

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

244 Dayton street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.ywcahamilton.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Oct. 15 Dove House Vigil & Rally, Middletown, Ohio, 5:00 pm
- Oct. 21 YWCA Racial Justice Workshop, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Board Workshop/Meeting, 4:00 - 6:30 pm
- Oct. 22 Dove House Vigil & Rally, Hamilton, Ohio, 6:00 pm
- Nov. 5 Outstanding Women of Achievement Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, 11:30 am, Wilks Conference Center, Miami University Hamilton (Reservation form enclosed.)
- Nov. 25 YWCA Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
- Dec. 5 Festival of Trees, 7:00 -11:00 pm at the YWCA

**108 YEARS OF CARING FOR
BUTLER COUNTY WOMEN AND FAMILIES!**

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eliminating racism
empowering women

Autumn 2008

Serving Butler County Since 1900

the ywca news

YWCA

244 Dayton St.
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
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www.ywcahamilton.org

YWCA

**2008-2009
Board of Directors**

President
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Victoria Ryan

Mary St. John

Geraldine Wilson

▲ ▲ ▲

Executive Director
Sibyl A. Miller
LMSW, ACSW

▲ ▲ ▲

Newsletter Editor
Mary Glasmeier



Jacky Banks



Ginger Bruggeman



Daria Daniels



Sally Fiehrer



Karen Miller

YWCA President Lee Sanders invites the community to celebrate with us at a luncheon and award ceremony as we recognize these five extraordinary women and their contributions to Butler County.

**23rd Annual Salute to
Outstanding Women
of Achievement**

**Wednesday, November 5
11:30 a.m. • Wilks Conference Center**

Miami University Hamilton
Reservations may be made by calling 856-9800
or by submitting the enclosed order form.

Each of these outstanding women has a passion to make a difference. Their accomplishments are impressive, as you will find in the following highlights.

Jacky Banks

"You can sit back and see what others are doing, or you can join in and have a real feeling of commitment to your community."

Jacky and her family relocated to Middletown in 1989. It did not take her long to get involved in the community. As a "stay at home" mom, her time flexibility allowed her to volunteer in various capacities on numerous committees and projects - from leadership roles to working behind the scenes. Jacky just wants to do whatever is necessary to get the job done.

As her six children left the nest, she had even more time to invest in the Middletown community. Her generosity with her time and her spirit of giving is obvious in the variety of her involvements.

Jacky has been involved in numerous projects with the following organizations: Middletown Chamber of Commerce, Middletown Area United Way, Midfest International, Rotary Club, Junior Achievement, American Cancer Society, Middletown Community Foundation, Middletown Symphony, Middletown Federation of Women's Clubs, Sorg Opera, Ohio Challenge Balloon Event, Holy Family Parish, Arts in Middletown, LifeSpan, Prevent Blindness of Ohio, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Jacky says, "I have worked on many community projects. I enjoy helping anywhere and any time I can. I bring women who

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**CHRISTMAS GREENS &
POINSETTIA SALE**

The YWCA Family Literacy Program is already preparing for the holidays. We are proud to continue a tradition that has been a part of the YWCA for many years. We will once again have our greens and poinsettia sale. Wreaths, roping, wall hangings, and poinsettias of all sizes and colors will be sold.

The sale will begin in October, and the items will be here in time for the holidays. For more information, an order form, or to place an order, please call Nancy Schwab at 856-9800. If you are a member of a church or an organization that purchases poinsettias over the holidays, we will be happy to supply your needs. The proceeds go to the YWCA Literacy Program. ▲

**DOVE HOUSE
VIGILS & RALLIES**

We mark Domestic Violence
Awareness Month
with two events to which
the public is warmly invited



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15 • 5:00 P.M.
Woodside Cemetery & Arboretum
Middletown, Ohio

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 • 6:00 P.M.
at the Historic Courthouse on High Street with
a procession to the YWCA, Hamilton, Ohio

Featuring speakers, food, displays, music,
and inspiring words from survivors of domestic violence.
The programs underscore the need to rid our county of the
terrible crime of domestic violence.

The Dove House Crisis Line
1-800-618-6523
is available to all, 24 hours a day, for help and guidance

Outstanding Women (continued from pg. 1)

are new to the community to many of the activities to get them involved. I encourage people to get involved, help where needed, pick up a broom, use a paintbrush, carry a dish, send out invitations, stuff envelopes, stand outside the voting polls and help your community. You can sit back and see what others are doing, or you can join and have a real feeling of commitment to your community." Jacky understands that you receive the most by giving the best you have to the community. She is a wonderful example of community volunteering.

Ginger Bruggeman

"My parents instilled strong values and attitudes from an early age that have served me well and continue to do so. You will get back what you give. Find the positives in every heartache. Always give 110%. And, examine the grass on the other side — is it really greener?"

Ginger began babysitting at about age 12. She discovered that there were times when she should not charge for services — such as times of economic hardship or illnesses. This compassion planted the seed of volunteering, along with the values instilled by her parents.

As the oldest of ten children, she assumed leadership when their mother died when the youngest sibling was 14 years old. She was dubbed "the General" for looking after everyone and helping them with what they needed. The General is still leading the family today.

Her first career was styling hair. She began providing service at funeral homes

and hospice to do something more meaningful. But it was the United Way campaign at the hospital that really inspired her to make a change. How could she devote her career to helping others?

She is now the Senior Development Associate for the Middletown United Way and has helped countless individuals, both directly and indirectly. But it does not stop there. Ginger is also involved in numerous organizations aimed at empowering women, creating opportunities for underprivileged individuals, and bettering the Middletown community as a whole.

As a member of the Middletown Soroptimist International Club, she has collected toiletries, cell phones, and other needed items for YWCA's Dove House; she was instrumental in the planning of numerous programs, such as the Adult GED graduation and the informational seminar about Internet Predators. Ginger devotes time as an Ambassador for the Middletown Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Butler County Development Roundtable and W.H.I.M.S. (an organization that helps women). She volunteers her time for Middfest, Ohio Hot Air Balloon Challenge, AK Steel's Christmas Wonderland, Bishop Fenwick High School, and Holy Family Parish.

Ginger has chosen to dedicate much of her life to helping others, in both her career and her personal life. She inspires others to become inspirational as well. Her positive, ambitious attitude is contagious, making everyone around

her want to get on board for whatever needs to be done. She is, to put it simply, "the General," a General with warmth and kindness.

Daria Daniels

"When faced with a challenge, look for a way, not a way out." - This quote by David L. Weatherford is Daria's favorite.

A Hamilton native, Daria was a senior programmer for the IRS in Arlington, Virginia and, upon retiring in 2004, returned home to our area.

A friend since their Girl Scout days, Regina Johnson-Phillips, Day Camp Coordinator, called Daria to ask for her help. A swimming instructor was needed to fill in at the Booker T. Washington Community Center (BTW). Could she please help?

She did. Daria took the Water Safety Test to get certified and passed in spite of her insistence that she was not "in shape."

Thus she became the swimming instructor for both children and adults. Then she added water aerobics for the "Seniors are Precious" program, which she directs. Daria is totally committed to a variety of programs at BTW.

She offers computer classes to the community residents and is the on-site coordinator for the Earned Income Tax Credit Program (EITC), offering free on-line tax filing for low-income residents. Formerly Daria had worked for H&R Block but decided her skills were better used to help the local community.

As a computer programmer, she was trained to make deadlines and pay attention to details. This was of utmost importance because many depended on her to do just that. She turned this discerning eye and persistence to BTW. She put in countless hours updating their recordkeeping and accounting systems.

After serving as a member of the Board of Directors for BTW, she has recently been appointed as Board President. She is actively writing grant proposals and engaging in fundraising to keep this much-needed community center in operation.

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Outstanding Women (continued from pg. 2)

Daria has made volunteering for BTW her new career. She states, "We MUST make Booker T. Washington Community Center succeed." This is the type of volunteer leadership that makes a true difference.

Sally Fiehrer

"We must change the unfair perception and stigma about brain disorders/mental illness. They have a biochemical basis and have always been a part of the human condition."

Sally is a compelling advocate for families facing mental illness. Twenty years ago, a family member was diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). Sally gained a deep understanding that changed her life and led her to help others deal with similar situations.

In the early 1980s, Sally, a social worker, served on the Children's Home Board. She then became ombudsman for the Mental Health Board's first successful mental health levy. With that and her positive experience with the Hamilton County Chapter of National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), she became Volunteer Director of Butler County's Chapter of NAMI.

Sally has assisted countless family members of mentally ill persons. She is untiring in her efforts to help. She always has time for someone who doesn't know where to turn. She is unflagging in her show of kindness and respect to the ones afflicted with mental illness. She stresses that mental illness has a biochemical basis, and the stigma must be removed so that effective and compassionate treatment can be obtained.

Sally was instrumental in forming the mental health court in Butler County and has worked very hard to get the recently passed PARITY insurance bill passed in Ohio. (PARITY requires group health insurance plans to treat mental illness on par with any other physical illness.) The next step is to get it passed at the federal level, where support is strong.

As Director of NAMI, she produces a monthly newsletter that is invaluable as is the annual conference that she orchestrates each May. The most recent conference focused on bipolar disorder. She is a skilled educator and communicator.

Sally was presented with an award from the regional National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in 2008 for her work in reducing stigma for those facing mental illness.

Those who cross Sally's path find a warm, dedicated professional who is focused on her endeavors to improve the lives of those with mental illness and help their families. She is changing the perception of mental illness to a more accurate, compassionate view. She truly is saving lives in Butler County.

Karen Miller

"I got lucky. I found my place where I could make a difference. You can't ask for more."

Karen began her community involvement while in high school when she was a lifeguard and a gymnastics instructor at the YMCA. In college, while studying Health, Physical Education & Recreation, she volunteered at the Boys Club, where boys 6-16 were served full-time and only a handful of programs were available for girls.

In 1980, it was realized that a full-time program for girls was needed, and Karen took the position as Program Director. She was one of the first female employees ever hired in the national organization. By 1995 the club was renamed The Boys & Girls Club and officially became co-ed. Karen became Assistant Executive Director and then Executive Director, which she has been for the last 28 years. She is admired by the Board, staff, and the children she serves.

Karen is an inspiration to her staff who daily see her put the needs of the children before her own. She is genuine, compassionate, selfless, giving and an

amazing role model for the thousands of boys and girls who have passed through the doors of the club. She consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty.

In addition to her lifelong dedication to the Boys & Girls Club, she became involved in the Northwest Schools PTA, the Knight Olympics, and was a Girl Scout leader for 6 years. She was happy to encourage teamwork and responsibility. She felt very connected to this type of work, building on her experiences at the Boys & Girls Club.

It's wonderful for our community that Karen found her place where she could make a difference. Butler County is very fortunate to have her skills, dedication, and warmth. ▲

ywca

"needs" list

Can You Help Us?

- ➔ Paper products
- ➔ Coffee, sugar, cereal
- ➔ Dish detergent
- ➔ Laundry detergent
- ➔ Shampoo
- ➔ Body wash, soaps
- ➔ Disposable diapers (all sizes, inc. newborn)
- ➔ New baby clothes, blankets
- ➔ Crib-size sheets
- ➔ Spray cleaner
- ➔ Disposable mealware
- ➔ Floor model electric fan
- ➔ Electric blender
- ➔ Electric can opener
- ➔ Food processor
- ➔ Heavy duty stockpot
- ➔ Cookbooks

JOIN OUR TWO VIGILS:**DOVE HOUSE VIGIL & RALLY**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15 • 5:00 P.M.

Woodside Cemetery & Arboretum, Middletown, Ohio

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 • 6:00 P.M.

at the Historic Courthouse on High Street in Hamilton, Ohio, proceeding to the YWCA.





A Letter from Lee Sanders

YWCA Board President

Dear Friends and Members of the YWCA, I am both honored and pleased to be serving as the president of the board of directors for the 2008-09 program year. I have served on the board for five years, and my admiration for the staff of the YWCA and the work it continues to do has only grown in that period of time. Our new program year is now underway, and I invite you to learn more about the workings of the YWCA and to participate in ways that work for you. As you know, the program at the YWCA is led by our outstanding executive director Sibyl Miller and her highly capable and caring staff. The programs include two Dove House Shelters for

abused women and their children, the growing literacy program, the renovated housing with the option of attending the Culinary School on-site, and a variety of other opportunities designed to further the national as well as local goals of empowering women and eliminating racism.

The board has also been hard at work over the last several years. In addition to the governing work, we are learning to talk with one another about difficult issues such as power, gender, and race, believing that each person can have a positive "ripple effect" in the world.

The fall is a special time of year for the YWCA. In November, we will recognize five Outstanding Women of Achievement from Butler County. The luncheon will be held at the Harry T. Wilks Conference Center at Miami University Hamilton on November 5, and will be a celebration of the lives and work of these fine citizens of our area. I always leave the luncheon inspired by how much good there is in the world, by the opportunities that exist for sharing, and by the people who take those

opportunities to make Butler County a better place to live. You'll read about this year's honorees elsewhere in the Newsletter. Also in the late fall will be the Festival of Trees. This year the beautifully decorated trees will grace the public spaces of the YWCA, and the money made in their sale will benefit our programs. Look for more information in this and upcoming communications.

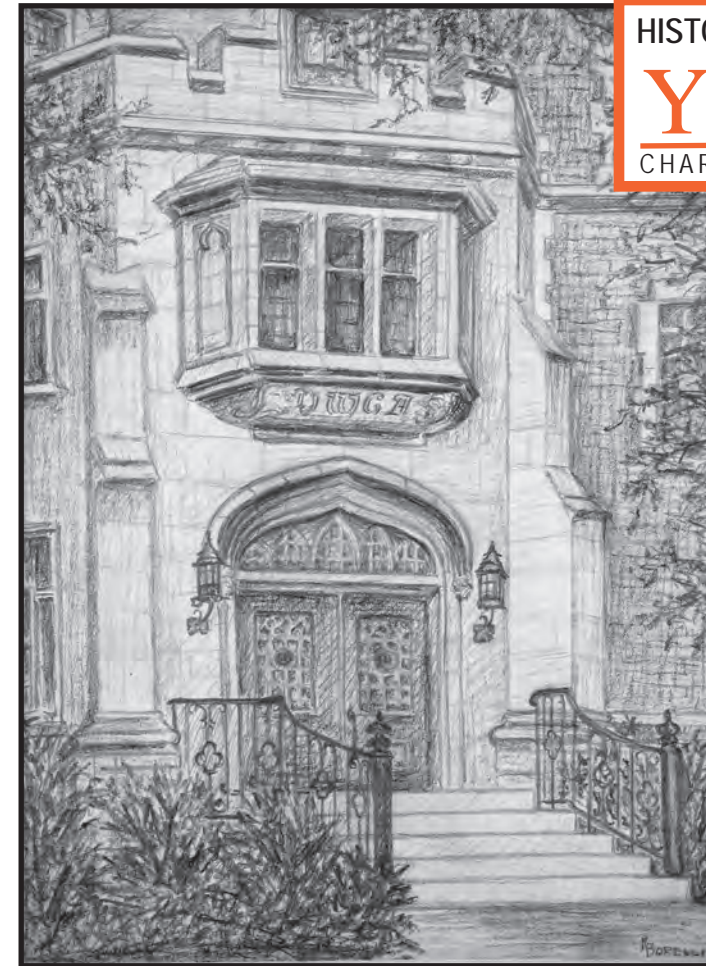
Over the next year, I will offer you concrete ways in which you can offer your own special gifts to the YWCA and to the women we serve. The first is two-fold—become a member if you have not yet done so, and attend the November luncheon to honor our special women of achievement. If you are able to attend the latter, you will leave with a new sense of hope about humanity!

I wish all of you a beautiful and fulfilling Fall, and look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Lee K. Sanders
President of the Board of Directors

HISTORIC MOMENTS
YWCA
CHARTERED IN 1902



An Artist's Imprint

Submitted by Pat Irwin

The steps of the YWCA building have been touched by many shoes of many people. Recently we watched the athletes participating in the Summer Olympics as they crossed a giant multi-colored ink pad, leaving their prints for China's posterity. So too have many artists left their imprint in our stately YWCA building.

One is the beautiful pencil sketch that hangs in the board room (see picture). It is a rendering of the building done by Ruth Borelli. According to Ann Antenen, her art instructor of some 50 years ago, "Ruth had a special talent that was developed at the Cincinnati Art Academy." The classes were actually held in the YWCA building.

According to Ruth's relatives, Marilyn and Tom Ruwe, Ruth Keiser Borelli, was born in 1902 and died in 1980. She and her twin, Naomi, were active in Hamilton. She was married to Dr. John Borelli. Many of her large floral paintings still hang in family and friends' homes. Ruth's art work is truly a treasure.

Mark your calendar!

FESTIVAL OF TREES GALA

DECEMBER 5
7:00 - 11:00 PM

ywca
244 Dayton Street, Hamilton, Ohio



2008 YWCA Annual Meeting



YWCA Board Vice President Regina Johnson-Phillips addresses the gathering at the Annual Meeting on April 22, 2008. Seated behind her are 2007-08 YWCA Board President Carla Fiehrer, Board member Jean Bimel, Executive Director Sibyl Miller, staff members Helen Rogers, and Leslie Jewett.



The Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing is a series of conferences designed to bring the research and career interests of women in computing to the forefront. (gracehopper.org)