for emerging leaders and entrepreneurs eager to broaden their skills, perspectives and network.

Keynote speaker Rear Admiral (Ret.) Brian Losey, former commander of the US Naval Special Warfare Command, joins executives from SAP, CenturyLink and Greenwich Capital, and thought leaders from the Berkshires—including Annie Selke Companies' Chief Marketing Officer Cindy Marshall—for a transformative learning experience with lasting impact.

Program topics are varied and reality-based. Among headliners are: *Create a culture of accountability, Build trust in a team, Carve a memorable personal brand, Overcome your bias, Redefine the customer experience, Are you fit to lead? and Protect your reputation in a world of alternative facts.*

Interactive discussion sessions deliver portable, practical strategies. Participants share practices, challenges and ideas from diverse industries, organizations, jobs and careers. The setting is the brand-new Proprietor's Lodge conference center on Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield, MA.

The retreat doubles as a meaningful year-end recognition opportunity and a springboard for 2019 career plans. It is designed to promote transformative learning with lasting impact. Attendees receive personal coaching to develop an action plan for achieving professional goals and an assigned mentor to keep them accountable post-retreat.

Who should attend? High-impact professionals motivated to advance in their careers and improve their management and leadership skills while expanding their professional network. Participants should be naturally curious and have experience managing projects or people.

Registration, a detailed program overview and the complete retreat schedule are available at [www.dle.dulye.com](http://www.dle.dulye.com). Registration deadline is Oct. 15. Cost for all sessions/all three days is \$500, inclusive of networking receptions and most meals.

Retreat organizer, The Dulye Leadership Experience, has developed and managed professional training programs geared especially for emerging leaders since 2008. Linda Dulye, president and founder, is a change management and communications executive with steeped corporate experience, including a stint at GE in Pittsfield. She established Dulye & Co. consultancy in 1998. Linda is a new BBPW member who recently made the Berkshires her full-time home.

Linda also is available to answer your questions at (201) 532 0118 or [ldulye@dulye.com](mailto:ldulye@dulye.com).

#### Next Meeting...

Scholarship Award Dinner Meeting  
Monday, September 17, 2018  
Methusealah, 391 North St.,  
Pittsfield

5:30-7:30 p.m.





**Berkshire BPW**

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING  
ONE OF OUR  
BERKSHIRE BPW COMMITTEES**

The Berkshire Business and Professional Women organization provides professional and personal development and networking opportunities for working women from diverse fields. Since 1965, Berkshire BPW has been honoring local women in

Berkshire County, Massachusetts, recognizing the achievements of outstanding women, developing awareness of issues important to working women and awarding career advancement scholarships.

Berkshire Business and Professional Women meets at 5:30pm on the first Monday of each month, with a few exceptions. Guest speakers are invited to each meeting to address a variety of topics that are important to working women, such as health and wellness, wealth management, public speaking and organization techniques.

To submit items to be included in the newsletter, please e-mail Lori Gazzillo Kiely at [bbpwnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bbpwnewsletter@gmail.com) by the 10th of the month.

**Membership Committee:** Donna Collins, Chair  
[Bbpwmembers@gmail.com](mailto:Bbpwmembers@gmail.com) and [joinbbpw@gmail.com](mailto:joinbbpw@gmail.com)

*Works with the Board to recruit, install, retain, and orient members. Works with the treasurer to maintain updated membership records and inducts new members. Produces the membership directory and helps to organize the membership meeting.*

**Programs Committee:** Shela Hidalgo and Sopheap Nhim, Co-chairs  
[bbpwprograms@gmail.com](mailto:bbpwprograms@gmail.com)

*Work with the program co-chairs to coordinate monthly meetings including identifying programs of interest to the membership and securing guest speakers or setting up the event. Helps to produce the monthly meeting invitation.*

**Raffle Committee:** Christine Carpenter, Chair  
[ccgmarketing@comcast.net](mailto:ccgmarketing@comcast.net)

*Responsible for securing items for the raffle at the monthly events. The money raised at the raffle supports our scholarship fund. Please contact Christine to donate items or services. Items can also be gift certificates from local businesses in our County. This helps to promote and support our local businesses.*

**Scholarship Committee:** June Roy-Martin, Chair  
[juneroy0417@gmail.com](mailto:juneroy0417@gmail.com)

**June is seeking members to serve on her Committee.**

*Works to recruit applicants and select recipients of the Scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to working women continuing their education.*

**Nominating Committee:** Kim Baker and Sharon Connors, Co-chairs

*The committee finds and presents the selected board members. The committee assists in filling the various committees.*

**OUR MISSION :**

*To promote full participation, equity, and economic self-sufficiency*

P.O. Box 3152  
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[www.berkshirebpw.org](http://www.berkshirebpw.org)

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