



# News & Views

MARCH 2024

## Upcoming Events

- **March 14:** March Dinner  
RSVP Deadline — [LINK](#)
- **March 14:** Equal Pay Day  
Unhappy Hour—4 pm  
Applebees in Greensburg
- **March 21:** Monthly Dinner  
Meeting - 6 pm Giannilli's II
- **March 23:** Spring Tea  
Live! Casino
- **April 4:** Board Meeting
- **April 6:** District 3 Spring  
Meeting—Wooden Nickle in  
Monroeville

## President's Message:

As the colors of spring begin to fill the earth's landscape, I am filled with a sense of renewal and optimism for the future of our business and professional women's group. Spring symbolizes not only the blooming of nature but also the blossoming potential within each of us. It is a time to shed the old and embrace the new, fostering a spirit of collaboration and empowerment that defines our sisterhood.

In the spirit of this season, we are reminded that even in challenging times there is an inherent resilience and potential for growth. Let us create a nurturing environment where every woman feels supported and inspired to achieve their goals. Reach out to one another for mentorship, engage in insightful discussions and embrace the opportunity for fresh beginnings.

As the flowers bloom and the world around us transforms, our organization as a whole is evolving too as we *cultivate* new opportunities that will undoubtedly strengthen our BPW roots and long standing history.

As we welcome the warmer days, I want to express my gratitude for each member's commitment to our shared success. Your resilience, ambition, and collaborative spirit make our local truly extraordinary.

May this spring be a season of renewed energy, growth, and fulfillment for each of you.



Tracy



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, April 5. Please send committee reports, community events, articles, kudos and advertisements to [cpalm121@comcast.net](mailto:cpalm121@comcast.net) OR [latrobebpw@yahoo.com](mailto:latrobebpw@yahoo.com) before that date.



Inside

Member Spotlight	BPW Round Up	Students of the Month	BPW News	Member Networking
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March 2024

# Meet Joelyn Aukerman

## our member spotlight for March



"I've had the privilege of being a member of the Latrobe Business and Professional Women's group for the past eight years. What I love most about being a part of BPW is the opportunity to empower women, make new friendships, and address issues that are paramount to business and professional women. To new members, my advice would be to actively engage by meeting as many fellow members as possible and committing to committees and special events – it's through these avenues that meaningful connections are formed, and friendships are made.

Joelyn is currently a licensed Realtor with Howard Hanna in Greensburg and also serves as a consultant for Blackburn Center. While she is officially retired from Blackburn Center since January, she continues to support the agency by assisting in training her replacement and advising on fundraising efforts crucial to sustaining the agency's mission.

"What I love most about my role as a realtor is the opportunity to connect with new families, guide them through emotional transitions in selling and buying homes, and staying abreast of housing trends and innovative marketing strategies. It is so fun to see how other people live and what is important to them."

Outside of work, Joelyn finds relaxation and joy in painting and indulging in reading historical fiction books. "Painting serves as a therapeutic outlet, keeping me centered and focused, while books offer an adventurous escape into the past and lives of other characters."

"I initially joined BPW seeking a fellowship of like-minded, empowered, and vibrant women, and I can confidently say that my expectations have been exceeded. BPW has motivated me to become more involved in events that support our community. It has been a very rewarding experience."

Something that might surprise others about Joelyn is her newfound passion for baking sourdough bread and experimenting with various recipes using the dough – a hobby that has brought unexpected joy and satisfaction. "I have even named my sourdough starter and sourdough discard after my grandmothers, Iva Gay and Elsie Rose. Neither have disappointed me yet!"

We are so happy to have Joelyn as a member of Latrobe BPW. Her smile and positivity is contagious. Meet Joelyn at the next BPW meeting! #becauseofbpw



March 2024

# BPW ROUND-UP



## Dinner Committee

## Membership

## BPW Logo Wear

### March Dinner Meeting:

**Date:** March 21, 2024

**Event Location:** Giannilli's II,  
Route 30 West, Greensburg

**Deadline for Reservations:**  
**Thursday, March 14**

PAYMENT OPTIONS:  
Cash/Check/Credit \$25  
Prepay via PayPal \$27 (link on  
dinner reservation)  
**LINK TO RESERVE:** <https://forms.gle/cufwvD4bdRuX4FfZ7>

Questions about the dinner meeting?  
Email: [latrobebpwdinner@gmail.com](mailto:latrobebpwdinner@gmail.com)

Please invite your friends, co-workers,  
and wonderful women that you meet to  
dinner.

Ask our membership team: Tina Grace  
Donkers and Maria Newill,  
for our "business" card and membership  
application to share with your guests.

### Welcome New Member:

## Mindy Andrews

**NEW MEMBER INDUCTION  
will be held in May**



**BPW ONLINE STORE IS OPEN!**  
Show your BPW spirit with our new line of  
logo wear! You can shop 24/7/365 online  
through our member partner Unity Printing.  
Order your gear by the end of each month  
and it will be delivered to you at the following  
month's meeting! Check out the great items  
at: [www.unityprinting.com/bpw](http://www.unityprinting.com/bpw)



## Equal Pay Day

## Unhappy Hour

Thursday, March 14 at 4 pm

Applebee's in Greensburg

Come out and unwind in the fellowship of your BPW  
sisters while enjoying 1/2 price appetizers !

What could be better? Equal Pay!

March 2024

# BPW ROUND-UP

*Nomination Committee*



Every March, we nominate and vote for our new club officers which will be effective July 1 for the 2024-2025 club year.

Now is the time to show your appreciation for our current officers for the many hours of dedication and service; planning, organizing and making sure Latrobe BPW had a successful year. Show your gratitude with a BIG THANK-YOU to our current officers, Tracy Grace, Lorie Planinsek, Barbara Baldwin, Jean Calabrace, Dawn Hughes and all of the committee chairs.

For the 2024-2025 club year the nominating committee, Theresa Rusbosin and Carrie Brant, have a single slate of officers to present. They are:

President-Barbara Baldwin

Recording Secretary-Alice Brasili

Vice President-Stacey Lemmon

Treasurer-Lynnette Fajt Hamilton

At the meeting nominations from the floor are accepted. If you have been a committee chair and you have the desire to be an officer then you can submit your name at the meeting. If you have any questions about a particular office, you can reach out to me or anyone of the current or past officers for information.

Once we elect our new officers, they will begin planning and setting goals for the club year. Look back on the events, activities, programs that we had this year and evaluate our progress. We want to celebrate our successes and recognize where we can do better. Be willing to offer your skillset when and where needed, the officers can't do it all on their own and rely on the cooperation of the membership to get things done.

Keep in mind to be willing, be positive, be kind, your actions create a perception of who we are, WE ARE LATROBE BPW !

**Be the reason someone  
feels welcome, seen,  
heard, supported,  
valued, and loved**

March 2024

# BPW ROUND-UP



## Foundation

The Edith Oler Flanagan Disaster Fund is available to any BPW/PA member who has suffered a financial hardship caused by any reason, such as uninsured medical expenses, fire loss, termination of employment, etc. The awards are based on financial need. [www.bpwpa.org](http://www.bpwpa.org)

## Goodwill & Special Projects

## Public Relations

### Important Social Media and Website Links!

Website: [www.latrobebpw.org](http://www.latrobebpw.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BPWLatrobe](https://www.facebook.com/BPWLatrobe)  
(Business Site)

[www.facebook.com/groups/latrobebpw](https://www.facebook.com/groups/latrobebpw)  
(Private Member Group—more informal; Business Owners can run ads and share info once weekly; Share Community Events)

Search for us on YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn

ISO: Chairwomen and Committee members for the 2023-2024 year. Please email [latrobebpw@yahoo.com](mailto:latrobebpw@yahoo.com) if interested.

**Editors Note:**  
*Please send me content. Lots of articles make the newsletter more interesting!*

*Thank you ~Carol Palmer*

**Committee chairs: Send your round-up items in for the next newsletter's Round Up. Committee Reports are due by first Friday of each month. Send them to [cpalm121@comcast.net](mailto:cpalm121@comcast.net) OR [latrobebpw@yahoo.com](mailto:latrobebpw@yahoo.com)**



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Standing together to end violence.

## WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES®

The Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event will be held on **Saturday, April 13**, at St. Clair Park, Greensburg.

Registration: 9 am—10 am ~ ~ Walk begins at 10 am

Registration is \$5 for each participant.  
Children 12 and under are free.  
Family-friendly event.  
Everyone is welcome.  
Pets on a leash are welcome.

REGISTER ONLINE:  
<https://www.blackburncenter.org/walk-a-mile>  
or call Alex at 724.837.9540 ext 144

March 2024

# March Students of the Month

## English



### Shyanne Hornbaker

Shyanne Hornbaker stands out as a well-rounded student at Derry Area High School, excelling in academics, sports, and community service. Holding leadership positions in various school clubs, including Vice President of the Spanish Honors Society and officer of the Kind Club, Shyanne demonstrates her commitment to service and academic excellence.

Her athletic prowess is evident through her participation in three varsity sports: cross country, soccer, and track and field, showcasing her dedication to teamwork and perseverance. Outside of school, Shyanne generously volunteers her time at hospitals and serves as a member of the New Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department.

In her role at Giant Eagle, Shyanne further exemplifies her work ethic and commitment to serving her community. With plans to pursue a degree in biomedical sciences at the University of Cincinnati, she aspires to become a pediatric surgeon, driven by her desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

The Latrobe BPW congratulates Alexza Lynch and Shyanne Hornbaker for their remarkable achievements and wishes them continued success in their future endeavors.

Alexza Lynch exemplifies excellence in academics, extracurricular activities, and community involvement. As a dedicated student at Greater Latrobe High School, Alexza has actively participated in several clubs and organizations, including serving as the Secretary of the National Art Honor Society and being a member of the National Honor Society and Drama Club. Additionally, she has showcased her talents in sports and has a commendable history of athletic participation.

Beyond her school commitments, Alexza's passion for dance shines through her involvement at The Dance Alley, where she has competed for an impressive 13 years. Her dedication to the art form extends to teaching and choreography, earning her numerous accolades for her exceptional work.

Looking ahead, Alexza plans to attend Seton Hill University, where she will major in Dance Choreography. Her aspiration to become a traveling choreographer reflects her ambition to share her passion for dance with people worldwide, promising a future filled with creativity and artistic expression.



### Alexza Lynch

March 2024

## Guest Speaker



## Connie Marucco

Latrobe native Connie Marucco is Secretary of the Latrobe Area Historical Society, where she has volunteered since her return to Latrobe in 2011. After graduating from Latrobe High School, Class '65, she worked for Mellon Bank until 1972, when she moved to Akron, Ohio, with her husband, David. In their 40 years in Akron, she raised their son and daughter and volunteered in many capacities. In her professional life, she taught bank personnel in the Training Department of First National Bank of Akron, was Secretary to the President of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, and was Assistant to the Chairman of Brennan Management Group. Upon retirement in 2011, she and David returned to their native Latrobe. Connie enjoys volunteering at the Society, delivering Meals on Wheels. She is the Treasurer of Wimmer Commons HOA and is on the Advisory Board of the Latrobe Credit Union. Connie has made presentations on historic Latrobe for the Masons, AARP, the Latrobe Center for Active Adults Center, and the Historical Society.

Connie Marucco has been invited to speak at the next Latrobe BPWs meeting. As March is Women's History Month, the topic of her presentation will be notable women in Latrobe, their struggles, and their contributions to the community. Some names will be familiar, and others may not. By highlighting the work and sacrifice that women have made since Latrobe was founded in 1854, we aim to honor all women who have lived and contributed to this area we call home. The meeting starts at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 21, at 6:00 pm at Giannilli's II, Rt. 30, Greensburg. Reservations are required.

March 2024

# LATROBE BPW

## BPW/PA State Convention Grant Application

The purpose of the grant is to encourage members to attend State Convention, especially those who might be concerned by the expense.

This grant, in the amount of \$200, will be reimbursed to a member who attends State Convention in person for the FIRST time. The member MUST attend full time, including all meetings. The members will be reimbursed after State Convention, following submission of receipts for payment. The Grant will assist in covering accommodation and travel expenses. Members who have previously attended even a portion of State Convention do not qualify for this grant.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE JOINED LATROBE BPW:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED STATE CONVENTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**Activities / Committees you have participated in since joining Latrobe BPW** (brief description of what you did / do)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please submit a 50 – 100 word essay on why you should be awarded the \$200 grant. Please attach your essay to your application.

**APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your application to Dawn Hughes, Latrobe BPW Convention Grant Committee, 193 Stewart Road, Derry, PA 15627. Deadline for entries is our May Membership meeting, Thursday, May 16, 2023.



Community Events



Serena Slusarczyk

March 16th, 2024 | 12-1:30PM

Ages 7+ | Adults encouraged

Automatically entered in Pittsburgh Penguins "Her Day Game" raffle & FREE EQUIPMENT raffle

Register Online:

www.latroberecreation.org OR

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FREE

DEK HOCKEY CLINIC



Serena Slusarczyk, former Latrobe Dek Hockey Standout, Pens Elite Women's Team, and RMU Division 1 Hockey Player will be conducting a skills/drills clinic for GIRLS and WOMEN in the area. Participants will get a FREE RAFFLE entry to win prizes in honor of the Pittsburgh Penguins "Her Day Game". Youth and Adults are encouraged to participate, and will be grouped according to ages. ALL skill levels encouraged to register! FREE equipment rental available, but please bring your own if able.

✉ sam@latroberecreation.org

☎ 724-537-4331

📍 Legion Keener Rink

**MEMBER NETWORKING — PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BPW BUSINESSES**



- 3—Joanne Rock
- 11—Lorie Planinsek
- 16—Hannah Hamilton
- 16—Susan Mough
- 17—Joy Klohonatz
- 23—Jodie Edmiston
- 23—Paula Maloney
- 23—Michelle Teague
- 24—Alice Brasili
- 26—Carrie Brant



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Alice's Apples & Sweets will be taking a break from Vendor Shows this summer while I prepare for my daughter's wedding and enjoying our pool.

We are still available for special orders – anything from apples to cupcakes to a treats bouquet for that special dancer, swimmer, or graduate in your life. Customizable treats at a reasonable price. Contact me at 724-244-7246 or [Alicesapples17@gmail.com](mailto:Alicesapples17@gmail.com)

Thank you, Latrobe BPW members, as always for your support... you have all been incredible!

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# Spring Tea

## Saturday, March 23

Doors Open at 10:30 am

## Live! Casino

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