

Professionally Speaking



News and Information for Members of

The Professional Group

33 Years of Women Making a Difference in Business and the Community

"Meaningful Engagement"

1982-2015

The purpose of The Professional Group is to provide women of diverse professions with opportunities for building relationships and networks of personal and business associations through informative monthly presentations, professional development programs, educational and social activities, and philanthropic endeavors.

January 2015

BREAKFAST MEETING

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

PRESENTING GUEST SPEAKER:

ROBERT M. EURY

President, Central Houston, Inc.

"WHAT'S GOING ON, HOUSTON?"



For thirty-one years Robert M. Eury has served as President of Central Houston, Inc., a private, non-profit corporation, formed to lead the planning and implementation of the redevelopment of Houston's central city area—principally downtown. Mr. Eury is also the Executive Director of the Houston Downtown Management District, a special assessment district within downtown Houston, and President of the Downtown Redevelopment Authority, a non-profit local government corporation that operates Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #3 for the City of Houston.

Mr. Eury was Vice President and Director of Research Development for Rice Center prior to starting Central Houston in 1983. During his nine years with Rice Center, his research focused on: land use/transportation joint development, urban services delivery, development regulation, and environmental design. Before joining Rice Center in 1974, Mr. Eury served as Director of Community Planning Studies for the Urban Studies Center, University of Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. Eury holds a Master of Architecture in Urban Design from Rice University and a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Cincinnati.

Please join us to hear Mr. Eury's presentation on Tuesday, January 6!

Meetings are held at **The Junior League, 1811 Briar Oaks**, on the **first Tuesday of each month** except as otherwise scheduled. Join us for a breakfast buffet and conversation at **6:45 a.m.** Free parking is available in the attached garage. As a courtesy to our speaker and others in the audience if you have to leave early, please sit at a table in the back of the room during the breakfast meeting. *Professionally Speaking* is distributed monthly by The Professional Group for its members and current guests. All submissions to the TPG Newsletter need to be sent in a Word document to *Carol Gradziel, VP/Newsletter*; swkeystone@aol.com by the due date. Please mention TPG in subject line. The *deadline* for submission of articles and advertising for the *February 2015 newsletter* is at *5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2015.* *Professionally Speaking* is designed and published monthly by *Vicki S. Henrichs of Henrichs Publishing.* Contact vicki164@yahoo.com Visit the site www.letterwise.net

President's Message

Dear TPG Friends,

Oh my! I'm beginning my 10th year with TPG! It's very gratifying that I have the honor of stepping into the role of President of this dynamic organization. When I look back over these years and think about the many interesting, dynamic, famous and noteworthy individuals who have stood at our podium and entertained us, educated us, enlightened and inspired us, it is nothing short of amazing!

When I think of the many interesting, dynamic, caring, generous, funny, near-famous and accomplished women with whom I've shared breakfast, served on various committees, planned events, attended a myriad of educational, entertaining and memorable events — and bonded as friends, again, I am truly amazed!

As I bask in this amazement and fond recollection of memories from the past 10 years, I am excited, motivated and energized as we approach the coming year of TPG fun, service, learning and sisterhood. I've had the opportunity to talk with members of the incoming Board of Directors and am thrilled that we have such a capable group of women assembled in these leadership positions. I think we all share the focus of moving our organization forward in a positive direction. We've set aside a day in early January for our Board Retreat to plan our year.

One of the big considerations at the retreat will be evaluation of the Membership Survey. Please participate! Your feedback through this survey will influence our focus for 2015. Although the deadline is soon, you still have time. You might be amazed by the impact of your answers.

I've always loved new beginnings! As a child I loved the beginning of a new school year and the start of a new semester. Later in the early years of my first career as a teacher I had the same attitude. It was always good to start over, have a clean slate and another opportunity to do things a little bit better, a little smarter and a little more effectively.

I think many of us share this attitude around the beginning of a new year. I know I'm feeling this right now as we enter 2015 — a brand new baby year we've never experienced before! There may be a few butterflies, some anticipation and excitement about new adventures and experiences. It's my wish that we will all be amazed at what we can accomplish. Please join me as we all begin anew!

Warm wishes for a blessed holiday season,

Martha Raymond

2015 President



The Professional Group 2015 Board of Directors

President	Martha Raymond	Martha@martharaymond.com
Executive Vice President	Julie Barry	jbarry@juliebarrylaw.com
VP Education	Teresa Doyle	Teresa.Doyle@comcast.net
VP Finance	T.J. Jeter-McAvoy	tj.mcavoy@firstlinebrands.com
VP Guests and New Members	Patricia Vice	pvainc@aol.com
VP Meeting Coordinator	Sandra Crook	Sandra@GreymarkConstruction.com
VP Member Communications	Anne Swanson	anne@anneswansonsondesign.com
VP Networking	Jessica Rodriguez	jessicajrodriguez@gmail.com
VP Newsletter	Carol Gradziel	swkeystone@aol.com
VP Philanthropy	Mary Fairbrother	MaryF2417@gmail.com
VP Programs	Kathleen Fenninger	KFenninger@comcast.net
VP Special Projects	Dawn Sabo	Dawn.Sabo@saboaccounting.com
Recording Secretary	Rhonda Parker	Rhonda@ColbyResources.com
Ex-Officio/Nominating	Sue Howard	sue_howard@sbcglobal.net

Your vote counts!

Please complete our annual survey.

The annual survey has been posted to the website. Please help us plan for the coming year by completing the survey. Login to TPG website, select "Member Surveys" in the main menu on the left of your screen. Follow the prompts to provide valuable information to the incoming board. The deadline to complete the survey is December 24, 2014.

All participants will be in a drawing for complimentary 2015 dues! The drawing will be held at the January meeting. The membership survey is the best tool we have to measure the satisfaction/dissatisfaction for the way the organization is run. We welcome your input and look forward to your wonderful ideas and suggestions. Thank you!

A Message from the
TPG Caring and Concerns Committee

The Co-Chairs for the Caring and
Concerns Committee are

**JULIE BARRY AND
JESSICA RODRIGUEZ.**

They can be reached by email at
tpgcaring@yahoo.com (checked daily)
or by calling Jessica at 832-528-1007.

If you need assistance,
or if you know a member who may have a
need, please let them know.



FIRST EVENT OF 2015 FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE,
TERESA DOYLE, VP:



CALLING ALL TPG NIGHT OWLS

JOIN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOR

THE OWL PROWL

AT THE ARBORETUM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2015

THE EVENING BEGINS AT 7:30 p.m.

WITH WINE AND CHEESE AND OWLS FLYING IN THE ROOM.

WE WILL THEN MOVE OUTSIDE TO OBSERVE OWLS IN THE WOODS.

REGISTRATION FOR TPG MEMBERS AND SPOUSES/GUESTS WILL OPEN SOON.

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COMMITTEE NEWS

From Anne Swanson, VP Member Communications:

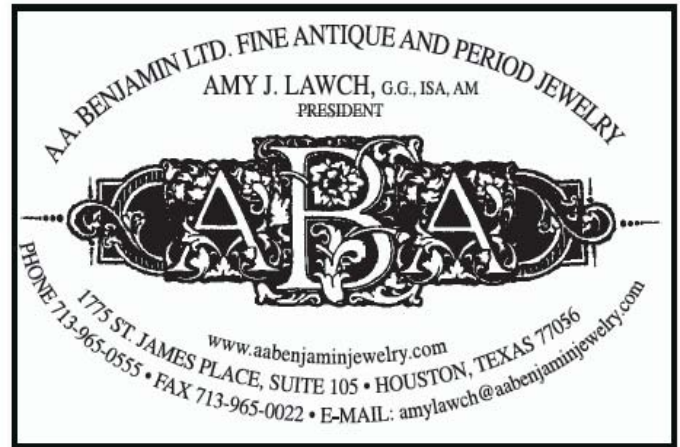
Renew your TPG membership today!

Where else can you build wonderful friendships, hear engaging speakers, and participate in such a variety of interesting and fun events?

Now is the time to renew your membership with TPG. Your current membership will expire on December 31, 2014. Membership dues remain the same as last year, only \$100. After January 15, 2015, the price to renew will increase to \$120.

To renew, log into the TPG website. You will see a red "RENEW" at the top right of your screen (next to the "Welcome, Your Name"). Click on the link to process your renewal. You will be directed through several screens. We're looking forward to a great 2015 and we want you to be a part of it!

If you need help, please contact Anne Swanson, VP, Member Communications (anne@anneswansondesign.com) and she'll be happy to help you with the process.



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**In December
we had a lively
presentation
from Jay
Steinfeld,
President of
Blinds.com**

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Members On The Move!!!!

A sad note from a former member: Nancy Gray's father passed away in November. Many people will remember Nancy, who was a long time member.

New job, new address, new husband, new outlook on life.....If you have news about yourself, your family, or your company, we would love to share it in the newsletter. Maybe you've recently received an award or been accepted to head a project; maybe you've had a grandchild or taken a fabulous trip. We want to get to know you better! Email Carol Gradziel at swkeystone@aol.com to be included in the February newsletter!



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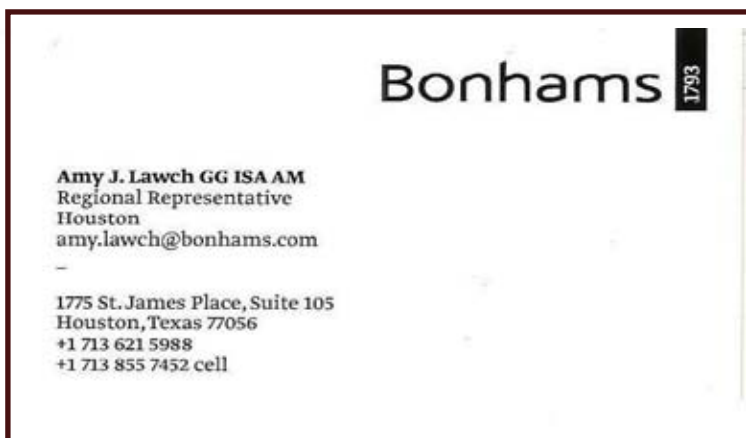
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December 2014 Star Pin Award

By SARAH WARD

I must say a much more enthusiastic THANK YOU TO PAT for giving me one more chance to receive and proudly wear this beautiful Star Pin. I have loved and enjoyed showing it off this month.

I love this part of our tradition which is to tell you about the friend and fellow TPG member of six years who is soon to receive and wear the "Star" pin through the month of December.

Susan, you gave me the perfect lead-in with your last paragraph in the December Newsletter about "potential" because my friend, the recipient, represents your definition; she has the capacity to be and has developed and become that person of power who exerts her influence through her professionalism. How do I know this? I have witnessed her dedication to her committee work on more than one occasion AND, I have been a client of hers. She has worked diligently serving as a Mentor to the KIPP School Program under the guidance of Pam Longley, who confirms that she went so far as to develop additional aides to help her student progress in his studies, keeping him challenged through those extra exercises. She represents herself in a very unassuming way that until you see her at work, you realize how much time and effort she has given to reach the height of her potential. If you would like to see proof, go to her very well done website at www.TrishStrangmeyer.com. There you will see the most delightful, colorful, beautiful children and adults portrayed in fully expressive photos. Believe me, if you are having a down day, those photos will lift your spirits at first glance.

Congratulations to TRISH STRANGMEYER-FELT



At the December meeting, Sarah Ward, left, presented the Star Pin to Trish Strangmeyer-Felt.



BETTY BELLOMY

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Happy January Birthdays to TPG Members



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<i>Shannon Nelson Carney</i>	<i>January 1</i>
<i>Jackie Verity</i>	<i>January 3</i>
<i>Maureen Sanders</i>	<i>January 8</i>
<i>T.J. Jeter-McAvoy</i>	<i>January 8</i>
<i>Karen Chin</i>	<i>January 10</i>
<i>Angela Vabulas</i>	<i>January 12</i>
<i>Kathleen Knolle</i>	<i>January 14</i>
<i>Peggy Williamson</i>	<i>January 15</i>
<i>Jan LeBlanc</i>	<i>January 17</i>
<i>Mary Paul</i>	<i>January 17</i>
<i>Sharron Mapel</i>	<i>January 18</i>
<i>Dorcas Ross</i>	<i>January 19</i>
<i>Pamela Longley</i>	<i>January 20</i>
<i>Anne Swanson</i>	<i>January 21</i>
<i>Gloria Dennis</i>	<i>January 29</i>
<i>Morag Everill</i>	<i>January 30</i>
<i>Pat Bajenski</i>	<i>January 31</i>

Advertising in the TPG Newsletter

Interested in advertising your business or services to fellow TPG members? There is space available for advertising in our monthly newsletter!

Advertise your business for the low cost of \$25 a month or reduce the cost further by paying \$125, in advance, for six months of advertising.

The standard ad size is that of a business card. At no additional cost you may include a link to your website which will be printed below your business card ad. Not only are you able to network with fellow TPG members, your advertising dollars help to defray the cost of our newsletter and website.

If you are interested in exploring an ad in the monthly TPG Newsletter, please email:

CAROL GRADZIEL swkeystone@aol.com



Breakfast Reservation Form — Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Coffee and Networking at 6:45 a.m. Buffet served promptly at 7:00 a.m.

Register for the breakfast online at www.tpghouston.org by **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2014** to receive the lowest price. The process is easy and very user friendly!

BREAKFAST BUFFET: *Choose from a variety of hot and cold breakfast items.*

Member fees: \$25. Or \$30 on Thursday, January 1, 2015.

Guest fees: \$30. Or \$35 on Thursday, January 1, 2015.

It is our policy that reservations for our monthly breakfast meeting be made no later than the Thursday before each meeting, to guarantee attendance to the Junior League early on Friday morning. Reservations must be received by the deadline. If you make a reservation through the website, you will receive an email confirmation of your reservation from Club Express, then you will receive a second e-mail with confirmation of your online payment. **If you do not receive two confirmations when you have registered online, please contact Sandra Crook at Sandra@GreymarkConstruction.com** You owe the fee for the breakfast even if you do not attend.

Club Express Tip: If you don't see the "Register" box, scroll to the right, or scroll down. If you cannot remember if you have registered, click on the box: "Registrants" on the event page and you can see all those who are registered. Also, be sure you are looking at the JANUARY calendar.

Club Express Tip: If you have trouble, change your browser. Close out and open Mozilla Firefox rather than Internet Explorer.

NOTE: Online reservations end at midnight on THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2015.

If you are paying by CHECK, your reservation and check must be mailed and postmarked by FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2015. Please mail your check rather than bring it to the door. Make checks payable to The Professional Group. Your cancelled check is your receipt. CASH IS NOT ACCEPTED. Reservations are not transferable to another member. Reservations are not accepted by telephone.

No reservation will be accepted after midnight, **FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2015** without approval of the Meeting Coordinator, on a space available basis. To request approval after this deadline, e-mail Sandra@GreymarkConstruction.com **A late fee of \$10.00 will be added to the base cost, IF space is available, and IF the reservation is accepted.**

Reservation forms and checks should be mailed to:

TJ Jeter-McAvoy, TPG VP/Finance

13711 Dempley Drive

Houston, TX 77041

Member/Sponsor _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

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