



**"Grow With US"**  
Established 1982

**The MAY 2017 Newsletter**

**Meeting Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

**"The Top 10 Things Every Texas Consumer Should Know"**

**Guest Speaker: DANA KARNI**

**Karni Law Firm, P.C.**



With the founding of Karni Law Firm, P.C. in July of 2007, consumer advocate and attorney, Dana Karni, has dedicated herself to educating consumers regarding their credit rights and other key topics of consumer law. Her professional legal experience includes actions in federal and state debt collection violations, defense of credit card suits, auto warranty and title situations, and deceptive trade practice issues. Ms. Karni's office is located in Houston, Texas, and she handles consumer rights matters throughout the entire State of Texas.

She has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston Law Center and is frequently sought after for television and newsprint interviews as well as public education forums in Texas, broadening her reach to those who need her most. On many occasions, Ms. Karni has been asked to speak at The People's Law School, aimed at educating the public on their credit and debt collection rights. She is a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates, an organization of over 1500 consumer attorneys and advocates whose sole focus is consumer representation, never litigating on behalf of creditors, debt collectors, debt buyers, or banks.

Ms. Karni was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 2004 and to several United States District Courts soon after. She earned her J.D. at Touro Law School in New York and her B.A. at The University of Texas in Austin.

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.

# President's Message

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## **"Grow With Us"**

I hope you enjoyed the wonderful networking meeting on April 4th that was so skillfully put together by our fantastic Networking Committee and facilitated by Annette Monks. Thank you, ladies, for a job well done!

Annette Monks is the President of Carlton Staffing and Carltech. I also had the pleasure of hearing her speak last year at our Networking Workshop. Annette offers valuable, actionable tips on networking garnered from her years of experience. I trust you walked away, after meeting new friends, with a useful nugget or two.

Spring is in the air...I was able recently, with the help of a dear friend, to replant my front flower bed at home. It makes such a difference to have beautiful, colorful flowering plants greeting me and guests at my doorstep. Spring is not only a time for planting and appreciating flowers, it's also a perfect time to focus on our 2017 TPG theme, Grow With Us.

Our theme applies to the club overall and to us as individual members. Think about why you are a member of TPG and how your membership might assist you in growing or in accomplishing your goals for the year. Personally, I'd like to focus on growing my business, making new friends and forming strategic alliances. I believe most of those goals can be accomplished as a member of TPG.

Just as the flower bed requires new soil, mulch, work to plant the flowers, water to nurture growth and some weed pulling, accomplishing my goals requires a plan and work. Here are a few things I can do to accomplish my goals through TPG membership:

- Show up consistently and early for networking.
- Be willing to give to others — any successful relationship is always give and take.
- Meet with TPG members individually — what a great way to get to know someone.
- Be aware of goals and opportunities — whether it's a prospect for business or a friend for a movie, I can be aware of what I need and ask for it.
- Follow Up — It takes time to build relationships along with follow-through on promises or referrals.

I hope we'll all take the many opportunities for growth offered to us through The Professional Group. Cheers to Growth!

Lynda Broussard

2017 TPG President

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# The Professional Group 2017 Board of Directors

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## REMINDER FROM THE TPG CARING AND CONCERNS GROUP

The Chair for the Caring and Concerns Committee, a sub-committee of Philanthropy, is

Kim Jenkins

She can be reached by email at

[tpgcaring@yahoo.com](mailto:tpgcaring@yahoo.com)

(checked daily)

If you need assistance, or

if you know a member who may have a need, please let her know.



## Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern Tour and lunch

Saturday, May 6, 2017

10:45 am – 1:30 p.m.

**Rain:** Magdalena Fernandez at the Houston Cistern tour and lunch at Beaver's.

**\*\*Cost:** \$10 plus cost of lunch

**\*\*Friends and family welcome**

**\*\*Spaces available: 20**

Join us for an afternoon of art and lunch on Saturday, May 6th as we walk through the 1926 Water Works cistern under Buffalo Bayou Park and see the special art video installation **Rain: Magdalena Fernández** at the Houston Cistern. This special art installation ends June 4 so if you have not had an opportunity to see this unique video or tour the Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern, now is your chance. We will meet at the Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern at 10:45 a.m. and be ready for the 11 a.m. tour. After the tour we will make our way to the Beaver's Restaurant nearby and have lunch on our own.

### Itinerary

**11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Cistern Tour and video art exhibit**

**105 Sabine Street, Houston, 77007**

**Parking:** A number of parking options are available around Buffalo Bayou Park.

**12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., lunch at Beaver's Restaurant**

**2310 Decatur Street, Houston, 77007**

You can carpool to the restaurant or valet parking is available

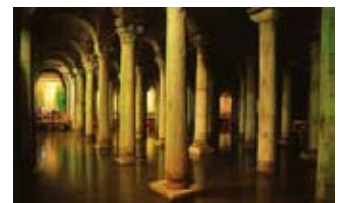
Offering a "good variety" of "fancy publike" fare, these American kitchens impress with a "fantastic mac 'n' cheese" selection, barbecue, burgers and even an "amazing cocktail menu"; the Washington Corridor original has a "funky" vibe. (Zagat review)

**Dress:** casual, comfortable walking shoes

For more information go to: <http://buffalobayou.org/visit/destination/the-cistern/>

### **Tour guidelines:**

- **Rain: Magdalena Fernández at the Houston Cistern — Terms and Conditions**
- **Rain: Magdalena Fernández at the Houston Cistern is an immersive experience with exposure to light and sound.**
- **The Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern is a dim space with no windows.**
- **Full participation in the tour requires walking a distance of one quarter mile in 20 minutes. If you would prefer a stationary tour, please notify a Cistern Attendant upon arrival.**
- **NO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 9**
- **No flash photography; tripods are not permitted**
- **Animals are not permitted**
- **No eating, drinking, or gum-chewing in the Cistern**
- **No smoking allowed**
- **Strollers, roller skates, inline skates, and bicycles are not permitted**
- **Backpacks, purses, fanny packs and other bags need to be zipped and closed while inside the Cistern**
- **No sitting, standing, or climbing on the railing, stairways, or ladders**
- **Running and excessive noise are not permitted**



For more information or questions contact Claudia Ruggiero at 713-898-7444 or email at [cgwoods@gmail.com](mailto:cgwoods@gmail.com) We look forward to an educational and fun afternoon with some of Houston's unique history.



## In Sympathy

**Mikaela Reynolds**, a former TPG member and board member, passed away on Sunday, March 26, 2017. Funeral services were held on Sunday, April 9, 2017 at the Canyon United Methodist Church, 217 FM 1729, in Lubbock, Texas.

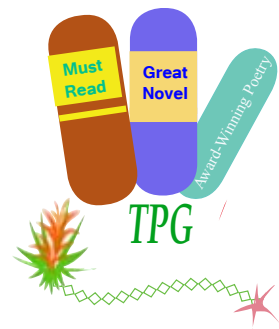
**Bill Pierpont**, husband of TPG member **Glenna Pierpont**, passed away Friday, March 31, 2017. Funeral services were held at the First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood in Kingwood, Texas.

Our sincere and heartfelt condolences are extended to the families and friends for their loss.

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## TPG BOOK BABES

If you enjoy reading, please join the TPG Book Club. It's a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and friendship. Guest are welcome! Registration is open on the TPG website. For more information, contact **Corine Prieto**, **TJ Jeter-McAvoy**, or **Rhonda Parker**.



### Book Club Reading Selections:

May 27 - "Swimming Lessons" by Claire Fuller

[Click Here to Register for TPG Book Club - 5/27/2017](#)

June 24 - "Born A Crime" by Trevor Noah

July 22- "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood

August 26 - "What Remains of Heaven" by C. S. Harris

September 23 - "The Spy" by Paulo Coelho

October 28 - "Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil" by John Berendt

### PLEASE NOTE:

**Reading selections**

**are subject to change.**

**Updates will be posted**

**in Monday Announcements**

**and in the Newsletter.**

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SALES ASSOCIATE

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## Angela House Experience

by Trish Strangmeyer Felt

The MAD committee experienced a wonderful and successful morning with Angela House! Thank you to all of our TPG "sisters" for your generous contributions and donations! We met on March 11th at **Amy Lawch's** office and assembled and decorated beautiful baskets supplied by **Carol Desenberg** with everything from shampoos, and conditioners to beauty supplies and socks and slippers. Amy provided us with delicious refreshments while we worked.



On Saturday, April 1st, we had a celebration for the ladies at Angela House. We enjoyed meeting them and listening to their stories as well as telling them a little about us — and TPG. Thank you, **Teresa Doyle**, for helping us get the party started — it's obvious how respected and loved you are by the residents! We then presented each of them with a basket of pampering supplies and enjoyed fantastic refreshments provided by **Angela Vabulas, Kate Gabriele, Anne Swanson** and **Pam Longley**. We drew for door

### Donations for Angela House

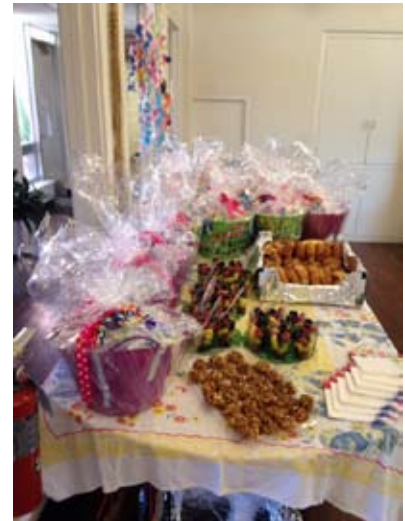
If you still have items to donate for Angela House, please bring them to the May Breakfast meeting and Teresa Doyle will take them.

The MAD Committee will meet immediately after the May 2 Breakfast (8:30 - 8:50 a.m.).

Please contact Trish Strangmeyer Felt for information at

[trishsphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:trishsphoto@yahoo.com)

prizes brought by **Ann Miller, Trish Strangmeyer Felt** and **Lynda Broussard** as well as a couple of anonymous contributors and had enough for each of them. After that, we enjoyed a tour of the facilities and saw what a wonderful place Angela House is. The residents were very excited that we took time to celebrate with them and for the generous contributions! Some of the women were especially happy



to get conditioners and lotions! We heard amazing stories that they shared and learned what being in Angela House means to them. The residents are a diverse group of women from all walks of life and are working hard to improve themselves and to transition back into society. I don't know who benefitted more from our gathering on April 1st. For me, it was a wonderful and uplifting experience!

Please take time to go to their website: [www.angelahouse.com](http://www.angelahouse.com) and learn more about this wonderful organization.



## MAY SPONSOR



### **Performing Great Choral Music for a Great Community**

#### **30th Anniversary Gala Concert**

HMC RESCUES YOUR MONDAY NIGHT, AS WE PLAY THE ORIGINAL WHEEL OF FORTUNE!

MAY 15, 7:00 PM

STUDE HALL, SHEPHERD SCHOOL OF MUSIC, RICE UNIVERSITY

EXPERIENCE: The Joys of Spring, PLUS: Attraction, Love, Desire, Vice, and all subjected to the whims of Fate!

Medieval Soap Opera Poetry comes to life with Carl Orff's Exciting Dramatic Cantata: CARMINA BURANA. Enjoy Maestro Tom Jaber's thrilling interpretation.



#### **Houston Masterworks Chorus, 120 Voices**

Professional Soloists: Madison Leonard, Soprano; Jack Swanson, Tenor; Mark Diamond, Baritone. Parker Elementary School Chorus, 75 voice Directed by Marianna Parnas-Simpson. Orchestra and Percussion Ensemble.

#### **BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!**

Come early and don't miss: 5:45 p.m. **Free Pre-Concert Lecture Demonstration** in Room #1133 in the Shepherd School. Hear music from The Orff-Schulwerk, Carl Orff's contribution to music education. Did you know that Orff's methodology has been translated into dozens of languages and is used in classrooms all over the world? Presented by students from South Belt Elementary School, Deborah Edwin, directing. Unbelievably enjoyable musical offerings related in musical style to Carmina Burana. These students are bringing their instruments and will share their excellence in "playing well with others." Lecture by Master Clinician, Cora Bigwood.

#### **BUT WAIT, THERE'S STILL MORE!**

##### **PROST! PROST!**

Join HMC for an unforgettable Saturday Night!

Saturday, May 11, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

#### **Bavarian Folk Fest!**

St. Arnold's Beer Hall



2000 Lyons Avenue, Houston, TX 77020

Beer, Brats, Singing, Polka. Entertainment AND participation. Free Parking. Casual attire, but dirndls and lederhosen are encouraged! Go for it!

INFORMATION and TICKETS are available at [www.houstonmasterworks.org](http://www.houstonmasterworks.org)

Or contact Kay Boyd: 713-529-8900 or [office@houstonmastrworks.org](mailto:office@houstonmastrworks.org)

Carmina Burana Tickets: Students \$11, Seniors \$16, General \$21

Group rates for 10 or more. Bavarian Folk Fest Tickets: Children \$20, General \$50

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## 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:

**Kim Jenkins, [kjenkins@bentransact.com](mailto:kjenkins@bentransact.com)**

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**Second  
Quarter  
2016  
Star Pin Award**

**Contratulations to  
Sally Andrews,  
upon receiving the Star Pin Award from Corine Prieto  
at the April monthly meeting.**



**Monthly Sponsorships Still Available**

**\$100 to be a TPG Monthly Sponsor**

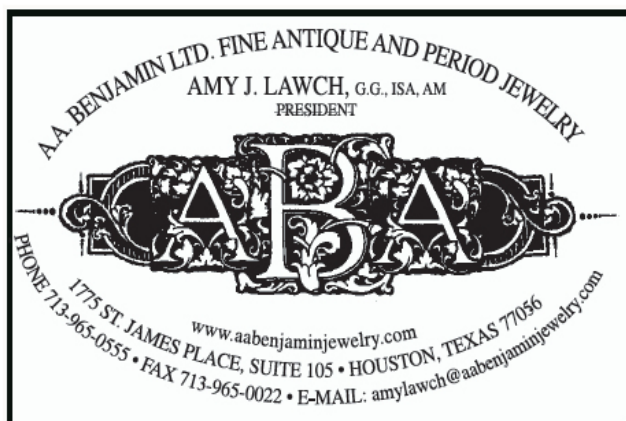
One (1) TPG Sponsor will be featured at monthly Breakfast Meetings. Such Sponsor will be able to present a 60 second "elevator speech" about their business and shall receive a full-page Company write-up and logo in the monthly TPG newsletter for such month. Sponsors may also place Company "swag" goodies with business cards at every table at their breakfast meeting.

Now accepting monthly sponsors for June through December 2017.

**Guidelines:**

- Participants may sign up for only one sponsorship within a six-month period.
- The \$100 fee must be paid when reserving a sponsoring month.
- The \$100 fee is non-refundable if the participant cannot fulfill their monthly commitment.
- Participants may not switch or trade with someone for another month without the Board's permission.

**For information, please contact Rhonda Parker at [rap@attorneyresource.com](mailto:rap@attorneyresource.com) or 972-984-0654.**



**<http://www.aabenjaminjewelry.com>**



**[anne@anneswansondesign.com](mailto:anne@anneswansondesign.com)**

## HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS TO TPG MEMBERS

<b>Ivanna J. Albertin</b>	<b>May 6</b>
<b>Vicki R. White</b>	<b>May 19</b>
<b>Sandi Gardner</b>	<b>May 20</b>
<b>Marguerite B. Muzikowski</b>	<b>May 21</b>
<b>Kathleen M. Long</b>	<b>May 23</b>
<b>Liana M. Hillendahl</b>	<b>May 23</b>
<b>Martha E. Raymond</b>	<b>May 23</b>
<b>Ann Houston</b>	<b>May 24</b>
<b>Nikky LaWell</b>	<b>May 25</b>



Original art by Vicki Henrichs. © All Rights Reserved

Did we miss listing your birthday? We really want to congratulate you.  
We need your help in updating the TPG Website!



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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 **Kim Jenkins, VP/Newsletter**, [kjenkins@bentransact.com](mailto:kjenkins@bentransact.com) by the due date—always the Thursday following the Breakfast Meeting. Please mention TPG in the subject line. *The deadline for submission of articles and advertising for the June 2017 newsletter is at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 4, 2017.* *Professionally Speaking* is designed and published monthly by **Vicki S. Henrichs of Henrichs Publishing**. Contact [vicki164@yahoo.com](mailto:vicki164@yahoo.com) Visit the site [www.letterwise.net](http://www.letterwise.net)

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## **Breakfast Reservation Form – Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

**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](http://www.tpghouston.org) by **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017** to receive the lowest price. The process is easy and very user friendly!

**Member fees: \$25. Guest fees: \$30.**

It is our policy that reservations for our monthly breakfast meeting be made no later than the Thursday before each meeting. Reservations must be received by the deadline to receive this pricing.

**Late reservations will incur an additional \$10 charge.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Once you have registered, you owe the fee for the breakfast even if you do not attend.

Club Express Tips:

- You will receive two emails: an email confirmation of your reservation and a second email with confirmation of your online payment. If you do not receive two confirmations after registering online, please contact Cindy Jennings at [cjennings@carltonstaffing.com](mailto:cjennings@carltonstaffing.com)
- 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 "Registrants" on the event page and you can see all who are registered.
- 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, APRIL 27, 2017.** Make checks payable to The Professional Group. Your cancelled check serves as your receipt. CASH IS NOT ACCEPTED.

Reservations are not transferable to another member or guest and cannot be made by telephone. No reservation will be accepted after the deadline without approval of the Meeting Coordinator, on a space available basis. To request approval after this deadline, email [cjennings@carltonstaffing.com](mailto:cjennings@carltonstaffing.com) A late fee of \$10.00 will be added to the base cost, IF space is available, and IF the reservation is accepted.

**The Professional Group**

**"Grow With Us"  
Established 1982**