



# News & Views

MARCH 2025

## Upcoming Events

- **March 14: Dinner**  
Reservation Deadline <https://forms.gle/14sbwngf5dwwdHWZ8>
- **March 20:** Monthly Dinner Meeting - 6 pm Giannilli's II
- **March 22: Spring Tea!!!**
- **March 25: Equal Pay Day—**  
UnHappy Hour -- 5 pm  
Applebee's in Greensburg
- **April 3:** Board Meeting 6 pm.  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.  
*All are welcome to attend.*

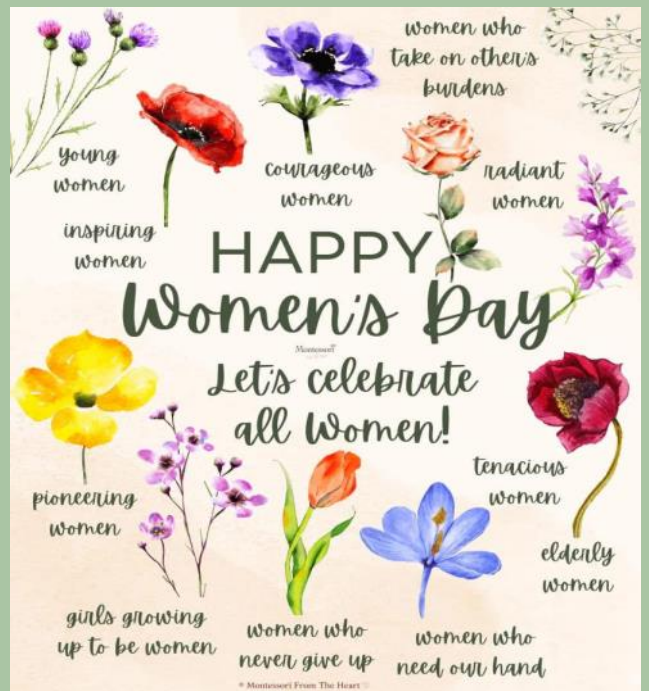
Dear Members

March is a month to celebrate women! Not only the women in your life, but women who have an impact on your life! The women who came before us, pioneering the way forward, the women who taught us how life works, the women you support us in our times of difficulty, the women who bring a smile to our faces. Then there's the women we dreamt of emulating, who led us to make career or life choices.

Let us however not forget about those women who need us—for a lending hand, a supportive shoulder, a friendly smiling face, those who know we have their back, those who we can inspire to be better today than yesterday!

Here's to all women, wherever they may be in this world, not only in March, but throughout their and our lives!!

*Barbara*



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, April 4.  
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	Guest Speaker	BPW News	BPW Round Up	Member Networking
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March 2025

## Member Spotlight



## Melissa Rugh

Meet Melissa Rugh, an active and engaged member of Latrobe BPW for the past two years. As an Assistant Professor at Westmoreland County Community College, Melissa finds great fulfillment in helping students learn and experience those exciting “aha!” moments when concepts finally click.

Melissa joined BPW after hearing about the organization from fellow member Karen Laskie. She was drawn to the opportunity to connect with accomplished women in her community and to become more involved locally. Her advice to new members? “Get active! Join committees that interest you and find ways to engage with your community.”

Outside of work and BPW, Melissa enjoys cheering on her son at his baseball games, exploring new restaurants with friends, spending time with family, and boating. A fun fact about her? She walked the Pittsburgh Half Marathon in 2023 with her family!

Latrobe BPW is lucky to have Melissa as a member, and we look forward to seeing all that she continues to accomplish!

March 2025

## Guest Speaker



## Renee Reitz Blackburn Center

Latrobe Business and Professional Women's Club Tuesday announced its March meeting will feature Renee Reitz, executive director of the Blackburn Center, as the guest speaker.

Reitz has dedicated her career to supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence through her work with the Blackburn Center, a nonprofit organization in Greensburg. Blackburn Center's mission is to advocate for the rights of individuals to live free from violence, eliminating its root causes and ensuring the safety and well-being of victims and survivors.

Renee's journey with the organization began in 2015, and since then, she has risen through the ranks, holding various leadership roles, including shelter counselor, assistant advocacy program manager, advocacy program manager, and program director before being appointed executive director in 2022.

Under Renee's leadership, the Blackburn Center has continued its critical work, providing crisis counseling, legal and medical advocacy, professional training, and support to individuals and families impacted by violence. Her passion for the mission and strategic insight have made her an invaluable resource to the community she serves.

March 2025

## Goodwill & Special Projects



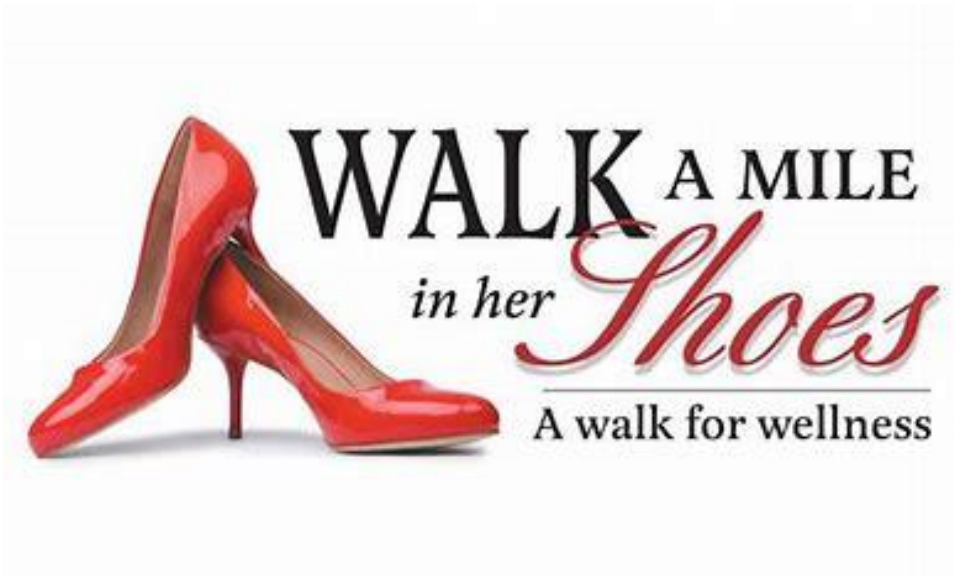
# Walk a Mile in her Shoes

On Saturday, April 26, The Blackburn Center is holding their Annual Walk a Mile in her Shoes Event at St. Clair Park in Greensburg. Registration is between 9 am to 10 am. The Walk starts officially at 10am and is only one mile in distance.

We would like to get a BPW Team to walk together at this event. The price is only \$5 per person to register. If you are interested, we will have registration forms at the March 20 BPW meeting or you may contact either Leigh Taylor or Lorin Zimmerman from the Goodwill Committee for registration information. If you like to be a business sponsor of this event, we will have the forms at the March 20 meeting or call Leigh Taylor for a sponsor form.

If you had a BPW t-shirt made for the last two July 4 parades, please wear it!! If you would like a BPW t-shirt made, please purchase your own white t-shirt and Karen Laskie has agreed to iron -on a BPW decal to your t-shirt for only \$6.00. Please contact Karen at 724-420-4477 to make arrangements for drop off and pick up. However, you do not need to have a BPW t-shirt to be part of the BPW Team in the "Walk a Mile" event.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®, takes place each April. This Walk is Westmoreland County's opportunity to take a stand against all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. Through this Walk, we raise awareness about these important issues, as well as raise funds to support its mission.



March 2025

# Goodwill & Special Projects

## Equal Pay Day / UNhappy Hour

Equal Pay Day UNhappy Hour is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, at 4 pm at Applebee's in Greensburg. If you are interested in joining us, please contact either Leigh Taylor or Lorin Zimmerman from the Goodwill Committee to save your seat. If you can't make it until later, let us know—we will probably still be there!!

Please come out and unwind in the fellowship of your BPW sisters while enjoying 1/2 off prices on drinks and appetizers!

What could be better? **Equal Pay!!**

Equal Pay Day is a day to raise awareness about the gender pay gap and to advocate for pay equity. It's a day to discuss the structural inequalities that lead to pay disparities and to promote legislative and organizational changes.

### EQUAL PAY DAY



If you would like to donate an item to be raffled off at one of the monthly dinner meetings for the Special Project, please contact Leigh Taylor at 724-516-0490. This year, our Special Project benefits the Blackburn Center. Thank you so much in advance!!



## Basket Raffle



March 2025

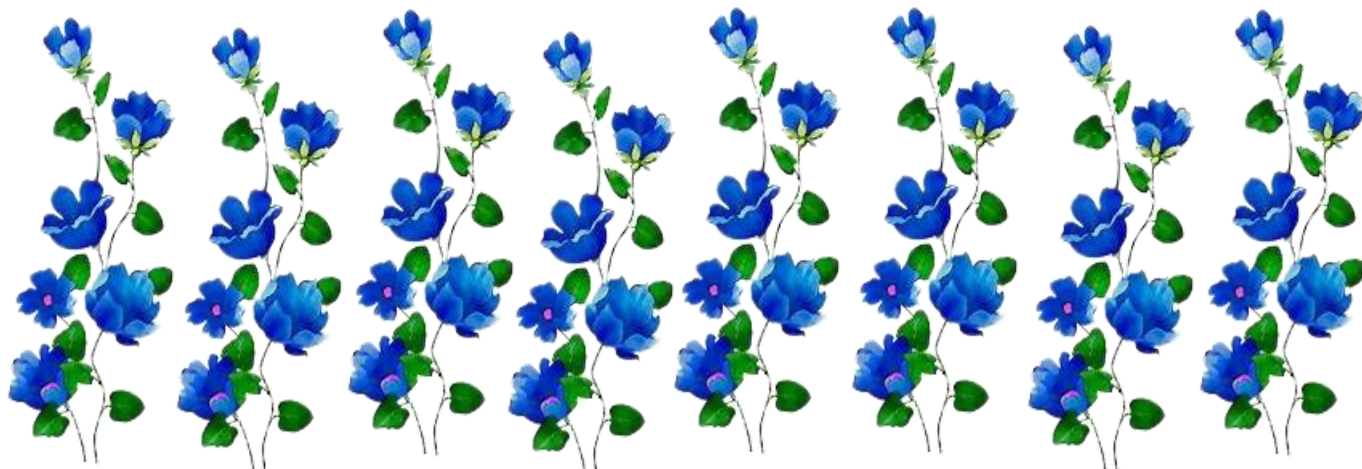
**BPW District 3 News**

Save The Date

*District 3  
Spring Meeting*

May 10th at 10:30am

The Social Club at Live! Casino  
5260 US-30, Greensburg, PA 15601



March 2025

# BPW ROUND-UP



## Dinner Committee

*March Dinner Meeting:*

**Date: March 20, 2025**

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

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

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Cash/Check/Credit \$25

Prepay via PayPal \$27 (link on  
dinner reservation)

**LINK TO RESERVE:** [https://  
forms.gle/14sbwnqf5dwwdHWZ8](https://forms.gle/14sbwnqf5dwwdHWZ8)

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

## Membership

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

Ask our membership team, Nicole Purnell  
and Angela Apple for our "business" card  
and membership application to share with  
your guests.

**RENEW HERE:** [https://  
forms.glerenewbpwmembership](https://forms.glerenewbpwmembership)

## BPW Logo Wear

**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)



## Membership Committee

Please review the membership directory  
information.

If there are any changes that need to be  
made, please complete the change form  
using the google form ( [https://forms.gle/  
nigAdKwK1jdiP1Nw5](https://forms.gle/nigAdKwK1jdiP1Nw5) ). We do have pockets  
of incomplete data for some members.

There is also now a **Business Appendage**  
added onto the end of the directory if you  
would like to search by Business or Employer  
to connect and support a Latrobe BPW  
Member.

**Everything's  
better when  
we're together.**

New members join for \$28 through April 30 2025  
Invite a friend to join today!

*Believe*  
**BPW**  
*in the*  
*Possibilities*  
Latrobe Business Professional Women

\*Annual dues renewal May 1 for all members. \$2 processing fee if renewed online

March 2025

# 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)

## 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 2024-2025 year.  
Please email [latrobebpw@yahoo.com](mailto:latrobebpw@yahoo.com)  
if interested.

#### **Editors Note:**

**Please send me content.**

**Lots of articles and pictures make the  
newsletter more interesting!**

**Thank you ~Carol Palmer**

## Latrobe BPW Member Enrichment Scholarship: Supporting Your Growth!

Did you know that Latrobe BPW offers a **Member Enrichment Scholarship** to help our members thrive professionally and personally?

This scholarship is designed to support members who are pursuing continued education, renewing professional licenses, or updating essential training. Whether you're advancing your career or gaining new skills, Latrobe BPW is here to invest in your success.

We believe in empowering our members to reach their fullest potential, and this scholarship is one way we put that belief into action.

### **Interested in applying?**

Click here to access the application: [https://www.latrobebpw.org/files/ugd/a64f0d\\_e149ceab57d443fd81cc5f6255d0c80c.pdf](https://www.latrobebpw.org/files/ugd/a64f0d_e149ceab57d443fd81cc5f6255d0c80c.pdf)

Take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to grow, learn, and achieve your goals.

Latrobe BPW is proud to support you on your journey.

**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)**



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

# Happy March Birthday to . . .

5—Jane Nespoli

11—Lorie Planinsek

16—Susan Mough

16—Hannah Hamilton

17—Joy Klohonatz

19—Gloria Mansfield

21—Lynn Thompson

23—Paula Maloney

23—Michelle Teague

24—Alice Brasili

26—Carrie Brant



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# SEINT NEW RELEASES

CONTACT LORIE PLANINSEK

TO TRY SEINT'S NEW MASCARA.

302-220-3710

Launching  
Thursday, January 30th



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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