

# Uptown News Beat

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MAY 2014

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Wow, where did April go? May is upon us and it's time to make plans for a membership drive. Dr. Moshin Syed is going to come to our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to give us a presentation of his new business plan for 2014 and beyond plus his associate Laura Edge (a new BPW member) has asked him to allow BPW to have a membership drive at his spa. Thank you, Dr. Syed, for your support of BPW. If you have friends or family that you think may be interested in joining Uptown BPW, this event would be a great way to introduce someone to BPW. Watch for the email invitations and bring some newbies (that's short for new members)!!

BPW's Nominating Committee has provided its members with a great ballot of potential Officers and Directors for the upcoming year. Annette and her Committee did a great job. Please show your support for Uptown BPW by coming to the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting (closed to members only) and voting.

The April fundraising for BPW's scholarship fund went well. A big "thank you" to Becky's Flowers for donating 10% of the sales tagged for BPW. Amanda Potter will be receiving a check soon from Becky's to be added to our funds set aside for scholarships. Becky's Flowers will extend this effort for the whole year, so encourage anyone you know to buy flowers, candy and balloons from Becky's and ask for the 10% donation to BPW. Mother's Day is this Sunday too. There will be more to come for fundraising so please watch for notifications from Amanda via email on how you can help or you can call Amanda to offer your help with the events. **We need everyone pulling together for this crucial support.**

Don't forget that Uptown BPW's primary function is providing scholarship money which helps women who fall into a non-traditional category where there is no monetary aid for these women under education assistance. Uptown BPW's assistance is vital.

Of course you don't have to wait until you are asked to help or participate in any event for Uptown BPW. We are all here for the same reason "**Women Helping Women**". I encourage you to call or email any other member and ask how you can contribute to your area of interest (phone numbers and email addresses are available by request through our Membership Committee). There are committees and Committee Chairs that always need more connections and participation.

"Thank you" to all our current Uptown BPW members and "welcome" to our newest members. Check out our website for important links and information on Uptown BPW and like us on Facebook. Plus don't forget to RSVP to the meeting/lunch invitations. We have 2 meetings each month (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays) noon at the Midland Petroleum Club.

Happy Mother's Day!!

Respectfully,

*Debrah Gann, President 2013-2014*

### Inside this issue:

Happy Birthday	2
Nomination Committee	2
Graduation	2
BPW The Meaning	3
Rosie the Riveter	4-5
Gone Crazee	6



### C A L E N D A R

**May 14th Moshin M Syed, MD, FACP**—Wellness, Integrating traditional medical therapies with nutritional therapies—Program Meeting—Petroleum Club—Noon

**May 26th - Memorial Day**

**May 28th**—Election of Officers for 2014—2015 Year.

Meeting is Closed - members only

**June 11th**—Installation of New Officers -

# Happy Happy Birthday!!



- May 11th      Glenda Knox
- May 21st     Mona Bethany
- May 25th     Melisa Wynne
- May 27th     Krystal Theilen
- May 29th     Shellie Robbins



## Report of the Nominating Committee

- President.....Stephanie Murphree
- Vice President.....Evie Gandy
- Treasurer.....Marquita Potter
- Secretary.....Laura Edge
- Director.....Tiffany Blakely
- Director.....Shirley Harris

These ladies have graciously agreed to serve if elected. Nominations will be accepted from the floor on the day of the elections at our Closed Meeting (for members only) on May 28, 2014.

Committee Chair .....Annette Dozier

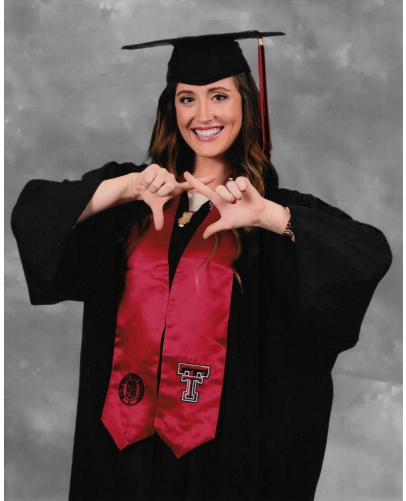
## GRADUATION!!

I have an announcement!

My daughter, Taylor is graduating May 16th from Texas Tech and moving back to Midland! Hooray!

Hopefully she will become a new member!

By.....Stacy Nelson



## BPW THE MEANING

**B** Beginnings BPW was new to me in 1999. There were new friends who helped me grow and learn. Friends who were there in good times and bad: For my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, my youngest child's graduation, the marriage of my children, the birth of grandchildren, my husband's battle with colon cancer, the death of a dear friend and my mother. Friends who took me to Regional and State conventions and shared secrets that I will take to my grave.

Then these friends gave me the:

**P** Power Power to grow, power to stand before a group and speak, power to express my own opinions, and share my feelings and never to back down if I believed I was right.

With this power, comes:

**W** Wisdom Wisdom to know that the battle for Women's rights is not over and that we should never stop fighting that battle. Wisdom to appreciate what the Great Ladies of the Past went through to obtain the right to vote, the right for equal pay, the right to buy our own car and obtain health care for our children without needing a man's signature. Wisdom to know that none of these rights should be taken for granted. Wisdom to know that their sacrifices enable me to live the fantastic life I have today.

It has been my honor to work and serve in Uptown BPW the past 15 years. BPW, Women Helping Women, in all aspects of life.



Submitted by: Glenda Knox

Congratulations on your 15 years with BPW and a big  
"Thank You" for supporting and serving Uptown BPW!!

Shirley Harris

## ROSIE THE RIVETER.....GLENDA KNOX

**Rosie the Riveter** is a cultural icon of the United States, representing the American women who worked in factories during World War II, many of whom produced munitions and war supplies. These women sometimes took entirely new jobs replacing the male workers who were in the military. Rosie the Riveter is commonly used as a symbol of feminism and women's economic power. Use of similar images of women war workers appeared in other countries such as Britain.

The term "Rosie the Riveter" was first used in 1942 in a song of the same name written by Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb. The song was recorded by numerous artists, including the popular big band leader Kay Kyser, and it became a national hit. The song portrays "Rosie" as a tireless assembly line worker, who is doing her part to help the American war effort. The name is said to be a nickname for Rosie Bonavitas who was working for Convair in San Diego, California. The idea of Rosie resembled Veronica Foster, a real person who in 1941 was Canada's poster girl for women in the war effort in "Ronnie, the Bren Gun Girl".

Although women took on male dominated trades during World War II, they were expected to return to their everyday housework once men returned from the war. Government campaigns targeting women were addressed solely at housewives, perhaps because already employed women would move to the higher-paid "essential" jobs on their own, perhaps because it was assumed that most would be housewives. One government advertisement asked women "Can you use an electric mixer? If so, you can learn to operate a drill." Propaganda was also directed at their husbands, many of whom were unwilling to support such jobs. Most women opted to do this. Later, many women returned to traditional work such as clerical or administration positions, despite their reluctance to re-enter the lower-paying fields. However, some of these women continued working in the factories.

The individual who was the inspiration for the song was Rosalind P. Walter, who "came from old money and worked on the night shift building the F4U Corsair fighter." Later in life Walter was a philanthropist, a board member of the WNET public television station in New York and an early and long-time supporter of the Charlie Rose interview show.

Rosie the Riveter became most closely associated with another real woman, Rose Will Monroe, who was born in Pulaski County, Kentucky in 1920 and moved to Michigan during World War II. She worked as a riveter at the Willow Run Aircraft Factory in Ypsilanti, Michigan, building B-29 and B-24 bombers for the U.S. Army Air Forces. Monroe was asked to star in a promotional film about the war effort at home. The song "Rosie the Riveter" was popular at the time and Monroe happened to best fit the description of the worker depicted in the song. "Rosie" went on to become perhaps the most widely recognized icon of that era. The films and posters she appeared in were used to encourage women to go to work in support of the war effort.

At the age of 50, Monroe realized her dream of flying when she obtained a pilot's license. In 1978, she crashed in her small propeller plane when the engine failed during takeoff. The accident resulted in the loss of one kidney and the sight in her left eye, and ended her flying career. She died from kidney failure on May 31, 1997, in Clarksville, Indiana, at the age of 77.

According to the *Encyclopedia of American Economic History*, "Rosie the Riveter" inspired a social movement that increased the number of working American women from 12 million to 20 million by 1944, a 57% increase from 1940<sup>1</sup> By 1944 only 1.7 million unmarried men between the ages of 20 and 34 worked in the defense industry, while 4.1 million unmarried women between those ages did so. Although the image of "Rosie the Riveter" reflected the industrial work of welders and riveters during World War II, the majority of working women filled non-factory positions in every sector of the economy. What unified the experiences of these women was that they proved to themselves (and the country) that they could do a "man's job" and could do it well. In 1942, just between the months of January and July, the estimates of the proportion of jobs that would be "acceptable" for women was raised by employers from 29 to 85%. African American women were some of those most affected by the need for women workers. It has been said that it was the process of whites working along blacks during the time that encouraged a breaking down of social barriers and a healthy recognition of diversity.<sup>[21]</sup> African-Americans were able to lay the groundwork for the postwar civil rights revolution by equating segregation with Nazi white supremacist ideology

Conditions were sometimes harsh and pay was not always equal—the average man working in a wartime plant was paid \$54.65 per week, while women were paid about \$31.50. Nonetheless, women quickly responded to Rosie the Riveter, who convinced them that they had a patriotic duty to enter the workforce. Some claim that she forever opened the work force for women, but others dispute that point, noting that many women were discharged after the war and their jobs were given to returning servicemen. These critics claim that when peace returned, few women returned to their wartime positions and instead resumed domestic vocations or transferred into sex-typed occupations such as clerical and service work For some, World War II represented a major turning point for women as they

eagerly supported the war effort, while other historians emphasize that the changes were temporary and that immediately after the war was over, women were expected to return to traditional roles of wives and mothers, and finally, a third group has emphasized how the long-range significance of the changes brought about by the war provided the foundation for the contemporary woman's movement. Leila J. Rupp in her study of World War II wrote "For the first time, the working woman dominated the public image. Women were riveting housewives in slacks, not mother, domestic beings, or civilizers.

After the war, the "Rosies" and the generations that followed them knew that working in the factories was in fact a possibility for women, even though they did not reenter the job market in such large proportions again until the 1970s. By that time factory employment was in decline all over the country.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

On October 14, 2000, the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park was opened in Richmond, California, site of four Kaiser shipyards, where thousands of "Rosies" from around the country worked (although ships at the Kaiser yards were not riveted, but rather welded).<sup>[27]</sup> Over 200 former Rosies attended the ceremony.

A drama film, Rosie the Riveter, was released in 1944, borrowing from the Rosie theme. The documentary film The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter addresses the history of Rosie

In 1942, Pittsburgh artist J. Howard Miller was hired by the Westinghouse Company's War Production Coordinating Committee to create a series of posters for the war effort. One of these posters became the famous "We Can Do It!" image—an image that in later years would also be called "Rosie the Riveter", though it was never given this title during the war. Miller is thought to have based his "We Can Do It!" poster on a United Press International wire service photograph taken of Ann Arbor, Michigan, factory worker Geraldine Hoff (later Doyle), who was 17 and briefly working as a metal-stamping machine operator. The intent of the poster was to keep production up by boosting morale, not to recruit more women workers. It was shown only to Westinghouse employees in the Midwest during a two-week period in February 1943, then it disappeared for nearly four decades. During the war, the name "Rosie" was not associated with the image, and it was not about women's empowerment. It was only later, in the early 1980s, that the Miller poster was rediscovered and became famous, associated with feminism, and often mistakenly called "Rosie The Riveter".

Submitted by .....Glenda Knox



A woman operating a turret lathe —1942



A "Rosie" working on the A-31 Vengeance bomber in Nashville TN — 1943



Norman Rockwell's - Rosie

*Gone Crazee.....Shirley Harris*

April has blown by. But I guess that is a good thing as we went to Killeen to help Matthew celebrate Birthday #8 in April. Our first trip for 2014. Alice had the party at Extreme Cheer and Tumble. (saves having all those kids in the house!) Lots of kids showed up and they spent an hour running, tumbling, jumping and playing. Then Alice lit the candles and we all sang Happy Birthday, candles were blown out and cake and ice cream were served....yum.... We gave Matthew Mine Craft books and T's. The party had a Mine Craft Theme and he was thrilled!!



Sunday night it rained and hailed for around an hour. Sure makes a lot of noise on the roof of the RV.

On Monday we left the campground in Killeen and headed to Kerrville and stayed at one of our fave parks—Guadalupe River RV Resort. Using Kerrville as a base we explored some of the back roads, went to the Matinee and saw NOAH, did lots of reading (smitty reread "The Stand", I read the 2nd and 3rd books in the Divergent Series, walked along the river and ate at a different restaurant each evening. (my kind of cooking)



It was sure nice to get out of town. We're ready to take another long trip. We're thinking of heading north later this summer or maybe early fall. Crazy Horse..... Mount Rushmore.....



Upper Turtle Creek, Kerrville TX—lots of lily pads

Going to have to get the travel maps out!

[www.midlandbpw.org](http://www.midlandbpw.org)

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Women  
Helping  
Women



Tiffany Blakely, Shirley Harris –Directors, Kuohui Suchecki—Treasurer, Evie Gandy—Secretary, Stacy Nelson—Issues Management/Programs and Debbie Gann—President along with Glenna Haskell and assistant Mary Ann Brock who did the Installation

*UPTOWN MIDLAND BPW  
SHOWING WOMEN THE ROAD TO EMPOWERMENT*