

BWC NEWSLETTER

September 2011

“An engaged women’s network actively participating in and supporting our community through scholastic and social services”

Bexley WOMEN’S Club Community • Scholarship • Social Service

Hitting the Ground Running Message from the President

By Mary Acree, President 2011-2012



Join our Meeting:
September 20th, 6pm at
Bexley Historical Society

No sooner do we conclude one House & Garden Tour, planning for the next begins in earnest. As we prepare for the 5th annual tour, it has become clear that while every President has said, “I need to increase membership”, no longer can that be merely a mantra. The Tour

has afforded us greater opportunities in many ways, but it has also come with a price. The price is a need for not only increased membership, but increased involvement.

Even though the first official Board meeting isn’t until early September, the Board has already met at least twice this summer to discuss ways to increase membership, strengthen our Community Department and increase emphasis on our Social Service Department. We are fortunate to have a strong group of members within the Community Department who are working on new ways to increase our visibility within the community.

In June, the Board conducted an informal phone survey of members to gauge the

feedback on the House & Garden Tour, how it’s grown and the need for added support from our members in order to continue. As the Tour grows each year, more and more help from our membership is needed. Members were also asked if they would be willing to commit to a certain level of service to the Club. Members overwhelmingly understood and agreed that this would be a way to make members feel more vested in the Club and participate in ways beyond sending in a dues check. Based on survey feedback and discussion at the July Board meeting, a new standing rule was proposed and passed that active members shall be encouraged to commit a minimum of five hours each year to Club-sponsored fundraising and/or service projects.

Also, in keeping with the increased emphasis on social service projects, it was proposed that the Club take 10% of the net profits of the House & Garden Tour and earmark that amount for the Social Service Department starting with the 2012 Tour. The Social Service Department would research potential organizations and make a recommendation to the Board for a vote. This motion passed unanimously.

While this was taking place, programs for the 2011-12 year were being finalized. Our September 20th meeting kicks off at 6:00pm at the Bexley Historical Society cottage. (On the grounds of the Bexley Pool on Clifton) Many of you have probably wondered what's inside. Now's your opportunity to find out. We'll have a short business meeting then a short tour of the building will be given by the Bexley Historical Society docents. We'll then proceed to 2 members' homes for purely social interaction. Bring a friend. They don't need to be a member. The more they know about us, the more they'll like us.

Let me conclude by asking everyone to rise to the occasion. Bexley Women's Club, which has always remained focused on education and the community is an organization that is worthy of your help. If you're waiting on someone else to get involved, don't. **You** can be the someone.

Increased Focus on Community Department

By Cathy Seckel

This year the Community Department is being revamped to come up with new ideas to participate in Bexley community events. This year's committee comprised of Chairperson Cathy Seckel, Paige Bilotta, Lisa Baas, Pam Pryor, Donna Miglets and Christine Meshanko, understand the importance of Bexley Women's Club having a greater presence at these events. In addition to our traditional participation in the July 4th Parade and the Labor Day Block Party, plans are in the works to have a presence at the Shop & Dine event and the Shop Hop. Look for more information at the meetings, via email and on Facebook.

2011 Scholarship Winners

The College Winners:

David Hahn - a freshman at St. Olaf College
 Alex Gardner - a freshman at the Ohio State University
 Sarah Hirsch - a junior at Brandeis University
 Colleen McConnell - a sophomore at the Columbus School of Art and Design
 Edward Gruber - a sophomore at the Ohio State University
 Elizabeth Pryor - a sophomore at Ohio University
 Lucy Freccia - a sophomore at Loyola University in Chicago
 Paul Lisska - a sophomore at the Ohio State University
 Charles Reeves - a senior at the University of Cincinnati
 Preston Phillops - a sophomore at Calvin College

The High School Winners:

The Margaret E. Park Memorial Scholarship: Leah Goldstein
 The Marion English, Helen Scott Hicks, and Frances Williams Memorial Scholarship: Laura E. Gardner
 Barbara Baldwin Lewis Memorial Scholarship: Colin MC Climans Phillips
 The Ann Ramsey Memorial Scholarship: Amy Fox
 The Alba and Virginia Ayres Whiteside Memorial Scholarship: Joan May Spicer
 The Helen Farr Memorial Scholarship: Yazmeen Johnson
 The Jean Harris Memorial Scholarship: Georgia N. Sutter
 Bexley Women's Club Scholarship: Zoe Francis Beaumier, Abigail Grace Boyle, Hong Ta, Andrew David Salt, Patricia Collette Duffy

Scholarship News

By Mary Bauer

Greetings from the Scholarship Committee. First, I need to thank again my terrific committee for 2010 and 2011: Jane Baldwin, Pam Pryor, and Bev Sapienza. The most exciting news is we were able to give 23 scholarships--eleven college and twelve high school scholarships. One of the exciting high school winners was from Hartley High school, Patricia Duffy. You will see the winners below. Our committee met again after the scholarships were awarded to discuss some possible changes to make it a little easier for the committee to function in the future. We will make our recommendations to the Board at the September Board Meeting for further discussion.

Also, we thought you would enjoy reading one of the thank-you notes we received below.

Dear Mrs. Myers,

My name is Colin Phillips and I was recently awarded the Barbara Lewis Memorial Scholarship by the Bexley Women's Club. I would like to thank the Bexley Women's Club for all they do in Bexley to make it a special place to live. I am a senior in Bexley High School and have lived in Bexley all my life. In the fall, I will be attending Waynesburg University in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. I will be pursuing a major in political science and history in their honors program. I also was one of the five freshmen selected to be a Stover Scholar in their Stover Center for Constitutional Law and Moral Leadership Center. Again thank you, Bexley Women's Club for the scholarship I was awarded on June 2, 2011. Sincerely, Colin Phillips

I am looking forward to this coming year. If you have any questions about the scholarship committee please do not hesitate to me at 614-235-6441 or e-mail me at marybauer2363@gmail.com.

Home and Garden Tour The most successful Year

By Bev Sapienza

Congratulations Bexley Women's Club members! The 2011 BWC House and Garden Tour and Preview Event were the most successful yet! With the hard work of many Club members the Bexley Women's Club once again created an exceptional tour for nearly 800 visitors. Outstanding praises were extended by visitors and community members alike, providing impetus to begin the effort of planning for the next tour, June 9 & 10, 2012. The site selection committee has begun the task of choosing varied sites to make the next tour equally as exciting.

Numerous volunteers are returning to the planning committee, but there remains a need for you to offer some of your time and energy to the effort. Many of you supported this year's tour by volunteering or attending either the tour or the Preview Event. We'd like to invite each of you to make the commitment to be active in the Club's efforts to build on this year's success and elevate your level of participation. Seek out a position on the committee, offer your time or talent to help in some way and plan to attend next year's Celebration at CSG, as they have graciously invited us to return.

The support of each of you is needed to serve as a model for others in the Bexley community. Invite friends and neighbors to join you at the Preview Celebration. Establish a tradition of reserving this weekend for support of the Scholarship Fund and be present for all aspects of the weekend's activities. We'll see you there!



"Secret Garden" for
2012 Home & Garden

Social Service Committee

By Susan Yost

This year, BWC members are being encouraged to volunteer more time to social service projects in the local community. We are encouraging members to put in 5 hours of either BWC committee work or social service projects. The Social Service Committee can help you find projects that you might be interested in doing. Additionally, we have a couple projects that we think the club membership could easily get involved in.

The first project is a mentoring program at Kae Elementary School. This info was sent earlier in an email, but in brief, you would work with the same 3rd grade student on Mondays, from 11:30 to 12:30. The program starts Sept. 12th, but I suspect they can always add substitutes or new mentors.

This summer, I learned about the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore organization (<http://www.centralohiorescueandrestore.org>) that helps victims of sexual and labor trafficking. The program provides many

services to help this underserved population and one service is a drop in house open Thursdays. About 8 to 12 girls/women come and the program would like people to provide dinner to them. I thought that BWC members could try to provide dinner several times a year. Dinner for 10 would seem pretty manageable for our group.

During one of this year's BWC meetings, we plan on collecting clothing items to give either to the Dress for Success program (work clothes) or Goodwill for resale. We could also do a coat drive.

The November Shop Hop that benefits the Bexley Developmental Assets Network often needs volunteers and we are hoping the BWC members will help out. I believe that's the first weekend in November.

Local Matters (www.local-matters.org) which helps people learn to use local foods (and spoke to us in the spring) has a volunteer sign-up on its website. They don't have a group project



for us, but periodically need people to help with educational programs, deliveries and more.

We are happy to help other organizations or help members find an organization to help. There are many worthy organizations out there; it just depends what people want to do and when.

To volunteer or for questions, please contact Susan Yost, 231-9435 or syost@columbus.rr.com

Membership News

By Christine Meshanko, Lisa Darke, and Patti Marcum, 2011-12 Membership Committee

Greetings to our long time members and our new members as well! In the past few months we have added several new faces to our roster and are hoping to schedule additional casual events to get to know each other better and get caught up with old friends now that summer is over. The 2011-2012 Membership committee has been hard at work finding new ways for everyone to feel a part of it all and build friendships. Our goal is for Bexley Women's Club to have something for everyone. We will have more details about the happy hours we are planning as well as some other fun invites we hope you'll take part in. If you have anyone in mind you would like to recruit, we can help with that. Enjoy.



BWC Baseball Outing

"On June 28th, a group of BWCers and their husbands took the Bexley BEAT bus to watch the Clippers defeat the Mud Hens in a nail biter. Aki Fukuzawa, BWC's very own baseball player, arranged for us to sit together in the new award winning stadium. We had so much fun cheering on the team and exploring the stadium. I think the Club has found a new yearly event!" - Cathy Seckels



"My husband A.J. and I attended the Huntington Park Tour last year and really enjoyed seeing the "insides" of the park and hearing from baseball historian Joe Santry - as well as from our own BWC member Aki about women's baseball in Columbus (not softball!!) The June evening at the Clippers game was a perfect evening to sit and watch a game - and the Clippers won! We enjoyed riding on the BEAT bus with other BWC members and some of their spouses." - Mary Myers

"it was the first visit to Huntington Park for both my husband and me and we were so impressed with it! No wonder it received the "best ballpark" last year, I believe. It was a great outing and thank goodness it wasn't as warm as many other times this summer would have been! To sum it up - good times, good friends, good food!" - Bev Sapienza

"What a great night! I had been waiting to go see a Clippers game for a while! Thanks for organizing!" - Christine Meshanko

2012 H&G Tour Challenge

By Mary Acree

Bexley Women's Club has created a spectacularly successful event, which is worth carrying on for the good of the community and the students it helps. It's not a secret that this event has outgrown our current capabilities. Without a significant increase in member involvement or outsourcing major components of the event, we cannot continue in the current vein. For the future of the House & Garden Tour and the BWC scholarships, you may consider this a call to arms. While I

appreciate Tour day volunteers, the greatest need is for members willing to serve on a committee, whether it's planning, logistics or marketing. This



event cannot be undertaken by the same small group of people year after year. It's not my intent to sound maudlin, but I think it's important to be honest about our current situation.

That's being said, I am still passionate about the House & Garden Tour and what it means for the funding of our scholarships. The Tour has become the engine of the Bexley Women's Club and given it's importance, I'm hopeful that myself and all of you remain enthusiastic about its future. If you are interested in tackling this challenge with us, please contact me at : bexleywomen@gmail.com

BWC Officers*

President – Mary Acree
 President Elect – Bev Sapienza
 Recording Secretary – Linda Turner
 Corresponding Secretary – Stephanie Southard
 Treasurer – Ruth Harris
 Assistant Treasurer – Crystal Salt
 Advisor – Mary Myers
 Members At Large - Jennifer Ritchey, Linnea Blanchard

Departments

Community Chair – *Cathy Seckel, Christine Meshanko, Paige Bilotta, Lisa Baas, Pam Pryor

Scholastic Chair – *Mary Bauer, Margaret Lewis, Rhodena Masys, Pam Pryor - alt

Social Services Chair – *Susan Yost, Eileen Hammar

Standing Committees

Finance Chair – *Louise Swanson
 Audit Chair – Nancy Beck , Debbie Geldis
 Budget Chair & Audit Committee – Ruth Harris, Linda Turner, Mary Acree, Bev Sapienza, Crystal Salt, Louise Swanson
 House & Garden Tour Chair – TBD

Marketing Committee

Marketing Chair – *Lisa Baas
 E-mail – Mary Acree
 Web – Cathy Seckel
 Historian – Cathy Seckel
 Newsletter – Aki Fukuzawa
 Membership – Christine Meshanko, Patty Marcum, Lisa Darke
 Calling – Saralee Seckel
 Sunshine – Betty Kennedy
 Yearbook – Debbie Geldis
 Lunches – Korir Russell
 Programs – Betsy Randle, Mary Acree, Mary Myers, Libby Koetz, Aki Fukuzawa, Ann Russell, Donna Miglets, Cathy Seckel, Pam Pryor, Louanne Jones

Special interest Group

Books – Nancy Beck
 Euchre – Pam Pryor
 Movies – Carolyn Retzlaff

Special Committees

Strategic Planning – Bev Sapienza
 Parliamentary Advisor – Nancy Beck

All officers & department chair with * attend board meetings

Louise Swanson arranged a guided tour of The Ohio State Library and then lunch at the Student Union's Sloopy Grill. It was a very special day.

To start off our year of reading, September's selection is the classic *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell. That was chosen in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. We'll discuss the book along with information about any of our ancestors who were involved in that tumultuous event. We may even get around to the hilarious Carol Burnett episode where she was Scarlett O'Hara wearing the family drapes.

In October, we will discover *Hadley Richardson in The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain. Hadley was Ernest Hemingway's first wife.

Book Club does not meet in November due to Thanksgiving. The December gathering is always moved to the first or second Thursday. The December hostess has asked that we share a favorite Christmas or holiday book with the group.

Two other titles that have been chosen are *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (February) and *Cleopatra: A Life* by Stacy Schiff (April).

The meetings are generally on the 4th Thursday of the month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. A long-standing agreement among Book Club members is that only store bought cookies and tea are served.

If you are interested in joining us, contact Nancy Beck, nabtom@aol.com or 237.7793.

From The Euchre Club

By Pam Pryor

The BWC Euchre Club is going into its third year. We have ten members and invite anyone interested, as a regular or as a sub, to join us. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. please contact Pam Pryor at pamproyor@columbus.rr.com or at 253-3744.

From The Movie Club

By Carolyn Retzlaff

New plans are being made for the BWC group, "Film Fans", to meet each month at the Drexel Theatre for films, friendship and fun. Bring your friends. Join Carolyn Retzlaff and plan times and dates. Carol Pfau and Carolyn Peterson have volunteered to help. RSVP: carolynretzlaff@hotmail.com if you are interested.



From The Book Club

By Nancy Beck

The Bexley Women's Club Book Club, which began in September 2001, is ready for another year of great reading, stimulating discussions and wonderful friendships. We try to cap off each year of reading with a field trip. This past June

Working Program Schedule for 2011-12

Sept. 20 (Tue) 6:00pm: “Kick-off” meeting scheduled to start at **the Bexley Historical Society Cottage**. From there, we will proceed to Debbie Geldis’s and Betsy Randle’s homes for our own version of a progressive dinner. More detailed information will be in the directory and in a subsequent email.

Oct. 18 (Tue) 6:00pm – 8:30pm: location **Bexley Public Library** auditorium. “State of the Club - Membership Drive”. We will focus on the current status of the Club, including the House & Garden Tour and need for new members.

Nov. 15 (Tue): Operation Buckeye was formed to send “a touch of home” to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. We will have an opportunity to meet the founder of Operation Buckeye, Jim Caronis, who will share the history of this undertaking and we will be helping pack boxes to be shipped overseas. We will leave via **the Beat Bus** at **11:30am** and arrive at Jim’s warehouse around noon. We will then pack boxes from 12:30pm – 2:30pm, after which time we’ll return home.

* This program is limited to the first 15 members who sign up. [A sandwich](#)

Welcome new Members

Kay Boone
 Lisa Darke
 Jane Gibson
 Monica Johnson
 Elizabeth Lee
 Shauna Lehman
 Mary Jo Loftus
 Elizabeth Murphy
 Birgit Schmitt
 Christy Steffy
 Marti Steffy

Members who have passed

June Leshner
 Gail Smith
 Phyllis Volmer

option along with bottled water to be eaten on the bus will be available for pre-order.

Dec. 13 (Tue) 6:00pm: Holiday Cocktail Party at **Art Access**. Bexley High School students will provide musical entertainment. \$10 charge for hors d’oeuvres along with a cash bar.

* Our Social Service Department will be

Feb. 21 (Tue) 6:00pm: Location, **She She** on East Main St. in Bexley.

Mar. 6 (Tue) 6:30pm: Location, **Bexley Public Library**. “Shirley Brooks-Jones, The Gander 9/11 Experience”. Shirley Brooks-Jones, a Dublin resident, happened to be on a flight back to the U.S. on September 11, 2001 and the plan was diverted to Gander International Airport in Newfoundland. The tiny town of Lewisporte took in nearly 800 of the stranded passengers, refusing to accept any payment. On the flight back to the U.S., Shirley came up with the idea of setting up a scholarship fund for the children of the community of Lewisporte. We are conducting this program in conjunction with the Library.

* There will be a short annual meeting where the slate of officers for 2012-13 can be announced. This meeting is also extra special as this is the Club’s 77th birthday.

Board Meetings @ Bexley Public Library

Sept. 8, 2011 – 11:30 am
 Oct. 13, 2011 – 11:30 am
 Nov. 10, 2011 – 6:00 pm
 Dec. 8, 2011 – 6:00 pm
 Jan. 12, 2012 – 11:30 am (tentative)
 Feb. 9, 2012 – 6:00 pm am (tentative)
 Mar. 8, 2012 – 11:30 am (tentative)
 Apr. 12, 2012 – 6:00 pm am (tentative)
 May. 10, 2012 – 11:30 am (tentative)

advising us as to what items we will be collecting for this event.

Jan. 17 (Tue) 11:00am: Self-defense program at **Jeffrey Mansion**, taught by Greg Daniels of Nationwide Children’s Hospital. (There will be a short business meeting prior to the actual class.) Class starts at **11:30am**. There is a fee for this class of \$20.00 per person or 2 for \$25.00.

Apr. 17 (Tue) 11:30 am: “Make and Take program at Dill’s Greenhouse” utilizing **the Bexley Beat Bus**. There will be a fee for this program along with a charge for the Bus. [Sandwiches and water will be offered to pre-order if interested.](#)

