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Words from the President

The Buzz from Beverly

I am addicted to Starbucks. The staff at the location on Miller Rd. knows that I always order a Grande Café Latte, non-fat, decaf, no foam with a splash of sugar-free hazelnut. M-mmmm, it's so good.

My love for the coffee prompted me to read a book by Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz called Pour Your Heart into It: How Starbucks Built a Company One Cup at a Time. After reading it I had a whole new respect for the company-owned franchise. I found out that part of the reason we pay so much for a latte or cappuccino is that Mr. Schultz has pledged healthcare coverage for each and every employee, both full- and part-time. No wonder they're all smiling every time I walk in the door! Mr. Schultz made this commitment because as a child, he remembered seeing his dad out of work for a long period of time due to an injury. He recalled the struggle the family had with no healthcare and made a commitment to his employees, whom he affectionately calls "partners or associates" that this would never happen to them.

And so buying a cup of Starbucks is my small way of helping with the national health care crisis in our country. Plus, it is nice to spoil myself every now and then. I hope you do the same, and do it often, during 2008! After all, we deserve it!

Have a Venti New Year!

Beverly Brown
President, Flint Women's Forum

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.

The Sharing Section

– *Submission Deadline is the 4th Tuesday of the Month*

- In February, the crash of bowling pins will become a familiar sound as the **29th Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowling Challenge** gets underway. Pick one day and one hour to bowl between **February 20 – 24** and join hundreds of other bowlers, non-bowlers, families, friends, co-works and everyone else looking for a great way to have fun at this much-loved fundraising event. Through sponsorships and pledges, dollars are raised to support the mission of providing mentors to Genesee County youth through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Contact Ellen Brothers at 810.235.7274 for more details or visit www.supportbbbskids.org.
- **Wine Women and Chocolate!** - You are cordially invited to join us for this very unique women's only event offering a 5K snow shoe, cross country ski, and walking course on the beautiful [IMA Brookwood Golf Course](#). Attend this fun event and help support local children through the IMA Recreation Fund and the Boys and Girls Club. Cross country skis and snowshoes will be provided by Shumaker's Ski & Snowboard. Representatives from Shumaker's will be available to help fit the equipment. Volunteers will be around the course to help women who find learning a new sport a bit challenging. Hospitality tents will be on the course offering hot chocolate, coffee, teas, cookies, fruit, soup, chocolate and wine! Relax after you finish the course and be pampered with mini-massages, manicures, make-up tips, and more! Wine tasting and pampering will begin at 2:00 p.m. You must be at least 21 years of age to attend this session. Cost is \$40 for advanced registration (strongly recommended) and \$50 at-the-door. Space is limited, so register at www.winewomenandchocolate.org or contact Diane Wojciechowski at (810) 249-7060, e-mail dwojo@flintima.org.
- Let **Avon** be your source for holiday ideas, great gift deals and convenient shopping. Visit Lynn Barbee's website, www.youravon/lynnbarbee to place an order and have the items shipped directly to your home or office. Lynn is also available by phone and email: 810-743-1036; lookbeautifulwithavon@yahoo.com.
- 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>

Forum Meeting

When: *Tuesday, January 15, 2008, Noon*

Where: *The Big Eazy Restaurant*

Speakers: *No Speaker*

Theme: *Network with your fellow Flint Women's Forum Members. How can we help each other in our personal and professional lives? Discover something personally unique about members as you interact during lunch – a special exercise will help facilitate discussions.*

Menu: *Order off the menu*

Cost: *Come prepared to pay restaurant directly for individual order*

Website

Visit our website. www.flintwomensforum.org

Membership

Recruitment Incentive

Building our membership strengthens the resources of the Flint Women's Forum and increases the networking benefit for all members. 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

- Jennifer Tremaine – January 2
- Ellen Brothers – January 5
- Jenean Kleinedler – January 5
- Diane Wojciechowski – January 6
- Lois Revenaugh – January 16
- Sheree Blazejewski – January 26



Anniversaries

- Betty Bennett – 6 years
- Barbara Ward – 27 years

Member News

Do you have news to share or know some news about a fellow FWF member? This section is used for celebrating notable accomplishments, special occasions, and recognition. Send details to Mona Hendrickson, Membership Chair or Ellen Brothers, Newsletter Editor. See below for contact information.

Membership Benefits

Sheree Blazejewski and Mona Hendrickson, both Financial Advisors, would like to offer 401(k) analysis to help FWF members properly allocate funds within their plan. Just contact either one of us, a call or fax your statement and we will be happy to look at it for you.

Sheree Blazejewski
Financial Advisor
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Sustaining Membership

To recognize past membership involvement and a continued desire to be supportive of the Forum and its mission, a sustaining membership level was developed.

Benefits and requirements for this membership level include:

1. Members 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 – Beverly Brown(810) 760-1444..... brownbev@gasc.flint.k12.mi.us
Past President – Teri Irland-Munley ..(810) 762-5404..... teri.irland@abnamro.com
President Elect – Valerie Bradley(810) 579-5000, ext. 709..... valw@deecramer.com
Secretary – Kathy Zandstra.....(810) 767-0136..... kathy@mfo.com
Treasurer – Gloria Koster(248) 750.0483 gloriaakoster@yahoo.com
Membership – Mona Hendrickson.....(810) 230-2922..... mona.l.hendrickson@smithbarney.com
Program Chair – Sherry Stewart(810) 342-4477..... sherryst@mclaren.org
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Editor – Ellen Brothers(810) 235-0617..... ebrothers@bbbsflint.org
Member At Large – Tera Hamo Anderson(810) 877.5858..... drtera@comcast.net
Member At Large – Gloria Tomaszewski(810) 606.0725 gloria.tomaszewski@53.com

Board Notes

- A formal board meeting was not held in December, but did enjoy gathering for a special lunch at a local restaurant to celebrate the holiday season. The board will resume regular monthly meetings in January.

FOCUS

Ellen Brothers, Editor

FOCUS is a monthly publication of Flint Women's Forum. Submissions are welcomed and appreciated. Send to Ellen Brothers, 2560 Tyrone St, Flint MI 48504, or email: ebrothers@bbbsflint.org