

# Network of Memphis

## President's Letter

### Inside This Issue

- 1 Getting to Know Your Network Sister
- 1 February Dinner Menu
- 1 February Dinner Guest
- 2 Happy Birthday
- 3 Getting To Know Your Network Sister
- 4 Calendar of Events 2010

Greetings Networkers:

If someone had asked me 30 years ago if I would once again be President of Network I probably would have said "what? I'll probably be dead". Well that didn't happen and once again I find myself in a position to lead this dynamic organization.

My vision for Network remains pretty much the same as it was back then: an organization where visionary women gather to inform themselves about issues that effect our community, gather together to share ideas, be supportive of one another and have fun.

Your Board met recently and approved a donation for relief to victims in Haiti. We also considered whether or not to affiliate with the Coalition for A Better Memphis. We decided to check with an attorney to make sure this affiliation would not jeopardize our 501c3 status. She assured us it would not. However a majority of the Board decided not to join with CBM.

I'm looking forward to hearing Connie Ross tell us about the Family Safety Center at our February meeting. On that note if any of have ideas for future programs please contact me at [happyfred@comcast.net](mailto:happyfred@comcast.net) or Karen Madlock our Program Chair at [kmadlock@aol.com](mailto:kmadlock@aol.com).

I especially want to thank Lucy for arranging our new venue at the Racket Club. I believe we have found a home that will allow for growth and convenience.

I leave you with the words of one great woman, Helen Keller, who said: "Until a great mass of people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained."



## February Dinner Menu Submitted By: Lucy Barnhart, Facilities Manager

Please come join us again at the Racquet Club of Memphis on Monday, February 8, 2010. I hope you enjoyed last month's location and dinner as much as I did. For starters we will have Caesar Salad followed by Herb Crusted Cod with Ceviche Dill Butter Sauce, New England Orzo Pilaf and Green Beans Almandine followed by a delicious dessert of Crème Brulee and dinner rolls. **For those of you who choose to have the plain broiled cod instead of the Herb Crusted Cod, please let me know as soon as possible.** The price for dinner is \$28.00 for members and \$30.00 for guests. Alcoholic beverages will be extra and you can purchase drink tickets from Tess when you arrive. The price of the drink tickets will be \$7.00 - last month we did not account for both tax and tip (sorry about that). Tess will be located again at the reception desk in Parlor A and we will begin our introductions in Parlor B at 5:45 p.m. and dinner at 6:15 p.m. The Racquet Club is located 5111 Sanderlin Avenue, Memphis, TN 38117.

Please RSVP to [Lucy7606@aol.com](mailto:Lucy7606@aol.com) no later than 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 4, 2010. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN ON TIME AS THE RACQUET CLUB NEEDS THIS INFORMATION IN ADVANCE.** You can also go online to our website ([www.networkmemphis.org](http://www.networkmemphis.org)) and complete the RSVP form. If you make a reservation and must cancel, please do so by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday preceding the event. You may cancel by either using the website or email Lucy at [Lucy7606@aol.com](mailto:Lucy7606@aol.com). If you cancel after that time or do not attend the meeting, we ask you to provide payment for this event, since Network is charged for it.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

## February Guest Speaker Submitted By: Karen Madlock, V.P. Programs

Ms. Connie Ross is the Executive Director of the city's first Family Safety Center. As the leader of the Family Safety Center of Memphis and Shelby County (FSC), she will implement and utilize specific programs and resources to create better lives for families victimized by domestic violence. The FSC was created to provide one location that effectively combines civil, criminal, health and social services for victims of family violence. The services that are offered at the FSC include family safety planning, domestic violence education, Counseling, and safe emergency shelter/housing referrals.

Ms. Ross is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and has served as the Director of the Civil Litigation Clinic at the University of Memphis since 1991. Her expertise in the legal profession and her work with service providers in the family violence arena make her uniquely suited to serve as Executive Director of the FSC.

The Network is very pleased to have Ms. Ross as our guest speaker for the month of February. As such, we invite you to hear her speak on the creation of the Family Safety Center of Memphis and Shelby County, and her vital role as Executive Director, in creating a safer Memphis.

## Standing Reservations Submitted By: Lucy Barnhart, Facilities Manager

Joan Munsee  
Felicia Gladue

Happy Jones  
Dr. Mary Crawford

Linda Marks  
Judy Childress

Tess Bear

To add your name to the standing reservations list, please email Lucy Barnhart at [Lucy7606@aol.com](mailto:Lucy7606@aol.com) .

## We Need Your Help! Submitted By: Lucy Barnhart, Facilities Manager

As I mentioned in this month's dining article and at the meeting last month, please get your reservation in to me by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. I wanted to explain to everyone that this is a requirement of the Racquet Club. They are not a regular restaurant that has excess inventory and cannot come up with extra meals at a moment's notice. Also, their banquet menu is different from their dining room and they place the food order on Thursday afternoon. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.



## Happy Birthday! Submitted By: Avis Jones, Past President

Look who's celebrating a birthday during **February!** *Congratulations!* Hope your day is very special!

Stacey Grundy, 2/01  
Avis Jones, 2/02  
Happy Jones, 2/22  
Judy Childress, 2/27

*Oops! If I forgot to list someone, it wasn't intentional, just an oversight or it wasn't listed on your membership form.*

## New Members Corner Submitted By: Debra Malone-Reeve, VP of Membership and Database

We had a great January meeting with 28 members (55% of our total membership) and 3 guests in attendance as we heard the story of Muddy's Bake Shop. This was an inspiring story from a young woman showing courage to step out and take a chance starting a new business. Kat Gordon will surely be one of the women in the news as her business progresses.

Welcome our guests, Carolina Melul and Roxanne Raine, thank you for joining us and I hope you come back again and join our organization. Welcome to our newest member Sandy Beem, we look forward to seeing you next month.

It is that time again to renew your membership to this fabulous organization. The deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup> to renew and update our Directory. We had a great start to renewals with 38% of our members renewing by the January meeting. Let's see if we can make that 85% by the February meeting. Remember dues are still \$36.00, if you need a membership form please email me at [debra\\_malone@bellsouth.net](mailto:debra_malone@bellsouth.net) and I will send you one so you will be all ready for the February meeting.

Debra Malone-Reeve  
VP Membership

## Getting To Know Your Network Sister Submitted By: Linda Marks, Board Member at Large

Each month we spotlight a different member. This month we feature Deborah Hester Harrison, Network Member.

"Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold" ---these words are part of the logo of Girls Inc. It is no coincidence, then, that Deborah Hester Harrison, President of the local organization, was drawn to Network of Memphis, whose history and traditions attract women likewise strong, smart, and bold. "I'm not really a joiner," Deborah says, but I love Network because of the exciting and diverse women I meet."



Deborah, a lifelong Memphian, has had a distinguished and diversified career. After earning a BBA in Finance from the University of Memphis, and studying accounting, she became a bank examiner, and then an auditor at Union Planters Bank. The bank recognized her unique people skills, and moved her into call center management and customer service. Later she was promoted to Senior Vice President of Community and Employee Relations. "This was almost too good to be true," she laughs. "I got to spend the bank's money to help the community, and got paid for doing it!" After a subsequent position with the City of Memphis and a time of managing special projects for such organizations as the Memphis Regional Chamber, the Bartlett Chamber, the Hyde Foundation, and SEEDCO, she was approached in 2007 about becoming interim head of Girls Inc. She was in the midst of two time-consuming projects, and didn't think she could take on anything else. But, luckily for Deborah and Girls Inc., they wouldn't take no for an answer. Recalling the irony of her initial refusal, Deborah says, "Now I can see that every bit of work I had ever done was preparing me for Girls Inc. It's my passion in life; it's my mission."

A deeply spiritual person, Deborah believes that the path leading her to her present position was no accident. "Life works out," she says with confidence. At a time when many people despair at the epidemics of teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and poor school performance, Deborah finds hope as her organization works to educate and empower girls 6-18. "We're all dumb when we're kids, at least some of the time," she says, recounting that she herself made some poor choices at an early age. But these very experiences have made her all the more compassionate and committed to helping girls learn to make wise and healthy choices.

Deborah stresses the vital role of strong relationships in helping girls build their lives. The recent addition of a Director of Mentoring to her staff will make it possible to provide more women the opportunity to serve as friends and role models to the girls in the program. Network has explored the possibility of partnering with Girls Inc. in this effort, and Deborah is eager for this opportunity to develop in the future.

As hard as she works, Deborah places a high value on fun in helping girls and women become and remain strong, smart, and bold. Her greatest pleasure, which she shares with her husband, Tom, is dancing. "After my husband of 33 years died four years ago," she says, "I learned that dancing could bring me joy again," and she has found an extensive network of dancing venues in the Bluff City. She is also an active member of Hope Presbyterian Church. .

"Find something you are so passionate about that you would do it for free if you could," Deborah advises. Girls Inc. has become that something for her, and the girls with whom she shares that passion are blessed indeed.

## Being Healthy Is Easier Than You Think Submitted By: Tess Bear, Treasurer

Network Member, Tess Bear, would like to inform members about several workshops that she facilitates about health. Click [here](#) to read her flyer.

## Calendar of Events 2010 Submitted By: Karen Madlock, V.P. Programs

Here is a listing of our upcoming meetings and events so you may plan accordingly.  
All meetings start at 5:30 PM.

**February 8<sup>th</sup>** Monthly Meeting  
**Location:** Racquet Club  
**Program:** Guest Speaker, Connie Ross, Program Director  
**Topic:** Family Safety Center

## Job Resources/Opportunities/Events

If anyone would like to submit a job related resource or event, please send it to Lori Harris at [harris.lorid@gmail.com](mailto:harris.lorid@gmail.com).

## Advertising on Network of Memphis's Website

Would your company like to increase their sales? Then you should advertise on Network of Memphis's website. We offer reasonable rates to Network members, which range from \$50 to \$75 for three months. To find out more information, email Lori Harris at [harris.lorid@gmail.com](mailto:harris.lorid@gmail.com).

## Submitting an Article

If anyone would like to submit an article, please send it as a word attachment and use a jpeg format for a picture by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to Lori Harris at [harris.lorid@gmail.com](mailto:harris.lorid@gmail.com).

### FEBRUARY 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28						

### MARCH 2010

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28	29	30	31			

### APRIL 2010

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