

2013 February Newsletter Article by Kathy Johnson

MWP MENTORING MEETUP EVENT

The MWP Mentoring Event was held at Kathy Johnson's home November 27th. The event was designed to put potential mentors and mentees in the same room and give them the chance to get to know a bit about each other in order to make more informed choices for their partner. The process of introductions to each other followed a general introduction by each person to the group. The group then embarked on a "speed dating" format whereby each mentee and mentor had 10 minutes to talk. Then the mentees moved on to the next mentor and started another 10 minute conversation. At the end of an hour and 10 minutes, the process was complete. Each person was then encouraged to reflect on their discussions for a week to think about the women with whom they felt a shared sense of self with and send in their top three choices for a mentoring relationship partner to our event lead, Ruth Markowitz. Ruth then took those requests and informed the mentors of the mentees interested in working with them and the mentors could then see if any of those mentees were in their own list of desired partnerships. Out of the process we had 6 partnerships set up and have had a couple of partnerships develop after the fact.

There is a plan to have a follow-up event for the partners to share how things are going. Because each partnership decides how to structure the nature of their meetings and the frequency and format, a follow-up event is a great opportunity for learning from each other.

At this point the idea is to hold two Mentor/Mentee Matchups events each year, with an annual follow-up event.