WOMEN HELPING WOMEN In time of crisis…. 

In late March GPBPW members began a campaign to help support women business owners or individuals, who have been impacted financially by the coronavirus pandemic. As a result of our members’ generosity $550.00 was collected in cash/gift cards and donated to a dozen women, who needed our support. The recipients were surprised and very grateful.

WOMEN CAREGIVERS 

In an article written by Nirandhi Gowthaman she talked about how “in times of a pandemic like the one we are facing now, women, who are the primary caregivers, are the most affected. From nurses to mothers, it is a difficult period for women to navigate as they look out for others.”

“Taking care of yourself doesn’t mean, me first, it means, me too”

L.R. Knost, Author & Social Justice Activist

CONVERSATION ON RACE 

In part because of the diversity in our club, and current events, Past President Audra Walker promoted a “A Conversation on Race” in which members could openly discuss their thoughts and misgivings about racial issues. The purpose was to develop a better understanding about inequities throughout various systems and the challenges faced by women of color. Various speakers helped drive the conversation.
The new officers of District 3 as of July 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 year were installed on Monday, May 4 at the Spring District 3 Zoom meeting include:

**District 3 Director**
Laurie Hough - Ligonier Local

**Assistant Director**
Angela Apple - Latrobe Local

**Treasurer**
Maggie Hildebrand - Ligonier Local

**Recording Secretary**
Marsha St. Pierre - Latrobe Local

**Parliamentarian**
Marilyn Tallant - Greensburg Local

**Corresponding Secretary**
Jackie Elliott - Latrobe Local

Theme for upcoming 2020-2021 District 3 year:

“Dream Big - Be All You Can Be”

“You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream”

C.S. Lewis
GPBPW 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
MS. JANE GRABOWSKI
CARLYNTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Greater Pittsburgh BPW completed our 2019-2020 year by awarding our annual Linda Turner Cobb Memorial Scholarship to Jane Grabowski, who will be attending Allegheny College in Meadville, PA majoring in Biology. Of course, the award ceremony was held on ZOOM during our regular monthly meeting.

Jane entered the meeting with her mother, Meghan. She thanked the club by stating, “Thank you so much. We appreciate your support more than you know. I look forward to learning more about the club and all it does to help improve the status of women.” Jane then read her prize-winning essay that she wrote about Juliette Gordon Lowe, the founder of the Girl Scouts. GPBPW members look forward to seeing both Jane and her mother Meghan when we can start having our in-person Club dinner meetings again at Bravo’s Italian Restaurant.

Linda Cobb was a Past President and active member of GPBPW. Her passion in the club was for creating educational opportunities for high school seniors and women returning to school. For many years, Linda chaired the scholarship committee and was responsible for raising funds and selecting scholarship recipients. For her spirit of dedication and service the members of GPBPW unanimously voted to name the scholarship fund, The Linda Turner Cobb Memorial Scholarship Fund, in honor of her memory. Jane Grabowski is a deserving recipient.

State President, Marisa Harmon’s Theme

let your dreams take flight
Greater Pittsburgh Business and Professional Women, GPBPW
Post Office Box 4620 – Pittsburgh, PA 15206

President Maurita Bryant’s theme; “Make Equity a Reality, not a Dream”

Members are asked to come up with ideas, activities and/or projects for 2020-2021 to support the theme. There are countless areas where Equity is not a reality: equal pay for women, healthcare, education, employment opportunities, housing, criminal justice; and the list goes on……

Appointments and Committee Chairpersons

Norma Caquatto – Scholarship
Alice Paylor-Dais – Parliamentarian
Bonnie DiCarlo - Legislation
JoAnn Forrester - Membership
Paula Kellerman – Historian
Constance Portis – Speaker’s Bureau
Diane Richard – Public Relations and Young Careerist
Judy Ruszkowski – Fundraising
M.J. Shaw – Issues Management and CEDAW Representative

I am asking members to join one of the committees listed above. There should be no committee with just the Chair and no members. Get involved, help make our Club successful. It will take all of us working together to positively impact the challenges that women and our diverse communities are facing during these traumatic and uncertain times.

How can GPBPW Members Support Twilight Wish?

Members can also support Twilight Wish by using DUTY (Diner Unexpected Thank You) cards to pay for senior meals. The DUTY program involves thanking seniors directly by treating them to a meal on the spot. Now I realize with the pandemic, the traditional use of DUTY cards might not work. But maybe the next time you pick up your take-out meal, you could leave a DUTY card with some $$ to pay for a senior’s take-out/delivery meal.

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act

July 26, 1900 marks the 30th anniversary of President George H.W. Bush signing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law. It was later amended in 2008 and signed by President George W. Bush with changes effective as of January 1, 2009. Although the ADA has enabled a generation of Americans with disabilities to thrive, many barriers to equal opportunity remain. GPBPW members, let’s do our part to help make the promise of the ADA a reality, enabling all Americans with disabilities to achieve their dreams and reach their full potential.