



Brenda Lowe

## President's Message

Hello Everyone!

I hope you are all surviving this bitter cold and wintry blast we have been plagued with lately....A friend just posted on Facebook: "I really hope when the end of March rolls around, Mother Nature recognizes how disrespectful she's been with this winter and lets Spring start on time!" I love it!! I think we can all say "AMEN" to that!

I am looking forward to not only Spring... but some of the fun events coming up with SMWL. In March we will have a speaker that impersonates different historical people and celebrities. This will be entertaining. Then in April, we have Minute-to-Win-It! This is always a blast. Unfortunately, we could not find a chairperson to plan the Scavenger Hunt, but we have a tremendous Mystery Night planned instead! You will love it! This will be May 6th! It's all about sisterhood and camaraderie! Please be a part of it!

In June we will have our Annual Meeting and you will be electing some new Board members.

If you signed up for a committee and you haven't heard anything about a meeting...please take the time to call the Chairperson and see if there is something you might be able to help with. Some of these ladies could really use a hand!

We are starting a new year in funding the Part-time Residential Counselor at Angel's Watch Shelter...from the funds that you helped raise in 2014! We have also recently given to The Catherine Foundation and Our Place Waldorf (Soup Kitchen). Thank each and every one of you who helps to make these donations possible.

Programs & Events | Mary Lilly & Vickie Johnson

## Program Committee News

A great big thank you to our very own artist in residence Andy Sanford for donating her services to provide us with a truly memorable evening of creative fun! Her interactive instruction (and patience) helped



24 members and 13 guests create their very own wine or beer glass masterpieces. It was so much fun watching the creativity come alive as great Martini's food, and refreshments were shared in this truly fun SMWL special event. It was a huge success and if you have questions, need glasses as gifts, or want to schedule a party with Andy just give her a call.



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**Successful women still have their feet on the ground... they just have better shoes!**



### We are...

An organization of women dedicated to promoting, strengthening and supporting women and issues of importance through fellowship, education, service and mentoring programs.

The **Southern Maryland Women's League** provides women with a wide range of opportunities to help each other succeed through the exchange of information, services, mentoring, charitable actions, shared experiences, friendship and motivational support.

We are a dynamic group of Southern Maryland business owners, entrepreneurs, managers, homemakers and people from all walks of life with a wide variety of life experiences.

We are dedicated to helping each other grow and support our community through fundraising, special events, volunteer efforts, shared experiences, and more.

## Don't miss our upcoming events

**Our next SMWL meeting will be held at Martini's on Wednesday, March 4th. Cocktails will be from 5:30-6:30; dinner at 6:30; meeting at 7:00 and then a fabulous guest appearance by Julia Child portrayed by Mary Ann Jung.**

Mary Ann Jung is an award-winning actress and Smithsonian scholar. You have probably already seen this performer, scholar, writer, and director, but not in modern clothing!

She has appeared on CNN, the Today Show, Good Morning America, and in newspapers around the world as famous women from history. She has been a lead actress and Director of Renaissance History and Shakespearean Language at the Maryland Renaissance Festival for thirty-two years. She performed as queen and was a Director with the Florida Renaissance Festival from 1994-2006. She was Director of Street Theater and Family Performances for ArtScape (Baltimore, MD's city arts festival) for ten years and in 1998 was awarded a citation from the Mayor of Baltimore for her work at that event.

In 2002, Ms. Jung's Clara Barton show won top honors for Solo Theatrical Performance from the Maryland State Arts Council. Since 2005, the Smithsonian Institution has presented Ms. Jung's historical women for several conferences. Ms. Jung researches and writes her own scripts, and performs in the authentic costumes, accents, and attitudes for her characters' eras. Her shows are very energetic, interactive, and fun so they fit into many different venues. They are terrific for family shows and festivals such as First Night Dover(DE), Baltimore's Waterfront Festival and Herndon, VA's Family Festival. They fit in beautifully at corporate events, fundraisers, and awards banquets. She has been invited to both the Maryland Chautauqua and Delaware Chautauqua several times.

In 2002 the Ambassador of France gave her highest praise for her one-of-a-kind portrayal of Queen Catherine de Medici for his guests, and in 2009 Ms. Jung (as Queen Anne of England (1665-1714) met British diplomat Dominick Chilcott while celebrating the 300th birthday of this queen.

Since the programs are as educational as they are entertaining, she appears most frequently in schools, libraries, and museums. In addition, History Alive! shows are fun and truly appropriate for all ages --and have been enthusiastically received at many senior centers, retirement homes and military bases.

Mary Ann Jung's amazing portraits of famous ladies and their times encourage a love of history, drama, and literature - in young and old alike!

Mary Ann's unique portrayals have even been featured at the National Theatre of Washington, Smithsonian Institution, the Folger Shakespeare Library, Port Discovery Children's Museum, and the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

**April's meeting will be an all-time favorite of the league...**

**Minute To Win It!** The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 1st** so plan for a really fun time to compete, laugh, make new friends in the league and blow off some stress.

**The month of May will boast a Mystery Night on Wednesday the 6th. Details will be forthcoming as to time and place of departure. We will have a 55 passenger bus - let's plan to fill it and have a load of fun on it and off!**

CARE  
COMMITTEE |  
Cindy Lantz



Hello League Sisters!

I hope that you are all taking care of yourselves and trying to stay as warm as possible. The Care Committee really "cares" that you all stay healthy and safe this winter. I took a ride down a set of icy stairs and lets just say that for once I'm happy to have a little extra padding in the "behind". :)

We had some sad news the past few weeks, first with the passing of Laura Brown's son Otway's father, OB Zanzinger. It's been a tough time for their family so please keep them in your prayers.

We also would like to extend our condolences to Mary Lilly, her husband Jay and their family concerning the loss of Mary's father-in-law, Reuben Lilly. This was sadly unexpected for the Lilly family, so it's been particularly hard. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as well.

I would like to send a special late shout out, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY!" to Terry Davis whose birthday card got mixed in with a bunch of my work junk and was just found today on my desk! So sorry Terry! You know we love you!!

So since Andy is getting this newsletter out in time for our March birthday girls, I will take this chance to wish them a Happy Birthday again along with our April birthdays. Let's all cross our fingers that by the time Tessa and Suzanne have a birthday, we are in short sleeves!!

March 10 - Maria Salazar  
March 20 - Brenda Lowe  
March 21 - Tracey Stinnett  
March 22 - Teresa Klopfer  
March 27 - Pam Frank  
March 27 - Kim Simonson  
April 13 - Tessa Echols  
April 14 - Suzanne Wible

Please remember to email me if you know a Sister is in need, under the weather or just feeling down. As always, if you know something great that one of our sisters has accomplished, whether it be running a marathon, a new job, a new home purchase or any other special event, we want to know!! clantz2@verizon.net



The following information is being reported for the month of February and will provide expenses that were approved by the Board, as well as the current balance in the Foundation account:

In January, there were two small grants that were approved and paid to: 1) Catherine Foundation in the amount of \$500.00, and 2) Our Place, Inc. in the amount of \$500.00.

To date, the foundation currently has a balance of \$21,570.99, with \$40,636.93 in the CD, and \$39,258.83 in the Community Foundation of Southern MD. We just received the 4th Quarter 2014 Community Foundation Report, and a decision by the Board will be made to either reinvest it back into the account or provide funding to one of our non-profits. I will report next month on the final decision.

### Membership Report | Helen Heier

The last Membership Directory, Membership Birthday List, and Membership E-mail lists have been updated as of January 31, 2015 and e-mailed to everyone on February 7, 2015. If you have changes to your information please forward to Helen promptly.

Please add these new lists to your Membership Binder. It is important that you use these current lists because changes have been made to some addresses and phone numbers, etc.

As of today, February 18, 2015, we have 48 members. We had one rejoining member (Bernadette Cole) and one new member (Paige Blankenship) join. We still have many prospective members needing to attend their 3rd meeting before sending them an application to join. We also have several interested ladies who will be attending meetings for the first time as we go through this year. Each month we have our meetings, I have a list of names with e-mails that I send out the meeting announcements to. We received two e-mails from our Website from ladies who are interested in our Organization which I have added to this list. I also sent both of those ladies a summary of what our Organization does and the process of joining and what is required of them as a member. If you have someone you would like me to send the announcements to, please give me the name and e-mail address.

I have received SMWL name badges for our newest members and am also in the process of putting together SMWL binders for each of these new members. When all is done, I will give to each new member. If I have not given you a badge with a binder, please let me know promptly. If anyone needs a membership application, let me know and I will e-mail one to you. I look forward to even more growth of the membership in this following year. Thanks go out to all the membership for their active role in getting new members.

Some of our current New Members and Rejoining Members:

**Bio: - by Suzanne Wible (08/29/14) Sponsor: Cindy Lantz**

Suzanne was born and raised in Bryans Road Maryland and is a graduate of Lackey High School and Charles County Community College. She began working for the Federal Government in 1985, where she first developed her Event Planning skills through coordinating conferences, events, corporate dinners, book signings and weekend tours on various Navy ships at sea. In 1994, Suzanne had the unique opportunity to trap (tailhook) onboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). From 1997 - 2007 Suzanne worked as a Government Contractor at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Indian Head, MD. In 2008, she returned to the Federal Government and is currently working for the Chief of Naval Operations, Director Navy Staff as a Special Events Coordinator. She is the Future Plans Branch Chief, for the Executive Integration and Synchronization Office, coordinating executive forums for the senior Navy leadership. Suzanne has always enjoyed volunteering in the community. Growing up she volunteered in church, Girl Scouts, local theater companies and student government. She became a member of the Greater Waldorf Jaycees in 1989 and served as President in 1995. Working her way up through the Jaycee ranks, she served as the 61st President of the Maryland Jaycees, National Vice President for the United States Jaycees in 2003 and 2005, and in 2006 she served as an International Commissioner for Jaycees International. Through Jaycees, Suzanne has had the opportunity to travel around the country, as well as Europe, South America and Asia. From 2007 to 2013 Suzanne served on the Board of Directors for the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Foundation, Chairman of the Board of Department of Social Services and President of the Indian Head Lions Club. After a recent battle with breast cancer (she won the battle ☺), Suzanne decided to slow down and enjoy life. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Waldorf Jaycee Foundation, as a National Advisor for the United States Jaycees, and is a member of New Life Wesleyan Church. She resides in La Plata, MD.



### Treasurer's Report | Lyn Bell

Happy St. Paddy's month sisters. Thank you for your prompt payments for the Christmas Party guest. Please be mindful to pay promptly for reserved no-show/missed monthly meetings. Remember the league pays for your attendance if you RSVP that you are attending, based on the number we give our vendor. We are must honor the number that we give the vendor in order to keep good relationships with them. Have a great month and wear the green!

Please contact me directly to remit payments, or catch up at the door at this week's meeting!

Thank you in advance for keeping your payments and dues current and for your continued membership and support.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and special events.

**Darlene Breck (11/19/14) Sponsor: Becky Hoffman**

A lifelong Southern Maryland resident, Darlene Breck is an active volunteer, a community activist, a successful entrepreneur, and a dedicated Mom and Grandmom. Darlene currently serves as Immediate Past Chairman of the Board for the Civista Health Foundation (now the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center). In addition to many other roles, Darlene is best known for her 10 year tenure as co-chairmanship of the Civista Autumn Wine Tasting event. As a member of the Zonta Club of Charles County, Darlene has held several leadership positions and currently serves as co-chair for the RAVE Walk (Rape and Violence Eradication). At this time she also serves on the committee serving Lifestyles, Inc., Charles County's only agency providing food and shelter for the homeless and for women needing emergency shelter due to domestic abuse. Darlene is currently a Commissioner for the Maryland Commission for Women. Also, she has served on the Southern Maryland Tri-County Workforce Investment Board for over 3 years and has been a member of the Charles County Hub Area Planning Committee. Professionally, Darlene is the CEO of the Southern Maryland Business Center (SMBC), a company she started in 2003 and has since expanded to 2 locations (White Plains and La Plata). Currently 36 companies lease space within SMBC. Her business was proud to be named the 2008 Minority Business of the Year. For several years Darlene has been an active member of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, chairing many important events, serving on the Board, and becoming the Chamber's 2010 President. Most recently she was named one of the two 2012 Outstanding Chamber Persons of the Year for her commitment and dedication not only to our area businesses, but also to the Southern Maryland and Charles County communities at large. Darlene was married for many years to the late Blaine Lessard and is the mother of 4 children: Andrew, the eldest, a financial management analyst; Melissa, the principal of the Southern Maryland Christian Academy; Christie, the area retail manager for the Spring Dell Centers; and Cindy, the youngest, an interactive media specialist for NDG Communications in La Plata. Additionally, Darlene is the proud grandmother of 10. Dedicating herself professionally and personally to the betterment of her family, Charles County, this region and beyond has been the caring path Darlene has followed. For her, there are no tasks too large or too small. Her commitment to every position she has undertaken is well-known, and she has earned the respect of all who have walked beside her and benefitted from her energy, compassion, and dedication.

**Bio: - by Beth Gilliland (12/16/14) Sponsor: Terry Davis/Cindy Lantz**

Beth Gilliland grew up in an Air Force family which landed in Southern Maryland just in time for her to graduate from Thomas Stone High School. She is also a graduate of the College of Southern Maryland and the University of Maryland. Beth is a licensed realtor and licensed insurance agent. She has two wonderful sons; one just graduated from Towson University and the other is a U.S. Marine stationed overseas. Beth currently lives in Waldorf.

**Bio: - by Paige Blankenship (01/26/15) Sponsor: Brenda Lowe**

I am Paige Nicole Blankenship – daughter of Brenda Lowe—25 years old – and I am currently Marketing Director and Event Coordinator at Harrington's Irish Pub & Kitchen and Public House – both located in National Harbor. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Resort Tourism Management from Coastal Carolina University and my MBA from University of Maryland University College. I graduated Magna Cum Laude from both universities. I am currently looking to change jobs and find something that entails more "normal" hours like Monday through Friday 9:00 – 5:00..so I can be off when everyone is off and have weekends to "chill". I intend to use my Marketing Skills and Event Planning experience in more of a Hotel setting or some other business or government entity. I still reside at home with Mom and Steve and my favorite puppy, Royce Sampson Lowe. When I am not working, I hang out with my boyfriend, Abe Sbitan and his puppies, Vedder and Bono. I have a positive outlook on life and I always try to be upbeat! Life's too short to be otherwise. I work long hours and am constantly busy...but maybe I'm 'preaching to the choir.' But I like to have fun and hang out....so I am looking forward to joining the dynamic, fun ladies of the SMWL.

**Bernadette Cole (12/16/14) Rejoined Sponsor: Rita Shane/Carla Kemp**

**Erika Abell has replaced Martina Arnold as the CSM representative**

**Let's welcome all our current new members and current rejoining member.**



Southern Maryland  
**WOMEN'S LEAGUE**  
*Linked by More than Community*

**2014/2015 SMWL Board of Directors**

**President: Brenda Lowe (2014/15)**  
[ahloweha@aol.com](mailto:ahloweha@aol.com)

**Vice President: Rona Kelley (2014/15)**  
[rona@heatbyfire.com](mailto:rona@heatbyfire.com)

**Secretary: Laura Brown (2014-15)**  
[laura\\_forbes@comcast.net](mailto:laura_forbes@comcast.net)

**Foundation Treasurer: Tammy Semega (2014/15)**  
[t.a.semega@gmail.com](mailto:t.a.semega@gmail.com)

**League Treasurer: Lyn Bell (2014-15)**  
[lbell@slsministriesinc.org](mailto:lbell@slsministriesinc.org)

**Past President: Laura Brown (2014/15)**  
[Laura\\_forbes@comcast.net](mailto:Laura_forbes@comcast.net)

**Program/Event Chairs**  
**Vickie Johnson (2011/15)**

[vjohnson7775@aol.com](mailto:vjohnson7775@aol.com)  
**Mary Lilly (2013/15)**  
[maryagneslilly@mrisc.com](mailto:maryagneslilly@mrisc.com)

**Membership Chair: Helen Heier (2011/14)**, [heier2@comcast.net](mailto:heier2@comcast.net)

**Care Committee**  
**Cindy Lantz (2014/15)**  
[Clantz2@verizon.net](mailto:Clantz2@verizon.net)

**Special Event/Fundraising Coordinator**  
**Pam Roberts (2013/15)**  
[pe\\_roberts1@yahoo.com](mailto:pe_roberts1@yahoo.com)

**Media/Public Relations/Newsletter**  
**Andy Sanford (2011/14)**  
[asanford12@gmail.com](mailto:asanford12@gmail.com)

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

**Laura Brown, 2012/2014**  
**Terry Davis, 2010/2012**  
**Doris Folineo, 2008/2010**  
**Diana Rucci, 2006/2008**  
**Rona Kelley, 2004/2006**

**Candice Quinn Kelly: Foundation**  
**Mollie Gieseeman: Foundation**