

HOUSTON AREA PROFESSIONAL EXPRESS NETWORK Houston TX

APRIL 2011

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

WOY AND TOP TEN CANDIDATE ANNOUNCED

HAPEN has an abundance of women who run successful businesses, are effective leaders, are committed to community development and exhibit exemplary leadership capabilities. Each year we honor one of our own as HAPEN's Woman of the Year and nominate another as a Top Ten candidate of American Business Women's Association.

Myrleen Knott, VP of Buffalo Flange, Inc., is this year's Woman of the Year. Nominated by her friend, Sheri Parrack, Myrleen has been a member of ABWA since 1980, is a charter member of HAPEN and has served in every position in our network. Even more impressive, Myrleen is a former national office of ABWA and was a National Top Ten in 1995.

Myrleen says, "Words are hardly adequate to express the gratitude and honor I feel at being selected as HAPEN's Woman of the Year. HAPEN and ABWA are especially dear to my heart since I was first introduced to ABWA by my mom Dorothy Parlette. Dottie was a charter member of San Jacinto Chapter in 1960 and maintained an active membership until her death in 2007.

I am still so amazed by the wonderful networking, constant support and deep friendship that have been afforded me by this wonderful organization. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this honor!"

Our Top Ten candidate is Shantera Chatman, who wears two hats. Shantera is an associate/strategic management supervisor at Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc. She is also the founder and executive director of the annual Women's Empowerment which just successfully completed its fourth conference. Shantera is completing her year as HAPEN's 2010-2011 Woman of Excellence and will serve as President of our



Myrleen Knott,
HAPEN's Woman
of the Year for
2011-2012.

network beginning in August 2011. A member of HAPEN since 2002, Shantera has served in several offices and is involved in Houston Area Council of ABWA.

Shantera says, "HAPEN has so many wonderful women who have been selected as Top Ten candidate and National Top Ten honorees. To be part of such a distinguished group is truly an honor and I thank you!"

Both ladies will be honored at the HAC-sponsored luncheon at the Junior League on June 25. Be sure to get your reservation in soon as this event is very popular and you'll find many friends from other chapters and networks there. It's always a fun event.



**Shantera
Chatman,**
HAPEN's
Top Ten for
2011-2012.



***THE MISSION OF THE
AMERICAN BUSINESS
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
IS TO BRING TOGETHER
BUSINESSWOMEN OF
DIVERSE OCCUPATIONS
AND TO PROVIDE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
THEM TO HELP
THEMSELVES AND
OTHERS GROW
PERSONALLY AND
PROFESSIONALLY
THROUGH LEADERSHIP,
EDUCATION,
NETWORKING SUPPORT,
AND NATIONAL
RECOGNITION.***

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CALENDAR	2
APRIL PROGRAM	2
SUCCESSES	3
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT	3
LISA'S MESSAGE	3
NOMINATIONS	4
TINA GANDY VISIT	4

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JUNE 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 EXTRA!	10	11
12	13 Board	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 WOY
26	27	28 HAPEN MEETING	29	30		

- May 14: 4th Women's Empowerment Conference
- May 24: HAPEN meeting—"Grow Your Business" led by Amy Robinson, Leadership Coach
- June 9: HAPEN "Extra!" at La Fuente Winery, 6:00 pm
- June 25: Woman of the Year Luncheon at the Junior League
- June 28: HAPEN meeting—"Website Optimization"
- July 25: FHPW Quarterly Meeting
- July 26: HAPEN meeting
- July 28: HAC Quarterly Meeting



Susan Silverman of Wounded Frog, Ltd.
Susan.s@woundedfrog.com
or 713-975-9518

A full-service promotional products company
in business since 1987

ENHANCE YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

HAPEN's own **Susan Silverman** led April attendees through a networking game before dinner, then shared her wealth of knowledge about networking groups.

Susan noted that our business cards should "open a conversation." Is it cute, different, interesting? She also suggests that it be offered only when someone asks for it. The importance of a networking group such as HAPEN is to allow members to build relationships and establish trust.

Thanks for your insights, Susan!

New member **Linda Evans** wins a door prize at our April meeting as return visitor **Belinda Gault** looks on.



CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES

Susan Silverman of Wounded Frog joined Weight Watchers last fall. She joyfully reported having lost 58 lbs so far. We are proud of you, Susan! And you look great!!

Karen Grubbs of Tricoast Insurance Services was awarded a nice bonus for growing the Personal Insurance Dept by more than 10% in 2010.

Pam Ahlers of Ahlers and Stoll PC still has her hair! Her second chemo treatment is mid-month and hopefully her hair will hang on.

Gaylyn Devine's TLS Graphics received the Better Business Bureau's Award of Distinction earlier this month. It is given to BBB companies committed to overall excellence and quality in the workplace. Congrats, Gaylyn!

Houston's 14th Court of Appeals affirmed that El Paso, represented by **Kerry McEniry** and Mitch McFarland of the Harrison Bettis law firm, was not responsible for more than \$7.7 million dollars claimed by a power plant near Granbury TX.

Dust off your boots, grab your hat and get ready for the **National Women's Leadership Conference** in Irving TX, September 22-24

A convenient budget-friendly pre-payment plan is offered on **WIN**. Go to **abwa.org** for more details.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT—CASSANDRA'S UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

Last month HAPEN members helped **Cassandra Voutchas** celebrate her sixth year in business. Cassandra's Unique Boutique is truly the city's hidden secret, offering fun fashions and designer apparel.

Cassandra's Unique Boutique is located in the Alex Burton Salon at 6100 Westheimer. This charming little store is the culmination of a life's dream for Cassandra. Neither tough economic times nor a broken hand have stymied her!

"These economic challenges make us reinvent ourselves," says Cassandra. "I'm now carrying a selection of gift items under \$20, including

lovely diffusers from France, along with greeting cards and Ed Hardy flipflops. And it's working!"



Lisa Keith,
VP-Membership

A NOTE FROM LISA:

HAPEN is surveying its members and guests for feedback about our meetings: food, programs, welcoming and the like. If you weren't at April's meeting, please take a few minutes to complete the survey coming via email and return it to me. Your opinion is important!

HAPEN members and friends enjoyed shopping and noshing at Cassandra's Unique Boutique in April. Congratulations, Cassandra, on six years in business!





AN EXPRESS NETWORK® OF THE
AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

Editor: Karen Grubbs
kgrubbs@tricoast.net
713-461-5255 x12

HAPEN meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Hotel Indigo in the Galleria area of Houston, with networking beginning at 5:45, dinner and program at 6:15. Meeting fee is \$28. Make reservations at <http://www.hapen.org/reservations.html>

GET READY TO WIN!
VISIT WWW.ABWA.ORG.

ABWA's Proud Code of Conduct

1. All members will serve as goodwill ambassadors for the American Business Women's Association.
2. Members will not allow their personal beliefs and convictions to interfere with the representation of ABWA's mission.
3. Members will always treat their member colleagues, guests, vendors and sponsors with honesty, respect, fairness, integrity, responsibility, kindness, and in good faith.
4. Members will maintain compliance with ABWA National, Chapter and Express Network Bylaws.
5. Members will not use their personal power to advance their personal interests.
6. Members will strive for excellence in their professions by maintaining and enhancing their own business knowledge and skills, and by encouraging the professional development of other members.

Join us at La Fuente Winery June 9th. We'll taste and learn about five Chilean wines and have fun visiting with HAPEN members and guests.
<http://www.lafuentewinery.com/>

BOARD ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR MAY MEETING

Your Nominations Committee has diligently sought nominees for HAPEN's 2011-2012 Board. Here are your candidates:

President Elect: Sandra Hawk

VP-Finance: Lisa Keith

VP-Programs: Susan Olson

VP - Communications / Website:
Jean Fletcher

VP-Publicity: Vicky Reynolds

VP-Membership: Myrleen Knott and Sheri Parrack

VP-Administration: Open

VP—Communications/Newsletters:
Open

Board memberships are for a one year term and involve a monthly meeting for review of network business and planning. Current and former members are excellent re-

sources for information and assistance, helping new board members to quickly find their way.

Specific information about the various positions can be found in HAPEN's Standing Rules (see our website for a link). A wealth of material is available in the Women's Instructional Network—WIN—in the ABWA National section of the Library tab.

Please consider serving on the Board in one of our open slots. The relationships developed with other Board members, the opportunity to learn more about our terrific organization and the skill building that results will be of great benefit to you, to your business, and to the network.

**ABWA National VP
Tina Gandy to visit
HAPEN in August!**



Tina will share valuable insights about Best Practices and WIN. ABWA networks and chapters are being encouraged to grow their groups and become more productive for members.

Tina is the owner of Twinz Co. Marketing and Graphic Design in Bryan TX.