

# Network of Memphis

## Happy New Year!

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I hope everyone had a joyous holiday. In this edition of Network's newsletter we will have a slightly different format. Instead of having the President's Letter at the beginning of the newsletter, we will have Linda Marks's Article, "Getting To Know Your Network Sister", which will spotlight our new President, Happy Jones.

### Getting to Know Your Network Sister Submitted By: Linda Marks, Board Member At Large

You walk into a Network meeting looking for a descendant of the most prominent founders of Memphis, a former debutante who was educated at the same school as Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. You know that in a recent awards ceremony she was described as a "trail-blazing visionary." Then you meet Network's new President, a down-to-earth woman with an impish smile and a heartily ironic laugh, who refers to herself as a benevolent anarchist. You've found the person you were looking for, Happy Jones.



Though her resume spans pages of honors, awards, professional activity, community activism, and philanthropy, Happy transcends labels and remains buoyantly herself. She grew up on a large plantation in Arkansas and as the youngest child, with sisters 13 and 15 years older, she had freedom to explore both the natural setting and the many different kinds of people involved with the management and labor on the farm. "I was a tomboy," she says, "and I loved to ride horses and shoot snakes." She readily acknowledges that her life was blessed with privilege, but she learned at an early age to see people as individuals, not as representatives of a class. She cites her grandmother, Sara Day Snowden, as a strong influence. "She entertained people outside her peer group, and as a child in the '40's I was eagerly listening to their conversations about social problems."

After attending Lausanne School in Memphis, Happy went to the renowned Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Connecticut, where she thrived on the academic challenge. She returned to Memphis, made her debut, married, and began raising her three daughters, who she says are "the best children anyone could have." But, while she appreciated and enjoyed the benefits of her heritage, she chose to use its blessings to fight injustice and advocate for change. The civil rights movement offered the challenge and the opportunity for Happy to use her skills, her education, and her intuitive understanding of people, and when Dr. King was assassinated, she says, "I came to understand that the people who could, needed to speak out and take the unpopular stand."

Perhaps one clue to Happy's readiness to "take the unpopular stand" comes from the fact that her family respected and supported her even though they did not always agree with her political positions. Alarmed that some children could not afford school lunches and outraged that they were made to sit in the cafeteria and watch the other children eat, Happy led a movement to apply for federal funding for school lunches. Her father saw her impassioned speech to the school board on TV and said, "I don't like what you're doing and I don't understand why you're doing it, but by God you do it well!"

A chronicle of Happy's leadership and activism includes all the important progressive movements in Memphis since the 1960's. For example, during the sanitation workers' strike in 1968 she led a group of 100 women to Mayor Henry Loeb's office to protest his failure to negotiate in good faith with the workers and to protest poverty and racism. But in addition to promoting change on behalf of disenfranchised groups, Happy has also helped to transform many lives through her therapy practice and her work as the Director of the Center for Personal Growth, a private, non-profit counseling service.

As a Network founder, its first President, and the only Network member ever to be asked to return to the President's role, Happy looks forward to inspiring growth and renewed energy in the organization in 2010. She anticipates broadening members' awareness of opportunities for community involvement by promoting Network's membership in the Memphis Area Women's Council and the Coalition for a Better Memphis. She also expects that we will significantly expand our membership in the coming year as we move to our new location at the Racquet Club. And, after outlining these goals, she quickly adds, "We'll have fun doing it."

Happy's Network sisters have learned to expect, to enjoy, and to appreciate her forthrightness and her direct approach. Yes, she has been appropriately called a trail-blazer and a visionary, but the key to this acclaim is, in fact, quite simple. "I don't believe that problems are unsolvable," she says. We look forward to working, learning, and laughing with her in the coming year.

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

Please come join the fun at our new location - The Racquet Club of Memphis on Monday, January 11, 2010. As you arrive Tess will be in Parlor A to sign you in and you can order a cocktail or just mingle with the crowd until dinner. Dinner will be served in the adjoining room Parlor B and will be served at 6:15 p.m. We will be seated and our introductions will begin at 5:45 p.m. For starters we will have fresh rolls, followed by a House Salad, Pecan Encrusted Chicken Breast with Herb Roasted Potatoes, Honey Maple Glazed Carrots and Roasted Red Pepper Sauce and a delicious dessert of Strawberry Cheesecake plus a beverage. The price is \$28.00 for members and \$30.00 for guests. Alcoholic beverages will be extra. The address is 5111 Sanderlin Avenue, Memphis, TN 38117.

**Please RSVP to [Lucy7606@aol.com](mailto:Lucy7606@aol.com) no later than Thursday morning January 7, 2010 by 10:00 a.m. It is very important that you make your reservation early as the Racquet Club requires advance information. You can also go online to our website ([www.networkmemphis.org](http://www.networkmemphis.org)) and complete a RSVP form. If you make a reservation and must cancel, please do so by Thursday morning before 10:00 a.m. preceding the event. You may cancel by either using the website or email Lucy Barnhart 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 the meal.**

Looking forward to seeing you there!

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

Kat Gordon owns Muddy's Bake Shop, located in the Clark Tower area, at 5101 Sanderlin. She is a graduate of the University of Memphis with degrees in Art History and English. After a brief stint in real estate and catering, Kat decided to open a bakery. It is not surprising that she chose to open Muddy's, as she comes from a culinary family. As a child, her self-proclaimed addiction to the Easy-Bake Oven and her grandmother's love of baking set the stage for her interest in baking. If you are wondering where the name Muddy's comes from, it was her grandmother's nickname.

Open since February 29, 2008, the shop has become a big hit in the Memphis area. Muddy's uses organic products in its baked goods. In addition, the packaging is made from recycled materials. If you visit Muddy's, be prepared to consume delectable baked goods with eccentric names such as the Prozac, Plain Jane, Pucker Up or the Capote. What's not eccentric about Muddy's is their commitment to giving back to the community. Instead of the traditional tip jar, the bake shop has a "Refill Our Community with Positive Change" Jar. A different non-profit is selected each month to receive the proceeds from the jar. In September, the proceeds were donated to the Mid-South Food Bank.

The Network is very pleased to have Ms. Gordon as our guest speaker for the month of January. Please join us to hear her speak on her journey to becoming one of Memphis' own young, successful, female business owners.

## December Holiday Celebration Photos

Network Sister, Tess Bear's husband Michael Fruitticher took some great photos during the December Holiday Celebration. Below are some of his pictures:



[Click Here](#) to view more photos from the event.

## 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).



## Happy Birthday!

Submitted By: Avis Jones, Past President

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

Agnes Pokrandt, 1/01  
Debra Malone-Reeves, 1/21  
Cynthia Wimberley, 1/22

*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

Greetings Network Sisters,

It is an honor to be elected as the VP of Membership for this fine organization. This past year was a challenge for me as I was in Career Transition, I thank each of you for the support and fellowship you provided. What a great group of women to be associated with! I look forward to serving you during 2010, if there is anything I can do for anyone do not hesitate to call.

We had two ladies get a jump on the New Year and renew their membership at our holiday party. **Judy Childress** and **Laurie Coles**, in my opinion, you chose the perfect holiday gift for yourselves. Even though **Ginger Ralston** was unable to join us at the party, we're delighted she also renewed and hope to see her soon.

### **Renewal**

Speaking of renewing you memberships...January begins a new decade, a new dinner location, and a new membership year. The only thing that's not new is the Network's membership price. Dues are still just \$36 a year. You can include your dues with your check for dinner January 11<sup>th</sup> and you'll be set for the year.

### **Updates or Changes to Your Info?**

If you have a change in your email, phone number or employment information, please email me at [Debra\\_Malone@bellsouth.net](mailto:Debra_Malone@bellsouth.net) and I will update your entry in the directory. Members can access the online directory by using their membership ID and password.

Debra Malone-Reeve  
VP, Membership

## Member News

Submitted By: Karen Shea, Network Member

Karen Shea was featured in the "Memphis Small Business Spotlight" in the December 14<sup>th</sup> issue of "The Daily News".

## 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.

**January 11<sup>th</sup>** Monthly Meeting  
**Location:** Racquet Club  
**Program:** Guest Speaker, Kat Gordon, Owner  
**Topic:** Muddy's Bake Shop

**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).

JANUARY 2010						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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FEBRUARY 2010						
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28						

MARCH 2010						
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