

Equal Times



February 2013

Bexar County Women's Bar Association

President's Column

Now that the hectic schedule of the holidays is over and the decorations have been put away, it is time to find a rare free moment to relax. One way my husband and I enjoy a break from reality is to view a movie. February is the perfect month to do so with the recent release of the Oscar-nominated movies for best picture including *Amour*, *Argo*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Django Unchained*, *Les Misérables*, *Life of Pi*, *Lincoln*, *Silver Linings Playbook* and *Zero Dark Thirty*. In anticipation of viewing the Academy Awards television show with friends, we scramble to watch as many movies as time will allow. This year, we're not doing too bad ... six down, three to go. From the true story of six Americans taking

refuge in the Canadian embassy to a man trying to escape the law in pre-French Revolution days to the end of the Civil War to the search for Osama to a close up look at mental illness, there is a topic that should appeal to everyone. It may have been the beautiful scenery or the suspense or the multiple interpretations of the sequence of events that resulted, surprisingly, in my favorite so far being the tale of a young boy adrift at sea with zoo animals.

Other ways to enjoy the month of February include joining us at the monthly luncheon at Club Giraud, catching up with friends at the informal "Around Town" lunch at the Res-



Suzanne Dapra Oliva

aurant Gwendolyn, or taking part in a 7K Superbowl Sunday run/walk benefiting Transplants for Children. There is also MCLE that (con'd on next page)

Luncheon Announcement

By Lauren Horne

Please join us on Tuesday, February 5th at Club Giraud as we welcome Former State District Judge, Mediator and Special Master, Pat Boone. Pat's presentation centers on his practice as

a mediator and perspective on the tools for an effective mediation.

RSVP by Friday, February 1, 2013, to events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Please include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP. Cost is \$25 (\$15 for

students), payable online or at the door. CLE Accredited! For more information, contact Lauren Horne (lhorne@br-lawfirm.com) or Lindsay Riley (Lindsay.scaief@txcourts.gov). We hope to see you there!

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Join us in March for the annual President's Party, hosted by BCWBA President Suzanne Oliva, to welcome the newest members of the BCWBA and reconnect with members you haven't seen in a while! We look forward to seeing everyone there! Details coming soon.

Also, join us on Saturday, April 6, 2013, for this year's "Picnic at the Missions" event. See page 7 for details.

President's Column (con'd from p. 1)

can be earned at the Central Market Cooking School, a "Speed-Networking" event at St. Mary's University Law School and a book club gath-

ering.

Whatever floats your boat (yes ... pun intended), invite a non-member to one of our

events and encourage him or her to join the BCWBA/BCWBF. Hoping your favorite movie wins on February 24th!

BCWBA Book Club Meetings



Gaylia D. Brunson

By Gaylia D. Brunson

Feb. 19th – *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis – meeting at

6:00pm at Twenty9 in the Quarry: In 1923, fifteen-year-old Hattie Shepherd flees Georgia and settles in Philadelphia, hoping for a chance at a better life. Instead, she marries a man who will bring her nothing but disappointment and watches helplessly as her firstborn twins succumb to an illness a few pennies could have prevented. Hattie gives birth to nine more children whom she raises with grit and mettle and not an ounce of the tenderness they crave. She vows to prepare them for the calamitous difficulty they are sure to face in their later lives, to meet a world that will not love them, a world that will not be kind. Captured here in twelve luminous narrative threads, their lives tell the story of a mother's monumental courage and the journey of a nation.

Beautiful and devastating, Ayana Mathis's *The Twelve*

Tribes of Hattie is wondrous from first to last—glorious, harrowing, unexpectedly uplifting, and blazing with life. An emotionally transfixing page-turner, a searing portrait of striving in the face of insurmountable adversity, an indelible encounter with the resilience of the human spirit and the driving force of the American dream.

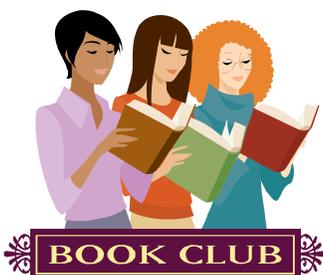
May 21st – *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich – time and location TBA:

One Sunday in the spring of 1988, a woman living on a reservation in North Dakota is attacked. The details of the crime are slow to surface as Geraldine Coutts is traumatized and reluctant to relive or reveal what happened, either to the police or to her husband, Bazil, and thirteen-year-old son, Joe. In one day, Joe's life is irrevocably transformed. He tries to heal his mother, but she will not leave her bed and slips into an abyss of solitude. Increasingly alone, Joe finds himself thrust prematurely into an adult world for

which he is ill prepared.

While his father, who is a tribal judge, endeavors to wrest justice from a situation that defies his efforts, Joe becomes frustrated with the official investigation and sets out with his trusted friends, Cappy, Zack, and Angus, to get some answers of his own. Their quest takes them first to the Round House, a sacred space and place of worship for the Ojibwe. And this is only the beginning.

Written with undeniable urgency, and illuminating the harsh realities of contemporary life in a community where Ojibwe and white live uneasily together, *The Round House* is a brilliant and entertaining novel, a masterpiece of literary fiction. Louise Erdrich embraces tragedy, the comic, a spirit world very much present in the lives of her all-too-human characters, and a tale of injustice that is, unfortunately, an authentic reflection of what happens in our own world today.



Lorie Blount

BCWBA director Lorie Blount recently accepted an in-house position with Microsoft as Senior Counsel supporting the Windows 8 division. Lorie will work at the corporate headquarters in Redmond, WA. Lorie is very excited about her new position supporting product engineering and marketing teams. Lorie regularly contributed to the *Equal Times* through the community service column. BCWBA will miss Lorie. Congratulations and best wishes, Lorie!

Central Market Cooking School & Ethics CLE



Marissa Helm

By Marissa Helm

There are a few spots remaining for the next Central Market Cooking School CLE event. Join us in the upstairs cooking classroom at Central Market, 4821 Broadway, at

6:00 p.m. for 1.0 hour of ethics CLE on how to advertise, use social media, and comply with state ethics regulations. The menu includes French lentil salad, roasted potatoes with bay leaves and herbs, tomatoes Provencal, chicken

Cordon Bleu, and chocolate soufflé—yum! Cost is \$55, which includes the cooking class, food, and CLE credit. Sign up at: www.bexarcountywomensbar.org and clicking over to “Upcoming Events.”

Volunteers Needed for “Speed-Networking Event”



Suzanne Dapra Oliva

By Suzanne Oliva and Alison Williams

The BCWBA has a strong tradition of supporting Bexar County female attorneys from varying backgrounds and practices, through education, networking, mentoring, and social support systems. One special relationship that allows for mentoring opportunities is our partnership with the Women’s Law Association at St. Mary’s University School of Law. In an effort to prepare students for the job search interview process, the BCWBA is teaming with the WLA and the Office of Career Services at St. Mary’s to sponsor the second annual “Speed Networking Event” on Thursday, February 21, 2013 from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. The Event will be

held in the St. Mary’s University Law Alumni Room.

If you have not previously participated in a speed networking event, this type of business networking activity is very much like speed dating in that it is about making an initial contact with as many people as possible in a short amount of time. A speed event is structured in such a way that you can introduce yourself, ask questions and respond to questions of a small group of individuals in approximately 10 minutes before the group moves to the next table.

To make this event a success, we need your help. For the first hour, we are seeking volunteers from the BCWBA membership to lead round-table discussions with small

groups of students. The students will rotate tables every ten minutes, so the general idea is to provide a brief discussion of your career path, career tips and legal experience. The second hour will be a mixer to allow the students to continue speaking with the BCWBA members about more specific questions and discussions.

This was a highly successful event last year and we expect approximately fifty or more students to attend. Thus, we seek 20 BCWBA members to lead table discussions. Please contact Suzanne Oliva at oliva@satx.rr.com or 875-4646 if you will host one of the tables or simply attend to visit with students. Your participation is greatly appreciated!



Alison Williams

February “Around Town” Luncheon

By Marissa Helm

We are excited to continue our informal monthly luncheons hosted at various locations “around town” to allow our members to get to know each other and socialize in a more relaxed environment. On Thursday, February 28th

at noon, please join Marissa Helm for lunch at Restaurant Gwendolyn, 152 E. Pecan Street. For those of you who know Marissa, this is her absolute favorite lunch spot, featuring all local, seasonal food products prepared without any modern electric kitchen equipment. It’s like eating at a

friend’s house in the late 19th century! No RSVP is needed—just show up, order at the kitchen window, and join your fellow members for a quick bite. We’ll be sitting on the patio overlooking the River, weather and space permitting. We look forward to seeing you there!



Annual Super Bowl Run to Benefit the San Antonio Transplants for Children



Connie Arambula

By Connie Arambula

Please join the Bexar County Women's Bar Association at the 4th Annual Super Bowl 7K (4.35m) run to benefit the San Antonio Transplants for Children! The race/run is on Sunday, February 3, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. The course starts and ends at the HEB Commander's House, and follows a technical route along the River Walk, with rest stops at strategic points.

Team Registration: The first seven people to register with Connie Arambula will be on the Bexar County Women's Bar Association team at \$10 a person. To register, e-mail your name, address, and birth date to carambula@lyndworld.com. Checks

should be made out for \$10, made payable to the "Bexar County Women's Bar Association," and mailed to Connie Arambula at the following address: Connie Arambula, c/o The Lynd Company, 8000 IH 10 W, Ste 1200, San Antonio, TX 78230.

Individual Registration:

Can't be on the team? Please still join us with an individual registration at \$15 a person until January 23, 2013. After this date the individual registration increases to \$20 a person. Register online at <http://www.athleteguild.com/running/san-antonio-tx/2013-super-bowl-sunday-7k-run>.

Registration for Kids under 12: Free!

Race day: The Start/Finish is at the HEB Commander's House, 645 S. Main Avenue, San Antonio TX. Parking is available at the HEB Arsenal (enter on E Caesar Chavez). Look for Connie Arambula near the registration booth. She will be wearing a black BCWBA t-shirt.

Tailgate Party: There will be plenty of food, vendors, music and games in a heated tent. Complimentary beer will be available for runners.

Attire: Wear your BCWBA t-shirt or favorite football team attire!

Further details can be found at <http://www.athleteguild.com/running/san-antonio-tx/2013-super-bowl-sunday-7k-run>.

Playing Outside

By Connie Arambula

An easy way to make physical activity and exercise fun for the whole family is to "play outside." Regular exercise in nature has proved to improve mental and physical health. Outdoor activity also helps you maintain a healthy weight, boost immunity, and lower stress.

There are many different places in San Antonio for outdoor activity. You can stay as close as your back yard; visit a local park, playground or recreation area; or check out nearby state parks. My favorite places are the Hardberger Park & Dog Park located at 13203 Blanco Road, San

Antonio, TX 78216; Eisenhower Park located at 19399 N.W. Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78257; and the Government Canyon State Natural Area located at 12861 Galm Rd, San Antonio, TX 78254. For more ideas, visit <http://www.visitsanantonio.com/visitors/play/outdoor-recreation/parks/index.aspx>.

Recommended outdoor activities include the following: (1) hiking and walking, to improve cardiovascular health; (2) riding a bike, to improve balance and endurance; and (3) swimming, an excellent low-impact activity to help you burn a lot of calories, improve strength, flexibility and cardiovascular health.

Make sure you bring the following essentials when active outside: water to stay hydrated, healthy snacks, sunscreen, hat and sunglasses to protect from the sun's UV rays, rain gear, and extra layers of clothes in case it becomes chilly.

This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended as medical advice.

References: Get Active Outside, Wortham Insurance, 2011 and Visit San Antonio.com; at <http://www.visitsanantonio.com/visitors/play/outdoor-recreation/parks/index.aspx> (last viewed January 23, 2013).



Help Us Welcome Our Newest Members!



Candice P. Garcia	Sheila Grigar	Caroline L. Bertuzzi
Cheryl L. Auster	Alexis A. Scott	Jessica A. Newill
Kathleen H. Jarmiolowski	Serina Rivela	Cristina Corbo Jennings
Molly Elizabeth Neck	Caroleene Hardee	Justice Rebeca Martinez
Cecilia Hellrung	Celina Warren	Allyson E. Winslow
Shari Y. Mao	Erika M. Specia	Elisa Reinsmith

It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday



ileta A. Sumner

By ileta A. Sumner

Seven years after my diagnosis, seven years of annual "Go Red for Women" articles each February, I kind of felt that you all may be tired of seeing the same warning, reading the same story...and then, November 2012 happened. You see, within the span of ten days, five people that I knew died, four of them women, three of them from previously undiagnosed heart ailments. So, here I am. Again. Gently – okay, maybe not so subtly, maybe the term should be "directly" – warning you of the dangers of not taking care of one's heart. Only this time, it's not my story, but two of theirs (abridged version).

Miss T. was a former co-worker of mine. I knew her 14 years. She had never been diagnosed with a cardiac problem; but worse, she had not had her heart examined, despite knowing me and my story. One Wednesday, around 5:00 a.m., her spouse heard her "gurgle." That was it. Just a gurgle...and like that – POOF! She was gone. Miss T. had a massive heart attack. The news rocked my world – she was only 46!

Miss P. was my cousin. She lived in Illinois. We didn't see each other often; however, her younger sister is a nurse and was the person who explained to me just what an "ejection fraction" was (it's a number that denotes how hard the heart muscle is squeezing, the lower the number, the worse. When I had told her sister back in 2005 that my ejection fraction was 10, I heard her inhale ever so inaudibly and I knew my outlook was bleak, but I digress). On Monday, Miss P. had a stroke. By 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, she was gone. Like me, she had no personal history of cardiac problems. We were family; thus, since I had no familial connection with heart disease, neither did she. Finally, we both were related to someone who had more than a passing knowledge of cardiac disease, my younger cousin, her younger sister. Nevertheless, she was buried in November 2012 at the age of 62.

Hence, I guess my message never gets old: We are instructed to get Pap smears; we are scolded if we fail to get our mammograms; still, heart disease is the number one

killer of women and rarely, unless we are experiencing some discomfort, do we get regularly scheduled heart exams. Therefore, you may feel it's too late in the year to make a New Year's resolution, but I am beseeching you to add just one more to your list: GET YOUR HEART CHECKED! It may seem like a purely selfish reason; however, I don't EVER want to live through another month like November 2012. Oh, and wear red on the first Friday of February in honor of the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" campaign, in remembrance of those who have succumb to the ravages of heart disease and for those of us survivors. I'll be in red, not for myself, but for my friends to whom I had to say, "Goodbye". It has already been three months; still, it feels as though they were just here yesterday. I hope that you'll wear red for them too!

ileta A. Sumner, a former President of the BCWB, was diagnosed with congestive heart failure in 2005 with a life expectancy of 5 years.

**How do I say goodbye to what we had?
The good times that made us laugh
Outweigh the bad.
I thought we'd get to see forever
But forever's gone away
It's so hard to say
goodbye to yesterday.
Boys II Men/written by
Freddie Perren & Christine
Yarian**

Elizabeth Copeland: A 2012 Tax Policy Center Person of the Year

Elizabeth A. Copeland, a partner with Strasburger Price Oppenheimer Blend, has been named one of the 2012 Tax Policy Center Persons of the Year by the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. According to Tax Notes, in its annual publication of this award, Copeland was chosen because she has been a major force in ensuring that financially strapped Texans no longer have to face Tax Court calendar calls without the guidance of a lawyer.

As chair of the State Bar of Texas Section of Taxation's Pro Bono Committee in 2008, Copeland helped form the nation's first statewide, bar-sponsored pro bono program in which tax attorneys volunteer to advise pro se taxpayers

on the law and Tax Court procedures. In 2012 that program assisted more than 70 taxpayers during 30 separate calendar calls, and since its inception it has been used as a model by numerous state and local bar associations.

Copeland, a partner at Strasburger Price Oppenheimer Blend in San Antonio, said the program is "a huge benefit to our community, particularly where a case can be settled in the taxpayer's favor. The program is helpful to the Tax Court as well because the taxpayers coming before the court are better prepared for trial."

Copeland is an expert in civil tax controversy, covering both domestic and international issues. In 2012 she wrote an

article with Bryan Camp on defense strategies for innocent spouse cases and frequently speaks on both domestic and international tax issues.

In 2009 Copeland received the prestigious American Bar Association Section of Taxation Janet R. Spragens Pro Bono Award. She is immediate past chair of that section's Committee on Appointments to the Tax Court, has served on the Pro Bono Committee, and is chair-elect of the State Bar of Texas Section of Taxation. A CPA previously with Ernst & Young LLP in Dallas, Copeland earned her JD from the University of Texas School of Law and served as attorney adviser to Tax Court Judge Mary Ann Cohen.

Others awarded include: Mitt



Romney; Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.; Manal Corwin, Treasury deputy assistant secretary for international tax affairs; Tamara Ashford, the Justice Department's top appellate tax; strategist, deputy assistant attorney general (appellate and review) in the Tax Division; Erskine Bowles; Scott D. Michel, president of Caplin & Drysdale; Dean A. Zerbe, Zerbe, Fingeret, Frank & Jadav PC; and Bryan T. Camp, Texas Tech University.

For more information contact Kelly Morris, 843-9900, kelly-morrispr@gmail.com.

BCWBA Lites

The Rosenblatt Law Firm, P.C. is pleased to announce that Tiffanie S. Clausewitz has joined the firm as an associate attorney. Tiffanie, BCWB's current President-Elect, is a 2008 graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law and a former briefing attorney for the Honorable Catherine M. Stone, Chief Justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals. She has experience in civil litigation and appeals, and will continue her practice in these areas.

ileta A. Sumner, (BCWB President 2002), former General Counsel for Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc. d/b/a The Battered Shelter of San Antonio, has joined the Board of Directors of Disability Rights, Texas (previously known as Advocacy Inc.), which addresses the needs of disabled persons including accessibility, housing, health care, transportation and civil rights. ileta is herself disabled, having survived congestive heart failure and chronic weight loss among other maladies.

Amber Liddell Alwais proud to announce that on August 6, 2012, she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Rebecca. Amber was recently promoted to Partner at her firm, McCurley, Orsinger, McCurley, Nelson & Downing, LLP. Congratulations Amber!

Kristal Thomson and her husband Derick welcomed their second child, Elizabeth Jane, on November 9, 2012. Elizabeth weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz and was 19 ¼ inches. Kristal is a partner at Wilson, Pennypacker & Thomson, L.L.P.

Haynes and Boone, LLP recently announced its newest class of partners, which includes BCWB past president Emma Cano. Emma s a member of the firm's Business Litigation/Trial Practice Group and focuses on complex commercial litigation.



Bexar County Women's Bar Association Picnic at the Missions

- Picnic is "all you can eat hotdogs, chips, potato salad, baked beans, and ice cream".
- Picnic is from 6:00-7:00pm and includes an upper reserve seat.
- Fireworks show following the game.



**Tulsa Drillers
VS.
San Antonio Missions
Saturday, April 6th
7:05 pm**



FORMER MISSIONS IN THE BIG LEAGUES.

- Chase Headley
- Felix Hernandez
- Mat Latos
- Greg Dobbs
- Paul Konerko
- Shin Soo Choo
- J.J. Putz
- Adam Jones

Bexar County Women's Bar Association

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

#of Tickets: _____ \$18 Adult Picnic _____ \$15 Child Picnic (3-12 years of age) 2 & under free



**SCHMOYER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cristina Corbo Jennings Joins Schmoyer Reinhard LLP

SAN ANTONIO, TX – January 22, 2013 – Schmoyer Reinhard LLP is pleased to announce that Cristina Corbo Jennings has joined the firm as Senior Counsel.

“We are thrilled to have Cristina join the firm and develop an ERISA and employee benefits practice for us. Her strong background in these areas will allow us to add significant value to our clients,” said Christine E. Reinhard, partner at the firm.

Ms. Jennings’ practice will focus on advising benefits and other HR professionals on legal matters involving employee benefits, including plan administration and issues relating to ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code, COBRA, HIPAA, and other applicable laws. In addition, she will work with employers on employee benefit plan design, administration, and compliance, including pension, health and welfare plans. Ms. Jennings also has experience with advising on employment and benefit issues in business transactions as well as executive compensation and nonqualified plans.

Ms. Jennings’ prior experience will enable her further to assist clients with a variety of employment-related issues that may arise on a daily basis in the workplace, including with the administration of leave benefits, data privacy obligations, preparation and review of policies and procedures, and drafting general employee communications.

Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Jennings was in-house counsel for the Valero Companies. During her tenure, she managed the labor and employment group within the legal department and had responsibility for all aspects of employment and benefit issues for the company’s corporate, refining, and other non-retail operations. In addition, she was formerly an associate with Hunton & Williams LLP in their ERISA/employee benefits section in the Dallas office.

Ms. Jennings received her J.D., *cum laude*, from St. Mary’s University School of Law in 1996. She received her B.S. in Economics, *cum laude*, from Texas A&M University in 1993.

About Schmoyer Reinhard LLP

Schmoyer Reinhard LLP is a San Antonio-based law firm that focuses on advising and representing companies throughout the United States in labor and employment law, employee benefits and ERISA matters, construction litigation, and business litigation. Schmoyer Reinhard’s partners are Board Certified in either Labor and Employment Law or Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

For more information, please contact Christy Meador, director of marketing and account services, at Schmoyer Reinhard LLP, at 210.447.8033 or cmeador@sr-llp.com.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Schmoyer Reinhard Announces Move to Éilan Office Complex

SAN ANTONIO, TX – January 4, 2012 – Schmoyer Reinhard LLP is excited to announce the law firm has moved its offices to the recently completed Éilan office complex located in San Antonio, Texas.

“The new office is a reflection of our expanding practice and commitment to our clients,” said Shannon B. Schmoyer. “We are fortunate to be located in such a well-positioned building, which will let us continue to pursue our growth strategy in San Antonio, improve office space efficiency, and better serve our clients.”

The interior office space has been designed to allow a greater number of conference rooms, improved reception and communal areas, as well as a brighter and more spacious working environment. The building is situated along the IH 10 corridor which will be a convenient location for the firm’s current clients as well as guests visiting the firm.

Schmoyer Reinhard’s new address is as follows:

Schmoyer Reinhard LLP
17806 IH 10 West, Suite 400
San Antonio, Texas 78257

The firm’s phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

About Schmoyer Reinhard LLP

Schmoyer Reinhard LLP is a San Antonio-based law firm that focuses on advising and representing companies throughout the United States in labor and employment law as well as construction and business litigation. All of Schmoyer Reinhard’s partners are Board Certified in either Labor and Employment Law or Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and every attorney at the firm has experience providing counsel on best practices to avoid litigation. When litigation does arise, Schmoyer Reinhard’s qualified trial attorneys help to achieve the best possible result for the client.

For more information, please contact Christy Meador, director of marketing and account services, at 210.447.8033 or cmeador@sr-llp.com.

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