



The Banner

Central Montgomery County Business and Professional Women's Club
Volume XCIV – November/December 2020

Next Meetings – Thursday, November 19 and December 17, 2020
via Zoom at 7:00 pm – Details to follow

President's Message:

Hello Members,



HAPPY HOLIDAYS! We are there already? The 2020 year will certainly be remembered as the year that was. But I am thrilled that we are surviving the COVID-19 in spite of all the drama around us. We are survivors and I am delighted that we are there for each other. But may your holidays be as eventful as possible and may I wish you all a “sparkling” Holiday Season.

Last month was another stellar program with Amanda Owen, the Foundation Chair of The Justice Bell. It was an unknown bell discovered at the Valley Forge Memorial Chapel by Amanda a few years ago. Her inquisitive drive to find out more led her to discover its important significance in the suffrage history of Pennsylvania. I shared last month the bell traveled PA's 67 counties to gather all the men to hear why the women wanted the VOTES FOR WOMEN. The election of 1915 did not bode well but the women persisted, and the bell was finally rung on August 26, 1920 when women were given the right to vote. But then the bell disappeared. She shared her 19 minute movie, “Finding Justice” with us on Zoom. Thank You, Bev Weinberg for being our hostess and master Screen Share.)

But we also recognized her as our Woman of the Year. Her film and book on “Finding Justice” shows the determination of learning and sharing our women's suffrage story. Her film has been shown on PBS and the National Women's History Alliance celebration of Aug. 26, 2020. She has also written a book on the bell. I sent her a WOTY certificate and thank you for sharing her story with us. Becky had a few items to share with her too. We made National Business Women's Week happen.

The best news was our report from the District Director Jen Van Ingen. Our report was an A plus in my teaching record book. Every member thank you for your participation in all that we are doing with “Women Helping Women.”

Now we have another huge month for a program filled with induction of new

**Central
Montgomery
County
BPW Officers
2020 - 2021**

President

Nancy Werner

Vice President

Ginny Bailey

Recording

Secretary

Cheryl Austin

Treasurer

Noreen Morello

Corresponding

Secretary

Vanessa Perez

Parliamentarian

Cheryl Decoteaux

members that we need to recognize. Noreen Morello will do the honors. We will be celebrating our Veterans with two special guests. We have Alexis Werner, our very member sharing her work with “Bunker Labs” and Ret. Admiral Navy Karen Flaherty-Oxler. Thank you to Mo Gillen and Becky Shoulberg for organizing this program for us.

Our December meeting will be fun, and games and I wish Ginny Bailey, our Issues Management Chair, to share her fantastic plans to you. Keep reading in the Banner. Oh and remember to wear your Holiday sweater, ugly or not, Holiday head bands and bring a beverage.

I already shared the great news from our District Eleven Meeting on October 31. Thank You again to Ginny Bailey, our District Eleven Corresponding Secretary, Noreen Morello, District Eleven Treasurer and Mo Gillen for joining me. We were dressed like Rosie the Riveter in tribute to Mae Krier, one of the last of the Rosies still living. She worked hard that Medal of Honor would be bestowed among them soon. She is also a recipient of a Twilight Wish. Receiving the Eleanor Knoke Award (the highest award of the District Eleven) and the Bernice Maxwell Issues Management Award was quite humbling. You all need to be congratulated for as a local organization for we are doing an excellent job. A leader is only as good as the members that she leads. Thank you for being a CMC BPW member (and completing your monthly volunteer sheets for me.)

Keep reading the Banner. We have some BIG news on our participation with helping CMC BPW stay healthy financially as we travel this year. Barbara Jean Maresca, Becky Shoulberg and Mo Gillen have a few important messages.

Kudos to our LO Chairs and Officers who shared their reports for the Banner. We are keeping our meetings to an acceptable length and I appreciate hearing from you. Another thank you to Becky Shoulberg for getting CMC BPW in the weekly State Buzz again. Her monthly flyers are fantastic for getting attention.

Lastly, it is the time of giving. We have heard from the Patrician Society, Laurel House, Veteran’s Administration in Norristown and the Norristown State Hospital. All have shared the difficult time that we are all experiencing. It seems that no family has been left untouched during this pandemic. When we were meeting face to face, the Holiday tree was there for us to decorate, the basket was placed on the table and we did our raffles. All with charity in our hearts as we gave a few dollars. Well, we are not together. We are going to do our best to help whatever way. Becky has some gift cards and if you would have any unused cards from Targets, Walmart or a food store, might you send her way? Or even some funds? We are also designating our Twilight Wish project to assist a member. A check to Noreen Morello with the memo Twilight Wish would be so welcomed. Challenging times for so many.

In closing, Happy Holidays to you and your families. See you on Zoom whether with video or Phone. It is wonderful that we have a way to stay in touch.

Fondly, Nancy



Musical Talent Wanted

Anyone interested in leading our members in singing the *Emblem Benediction* at the close of our meetings?

No auditions needed, just be ready to sing to the tune, *Blest Be The Ties That Bind*. If you’re interested, please send President Nancy an email.



Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and our need for social distancing, Central Montgomery County BPW will discontinue in-person meetings at Maggiano's until further notice.

Our meetings will continue via Zoom. Zoom invitations for meetings, held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm, will be sent out by President Nancy Werner.

State Theme:

May Your Dreams Take Flight

District Theme:

Just Be

CMC Theme:

Nevertheless, She Persisted

In Memoriam

Past State President and Past District Eleven Director Jane N. Barndt



Jane Barndt, 94, passed away Thursday October 8, 2020, at the Green Home in Wellsboro. Jane graduated from Wellsboro High School in the class of 1944, and earned a BS in Business Education from Bloomsburg University, she also graduated from courses of study in Penn State and Rider Universities. Jane was a teacher and taught for 31 years, 27 of them in the Quakertown School District in Quakertown, PA. On August 26, 1956, she married E. Ralph Barndt, with

whom she shared 52 years of marriage, until his death in 2008. She was a member of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Wellsboro, a member, past president and past state president of B.P.W., a member of Rotary International and a Paul Harris Fellow recipient, member of: Partners and Community Health, Elder Task Force and Governor Committee, Area Aging Council of Tioga County, and was a member and past president of: Friends of the Green Free Library, Tioga County Cancer Society, and Wellsboro Hospital Auxiliary.

President Nancy remembers ... Although I did not teach with Jane, she installed me as Quakertown President in 1978 (first time). She was going to be installed as the BPW/PA President only a few weeks later. She served for 2 years as our State President. Yes, 2 years and that was before fax, cell phones and all our other modern tech. She taught during the day and was off to meetings in the evening across the state. Loved the times when Pennridge BPW and Quakertown BPW would have our yearly gatherings at the VFW or wherever. Jane was always there.

When Pennridge BPW closed its doors, Jane asked to join us at Quakertown BPW. She was happy that she could stay a member in District 11 even though we knew she would be retiring back to her home area of Wellsboro. She shared her membership with Wellsboro BPW and us. Just a few years ago, Elfriede, Janet and I took the long drive to Wellsboro to visit with her. At this time she was in a lovely retirement setting and she so enjoyed introducing us to everyone on staff. We had a lovely luncheon and took some photos. Judy had placed a few in the Quaker Quill. But my favorite time was visiting her apartment filled with photos and BPW gifts and hearing her many BPW memories. That was one special day, long but very memorable. I wish that all of you could have known her. She was a true educator and a dedicated BPW mentor to all who needed her wisdom. She will be missed.

November Dinner Meeting – Joining Forces for Women Veterans



We will be celebrating our Veterans with two special guests – CMC member Alexis Werner and Ret. Admiral Karen Flaherty-Oxler. Alexis will be sharing her work with Bunker Labs, a non-profit national network dedicated to helping the military connected community start their own businesses.

Karen Flaherty-Oxler served more than 30 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a Rear Admiral. In 2019, she took the reins as Director of the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia. We look forward to hearing her share a bit of her story with us this month!

We are also pleased to induct the following new members: Crystal Butler, Larisa Miller, Crystal Metzler, Amanda Mortimer, and Kourtney Walter. Welcome to CMC BPW!



Veteran's Day 2020

From the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs Military-Affiliated Women Committee:

In 1918, at the 11th hour of the 11th day in the 11th month, an armistice was declared between the Allied nations and Germany – effectively ending the first world war. In the 102 years since, the historic and patriotic significance of that date has been modified, reshaped and sometimes even misunderstood or forgotten.

In the United States, Armistice Day – and the recognition of sacrifice and loss during one tragic and terrible world war, has evolved into Veterans Day. This is a day of recognition for all members of the military, regardless of when they served. "Veterans Day helps preserve in the hearts and lives of all Americans, the spirit of patriotism, the love of country and to recognize the commitment shown by those willing to serve and sacrifice for the common good."

On this Veterans Day, as we recognize and appreciate the commitment of our military, let us also take to heart these words from John F. Kennedy: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them."

December Dinner Meeting – Virtual Holiday Party



We're not going to let a pandemic or Zoom ruin our holiday spirit! Join us on December 17th for a new and unique Holiday Party!

We'll start at **6:30 pm** (Note the time change) by having virtual coffee and dessert. Enjoy the beverage and dessert or snack of your choice while we visit and converse – something we don't get a chance to do at a regular meeting.

Following our social time, we're going to play a few games. How you ask if we're on Zoom? Good question! One game will be a Scavenger Hunt of 10-15 items. Ginny will sent out a list of the items before 2:00 pm on December 17th. Members who wish to participate will have from 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm to find their items.

The second game will be Guess the Baby Picture. If you wish to participate, send a baby picture (which can be from infant to 5-years) to Ginny and she will send out the pictures and list of names with the Scavenger Hunt. Our last game will be a Trivia Contest we will play during the party. The more the merrier and there will be small prizes for the winners!

Report on District Eleven Fall District Meeting – Nancy Werner



District Eleven held their Fall District Meeting on Saturday, October 31st at Caitlyn and Cody's Restaurant in Quakertown. Since it was Halloween, Director Jennifer Van Ingen asked that our members dress up as Rosie the Riveter. BPW/PA President Elect Tiffanie Burger joined us for her official visit along with her travelling companion, Michelle Holler, District 4 Director.

I wish to thank Ginny Bailey, our District Eleven Corresponding Secretary, Noreen Morello, our District Eleven Treasurer and Mo Gillen for joining me at the meeting.

Our District Eleven would like to do something for the Twilight Wish Project by selecting one person, over 65, that we could help. For example, taking her/him shopping, cleaning up the yard, doctor visits, whatever that individual could use for assistance. We document who we will help and how we helped. Please think about this and please send me an email if you know someone. Thank you.



Other BIG NEWS - We received the Bernice Maxwell Issues Management Award for our efforts with providing an overview of all our work with the Domestic Violence and the Laurel House from September 2019 to March 2020. I was able to share with the audience all the time and effort that we provided in supporting Beth Sturman, the director and her staff at our the many LO events especially BINGO and the Holiday Gathering with Louie. Then the two meetings that embraced domestic violence: Beth sharing the direct work of the Laurel House and then Elder Care with the Honorable Lois Murphy of the Montgomery County Orphans Court. (Bernice Maxwell was our District Director back in the early 1950's and knew a good program when she saw one. We received recognition at State Convention with this entry too.)



BUT the biggest news was our receiving the highest award of the District, the Eleanor Knoke Award. It is an award for attendance to district and state events, attending meeting of other BPW clubs, our summary of gift giving to State Funds and to others like MCCC, our leadership within our CMC BPW, and finally the volunteer hours which I am always asking you to provide. It is a sum total of what CMC did from 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020. I must thank all of you who helped with sending hours of what you were able to achieve even with the COVID-19 and Noreen for her great treasurer's work of providing our figures. I have mentioned before it is 4 pages long and takes TIME and INFORMATION to complete. (Eleanor Knoke was our District Director from 1968-1970. I was very fortunate to be installed by her in 1972 as the Recording Secretary of Quakertown BPW as she passed away shortly afterwards. So happy to have her photo with myself.)

I will try to display these two fabulous plaques for our meeting nights plus the Grace B. Daniels Award (a Nike) for our Veterans work. Going to need a bigger room! Thank you members as I am truly humbled to receive these awards on your behalf. We make a terrific team.

STOP THE PRESSES!!!

From Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, dated November 12, 2020






I am incredibly happy to see the Senate has unanimously passed my bipartisan Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act.

During World War II, women across our country, and across Pennsylvania, left their homes to work in support of the war effort. These patriots worked as riveters, buckers, welders, and electricians. These 'Rosie the Riveters' embodied the 'We can do it' spirit forever connected with the famous poster.


I am especially proud to represent Levittown's Mae Krier, who helped build B-17 and B-29 Bombers during World War II. Mae's tireless advocacy for her fellow Rosies helped get this legislation through the House and Senate, and to the President's desk.

CMC Member News



LARISA B. MILLER

is hereby honoured with the
POWERHOUSE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR AWARD
by
POWERHOUSE GLOBAL LTD.
in recognition of your professional excellence,
and service to humanity. You are a difference maker, and the world is a
better place because of you.



LADY ANITA DUCKWORTH-BRADSHAW
Founder: Powerhouse Global Awards

Congratulations to Larisa B. Miller on being named Powerhouse Personality of the Year Award by Powerhouse Global Ltd.!

Powerhouse Global formally known as "Woman The Powerhouse" started in 2013. It is an organization set to promote the BRILLIANCE of the GLOBAL woman and believes every woman has the creative ability to transform her life, and that of her family and community.

They want to use their platform to educate, inspire, motivate and transform the lives of the GLOBAL WOMAN.

Since its inception, Powerhouse Global Women

Organization had supported many women to come into their own. Some had started their own businesses, whilst others had gone to do create things in their personal lives.

The Powerhouse Global Awards were started in 2017 and have since then celebrated men and women from across the globe. It is the annual celebration of those who are making a difference in their field of purpose. Men and women coming from India, Singapore, Africa, USA and other parts of the world have been honored.

Standing and Special Committee Reports

In order to conduct our Zoom meetings in a timely manner, President Nancy will be asking all committee chairs to submit a brief report to be included monthly in *The Banner*. Whether you have some news to share or would just like to give our members (especially our new members) a brief overview of your committee, all reports are welcome.

Joining Forces for Women Veterans – Mo Gillen

There has been a lot going on in November in recognition of Veterans Day. The Delaware Valley Veterans Consortium (DVVC) put together a list of events in the area, which are available to CMC BPW as a member organization. Interested? Visit <https://dvvc.weebly.com>; see the Partner Portal for the events list. We shared

info on our CMC BPW Facebook page about an event of possible interest to our members: a screening by Drexel University of a documentary about African-American "Rosies" in World War II. We'll keep posting some of these great opportunities; all are welcome.

In honor of Veterans Day, CMC sent a red carnation with a ribbon, one for each of the ladies at the Mary Walker House, to go with the "thank you" flyer. They were kind enough to send us a photo.



Mary Walker House is down to only six women veterans currently; they're persisting but it's hard work to keep from going stir-crazy. We have a list of items they'd like to have and are putting together some individual gift bags to deliver as part of a "Friend-giving" effort in late November; we'll keep you posted. For Veterans Day, we sent a flyer and a red carnation for each resident.

The MWH staff also said they would like to have some holiday cards to have on hand for the ladies to send to friends and family rather than having to purchase the cards themselves. *The staff also asked for some blank cards to include in future welcome packets, with notes from us!* **If you have some holiday cards, or blank cards, to donate,**

contact mo_gillen@yahoo.com for collection. Feel free to write a note or two to say that CMC BPW supports our women veterans and looks forward to meeting them when we can. It's so important for the ladies to know that the community is here for them!

Finally, the staff at the Norristown Vet Center is working to identify a woman veteran and family we might support with some special holiday gifts. We'll pass the word when they let us know what this neighbor might like to have.

BPW/PA State Project: Twilight Wish – Barbara Jean Maresca **Wave your wands Ladies!**

I see that many of you have been waving your 'Wands' and making wishes come true! Thank-you!



Was so thrilled to grant a Veteran wish last week when I went into my local Pizza Parlor to pick up dinner.

- While standing in line, noticed a gentleman dining alone, with a VietNam cap on the table. When paying for my pizza, learned he had not paid for his meal yet. So I quick got out a DUTY (Dining Unexpected Thank You) card, and explained to the gal I wanted to buy his dinner, and gave her the **DUTY** card to give to him. (she was so thrilled that someone would do this.)

Do we have any other stories to share? Please let me know your success stories, and the amount of the gift (do not need a receipt) provided with the DUTY cards.

Central Montgomery County BPW is moving forward with so many wonderful ventures. The CMC BPW Board decided Thursday that they would also like to grant a Wish to one of our own Club Members! We are so blessed to each be part of our wonderful CMC BPW. If your circumstances, allow, won't you help me make our "Pennsylvania Seniors' Dreams Take Flight this year through your generous donation to Twilight Wish?"

Public Relations – Becky Shoulberg

Please remember to like, follow and share our club Facebook posts. CMC strives to keep you in the know. Be sure to check out the other resources on FB, like the Event and File section. We also have a website and our events are posted to Patch digital newspaper.

Ways and Means – Becky Shoulberg

CMC has an ongoing fundraising tool, Benefit Mobile app, and we are putting together a special email with details of how to participate.

Charleston Wrap – Barbara Jean Maresca

Barbara Jean will be sending an email to all CMC members announcing our support of the Charleston Wrap. Participation is strictly voluntary but to see the items available (from gift wrap to kitchen ware), go to: <https://www.charlestonwrapstore.com/schoolcodeinputvalidation.php?cusID=21790>
The deadline for orders is December 7th and all proceeds will go to CMC's Scholarship Fund.

Legislation – Cheryl Decoteaux



Members: Please continue to use the app "5 Calls" to make your voice heard to Federal and State Legislators to support or not support top issues provided in this app. Here are a couple: 1) Urge Congress to Pass Additional Coronavirus Relief Measures and call Senator Mitch McConnell and tell him to support this; and 2) Stop Abuse and Forced Sterilization of ICE Detainees.

Please send me an email if you call to support or not support an issue so I can keep a tally for our Legislation Contest at the end of the club year.

Foundation – Norma Zarfoss

Remember that donations for the BPW Foundation, which is the scholarship arm of BPW, will be discussed in January. At the same time you will receive information regarding funds available to BPW members who have experienced catastrophic losses.

Empty Medicine Vials – Nancy Werner

Remember last year we were in the middle of collecting the empty medicine vials for the District XI project? Well, keep saving and we will add them to my growing box of containers. If you've read this far, send Ginny an email. Amazing the how time accumulates these items. We will send to the same company as the District for they are used in foreign countries that only use paper wrappers. Save for Nancy.

Women Making History

America's First Suffragette – Abigail Adams



"If we mean to have heroes, statesmen and philosophers, we should have learned women." - Abigail Adams (1744-1818)

In honor of her 276th birthday on November 13th, we celebrate this pioneering and vocal champion of women's rights and equality, who was considered one of the most respected and influential women of the early revolutionary period of American history.

In March 31, 1776, Abigail wrote to her husband, John Adams, urging him and the other members of the Continental Congress to "remember the ladies" in fighting for America's independence from Great Britain and making the laws by which the new nation would be governed. "I long to hear that you have declared an independency. And, by the way, in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."

America's First Woman Vice President-Elect – Kamala Harris



“While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last—because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities.” – Kamala Harris

Looking past one party or another, a woman addressed the nation on Saturday, November 7th for the FIRST TIME as Vice President-Elect of the United States!

Whether you voted for her or not, please take a moment to recognize the importance of young women being able to see themselves in that position. One more crack in the glass ceiling!

Congratulations, Madam Vice President-Elect!

“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.” ~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Happy Birthday to our Members!



November

- 7 – Maria Mastrosante
- 14 – Becky Shoulberg
- 23 – E. Pearl Smith
- 27 – Barbara Jean Maresca

December

- 12 – Virginia Frantz
- 15 – Yudelca Amparo
- 18 – Bev Weinberg
- 23 – Mo Gillen

Dates to Remember

November 13 – World Kindness Day

November 19 – Veteran Commander Karen Flaherty from the Michael Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia. Also, Alexis Werner, member, will share what is happening with Bunker Labs. Installation of members.

November 26 – Happy Thanksgiving!



December 1 – Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama (1955).

December 4 – National Cookie Day



December 10 – First Night of Hanukkah

December 17 – CMC Holiday Party

Have fun with a Scavenger Hunt, Guess the Baby Picture and Trivia. **Party**



starts at 6:30 pm!

December 25 – Christmas

December 26 – First Day of Kwanzaa

January 1, 2021 – New Year's Day

Save The Date - Saturday, April 24, 2021

CMC BPW is the hostess for the Spring District Eleven Meeting at Maggiano's. It's early but the New Year will be here before we know it and we have to start planning.

Important Websites:

- Pennsylvania Business and Professional Women's Clubs – www.bpwpa.org
- Central Montgomery County BPW – www.centralmontgomerycountybpw.org
- Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce – www.montgomerycountychamber.org
- The Patch – patch.com/Pennsylvania/Norristown
- Benefit Mobile App – www.benefit-mobile.com
- Twilight Wish Foundation – twilightwish.org