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Words from the President

Greetings To All!

As we all know, January is the typical time for New Year’s resolutions. However, in looking towards the next twelve months of 2006, the Flint Women’s Forum has had a jumpstart on strengthening its practices and getting organized. As this New Year begins, we look forward to many things. We are experiencing a wonderful expansion of the Flint Women’s Forum membership. We will have nifty new name badges and updated membership directories with photos. The directories will also include our current bylaws and standing rules. For many years we have presented mugs to our new members and guest speakers. With the mug supply depleted, a new gift has been selected: a crystal dish with the Flint Women’s Forum logo etched on the top.



We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential. ~Ellen Goodman, journalist

The Flint Women’s Forum is operating stronger and better than ever due to the dedication of the board and support of our membership. In 2006, our resolutions are in place for our organization and we will continue to reap the benefits personally and professionally, and look to our potential right from the start of 2006!

Happy New Year!

~ Ellen Brothers

Our Mission

The Flint Women's Forum brings together people of professional achievement and influence. Through educational programs and the exchange of ideas, experiences and resources, the members contribute to one another's professional advancement, increase the visibility of women leaders and facilitate the effectiveness of women in the community.

Forum Meeting

- When:** *Tuesday, January 17 – noon*
- Where:** *Beach House Bar and Grille {formerly Celebrations}*
- Speaker:** *Amy Shreve*
- Theme:** *The University of Michigan-Flint's "Amazing You" program*
- Menu:** *Choice of: Beach House Salad, Cozumel Caesar Salad, Maui Beef, or Beach House Stuffed Chicken*
- Cost:** *\$17.00 for members and \$19.00 for guests. It is essential that you RSVP to Sara Jo Gallock at (810) 233-3130.*

The Sharing Section – *Submission Deadline is the 4th Tuesday of the Month*

- If your organization is looking for a different type of fundraiser call bd's Mongolian barbeque and ask about the "Guest Griller Program". Call the restaurant at (810) 732-1132 or contact Betty Bennett at (810) 577-9572.
- If you need a student for an Internship or can spend some time with a student who would be "**Job Shadowing**", please contact: Janet Roberts - Technology Coordinator @ GASC Technology Center by phone (810) 760-1444 Ext. 201 or email roberjan@gasc.flint.k12.mi.us. Or contact Jeff Newcombe - Computer Hardware Tech. Instructor @ GASC Technology Center by phone (810) 760-1444 Ext. 128 or email newcojef@gasc.flint.k12.mi.us.
- Jenean Klinedler has started selling and supporting a new CRM (Customer Relationship Management) Software – **Infotrac Software**. For more information contact Jenean Klinedler @ 810-230-0300 or via email @ jenean@tedge.com.
- Flint Area Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications from WOMEN business owners to participate in the **Athena Powerlink Program**. The Women's Business Council runs this program. It is designed to assist the business owner in taking their company to the next level. It is not for "start up" businesses and certain criteria must be met. Call Kramer Ruth Kramer at (810) 232-7101 for more information.

- Planned Parenthood of East Central Michigan, Inc. is offering *sexuality education* for significant (m) others & growing up daughters. There is a program for pre-teen ages 9-13 and another for 14 –18. The classes are ongoing – please call (810) 238-3631, ext. 332 to register.
- Let us expand our life ~ University of Michigan *Outreach Classes* are online and in your community! Classes include Ballroom Dancing, Introduction to Computers, Healthy Cooking, etc. For further information, call (810) 767-7030. To register online: <http://www.umf-outreach.edu/outreach/amaizing.htm>
- Get support for your business – whether your business is existing or just in your head! Contact the *Small Business & Technology Development Center* at (810) 767-6494 for individual assistance and workshops. This center is operated through the University Outreach, University of Michigan – Flint.

Website

Visit our website. www.flintwomensforum.org

Membership

As an incentive for membership recruitment, any member who sponsors a new member is entitled to a certificate good for one free lunch at a regular meeting. Certificates are given upon new member induction.

Birthdays

- Sheree Blazejewski
- Ellen Brothers
- Jamie Cowan
- Jenean Kleinedler
- Michele Nichols
- Lois Revenaugh
- Diane Wojciechowski



Anniversaries

- Betty Bennett – 4 yrs.
- Michele Nichols – 4 yrs.
- Kristen Skivington – 13 yrs.
- Dianne Taeckens – 25 yrs.
- Barbara Ward – 25 yrs.

Sustaining Membership

In recognition of this commitment, previous membership, and continued desire to be supportive of the Forum and its mission, we have a new category of membership: Friend of the Flint Women's Forum.

Requirements for joining this category and attendant benefits include:

1. Must have been a member in good standing of the FWF for a minimum of three years (not necessarily consecutive).
2. Must pay an annual membership fee of \$45.00.
3. Must have the ability to attend two monthly meetings per year at the member rate; additional meetings will be at the visitor rate.
4. Will be included in the member directory and identified as a 'Friend of the Flint Women's Forum.'

Our Board Members

President – Ellen Brothers	(810) 238-7621	ellenbrothers@ywcaflint.org
President Elect – Teri Irland Munley	(810) 762-5404	teri.irland@abnamro.com
Past President – Sheree Blazejewski	(810) 733-8907	sheree.blazejewski@ubs.com
Secretary – Kathy Zandstra	(810) 767-0136	kathy@mfo.com
Treasurer – Sara Jo Gallock	(810) 233-3130	sara.jo.gallock@abc.com
Membership – Lois Revenaugh	(810) 766-6161	lrevenaugh@flintjournal.com
Program Chair – Sherry Collins	(810) 342-4477	sherryc@mclaren.org
Public Relations – Pam Bishop	(810) 233-3130	bishopp@abc.com
Editor – Jamie Cowan	(810) 238-4617	jcowan@lewis-knopf.com
Member At Large - Betty Bennett	(810) 577-9572	bettyboop48506@comcast.net

Board Notes

➤ **Notes from the President – Ellen Brothers**

- If you have the opportunity to get your hands on the December 2005 issue of YOUR Magazine, you will see a familiar face on the cover...Flint Women's Forum member, Lili Donaldson. A feature article on page 3, "Making Flint a Better Place to Live, Shop" highlights Lili's personal and professional life with a focus on her role as Marketing Manager at Genesee Valley Center

Notes from the Secretary – Kathy Zandstra

- The Speaker for the April Event has been chosen → Stephanie Sack Bailey
- New Badges are coming soon.

Notes from the Program Chair – Sherry Collins

- Upcoming Calendar of Events
 - February – Sybyl Atwood – Program Director, Resource Center
 - March – Valerie Warren – VP of Administration and Safety, Dee Cramer

Member Submission - Conquering your Paper Piles in 2006

Ladies, did your New Year's Resolution include getting organized along with losing weight? Well if you got rid of the paper clutter that might be found on your kitchen counters or desk, you might accomplish both goals. All kidding aside, here are a few steps to help you get started in the right direction in conquering the paper clutter:

When going over your daily mail, try to remember the acronym **RRRIP**:

- **Refuse** – You are not obligated to take every paper home. Don't be shy and throw papers away.
- **Refer** – If you have paper for someone else give or send it along immediately. Label a folder with that person's name and let them know that they should check regularly.
- **Recycle** – Don't hang onto anything unless you have a clear need for it. If it isn't a project that you are going to get to within a year, then don't hold onto the paper.
- **Identify** – What action is left for you to take? Make a decision immediately. Paper piles are decisions waiting to be made, so don't just set the paper down and get to it later.
- **Put it Away** – Create a "home" for your papers. There are many different ways to file. Ask yourself what makes you think of this paper. For example if you have received a Charter Communications bill, do you think of it as an Utility bill or does it need to have its own dedicated folder?

If you have any questions regarding getting organized, please don't hesitate to call me at 810-348-1772. I will also be giving a number of Community Education classes in 2006, and that information can be found on my website www.logicalplacement.com.

Note of Thanks

The Flint Women's Forum would like to recognize Lewis & Knopf, CPAs for their help in the printing of our newsletter.

FOCUS

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FOCUS is a monthly publication of Flint Women's Forum. Submissions are welcomed and appreciated. Send them to Jamie Cowan, 5206 Gateway Ctr., #100, Flint, MI 48507, fax to (810) 238-5083, or email to jcowan@lewis-knopf.com.