

Network of Memphis

President's Letter

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Hello Network Sisters!

November is here and so begins the "Thanks and Giving" season. This is the month when we reflect back on things that have occurred and give thanks for the many blessings that have been bestowed onto us. It's a time when families are together and all seems right with the world. Okay, so I'm sounding a bit too sentimental so let me tell you really what this month means. It means the beginning of food, food and more food which translates into gaining weight, loosening your belt and not making it to the gym as frequently because we're having much too much FUN! November and December, the most notorious months of the year for falling off the wagon so beware but still enjoy.



Speaking of enjoyment, I'm sorry that I was unable to attend the October monthly meeting because the feedback that I received was fantastic. It all started with the "Little Taste of Italy" which was a scrumptious medley of Italian cuisine arranged by Lucy Barnhart and prepared by Café Toscana and ended with our guest speaker for the evening, Congressman Steve Cohen who spoke for more than an hour, sharing a wealth of information and answering questions presented to him by those in attendance. It was a very unique opportunity for us to be able to be up close and personal with one of Tennessee's key legislators.

Even though we are wrapping up another wonderful year for Network, it will be our busiest time of the year. The Network Annual Meeting will for the first time be in November and the theme for the night will be "An Evening of Recognition". In addition to presenting the 2010 Network Board Members we will also be acknowledging and presenting checks to the recipients of our final donations for this calendar year. It's going to be a whirlwind of a meeting and I'm hoping that everyone will mark their calendars and plan to attend on November 9th at Café Toscana.

Finally, we have already started working on our December Holiday Celebration which will be held in the lobby of Independent Bank (i-Bank) located at 450 Perkins Ext. in Laurelwood Plaza. Be on the lookout for more details in the very near future.

Best regards,

Avis Jones, President

November Dinner Program Submitted By: Lucy Barnhart, Facilities Manager and Sharron McKinney, VP Programs

Well we are back to our usual schedule (second Monday of the month) so please come join the fun at Café Toscana on Monday, November 9, 2009. The November meeting will be a special meeting to highlight the organizations that Network will be donating money to.

Since we had a taste of Italy in October we are going to have a different menu. For starters we will have fresh Italian bread, followed by a Primavera Salad. For our entrée we are having Bistecca Padana (grilled marinated strip steak, thin sliced, served on a bed of arugula topped with shaved parmesan cheese) and roasted potatoes followed with a chocolate cherry semi freddo plus a beverage. **For those of you who prefer not to eat meat we will have a menu selection for you to choose from upon arrival – please indicate that on your RSVP form.** The price is \$28.00 for members and \$30.00 for guests. Alcoholic beverages will be extra. We have a private room reserved upstairs and for those of you who would enjoy an alcoholic beverage, the bar is directly on the other side of the room. Café Toscana is located at 5007 Black Road #150 (directly behind Houston's) and their phone number is (901) 761-9522 if you should need to call for directions. Introductions begin around 5:45 p.m. and we hope you can make it.

Please RSVP to Lucy Barnhart by 5:00 pm on Friday, November 6th by contacting her via email at Lucy7606@aol.com. You can also go online to our website (www.networkmemphis.org) and complete a RSVP form. If you make a reservation and must cancel, please do so by noon on the Friday preceding the event. You may cancel by either using the website or email Lucy Barnhart at 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.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Standing Reservations Submitted By: Lucy Barnhart, Facilities Manager

Joan Munsee
Felicia Gladue

Karen Shea
Avis Jones

Linda Marks
Dr. Mary Crawford

Tess Bear



Happy Birthday! Submitted By: Joan Munsee, Past President

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

Lori Harris 11/10
Nancy Harbison 11/16
Ruthie Lentz 11/16

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

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 Linda Marks, Board Member at Large.

This month, I'm going to take the opportunity to tell you about my life, adding quickly that one of its great pleasures has come through my role as mini-biographer of my Network sisters.

I grew up in Memphis in the '50's and '60's, (and, well, more of the '40's than I like to realize). My father, Louis, was a banker at Union Planters, having grown up in Marks, Mississippi, named for his grandfather. When I was three years old, he was diagnosed with leukemia and died just after I started first grade. In 1957, when my younger brother, Denton, went to school, my mother began teaching Latin at Hutchison, and, except for some years at East High School, remained there until her retirement in 1987, as Head of the Upper School. Frances Marks is a strong, bright, versatile, compassionate, and delightful woman, and I am honored to be her daughter.



When I was eight, my grandmother gave me a piano, and I have been playing it ever since. My brother took revenge for a while by taking up the drums, but I think he finally gave up and decided that I would permanently be the family noisemaker.

After graduating from Hutchison, I attended Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, and there learned the deep and enduring value of close friendships with women. I majored in English and got a Master's in English from the University of Wisconsin. In 1976, after the end of my marriage to a fellow graduate student, I returned for a while to Memphis and got a law degree from the University of Memphis in 1986.

In 1987, after a mostly long-distance romance, I moved to Portland, Maine, to be with the object of my affection. What ended up happening was that Maine became the object of my affection, and when this romance ended (thankfully for both of us) I decided to stay there. I worked in the community mental health system, became a patient rights advocate, and eventually was able to help develop an exciting new position as patient rights liaison in the risk management department of a psychiatric hospital. During my 17 years in Maine, I played the piano in community theater and churches, and accompanied a women's chorus, which again deepened my appreciation for friendships with women. I was involved and happy there (and proud of my ability to adapt to and love Maine winters). But in 2004 it became clear that it was time to return to Memphis to be near my mother, then 88.

Very soon after I arrived in Memphis, my mother had a bad fall, putting me into a caregiver role before I was settled myself. It was at this time that Joan Munsee said, "You have to come to Network," and, even though I've never been much of a joiner, I have always been grateful that I found this wonderful group. I was warmly welcomed, and I have come to treasure my relationship with this amazingly diverse group of feisty, talented, and gracious women.

In 2006, I started working at MIFA, first in the Ombudsman Program and now as Inter-Faith Coordinator. I feel that there, too, I have found my home. I play the piano (and still wouldn't mind making some money at it!), write, and enjoy the new friends I've made in this exciting journey of becoming a Southerner again. (And, best of all, I get to write about YOU!)

New Members Corner Submitted By: Felicia Gladue, VP of Membership and Database

I had a wonderful time meeting so many new ladies last month. We had a lot of visitors, who I hope we get to see again soon. I know there are at least two ladies who we can count on seeing again – **Lara Lucas** and **Hope Peterson**. Our October meeting was the first time either had visited Network, and both Laura and Hope became members. We're so glad they felt comfortable enough to join us.

Updates or Changes to Your Info?

If you have a change in your email, phone number or employment information, please email me at GladueGirl@gmail.com and I will update the directory. Members can access the online directory by using their membership ID and password.

Felicia Gladue
VP, Membership

Calendar of Events 2009 Submitted By: Sharron McKinney, 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.

November 9th Monthly Meeting
Location: Café Toscana
Program: Annual Meeting
Topic: "An Evening of Recognition"

December 14th Monthly Meeting
Location: Independent Bank
450 Perkins Ext., Laurelwood Plaza
Program: Holiday Celebration

January 11th Monthly Meeting
Location: Café Toscana
Program: Guest Speaker, Kat Gordon, Owner
Topic: Muddy's Bake Shop

February 8th Monthly Meeting
Location: Café Toscana
Program: Guest Speaker, Connie Ross, Program Director
Topic: Family Safety Center

Stop Hunger Now Submitted By: Ruthie Lentz, Board Member at Large

What: Volunteer to help the West Tennessee Haiti Partnership pack 142,500 nutritious meals for undernourished children at St. Vincent's School for Handicapped Children, Port-au-Prince and St. Paul's School, Montrouis, Haiti.

When: November 7, 2009

Where: Church of the Holy Communion, 4645 Walnut Grove Rd.

To sign up to volunteer please go to the following link: www.haiti-partnership.org

Click here to read the flyer.

For additional information regarding this event, please contact Ruthie Lentz at 278-5361.

Job Opportunity/Events

If anyone would like to share a job opportunity/event with Network members, please send the information to Lori Harris at 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 25th of the month to Lori Harris at harris.lorid@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER 2009						
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29	30					

DECEMBER 2009						
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27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2010						
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24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30