

OWL NAMES 2008 WOMEN OF WORTH

From CEO/Presidents to lifelong volunteers, from women in the arts to legislators and so much more, twelve women who have made contributions to our community are to be honored at OWL's 18th *Women of Worth* dinner on October 16th. OWL will recognize their accomplishments and the *Lifetime Achievement* of **Bonnie Solomon** (see related article, p. 3) at the annual *Women of Worth* fund raising event. Keynote speaker at this year's WOW awards dinner will be **Rosemary Terranova**, Director of the *St. Louis County Office of Family and Community Services*, herself a recent Women of Worth.

2008 WOW awardees are:

Ellen Brasunas - Licensed Professional Counselor, now Volunteer Coordinator for *Senior Connections* program, recruiting, training and supervising 84 volunteer visitors in 16 long-term care homes;

Ann Dunn - Retired Director of Nursing at Ranken-Jordan Hospital, founded and serves as principal of *The Academy of St. Louis*, a private independent school for students with moderate learning disabilities;

Susan Fadem – Journalist at the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* and *Post-Dispatch*, book author and writer in print nationally, regionally and locally, past president of the National Federation of Press Women, Missouri;

The **Hon. April Ford-Griffin** - Alderwoman of St. Louis' 5th ward since 1997, facilitated development of 1000 units of affordable housing for low income women as well as mixed- income residential and commercial properties;

Betty Manlin - At 94, still volunteers at many local institutions and schools in St. Louis city and county, mentoring and tutoring students who are at risk, volunteering at a wide range of organizations;

Amanda Murphy – President/ CEO of *Hopewell Community Mental Health Center*, which she founded nearly thirty years ago, serving the high-risk urban core with comprehensive mental health services, with a staff of 140;

Lana Pepper – The founding Managing Director of the Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis, fund raiser for the arts and cultural institutions in the area, dedicated for 30 years to St Louis' cultural enrichment;

Marcia McNeil Pfeiffer - President of Florissant Valley Community College since 2002, dedicated to guiding young women preparing for the working world;

Joan Quicksilver – President for 18 years of her advertising and PR firm, now outstanding public relations consultant and premier event coordinator, creator and producer of numerous musical shows;

Bea Renna – 18 year member of OWL, serving in a variety of positions including Board President, instrumental in helping chapter achieve national recognition as the largest in the nation, dedicated fund raiser for OWL and others;

Mary Alice Ryan - President/CEO of *St. Andrew's Resources for Seniors* for 16 years, growing it from a small agency into a nationally-prized, award winning organization serving thousands of seniors, most of them women;

Ruth Smith - President and CEO of the Human Development Corporation, helping St. Louisans attain self-sufficiency and achieve their full potential, impacting more than 100,000 St. Louis area residents.

Chairpersons of the event are **Arlen Chaleff** and **Marcella Rose**. Honorary co-chairs are **Christine Buck**, KPLR, and **Barbara Washington**, Vice President, Mathews-Dickey Boys' and Girls' Club. Dinner tickets will be available through OWL, 314-725-5862.

Midlife Divorce Seminar October 18th

The *Women's Midlife Divorce Seminar*, sponsored by OWL's *Divorce Support Group*, will take place Saturday, October 18th at the Brentwood Community Center, 2505 S. Brentwood Blvd., on the west side of Brentwood just north of Manchester Road. Three speakers will address the key issues that face women before, during and in the wake of divorce following a long-term marriage: basic legal issues, financial concerns and emotional challenges. Each presentation will be followed by a Q&A period.

Speakers are attorney **Ann Bauer**, partner in the law firm of Carter, Bauer, and Soule; **Janet Poppen**, CPA with Poppen & Associates; and **Margaret Rissman**, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist. **Open to the public, the seminar will start at 9:15 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. An advance registration fee of \$12 includes lunch; or \$15 at the door. Scholarships are available. Call the OWL office to register, 314- 725-5862, or email us at owlstlouis@sbcglobal.net. For more information call Norma Leuthauser at 314- 821-1731.**

The seminar is organized annually by the OWL *Divorce Support Group* and will be moderated by women "graduates" of the divorce process. Started by OWL member Gloria Gordon in 1991, the *Divorce Support Group* is open to the public and meets every Sunday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Salem United Methodist Church on the Northeast corner of Highway 40 and Lindbergh Blvd. This is a valuable confidential resource for women in long-term marriages facing divorce, in the process, or recovering afterward. The sessions are led by a rotating team of trained peer leaders - women who came to the group in need of support and have stayed to help others.

Women in the process of divorce or after may drop in some Sunday evening and try it out – there is no charge and newcomers are always welcome. Parking is in the back of the church lot and entry is through the main back door. One testimonial: "After 23 years of marriage, I could not have made it without this group. They saved my life!" For more information about the seminar or the weekly support group call 314-821-1731.

CHAPTER MEETING

Remember: Gateway OWL's first meeting of the season – Tuesday, September 9th at 6:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Marcia McNeil Pfeiffer, President of Flo Valley Community College, talking about many aspects of diversity. Marcia is a 2008 Woman of Worth. Members, guests and friends are all welcome. The Gateway Chapter meets at the Ladue Chapel, 9450 Clayton Road, in Ladue. Parking is in the lighted lot on the west side.

AAUW Healthcare Forum September 27

The *American Association of University Women*, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, will present a forum on a timely and controversial topic, *Financing Health Care: Issues and Options*. The cost of health care promises to be a hot topic in the November '08 elections. AAUW's purpose in sponsoring this year's forum is to define various aspects of the issue, present information from several viewpoints, and offer possible solutions.

Program speakers are: James R. Kimmey, M.D. M.P.H., President and CEO of the Missouri Foundation for Health; Dennis Matheis, President, Anthem Blue

Cross and Blue Shield of Missouri; Heidi Miller, M.D., internist at the Family Care Centers and advocate for Missouri's uninsured; Andrew Ziskind, M.D., group president for BJC Healthcare and President of Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

The forum will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road, at Woods Mill Road/Hwy 141, Saturday, September 27th, 8:30-11:45 a.m. Refreshments will be served at 8:30, the speakers will present from 9 to 11 a.m. After a short break, there will be a Q&A session.

From the Executive Director

The Gateway Chapter of OWL is continuing its recovery process by developing a Strategic Plan for the next three years. After losing the major source of funding, the organization experienced a period of indecision about the future. Thanks to the Board, our members and friends in the community, a burst of energy has developed to save OWL and begin the rebuilding of our organization.

We have organized to identify what needs to be accomplished to make OWL a viable organization for the future. The process started by having the membership complete and mail back a survey, which helped us understand their views and feelings.

The Strategic Planning process is now focused on specific areas. These include **development, program, leadership, membership, by-laws, publicity and facilities**. These involve members and officers working together to develop clear expectations, goals and objectives, a sound structure of committees with chairpersons who are responsive to the needs of the members, with evaluation and feedback mechanisms in place.

Members are encouraged to contact Maryann Sexton, Board President, or myself for involvement in this process.

Barbara McQuitty, Executive Director

Bonnie Solomon to Receive OWL's Lifetime Achievement Award

On October 18th, the 2008 OWL award for *Lifetime Achievement* will be presented to Bonnie Solomon, a leader in the multifamily and seniors housing industry and retired Vice President of Retirement Living Services of *Delmar Gardens Enterprises*. She served as Director of *Garden Villas Retirement Community* for more than 29 years. In past years, Bonnie was Executive Director of Covenant House, a HUD-supported congregate living community for older adults and served multiple terms as Vice President/Multifamily of the St. Louis Home Builders Association. She is and has been a board member of

several social service agencies and is past President of the Town and Country Chamber of Commerce. She has developed programs, lectured, written articles and consulted for local and national businesses and organizations.

Bonnie will be recognized at the *Women of Worth* dinner on October 18th for her 35 years as a seniors housing professional and for her devotion to enhancing and improving the quality of life for older citizens.

Tributes, Memorials & Contributions

April through July 2008

In memory of Nancy Buechler—from Dinorah Bommarito, Sally Eaton, Maryann Sexton, Marge Polcyn, Barbara McQuitty, Carole Zatlin

Gifts – Nancy Buechler, Janet Shipton, Jane Paine

In-kind – Bea Renna, Maryann Sexton

Women's Financial Education Series To Begin

Each year, Gateway OWL is a co-sponsor of the highly acclaimed *Women's Financial Education Series*, a project of the *University of Missouri-St.Louis*. This year, the series will take place on five Wednesday evenings from October 15 through November 12. Those interested in registering may contact OWL at 725-5862. This educational series covers topics from banking to investing. It is not to be missed!

*Save the Date: September 9th, OWL Chapter meeting
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**OWL's mission: To address the special concerns of mid-life and older women
through advocacy, education and empowerment.**

OWL is the only grassroots organization dedicated entirely to addressing the concerns of midlife and older women. JOIN TODAY!

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