



Iowa Woman

A Publication of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women • Vol. XXXVI, No. 2, March/April 2006

March is Women's History Month

To address the absence of information about women in America's schools, the National Women's History Project led a movement to have Congress designate a celebration to recognize women's historic achievements. The goal was to ensure that information about the myriad ways women have changed America would be part of our children's education.

In 1980, President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation calling on the American people to remember the contributions of women. By 1987, fourteen governors had declared March as Women's History Month, and that same year, Congress and the President followed by declaring March as National Women's History Month.

The purpose of women's history is not to idealize women. On the contrary, the stories of women's achievements present an expanded view of the complexity and contradiction of living a full and purposeful life.

Learning about the extraordinary achievements of women helps diminish the tendency to dismiss and trivialize who women are and what they accomplish. In celebrating women's historic achievements, we present an authentic view of history. The knowledge of women's history provides a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. This perspective can encourage girls and women to think larger and bolder and can give boys and men a fuller

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Write Women Back Into History

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.

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*.

This year's theme, Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams, honors the spirit of possibility and hope set in motion by generations of women in their creation of communities and their encouragement of dreams. Community comes in many forms, and dreams change, expand, and are sometimes fulfilled. Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams honors women for bringing communities together and restoring hope in the face of impossible odds.

Over an estimated 1,850 students participated statewide in the 22nd Annual Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest this year. Volunteer judges reviewed the essays submitted by 6-9th grade teachers from 18 schools. Final judging was held February 16.

The winners will be honored on International Women's Day, Wednesday, March 8 at a 10 a.m. ceremony by Lt. Governor Pederson in the Auditorium of the State Historical Building. 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. They will also tour the State Historical Museum and State Capitol.

The first place essays in the 6-7th and 8-9th grade general and science categories begin on page 6. To view all winning essays, go to <www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/sw/wom_history/index.html>.

2006 WWBH Winners

6-7 Grade Category

- 1st Place: Emily Wrider, Harding Middle School, Cedar Rapids
- 2nd Place: Stephanie Wenclawski, Harding Middle School, Cedar Rapids
- 3rd Place: Fontavia Reynolds, Waukee Middle School

8-9 Grade Category

- 1st Place: Paul Hayden, Thomas Jefferson High School, Council Bluffs
- 2nd Place: Amanda de Neui, Dunkerton Community School
- 3rd Place: Rachel Kuenning, Thomas Jefferson High School, Council Bluffs

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

- 1st Place: Connor Steffens, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids

Best Essays on Women in Science and Engineering for 8-9 Grades

- 1st Place: Allison MacKay, Urbandale Middle School
- 2nd Place: Tess Myer, Mount Ayr Community High School

Equal Pay Day Is April 25th

Tuesday, April 25th, is the national observance of Equal Pay Day, the day when women and men around the country recognize the wage gap between working women and men, and offer remedies to address pay inequity. According to statistics released in 2005 by the United States Census Bureau, women are paid, on average, 77 cents for every dollar their male counterparts are paid — a gap of 23 cents.

Iowa women's pay does not measure up to the national average. The 2004 American Community Survey found that Iowa women earned 73.7% of what Iowa men earn. According to the Iowa wage study released in 2000, 64 percent of female respondents reported annual wages of \$25,000 or less while 66 percent of males reported wages over \$25,000.

There were 68.7 million women in the workforce in 2004, a significant increase from 18.4 million in 1950. This year women are projected to comprise 48% of the national labor force. In 2004, 64 percent of Iowa women age 16 and older were in the workforce, which represented 47 percent of the total workforce. With more women in the workforce, and more families reliant upon women's paychecks for their livelihood, both Iowa and the U.S must address the wage gap for the sake of families and their financial stability.

Women of color fare even worse. Of full-time workers, black women's median weekly earnings were only 64% of the earnings of white men in 2000. Black women account for 30% of all female-headed families in the U.S. They have a median income of \$18,244 annually, while families headed by white males (no wife present) have a median income of \$39,240. The median full-time earnings for Latinas was \$20,527, only 52% of the median earnings of white men. The median income of a Latina householder is only 46% of the incomes of single white male householders.

Four ways to close the pay gap:

1. Keep affirmative action programs in place to make sure education, jobs and promotion opportunities are open and offered to qualified women.
2. Employers must examine and correct their pay practices. Employers can get help in examining their pay practices through equal pay self-audit guidelines from the U.S. Department of Labor, which can be found at www.pay-equity.org/cando-audit.html.
3. Women must stand up for equal pay and for themselves. If a prospective employer cannot show that women and men are paid equally for the job, it makes sense to look elsewhere. Positive signs include a hiring process that seeks diversity, written pay and benefit policies, job descriptions and evaluation procedures. A union for workers is another good sign. Women in unions earn 35% more than women in non-union workplaces. Women who are paid less than men must discuss the problem with their employer. If there's a union, ask their help. If discrimination persists, file a complaint with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission or with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
4. Federal legislation such as the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Fair Pay Act need to be passed. That's not a solution popular with employers, but it may be necessary. For employers who continue to pay women less, legal penalties or EEOC action may be the only remedies.

Pay equity is a growing national movement. States around the country are introducing pay equity legislation and women continue to recognize the importance of this legislation. Pay inequity penalizes families especially during times of economic hardship so we must address it when trying to boost the economy. At the rate we are going, the wage gap will not be eliminated until 2040. Women and their families cannot afford to wait that long.

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 22, 8:30-11:30 a.m., United Way of the Quad Cities, 3247 East 35th Street Court, Davenport.

The workshop will consist of a panel presentation, role playing, and benefit package discussion. 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 benefit packages in Show Me My Future.

The cost for the workshop is \$5. The deadline to register for the conference is April 19. Late registrations will be accepted as space permits.

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

Women's Health

The National Women's Health Information Center has updated their home page and web site address www.WomensHealth.gov. It now is easier to navigate and includes an enhanced search function that allows for searching the entire web site for a specific word or health topic. This includes the news archive, specialty health sections, and databases of women's health publications and organizations.

understanding of the female experience.

How are our children —girls and boys alike —going to understand the importance of women to American culture and history if their education includes little or nothing about the significance of women’s contributions?

We know from research and from anecdotal studies that learning the stories of women’s success, talent, and accomplishments expands a sense of what is possible for girls and women. Information about women and their successes gives males and females alike a perspective that challenges some of our cultures’ most unconscious and archaic assumptions about women.

Thus, women’s history becomes a story of inspiration and hope. A story of courage and tenacity. A story of promise, possibility and purpose.

Women’s history is our nation’s story. It is the story of how women built communities and inspired and nurtured dreams and how they will continue to do so.

The National Women’s History Project, <www.nwhp.org> has wonderful resources for women’s history.

Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

Nominations for the 32nd Annual Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame are being accepted by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women until **May 1, 2006** (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.schraderbacher@iowa.gov>.

Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet

For the past seven 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 Wednesday, March 22, 2006 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Des Moines.

This annual gathering is a fundraising event for the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, helping support the commission’s bimonthly publication *IoWoman*, and other projects. Friends, through events like this, helps support ICSW’s noble and honorable mandates.

Cosponsors of the event include Roxanne Barton Conlin, Helen C. Adams, Marti Anderson, Deborah Babb, Margaret Borgen, Dody Boswell, Betty Brim-Hunter, Molly Culbertson, Camile Curley, Betty Durden, Betty Grundberg, Jean Haugland, Joni Klaassen, Rose Kleyweg Mitchell, Ellen de Lathouder, Dianne Liepa, Holly Mennen Sagar, Mary Riche, Kim Sagar, Margaret Swanson, Miriam Brown Tyson, Margi Weiss, Connie Wimer, Bailey Leadership Initiative/Regenia Bailey, Carter Printing, Chrysalis Foundation, and United Way of Central Iowa.

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 15, 2006.

Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet



_____ I can hardly wait for March 22! 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: _____

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

Legislation Affection Iowa Women Reported

During the second year of the 81st session, bills introduced in 2005 as well as new bills introduced this year may be processed. March 3rd is the final date, however, for bills that have not been reported out of their own chamber. March 24th is the final date for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees and House bills out of Senate committees to survive unless it is an appropriation, ways and means, or government oversight bill. Bills pertaining to ICSW legislative proposals and the current bill status are posted weekly on the ICSW web site at <www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/sw/legislation/index.html>.

ICSW Commissioners Senators McCoy and Tinsman with Representatives Maddox and Winckler are introducing resolutions to celebrate March as Women's History Month.

ICSW supports HF570 to provide 10% of the civil penalties collected from health care facilities for violations of the health care facilities are appropriated to the Department of Public Health to be used for efforts to recruit and retain direct care workers that provide services in both facility-based and community-based settings.

ICSW pre-filed a bill to create an at-home infant care initiative under the program for certain parents, guardians, or custodians of an infant who care for the infant at home. The Senate is considering this via SSB3034 in a Human Resources Subcommittee.

ICSW supports increasing the minimum wage in Iowa. HF105, HF111, SF94 and SF120 last year along with HF2032, SF2067 and SF2222 this year have been introduced, but none have been recommended by their assigned committees for passage yet.

Twelve bills were introduced to prevent legal loan sharks from victimizing Iowans. SF2276 that would prohibit a finance charge from exceeding 21 percent was introduced and approved by the Senate Commerce Committee. SF2098 or SF288 would regulate real estate appraisals.

HF720 providing financial and technical assistance to early-stage industry companies being established by young professionals and women entrepreneurs passed the House in 2005 but is stalled in the Senate Economic Growth committee.

HF2332 changing child support recovery unit is on the House calendar.

Three bills stopping harassment and bullying in schools (SF406, HF382, HF367) are dead; HSB692 is in Human Resources.

SF126, SF150, HF596 and HF842 prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. (Iowa cities already with an ordinance: Ames, Bettendorf, Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Davenport, Decorah, Des Moines, Iowa City and Dubuque.)

HF2470 requires all appointive boards, commissions, committees, and councils of the state or of a political subdivision (i.e., a city, county, or school corporation) to be gender balanced.

HF2022 increases the tax imposed on cigarettes from 36 cents to \$1 per pack.

HF2432, HF2025 or HF2212 would expand the hawk-i program to cover parents and legal custodians and guardians of children who are eligible.

HF605 requires that the educational programs provided by school districts and accredited nonpublic schools include, in the human growth and development areas and the health curriculum or health education unit, age-appropriate and science-based information.

ICSW supports substance abuse insurance parity, but all five bills from last year appear to be dead.

HF2388 adds a requirement that the phone number for an insured to obtain more information about the external review process be printed on the insured's insurance card, and be posted in a prominent place in health care facilities.

HF2055 and SF2040 would allow tax credits for long-term care insurance

HF2388 adds a requirement that the phone number for an insured to obtain more information about the external review process be printed on the insurance card, and to be posted in a prominent place in health care facilities.

HF2498 makes discrimination on the basis of the sex or marital status of the insured in the amount of premium, policy fees, rates charged for any insurance policy or contract other than life, dividends, or other benefits payable, an unfair insurance practice.

SF2219 relates to human trafficking and related offenses, including the provision of law enforcement training and victim assistance programs, and provides penalties. The Senate passed this in a 50/0 vote on 2/2006, and the House Judiciary will take it up next.

HF2304 would restrict commitments at the Iowa Juvenile Home to females.

HF2193 and HF2020 are being reviewed by Judiciary to amend the definition of "hate crime" to include an assault, individual rights violation, criminal mischief, or trespass committed against a person or a person's property because of the offender's bias against a person's "actual or perceived" race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

HF2443 takes out the six years limitation in determining whether a domestic abuse assault is a second or subsequent offense.

Having a state law the same as the federal law to prohibit persons who have committed domestic violence or who are subject to a no-contact order from possessing weapons would make enforcement much easier for law

enforcement officials. However, HF292 and SF310 filed last year died in committee.

ICSW supports ensuring victims of domestic violence can call the police or emergency assistance without facing eviction. So far, HF2349, HF554 HF444, HF361 and SF208 have been introduced but cannot get out of committee.

HF2210 provides that the Iowa domestic abuse death review team shall make recommendations for action to be taken by state agencies in regard to the prevention of future domestic abuse deaths and requires such agencies to respond to the recommendations in writing within 60 days.

ICSW supported SSB3174, HF522, HF880 or SF387 that would dedicate revenue from real estate transfer tax to fund homeless shelters, low income housing, and housing rehabilitation, but the bills are not moving out of committee.

Appropriations started with HF2238 with federal block grant funding including maternal and child health services \$6,737,839, preventive health (including rape prevention) \$1,342,075, STOP violence against women grants \$1,446,000, child care and development \$40,426,890, and social services \$16,902,644. The House passed the bill 99/0 and sent it to the Senate. Recommendations from the Governor and from the House Republicans moving the ICSW appropriation are for a status quo budget of \$335,501 for FY07. HF2256 appropriates \$190,185 for the substance abuse therapeutic community treatment program at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women

ICSW opposes HF287, HF376, HF380, SF186 and HF787 which would restrict access to all reproductive health care options for women as currently available. All died in subcommittee last year except HF787 that passed the House 98/0

and is in the Senate Human Resources Committee.

ICSW opposes SSB3190 that proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa to require approval by vote of the people before certain tax or fee increases take effect.

ICSW opposes HF2286 and SF2010 for reinstatement of the death penalty. HF2286 was approved by the House Judiciary Committee.

ICSW opposed SF2109 that related to employment of undocumented immigrants more than to human trafficking concerns. The bill appears to be dead in the Judiciary Committee.

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.

Lunch & Learn

Join the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women on Friday, March 3 at the ICSW Legislative Lunch and Learn. The free event will begin promptly at 12 noon and end at 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch to the Legislative Dining Room in the State Capitol and hear more about the ICSW's 2006 Legislative Proposals. The event will include a panel discussion on issues and a question and answer period.

Panel members include Victor Elias, Child and Family Policy Center; Ralph Rosenberg, Iowa Civil Rights Commission; Cece Arnold, National Catholic Rural Life Conference; Mary O'Brien, Visiting Nurse Services; Pat McClintock, Iowa Legal Aid; Deb Hanus, Iowa Juvenile Home; and Charlotte Nelson, ICSW.

For more information or for special accommodations, please contact the ICSW, 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, or <dhr.icsw@iowa.gov>.

Iowans in Transition RFP Released

ICSW is 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) on March 1st. The RFP may be downloaded from the ICSW website at <www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/sw/information/index.html>.

Awards are contingent upon receipt of funding from the State of Iowa as appropriated by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. Last year \$92,000 in total was awarded to five programs at seven sites. Deadline for submission of proposals is 4 p.m. on Friday, May 26, 2006.



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creating an audience for girl's voices*

Chapter 10: You Must Be Present to Win

June 1-2, 2006
The Hotel at Gateway Center
Ames

Two keynote speakers, twenty workshops, exhibitors, art, door prizes, fun and learning for all. Come and join us to celebrate our 10th year!

To learn more, go to
<www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/sw/girls/whisper_screams.html>
or call 515/281-6915 or 800/558-4427.

Write Women Back Into History Winning General Essays

6-7th Grade Category

“Alejandra Pena Gill de Serrati” by Emily Wrider, Harding Middle School, Cedar Rapids

We stepped off the plane in Asuncion, Paraguay. My family and I had returned to my birth country for the first time since I was adopted 11 years ago. Waiting for us was a woman named Alejandra Pena Gill de Serrati and her husband Osvaldo Codas. As soon as we boarded the buses that would take us to our hotel, Alejandra began to talk about the history and culture of Paraguay. It was immediately obvious that she was a woman passionate about Paraguayan culture.

Rural Paraguayan artists are some of the poorest people in the world. Many of them move to the cities thinking that they will be able to find jobs where they can earn more money. Instead, they are unable to support themselves because the economy is so poor. Most of them end up living the slums and abandoning their handicraft traditions. Alejandra and Osvaldo started Paraguay Hecho a Mano (Paraguay Made by Hand) to try to prevent this and preserve the heritage of Paraguay’s indigenous peoples.

Hecho A Mano has set up museums such as the Nanduti Lace Museum and the Nature and Cultural Museum to preserve the handicrafts and artifacts of the past. The Nanduti Lace Museum catalogs samples of lace and explains the symbolism represented through the many intricate designs. Nanduti lace is not made by adding thread, but by cutting threads out of fabric. It can be solid or multi-colored, small enough to trim clothing or large enough for a wall hanging. This particular type of lace is native to Paraguay, and has been made by the indigenous people for decades.

Alejandra is the director of the Museo de La Tierra Guarani: Una Aventura de Naturaleza y Cultura (Guarani Earth Museum of Nature and Culture). This is a museum and zoo near the border with Brazil and Argentina. It preserves over 10,000 years of history of the 17 indigenous tribes along the Parana River. The museum uses touch screen computers and modern technology to educate today’s visitors about the past inhabitants. The biodiversity of the area is represented in museum displays and the live zoo that displays rainforest birds.

Paraguay Hecho a Mano is helping artisans to maintain and pass on their handicrafts by opening new markets where they can sell what they make to earn a living. Alejandra has represented Paraguay as a juror at the National Handicraft Show sponsored by the United Nations Organizations for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO). She also organized the exhibition “Popular Arts from Paraguay” that took place at the National Museum of Peru.

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8-9th Grade Category

“Write Women Back into History: A Profile of Edna Griffin” by Paul Hayden, Thomas Jefferson High School, Council Bluffs

There were many famous women throughout Iowa’s history. One of these lesser known, but still important, women was Edna Griffin. Edna played an important role in helping African-Americans combat discrimination across Iowa.

On July 7, 1948, Edna Griffin, her daughter Phyllis, and two of her friends, was refused service at Katz Drug Store in downtown Des Moines, Iowa, because of the color of their skin. Griffin launched a campaign to force Katz to serve African-Americans by organizing picketing in front of the establishment, sometimes picketing all alone. Charges were eventually filed against the storeowner, and the case turned into the first successful enforcement of the 1884 Iowa Civil Rights Act.

On the campus of Fisk University, Edna Griffin was also involved in protesting Mussolini’s invasion of Ethiopia. Griffin was later arrested marching alongside striking teachers in a picket line. In her ongoing effort to reverse the effects of racism, Edna Griffin organized the Des Moines chapter of the Congress on Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.). Edna continued to be an active participant in the civil rights movement throughout the 1950s and 1960s, and a champion of human rights until her death in 2000.

I think Edna Griffin’s contributions to Iowa’s history need greater recognition because she stood up for African-Americans when few would. She worked tirelessly to achieve equality for Africans-Americans in the Des Moines, Iowa, community. She received numerous awards for her community service work, and was inducted into the Iowa African-Americans’ Hall of Fame and the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame. According to Des Moines Register columnist Adin Davis, “Every community has its Rosa Parks ... and Edna Griffin has been the Rosa Parks of the Des Moines community for a long time. This is a civil rights warrior who knew her battleground.”

While championing causes is the thing for which Edna Griffin is best known, it is only a small part of her life. Above all else, Edna was devoted to her family, who shared in her desire to improve the lives of others. She and her husband, a prominent local physician, raised money for approximately 40 individuals to attend Dr. Martin Luther King’s March on Washington. Since the early 60s, Ms. Griffin has been honored with the Mary Louise Smith Award, Urban Dreams’ Trailblazer Award, and most recently, was honored to have the building where the Katz Drug Store once stood named after her.

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Write Women Back Into History Winning Science Essays

6-7th Grade Category

“Rachel Carson” by Connor Steffens, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids

“I can remember no time when I wasn’t interested in the outdoors and the whole world of nature.” This quote was said by Rachel Carson. She was the first woman to take and pass the Civil Service Test. Her interest in nature helps to keep humans and animals safe even today.

Rachel Carson was born on May 27, 1907 in Springdale, Pennsylvania. She was the youngest child in her family. She died on April 14, 1964 in her home in Silver Springs, Maryland.

Ms. Carson joined the United States Bureau of Fisheries as a writer. The Bureau of Fisheries hired her as a full time junior biologist. She rose in ranks until she was the chief editor of all publications for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Rachel saved birds and fish from a chemical called DDT. DDT thinned egg shells so they were harder to reproduce. DDT was the first chemically made pesticide. Her book Silent Spring informed the public about how DDT was not good for the environment. The pesticide was later banned in the United States because it was not safe for nature. Her book also led to the development of the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA.

In 1925, Rachel went to Pennsylvania College for Women which is now called Chatham College. In 1929, she graduated and earned a scholarship to study at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1932, she was awarded her master’s degree in marine zoology at John Hopkins University.

Rachel had a desire to help others understand and become more aware of the natural world. She encouraged students and young adults to reach his or her potential as a learner and as a responsible citizen. This is good advice because if you reach your potential, you will do well in life.

In 1929, the stock market in the United States fell to a record level. It destroyed the American economy and killed the dreams of young adults like Carson. Millions of people lost jobs. Unemployment in the United States increased from 1.5 million to 12.1 million. Carson was able to stay in school because of her scholarship. She kept studying even though she knew it would be hard to get a job.

Carson liked to read and write, too. When she wasn’t doing chores, she read. She asked family members to bring books from Pittsburgh. When she was little, she loved to read about wildlife. She also wrote books. The first book she wrote was called Under the Sea Wind. For her next project, Carson wanted to write a book with an ecological theme. She would write a book that described the connection between humans and wildlife. This book was called Silent Spring.

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8-9th Grade Category

“The Bird Lady of Iowa” by Allison MacKay, Urbandale Middle School

Who cares about birds? They have no purpose to serve, they don’t do anything. Why should we bother with them? Those were my initial thoughts, until I read about how the dedication and tedious work of bird-watchers could have an impact on the survival of our species. A recent example would be Dr. Özens. He predicted the bird-flu out-break in Turkey, and he helped draft the government’s response to combat the virus. He used to be teased about his bird watching. No one laughs at him anymore.

Our own Iowan ornithologist was also thought to be eccentric. Gladys Black wore men’s clothes, smoked, and complained about human “yo-yos” who messed up Iowa with trash and pesticides. She watched television only if there were going to be nature programs. Her house and yard were not her “top priorities.” Her friends admired her for her intelligence, common sense, and frankness, and said that she could also be warm and sensitive. However, she was most admired for her expertise – in birds, wildlife, and conservation. Her devotion earned her an honorary doctorate from Simpson College in 1978.

Gladys was well-known for being able to cite information straight off the top of her head. As a seven-year old, she could name 25 species of birds. Described by her sister as a “walking encyclopedia,” Gladys was a constant reader. Later in life, Gladys wrote two books, called Iowa Birdlife and Birds of Iowa. She wrote a column for the Des Moines Register for over ten years, inspiring her readers to preserve Iowa’s natural heritage.

As an activist, Gladys battled with the Department of Natural Resources when they went ahead with the dove hunting season plan. The officials did not foresee any problems. They had never come across an irate Gladys Black. “I didn’t want doves hunted in Iowa...So when they said they were going to have a season, I said, ‘Nothing doing.’” Black protested to the commission members and staff and then continued on to the legislators. She took them all to court, and she won, leaving behind a building occupied with bewildered state officials.

Gladys strongly believed that the environment was becoming contaminated at a disturbing rate by chemicals and abuse. One of her books was written for the Nature Conservancy, an international membership organization committed to protecting and maintaining the natural world. Her yard was filled with cages, where she looked after injured birds. Gladys even moved a malnourished snowy owl into her house when it got too cold. She truly was amazing.

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Alejandra and Hecho a Mano have recognized the family needs of the artisans. For example, they have begun to help the school in Tobati by providing food, school supplies, and school uniforms. Many of the adoptive families in my tour group brought school supplies to donate to this school.

Alejandra has become important in my life because she took the time to teach me, and other children who were adopted, the Paraguayan part of being Paraguayan-American. I have no memory of living in Paraguay because I was adopted at a young age. Now that I am older, however, I will remember much more. Alejandra really educated me about who I am and where I came from. She is an example of a successful and compassionate Paraguayan woman. She has preserved history and traditions that someday I hope to share with my own children to help them better understand, as I do now, my heritage. I can say with pride that I have two countries to call home.

Resources

Paraguay Hecho a Mano

<http://www.paraguayhechoamano.org>

Debates: History and Museums.

<http://www.memoriaactiva.org.pv>

Special Investigation: Earth Museum Guarani translation from the World Times, Week of 17-23rd of February, 2005 www.tdm.com/InvestigacionEspecial/2005/02/20050217-698010.htm

Brochure from the *Museo for la tierra guarani: A NATURAL AND CUTRURAL EXPERIENCE.*

Travel Guide from Paraguayan Ties 2004: A family Experience - A Travel Experience.

Interviews and Personal Tour of Paraguay July 24-August 6, 2004

Evans, Bea. Adoptive Family Travel. E-mail to Author, January 19, 2006

Griffin -continued from page 6

In conclusion, not many people have the courage that Edna did. She helped African-Americans gain the same rights as white people. For her bravery, commitment and selfless service to others, Edna Griffin deserves a page in Iowa's history.

Work Cited

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Rachel Carson and I have a lot in common. We both like wildlife. We are both responsible and we both care about animals and school. This is important because if it wasn't for Rachel, there might be more endangered fish or animals. I am thankful for Rachel Carson because I really enjoy camping and fishing.

I think Rachel Louise Carson should be part of history because of her personality, her ability to never give up and her books that encourage people to care about fish and wildlife. They should be treated as well as humans are.

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Black -continued from page 7

After smoking for 50 years, Gladys was no longer healthy enough to visit her usual bird watching site. "...I did damage to my heart and lungs. I don't produce enough oxygen, so I need this contraption," she said, pointing to the oxygen machine in the corner. Nevertheless, Gladys felt no self-pity. Instead, she spent her time with school kids in the field, introducing them to birds and the environment. "I've often wondered why it is that birds are so attractive to me. And I'm not sure myself why that is. It may be the freedom to fly. The beauty. I certainly do enjoy them. It's been a pleasure doing propaganda for the birds."

You might not have heard of Gladys Black. Yet I believe that it's the small people that make a difference in the big picture of life. I really didn't care about birds until I read about bird-loving enthusiasts who made contributions to their community. Gladys Black represents everything I aspire to: perseverance, compassion, dedication, sensitivity...and spunk.

Gladys Black died on July 19, 1998.

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Drawing the Line

A report released in early 2006 by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Educational Foundation suggests that sexual harassment pervades campus life. According to *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*, a majority of U.S. college students encounter some type of sexual harassment, and about one-third say that they have been physically harassed while at college.

Both male and female students encounter sexual harassment, but female students who have been sexually harassed are more likely to say they feel self-conscious or embarrassed, angry, less sure of themselves or less confident, afraid or scared, confused, or conflicted about who they are and disappointed in their college experience as a result of sexual harassment. This report analyzes findings from a nationally representative survey of undergraduate students and is the most comprehensive research to date on sexual harassment on college campuses.

AAUW plans to follow up this research by helping colleges and universities forge solutions. AAUW is funding programs on 11 campuses aimed at finding new ways to combat campus sexual harassment. These projects were selected to help students, faculty, and administrators understand the scope of the problem, raise awareness of the issue, and implement projects that effect change in the campus climate.

To learn more, go to <www.aauw.org>.

Women in Iowa

On March 1, 2006, the State Data Center of Iowa and the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women released *Women's History Month March 2006: Women in Iowa*, which details statistics of Iowa women.

The four-page publication is available at <www.iowadatacenter.org> and <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw>. Examples of data that are included follow.

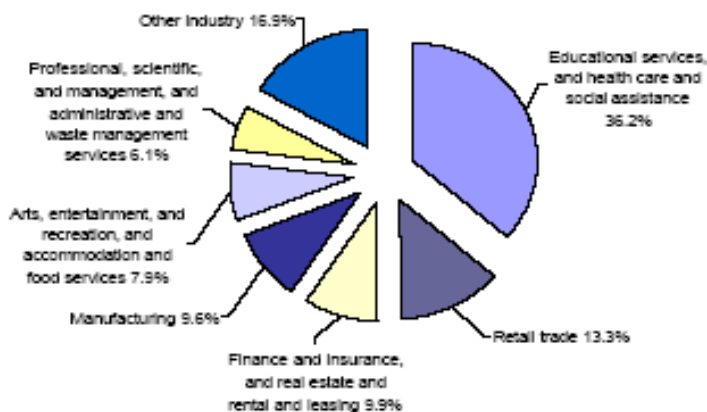
60,357

The number of Iowa high school girls participating in athletics in 2005. Volleyball has the highest participation with 14,022 followed by softball 11,712; basketball 9,570; and track and field 9,350.
 Source: Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union

3,627

The number of unduplicated women sport participants in Iowa's 4-year colleges and universities in 2004-05.
 Source: Office of Postsecondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education

Employment for Women in Iowa by Industry: 2004



Predatory Lending in Iowa

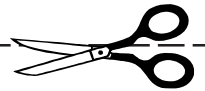
Did you know that there are more payday lenders in Iowa than McDonalds restaurants? During tax season, tax preparers laud the rapid refund from seemingly every corner. And commercials tell audiences how easy it is to get a car title loan.

Predatory lending takes various forms. The Child and Family Policy Center and Coalition Against Abusive Lending have focused on four: predatory home mortgage lending, payday loans, tax refund anticipation loans, and car title loans. Together these predatory lending practices are estimated to strip nearly \$100 million annually from working and retired families in Iowa. This amount is greater than the amount provided by the state and federal government to support Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients.

According to the Center for Responsible Lending in its "The Debt Trap of Payday Lending," payday lending impacts women disproportionately. Surveys suggest that over 60 percent of payday borrowers are women.

Predatory lending takes money out of the hands of those who are least able to afford it. It takes money out of the hands of Iowans, their communities, and our state. Many of these predatory lenders are from out of state and their profits go out of state, too. Predatory lending is bad for Iowa.

Information provided by Victor Elias, Child and Family Policy Center.



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's website, www.iowacasa.org.

Adel
Crisis Line 800/400-4884
Office 515/993-4095
Spanish Line 800/550-0004

Ames
Crisis Line 800/203-3488
Office 515/292-0500
Boone 515/432-3606
URL..... www.assaultcarecenter.org

Atlantic
Crisis Line 800/696-5123
Office 712/243-6615
Harlan 712/755-3242
Red Oak 888/767-3620

Burlington
Crisis Line 800/693-1399
Office 319/752-0606
URL www.burlingtony.org/shelter.htm

Carroll
Crisis Line 800/383-9744
Office 712/792-6722

Cedar Rapids
Crisis Line 800/208-0389
Office 319/365-1458
URL..... www.waypointservices.org

Cherokee
Crisis Line 800/225-7233
Office 712/225-5003
Storm Lake 712/732-8120

Clinton
Crisis Line 800/381-9319
Office 563/242-2118
Maquoketa 563/652-4162

Council Bluffs
Crisis Line 888/612-0266
Office 712/256-2059

Creston
Crisis Line 888/782-6632
Office 641/782-2706

Davenport (Rock Island)
Crisis Line 563/326-9191
Office 563/322-1200
URL..... www.famres.org

Decorah
Crisis Line 800/383-2988
Office 563/382-1260
URL..... www.helpingservices.org

Des Moines
Crisis Line 515/286-3535
Office 515/286-3600

Dubuque
Crisis Line 888/557-0310
Office 563/557-0310
URL..... www.riverviewcenter.org

Fort Dodge
Crisis Line 888/356-2006
Office 515/955-2273
URL..... www.dsaoc.com

Grundy Center
Crisis Line 888/746-4673
Office 319/824-5522
Eldora 641/939-8186
Waterloo 319/272-1400
URL..... www.seedsofhopeiowa.com

Iowa City
Crisis Line 319/335-6000
Office 319/335-6001
URL..... www.rvap.org/pages/home/

Keokuk
Crisis Line 800/498-5095
Office 319/524-8520

Knoxville
Crisis Line 800/433-7233
Office 641/828-8888

Marshalltown
Crisis Line 800/779-3512
Office 641/752-3245
Newton 641/791-3446
Grinnell 641/236-7226

Mason City
Crisis Line 800/479-9071
Office 641/424-9071
Charles City 641/288-0015
Hampton 641/456-5835
Algona 515/295-8646
Osage 641/832-8456
Forest City 641/585-1050
URL..... www.cisnci.org

Muscatine
Crisis Line 563/263-8080
Office 563/263-0067

Oskaloosa
Crisis Line 800/270-1620
Office 641/673-0336
Pella 641/622-1707
URL..... www.cismc.org

Ottumwa
Crisis Line 800/464-8340
Office 641/683-1750
URL... www.ottumwacrisiscenter.com

Sioux Center
Crisis Line 800/382-5603
Office 712/722-4483

Sioux City
Crisis Line 800/982-7233
Office 712/277-0131
LeMars 712/546-6764
URL..... www.safefromabuse.com

Spencer/Spirit Lake
Crisis Line 877/362-4612
Office 712/262-4612

Waverly
Crisis Line 800/410-7233
Office 319/352-1108
URL... www.cvfrienderofthefamily.org

Deaf Iowans Against Abuse
Office (TTY only) 877/244-0875
Relay 711
Pager..... 515/234-3836
URL..... www.dwiaa.org

Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer (LUNA)
Crisis Line 866/256-7668
Office 515/271-5060
URL..... www.lunaiowa.org/home.asp

Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline 800/284-7821

24 hours, language line, TTY machine

Calendar of Events

March

Women's History Month

- 3 ICSW Legislative Lunch and Learn.** 12 noon - 1 p.m., Legislative Dining Room, State Capitol, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. ICSW, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461 or ahr.icsw@iowa.gov.
- 3 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.
- 8 Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest Celebration Day.**
- 8 International Women's Day.**
- 10 Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center Women Helping Women Annual Luncheon.** 11:30 - 1 p.m., Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. Speaker: Barbara Robinette Moss. Contact 515/274-4006 to make reservations or for more information.
- 11 International Women's Day Event -- "Transitions: Young Women Bridge the Gap."** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Central Senior Center, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. Sponsored in part by ICSW. Call 515/244-7424 for more information.
- 14 Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting.** 10:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. IowaCASA & ICADV Office, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. Call or write for special accommodations, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461 or ahr.icsw@iowa.gov.
- 21 Women of Excellence Recognition Ceremony and Banquet.** 5:30 p.m. Sioux City Convention Center, Sioux City. Silent auction included. Tickets are \$30. Contact Women Aware, 712/258-4174 or 800/465-6165.
- 25 Celebrate Health Ministries: From Wedding Rings to Nose Rings...Generational Differences in the Pews.** 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Ankeny. \$35. For more information, contact Kathleen Fleming at 515/263-2206 or fleminka@ihs.org.
- 25 HerStory: Giving Voice to Girls and Women.** 5:30 p.m., State Historical Building, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. RSVP required by March 17. Chrysalis Foundation, 515/255-1853 or info@chrysalisfdn.org.
- 30 Iowa Council for International Understanding Cultural Competency Training: It's Not Just**

About Access, It's About Success. 8:30 - 12 noon, Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. Fee varies. Jennifer Smyser, 515/282-8269 x.15 or www.iciu.org/diversity_training.shtml.

April

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- 4 Hope that Heals.** 7 p.m., Hoyt Sherman Place, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Kimberly Zarley at 515/277-1149.
- 5 Des Moines 2006 Human Rights Symposium.** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. \$40. For more information, contact Emily B. Chafa at 515/283-4530 or ebchafa@dm.gov.
- 6 Social Change Training: Exploring Privilege and Cultural Competence.** 7- 9 p.m., Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City. \$50. Women's Resource and Action Center, 319/335-1486, wrac@uiowa.edu, or www.uiowa.edu/~WRAC.
- 6, 13, 20 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.
- 7 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.
- 7 Indian Hills Community College Diversity Conference.** Effner Hall, Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa. For more information, call Norma Rosales Heilmann, 800/726-2585 ext. 5755. To register, go to www.indianhills.edu.
- 8 Race, Privilege, and Cultural Competence: Creating Inclusive Communities in a Post-Katrina World.** University of Iowa Campus, Iowa City. Keynote Speaker: Wilma Mankiller. Women's Resource and Action Center, 319-335-1486.
- 27 Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.** www.daughtersandsonstowork.org/
- 28 Second Annual Iowa Women's Leadership Summit.** 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Memorial Union, Iowa State University, Ames. Free and open to the public. RSVP required by April 10. A complete schedule of events and registration is available at www.wlc.provost.iastate.edu. For more information, contact Siti Sabtu-Schaper at 515/294-9591 or smsabtu@iastate.edu.

Bits and Pieces

The ICSW was saddened to learn of the death of Iowa Women's Hall of Fame member **Dorothy Schramm**. Schramm, whose work focused on world affairs, government, and art, was inducted in 1986. She passed away on January 28, 2006.



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 <ahr.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 **2005 Annual Report**, (February 2006, 34th Edition) is available. The annual report details the activities of the

ICSW during calendar year 2005. If you wish to receive a report, contact the ICSW at 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427, or e-mail <ahr.icsw@iowa.gov>. The publication is also available on-line at <www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/sw/publications/index.html>.



According to the U.S. Census Bureau's new report, 2002 Survey of Business Owners: Women-Owned Firms, the number of **women-owned businesses** grew 20 percent between 1997 and 2002, twice the national average for all businesses. The nearly 6.5 million businesses generated more than \$940 billion in revenue, up 15 percent from 1997. Women owned nearly 30 percent of nonfarm businesses in the United States in 2002. While 14 percent of women-owned firms employed more than 7.1 million people, the vast majority of businesses owned by women (nearly

5.6 million) had no employees. As of 2004, women of color owned an estimated 1.4 million privately-held firms in the U.S., employing nearly 1.3 million people and generating nearly \$147 billion in sales. In Iowa, there are 63,825 women-owned firms.



On February 6, President Bush released his budget request for fiscal year 2007, which proposes the elimination or significant reduction of many programs and grants to state and local governments. According to the National Priorities Project, one such loss in Iowa would be the elimination of \$1.4 million in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) funding. Iowa also stands to lose all of \$12.7 million currently received for vocational education. Additionally 163 Head Start slots may be eliminated in Iowa.

Help save printing/postage costs!
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call the ICSW office. You may also
send your e-mail address. Thank you!

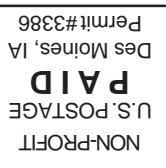
E-mail address: dhr.icsw@iowa.gov
Website: http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw

Telephone: 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427
Fax: 515/242-6119

Des Moines, IA 50319
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**Friends of the Iowa Commission
on the Status of Women**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Enclosure of items in the newsletter does not necessarily connote endorsement by the Friends of the ICSW or by 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 8,400 persons or organizations.

Camille Curley, President • Charlotte Nelson, ICSW Executive Director • Lori M. SchraderBachar, Editor