2013 Biography/Resume of Marlene B. Brown

Personal Information: **Marlene Brown, a Clinton, NY native, was born in the family homestead, which has been occupied by family members since its initial log cabin construction in 1790. Marlene is the proud mother of five grown children, all successful in their chosen professions (Bradley, Vanessa, Christina, Melanie, Stacy) and grandmother of six (Jeremiah, Josha, Rachel, Trevor, Samuel, Sarah).**
Professions/Leadership: **A former Senior English & Psychology teacher, and Syracuse University American Management Association instructor, Marlene is founder/owner of two small companies, author of numerous books and leadership programs. 1 of 15 in the world to have earned the combined degrees of Certified Professional Speaker & Certified Management Consultant, she traveled extensively as an internationally recognized business futurist speaker and consultant. In 2001 Marlene was 1 of 20 recipients awarded the 1st CNY Outstanding Women in Business Awards. In 2005, Marlene was one of 20 recipients awarded the 1st Mohawk Valley Outstanding Women in Business Awards. In 2011, Marlene was chosen as the YWCA's Outstanding Woman Leader in Arts & Communication. Since 2001, she has been the Executive Director of the Children's Museum of History, Science and Technology in Utica, NY, working at no pay to preserve and grow the organization.**
Organizational/Community Involvement: **1) Member of the BOCES Safe Schools/ Healthy Students Advisory Board; 2) Member of Utica City School District Channel 3 Committee; 3.) Member of the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce; 4) Member of the Business and Professional Women's Association; 5) Member of the Museum Association of NYS; 6); Member of the American Assoc. of Museums; 7.) founder of Rotary eClub NY1 which is headquartered at The Children's Museum; 8.) Designed and maintains at no charge the local Rotary and Children's Museum websites.**
Accomplishments: **1.) Was a successful area teacher for many years; 2.) Traveled world-wide as a Business Futurist; 3.) Served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Children's Museum; 4.) Through her tireless efforts over the past ten years overseeing the Children's Museum operations, she's been instrumental in opening additional floors, growing exhibits & offerings for school children, families, tourists; 5.) Secured grants to renovate the building; 6.) Got it declared a NYS and Federal Historic Building in order to save it from being torn down; 7.) Chartered one of 14 Rotary eClubs authorized by Rotary Int'l; 8.) was Elected 2007-08 District Governor of Rotary District 7150 (3rd CNY women to hold this honor); 9.) Traveled to India at her own expense to take part in the ribbon cutting of a Rotary woman's computer school (giving them skills to go from begging to working to support their children); 10.) Traveled to Haiti at her own expense to begin a water/sanitation project; 11.) Started a personal Endowment Fund at The Community Foundation for future use by The Children's Museum. 12.) In 2012, was chosen Co-Recipient of the Mayor's Ball. 13.) In 2012, was recipient of the Landmarks Society ot the Utica NYarea Restoration award. 14.) In 2013, Marlene was inducted into the Woman's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls.**
Challenges: **As the first instructor in the 1990's for MVCC's 'Women in Transition', her personal story of tragedy and triumph inspired many local women to begin their lives anew. In 2001, while serving as Chairman of the Children's Museum Board of Directors, Marlene discovered the museum was in a serious financial condition. Rather than closing the doors, she & husband Earl Lewis chose to keep the museum open. They continue to work as unpaid volunteers, constantly growing this valuable community asset: an educational resource, family quality of life, & tourism attraction.**
Priorities: **Marlene states her number one priority in life is her family and her God, followed closely by her profession & her community. In her spare time, she loves to research, read, update websites, work on museum goals, play the piano, serve as a mentor to other women, and most of all spend time with her children & grandchildren.**