



TouchLine

A Monthly Publication of The Women's Roundtable April 2011

24th Annual
WOMAN OF THE YEAR
COMMUNITY RECEPTION
APRIL 7

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.*
Ambassador Conference Ctr./Hemingway Ballroom
7794 Peach Street • Erie
Cash Bar • Hors D'oeuvres
\$15/person (Payable in Advance)
*5:00 - 6:00 p.m. WRT Member-Only Social Hour

The nominations are in and the five finalists have been selected. The independent panel of judges, consisting of representatives of the Council of Women's Organizations, certainly had their work cut out for them!

This year, we've again added a Members-Only Social Hour prior to the Community Reception to allow our members a chance to meet the finalists. Don't miss this opportunity to personally meet these remarkable women who make it a habit of putting others before themselves.

Our 24th Annual Woman of the Year will be announced at the Awards Banquet on May 18th at the Bel-Aire Clarion Hotel & Conference Center ... *but not before! Congratulations, ladies!*

MARY GRAZIANO

Director of Dress for Success® Erie, Mercy Center for Women.

Nominators: Marianne Levstek, Sheila Baldwin and Heidi Schlabach.

SISTER MARY CLAIRE KENNEDY

Social Justice Coordinator for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Nominators: Laura and Pete Nicolìa.

MARJORIE PODOLSKY

Teacher at the Jefferson Educational Society and retired professor from Penn State-The Behrend College.

Nominators: Corrine Egan, Barbara Cole and Marilyn Walker.

DEBRA STEINER

Director of the Gannon University Small Business Development Center.

Nominators: Colleen Moore Mezler, Robin Schepner and Barbara Ward.

DEBRA A. THOMPSON

President of Strategy Solutions.

Nominator: Rachel Rudd.

Special thanks to our judges who were kind enough to spend their Saturday to very carefully review all the nominations. We must have at least three women who have judged before, as well as two new judges each year. Those who helped us this year include: **Angela Porfilio**, Crime Victim Center; **Sue Plizza**, Zonta; **Nancy Rusnak**, Trinity Lutheran Women; **Trudy Sallach**, Woman's Club of Erie; and **Janet Thompson**, New Blossoms New Life.

RESERVATIONS/PAYMENT REQUIRED by March 30.

Payment must be made in advance. Go to www.wrterie.org (News & Events tab) and choose your prepayment method (i.e., via PayPal or via check mailed to WRT, P.O. Box 3922, Erie, PA 16508). If you prefer to pay via check, you will still need to fill out the RSVP Online form under the News & Events tab. If you have any questions, please call or email **Committee Member Amber Shenk** at 878-3684 or AShenk@StairwaysBH.org.

Note: If you make a reservation, are unable to attend, and do not cancel within 48 hours of the event, you will be responsible for any costs incurred.

GROWTH

EXCELLENCE

MOTIVATION

STRENGTH

Visit us online at
www.wrterie.org

A Message From The President

*“What is better than wisdom? Woman.
And what is better than a good woman? Nothing.”*
~Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*~

There is nothing better than the Women’s Roundtable! Just consider our vision statement: “We believe that to attain the best that is within each of us, and to further the goals and aspirations of all women, we must create a sisterhood willing to share our knowledge, abilities and empathy with other women, so that all of us may travel the road to excellence in our work, our personal relationships and our community.”

The Member-To-Member Mentorship Program, Speaker’s Bureau and our Membership Directory certainly prove that wisdom prevails! Our members, as well as the community-at-large, simply have to look toward the WRT to find a diverse knowledge base along with a willingness to share our expertise. Think about it – that’s pretty impressive!

And while we are on the topic of impressive, congratulations to member **Mary Graziano**, a finalist for the 24th Woman of the Year! Former WOTY members include **Susan Paradise Baxter**, **Dorothy Christoph** (our first WOTY), **Stephanie Domitrovich**, **Ruby Jenkins-Husband**, **Kim Stucke** and **Linda Stevenson**. Considering the finalists and winner are selected by a group of judges totally independent of the WRT truly proves our organization is filled with wise women who care deeply about other women. How fortunate we are to have five wonderful women from our community that motivate other women to grow, excel and become stronger recognized as finalists this year – each a winner in my book and each a woman we can all look to for inspiration! Congratulations to all! Let’s all show our support with our presence at the April 7th Community Reception!

Gay Marie Catania



I’ve reported on this information-packed website in the past, but feel it worthy of repeating ... WomanOwned was formed in 1998, and since then has provided the information, tools, networking opportunities and advice that have helped hundreds of thousands of women. Women just like you — *starting or growing their business*.

Today, they offer even more. Hundreds of articles. Access to business tools and resources. And now, the new Network at WomanOwned is your place for building your own online network, writing your own blog, selling products and services, and sharing with other women. Check it out at www.womanowned.com!

Happy Birthday, Ladies!

Belated Birthday Wishes to:

Marilyn Gallagher 3/08
Laurie Root 3/31

And Happy Birthday this month to:

Anita DiVecchio 4/05
Marietta Kuehn 4/27
Maria Sundberg 4/28



TidBits ...

Ruby Jenkins-Husband was recently recognized by the Presque Isle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and presented with a “Women in American History” certificate for her tireless efforts as former Erie City Council president and three-term council member.

Kris Mooney and **Susan Wendel** continue to offer valuable interior design advice each week in their Home Designs articles in the Erie Times-News House to Home tabloid.

Theresa Power-Natale was featured in the Erie Times-News People section regarding Bayview Toastmasters. She’s been a member since 2009.

Linda Stevenson was quoted recently in the Erie Times-News regarding the WILD Conference and how networking and support are key to helping more women in the Erie region succeed.

Chris Tombaugh was pictured in the Erie Times-News along with colleague **Shirley Schell** and Mercyhurst Preparatory School senior and Serteens President **Rachel Clark**. Part of the Sertoma service organization, the Serteens raised \$815 for the Mercy Center through a walk-a-thon.

Valerie Weaver is the new Fashion Coordinator for the Millcreek Mall. You have undoubtedly seen her on WJET-TV news in either the Thursday noon “Lifestyles” spot or the Sunday 6PM/Monday morning “Focus on Style” spot.

The Women’s Roundtable 2010-2011 BOARD MEMBERS

President	Gay Marie Catania 440-2265
President-Elect	Diane DeLuca-Thompson 323-0400
Treasurer	Mary Sansone 746-2427
Secretary	Sue Hawley 323-0280
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Co-Directors of Programs	Bo Iole 864-3274 Eileen Zinchiak 456-7217
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Newsletter Editor	Diane DeLuca-Thompson 323-0400
Webmaster	Kristin Mooney 397-7973
Woman of the Year Chair	Kim Stucke 878-2170
Council of Women’s Organizations	Maria Sundberg 897-3707

Newsletter Information

If you have any news or information you’d like to share with members and friends of WRT, forward to **D. DeLuca-Thompson**, via email at agencyal@neo.rr.com or fax to 866-6911.

Upcoming Women's Roundtable Events

MAY 18

Woman of the Year
AWARDS BANQUET

6:00 p.m. Cash Bar

7:00 p.m. Dinner/Program

Bel-Aire Clarion Hotel & Conference Center
(RSVP & Prepayment Required by May 10)



We are excited to announce that we have more new members to introduce to you this month! *Welcome to the Club, ladies!*

Mary-Ellen Madigan, director of enrollment management at Penn State Erie-The Behrend College. Mary-Ellen volunteers in various Church-related activities and the Erie Cursillo Movement. She enjoys basketmaking, knitting, sewing and golf.

Laurie Ann Scutella, branch manager at Remedy Staffing Services. She volunteers with the Salvation Army, MDA, Animal Fundraising, John Gillette Scholarship Event, SafeNet, Community of Caring and HSUS. She also enjoys hiking, nature, photography and bike riding.

Jean Tauber, systems redesign coordinator at Erie VA Medical Center. She is a board member of the Kiwanis-East Erie and enjoys boating in

her leisure time.

Be sure to invite a friend or colleague to join you at a WRT event. For membership information, feel free to call Membership Director **Theresa Power-Natale** at 833-4763 or visit our website at www.wrterie.org.

4th Annual

Purse 'n Pearl Luncheon

Tuesday, May 24

10:30 Shopping • 11:30 a.m. Luncheon

Keynote Speaker: Jane Hight McMurry

Author, Trainer & Managing Director
Etiquette Advantage

Bayfront Convention Center • Erie

\$30/Person

This unique event is built on the premise of donating a gently used purse with a "pearl of wisdom" tucked inside for the women who use the services of the Mercy Center for Women's DRESS FOR SUCCESS®-Erie shop. DRESS FOR SUCCESS® affiliates around the world rely on the support of people like you who are committed to helping disadvantaged women take charge of their lives.

Last year's event was well attended by more than 600 women and the organizers are expecting at least that number again this year.

For more information, call **Mary Graziano** at 456-0733 or visit www.DressForSuccess.org/Erie.

Visit us online at
WWW.WRTERIE.ORG

Membership Applications, Archived TouchLines, etc.

JUST FOR WOMEN ...

Hamot for Women Lecture Series

April 21

Uterine/Ovarian Cancer: Knowing your Risk

John Comerci, MD

Debbie DeAngelo, RNC, BSN

May 19

Furrows, Wrinkles and Lines – Oh, my!

Jay Kang, MD

There is no charge for these lectures, but you must register by calling 877-6145. Held at the Hamot Health Connection, Sterling Square, 3330 Peach Street, Erie.

35 Online Resources for Women Small Business Owners

March, Women's History Month, reminded us of the achievements, the creativity, the courage and tenacity of women. To celebrate, here's an excellent site for a list of 35 Online Resources for Women Small Business Owners.

"Women-owned businesses are one of the fastest-growing sectors of the economy," SBA Administrator Karen Mills said in a statement. "That's why providing them with all the tools necessary to compete for and win federal contracts is so important."

Simply go to www.bizchelle.com and click on the blog ... an endless supply of information!

Marketing Idea Shop

Here's another great site for women sales reps and business owners!

You'll find sales training help, information on marketing plans, descriptive sales and marketing articles, etc. Included are links for Small Business Ideas, Home Based Businesses, New Businesses, Business Opportunities and Business Marketing.

Go to www.marketingideashop.com and let your mouse to the walking.

Quote of The Month

"One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar."

Helen Kellerr

The Women's Roundtable Membership

Valerie Baltzer ♦

The Honorable Susan P. Baxter ●
 Tabitha Jones Bemiss
 Brenda Bennett
 Pamela Biroshchak

April Blum ♦

Sheryl Bruinsma
 Delores Catalde
 Gay Marie Catania ❖☎
 Dorothy Christoph ●
 Eileen Cullen, D.Ed.

Mary Ellen Dahlkemper

Diane DeLuca-Thompson ⌘☎☎

Elsie Dickson

Janice DiLuzio

The Honorable Stephanie Domitrovich ●

Veronica Dunn

Haley Figurski

Audrey Gallagher

Marilyn Gallagher ♦

Mary Graziano

Nadia Havard

Sue Hawley ☎

Susan Hegel, Ph.D.

Kim Hersch

Roberta Holdsworth

Rubye Jenkins-Husband ●

Bozena (Bo) Iole ☎

Marietta Kuehn

Mary Ann Kupniewski

Irene Lampros ♦

Janet Laskowski

Candace Littell

Marilyn Livosky, Ph.D. ○

Marsha MacKinnon ○☎

Mary-Ellen Madigan, Ph.D. ♦

Roberta McCall ♦

Jeanne Miller

Kristin Mooney ☎

Jeri Pascale

Tami Petrucelli

Arlene Piskor ♦

Theresa Power-Natale ☎

Laurie Root ♦

Gera Ruhland ♦

Sue Sanders

Mary Sansone ☎

Peggy Schwab

Laurie Ann Scutella ♦

Amber Shenk

Linda Stevenson ⌘

Kim Stucke ●☎

Rebecca Styn

Maria Sundberg ☎

D. Elaine Surma

Jean Tauber ♦

Chris Tombaugh

Debbie Trocki ○

Dawn Van Scoter

Susan Vogelberger ♦

Valerie Weaver

Susan Weiner

Susan Wendel ○☎

Diane Wilson ☎

Ann Marie Yezzi-Shareef, Ph.D.

Eileen Zinchiak ○☎

Legend:

- ♦ New Member!
- ⌘ 2010 Woman of the Year
- Former Woman of the Year
- ☎ 2010-11 Board Member
- ❖ 2010-11 President
- Past President
- ⌘ Founding Member