

Book Review

# 'Shaking Her Assets': A Comic Look At A Young Entrepreneur

By Margie Royal

Although we usually don't review books, I received an email from co-author Robin Epstein, who grew up in Gladwyne asking us to review her new book 'Shaking Her Assets' which she co-authored with Renee Kaplan.

Shaking Her Assets is definitely "chick-lit", aimed toward women ages 20-35. Those who will best appreciate the book's humor are women who have spent time on their own, working, moving on in jobs or relationships or who have attended a bridal shower uncomfortably knowing very few friends of the bride.

The book has a likeable heroine and is written in a breezy, colloquial style. Even at the heroine's darkest hours, she keeps a sense of humor. Here's an example of the writing style from the book's prologue. "I can hear people walking by. I can feel their pity, and I can smell their fear. If it can happen to me, it can happen to them. Ultimately, the most important question that remains is whether I should bother packing my three cartons of unused business cards."

Although it's co-authored, the writing is surprisingly smooth, written in the first person as events in the life of Rachel Chambers. Rachel works an editor in New York City for a high-



The cover of *Shaking Her Assets* features the comic strip super hero Marilyn Manizer, who is the heroine's alter-ego.

end housewares catalog. As the book opens, Rachel gets her pink slip. As if that wasn't bad enough, she also finds out that her boyfriend of two years has been cheating on her.

With her life in shambles, she accepts the offer of free vodka gimlets from her college buddy, Ben. As a joke to cheer her up, he proposes a business venture that begins to take off, much to Rachel's surprise.

Rachel ends up temping while finding herself as an entrepreneur. The art director at her temp job, Zach Stevenson, befriends Rachel and as their friendship grows, she discovers he is an artist who creates comic book-style artwork. A nice feature of *Shaking Her Assets* is seeing several of "Zach's" comic-book superhero interpretations of

Rachel's life.

Although the book ended as I suspected it would, and without much sense of Rachel growing in any depth as a person as she succeeds, it was enjoyable light reading, perfect reading for the beach.

*Shaking Her Assets* is published by the Penguin division of the Berkley Publishing Group and is available on-line or at local book stores.

## 'Salute To Excellence' Preview Of Fall Fundraiser

Delaware County business leaders gathered at the Hedgerow Theater June 22 to meet the March of Dimes 2005 Salute to Excellence in Delaware County Honorees. Joan K. Richards, COO of Crozer-Keystone Health System and Honorary Chairperson of the Volunteer Committee for the Salute to Excellence introduced Walt Omlor, Jr. Executive Director of Delaware County's Emergency Services Training Center as the 2005 Public Service Honoree. Michael Pearson, Owner and President of Union Packaging LLC, is 2005's Business Honoree. Dr. James T. Harris, President of Widener University, was announced as the 2005 Education Honoree. The Honoree in the Health category is Kate

Blackburn, Director of Crozer-Chester Medical Center's Youth Development Program. And for the first time, the Salute to Excellence Volunteer Committee is honoring an individual for Lifetime Achievement — Dr. Harry J. Jamison, Executive Director of Delaware County's Intermediate Unit.

Formerly known as the Salute to Women of Achievement, the Salute to Excellence is a March of Dimes fundraiser that honors outstanding individuals in Delaware County. Last year the event raised nearly \$40,000 for the March of Dimes mission of improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality. The March of Dimes fulfills its mission

with programs of research, community service, education and advocacy and is currently in the midst of a campaign to significantly reduce the high rate of premature birth.

The sit-down dinner saluting the 2005 Honorees will be held at the Springfield Country Club on Oct. 6. Individual tickets are \$75 and corporate tables are \$1,000. All proceeds benefit the March of Dimes. Presenting Sponsors for the event include Crozer-Keystone Health System and Commerce Bank. Supporting Sponsors are Widener University and Comcast Cable.

For more information about the Salute to Excellence, contact Julie Cruikshank at 610-945-6050.



Dr. James T. Harris, President of Widener University and the March of Dimes "Salute to Excellence in Delaware County" 2005 Education Honoree, poses with March of Dimes volunteers Merv Harris and Crozer-Keystone Health System's VP of Marketing, Kathy Scullin at the Salute's Preview Party held at the Hedgerow Theater June 22.

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## Ocean City, NJ Calendar Of Events Summer 2005

Ocean City, NJ has events planned throughout the summer for the whole family to enjoy.

The Ocean City Pops Orchestra has performances throughout the summer at the Music Pier. Market Days, are held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Asbury Ave. and Family Nights are held from 8 to 10 p.m. on the Boardwalk every Thursday through Labor Day. Fantastic Tuesdays are set for 10 to 1 on Asbury Ave. Evenings on Asbury are held from 6 to 9 Wednesdays. Inn to Inn Tours take place from 2 to 4, Thursdays; pick-up at 7th and Central Avenues. Farmers Markets are open every Wednesday from 10 to 1 at the Tabernacle Grounds, 5th & Asbury Ave. Other events are as follows:

### July

- 14, Inn to Inn Tours.
- 17, Ron and Gary Mattherws concert, 7 p.m., vocal and instrumental duo at Ocean City Tabernacle, no tickets required.
- 22, Merchants In Venice Seafood Festival, feast on some of the best seafood in the area and enjoy entertainment, rides for the kids and crafters, 5 to 9 p.m., 6th to 8th Street on Asbury Ave.
- July 22, Ocean City Barons vs. Westchester Flames, 7:30, Carey Stadium.
- 23, Night In Venice, boat parade starts at 6:30 p.m. from the foot of the Longport Bridge to Tennessee Ave. along the bay.
- 24, The Kings Brass concert, 7 p.m., Ocean City Tabernacle, no tickets required.