



## Business and Professional Women

### BPW/CA Mission Statement:

To provide participation in leadership, communications, education, and career opportunities. To promote equity, political and economic self-sufficiency for working women.

**BPW/USA Mission Statement:** To achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information.

BPW/USA Web Site: [www.bpwusa.org](http://www.bpwusa.org)

CFBPW Web Site:

[www.bpwcal.org](http://www.bpwcal.org)

BPW International Web Site: <http://bpwintl.com>

Bay Capital District BPW Web Site: [baycapitalbpw.org](http://baycapitalbpw.org)

District Newsletter, Bay Capital Connection: email: [dricos@juno.com](mailto:dricos@juno.com)

### BPW MERCED OFFICERS

Mary Ward, President...261-9933

Vicky Ramirez., President-Elect...389-1036

Bev Young, Recording Secretary...726-5111

Louise Farley, Corresponding

Secretary...564-6261

Bev Ward, Treasurer...631-0638

Janet Ramsey, Immed. Past President...769-8272

### DATES TO REMEMBER 2009 BPW

\* Every fourth Tuesday, Merced BPW

\* Every second Monday, Merced BPW Board Meeting

\* April 17-19, 2009 Bay Capital District Meeting, Sacramento.

\* May 16/09, State Conference and Installation, Fresno.

### 2009 Merced BPW Dinner Meetings at

Fernando's in Merced

Social 5:30 pm; Dinner 6:15 pm:

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 > Scholarship

Dinner

Tuesday, May 26, 2009 > Installation Dinner

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Tuesday, October 27, 2009 > Working

Women of the Year

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

For Information or to R.S.V.P.

[mercedbpw@aol.com](mailto:mercedbpw@aol.com), [mwardmerced@aol.com](mailto:mwardmerced@aol.com),

209-261-9933 or 209-631-0638

GUESTS ARE WELCOME AT ALL

MEETINGS

## Fundraising Spotlited in '09

*Come 'n' Go Luncheon sponsorships needed*

Calling all Merced BPW members! What BPW member does not like a challenge? 'Challenge' has always been the strong woman's middle name...and our challenge over the next few weeks is to make our Come 'n' Go luncheon a success. If all members bring in just one \$100 sponsorship, our scholarship needs will be covered for the year. Please help make this fundraiser the great success we know it can be. Individual ticket sales help but sponsorships provide the income source we need to carry on with our mandate to provide needed and deserved assistance to the working women of Merced. The luncheon will be held at Fernando's Bistro in downtown Merced in June.

## ID Days Offer Members Fun and Learning

*by Bev Young*

It was all very mysterious to me when I was asked to attend the "Individual Development" weekend in Merced, March 21 and 22. What will I develop? How? What's the theme? The "agenda", I was told was "It's going to be fun!!" I was skeptical...but my skepticism was unwarranted, as the weekend (all day Saturday and breakfast on Sunday) was well worth it. Facilitated by BPW's Barbara J. Davis and attended by a small group of Merced BPW members, the time was filled with personal and professional insights that came in a fun and supportive way. Barbara's skills as facilitator impressed me the most as she kept our attention with her own enthusiasm while putting a spotlight on our strengths and encouraging us to view our weaknesses as opportunities. Many thanks to Barbara, the other attendees, and to Fernando's Bistro in downtown Merced for providing an excellent venue (and terrific food as usual). I encourage all members to try an ID day in the future.

## Ontario GIA Report -- Hot Topics

*California BPW Government in Action conference*

Hot topics generated lots of discussion at the California Federation of BPW's GIA conference held in Ontario, CA on Feb. 28 and March 1. Discussions included the Lilly Ledbetter legislation for equal pay for women, and laws pertaining to "sexting", the sending of inappropriate pictures over cell phones by minors. Special presentations included "Follow the Money" by Merced BPW President Mary Ward. Mary gave participants the reference sites needed to see where the financial backing for pieces of legislation comes from, and shared strategies for discerning motives behind support or opposition to legislation. This allows voters to cut through the "spin" for more informed choices at the ballot.

Barbara Davis presented information on the effects of domestic violence issues in the workplace, and also gave a presentation on how to be your own best advocate regarding medical and insurance coverage.

The highlight of the weekend was a talk by Assemblymember Norma J. Torres, D-Pomona. Assemblymember Torres represents the 61st Assembly District of Pomona, Ontario, Montclair, and Chino. Prior to being elected to the Assembly in 2008, Torres served as City Councilmember and then Mayor of Pomona. Under her tenure, she passed the state's first ordinance regulating where convicted sex offenders were allowed to live, preventing them from living near schools or together in large group homes.

As a former bilingual 9-1-1 operator, Torres led efforts to improve the Los Angeles emergency response system to more efficiently serve the needs of the citizens with bilingual operators on every shift. She shared a heartbreaking story of the death of a young girl she witnessed over the phone due to delays in the 9-1-1 system.

All of her experiences inspired her to run for office and advocate for the people she represents. Torres surprised the participants by throwing out her prepared speech and just speaking from the heart after she arrived during the discussion on cell phone, 'sexting'.

As she left for her next engagement, she mentioned how impressed she was with our group and what we were doing over the weekend. It is safe to say that the participants were just as impressed with her spark and drive and being such a breath of fresh air.

## Scholarship Nominations Due

*Deadline end of March/09*

Please ensure all nominations for scholarships are in by the end of March. The scholarship awards dinner will be held April 29 at Fernando's Bistro in downtown Merced.

## Latinas Making a Difference Luncheon

*May 8/09 11:30am - 1:00pm, 650 E. Olive Ave. (CLC GYM)*

Latina women making a difference in the community in various fields of endeavour will be honoured at the luncheon. Categories include Government, Education, Private business, Parenting, Elected Office, Students, Non-profit organizations, and Community volunteers. Nominations are due April 15, 2009. You can help by purchasing a Corporate Sponsorship for \$500.00 (includes a table for 8 and your company's logo displayed in the Program); reserving a Table for 8 at \$200.00; or purchase individual tickets for \$25.00. Deadline to purchase tickets is April 27, 2009. Payments should be made out to the Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact [Deanne\\_Ruelas@csoa.com](mailto:Deanne_Ruelas@csoa.com).

## State BPW Officer Installations

*May 15-17, Fresno*

Now is a great opportunity to attend a State Conference and support our own BPW Merced member at the same time. Janet Ramsay, immediate past president of our local organization, will be installed as BPW/CA President for the coming year in Fresno on May 16. Come down for the "sock hop" on Friday night and stay the weekend, or make it a day trip on Saturday to support Janet as she begins her tenure of leadership at the State level. For more information, contact Mary Ward at [mwardmerced@aol.com](mailto:mwardmerced@aol.com).

## American Cancer Society Relay for Life

*Merced College, April 25-26/09*

Relay for Life brings together more than 3.5 million people across the country to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and empower individuals and communitiites to fight back against the disease on behalf of the American Cancer Society. Merced's Relay is one of 4,800 community gatherings where teams of people camp out at a local school, park or fairground, and take turns circling a track or path. Because cancer never sleeps, each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the 24-hour event. If you are not part of a team, please join this great support community individually. Give a \$100 donation and get a T-shirt to remember your contribution. If you would like more information, Team Development Co-ordinator and Merced BPW guest speaker at the March 24/09 meeting, Elena Blanton (261-5907, [eb29of41@yahoo.com](mailto:eb29of41@yahoo.com)), would be happy to help.

## Merced BPW Backs UC Merced Michelle Obama Bid

*Students persuade the First Lady to attend graduation ceremonies*

At the March 24/09 Merced BPW meeting, the membership was asked to draft a letter in support of the students of UC Merced in their bid to encourage the First Lady, Michelle Obama to speak at this year's graduation ceremony on campus. Mrs. Obama's interest in research and environmental issues makes the match-up a good fit. The First Lady has graciously accepted the students' invitation and we hope our letter was helpful. Congratulations to UC Merced students on this accomplishment!