Equal Times
Serving the BCWBA for 30 Years

President’s Column

Happy New Year! Normally, January 1 fills me with a sense of dread. I have watched too many of my New Year’s resolutions burst into flames before MLK Day! Rather than set myself up for failure, this year I decided to take a gentler approach. Anne Lamott wrote, “You can either practice being right or practice being kind.” My number one goal this year to be kind—kind to my family, kind to my friends, kind to my colleagues, and most importantly, kind to myself. I will spend less time bemoaning failed resolutions, and more time tending to the important stuff, including family, friends, and serving the Bexar County Women’s Bar Association and Foundation!

2014 promises to be an exciting one for the BCWBA. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your President this year; I can hardly believe it is already here! Luckily for me, the BCWBA is fortunate to have a group of hard-working, talented women serving on the Board of Directors.

Leading the BCWBA this year are our officers: President Elect Marissa Helm, Vice President Katherine Noll, Treasurer Lisa Alcantar, Treasurer-Elect Greta McFarling, Secretary Maurileen Cobb, and Immediate Past President Suzanne Oliva. These women commit immeasurable amounts of their time and talents to the BCWBA, and I am excited to serve alongside them this year. (con’d on p. 2)

January Luncheon: Chief Justice Catherine Stone

Please join us at noon on January 21 at St. Mary’s School of Law to welcome Chief Justice Catherine Stone of the Fourth Court of Appeals. Chief Justice Stone will provide an update on recent, impactful decisions by the Fourth Court of Appeals, as well as discuss current and upcoming hot topics in the legal community. CLE accreditation has been approved.

When: Tuesday, January 21, 2014
Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Where: St. Mary’s School of Law, Sarita Kenedy East Law Library Alumni Room

Cost: $25 ($15 for students), payable at the door or online.

RSVP: Please RSVP by Friday, January 17, 2014, to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Please include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP. We understand that schedules change, but we cannot guarantee a spot to individuals who do not RSVP by the date above. For more information, contact Lindsay Riley (lriley@coxsmith.com) or Lauren Horne (lhorne@br-lawfirm.com). We hope to see you there!

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Upcoming events

• January Luncheon: Jan. 21
• February Luncheon: Feb. 4
• Women in the Law CLE: Mar. 24
Central Market Cooking School & CLE Recap

By Marissa Helm

In November, a group of BCWBA members and healthcare professionals got together for our annual cooking class and CLE event at Central Market. Our speaker, Cindy Strzelecki from the Methodist Hospital system, offered her insights on the ethical treatment of personal healthcare information, while the Central Market staff shared some amazing dairy-free and vegan recipes with us for the holidays. Everyone left feeling educated, rejuvenated by fellowship (and wine), and ready to face the holidays with some non-traditional menu options!

Look for more fun CLE and social opportunities this coming year! If you have ideas for fun, non-legal, San Antonio events to which we can add a CLE twist, send your idea to Marissa Helm at marissa.helm@parallon.com.

President’s Column (con’d from p. 1)

The officers are joined by the remaining members of the BCWB Board of Directors, as well as several committed members, in planning and executing the many events and programs offered to our members throughout the year. I hope you will thank all of the women mentioned below for their service, and more importantly, contact them if you are interested in helping with one or more of our projects!

Vice President Katherine Noll and Director Brittany Weil are co-chairing our flagship fundraising event, Autumn Affair. Expect the same fun-filled evening with a few new twists! We’re looking forward to another fantastic evening benefitting a worthy cause.

Our Annual CLE Retreat is always one of our most highly-anticipated events, and with a beautiful new venue and fun activities, this year’s retreat promises to be even better than before! Directors Renée McElhaney and Leslie Hyman, along with BCWB member Laurie Weiss, are chairing this year’s retreat. It is set for June 12 and 13, 2014, at the Purple Sage Ranch in Bandera, Texas. Mark your calendars and watch your email inbox for updates.

After a fantastic year in 2013, Directors Lauren Zettler-Horne and Lindsay Riley graciously agreed to stay on as chairs of our monthly luncheons. From February through November, you can join us at Club Giraud at Noon on the first Tuesday of the month for delicious food, networking, and an educational presentation with CLE credit.

As we all know, mentors can be vital to a young attorney’s growth and development, which is why the BCWB’s Mentor-Mentee program with members of St. Mary’s University School of Law’s Women’s Law Association is so important. Director Hella Scheuerman serves as Co-Chair of this year’s Mentor-Mentee Committee, assisted by Student Director Bianca Frisaura. We hope each of you will consider participating in our mentor-mentee events this year.

BCWB member Melissa Morales Fletcher is chairing this year’s Law Day Student Contest and Luncheon, held yearly in conjunction with the State Bar’s various Law Day events. The annual event provides students in Fox Tech’s law magnet program to have lunch with BCWB members and hear from an inspirational speaker on topics related to the State Bar’s Law Day theme. You won’t want to miss this special mentoring opportunity and inspirational event, to be held in April this year. (con’d on p. 3)
President’s Column (con’d from p. 2)

Director Carmen Sananiego and member Sherry Barnash are co-chairing the BCWB Foundation’s Community Service Committee. This committee’s primary role is distribution of the Elder Law Handbook, made possible through a grant from the Texas State Bar Foundation. Additional past projects overseen by the Community Service Committee include a BCWB night at the Community Justice Program, as well as special events benefitting groups such as the San Antonio Food Bank, Avance, and the Battered Women’s Shelter. Carmen and Sherry will make sure you are informed of our many opportunities to support our community throughout the year.

Treasurer-Elect Greta McFarling chairs this year’s President Party. Tentatively planned for the last week of February, the President’s Party will be held to honor new members and past presidents of the BCWB. Additional social events include a new family event, chaired by President Elect Marissa Helm and co-sponsored by BCWB and Moms-in-Law San Antonio; our annual Julian Gold Fiesta Party, chaired by member Brooke Waldrep; and our annual “social” CLE, chaired by member Molly Neck.

Secretary Maurleen Cobb and Director Gaylia Brunson are co-chairing our Membership Committee. Membership recruitment and retention are vital to the BCWB, and we are excited to have Maurleen and Gaylia take the lead in growing our organization to its fullest potential.

Director Connie Arambula, with the assistance of member Cari Rangel, chairs our Website, Communications, and Social Media Committee. Treasurer Lisa Alcantar chairs our Investments Committee. Immediate Past President Suzanne Oliva chairs this year’s Honors & Awards Committee, and Treasurer-Elect Greta McFarling serves as our Judicial and Legislative Liaison. President-Elect Marissa Helm chairs our Nominations & Elections Committee, and Director Elsa Marie Garza continues her role as our Historian and Public Relations Committee Chair. Director Shari Mao will lead the Board of Directors through a review and proposed amendment of our organization’s bylaws, ensuring they are up-to-date and adequately address the purpose and needs of the BCWB.

Finally, we are fortunate to have member Regina Stone-Harris continue in her role as editor of Equal Times, our monthly newsletter. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Equal Times, and we hope you will continue to enjoy the publication and benefit from the wealth of information it offers.

As you can see, we have a full year ahead, and much to look forward to in 2014! On January 10 and 11, the Board is participating in a retreat to review our strengths and weaknesses, and form a strategy for growing our organization and better serving you, our members. Your input and feedback is invaluable. To that end, please do not hesitate to contact me at tiffany@rosenblattlawfirm.com with your questions and comments. We are all here to serve you.

I hope your year has started off well and only gets better. If you made New Year’s resolutions, best of luck in reaching your goals. As for myself, I will keep practicing kindness. Happy 2014!

“My number one goal this year to be kind—kind to my family, kind to my friends, kind to my colleagues, and most importantly, kind to myself.”

February 2014 Luncheon: State Bar Presentation

Please join us at Club Giraud on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, for a special State Bar of Texas Presentation. Sara Dysart and Andy Kerr, State Bar Directors for District 10, will present “How the State Bar Serves Texas Lawyers.” CLE credit will be provided.

When: Tuesday, February 4, 2014
Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Where: Club Giraud
Cost: $25 ($15 for students), payable at the door or online.
RSVP by Friday, January 31, 2014 to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org
Please include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP. We understand that schedules change, but we cannot guarantee a spot to individuals who do not RSVP by the date above. Walk-ins may be charged extra to cover the additional demands on Club Giraud’s staff and no-shows may be billed.

For more information, contact Lindsay Riley (lriley@coxsmith.com) or Lauren Horne (lhorne@br-lawfirm.com)
Autumn Affairs Proceeds

By: Hella Scheuerman and Leslie Hyman

During our Holiday Luncheon this past month, BCWBF members joined us as we presented the Autumn Affair beneficiary check to Rhonda Williamson, President/CEO of Girls Inc. of San Antonio. Rhonda accepted the check, on behalf of Girls Inc. of San Antonio, and was delighted to see BCWBF members work together, to make Autumn Affair such a success. Thank you to our sponsors, silent auction donors, volunteers, and guests, who made the event so successful!

Rhonda Williamson forwarded the following note, thanking BCWBF, which we wanted to share with all of our members:

I wanted to thank Bexar County Women’s Bar Foundation again for an incredible Autumn Affair. Friday’s luncheon was so special – and the gift is incredible! Our girls have gotten the biggest kick out of that giant check. We have it on display in the front of the building and our girls and our families have enjoyed it. Thank you for choosing Girls Inc. This has been one of the best experiences from my time here in San Antonio. The women at BCWBF work so hard and do such great things. Thank you for all you do for non-profits in San Antonio. THANK YOU!
Rhonda
Photos from the Christmas Luncheon
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