LEBANON COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

INAUGURAL HALL OF FAME

LUNCHEON & AWARDS CELEBRATION

MARCH 10, 2010

HONORING
OUTSTANDING WOMEN
OF
LEBANON COUNTY

“HIDDEN HEROES WRITING HISTORY”
Welcome to the First Annual Women’s Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony. March 2010 marks the 30th anniversary of National Women’s History Month. As we celebrate the accomplishments of women in our society nationally, it is fitting to celebrate the accomplishments of women locally. Today the contributions made by the first inductees into the Lebanon County Women's Hall of Fame will be written into the history of the Lebanon Valley.

At this ceremony we are honoring eleven exceptional women who have played a vital part in the development or implementation of projects that have benefited residents of the Lebanon Valley. While each of our award recipients is a unique individual they do share a commonality. They have all worked as “Hidden Heroes” contributing to the quality of life in our community. The result of their work is significant and will touch lives for many years to come. We are truly fortunate to have so many outstanding women in the Lebanon Valley.

On behalf of the entire Lebanon County Commission for Women, thank you for being part of this inaugural piece of local history.

Cindy Heisey, Chair
LUNCHEON AGENDA

11:30AM  Registration
11:45AM  Buffet Opens
11:55PM  Show Choir Selection
12:00PM  Welcome & Introduction of Sponsors and Dignitaries
         By Cindy Heisey
12:05PM  Show Choir Selection
12:10PM  Introduction of Katelyn Smith
12:15PM  Introduction of Award Recipients and Nominators
         With Pin Presentation by Sponsor
12:55PM  Closing Remarks
1:00 PM  Conclusion

COMMITTEE

Bev Heishman, Chair
Maria Dissinger
Cindy Heisey
Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz
Heidi Neiswender
Special thanks to Joni Clouser and Elaine Ludwig

ENTERTAINMENT

The Lebanon High School Show Choir is comprised of students in grades 9 through 12, by audition. The program is a combination of choral music and dancing.

Under the direction of Mr. Timothy J. Eck, the Show Choir prepares and performs two distinct programs each year. Mr. Eck has been the conductor of the Show Choir for 20 years.
Welcome to our first Mistress of Ceremonies, Katelyn Smith who is currently on the WGAL TV Morning Show. Katelyn is a graduate of Carlisle High School and Shippensburg University. She began her television career in the Midwest reporting for stations in Illinois and Iowa. In December 2004, Katelyn returned home and joined the WGAL team. As a working Mom juggling her career and family, Katelyn is happy to be working closer to home.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

YASMIN BROWN

Yasmin Brown is a self-taught artist who has been creating since childhood. She moved to Pennsylvania in 1996 with her husband, Rob, and is a stay-at-home mom raising their three children.

She works with dichroic glass to create jewelry and decorative house wares. Dichroic glass is produced when layers of metallic oxides are deposited on the surface of glass causing some wavelengths of light to pass thru the glass while others are reflected back. Each beautiful dichroic glass creation is an original handcrafted work-of-art. Pieces are made by cutting & layering glass to a desired design & then kiln-firing. Variations in firing time & temperature combined with diverse melting points for the types & colors of glass used cause the resultant product to be one-of-a-kind. The glass is then shaped & modified. Lastly, it is fire polished to restore its luster & all finishing work is done to complete the work-of-art.

Yasmin’s hope is that the owner of her art gets as much joy from it as she received during its creation. May it make your spirit dance!

www.SpiritDancerArt.com

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

Our inductee’s will receive a Hall of Fame pin. It is an original work of art created by local artist Yasmin Brown. Each pin is an original handcrafted one of a kind creation that is as unique as the individual receiving it.

The pin base is made of multicolored dichroic glass. This type of media provides different ways to create a unique play of colors on each pin. The uniqueness of the base symbolizes the uniqueness of the award recipient.

The feminine image on the pin represents three characteristics of the recipients. The base of the image is the shape of a diamond which represents the solid foundation of the recipient. The raised arms represent the innate strength of the recipient. The heart shape of the reaching arms represents the recipient’s warmth and caring.

HALLOF FAME AWARD

WELCOME TO MISS SMITH

Welcome to our first Mistress of Ceremonies, Katelyn Smith who is currently on the WGAL TV Morning Show. Katelyn is a graduate of Carlisle High School and Shippensburg University. She began her television career in the Midwest reporting for stations in Illinois and Iowa. In December 2004, Katelyn returned home and joined the WGAL team. As a working Mom juggling her career and family, Katelyn is happy to be working closer to home.

KATELYN SMITH
Alletta Schadler, a Home Economist, rose to be the first female County Extension Office Director in Lebanon County as well as in the state of Pennsylvania. She was instrumental in beginning the Farm City program through the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce. She was one of the first people to recognize the issues related to land use in the county and brought discussions on land use to the forefront. She also started Rural Issues Day with the Leadership Lebanon Valley Program. Lettie led an initiative to bring all of the County agricultural related agencies under one roof in what is now known as the Lebanon Valley Agricultural Center. She continues to assist in teaching classes at the Agricultural Center and writes a bi-weekly food article for the Lebanon Daily News.

Katherine Hoopes is the president of the Lebanon Chapter of the Harmonia Music Club, which is the oldest music club in America. She has also been a charter member and an active participant for the past several years in the musical group One AChord affiliated with AseraCare Hospice that provide free musical programs to area nursing homes. Katherine also provides piano and violin music for church services at several area nursing homes. She teaches violin at Marty's Music Store in Annville and is also a member of a string quartet that primarily plays classical music.
Lisa Brown is Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Annville-Cleona High School. She is a guiding force for students as well as a leader in the professional development of the faculty within the Annville-Cleona School District. Implementation of Learning Focused Schools Initiative and the i Observation Evaluation model are among her career highlights. Her efforts have also garnered a Dual Enrollment Grant for upper classmen to take college courses at LVC free of charge. Lisa also secured grant money to fund video/broadcasting equipment to launch the school’s first weekly broadcast news show. In January, she was appointed as Interim Superintendent for the Annville-Cleona School District.

As a city resident, Sharon Zook witnessed the demise of her once thriving neighborhood playground. She decided to take action to return the inner city playground to a modern facility where children could play, learn and socialize. She began by revitalizing the South Sixth Street Playground Association to spearhead the project. Enlisting the help of many organizations and individuals, Sharon led the initiative to develop a site plan. She worked with the city and county to secure funding which included county and state grants. The playground reopened in 2004 and two years ago the playground was designated as a site for a free lunch program for needy children.

WOMEN CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY
Contributing to the quality of life by supporting the social growth of the community

WOMEN PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION
Promoting innovation and inspiring personal growth

WOMEN PROMOTING THE ENVIRONMENT
Actively working to protect natural resources

Ann Lasky became concerned in the late 1980’s in regards to dumping of materials in the limestone quarry in Annville. She successfully lobbied the township to enact an ordinance to prohibit dumping in the quarry and then asked the township to designate the quarry and a plot of adjoining land as a town park. The township agreed and the Quittie Creek Nature Park was born. Ann rounded up a group of concerned citizens to help maintain the new park and plan for future enhancements. The group is known as the Quittie Creek Nature Park Committee and Ann served as the leader of the group for many years.
Donna Williams serves as Vice-President of Operations at Lebanon Valley Family Health Services. She oversees the WIC (Women, Infant, Children) Program as well as all health care programs operated by the agency. Her position includes promoting the work of the Community Health Council as well as serving as liaison for the health panel of Lebanon County Head Start. Donna has developed, and implemented a variety of workshops promoting healthy lifestyles within LVHS as well as the community. She serves as a mentor for co-workers, friends and groups throughout the county.

As a paralegal with Mid Penn Legal Services, Laurie Yurejefcic has helped thousands of families deal with the ramifications of domestic violence ensuring they get equal access to justice. She provides guidance and counseling on how the legal system can help keep victims and their children safe. Laurie's compassion and caring are a source of strength to her clients. She also serves as the Pro Bono Coordinator for Mid Penn Legal Services, a position she has held since the inception of the program. Through this program Laurie assists needy clients in securing free legal services for civil cases including custody and divorce.

Ginger Beamesderfer is a leader both in her profession and the community. Professionally, as a Plant Leader at AES Ironwood, Ginger was instrumental in leading the local team through development and construction and into operations. She also serves as Chairman of the AES Foundation. Through her work with the foundation the deteriorating Avon Playground was transformed into a bustling community park. Now known as AES Ironwood Park, Ginger continues to serve the community as park manager. As an active member of the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ginger has held numerous leadership positions including serving as Chairman of the Board in 2008. She also serves as a role model and mentor to young girls through several community programs.
Retired General Peggy Hengeveld, currently serves in a civilian capacity as Safety & Occupational Health Manager for the Pennsylvania National Guard. Over the years she has served on special task forces including protection and response to weapons of mass destruction. She is passionate about maintaining our troops safety as they train and ready our national and state defense network. General Hengeveld is a nurse by training and has served in the armed services. In her position she has had to incorporate her training and master areas of military science.

Betty has lived a lifetime of commitment and service to her community and provided leadership to so many organizations and projects in the Lebanon Valley. In 1988, she was the first female elected to serve as Mayor in the history of the City. This was a time when women were barely recognized in government. Her accomplishment encouraged many, many women to follow her lead in other government, business and community leadership roles. Betty has served as Chairman of many organizations including United Church of Christ Homes, Lebanon Family Health Services, the United Way, the Red Cross and the Good Samaritan Hospital Auxiliary.

Mary Louise Sherk identified that disadvantaged preschoolers in the Lebanon Valley deserved a “boost” to prepare them for school. She established a Head Start Program that grew from humble beginnings in a church as a Boost Program to a state-approved Head Start Program through the state education Lebanon-Lancaster Intermediate Unit 13. Mary Louise was hired as Education Coordinator for the I.U. She established the Lebanon Valley Association for the Education of Young Children in 1979 and still serves as Secretary for that board. Her accolades include her service as a member of the board of many community groups.
Sponsors

AES Ironwood
American Legion Auxiliary
Arnolds Restaurant & Bakery
Bayer Health Group
Mary H. Burchik ESQ
Buzgon Davis Law Offices
County Commissioner JoEllen Litz
Cynthia R. Williams
nutraMetrix Advanced Pharmaceuticals
Graystone Bank
High Safety Consulting Services, Inc.
Lebanon Soroptimist Club
Northwest Savings Bank
Representative Mauree Gingrich
Spirit Dancer Designs
State Farm Insurance- Robert Phillips Agency
TempForce
Wenger’s of Myerstown
Tuesday, March 31st
“Ladies Night Out” with Habitat for Humanity

Habitat offers an evening of women only on the jobsite. The supervisor on duty teaches those on site to complete whatever task is required at that point in the building process. On this particular evening eleven Commission members and Lebanon County Commissioner’s representative JoEllen Litz were filling in screw holes and divots in walls, painting, and installing drywall. Although every member of the LCCW is a volunteer for several organizations, for some this was the first time they had participated in any type of construction work.

For the LCCW this event capped off an entire month of events and celebrations of the many ways women are participating to improve the lives of individuals and families throughout Lebanon County.

APRIL 18 from noon to 4PM
GLASS SLIPPER USED FROM DRESS COLLECTION AT THE LEBANON VALLEY MALL.

We collected 301 gorgeous prom dresses on April 4 and many folks stopped in at the storefront “BOUTIQUE”—to donate dresses. We also received shoes, handbags, shawls, and jewelry. Each young lady purchasing a dress received a disposable camera from Lebanon Family.
Health Services, a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the girls to take a picture in their gown and send it to us. All dresses were placed in a garment bag donated by Camelot Cleaners. Each girl received free make-up from Mary Kay representative Gail Ethorn and a coupon from Royer’s Flowers.

Women's History Month: March 2009

The Commission marked National Women's History Month with several events. Articles written by Commission members, Paula Doney, Bev Heishman, Jo Ellen Litz and Heidi Neiswender highlighting accomplishments of local women were published on the Lebanon Daily News Editorial page every Sunday.

Myra Kitchen coordinated a public celebration held at the Lebanon Campus of Harrisburg Area Community College on March 22, 2009. It included a showing of the HBO Movie “Iron Jawed Angels” about the Women’s Suffragette Movement. Carrie Boyer also coordinated distribution of “Iron Jawed Angels” DVD’s to county schools.

A reception followed which highlighted other local women’s interest groups. Present were the Lebanon Soroptimist Club, League of Women Voters, the American Heart Association and Lebanon Valley Family Health Services.

The evening concluded with keynote speaker Dr. Carol Ncchemias, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Public Policy in the School of Public Affairs at Penn State Harrisburg. She presented a program on “The Obama Administration: Gender Perspective”.

GIRL POWER
April 25, 2009

Over 30 girls attended this year’s Girl Power event at the Lebanon County CTC. This was the 2nd annual Girl Power event. The event is sponsored by the Lebanon County Commission for Women, the Lebanon County CTC, and the Workforce Investment Board.

Girl Power was started so young girls would have the opportunity to be introduced to the many non-traditional career choices that are routinely overlooked by females. The girls learned about Masonry, Law Enforcement, Welding, Pastry Arts, and Health Care. Students also participated in a life skill workshop at the end of the day. The choices for that workshop were: money management, skin care/self-image and self-defense.

Nori Fisher and Paula Doney, co-chairs of the Lebanon County Commission for Women’s Education/Youth Committee look forward to continued success with this event.

House Representatives Rose Marie Swanger and Mauree Gingrich as well as County Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz presented certificates to all participants. Spike Karate and Junior Achievement participated as presenters.

Report coordinated by Jo Ellen Litz.
Contributors: Paula Doney, Nori Fisher, Bev Heishman, and Cindy Heisey.

“All of us are born for a reason, but all of us don’t discover why. Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It’s what you do for others”

~Danny Thomas
This year marks the 30th anniversary of the National Women’s History Project. President Carter issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980 as the first National Women's History Week. In 1987, the groups successful lobbying efforts resulted in Congress expanding the week into a month, and March is now National Women's History Month.

The overarching theme for 2010 and the 30th Anniversary celebration is Writing Women Back into History. It often seems that the history of women is written in invisible ink. Even when recognized in their own times, women are frequently left out of the history books. To honor our 2010 theme, we are highlighting pivotal themes from previous years. Each of these past themes recognizes a different aspect of women’s achievements, from ecology to art, and from sports to politics.

When the National History Project began in the early eighties, the topic of women’s history was limited to college curricula, and even there it languished. At that time, less than 3% of the content of teacher training textbooks mentioned the contributions of women and when included, women were usually written in as mere footnotes. Women of color and women in fields such as math, science, and art were completely omitted. This limited inclusion of women’s accomplishments deprived students of viable female role models.

Today, when you search the Internet with the words “women’s +history +month,” you’ll find more than 40,500,000 citations. These extraordinary numbers give testimony to the tireless work of thousands of individuals, organizations, and institutions to write women back into history.

The Lebanon County Commission for Women support this effort in recognizing the importance of women in history. Now, more than ever, the work of this movement needs to continue and expand. Each new generation needs to draw information and inspiration from the last.

SOURCE: National Women’s History Project

P. S. This year is the 90th Anniversary of the culmination of the Women’s Suffragette Movement that resulted in the Women Right to Vote. Although many strides have taken place, the movement continues on for equality.