

The Uptown News Beat

Focused on the Future—Honoring the Past

**Uptown
Midland
BPW**

Volume 26, Issue 2
August 2009

Words from our President

Our July 22, 2009 business meeting was a milestone in our local Uptown Midland's history as we voted unanimously to become affiliated with the Business and Professional Women's Foundation (BPWF). I have prepared a letter to send to the new state federation, *Texas Business Women*, passing the news along to their officers and members. Information to become an e-member of the Texas Business Women has been requested and that information will be posted on our local website when it is received. I have also decided on a guiding principle for my term as President of Uptown Midland: **Focused on the Future - Honoring the Past.**

We also unanimously voted to pay for the 1st year of BPWF affiliation for each Uptown Midland Member. If you are up for membership renewal, please contact Evie Adams or Shirley Harris. Their information is provided below.

One of our newly installed officers (Jennifer Birkla) has made a "not easy" decision to move to another city and will be unable to serve Uptown Midland as 2nd Vice President. Evie Adams has generously volunteered to step up and take over the responsibilities for 2nd Vice President during 2009-2010. Thank you and good luck, Evie! And we wish the best for Jennifer on her new adventure.

I am excited about the upcoming month. Our business and program meetings are switching places because of an important anniversary this month. August 26, 2009 is Women's Equality Day, the 89th anniversary of women winning the right to vote in the United States of America. Please check out the quiz on the website provided by National Women's History Project.

Currently I am in the process of gathering Plans of Action from all the committee chairs and committee members. Once we have everyone's POAs the board will get the budget planned for the upcoming year and our Treasurer, Jerri Ripplinger, will be ready to present the numbers to the membership.

Our next business meeting is scheduled for August 12 and our program meeting is August 26, 2009, at noon at The Petroleum Club of Midland. I hope each of you can attend. Please RSVP to Evie Adams, 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair at 683-5233 (evie.adams@bosworthco.com), or Shirley Harris, Webpage and Telephone/Email Chair at 684-4692 (shirley@tbobamthor.com). The cost of the luncheon is \$17.00 unless otherwise noted for special events. Please connect with us as we trek through this new adventure for Uptown and continue the spirit of BPW for others in our futures.

Building Powerful Women,

Debrah Gann

Uptown Midland BPW President 2009 - 2010

Focused on the Future - Honoring the Past

debbie.gann@arcadis-us.com
432-557-3465



Inside this issue:

Summer Happenings

Lunch with..... 2

Bethany Vacation 2

Legislative 3

Gone Crazee 3

Quiz 4

PTA 4

Birthdays 4

It pays to have friends in high places.....

We're at Murray's Deli! Completely by coincidence. I just happened to be having lunch there yesterday. She was evidently visiting her mom and they stopped in! She was very gracious to allow me to be photographed with her. I was giddy! ☺

I'm still waiting on the payout! But, seriously, it was such an honor to enjoy lunch out today with the Former First Lady..... (And wouldn't you know - it would have to be a day with pouring down rain - I WOULD look like a drenched rat AND I lost an earring, one of my FAVORITES, to boot!!!) July 23, 2009



Uptown's Stacy Nelson with Former First Lady Laura Bush and her Mother Jenna Welch.

..SUMMER HAPPENINGS..



The Bethany's went to Buffalo Wyoming in the last Week of May for a family reunion. I had not seen one of my brothers in almost 3 years. The last time we were all together was when my Mom passed away. We had a grand visit and talked until we were hoarse every day.

They have a beautiful new Ranch Estate Home in Buffalo. It is rolling hills that are adjacent of a Government Preserve, so no one can ever build really close to him. He has a bank of glass windows in the front of the house that faces the Big Horn Mountains. He is forced to sit in his favorite chair and look out on the mountain range. It is so quiet and peaceful there. What a way to retire!

While there we visited the Medicine

Mona Bethany's Family Reunion and Vacation late May 2009

Wheel, which still had about 4 feet of snow. This is where the Indian nations gathered every year for their POW WOWs in the Spring time. The ruts are still there where they danced in a circle. The altitude is so high they believed they were on the top of the world. There are only 4 Medicine Wheels in the world and they form a 4-corner configuration. When it is quiet you can almost hear the dancing and singing.

We also went to Crazy woman canyon



Crazy Woman Canyon- Wyoming Above and Right



which was absolutely gorgeous and very rugged. Legend has it that a young woman's husband and children were slain by Indians and she was forced to watch. She went crazy after the experience and since the Indians believe that crazy people are bad medicine, she was driven from the community. She wandered in the canyon until the day she died. There are places in the canyon that the hair raises on your neck and most people automatically look up toward the caves in the side of the mountain.

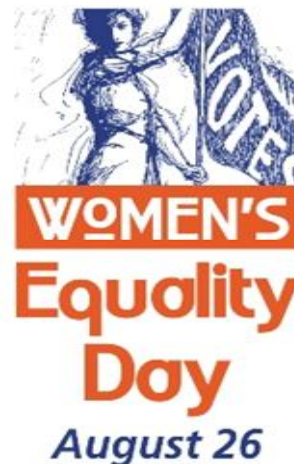
On the way home we visited Mount Rushmore which is an astounding man made attraction and also the Crazy Horse Monument which has made a lot of progress. When it is complete it will supposedly the largest monument in the world.

Legislative Update

If there was ever a time to become politically active, this is it! There are many issues being discussed in the House of Representatives and the U S Senate that will have a huge impact on each and every one of us. Now, if you think that being politically active means you have to protest and carry banners (and I'm not saying that is a bad thing!) it really means you can be active by sending emails, faxes and making phone calls.

Regardless of how you stand on any of these issues, I encourage you to contact the legislators from Texas to voice your opinion. Please encourage your friends and family members to make these contacts as well. We also need to let those representing us know that we feel it is very important that they read all the bills and amendments before they vote on them. The congress is getting ready to recess, which means these legislators will be in their home states listening to the constituents. They need to hear from us before they go back to Washington DC.

August 26th is Woman's Equality Day. It was in August of 1920 that the 19th Amendment was passed giving women the right to vote. Now is not the time to take this right for granted. There are many different websites you can access that has information on the bills and amendments, how our representatives have voted, how they stand on the issues and much more. I encourage each of you to take the time to become active.



Senator John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg,
Washington DC 20510
(202)224-2934
<http://cornyn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.ContactForm>

Patti Humphrey, Legislative Chair

Mike Conaway
Midland Office
6 Desta Drive, Suite 2000
Midland, TX 79705
phone: (432) 687-2390
fax: (432) 687-0277

Senate Kay Bailey Hutchison
284 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20510
<http://Hutchison.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

CALL.....
WRITE.....
Let your voice be heard!

Shirley Harris and Gone Crazee.....

Smitty and I have gone crazee... we bought a diesel pusher in June and took our first trip in July. Our maiden voyage was to Lake Colorado City. Far enough to check things out and close enough if there was a disaster it



wouldn't be a total mess!! We had a blast learning how to put down the levelers and level it, put out the slides, take a shower and just taking it easy. Then the real test



was dumping the black water and gray water. That went off without a hitch also. We are now ready to travel a bit further. We're thinking somewhere along the Llano River around Junction in the very near future. I told Mr. Smith that he has to start taking vacations. He said OK... So we're off on an adventure or 3! I see the Redwoods in our future.

Uptown Midland BPW

PO Box 3895
Midland TX 79702

Shirley D Harris, Editor

Cell 432-528-7072

Work 432-684-4692

Fax: 432-684-4694

E-mail: shirley@tbobamthor.com

www.midlandbpw.com

"Women Helping Women"

Check out the **WOMEN's EQUALITY DAY Quiz**
on Uptown's website

www.midlandbpw.com

RENEWALS:

Kristine Ashley

Lesley Smith

Barbara Elliott

RENEWALS for AUGUST:

Evie Adams

Martha Adams

Jerri Ripplinger

We're working on getting notices out to the members, please be patient as we work thru this. Please e-mail or call me if you have any questions. Thanks.....Shirley

School starts soon.....

Cecily Shull reminds us

as she is..... trying to get out of town for a vacation with my kids in the morning but if you have time and inclination could you put something in the newsletter about joining the PTA



Membership will be \$6 for individuals and \$5 for life. we will have forms at mustang mania and open house. Thank you and if you can't no worries.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

8/3 Jo Fite

8/15 Barbara Elliott

8/28 Angie Wilson

Women in History

8/3 Sarah Doremus - 1802-1877

Philanthropist—helped rehabilitate women convicts

8/15 Gerti Cory—1896-1957

Biochemist-Noble Prize in Medicine and Physiology 1947

8/28 Elizabeth Seton-1774-1821

First American born Roman Catholic Saint 1975