



BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB MASONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

January 2021

*To achieve equity for all women in the workplace
through advocacy, education and information.*

THIS MONTH'S THEME

Stay Home - Stay Safe

**January's Meeting
has been Canceled**

THIS YEAR'S THEME

"Let Your Dreams Take Flight"

THIS YEAR'S STATE PROJECT

"Twilight Wish"



**CELEBRATING SENIORS AND
MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE**

Dates to Remember

January 1 - Happy New Year

**12 - Regularly Scheduled
BPW Meeting Canceled**

**21 - 7:00 p.m. Zoom - BPW PA
Foundation Scholarships**

February - Heart Awareness Month

National Cancer Prevention Month

9 - BPW Meeting

March - Women History Month

9 - BPW Meeting

April - Equal Pay Day

13 - BPW Meeting

June 10-13 - BPW/PA

**Annual State Convention
Marriott North, Cranberry**

Happy **NEW YEAR**

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11



Masontown BPW 2020-2021 Officers

President: Charlene Smochinsky

Vice President: Sharlene Lehman

Recording Secretary: Dorothy Gruskowski

Treasurer: Barbara Harmon

Corresponding Secretary: Marlene Vrabel

Parliamentarian: Denice Robinson



Support our caterer, Michelle of Betty Mae's by purchasing a take out dinner this month.

Her number is 724-952-1147

Betty Mae's normal hours are:

6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday thru Fridays

7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Daily Specials are usually posted on their Facebook page



BPW January 12 Meeting

Masontown Senior Center

22 S. Main Street

Masontown, PA 15461

JANUARY HOSTS

Chair: Sharlene Lehman

Committee: Judy Muchnok,

Danae DeMasi-Lemon and

Nanci Myers

*Thank You
to the
January Committee
for their donation of
\$60.00 for
Twilight Wish*



CELEBRATING SENIORS AND
MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

Betty Mae's Bakery & Cafe

@bettymaebakery · Bakery

DISTRICT DIRECTOR THOUGHT OF THE MONTH:

As we say goodbye or even thank heaven it's over, think back, it all wasn't negative. Like all of you 2020 made me dig deep and look for the positives. It forced me to slow down, to relax and find joy in the moment. Every morning I started my day with a cup of coffee, reading my devotionals and watching the birds enjoy their breakfast (all 120 lbs. plus of it a month during the winter.) Before 2020 it was hit or miss depending on what was on the schedule for my day.

During the pandemic, I'm not sure if it was the isolation, or what, but I had contact with people that I never would have met and interacted with. For example, I started to get my groceries delivered to avoid stores. Habib was our regular driver, a very thoughtful guy. He always took time to pet my Khloe Rose and to bless and thank me, he even brought us a musical Christmas card. Another person I got to know was the FedEx driver. We had lots of laughs over my packages. We always joked whether the box came from Chewy (pet items), Wine Insiders or QVC. We also got to know our mail lady, Shelly. I even think wearing the masks (I have a bunch of cute and silly ones) had a positive effect. First off, it made us all have something in common. Next, they seem to make us and those around us more friendly and open to start a conversation or comment on our masks or cute sweatshirts etc. With all the limitations to our lifestyles, the positive here was it gave us more time to relax, count our blessings and do more of what we enjoy. In my case, it was reading and baking and trying new recipes. My point is even with the world still out of kilter I hope to carry into 2021 all the positives and I hope each and every one of you will do the same.

District Director Bobbi

Happy New Year!

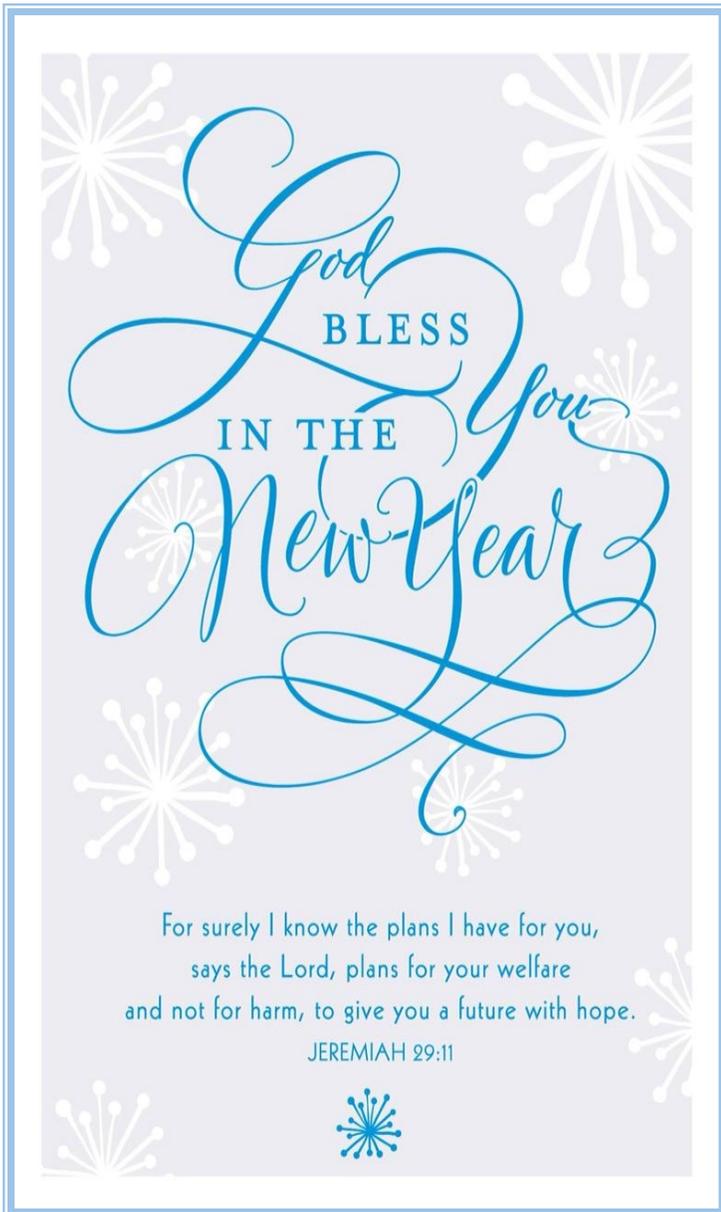


District Director - 2021 Thought for the Year

True Beauty Always Shows

Makeovers can't create, duplicate or fake it. Because true beauty transcends bad hair days, tired mornings, stress and time. And you don't need an applicator wand, a perfect palette, or any miracle cream or bottled lotion or potion to work magic. What makes you beautiful is YOU.

Bobbi Dobler



*A New Year is
like a blank
book, and the
pen is in your
hands. It is
your chance to
write a
beautiful story
for yourself.
Happy New
Year.*

A picture is worth a thousand words...



At the December meeting the winner of the Masontown BPW Woman of the Year for 2020-2021 was announced by Denice Robinson.



President Charlene Smochinsky watched as Recording Secretary Dorothy Gruskowski, continued to take notes as the award was read.



Dorothy finally realizes that she is the recipient of the Masontown BPW Woman of the Year!





Left: Charlene Smochinsky presents the award to Dorothy.
Right: John Gruskowski and daughter, Theresa pose with Dorothy.

Below is the article that was published in the local newspaper.

Masontown BPW Woman of the Year 2020-2021

Masontown BPW is proud to announce Dorothy Gruskowski as our 2020-2021 Woman of the Year!

Dorothy has been a member of Masontown BPW since 2014 and over those six years she has held a variety of offices and has been chair of many committees, both on the Local and District 12 level.

On the Masontown local level she was President in 2017-18, Vice President for two years from 2015 to 2017, and is currently the recording secretary. She has been our Foundation Chair from 2015 to 2017, and in 2018 was Issues Management Chair and submitted over 20 entries for all the State Contests! She also was on our 70th Birthday Anniversary Committee, and participated in "Wreaths Across America" and was a member of the Auditing Committee.

Dorothy's enthusiasm for BPW is evident by anyone who knows her! She has helped to reinvigorate our Masontown Local with her dedication to details and her involvement with all the members. She continues to come up with new and innovative ideas which inspire our members with her great projects. Several years ago she helped with a window display project in a storefront on Main St. in Masontown. With the theme "Women in History," Dorothy helped design a display depicting many famous (and not so famous) women who have helped women over the past 100 years in the fight for Equality. She also helped put together a contest at the local elementary school where the students drew pictures of famous women and wrote short biographies about them. She and several other members judged the entries and selected the top three winners who received prizes and had their pictures in the local newspaper! Dorothy has also been a participant in the Fayette County Heart Walk held in the fall each year. She helped raise funds to buy hearts on the heart walk route to honor several of our Masontown BPW members who died from heart attacks, and to help raise awareness about heart disease and how it continues to be the #1 killer of women in our country.

Newspaper article continued...

Several years ago, Dorothy did research on the JUSTICE Bell that traveled to every County in Pennsylvania in 1915, raising awareness of the Women's Suffrage Amendment trying to get approval by the men in Pennsylvania so that women could also vote. She presented a very interesting program to our members along with maps of the route the JUSTICE Bell took, and pictures and newspaper articles about the bell's trek through Fayette County and the entire state. She also told the story of Alice Paul, from nearby New Jersey, and her valiant fight to get women the right to vote by getting the 19th amendment passed on a National level after trying to do it at the State level failed. Dorothy also presented this program for the Uniontown BPW Club, the Fayette County Historical Society, German-Masontown Friends of the Library, the Uniontown Flower Club, and also did a program on WMBS Radio with Barbara Pasqua hosting.

Recently she participated in creating a display at the Fayette County Historical Society about Women's Suffrage and the Justice Bell in Fayette County. She was the docent for our Masontown BPW "Tea" held at the Abel Colley Tavern in Uniontown to celebrate National Business Women's Week. We are so honored to have Dorothy as a member of Masontown BPW.

On the District 12 level, she was Corresponding Secretary in 2019-2020. She is currently the District Public Relations Chair. She has been a volunteer at the Math Counts competition held each year in February at Penn State Fayette. She volunteered at the District 12 "Adventures in Reality" program for eighth grade students at both Laurel Highlands Middle School and Bentworth Middle School.

Dorothy is a retired teacher in the Albert Gallatin School District with 36 years of service. She received her BS in Education from Penn State University, her Master's in Education Reading Specialist from California Univ. of Pa, and her School Librarian Certification Program at West Virginia University. She has taught almost every grade from high school to middle school to elementary school and summer school! Her first job was in Meyersdale as a 5th grade teacher before moving to the Albert Gallatin School District. She also taught Library science and is very active at the German- Masontown Public Library where she had served on the Board since 2012. For many years, she also has been involved with the children's "story time" reading hour and comes up with many clever themes to go with the books she reads to the children. Our Masontown BPW sponsors her in this weekly project.

She is also very involved with the Fayette County Historical Society where she has been an active member since 2017. She is one of the key members involved with the planning and execution of programs and events including Santa and Mrs. Claus Christmas visits, researching and preparing exhibits on historic people and events, helping to host their monthly meetings, fundraising events and organizing their office and storage spaces, in addition to serving as a docent for the exhibits. One of their members stated that Dorothy is one of their most active and key members of their society with her varied and extensive organizational skills, thoroughness and creativity.

Dorothy and her husband John have been married for 36 years and have two beautiful daughters and three amazing grandchildren.

In addition to her involvement with BPW, the German-Masontown Library and the Fayette County Historical society, Dorothy is also a member of the Uniontown College Club, Red Hat Society, German-Masontown Library and the Uniontown Flower Club and has also volunteered at Helping Hands thrift store in Masontown when called upon. She and her husband John have also volunteered at Friendship Hill National Historic Site - the home of Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury. John has portrayed Albert Gallatin at many of the fundraising events held there, and Dorothy has portrayed his helper, there at his side to help in whatever way she can.

Always a friend to each and every one of our Masontown BPW members, Dorothy is ready and willing to help anyone with a question or problem. She is very generous with her time and talents.

Dorothy is a "shining" example of what BPW is all about – promoting cooperation among all our members as she continues to lift other members up to help them reach for higher objectives. She is someone who is thoughtful and devotes herself to bringing happiness to others. We are very fortunate and thankful that Dorothy Gruskowski is a member of our Masontown BPW and our 2020-2021 Woman of the Year!

Highlights from December's Meeting



Pictured above: The Masontown Senior Center is decorated for our December Christmas Meeting. Seventeen members of the Masontown BPW wear masks and safely distance themselves at the meeting. We all enjoyed a game of Pirate Bingo with all the proceeds going to the Barbara Ciccone Scholarship Fund.



To the left: Members of the Masontown BPW raised over \$500 dollars for Twilight Wish since November and are starting a New Twilight Wish Chapter in Fayette County. Pictured from left to right are members of the New Fayette County Twilight Wish Chapter: Charlene Smochinsky, Dorothy Gruskowski, Bobbi Dobler, Linda Ramirez, Denice Robinson, Barbara Harmon, Lori Bogozi and Donna Eicher



Pictured above: Masontown BPW collected over 40 coats during our annual Coat Drive. President Charlene Smochinsky, Nanci Myers and Pam Dubell show off some of the coats that were collected for Helping Hands.



Pictured to the left: Pam Dubell and Charlene Smochinsky with the hamburger buns collected for the children at Fort Mason Village. The Masontown BPW contributed an additional \$70 along with the numerous packages of hamburger buns for the Children's Christmas Party.

Pictured to the right: 2020-2021 Officers - Dorothy Gruskowski, Sharlene Lehman, Charlene Smochinsky, Marelene Vrabel and Barbara Harmon display the Proclamation from the Fayette County Commissioners for National Business Women's Week.



December Twilight Wish Auction

Wow, the contest for our State Project “Twilight Wish” is off to a fantastic start!

We received a “Thank You” letter from Twilight Wish and Marissa Harmon, President of BPW/PA for our donation of \$550.00 that we sent in after our December Auction.

Our Fayette County Chapter of Twilight Wish is officially up and running. I will be attending a Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 14th to learn more.

Thank you again to January’s Committee that donated \$60.00 for Twilight Wish for this month.

We will be hosting another Auction in February at our meeting. If you have any auction items/baskets you wish to donate for the cause, please contact Barbara Harmon. Watch your email for pictures of all the auction baskets for February. Let’s keep up the good work and win the BPW State Project competition.

Remember if you wish to make an individual donation, be sure to complete the BPW/PA State Project - Twilight Wish Contribution FORM (SP18). Also, if you used a “DUTY” Dining Unexpected Thank You card that were handed out in the meeting. We get credit for how many cards we use every month. Please turn in the form monthly to Barbara Harmon at the meetings so that she can submit it. If you need more “DUTY” cards or Wish nomination forms you can pick those up at the meeting also.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the new Twilight Wish Chapter in Fayette County, please contact Barbara Harmon.



**CELEBRATING SENIORS
AND MAKING
DREAMS COME TRUE**





STATE PROJECT

CELEBRATING SENIORS AND MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

BPW/PA has designated Twilight Wish as its State Project for the upcoming year, with Mary Weeks as the BPW/PA State Project Chair. Headquartered in Doylestown, PA, Twilight Wish has Pennsylvania chapters in Erie, Allegheny, Butler, Mercer, Washington and Westmoreland Counties. (They are looking to create more chapters. We have officially started our Chapter here in Fayette County in January.) In October we had two guest speakers from Twilight Wish, Westmoreland Chapter and in November and December, Barbara Harmon hosted an Auction to help fund the start up of our Fayette County Chapter.

Since their founding in 2003, the Twilight Wish goal has been to make the world a nicer place to age, one Twilight Wish at a time. Wishes can be in any of the four categories – simple needs, celebrating a life, living life to the fullest, or Veterans. To date, 3,331 Twilight Wishes have been granted.

Any District, Local or individual member can make a monetary donation to make a Twilight Wish come true. Complete the form in the Presidents' Manual (the form will also be on the website and a copy is on the next page of the newsletter) and make your check payable to TWILIGHT WISH and turn it in to Masontown Treasurer, Barbara Harmon by March's meeting or send it directly to Mary Weeks, State Project Chair, 700 Columbia Ave, Lansdale, PA 19446. Any wishes granted from BPW/PA donations will be utilized for a PA resident. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF MONETARY DONATIONS IS DUE APRIL 15, 2021.

Any BPW District, Local or individual member can also nominate deserving seniors for Twilight Wishes, if they meet the criteria.

TWILIGHT WISH RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

Qualifying Twilight Wish recipients must meet all the following requirements and proof must be provided (Age, Income, Residence, Physician Approval (when requested), and Military Service (DD214 Form or Discharge Form), if applicable)

- * Must be 65 years of age OR a permanent resident of an eldercare facility
- * Legal United States citizenship
- * An annual income of less than 200% of current federal government published poverty level income (2019 – \$24,280 or less annual income for a household of one) or be unable to grant own wish (not including financial reasons)
- * History of giving back to others (through service to our nation, community or family)
- * Must be cognitively and physically capable of communicating and experiencing the wish
- * Physician documentation (when requested)

Please let me know if you nominate someone for a wish. (We need to inform Mary Weeks, the State Project Chair - Nomination forms will be available at the meetings.)

You can also support Twilight Wish by using DUTY (Dining 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. If you use a DUTY card, would you kindly complete the form and give it to me or send it directly to Mary Weeks, so we will know how we supported this Twilight Wish program (# cards used; \$ donated—see the next page of the newsletter for a copy of this form.)

BPW/PA State Project – Twilight Wish Contribution FORM (SP18)

Enclosed is a tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ to make a twilight wish come true.

Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

I have used # _____ DUTY cards to pay for # _____ senior meals for a total cost of \$ _____.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

BPW LOCAL: Masontown DISTRICT: 12

GIFT IS FROM (CHECK ONE): INDIVIDUAL _____ LOCAL _____ DISTRICT _____

NOTE: If you are sending in contributions for more than one BPW level (i.e. yourself and your Local),

PLEASE USE SEPARATE CONTRIBUTION FORMS AND SEPARATE CHECKS FOR EACH LEVEL OF DONATION.

CONTRIBUTION IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:

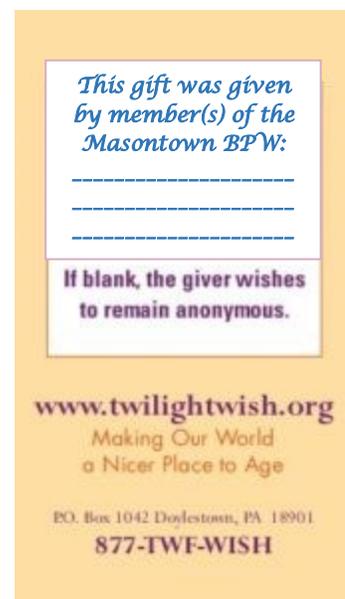
Make check payable to Twilight Wish. Mail all contributions and donation forms to:

Mary Weeks, BPW/PA State Project Chair, 700 Columbia Avenue, Lansdale, PA 19446-3310.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF MONETARY DONATIONS TO Mary Weeks IS APRIL 15, 2021.

To the right is an example of the “DUTY” cards (Dining Unexpected Thank You) that are referred to above on the **BPW/PA State Project – Twilight Wish Contribution FORM (SP18)**

Please see the Masontown Treasurer, Barbara Harmon to get some of the cards to use to donate a meal the next time you are dining out.





2021 ANNUAL BPW/PA STATE CONVENTION

June 10–13, 2021

“LET YOUR DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT”

Pittsburgh Marriott North

100 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066

We are hosting the convention this year!

We will need volunteers - YOU

Start thinking about attending this year’s convention and what you can do to help!



BPW Convention Bag Swag!!

If you are interested in donating swag for the 2021 Convention bags please contact Bobbi Dobler, PSP at dearie1@atlanticbb.net