

The Network News

A newsletter for the members of Metro Women's Network

February 2008

February meeting



Speaker: Brandie Isley
(www.littlepiecesofart.com)
Date: Thursday, February 21
Location: B&B Restaurant & Bar,
2712 Beaver Ave, Des Moines, IA
50310, (515) 255-8521

Agenda:
5:30 p.m. - social time
6:15 p.m. - dinner
7:15 p.m. - speaker

Menu: Dinner salad, Boursin Chicken

or Grilled Salmon with garlic mashed potatoes and green beans or red pepper chicken alfredo with garlic toast, Chocolate volcano dessert

Price: \$25 for all attendees

Reservations: Please RSVP by noon on Monday, February 18th by e-mail to rsvp@mwniowa.org.

Brandie is a self-taught mixed media artist, who has a life-long obsession with art that keeps her grounded and happy.

After many artistic endeavors, her art has evolved into her current endeavor called Little Pieces of Art, which are collages created from old photographs.

Her collages began when she acquired photos of relatives and felt inspired to tell their stories. Now she places discarded photographs found at estate sales and antique stores in her collages.

She has been published in a popular mixed media publication, earned an award for "Best 2-d Artist" at the Valley Junction Art Market and won a CD cover art contest for an up-and-coming local band.

My husband and I are getting ready to celebrate our 19th wedding anniversary on Valentine's Day. I chose that day so he wouldn't forget our anniversary. We have three girls; Mandy is 20 and attends Iowa Western in Council Bluffs. Nicole is 17 and is a Junior at Urbandale High and Emma is 11 and is a 6th grader at Urbandale Middle School.

I've been with Newbury Management Company for five years and am currently the District Manager for 17 properties throughout the state of Iowa. I am very fortunate to work for a wonderful owner that is very kind and offers flexibility that makes it easy to balance work, home and exercise. I typically workout 6 days a week by walking, running, step class, strength training, swimming and my favorite class, Yoga.

Our family is very active in our church at Franklin Avenue. My husband grew up in this church and we have been members there for 16 years. We are involved with many activities and host a Bible Study at our home on Sunday nights.

We try to plan a vacation each summer. I love the East Coast baking in the sun and my husband likes the North, freezing on the lake fishing. Next month we are planning a trip to Minneapolis because Mandy is on the College dance team and they have made it to Nationals. The competition will be in the Mall of America. Then we are also planning a trip this summer to Chicago.

I have been a member of Metro for five years and have thoroughly enjoyed the time I have served on the steering committee as well as meeting new people, the speakers and the wonderful restaurants.

do you know?

Sharon Wolfe



From our President's Desk

Welcome to a new year with MWN. I am very honored to be serving as President for such a wonderful group. Thank you for the opportunity. This will be my fifth year with MWN and each year just keeps getting better. I have met so many wonderful women and made some great friends. My goal this year for the group is to make sure that our programs, speakers and restaurants are what you want. I want everyone's input. If there is something you love about the group or if there is something you hate about it, I want to hear it. It's your group, so let's make it what you want it to be.

Some people don't like change. I love it. If there is something that we need to change to make our experience more enjoyable, I am all for it.

For me, New Years is a time to look ahead at what I want to accomplish for the year. Which closet should I clean out first? What projects around the house will I tackle this year? And of course, I make the resolution to get healthy and lose weight. Well, I have cleaned out a closet and the kitchen pantry already, so I am on a roll. As for the weight loss thing – well – I am still in the planning stage on that one. I also have things I would like to accomplish with Metro Women's Network. I want to get informative speakers that can inspire and entertain us, at our meetings. I want us to work on the networking aspect of our group. Most of all, I want us to have fun and get to know each other better this year.

I hope you all have a prosperous and exciting year to come and I hope that you continue to make Metro Women's Network part of your year.

Enjoy every moment!

—Michelle Patrick, President

2008 MWN Officers

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