By Christine Reinhard

As we enter the month of March, I am reminded of Malcolm Gladwell’s book, *Outliers*. As Gladwell strives to demonstrate through numerous intriguing examples, luck is as much a part of the “success” equation as anything else. In other words, while we may be the smartest, sharpest, and best women lawyers out there, our success may depend on how lucky we are and what opportunities come our way. Although I certainly believe hard work, perseverance, and other valiant factors also play into success, whether luck factors into the equation depends in part on how we define success.

Fortunately, however defined, the BCWB has been blessed with many “success” stories. On Tuesday, March 2, 2010, we get to hear from one of those “success” stories, past BCWB President and newly named District Court Judge Renée McElhaney. Judge McElhaney, whose accolades both within the BCWB and out are plentiful, will be speaking at our March monthly luncheon about preparing witnesses for trial. We are thrilled to have her speak and congratulate her on her most recent success!

Although we in Bexar County have been fortunate to see a number of women take the bench, a recent study revealed such is not the case across Texas or the U.S. Our Vice President, Emma Cano, was kind of enough to put together a brief summary (con’d on p. 3)
Señoritas & Margaritas
February Mentor/Mentee Event

By Nishma Shah

The 2010 Mentor/Mentee Program is officially underway! On February 18, 2010, BCWBA and the Women’s Law Association at St. Mary’s School of Law held a joint mentor/mentee event at Mama Margie’s.

Early in the event, the attorneys and students introduced themselves and explained their respective practice areas or the practice areas that they’re interested in. This way, the students could spend the greater part of the evening talking to the attorneys whose specialties interested them.

A lot of great connections were made and they will hopefully be fostered in the coming years. This is always a successful event, and this year was no different. We look forward to upcoming mentor/mentee events and hope that many more can attend!

The Bexar County Women’s Bar Association and the Women’s Law Association would like to extend a thank you to all that attended. I would like to send a special thanks to Beverly Smith and Laura Rodriguez for helping organize the event.
Save the Date and Beneficiary Nominations
BCWBF 2010 Autumn Affair

By Tiffanie Clausewitz & Laura Mason

Please mark your calendars for the 2010 Bexar County Women’s Bar Foundation Autumn Affair, taking place Thursday, October 14, 2010 at the Witte Museum. We are already busy planning the BCWBF’s signature fundraising event, putting together our committees, and soon will be choosing our potential beneficiary.

We need your help to identify potential beneficiary applicants for our premier fundraising event! Now through March 19, 2010, we are asking our members for the names of potential applicants. We will continue our traditional focus on charitable organizations whose purpose is compatible with our mission—those that are dedicated to helping women and children in our community. So if there is a deserving organization that you believe would benefit from receiving funds from this year’s BCWBF Autumn Affair, please send the name of the organization, as well as a contact name and address to Pam Huff at pbhuff@coxsmith.com. If you are unable to identify the correct contact person, we will be happy to help. Only organizations whose names are submitted will be sent applications.

If you are interested in helping us make the Autumn Affair an event to remember by volunteering on a committee, please contact either Tiffanie Clausewitz (413-1274 or tclausewitz@feldmanrogers.com) or Laura Mason (299-2324 or lmason@obht.com). We’re looking forward to hosting a great event! Thank you so much for helping to make this year’s Autumn Affair a success!

From the President (con’d)

of the study for inclusion in this month’s newsletter, which I encourage all to read. Apparently, women still have a long way to go reach equal numbers in the judiciary, a “success” milestone in the waiting.

In April, we hope to inspire some of our less-advantaged female high school students to strive for success. On April 6, 2010, the BCWB, with the help of Law Day Chair Marissa Helm, will welcome to our April monthly luncheon students from Fox Tech High School. Due to the numbers expected, the luncheon will be held at the Plaza Club instead of Club Giraud. Please join us as we help inspire young men and women in our community.

On that note, I must thank Beverly Smith, Laura Rodriguez, and Nishma Shah for setting up a very successful mentor/mentee event. I myself truly enjoyed reminiscing about my law school days (not the exam or bar part of course!) and imparting some (hopefully) helpful advice and guidance to our soon-to-be colleagues. Thank you also to those BCWB members who were able to attend and shared their words of wisdom.

Last, but not least, please keep your eye out for more information on our upcoming President’s Party. Priscilla Camacho has quite generously agreed to chair this event, and I have no doubt it will be a terrific one. Please plan to join us as we celebrate the success of our BCWB Association and its outstanding members.

In the spirit of Outliers, I hope the month of March brings each of you the luck of the Leprechaun, and allows you to take some time way and enjoy the River Shannon (a/k/a San Antonio River) for a day. Happy St. Patrick’s Day to all!
Easter is so deeply associated with the Christian tradition of the resurrection of Christ that we are hardly aware of its historical roots, but Easter has a history that reaches deep. Easter, like Christmas, is a Christian holiday that gets its name from a pagan holiday. The name comes from an ancient Saxon festival for the fertility goddess, Eastre, sometimes spelled Eshtar. Since the Eastre festival to welcome spring coincided with the time of the Christian observance of the resurrection, the transition from Eastre to Easter was easy. The church employed basic psychology to influence people by promising to keep a part of their beliefs, and weave them into the Christian rituals, if the pagans would agree to accept and become part of the church. Thus, the celebration of the resurrection was given the name “Easter” to pacify the former worshippers of the goddess “Eastre.”

Eggs have been a symbol of springtime regeneration that has long been associated with Easter. And it seems the practice of hiding eggs, and the Easter Bunny, was popularized by a German children’s book published in the 1600s wherein a bunny laid colored eggs in the garden for the children to find. The first edible Easter Bunnies of sugar coated pastry were made by the Germans in the early 1800s. Early Christians used red colored eggs to symbolize the Resurrection. England began the tradition of writing and drawing on eggs, by putting messages and dates on eggs, then exchanging them with friends and loved ones. In the 1800s, with the industrial revolution under way, ornate candied eggs were created. They were open on one end and a scene was put inside. They were used as table centerpieces.

It’s fun and easy to use foods and flowers to make your own natural Easter egg dyes. The two main ways to use your own dyes are to add dyes to the eggs when boiling them or to dye the eggs after they have been hard-boiled. It’s a lot faster to boil the dyes and eggs together, but you will use several pans if you want to make multiple colors. Dyeing the eggs after they have been cooked takes as many dishes and more time, but may be more practical.

Try both fresh and frozen produce. Canned produce will produce much paler colors. Boiling the colors with vinegar will result in deeper colors. Some materials need to be boiled to impart their color (name followed by ‘boiled’ in the table). Some of the fruits, vegetables, and spices can be used cold. To use a cold material, cover the boiled eggs with water, add dyeing materials, a teaspoon or less of vinegar, and let the eggs remain in the refrigerator until the desired color is achieved. In most cases, the longer you leave Easter eggs in the dye, the more deeply colored they will become.

Here is the preferred method for using natural dyes:
1. Place eggs in a single layer in a pan. Add water until eggs are covered.
2. Add approximately one teaspoon of vinegar.
3. Add the natural dye. Use more dye material for more eggs or for a more intense color.
4. Bring water to a boil.
5. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.
6. If you are pleased with the color, remove the eggs from the liquid.
7. If you want more intensely colored eggs, temporarily remove the eggs from the liquid. Strain the dye through a coffee filter (unless you want speckled eggs). Cover the eggs with the filtered dye and let them remain in the refrigerator overnight.
8. Naturally-colored eggs will not be glossy, but if you want a shiny appearance you can rub a bit of cooking oil onto the eggs once they are dry. (con’d on page 7)
Spring is hopefully around the corner, and with the opportunities to start getting outside again, we have some exciting Community Service Opportunities for you to take advantage of:

First, we have the 2nd Annual Vision Walk: A Cure is in Sight - on March 13th. This event will start at 10 a.m. at Brackenridge Park. Vision Walk benefits The Foundation Fighting Blindness, the largest non-governmental provider of funds for research to treat, find preventions, and cure retinal diseases such as macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, and Usher Syndrome, the leading cause of blindness and deafness. Last year’s event raised over $120,000 and had strong support from the legal community. This year’s event promises to be even better with lots of family friendly activities, including music, face-painting, and Moonwalks. Bring your pets and enjoy walking or running. If you are unable to attend, but wish to donate, click on http://www.fightblindness.org/goto/brownefamily to help former SABA director Steve Browne’s team (of Langley & Banack, Inc.) and his wife Carolyn who are co-chairing the walk.

Next, we have the 2010 San Antonio Arthritis Walk on Saturday, May 22nd, also at Brackenridge Park at the Joske Pavilion (3910 N. St. Mary’s St.). The Arthritis Walk is the Arthritis Foundation’s signature event that takes place in communities nationwide to raise funds and awareness to fight arthritis, the nation’s most common cause of disability. The Arthritis walk involves teams of people walking along a three mile route with a one mile option. Each participant is asked to raise a minimum of $100 in donations. Participants will be able to join in a variety of activities while walking, from face painting and clowns, to cheerleaders and music, there is something for everyone. Awards will be given for the Best Team Spirit, Top Fundraising Team and more. For more information you can contact Gloria Johnson-Ramirez at 210-380-8171 or at gramirez@arthritis.org.

Finally, the Family Service Association is hosting a Uniform Drive to help public school children with needed uniforms. Family Service seeks donations of khaki pants, skirts, shorts, and white-collard shirts in all sizes. Donations will be collected at the following locations: Cowboy Cleaners or any Family Service location. Donated items will be distributed to kids who need a uniform but cannot afford to buy one. Many of the Family Service Association’s programs help children and youth. The association helps their parents to communicate effectively. Family Service also offers counseling, helps vulnerable young moms and dads learn how to become better parents, provides assistance to youth by teaching them to become a positive force in the community and so much more. For more information you can go to their website at www.family-service.org or call them at 210-299-2400.

And there you have it! Take this opportunity to make a difference in other people’s lives, by simply walking or donating. We never know when we might need help in one of these situations, or someone close to us. You can help make a difference, one event at a time! Happy Spring!

Save the Date: Law Day Luncheon

By Marissa Helm

Please mark your calendar for the return of the BCWBF/Fox Tech High School Law Day Luncheon, scheduled for April 6, 2010 at noon at the Plaza Club. We are again partnering with Fox Tech High School and sponsoring the Law Day poster contest. We will present the winning artists with cash prizes and display their art work at the luncheon. Also, Chief Justice Catherine Stone will provide inspiring words to the students, encouraging them to stay focused on their personal and professional goals.

This is a great mentoring opportunity for both the students and our members. Through the years, I have enjoyed meeting these young women and speaking with them about their ambitions, and the Fox Tech teachers have conveyed that the students are inspired by meeting professional women in the San Antonio community. Please make every effort to attend. Please RSVP by April 1st to Marissa Helm at mhelm@coxsmith.com or 554-5586. Cost is $20 for members and $25 for non-members.
Unequal Representation on the Bench?

By Emma Cano

Despite women comprising 48% of law school graduates and 45% of law firm associates nationwide, the percentages of women serving on the nation’s state and federal benches hardly reach levels of equal representation. A recent study released by the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society analyzed the gender makeup of state and federal benches throughout the country, finding that the gender gap is still wide when it comes to the judiciary.

Conducting a state-by-state analysis of the gender makeup of the judiciary, the study found that not a single state had achieved equal representation of women in federal or state-level judgeships. While women fill 26% of all state-level judicial positions, they hold only 22% of federal judgeships.

The study ranked the states in accordance with the number of women holding judicial positions, and divided the rankings into the following tiers:

- Tier 1, with women at 30% or higher;
- Tier 2, with women at 20% - 29%;
- Tier 3, with women at 10% - 19%;
- Tier 4, with women below 10%; and
- Tier 5, with women being totally absent.

Texas was classified as a Tier 2 state, ranking 13th in federal judgeships, with women holding 25.4% of the federal judgeships, and ranking 25th in state judgeships, with women holding 25.2% of state positions. New Jersey led the way with women holding 44.4% of federal judgeships, followed by Connecticut at 38%, and Minnesota at 30.4%. With respect to state judgeships, Vermont led with 40.2%, followed by Massachusetts at 37.5%, and Rhode Island at 36.7%.

Only three states obtained a Tier 1 ranking in federal judgeships, and two states, Montana and New Hampshire, obtained a Tier 5 state, with no female federal judges. Fifteen states obtained a Tier 1 ranking in state judgeships, although no state fell below a Tier 3 classification.

Law360 recently highlighted the study, quoting Dina Refki, director of the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society:

“The 33 percent threshold is important because it is the point where women become a critical mass and where their number is large enough to induce change in the normative conception of leadership and to exercise meaningful influence on the cultural norms which stereotype women’s roles.”

The study concluded that “[t]he gender gap cannot be attributed to the lack of women who are qualified to serve on the bench, but to the lack of opportunity and access afforded to women.” (footnotes on page 9)
Health & Wellness (con’d)

You can use fresh and frozen berries as “paints,” too. Simply crush the berries against dry boiled eggs. Try coloring on the eggs with crayons or wax pencils before boiling and dyeing them. Happy Easter!

Natural Easter Egg Dyes*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Dye</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lavender</td>
<td>Small quantity of purple grape juice</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Violet blossoms plus 2 tsp lemon juice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red zinger tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violet Blue</td>
<td>Violet blossoms</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small quantity of boiled red onion skins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hibiscus tea</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red wine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Canned blueberries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Red cabbage leaves (boiled)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purple grape juice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Spinach leaves (boiled)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liquid chlorophyll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenish yellow</td>
<td>Yellow delicious apple peels (boiled)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Golden brown Dill seeds
Brown Strong coffee or instant coffee
Black walnut Shells (boiled)
Black tea
Orange Yellow onion skins (boiled)
Cooked carrots
Chili powder or paprika
Red Lots of boiled red onions skins
Canned cherries with juice
Pomegranate juice
Raspberries

* Courtesy of About.com (Chemistry)

2010 BCWBA Officers

President—Christine Reinhard
President-Elect—Laura Mason
Vice President—Emma Cano
Secretary—Marissa Helm
Treasurer—Suzanne Helm
Treasurer-Elect—Natalie Hall

Directors—Toti Aubrey; Connie Basel; Gaylia Brunson; Graciela Cigarroa; Tiffanie Clausewitz; Elsa Marie Garza; Danielle Hargrove; Donna McElroy; Laura Rodriguez; Jaime Rose; Nishma Shah; Beverly Smith; Michelle Weekley

Immediate Past President—Monica Trollinger

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Submissions for publications are encouraged, but the right is reserved to select material to be published. E-mail your announcements and submissions to Regina Stone-Harris at ReginaStoneHarris@yahoo.com no later than the 20th of the preceding month.

Views expressed in the Equal Times are solely those of the source of said item and are not attributable to the BCWBA.

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Can We Talk?

Celebrate Women’s History Month
Tuesday, March 9, 2010

...about

www = Women Working Worldwide!

Hosted by Women’s Global Connection

Women’s Global Connection work in Tanzania and Zambia assisting 160 women entrepreneurs whose businesses support over 655 families—benefiting over 4,000 women, men, and children.

These women entrepreneurs are very busy farming, raising livestock, manufacturing baskets, clothing, banana beer...and marketing their products and services. All proceeds benefit their families, fund education, and foster the local and global economy. Dr. Dorothy Etting will share their stories and talk about how micro-credit helps the poorest-of-the-poor in big and sustainable ways. Watch a video of the rural women of Zambia and Tanzania.

The Bright Shawl
819 Augusta Street
San Antonio, Texas 78215

Event Schedule:
Shop ’till you Drop Displays - 5pm to ??
Networking – 5:30 pm.
Dinner – 6:15 pm.
Program – 7:00 pm.

$35 – postmarked by Feb. 26, 2010
$45 – after deadline and at the door

Attached registration form required
Send checks payable to ‘Can We Talk’
c/o Pat Jasso
326 Anton Drive
San Antonio, TX 78223
Contact Info: can_we_talk_sa@yahoo.com

Can We Talk is a coalition of over sixty-five women’s organizations in San Antonio, Texas. Can We Talk events are scheduled each year in March, to commemorate Women’s History Month, and on or near August 26, to commemorate Women’s Equality Day and Texas Women’s Independence Day. Can We Talk events are coordinated by a steering committee made up of representatives from member organizations.

Can We Talk:
La Villita Chapter
Air Force Women Officers’ Association
Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation
Alpha Home, Inc.
American Association of University Women – San Antonio Chapter
American Society of Women Accountants
Annie’s List
Association for Women in Communications, Inc.
Association for Women Journalists
Bexar County Democratic Women
Bexar County Women’s Bar Association
BPW/TK Region 1 — A La Nueva BPW, BPW Inc of San Antonio, Mexican American BPW, Northwest Noon BPW
Center for Women in Church and Society
Children’s Bereavement Center
Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Dress for Success San Antonio
Esperanza Peace and Justice Center
Executive Women’s Golf Association
Family Violence Prevention Services

Fedrally Employed Women
Financial Women International
Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas
Girls Inc. of San Antonio
Government Affairs Council of Planned Parenthood
Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas — San Antonio Chapter
Leadership Texas Alumni Association
League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area
Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women
Mujeres Unidas Contro El SIDA
National Association of Professional Mortgage Women
National Association of Women Business Owners
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, S.A. Chapter
National Council of Negro Women
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.
Network Power/Texas
PECCE Initiative
Pan American Round Tables of Texas
Planned Parenthood of San Antonio & South Central Texas
Rape Crisis Center
SLEW Wellness Center
San Antonio College Women’s Center
San Antonio Silver Stars
San Antonio Society of Women CPAs
San Antonio Women’s Chamber of Commerce
San Antonio Women’s Hall of Fame
Sistas in Business, Inc.
South Texas Women’s Business Center
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
Texas Nurses Association, District 8
Texas Women’s Coalition
University of Texas at San Antonio Archives
WINGS
Woman at the Well House
Women of AT&T
Women’s Faculty Association
Women’s Global Connection
Women’s Pavilion at HemisFair Park, Inc.
Women’s Political Caucus of Bexar County
Women’s Sports Foundation
Women’s Studies Institute – UTSA
Young Women’s Christian Association
Zonta Club of San Antonio
Can We Talk?  March 9, 2010

- Attendees should complete contact and registration information, and enter Total enclosed.
- Vendors/ad purchasers should fill in contact information, meal if desired, and enter Total.

Registration and meal: **$35 postmarked by 2/26/10; $45 after 2/26th and at door.**

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<tr>
<th>Name on Check</th>
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<td>Phone/Cell</td>
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**Contact Information**

### Registration and Meal Reservation

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<tr>
<th>Attendee Name</th>
<th>$35</th>
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Sub Total $_____

### Program Ads Available

| Business Card=$25 Quarter Page= $35 Half Page=$60 Full Page=$100
| $25 | $35 | $60 | $100 |

Provide camera ready ad to pj4169@att.com by February 26, 2010

Sub Total $_____

### Vendor Tables Available

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<th>Check if electricity is needed</th>
<th>Check box to select 8’ skirted table</th>
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Complete contact information above and enter type of booth/merchandise: __________________________

If meal is desired, check ___ $35, $45 based on date mailed, & fill in meal registration above.  

Table reserved ONLY when Registration Form and Payment received.  

Vendors questions ONLY, Contact Bonnie Ayer at (210)222-3295.

Sub Total $_____

Make check payable to Can We Talk and mail form to Pat Jasso, 326 Anton Drive, San Antonio 78223.  
Registrations postmarked after February 26th also require an RSVP to (210)422-2245.

Total Enclosed $_____

2. The District of Columbia was also considered and included in the state rankings.