

Preserving WRN History...or Should I Say “Her-Story?”

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Back in the early 1990's, I was struggling to juggle a new solo law practice and raise two little girls under the age of five. They do not teach you anything about business in law school (at least in those days) and so, basically, I was not sure how I was going to procure a clientele other than by hanging my “shingle” outside of a little office on Main Street in Collegeville.

One day, I picked up a free newspaper (because, believe me, that’s about all I could afford) and found a short article about a group called Women’s Referral Network of Montgomery County. The article said that this women’s networking group met monthly at the Gypsy Rose for lunch and a program meeting. Prior to leaving my job in the City, I was quite involved in committee work for the Bar Association and I was used to “bouncing things” off of my colleagues at work and at meetings. So at this point, I missed the “fellowship” of City law firm life and I definitely missed going out to lunch with adults. I went to my first meeting.

I was hooked on this lively group from the start. Led by the founding President, Lisa Barto, who became a lifetime friend and business contact, the group was friendly, inclusive, and the programs were fun, as well as informative. Laverne Sheetz was a member early on and I recall referring her to my sister and Mom who used her talented services. Among the original members, there were two enthusiastic ladies from the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy of Schwenksville. Tish Ryan, the former Executive Director, and the Assistant Director, Gail Latch, also became lifetime friends and business contacts. There were many other interesting women who had interesting businesses, and some referred work to me and I referred work to them. I had begun the lifetime process of networking and, in the deal, I made some wonderful friends.

I am telling you this little story from my past to hopefully hook some of you on the idea of starting an archive to preserve WRN’s past. WRN has accomplished so much since those early meetings that entertained me and sustained my need for collegiality. I have volunteered to start the ball rolling on preserving the history of the group. To that end, I have contacted some of the former members and asked them to share anything about the group (photos, newsletters, articles) that they might still have. I am also asking the current membership to bring to your next meeting any photos and articles that you may have as well.

Here comes the pitch! Do any of you have a penchant for scrapbooking? Are any of you talented in creating online archives or power point presentations? If so, please consider joining my committee. I know the Board would like to have some sort of archiving system so that future memberships can see how far we have come and also do not have to “reinvent the wheel,” so to speak, when planning programs, meetings and events. Please contact me at: sliberator@aol.com if you would like to be a part of the preservation of WRN’s HER-story!