

PREVIOUS MEETINGS / EVENTS

October Luncheon Meeting – Speaker Karen Spiewak

At our October meeting, our President, Karen Spiewak had us emptying our purses to see what we had in there for self-defense, protection and simply to ward off a potential assailant. Some had spray perfume, repellent, keys, pens, and other items that one would not think could be of use in this situation. Karen conducts private classes for people of all ages.

If you want more information, you can reach Karen at spiewakconsultants@charter.net.



November Luncheon Meeting – Speaker Melinda Napolitano

Our November luncheon meeting featured our longtime friend and former member, Melinda Napolitano. Melinda's topic was "Balancing Act ~ Take 2." We try to do it all, multi-tasking at work and at home. Sometimes you are unable to do it efficiently; you need to organize and prioritize. Melinda's power point presentation was extremely informative. She assures us that "Balancing Act ~ Take 3" is in the works. Thank you, Melinda, for spending time with all of us.



Festival of (Giving) Trees

Woman In Business is proud to be an on-going supporter of this very worthy cause. Kudos to the organizers of this event! Thank you to all the members who donated decorations and helped decorate the tree. Special thanks to members Ginny Belforte and Carol Porra for going above and beyond and dedicating so much of their time the day we decorated the tree. (Next year, we need to remember to bring a stool). As you can see by the pictures, it was a beauty!



Mary Jaeger Creates Angel Depicting Woman In Business, Inc. Traits

Mary Jaeger captured the spirit of Woman in Business, Inc in her angel artwork which she gave to each WIB Celebration Attendee. Looking at the image, we see her juggling four balls. Each of these represent 10 years. Three for the 30 years of WIB and an additional ball stands for the next 10 years to come. Juggling and high heels symbolizes how women do it all, then and now. We are also nurturing- the sun symbolizes the growth of the flowers which also connects to WIB garden parties. Finally, the angel itself represents all of us and who we can be for each other as in the ways WIB has: the scholarship program, speakers, seminars, parties, words of encouragement, friendships, and networking. WIB wishes to thank you, Mary, for embodying the spirit of WIB in this lovely drawing of the WIB Angel!



*To our members who donated gift cards to be presented to a local women's charity:
Thank you for your kind and generous donations!*

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December 9 – WIB 30 Year Anniversary and Annual Christmas Party Celebrated at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center

Woman in Business, Inc. celebrated its 30 year anniversary together with its annual Christmas Party. As part of this celebration, we honored our founder, Judy Jaeger. We are pleased to note that we had a record turnout with a registered guest list of 55 people!

We had a grand time with the evening consisting of laughter, tears, joy, great food and beverages, singing, and dancing. And the chance to win some awesome prizes, including a fun prize fruitcake and a Christmas sweater ensemble! Who could ask for more?

WIB would like to extend a thank you to our members for engaging the new format minus the Yankee Swap. With many donations from our generous members and organizations, we were able to offer numerous prizes which were part of the ticket price for admission.

Our celebration honored our founder Judy Jaeger. Judy was in attendance with her family and friends. WIB is pleased to note that our list attendees included several original WIB from 30 years ago. We welcomed WIB original members, Ginny Belforte, Helen Doucette, Irene Garand, Judy Jaeger (honoree), Pat Jeffries, Joan Lacoste, Anne LaPlante, Lena Payant, and Carol Porra to join in the fun. Some of these members are still part of WIB today!

Our night began with opening remarks from Karen Spiewak, WIB President, welcoming all to this grand party and celebration. Our emcee for the evening was Rita Schiano of Live a Flourishing Life, who engaged the crowd by beginning to recount and reminisce on her earliest memories of first meeting Judy. Rita went on to elaborate by bringing up several attendees to give brief presentations about Judy. Speeches honoring Judy were given by Ray Jaeger, Mary Jaeger, Judith Ann Jaeger, Joan Lacoste, Ann LaPlante, and a speech was even presented on behalf of original member Beverly Gray (who was not able to attend).

Mary Jaeger introduced the WIB angel which she created. The story of the WIB angel is described separately in this newsletter. WIB was surprised, pleased, and blessed to receive a special donation by the Jaeger family for the WIB Scholarship Fund of \$1,000 donation. WIB wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the Jaeger family for their very generous donation.

Carol Porra and Irene Garand presented Judy with a special memento gift of an old fashioned glass etched with the letters WIB, and the mixings fill it up a few times over! Rita sang Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas directly to Judy. Between this song, the emotionally charged speeches, and fond memories, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. We reminisced and enjoyed the memories with Judy and family.

Throughout the evening, numerous prizes were given away as part of the entry ticket. We even had a gag prize in the group. None other than a fruitcake! The good spirited winner of the fruit cake was lucky enough to also win a non-gag prize!

We capped the evening off by re-entering all the names, except for the board and officers, back into the hat to draw pick the winners of our three mystery gifts. Winners could pick from Prize #1, Prize #2, or Prize #3 (one was a fun gift of a Christmas sweater ensemble) and were asked to do a stunt or sing a song before claiming their prize.

The purchased tickets for the 50/50 drawing and the Weekend at the Host were drawn and we moved to wrap up the evening with the entire group signing The Twelve Days of Christmas. Each table took on a day and did a song and symbolic gesture to act their day of Christmas out!

The finale was a group song and dance sung by the some of the crowd where participants were entertaining all with antics, singing, dancing, and good cheer. We also thank members for their generous donations of gift cards which WIB will give away to local Women's charities. We will be publishing more about the recipients(s) soon. Additional thank yous for gifts and donations follow this article.



Woman In Business, Inc. Special Thank You's

On behalf of Woman in Business, Inc., we would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their donation to the Christmas Party and Thirty Year Celebration:

Brenda Bianculli
ELIZABETH GRADY - Salon Millbury
Irene Garand
Judith Ann Jaeger
Judy Jaeger

Mary Jaeger
Ray Jaeger
Carol Porra
Kids Unlimited
Deb Kizilcan of Empowerment-Hypnosis

Karen Spiewak
Sturbridge Host
Mary Vizzo of Creative Designs
Members who donated gift cards