

Berkshire Business & Professional Women



June 2018

President's Message



Claire Richards

Happy Summer Solstice,

What an incredible year we had – fabulous speakers and fabulous programs. We started our year with our scholarship recipient dinner. October was our *Woman of Achievement* dinner honoring Patricia Begrowicz. In November, we heard from the wonderful inspiring Brenda Opperman and we all gathered together to celebrate the holidays in December. Maryann Hyatt kicked off 2018 with her words of wisdom. For the first time, we ventured to Canyon Ranch in February for a healthy yummy meal and cooking demonstration. March, we had our mentor meeting with an incredible panel of women discussing mentoring – Jennifer Thompson, Pam Malumphy, and Mary Yee. In April, we partnered with

I Berkshire and hosted the ultimate networking event at Framework and had the lovely Wendy Krom lead a fun networking ice breaker activity. In May Samantha Livingstone shared her courageous and inspiring story. We ended our year in June with our Board inductions.

We have two new board members and a shifting Board member role. For two years, *Donna Collins* fearlessly and effortlessly handled the Treasurer position and now moves into Vice President of Membership. She has some fabulous ideas to grow our membership. *Sopheap Nhim* is in her second year as Vice President of Programs and *Shela Hidalgo* stepped in as Vice President of Programs in March. Thank you Shela. I'd like to thank *Arwen Lowbridge* for all her amazing work as VP of Programs in the first part of last year. She and Sopheap Nhim created those amazing programs. Sopheap and Shela have more unique ideas for fun and interesting programs for our upcoming year. *Jane Apkin* finished her two-year term as Recording Secretary. I want to thank Jane for all her work and her incredible board minutes. I want to also recognize that Jane did a three-minute radio spot for BBPW. She was amazing in arranging it and being the spoke person promoting BBPW.

I'd like to welcome, *Gillette Conner* and *Gaye Weinberger*. Gillette is stepping in for two years as our Recording Secretary and Gaye Weinberger is stepping in as Treasurer. We are thrilled to have these two women on our board and I am looking forward to working with all of them. Thank you.

We have exciting plans for BBPW and more opportunities to volunteer to make BBPW the best for you and all women in Berkshire County. We are in need for women to serve on a communications committee to help us manage the website, and our social media platforms. *Christina Carpenter* needs help with our monthly raffle program. Our new Nominating Committee will be *Kim Baker* and *Sharon Conners*. Please consider joining one of these positions.

Let's make BBPW the best and the most we want. Please send in any thoughts or ideas you may have on what you are interested in hearing or learning about. Have a great summer and we will see you in September.

Warmly,

Claire Richards
bbpwpresident@gmail.com
646-361-7509

Board of Directors

President
Claire Richards

Vice President
Programming
Sopheap Nhim

Vice President
Programming
Shela Hidalgo

Vice President
Membership
Donna Collins

Treasurer
Gaye Weinberger

Secretary
Gillette Connor

2017-2018 Member of the Year

Suzanne Engels is our Member of the Year for 2017-2018. I cannot express how much we appreciate all that Suzanne has done for BBPW over the years. She served on the Board and recently the Nominating Committee. She was instrumental in building our website and managing it. She managed our FaceBook page and all of BBPW's posting. She was one of our Raffle Queen's for a period. She always offered her time and support to help make BBPW the best. She also sometimes would be our photographer at our monthly events. Suzanne is such a powerful example of leadership and supporting women and BBPW. Thank you, Suzanne for all you did for BBPW over the years. We look forward to seeing you at the monthly events. As a recipient of the Member of the Year award, you will receive a one year membership to BBPW.



Suzanne Engels pictured with her husband Frank



Congratulations to the 2018-19 Board of Directors.

L-R Shela Hildago, Sopheap Nhim, Donna Collins, Claire Richards, Gaye Weinberger, and Gillette Conner

Immigrant Heritage Month

June is Immigrant Heritage Month across America – a time to celebrate the heritage of your own family, whether you've been here for many generations or arrived more recently.

The Berkshire Immigrant Center (BIC) is launching our "10,000 Strong Campaign" to raise \$10,000 between now and the 4th of July. Here at BIC, we work hard to remind people just how much the 10,000-plus foreign-born residents of the Berkshires have enriched this region, filling key jobs in health care, education, agriculture and hospitality, and as entrepreneurs and business owners. Immigrants are the only growing sector of our population, so all of us in the Berkshires are stronger because of the many ways in which way they contribute.

You can donate online at www.berkshireic.org

- Make a monthly donation of \$10 or more, & spread your help throughout the year; or

Send a check made out to Berkshire Immigrant Center to BIC, [67 East St., Pittsfield MA 01201](http://67%20East%20St.,%20Pittsfield%20MA%2001201)

You can also pledge a donation of any amount by emailing sheryl@berkshireic.com, and they will send you a reminder & pledge envelope.

Thank you for all that you already do to support the diversity of our community, and thanks in advance for helping BIC make the Berkshires a welcoming place for all to live and thrive.

Help Wanted...

KidZone Childcare & Educational Center, serving infants through school age children, is looking for teacher qualified staff (TQ). Please stop by their office to fill out an application at 10 Lyman St. in Pittsfield and speak with Sue, the Executive Director.



PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING ONE OF OUR BERKSHIRE BPW COMMITTEES

Membership Committee: Donna Collins, Chair-
Bbpw.membership@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 Hildago and Sopheap Nhim,
Co-chairs shelahildago@outlook.com and
sopeaps@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

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.

Woman of Achievement Committee: Barbara Martin,
Chair

Barb is seeking members to serve on her Committee.
Join the WOA committee to help organize our one and main fund raising event in October, The Woman of Achievement dinner. It's the event that raises most of the money for our scholarships. The committee is looking for 2-4 people to join the committee and willing to work to put this fabulous event together. Specific skills being sought include press release development and someone familiar with EventBrite. Please contact Barb if interested.

Scholarship Committee: June Roy-Martin, Chair
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.

Berkshire BPW

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lgazzillo@hotmail.com

To promote full
participation,
equity, and economic self-sufficiency
for America's working women.



www.berkshirebpw.org

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<https://www.facebook.com/BerkshireBPW>

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 at lgazzillo@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month.

THE COLLECT

Keep us, Oh God, from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face
Without self-pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.
Let us take time for all things;
Make us grow calm, serene, gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses,
straightforward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences,
that in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know the great,
common human heart of us all.
And, Oh Lord God, let us forget not to be kind.

- Mary Stewart

*If you imagine it
You can achieve it.
If you dream it
You can become it.*

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OUR MISSION :
To promote full
participation,
equity, and economic self-sufficiency
for America's working women.