



I o Woman

A Publication of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women • Vol. XXXV, No. 2, March/April 2005

Show Me the Money

Have you ever even considered asking for more pay? Do you need to learn techniques to negotiate for higher compensation when offered employment or during a performance review? Every \$1 more per hour is \$2040 per year and \$81,600 in a lifetime. How many more dollars per hour can you add to your income to get that dreamed-for lifestyle?

Join the ICSW for Show Me the Money: Paycheck Negotiation Workshop on Saturday, April 16, 8:30-11:30 a.m., United Way Conference Center, Room E, 1111 - 9th Street, Des Moines.

The workshop will consist of a panel presentation, role playing, and pension planning. During Show Me The Skills, panel members will present practical tips on how to bargain for more -- better wages, better benefits, how to make yourself marketable -- and share success stories. The role playing session, Show Me The Way, will demonstrate how to negotiate in a variety of situations. Audience members will learn about planning for a better retirement package in Show Me My Future.

The cost for the workshop is \$5. The deadline to register for the conference is April 12. Late registrations will be accepted as space permits.

The event is sponsored by the American Association of University Women – Iowa, Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, and Iowa National Organization for Women.

For more information about the workshop, contact the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women at 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427.

March is Women's History Month

Each year the month of March is observed as Women's History Month. It is a celebration that is affirmed and supported by Governor Vilsack and by a concurrent resolution of the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives. It is a time to celebrate the achievements of women in the nation and Iowa.

Too often, women's contributions have been overlooked in standard history textbooks, classrooms, and research. History, as it has been traditionally taught, has focused on political, military, and economic leaders and events. This approach has virtually excluded women. By expanding the focus of history to include the stories of women's lives, whether they reflect everyday life experiences or the roles women have played in major events of our nation's past, we can gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of American history.

Women's History Month is an excellent opportunity to highlight the contributions, concerns, and importance of women in our society. In order to bring the accomplishments of women to the forefront, the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, the Iowa Department of Education, and the State Historical Society cosponsor an essay contest, *Write Women Back Into History: Women Changing America* to encourage students to learn more.

Over 600 students participated statewide in the 20th Annual Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest this year. Volunteer judges reviewed the essays submitted by 6-9th grade teachers from 11 schools. Final judging was held February 17.

The winners will be honored on Thursday, March 17 at a 10 a.m. ceremony by Lt. Governor Pederson in the Kennedy Conference Room of the State Capitol. The awards ceremony is free and open to the public. Students will also be introduced in the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives and have the opportunity to meet with their legislators.

The first place essays in the 6-7th and 8-9th grade categories are on page 4. To view all winning essays, go to <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/womhistory.html>.

2005 WWBH Winners

6-7 Grade Category

- 1st Place: Sophia Dove, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids
- 2nd Place: Johanna Uthoff, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids
- 3rd Place: Ariel Sinclair, Woodrow Wilson Junior High, Council Bluffs

8-9 Grade Category

- 1st Place: Robyn Michelle Johnson, Eddyville-Blakesburg High School
- 2nd Place: Annie Klodd, Indianola Middle School
- 3rd Place: Kathryn M. Skilton, Nashua-Plainfield High School

Best Essays on Women in Science and Engineering for 6-7 Grades

Courtney Ruff, Woodrow Wilson Junior High, Council Bluffs

Edith Rose Murphy Sackett Award on the Best Essay on a Woman Volunteer

- 1st Place: Suzanne Sontag, Parkview Middle School, Ankeny
- 2nd Place: Korbin Hoffman, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids

Report from the Hill: Legislation Affecting Iowa Women

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women proposes, supports, opposes, and tracks state legislation affecting Iowa women. This report was the 81st General Assembly bill status for February 18, 2005. Check the next issue of the *IoWoman* to read updated information.

Bills the ICSW is SUPPORTING

Aging Issues & Long-Term Care

HF156 and **HF157** relate to dependent adult abuse.

HF259 relates to an elder abuse initiative, emergency shelter, and support services projects.

Child Care

SF17 and **SF18** expand the healthy opportunities for parents to experience success (HOPEs) -healthy families Iowa (HFI) program statewide.

Economics

HF105, **HF111**, **SF94**, and **SF120** relate to Iowa's minimum wage.

SF69 makes it unlawful for an employer to pay wages that discriminate between employees based on sex, race, or national origin. **SF88** provides that a person or employer shall not discriminate in providing compensation for work of comparable worth between jobs predominately held by women and men.

HF122 creates a "women entrepreneurs in business" program.

HF86, **SSB1072**, and **HSB105** relate to child support provisions.

SF144 (payday loans) and **SF145** ("Iowa Refund Anticipation Loan Act") regulate transactions in which a consumer pays a fee to receive a loan.

Equality

SF126 defines "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" and prohibits discriminatory employment, public accommodation, housing, education, and credit practices based upon a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Health

SF156 directs the Iowa department of public health to establish a lay health workers network.

SF162 charges the director of human services to seek a waiver from the centers for Medicaid and Medicare services of the United States department of health and human services to expand the hawk-i program to cover parents of children who are eligible for coverage under that program.

Insurance

SF3, **SSB1044**, and **HSB117** provide mental health parity insurance.

HF64, **HF89**, **SF48** (formerly **SSB1045**), **SF174**, and **SSB1098** provide mental health and substance abuse parity insurance.

HF148 prohibits the use of gender as a factor supporting any type of discrimination in the business of insurance.

SF9 instructs Human Services, in cooperation with Public Health and Insurance to develop a plan to provide health care coverage to all children in the state under age 18 by the year 2010.

HF78 establishes a healthy Iowa for all (HIFA) program which includes the HIFA health insurance program, the HIFA program fund, the Iowa quality forum, the HIFA high-risk pool, and state health planning.

HF107 and **HF171** require that insurance identification cards include a telephone number to request an external review of denied insurance coverage.

SF19 and **HF22** relate to the establishment of standardized requirements for long-term care insurance policies.

SF109, **SF140** and **HSB161** establish an Iowa long-term care asset disregard incentive program to provide incentives for individuals to insure against the costs of their long-term care needs

Justice

HF75, **HF80** and **SF63** relate to restoration of voting rights for felons.

HF296 establishes a priority for provision of infrastructure funding for

the Iowa juvenile home and the state training school.

HSB104 creates the substance abuse treatment and prevention fund .

Violence Against Women

HF292, **SSB1031**, and **HSB43** prohibit the knowing sale, disposal, possession, shipment, transportation, or receipt of a firearm or offensive weapon by a person who is the subject of a protective order or by a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

HF243 provides that a person who attempts to violate a court order or court-approved consent agreement, a temporary or permanent protective order or order to vacate the homestead, any order that establishes conditions of release or is a protective order or sentencing order in a criminal prosecution arising from a domestic abuse assault, or a protective order issued under Iowa's juvenile justice law commits a simple misdemeanor, or the court may hold such a person in contempt of court.

Welfare

HF249 provides a FY05-06 appropriation to the family investment program account administered by the department of human services and allocates the appropriation for the family development and self-sufficiency grant program.

Administrative Education

SSB1101 requires school boards to adopt and annually review a policy prohibiting bullying and harassment of all students.

Bills the ICSW is OPPOSING

Economics

HSB19 proposes an amendment adding a new Article XIII to the Constitution of the State of Iowa, giving the people of Iowa the right to vote on certain adopted increases of taxes and fees, so that the increases will not take effect unless approved by majority vote at a state general election.

Health

HF287 amends Code chapter 135L to require consent of a parent prior to the performance of an abortion on a minor. Current law requires notification of a parent at least 48 hours prior to the performance of an abortion on a minor.

This is only some of the legislation being monitored by the ICSW; however, a full report of legislation being tracked is available at <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw>. To obtain information on a specific bill, go to <www.legis.state.ia.us> or you may call the Legislative Information Office at 515/281-5129. Reach your Senator at 515/281-3371 and your Representative at 515/281-3221.

April 19 is Equal Pay Day

76 cents: The amount women, who worked full time, year-round, earned for every \$1 their male counterparts earned in 2003. This amount is down from 77 cents for every dollar in 2002.

\$30,724: The median annual earnings of women ages 15 and older who work full time, year-round. After adjusting for inflation, earnings for these women declined by 0.6 percent between 2002 and 2003 — their first annual decline since 1995.

60%: Percent of women 16 and over who participated in the workforce in 2003. Men in this age range had a participation rate of 74 percent.

34%: Percent of women 16 and over who work in professional specialty or executive, administrative and managerial jobs, compared with 30 percent of men.

20.3 million: Number of female workers in education, health and social services industries. More women work in this industry group than in any other.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet

For the past six years, an eclectic group of fascinating women have gathered on cold winter nights to enjoy a glass of wine and to delight in the pleasure of each other's company. Community activists, business professionals, political veterans, and a political novice or two have found their way to Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet and had the pure pleasure of great conversation.

The next Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet will be on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Terrace Hill, hosted by First Lady Christie Vilsack. Shuttle service is available.

Co-sponsors of the event include: Barbara Boatwright, Betty Brim-Hunter, Vicki Brown, Alicia Claypool, Shannon Cofield, Roxanne Barton Conlin, Joy Corning, Molly Culbertson, Ramona Cunningham, Michelle Durand-Adams, Mary Greffe, Betty Grundberg, Renee Hardman, Jean Haugland, Lana Hinderks, Winifred Kelley, Joni Klaassen, Cyril Mandelbaum, Holly Mennen-Sagar, D. J. Newlin, Lt. Gov. Sally Pederson, Mary Riche, Dr. Sheila M. Riggs, Anna Schmalzriedt, Racheal Schmalzriedt, Midge Slater, Margaret Swanson, Dawn Taylor, Kathy Wagner Wallace, Margi Weiss, Connie Wimer, and Jo Ann Zimmerman. Premier sponsors include: Carter Printing; Chrysalis Foundation; CWA – District 7; entertainment group l. c.; South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO; and Wellmark BlueCross BlueShield.

Cost for the event is \$35 and you can bring a guest for \$30. Please send your check, made payable to Friends of ICSW, along with the enclosed form by March 7, 2005.

Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet



_____ I can hardly wait for March 15! Spending an evening with a group of wonderful women sounds grand to me. Cost of the event is \$35. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.



_____ This sounds like so much fun, I want to bring guests!
(Price for each guest is \$30). Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

Name of guest(s): _____

_____ I would love to attend, but am unable. Have fun! Enclosed is my gift of \$_____.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Money cannot be accepted at the door; only those who RSVP will be admitted; and space is limited to the first 175.

Mail to Friends of ICSW, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319

Write Women Back Into History Winning Essays

6-7th Grade Category

“Wangari Maathai” by Sophia Dove, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids

Even though I’ve never met her, I know that Wangari Maathai is a wonderful person. Though some people may look down their noses at her dreadlocks, I am certain she has an amazing heart.

Wangari was born on April 1, 1940 in Nyeri, Kenya, one hundred miles from Nairobi. She was the oldest daughter of six children. Her parents were subsistence farmers.

Wangari went to Lumuru Girls High School in Kenya, yet she received her scholarship at Mount Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas. She was the first woman from Africa to earn a doctorate degree, which was in biology.

When Wangari’s husband ran for Parliament, which he won, she saw how many people were malnourished from deforestation, a process which leaves no land to be farmed. Women had to walk long distances to gather firewood and couldn’t make nutritious meals for their children. As well, deforestation caused part of Kenya to become desert. Wangari helped women to find jobs, “because,” she says, “women here are responsible for their children... they can’t sit back, waste time, and see them starve.”

In 1977, Wangari started the Green Belt Movement, her greatest accomplishment yet. The Green Belt Movement is an organization of women who plant trees in Kenya. “We started with seven trees in a small park in Nairobi,” she recalls. “We had no nursery, no staff, and no fund. People were asking us where to find seeds.”

The Green Belt movement soon gained support of the National Council of Women in Kenya and expanded rapidly. The trees are planted and cared for by women, then transferred to local schools, churches, and other smaller organizations.

This past December, Wangari won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the Green Belt Movement. Wangari Maathai is the first woman of color to win such a prize for the African continent.

Wangari has protected the environment, and saved many people’s lives. She is an environmentalist, feminist, human rights activist, and educator. Maathai not only identified problems; that, in itself can sometimes be difficult. She acted. She moved to solve the problems. This is what makes Wangari Maathai such a strong woman, and one who should be forever remembered in history.

References

- “Nobel Peace Prize Laureate” nobelprizes.com, January 25, 2004. <http://www.nobelprizes.com/nobel/nobel.html>
- “The Peace.” All Things Considered. National Public Radio, December 6, 2004.
- “Wangari Maathai.” Biography Today. Ed. Kevin Hillstrom. Detroit, MI: Omnigraphics, 1997.

8-9th Grade Category

“A Person, A Woman, A Star Light” by Robyn Michelle Johnson, Eddyville-Blakesburg High School

I have often come home very miserable and worn out. I do not always understand the actions and degrading words of my peers and a few teachers’. On one of these days, I had a history assignment, to read a section from a book describing a woman much like myself. She, too, could not understand the actions of her peers, and she was able to fight for her beliefs. Right away, I was able to relate with her, and my connection gave me a thirst to know more about this woman. In reading about her, I found that we share many of the same characteristics, and that she has characteristics that I want for myself. Her name is Amelia Jenks Bloomer.

In Homer, New York in 1818, Lucy and Ananias Jenks had a girl named Amelia. From the very start Amelia was very intelligent and dominant, she taught school with only a few years of education. Later she met her husband, a lawyer, who supported her through all her endeavors. Together they moved to New York, Ohio, and Iowa. In moving to different places, Amelia began to realize the depths of the American women’s plight which led her into the world of politics and the struggle for women’s rights.

In order to communicate about reforms for women, Amelia founded a newspaper in 1849 called The Lily, where she wrote numerous articles advocating women’s rights, higher education, and law reform. Her newspaper became very popular, and reached over 4,000 homes. It was the first woman suffrage journal in the United States. The newspaper disseminated many ideas; one of them was the “Bloomer” outfit for which Amelia is known. The “Bloomer” outfit was safe and comfortable, unlike the whalebone and metal corsets that could cause medical problems and deformation of the body. Wearing the Bloomer outfit meant many things: to be ostracized by the public, and wearing it gave women a sense of empowerment. Though Amelia and many other reformers stopped wearing the “Bloomer” outfit, it made huge reforms in the spirit of women, fashion, and later in women’s rights.

Amelia addressed the issue of women and children having no rights under the law. She advocated women receiving their paychecks, instead of their husbands. In addition, she demanded that children be protected by laws from havoc caused by alcohol, and to have women and children not seen as a man’s property. Many laws were passed to help these citizens. Amelia’s passion has helped all women and children.

In Iowa, Amelia was the first president of Iowa Woman’s Suffrage Association. Even though she was no longer writing for The Lily, and she was not a national figure, but she remained active in reform. As a pioneer

Essays Continued

state, Iowa needed guidance, and Amelia grabbed the change to educate Iowa women until her death on December 30, 1894. Amelia helped make a path to Iowa's greatness.

Amelia Jenks Bloomer has inspired the young and old. Through her writing, speaking, and actions Amelia has made it possible for women to get their names on their paychecks, for children to be protected by the law, reforms in fashion, and the way society treats women. To me, Amelia has strengthened my voice, to speak out clearly against degrading words and actions that are used against other people and me. Also, I need to take charge of situations that I question because if Amelia had not taken action, it would be many years for women to not be the underdogs in a society. Amelia is a shining star, to which I aspire.

Bibliography

Primary Books:

Coon C. Anne, ed. (1994), *Hear Me Patiently: The Reform Speeches of Amelia Jenks Bloomer*, Greenwood Press, Connecticut.

Endres, Kathleen L., and Lueck Therese L, ed. (1996), *Women's Periodicals in the United States*, Greenwood Press, Connecticut.

Secondary Books:

Corey, Shana (2000), *You forgot Your Skirt Amelia Bloomer!*, Scholastic Press, Mexico.

Laver, James (19), *The Concise History of Costume and Fashion*, Harry N. Abrams Inc, New York.

Internet:

Unknown: 'Teaching With Documents Lesson Plan: Petition of Amelia Bloomer Regarding Suffrage in the West' 2004 {Online} http://www.archives.gov/digital_classroom/lessons/bloomer_suffrage_petition/bloomer_suffrage_petition.html (December 12, 2004).

Des Moines Register: 'Famous Iowans: Amelia Bloomer' {Online} <http://desmoinesregister.com/extras/iowans/bloomer.html>, (December 20, 2004).

[Editor's Note: Essays were typed as received.]

Women Business Owners

By now, you probably know that there are an estimated 6.7 million majority-owned, privately held women-owned businesses in the U.S. as of 2004, and another 3.9 million firms that are equally owned by a woman and a man. But did you know that there are an estimated 15.6 million women business owners in the United States? This number includes not only the women owners of majority and equally-owned businesses, but women who are part owners of multiple owner businesses. This new fact is contained in an updated Fact Sheet from the National Women's Business Council. The fact sheet may be accessed by visiting <www.nwbc.gov/keyfacts/Key-Facts-About-Women-Business-Owners-2004.pdf>.

Whispers & Screams: Outside In.

Whispers & Screams are hard to hear: Creating an Audience for Girls' Voices is an annual conference sponsored by the Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force. *Whispers & Screams* programs work to define what it means to provide equal services for girls involved in or at-risk for involvement in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

The theme of the 2005 conference, *Outside In*, will build on the foundation of previous conferences by bringing together forward-thinking individuals who are committed to comprehensive system change that makes gender equity for girls a priority.

Young women are powerfully impacted by societal and personal influences, often to their detriment. We, who care about young women, need to act as champions on their behalf – contesting complacency and advocating change - while fortifying young women to themselves challenge that which would harm them. To that end, this year's *Whispers and Screams* will have keynote presentations by Meda Chesney-Lind, Ph.D. and Jessica Henderson Daniel, Ph.D., ABPP. Chesney-Lind, of the University of Hawaii, is a nationally recognized researcher, author and award-winning contributor to the understanding of criminal justice and is an outspoken advocate for girls and women. Her keynote will critically examine female juvenile delinquency and detention trends with a focus on current research. Henderson Daniel, of Harvard Medical School, Boston Children's Hospital, and Boston University, will provide a context for viewing adolescent girls of color and explore how diversity in all its manifestations can influence self-perception and perspective.

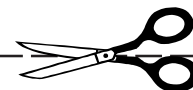
In addition to basic and advanced workshops in keeping with the theme of the conference, attendees will continue to be offered information on gender-specific programming, female development and experiences, as well as practical tools for working with young women.

Courageous Advocacy Awards will be presented to three outstanding advocates for young women and the Task Force will also honor a courageous girl or young woman. Nomination forms are available on the ICSW web site and in the conference registration brochure.

Hersong, the Quad-Cities Women's Chorus will perform at this year's conference. Under the artistic direction of Ms. Sandra Malahy, *Hersong* showcases women's music, celebrates women's strength, and promotes social justice.

Whispers & Screams: Outside In will be held May 12-13 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Ames. Fees vary. To receive registration information, please contact Kathy Nesteby at 515/281-6915 or 800/558-4427, or <kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov>. Registration information is also available on-line: <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/girls.html>.

Iowa Sexual Assault Centers



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. If any of the following numbers are no longer in service, contact the hotline number to find the project nearest you. Also, note that most of the sexual assault projects double as domestic violence projects. This list was provided by the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 515/244-7424, <www.iowacasa.org>.

Adel		Davenport (Rock Island)		Muscatine	
Crisis Line	800/400-4884	Crisis Line	563/326-9191	Crisis Line	563/263-8080
Office	515/993-4095	Office	563/322-1200	Office	563/263-0067
Spanish Line	800/550-0004				
Algona		Decorah		Oskaloosa	
Crisis Line	877/295-6958	Crisis Line	800/383-2988	Crisis Line	800/270-1620
Office	515/295-8646	Office	563/382-1260	Office	641/673-0336
Ames		Des Moines		Ottumwa	
Crisis Line	800/203-3488	Crisis Line	515/286-3535	Crisis Line	800/464-8340
Office	515/292-0500	Office	515/286-3600	Office	641/683-1750
Boone	515/432-3606	Dubuque		Shenandoah	
Atlantic		Crisis Line	888/557-0310	Crisis Line	888/767-3620
Crisis Line	800/696-5123	Office	563/557-0310	Office	712/246-6187
Office	712/243-6615	Fort Dodge		Sioux Center	
Harlan	712/755-3542	Crisis Line	888/356-2006	Crisis Line	800/382-5603
Burlington		Office	515/955-2273	Office	712/722-4483
Crisis Line	800/693-1399	Grundy Center		Sioux City	
Office	319/752-0606	Crisis Line	888/746-4673	Crisis Line	800/982-7233
Carroll		Office	319/824-5522	Office	712/277-0131
Crisis Line	800/383-9744	Eldora	641/939-8186	LeMars	712/546-6764
Office	712/792-6722	Iowa City		Onawa	712/423-3443
Cedar Rapids		Crisis Line	319/335-6000	Spencer/Spirit Lake	
Crisis Line	800/208-0389	Office	319/335-6001	Crisis Line	877/362-4612
Office	319/365-1458	Keokuk		Office	712/262-4612
Cherokee		Crisis Line	800/498-5095	Waterloo	
Crisis Line	800/225-7233	Office	319/524-8520	Crisis Line	866/304-8484
Office	712/225-5003	Knoxville		Office	319/235-6271
Storm Lake	712/732-8120	Crisis Line	800/433-7233	Waverly	
Clinton		Office	641/828-8888	Crisis Line	800/410-7233
Crisis Line	800/381-9319	Marshalltown		Office	319/352-1108
Office	563/242-2118	Crisis Line	800/779-3512		
Maquoketa	563/652-4162	Office	641/752-3245	Deaf Women of Iowa Against Abuse	
Council Bluffs		Newton	641/791-3446	Office (TTY only)	515/244-0875
Crisis Line	888/612-0266	Grinnell	641/236-7226	Relay	711
Office	712/256-2059	Mason City		Pager	800/345-3228
Creston		Crisis Line	800/479-9071	Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer (LUNA)	
Crisis Line	888/782-6632	Office	641/424-9071	Crisis Line	866/256-7668
Office	641/782-2706	Hampton	641/456-5835	Office	515/271-5060
		Forest City	641/585-1050		

State Hotline 800/284-7821

Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

Nominations for the 31st Annual Iowa Women's Hall of Fame are being accepted by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women until **May 2, 2005** (postmarked). Any group or person may submit a nomination by sending the completed form and six copies to the Commission office. Nominations remain current for three years and then may be resubmitted.

Forms can be obtained on the ICSW website at <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw> or by contacting the ICSW office at 515/281-4470, 800/558-4427 or <lori.schraderbachar@iowa.gov>.

Calendar of Events

March

Women's History Month

- 4 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-12 noon, Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Kathy Nesteby, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or <kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov>.
- 5 Daughters of Shahrazad Face to Face.** 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. for conference. 7 p.m. for Gala Dinner and Performance. Old Brick Auditorium, Iowa City. Fee varies. Sponsored by Women's Resource and Action Center, Kahraman Near East Dance Ensemble and others. For more information, visit <www.kahramandance.org> or call 319/354-9638.
- 5 Media Training: Getting on the Air and Into Print.** 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City. \$50. Women's Resource and Action Center, 319/335-1486 or <www.uiowa.edu/~wrac>.
- 8 International Women's Day.**
- 8 Equal Justice After Hours.** 5:30-7:30 p.m., Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. \$35. Iowa Legal Aid, </www.iowalegalaid.org/link.cfm?772>.
- 11 Swimming to Antarctica with Lynne Cox.** 7 p.m., Olmstead Center, Drake University, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. Chrysalis Foundation, 515/255-1853.
- 11 In Our Choices, We Create: Women Helping Women Annual Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m., Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. \$22. Speaker: Carmen Lampe Zeitler, M.Div. Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center, 515/274-4006.
- 15 Women of Excellence Banquet.** 5:30 p.m., Sioux City Convention Center, Sioux City. \$30. Silent auction available. Speaker: Diane Kay. RSVP by March 11 to Women Aware, 712/258-4174 or 800/465-6165.
- 15 Women You Know. Women You Want to Meet.** 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Terrace Hill, Des Moines. \$35. See page 3 for more information.
- 17 Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest Awards Ceremony.** 10 a.m., Kennedy Conference Room, State Capitol, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. Call or write for special accommodations, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4470 or <lori.schraderbachar@iowa.gov>.
- 18-21 Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa's 21st Annual Paperback Book Sale.** Walnut Center, State Fair Grounds, Des Moines. Admission is free.<www.ppgi.org>.

- 24 Women Impacting Public Policy Colleague Event.** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cedar Rapids. \$25. Speaker: Terry Neese. Register at <www.pwn.org>.

- 31- April 1 Growing Old With Dignity and Grace: Issues Confronting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Seniors.** Iowa State Historical Building, Des Moines. Fee varies. Iowa Department of Elder Affairs. For questions, contact Alice Vinsand, 515/225-1051 or <alice@avinsandinc.com>.

April

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- 1 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-12 noon, Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Kathy Nesteby, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or <kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov>.
- 5 Planning Political Campaigns with Karen Kubby.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City. \$25. Women's Resource and Action Center, 319/335-1486 or <www.uiowa.edu/~wrac>.
- 7, 14, 21 Taking the Road Less Traveled in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology Career Conference for Girls,** grades 6-12. Program for Women in Science and Engineering, Iowa State University, 515/294-5319, <trlt@iastate.edu>, or <www.pwse.iastate.edu>.
- 9 Girl Power.** 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Des Moines. Free. Junior League of Des Moines, 515/279-5339.
- 9 International Women's Day Celebration.** 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Des Moines. Monsoon: Asian Women United of Iowa. For more information, contact Shashi Tenneti at <shashirt@yahoo.com>.
- 12 Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting.** 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Location TBA. Free and open to the public. Call or write for special accommodations, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461 or <dh.icsw@iowa.gov>.
- 27-30 White Privilege Conference.** Central College, Pella. Fee varies. For more information or to register, <www.whiteprivilegeconference.com>.

Upcoming

- May 7 Take Control of Your Diabetes Conference and Health Fair.** 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Polk County Convention Complex, Des Moines. Fee varies. Iowa Diabetes and Endocrinology Center, 888/755-5683 or <www.tcoyd.org>.

Bits and Pieces

The ICSW welcomes three new *ex officio* commissioners. Senator Matt McCoy, Des Moines, and Representative Cindy Winckler have been appointed. Walter Reed, Jr., the newly appointed director of the Department of Human Rights, has also joined the commission. The ICSW also extends a thank you to *ex officio* commissioner Representative Mary Mascher, who has served on the ICSW since 2001.

ICSW is not issuing a request for proposals (RFP) for grant awards to fund programs providing services to **Iowans in Transition** (displaced homemakers, single parents, or female offenders) at the usual March 1st time. Since awards are contingent upon receipt of funding from the State of Iowa as appropriated by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor, it seems prudent to delay the release until it is

known if funds are available for fiscal year 2006. Once released, RFPs will be available on the information page of our website, <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw>.

Appointment resumes for women who are interested in serving on a state board or commission are available through the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, or <dhr.icsw@iowa.gov>. You may also visit the information page of our website, <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw> and click on the state boards and commissions link. The ICSW currently has one vacancy for a male.

The **2004 Annual Report**, (February 2005, 33rd Edition) is available. The annual report details the activities of the ICSW during calendar year 2004. If you wish to receive a report, contact the ICSW at 515/281-4461 or 800/558-

4427, or e-mail <dhr.icsw@iowa.gov>. The publication is also available on-line at <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/pubs.html>.

Reading Rainbow, an award-winning children's television program, is airing an episode on April 25 devoted to a book about a child who visits her father in prison. *Visiting Day*, a book by Jacqueline Woodson about a young girl and her grandmother who make the long bus trip every month to visit the girl's father in prison, will be featured explaining what life is like for kids when a parent is incarcerated and what it's like for a parent. Visit <www.readingrainbow.com> for more information.

Are you a **nontraditional farmer**? Do you want information released by United States Department of Agriculture? If so, visit <forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet> to register.

Help save printing/postage costs!
If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please write or call the ICSW office. You may also send your e-mail address. Thank you!

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Enclosure of items in the newsletter does not necessarily connote endorsement by the Friends of the ICSW. All information must be mailed or faxed to the ICSW no later than the 15th day of all even numbered months. The use of any submitted material is at the discretion of the editor. The *IoWoman* is mailed six times per year to 8,600 persons or organizations.

Janis Anderson, President • Charlotte Nelson, ICSW Executive Director • Lori M. Schrader-Bachar, Editor

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 ***IoWoman***