



# HELPING women

SUMMER 2008 VOLUME 8, NO. 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
ENTERPRISE WOMEN'S  
NETWORK OF BALTIMORE

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Photo by Harry Connolly

Luncheon Co-chairs Anne London (left) and Merlene Adair.

## ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

The Enterprise Women's Network (EWN) was in full bloom during the annual Spring Luncheon on April 11, 2008 at the American Visionary Art Museum. Donated centerpieces with spring flowers of every kind decorated the tables, while the record-crowd of 300 EWN members and their guests turned out in bright-colored splendor. The day's weather—one of the first sunny days in April—added to the spirit of celebration for EWN's work with Enterprise Community Partners to create stronger, sustainable communities in Baltimore.

Co-chaired by EWN Steering Committee members Merlene Adair and Anne London, the luncheon offered EWN members and supporters the opportunity to share the Enterprise and EWN mission and many accomplishments with a larger group. An unexpected program change—keynote speaker Baltimore City Mayor Sheila Dixon was unable to attend at the last minute—hardly registered with the

engaged crowd, thanks to Adair's off-the-cuff wit and grace as emcee. "There was real energy from start to finish," recalls Adair, who retired a year ago as Dean of Baltimore City Community College and is a charter member of the EWN Steering Committee. "The women who attend are enthusiastic about EWN and so open to the need for decent housing and education for our children." Remarks by Adair and George Kleb, Executive Director of Bon Secours of Maryland Foundation, offered the EWN volunteer and community partner perspective.

Guests learned about Enterprise and EWN accomplishments in the region and at Enterprise's partner schools [George G. Kelson Elementary/Middle School and William H. Pinderhughes Elementary in Sandtown-Winchester] through remarks by Kelly Cartales, Enterprise Senior Vice President  
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## **NORMAN RICE**

Chairman  
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

## **DORIS KOO**

President and CEO  
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

## **PATRICIA T. ROUSE**

Co-Founder, Vice President and Secretary  
Enterprise  
Honorary Chair  
The Enterprise Women's Network

## **KELLY CARTALES**

Senior Vice President and Mid Atlantic Director,

## **ANNE LONDON**

Co-Chair  
Enterprise Women's Network of Baltimore

## **PAT TUNSTALL**

Co-Chair  
Enterprise Women's Network of Baltimore

## **LOUISE P. HOBLITZELL**

Founding Co-Chair  
Enterprise Women's Network of Baltimore

## **LINDA HAMBLETON PANITZ**

Founding Co-Chair  
Enterprise Women's Network of Baltimore

## **MARY JEAN HERRON**

Newsletter Editor

## **SARAH ACHENBACH**

Newsletter Writer

## **THE ENTERPRISE MISSION**

To see that all low-income people in the United States have the opportunity for fit and affordable housing and to move up and out of poverty into the mainstream of American life.

## **THE BALTIMORE ENTERPRISE WOMEN'S NETWORK'S MISSION**

Enterprise Women's Network of Baltimore channels the energies of women across the region toward helping low-income women and children improve the quality of life for themselves, their families, and their communities. EWN provides opportunities to support Enterprise Baltimore through advocacy, networking, philanthropy and volunteering.

*Helping Women* is a publication promoting the Enterprise Women's Network of Baltimore.

## FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

*Dear Friends,*

Summer is typically relaxation time, and we hope you are doing just that! At EWN, we are busy following up with guests who attended the spectacular EWN spring luncheon, co-chaired by Merlene Adair and Anne London. Education Co-Chairs Tachelle Rich and Tiffany Tate are recruiting new mentors and planning another exciting year of activities for the 40 mentees and their EWN mentors. We are also working hard to spread the Enterprise and EWN message and mission in the region with expanded press coverage, more members, and increased dollars to support Enterprise's education and housing initiatives.

This is our third and final year as Co-Chairs of the EWN Steering Committee. Tenure is typically two years with the option for a third. There is still much left that we want to accomplish, particularly moving our Strategic Plan forward. But the real reason for another year at the helm is the community we have found at EWN. It is such a phenomenal group of truly multicultural and multigenerational women leaders across the region, from every imaginable career field and walk of life.

Word is spreading, both about the work Enterprise and EWN are doing in the community, and the community of volunteers. EWN membership is growing, due in large part to the efforts of Membership Committee Co-Chairs Sylvia Brown and Liz Schroeder. The Nominating Committee, co-chaired by Betsy Hayes and Frances Wright, offers new leadership and continues to work with Steering Committee growth and transition. If you or someone you know would enjoy working on the EWN Steering Committee or as an EWN Mentor, please contact Betsy Hayes at [bhayes@chapindavis.com](mailto:bhayes@chapindavis.com).

The reality of the communities we help is that many of the children do not grow up in a culture of reading with



**Pat Tunstall and Anne London**

Photo by Harry Connolly

books at home. Book donations make it possible for children to take books home from our partner schools or through Enterprise's Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters program (HIPPEY) program for preschoolers and their parents. Such books turn children into readers, and readers achieve. We extend our grateful thanks to Bryn Mawr School, which raised \$1,800 through its annual book sale to purchase books, and McDonogh School and Rodgers Forge Elementary School, which donated new and gently used books for the schools' recently renovated Media Centers and classroom libraries.

These are the small, transforming moments that make our volunteer work with EWN so rewarding, from a child discovering *Charlotte's Web*, to a mentor and her mentee sharing a laugh—and both a lesson in seeing a different perspective—on a bus ride to Washington, D.C. For us, perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of EWN are friendships forged through a shared commitment to making the lives of everyone in Baltimore better, healthier, more prosperous, and more dignified. Thank you to the EWN Steering Committee, EWN members, and the Enterprise staff for all their work and for inspiring us for the past two years and the year to come.

*Fondly,  
Anne and Pat*

## A GROWING RELATIONSHIP:

*Mentor Lolly Strudwick and Mentee Shamira Coates*

For six years, EWN volunteer Lolly Strudwick and Shamira Coates, now in the 8th grade at Kelson Elementary/Middle, have shared a friendship. Together with the other mentors and their female mentees, who range in age from 3rd to 8th grade, they enjoy a wonderful variety of biweekly activities and field trips. For Strudwick, mentoring offers a different volunteer experience from her work at her children's schools and on the Walters' Women's Committee and Warfield Fund board, a non-profit supporting older women who wish to remain in their homes. Coates' feelings are best summed up in a recent mentoring activity during which the girls wrote a six-word sentence to describe their experience with the EWN Mentor program. "Best six years of my life," she wrote.

### What have you learned from each other?

**Shamira:** I was really shy, but she taught me to look her straight in the eye when we talk. I do that now with everyone. I have learned to stand up for myself and for other people. Since being in the program, I do more homework and participate more at school.

**Lolly:** Over time, our shared experiences have given us a window into our different lives and communities. It is my hope that the exposure the girls receive from the mentors and the activities in this program will help expand their personal horizons.

### What has been your favorite activity together?

**Lolly:** She just loved the gardening day in spring 2007 when we planted rose bushes in front of Kelson. That was the most animated I had ever seen her. Some of the most rewarding times for both the mentors and the girls are the one-on-one and group classroom sessions where we connect with the girls and form lasting relationships based on friendship and respect.

**Shamira:** I love growing things. Every time I see the bushes, I think about all the fun we've had together. I also like to go to the different colleges. One of my goals is to get through high school. I like to cook and grill and might want to be a chef.

### What is the best part about being in the Mentor program?

**Shamira:** Other kids at Kelson treat us as leaders. We're responsible for things that happen; we have more judgment and consideration for other people. The program has made a huge difference in my life.

**Lolly:** I often think of the issues confronting our City schools and what can be done to ameliorate them. This has been an incredibly positive program. Pinderhughes and Kelson are completely vested in this. The mentors each contribute something different, so the girls have a wide range of interests and role models.

## 2007-08 MENTORING TRIPS

Each year, the EWN Mentoring program plans a variety of local and regional day trips designed to expand the cultural and social experiences of the girls in the Mentoring program at Pinderhughes Elementary and Kelson Elementary/Middle. This year's trips were no exception.

**November:** Toured Johns Hopkins University and enjoyed lunch at the Johns Hopkins Club.

**January:** Actor Anthony Mackie (*We are Marshall, Million Dollar Baby, Half Nelson, and She Hate Me*) presented a theatre workshop.

**February:** Visited the National Museum of the American Indian and Air and Space Museum.

**April:** Middle-school mentees enjoyed a yoga workshop and elementary students had a puberty workshop.

**May:** Visited Moose Ridge and Calico Moon alpaca farms. Visited the Studio Museum in Harlem, NY and attended the one-man play, *Thurgood*, starring Laurence Fishburne in the title role of U.S. Supreme Justice Thurgood Marshall. This trip was sponsored by actor Anthony Mackie and Enterprise Community Partners.

## BART HARVEY HONORED

On June 5, 2008 at a Washington, D.C. gala, F. Barton "Bart" Harvey, III received the prestigious National Housing Conference (NHC) 2008 "Housing Person of the Year" award. While serving as Chairman and CEO of Enterprise Community Partners from 1993-2006, and as Chairman until March 12 of this year, Enterprise's national impact grew from \$200 million for 5,000 affordable

homes annually to more than \$1 billion supporting more than 20,000 units per year. Harvey's devotion to Enterprise dates back to 1985, when he took what he thought would be a short sabbatical from Wall Street and joined his friend Jim Rouse at the then-fledgling Enterprise Foundation. He and Rouse helped Congress create the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit to provide financing

for the majority of affordable rental units in the United States. Congress appointed him to the Millennial Housing Commission in 2002; Harvey has served on numerous boards and will continue to serve on the Enterprise Board.



## Q&A WITH DORIS KOO

*President and CEO, Enterprise Community Partners*

Doris Koo's 30-plus-year community development career began in 1979 when she and her husband volunteered for Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) in New York City. In 1984, she became AAFE's founding executive director, and by partnering with the then-new Enterprise Foundation, Koo and AAFE began developing affordable housing. To date, AAFE has leveraged the financing to build or renovate more than 500 affordable apartments in Chinatown, on the Lower East Side and throughout New York City, and manage lending and counseling programs for first time homebuyers. Before joining Enterprise in 2001 and becoming president and CEO in 2006, Koo was deputy director of the Seattle Housing Authority. We talked with Koo about her philosophy and inspiration behind her calling.

**Q: What inspired your career in community development?**

**A:** The philosophical framework that I grew up with as an immigrant of Asian descent emphasizes the power of the individual. In its essence, it says: Educate yourself, educate your family, lead a nation, and bring about world peace. Individual citizens build community, community builds global community, and it all adds up to a very powerful movement. This philosophy helps to anchor my strength, and despite setbacks, be they personal or of the magnitude of a national disaster such as Hurricane Katrina, to always be able to pick up and find my center.

In 1969, I left my home and family in Hong Kong at the age of 18 to study computer science at the University of Wisconsin, at Madison. In April 1970, during the very first Earth Day, I grasped the notion that I was a global citizen. I questioned whether I was cut out for a life in the computer lab when my heart and my spirit yearned to be in the streets with the people, working for change. As a sociology graduate student at the University of Chicago, I taught English



to Chinese immigrants working in factories. I realized that there were people who woke up each day and lived their lives without any glimmer of hope, choice, or opportunity. And while I didn't share their life circumstances, our fates intertwined. The bond was so deep, that I decided to stay in the United States.

**Q: When you began your career, community development as an organized movement and a career were just emerging. How necessary is community development three decades later?**

**A:** I believe that there has never been a more urgent—and hopeful—time for building communities. Because today, we can take what we have learned about changing the world, and invest our collective attention and energy into building a better global community, one that is more just, healthier and sustainable. Yet no matter how large or powerful your community, organization, foundation or corporation, change takes root within each of us, as individuals. We teach ourselves so we can shape the values of our family. From our families, we bring those values to our community, our country and, ultimately, the world.

**Q: Any recent inspirations?**

**A:** I will never forget the scenes of devastation [by Hurricane Katrina] and nothingness that stretched for miles and miles during one of my many trips from New Orleans to Biloxi, Mississippi, on Highway 90. Yet in the middle of this barren landscape are the region's live oaks [native trees that can live for 800 years and more]. Many of these sturdy, canopy-like trees had withstood the hurricanes because live oak trees live in colonies, or communities, with wide canopies and even wider and deeper root systems. And because the trees' roots are intertwined, the ones whose trunks have toppled will be held and supported by the roots of the neighboring oaks in their community. They will be sustained until they have a chance to grow new shoots, and in time, regain their strength and majestic splendor. These live oaks are symbols of hope in the Gulf Coast, rooted in strength and supported by community—just like the people of the region. Today, Enterprise has a permanent office in New Orleans, and we've committed \$200 million to help develop 10,000 affordable homes across the Gulf Coast. Each of us in Enterprise and EWN is part of this success, part of a root system that is nurturing new growth.

## BALTIMORE OFFICE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Enterprise is at an exciting juncture. We are deep in the planning process for a new, five-year strategic plan for Enterprise Baltimore. The draft plan is designed to dramatically expand our regional affordable and workforce housing impact in Maryland, such as calling for 10,000 housing units in the next five years. By comparison, during Enterprise's 20 years in Baltimore, we have created 13,000 housing units. Other key aspects are emerging partnerships with surrounding counties, particularly in high-impact areas of the federal Defense Department's Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) plans for Maryland. We are emphasizing comprehensive relationships with large-scale development initiatives, including our work with the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) and other Baltimore City departments and neighborhood coalitions on the 1500- acre Park Heights Master Plan. In addition, the new strategic plan calls for deepening our state policy work and expanding our education work. Once the Enterprise strategic plan is complete, we will work with EWN to update their existing strategic plan to help them to continue to support Enterprise in Maryland.



**Kelly Cartales**

This summer, Enterprise Baltimore has been extremely fortunate to acquire the eager services of three college interns with specific areas of interest and capability, ranging from economics to city planning and women and gender studies. Brandon Barrett, a University of Maryland College Park senior majoring in economics, is assisting the Deputy Director and Director of Development. Julie Hess, a Washington University (St. Louis) senior with a double major in Women and Gender Studies and Spanish—and the granddaughter of EWN member Sue Hess—is working with EWN. With her recent M.A. in Urban Planning from Harvard, Hieu Truong is concentrating in Enterprise's Housing and Neighborhood Development.

If you know a willing and eager college student interested in Enterprise or the community development field, please refer them to Adelaide Steedley, Deputy Director of the Enterprise Baltimore office.

In closing, I have truly saved the best for last: Bart Harvey's recent honor as the National Housing Conference's (NHC)

2008 "Housing Person of the Year." Bart served as Enterprise Community Partners' CEO from 1993 to 2006, and this past March, stepped down as Chairman of the Board.

Bart's real legacy for the entire housing and development industry is Enterprise's Green Communities Initiative. The initiatives in sustainability made possible through his vision and leadership are taking off and setting the standard for affordable housing. New Board Chair Norm Rice has embraced his role with energy and commitment and is already an enormous asset to Enterprise as we think about the next 25 years.

It continues to be an honor and pleasure to serve with the women and men of EWN to create a better Baltimore and Maryland. Thank you for your energy and commitment.

Kelly Cartales  
Senior Vice President, Director  
Baltimore and Mid-Atlantic Region

## EWN MEMBER PROFILE: E. FRAN JOHNSON

E. Fran Johnson, an original member of the EWN Steering Committee, current Chair of the EWN Finance Committee, and octogenarian has accomplished what most people would need several lifetimes to achieve. Currently in her fourth career as Corporate Vice-President at Martin's Caterers, Dr. Johnson has earned four degrees and was inducted in 1999 into the Maryland's Women's Hall of Fame by Governor Parris Glendening. In 2000, The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Baltimore Chapter, honored her with its highest award: the Jewel Award. Her biography appears in the publication, *Women of Achievement in Maryland History* (Carolyn B. Stegman, Ed, 2002, [www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org](http://www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org)).

Growing up in poverty and segregation in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood, she forged her role early as a ground-breaking leader. At age 16 she became the first African American in Maryland to receive Girl Scouting's highest honor: First Class. Dr. Johnson was a social worker with the Baltimore Department of Social Services in her first career. She spent her second career teaching administration, management, and casework at Howard University School of Social Work, and was on the faculty of several universities.

In 1991, Dr. Johnson retired as the Director of Consumer Education after a 20-year career—her third—with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Her work was instrumental in developing a consumer education program in the early days of HMOs, and she also served as a consultant to then-new Head Start programs. Since 1947, she's been a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and serves as its National Chair for Leadership Development and as Project Coordinator for the under-construction Zeta Senior Activities Center in Park Heights. She also stimulated the creation of two grassroots organizations: the Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women (LAMW) and the Maryland Girls Agenda.

# ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

November 19-21, 2008

Baltimore Marriott  
Waterfront Hotel

## *Transforming and Redefining Community Development*

**Confirmed speakers:** Bill Novelli, AARP CEO; Doug Nelson, The Annie E. Casey Foundation President and CEO; and Donna Brazile, political consultant.

For more information, contact:  
410-772-2418 or e-mail  
[enterpriseconference@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:enterpriseconference@enterprisecommunity.org)

**Luncheon** *continued from page 1*

and Director of Baltimore and the Mid-Atlantic Region, and Tina Hike-Hubbard, Enterprise's National Education Director. "EWN's fundraising dollars provide academic and supportive services to our two partner schools and in the neighborhood through the new Kelson Community Resource Center," Hike-Hubbard told the crowd. "The EWN Mentoring program, in particular, which currently serves 40 girls at the schools, truly broadens the horizons of our children."

"We had wonderful press coverage from the *Afro-American Newspaper*," Adair says of the "friend-raising" event. "Nearly two dozen women signed up at the luncheon to learn more about EWN, and one of my guests saw me a few weeks later and made a donation." London shares her enthusiasm: "This event is directly tied to the EWN Strategic Plan, and it couldn't have gone better. We have 21 potential new mentors for the EWN Mentoring program and committee volunteers, with the bulk of these volunteers coming from

the luncheon." Prior to the luncheon, the Enterprise and EWN message reached a much broader group, thanks to a Comcast Newsmaker interview segment with EWN Steering Committee Co-Chair, Pat Tunstall, which aired several times weekly for a few weeks.

EWN would like to thank luncheon co-chairs Adair and London and the EWN Steering Committee for their efforts, as well as the flawless planning and execution by the Enterprise team in Baltimore. We extend our deep gratitude to the AVAM and Watson's Caterers for a spectacular location and event. Special thanks to the region's many talented florists who donated one or several centerpieces to bring Spring inside: Beckie Ray; Bolton Hill Blossoms; Bonaparte Florist; Dorothy Marshall; Flowers By Gina D.; Pam Genn; Marlow, McCrystle and Jones; Merlene Adair; Mille Fleurs Inc.; Norman Holt Florist; Radebaugh Florist and Greenhouses; The Dutch Connection; The Floral Studio, Inc.; and Rutland Beard Florist.

*Do you know someone who  
should receive this newsletter?  
If so, contact us at 410.230.2288.*

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