



I o Woman

A Publication of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women • Vol. XXXIV, No. 2, March/April 2004

Students “Write Women Back Into History”

Over 2,250 students participated statewide in the 20th Annual *Write Women Back Into History* Essay Contest, which was sponsored by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, the Iowa Department of Education, and the State Historical Society. Volunteer judges reviewed 90 essays submitted by 6-9th grade teachers from 29 schools. Final judging was held February 13.

The purpose of the contest is to increase the awareness of the contributions made by women. Students were encouraged to conduct oral interviews with community members who have contributed something unique to society, or research the life’s work and contributions of a famous woman. This year’s theme was “Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility.”

The winners will be honored on Thursday, March 11 at a 10:30 a.m. ceremony with Lt. Governor Sally Pederson in the Kennedy Conference Room, 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 below. To view all winning essays, go to <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/womhistory.html>.

6-7th Grade Category

“Jane Elliot: She’s Fierce, Strong, Amazing...She’s My Hero.” by Rachel Evans, Urbandale Middle School

After Martin Luther King Jr. died a student cried, “They killed a king, why?” Everyone knew of Kings’ fight to end racism. He was murdered because of this fight and his desire to help African-Americans be treated equally. His murderer disagreed with his fight. Martin Luther King Jr. was written into history because of his fight against racism, but there were others who have fought this fight as well. Yet who has heard of a teacher in Riceville, Iowa who worked against racism? She, too, deserves recognition.

Jane Elliot was born and grew up in Riceville, a town of 1,000 people. She went to college at the University of Northern Iowa. When she graduated from college she became a teacher in Riceville.

After King’s death, Elliot responded by teaching against racism through her blue eye, brown eye demonstrations. She knew she had to teach outside the textbooks. She taught third graders, and one day she told

--continued on page 4

8-9th Grade Category

“Rita Swan: Advocate for Children.” by Kathryn M. Skilton, Nashua-Plainfield Middle School

Fifteen month-old Matthew Swan was screaming and convulsing in pain when a Christian Science practitioner told his parents that Matthew, “might be gritting his teeth because he was, ‘planning some great achievement.’”¹ Raised as

devout Christian Scientists, Rita and Doug Swan had turned to the church for healing when their son became ill. Rita believes that when Matthew failed to improve, the practitioner knew he was dying and told the Swans to take him to a doctor for a broken neck. According to church beliefs, medical care could be sought for broken bones. Instead, doctors determined that Matthew had bacterial spinal meningitis, a condition that was 95 percent curable with antibiotics, if treated promptly. It was just too late. Since Matthew’s death, Rita Swan has made it her personal quest to ensure that children have the right to obtain medical care, regardless of their parents’ religious beliefs.

2004 WWBH Winners

6-7 Grade Category

1st Place: Rachel Evans, Urbandale Middle School

2nd Place: Tausha Vannatta, Parkview Middle School, Ankeny

3rd Place: Lauren Ehrler, Andrew Community

8-9 Grade Category

1st Place: Kathryn M. Skilton, Nashua-Plainfield Middle School

2nd Place: Jessie Stumme, Central Academy, Des Moines

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

1st Place: Ryan Hupp, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids

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

1st Place: Kelly Pierce, Waukee Middle School

2nd Place: Alex Hedrick, Woodrow Wilson Junior High, Council Bluffs

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

Anna McNulty, Merrill Middle School, Des Moines

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Legislation Impacting Iowa Women

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.

Child Care

SSB1071 and HSB117 Child Care Employee Benefits Act: provides tax incentives to businesses which make expenditures to provide child care benefits to their employees. ICSW supports.

HF227 requires registration if a person provides child care to a child for more than four hours per day on a regular basis; DHS will develop standards for providing qualifications and training, program quality, and provider history of compliance with standards, capacity, fire safety, and other requirements. ICSW supports.

Economics

Priority: **HF2163** raises the state's hourly minimum wage to \$5.65 as of 1/1/05 and to \$6.15 as of 1/1/06 (\$5.65 full-time is an annual salary of \$11,752 while \$6.15 full-time is an annual salary of \$12,792.) ICSW supports.

Priority: **HF29** and **SF419** are also minimum wage bills. ICSW supports.

SF254 upholds comparable worth in compensation for employment. ICSW supports.

SF255 and HF451 govern wage discrimination. ICSW supports.

SF159 abolishes the targeted small business financial assistance program. ICSW opposes.

HF2105 provides that economic development shall establish a program to provide financial (\$15,000) and technical assistance (\$5,000) to early stage industry companies being established by women entrepreneurs. ICSW supports.

HF119 and SF214 provides that it is an unfair employment practice under the Iowa civil rights act to discriminate against any employee or applicant for

employment because that person has exercised the person's rights under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. ICSW supports.

SR18 requests that the Legislative Council establish an interim committee to review the economic, fiscal, and social impact of the establishment of a living wage in Iowa. ICSW supports.

HF2022 provides that if an action is brought based on fraud relative to a judgment of distribution of marital assets, the action may only be brought within one year of discovery of the party by the party aggrieved. ICSW supports.

Equality

SF105 defines "sexual orientation" and prohibits discriminatory employment, public accommodation, housing, education, and credit practices based upon a person's sexual orientation. However, the bill does allow for the imposition of qualifications by bona fide religious institutions based upon sexual orientation if related to a bona fide religious purpose. **SF33** defines "sexual orientation" exactly like SF105; cosponsors were added and a different Senate committee. ICSW supports.

HF270 defines "sexual orientation" and prohibits discriminatory employment, public accommodation, housing, education, and credit practices based upon a person's sexual orientation. ICSW supports.

SF2039 provides that the Iowa State Fair Board composition will be gender balanced. ICSW supports.

Health

HF540 provides for the development of pilot projects for health insurance for individuals and group health insurance for small employers and nonprofit entities by the division of insurance, department of commerce, to examine methods of improving availability and affordability. ICSW supports.

HF136 adds benefits to the health program benefit package of the healthy and well kids in Iowa program including care coordination, dental services, mental health and substance abuse

benefits, institution services, occupational therapy services, and case management for children with special health care needs. ICSW supports.

HF325 provides for increasing coverage for children under the healthy and well kids in Iowa (hawk-i) program to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. The bill directs the director of human services to submit a state plan amendment to the centers for Medicare and Medicaid services of the United States department of health and human services for approval to increase the coverage. ICSW supports.

HF384 directs the supreme court, in cooperation with DHS, to determine the feasibility of utilizing coverage under the hawk-i program to fulfill the medical support obligation of parents to a dependent under a medical support order. ICSW supports.

HF104 requires third-party payors of health or medical expenses to provide coverage for screening tests for women who are at risk for ovarian cancer. ICSW supports.

SSB1055 and SSB3008 Woman's Right to Know Bill (defines unborn child "from fertilization until birth"). ICSW opposes.

HF2036 establishes a legal process for an adult pregnant woman to obtain an abortion, including the appointing of a guardian ad litem to represent the fetus, and a penalty. ICSW opposes.

HF2206 changes Iowa's parental notification requirement to parental consent prior to the performance of abortion on a minor. ICSW opposes.

HF111 specifies criteria in the awarding of grants or contracts relating to family planning and reproductive health services to those that engage in the LEAST number of abortions. ICSW opposes.

SF2027 and HF2067 change the definition of the criminal offense of possessing a product for use in the unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance; provides it is unlawful to possess any product listed in Code section 124.401(4) (pseudoephedrine is on the

list) with the intent the product be used to unlawfully manufacture a controlled substance. ICSW supports.

HF2259 provides that a retailer shall not sell, and a person shall not purchase, in a single transaction more than two packages containing pseudoephedrine as the products' sole active ingredient. A person who sells or purchases more than two packages containing pseudoephedrine in a single transaction commits a simple misdemeanor fine of \$100. ICSW supports.

Insurance

Priority: Several bills regarding mental health and substance abuse parity: **SF2056** mental health and substance abuse parity; **SF2058** mental health parity for state employees; **HF627** mental health parity (no substance abuse); **SF232** mental health parity; **HF63** mental health and substance abuse; **SF227** mental health and substance abuse parity; **SF243** mental health and substance abuse parity. ICSW supports.

HF2279 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. ICSW supports.

Justice

HF2126 requires ICSW to call together a commission to review the implementation of the Iowa Supreme Court's Equality in the Courts Task Force Report. ICSW supports.

Priority: **HF402** makes restoration of the right to register to vote and to vote automatic upon a person's release from probation, parole, or work release, or upon completion of the person's term of confinement and upon the person making full restitution, including completion of a community service requirement. ICSW supports.

Priority: **HF178** makes restoration of the right to register and to vote automatic upon a person's release from probation, parole, or work release, or upon completion of the person's term of confinement. ICSW supports.

Priority: **SF311** makes restoration of the right to register to vote and to vote automatic upon a person's release from probation, parole, or work release, or upon completion of the person's term of confinement. ICSW supports.

SF411 establishes that a party may petition for dissolution of marriage only upon proof of any of the following: a. adultery. b. a felony leading to imprisonment. c. abandonment for one year and refusal to return. d. physical or sexual abuse. e. living separate and apart continuously without reconciliation for a period of two years. ICSW opposes.

HF561 provides that a person who knowingly views, photographs, or films another person for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desires of any person while the other person is in a state of full or partial nudity, commits invasion of privacy under certain circumstances. ICSW supports.

HF2321 appropriates \$400,000 for educational and technical training for female inmates in prison, for males and females in prison with regard to parenting and other skills to strengthen families; and \$100,000 for two pilot programs in continuing education and training after release from prison.

Violence Against Women

Priority: **HF2258** restores the funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs as a line item in the Justice appropriation bill (\$25,000). ICSW supports.

HF2239, **HF2248**, **SF2117**, and **SF2140** relate to residential landlord/tenant law with regard to family violence and domestic abuse. ICSW supports.

HF2307 relates to an "attempted" violation of a court order or protective order. ICSW supports.

Welfare

HSB304 increases from 5 percent to 10 percent the amount of the state's portion of real estate transfer tax collected that is required to be deposited in the shelter assistance fund. ICSW supports.

Resolution

HCR109 designates March 2004 as Iowa Women's History Month.

Are You Eligible for EITC?

Working people may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit if they meet the following criteria:

- Workers who in the previous calendar year were not raising children in their home, were between ages 25 and 64, and had income less than \$11,230 (\$12,230 for married workers) may qualify for an Earned Income Tax Credit of up to \$382, even if the earnings were too small to owe income tax.
- Workers who in the previous calendar year were raising one child in their home and had family income of less than \$29,666 (\$30,666 for married workers) may qualify for an EITC of up to \$2,547.
- Workers who in the previous calendar year were raising more than one child in their home and had a family income of less than \$33,692 (\$34,692 for married workers) may qualify for an EITC of up to \$4,204.

Workers can file for the EITC for the last three years if they were eligible but were unaware of EITC.

Free help is available for filing tax forms through VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). Call the IRS toll free at 800/829-1040 for general information on EITC eligibility or for free tax help locations.

Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

Nominations for the 30th Annual Iowa Women's Hall of Fame are being accepted by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women until **May 1, 2004** (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.

them “brown eyes” were dumb, mean, naughty, and that they shouldn’t be treated with respect. No brown eyes could drink from the water fountain. Brown eyes wore collars so they could be told apart easily. They couldn’t talk to blue eyes or get seconds at lunch and had to sit at the back of the room. After only a day, friends split up, brown eyes fought against blue eyes, and an excellent teacher had become a strict, mean teacher.

The next day, Elliot told the students that she had lied. She explained that the blue eyes were really the stupid, nasty, and naughty ones, and she made the same rules apply to them. On the third day, she told them that color didn’t matter. She asked them what they wanted to do with their collars, and they all responded, “throw them away.” She smiled and said, “go ahead.” The students rushed to the garbage can, and one child even tried to rip up his collar.

Before the demonstration, she asked the children what they thought of African-American people. None of them had ever met one, yet they responded, “They’re dirty,” “They stink,” “They riot and steal,” and “You can’t trust them.” She told them that this demonstration was just like what happens in the real world. She then questioned them again, asking if African Americans were different, bad, or stupid. This time they answered, “No!” She told them that she always wanted to hear that answer.

As a response to her actions some third graders stood up to their parents that night. They fought about racism. Can you imagine eight-year-olds standing up to their parents for this cause? Well, they did. I don’t know if they changed any minds, but it took a lot of guts for the third graders to tell their parents that they were wrong about African-Americans. Jane Elliot’s presentation had made a difference.

Elliot has developed a list of things white people can and must do to end racism. She thinks that first you must realize that racism is wrong, that you are doing it, and then you must stop. Next, you must realize that you weren’t born a racist. You learned to be this way, and you can unlearn too. Finally, you must actively protest against racism. Elliot thinks that we blame racism on African-Americans when it is really our problem. “We learn to be racist. Racism is not genetic. It has everything to do with power,” she once said. Let’s listen to Jane’s lesson, teach it to our children, and write her into history.

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“We left the Christian Science church right after our son died, and decided that we wanted to dedicate our lives to enhancing the rights of children to medical care,”² explains Rita. The Swans consulted medical doctors who explained to them how to live in a world where medical care and religious beliefs can co-exist. Rita and Doug founded the Children’s Healthcare Is a Legal Duty (CHILD) organization in 1983. Based in Iowa, the organization is one of the nation’s most respected child advocacy groups. With members in 44 states and 4 foreign countries, CHILD works to promote the view that parents should be required to provide medical care for their minor children. Groups like the Christian Science church vigorously oppose CHILD’s efforts.

In 1998, Rita and pediatrician Dr. Seth Asser published the largest study of child fatalities in religious groups that discouraged medical care. They examined deaths of 172 children between 1975 and 1995, and found that 140 would have had a 90 percent likelihood of survival with medical care. Only three children would not have been helped by medical care.³

As CHILD’s president, Rita lobbies, “to change state laws that give parents a legal defense if they withhold medical care from their children based on their religious beliefs.”⁴ Rita has testified before state legislatures and a U.S. Senate staff briefing. CHILD has filed amicus briefs in courts including the U.S. Supreme Court. Her efforts have helped strengthen the rights of children to medical care, with passage of laws in eleven states. While many grieving parents might have avoided the subject, Rita embraces it and tries to educate legislators and parents to save the lives of children. She believes that, “[I]f the laws plainly required parents to obtain medical care regardless of religious beliefs, many of the religious objector parents would be relieved to obey the law. It would relieve them of breaking moral laws of their church.”⁵

I became acquainted with Rita while I was working on a research project. Her wealth of knowledge, enthusiasm about the subject, and openness about her experiences inspired me. Rita Swan turned a heartbreaking tragedy in her life into an organization that works to protect children. Young people like me, and children for generations to come, owe Rita a great debt of gratitude for her tireless efforts to ensure that we have the right to medical care and treatment. As Rita puts it, “If we can save the life of even one child, it will have all been worth it.”⁶

¹Children’s Healthcare is a Legal Duty (CHILD), ed. Rita Swan, 23 Dec. 2002 <<http://childrenshealthcare.org.htm>>.

²Rita Swan, “Leeza, November 1998.

³Turner, Scott J., Physician Studies Fate of Ill Children “Treated” by Faith Healing, Dec. 20, 2002 <http://www.brown.edu/Administration/George_Street_Journal/vol26>.

⁴Children's Healthcare is a Legal Duty (CHILD), ed. Rita Swan, 23 Dec. 2002 <<http://childrenshealthcare.org.htm>>.

⁵Rita Swan, E-mail to the Author, May 9, 2003.

⁶Rita Swan, Personal Interview, January 17, 2004.

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DV/SA Wage Study Updated

In 1997, the ICSW published a report and recommendations on *Employees' Wages and Benefits: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Projects*, which found that traditionally female-dominated jobs (including those that provide services to women and children) were typically low-paying and lacked adequate benefits. A follow-up survey in 1998 found some increases in wages. In order to continue to provide information so that wages can continue to improve in these female-dominated positions, the ICSW has updated the wage ranges being paid to employees in state government with comparable job titles.

Job Title	2004 ICSW Recommendation for annual wages	2004 ICSW Recommendation for hourly wages
Executive Director or Program Director	\$43,492 to 64,417	\$20.90 to 30.96
Child and/or Youth Advocate	\$33,550 to 41,059	\$16.13 to 19.74
Volunteer Coordinator	\$29,294 to 41,418	\$14.08 to 19.91
Victim Advocate or Legal Advocate	\$29,702 to 36,400	\$14.28 to 17.50
Shelter Monitor	\$26,041 to 36,400	\$12.52 to 17.50
Office Manager	\$29,702 to 41,995	\$14.28 to 20.19



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Chapter 8: Passages

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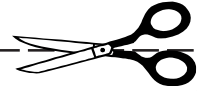
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Iowa Sexual Assault Centers

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		Decorah		Ottumwa	
Crisis Line	800/400-4884	Crisis Line	800/383-2988	Crisis Line	800/464-8340
Office	515/993-4095	Office	563/382-1260	Office	641/683-1750
Spanish Line	800/550-0004	Des Moines		Shenandoah	
Algona		Crisis Line	515/286-3535	Crisis Line	800/696-5123
Crisis Line	877/295-6958	Office	515/286-3600	Office	712/246-6187
Office	515/295-8646	Dubuque		Sioux Center	
Ames		Crisis Line	888/557-0310	Crisis Line	800/382-5603
Crisis Line	800/203-3488	Office	563/557-0310	Office	712/722-4483
Office	515/232-2303	Fort Dodge		Sioux City	
Atlantic		Crisis Line	888/356-2006	Crisis Line	800/982-7233
Crisis Line	800/696-5123	Office	515/955-1958	Office	712/277-0131
Office	712/243-6615	Grundy Center		Spencer/Spirit Lake	
Burlington		Crisis Line	888/746-4673	Crisis Line	877/362-4612
Crisis Line	800/693-1399	Office	319/824-5522	Office	712/262-4612
Office	319/752-0606	Iowa City		Waterloo	
Carroll		Crisis Line	800/284-7821	Crisis Line	866/304-8484
Crisis Line	800/383-9744	Office	319/335-6001	Office	319/235-6271
Office	712/792-6722	Keokuk		Waverly	
Cedar Rapids		Crisis Line	800/498-5095	Crisis Line	800/410-7233
Crisis Line	800/208-0389	Office	319/524-0601	Office	319/352-1108
Office	319/365-1458	Knoxville		Deaf Women of Iowa Against Abuse	
Cherokee		Crisis Line	800/433-7233	Office (TTY only)	515/244-0875
Crisis Line	800/225-7233	Office	641/828-8888	Relay	711
Office	712/225-5003	Marshalltown	or	800/345-3228
Clinton		Crisis Line	800/779-3512	Latinas Unidas Nuevo Amanecer (LUNA)	
Crisis Line	800/381-9319	Office	641/752-3245	Crisis Line	866/256-7668
Office	563/242-2118	Mason City		Office	515/271-5060
Council Bluffs		Crisis Line	800/479-9071	State Hotline	800/284-7821
Crisis Line	888/612-0266	Office	641/424-9071		
Office	712/256-2059	Muscatine			
Creston		Crisis Line	563/263-8080		
Crisis Line	888/782-6632	Office	563/263-0067		
Office	641/782-2640	Oskaloosa			
Davenport (Rock Island)		Crisis Line	800/270-1620		
Crisis Line	563/326-9191	Office	641/673-0336		
Office	563/322-1200				

March is Women's History Month



April 20th is Equal Pay Day

Equal Pay Day is observed in April to indicate how far into each year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year. Tuesday symbolizes the day when women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous week. Because women on average earn less, they must work longer for the same pay. *Women earn 77 cents* for every dollar men make, according to the National Committee on Pay Equity. Wear red on Equal Pay Day to symbolize how far women are "in the red" with their pay!

Calendar of Events

March

Women's History Month

- 2 The Shoulders We Stand On: Women as Agents of Change.** 8 p.m., Memorial Union, Iowa State University, Ames. Free. Iowa State University, <www.lectures.iastate.edu>.
- 4-12 96th Annual Des Moines Women's Club Art Exhibit.** Hoyt Sherman Place, Des Moines. Call 515/244-0507 x.210 for more information.
- 5 Coffee with Chrysalis: Aging With Attitude.** 7:30-8:30 a.m., Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Des Moines. Free. RSVP to Chrysalis Foundation, 515/255-1853, pdavis@chrysalisfdn.org or <www.chrysalisfdn.org/events>.
- 5 Evening with the Brown Sisters.** 7 p.m., Memorial Union, Iowa State University, Ames. Free and open to the public. For more information, visit <www.admissions.iastate.edu/iscore/about.html> or contact Ming-huei Lam, at 515/294-0268 or minghuei@iastate.edu.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 International Women's Day Celebration.** 3 - 7 p.m. Thoreau Center, Des Moines. Monsoon: Asian Women United of Iowa, 515/244-7424 or asianoutreach@iowacasa.org.
- 11 Twentieth Century Women of ISU.** 7 p.m., Ames Public Library, Ames. AAUW and Federally Employed Women, 515/294-6508.
- 11 Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest Awards Ceremony.** 10:30 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.
- 16 Women of Excellence Banquet.** 6 p.m., Sioux City Convention Center, Sioux City. \$30. Silent auction available. Speaker: Chris Michalek. RSVP by March 12 to Women Aware, 712/258-4174 or 800/465-6165.
- 25-26 Whispers & Screams Conference.** See page 5 for more information.
- 27 Shameless: Women Making History Sexy.** 7-9 p.m. Civic Center, Des Moines. Fee varies. Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa's Education & Resource Center, 515/883-1863.

- 30 Community Resource Fair.** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., United Way Center, Des Moines. Purpose: improving outcomes for ex-offenders and their families by learning more about resources and support services in the community. Luana Nelson-Brown, 515/697-7714.

April

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- 1, 8, Taking the Road Less Traveled in Science, Math, 15 Engineering and Technology Career Conference for Girls,** grades 6-12. \$15. Program for Women in Science and Engineering, Iowa State University, 515/294-5319 or trlt@iastate.edu.
- 2 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.
- 2 9th Annual Women's Conference: Spiritual Storytelling.** 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m, Grace United Methodist Church, Des Moines. \$10. Keynote speaker: Rev. Cindy McCalmont. Grace United Methodist Church, 515/255-2131.
- 3 International Festival.** 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Quincy Place Mall, Ottumwa. For more information, call 641/684-6623.
- 6 Connect with Chrysalis.** 5-7 p.m., The Art House, Des Moines. Free. Chrysalis Foundation, 515/255-1853, or <www.chrysalisfdn.org/events>.
- 6 Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting.** 10:30 a.m - 3 p.m., Judicial Building, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. Call or write for special accommodations, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461 or dhr.icsw@iowa.gov.
- 8 18th Annual Human Rights Symposium.** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. \$40. Des Moines Human Rights Commission, 515/283-4284 or fajones@dmgov.org.
- 15 Insights from the Women of Des Moines Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Hoyt Sherman Place, Des Moines. \$17. Speaker: Sunnie Richer. Chrysalis Foundation, 515/255-1853, pdavis@chrysalisfdn.org or <www.chrysalisfdn.org/events>.
- 19-20 Cherish the Children: Child Abuse Prevention Conference.** Holiday Inn University Park, West Des Moines. Fee varies. Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, 800/CHILDREN.
- 20 Equal Pay Day.**
- 28 - May 1 WPC5: Understanding, Respecting and Connecting. White Privilege, White Supremacy and the Prison Industrial System.** Central College, Pella. Fee varies. Eddie Moore, Jr., 641/628-5134 or <<http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com>>.

Bits and Pieces

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 until April 15th. Perhaps by then, it will be known if funds are available for fiscal year 2005. 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 will welcome at least two new commissioners this spring. Now is your chance to help set the policy of the ICSW. Men are encouraged to apply.



The **2003 Annual Report**, (February 2004, 32nd Edition) is available. The annual report details the activities of the ICSW during calendar year 2003. 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>.



The **Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women** wishes to thank all those who contributed to their fundraiser, Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet. Over 70 women

participated on a snowy night. Money raised will support costs of the *IoWoman* and other ICSW efforts.



The **National Associations of Commissions for Women** has recently updated their website, <www.nacw.org>. There, you will find information about the work of Commissions throughout the nation.



Congratulations to **Senator Maggie Tinsman** and **Representative Swati Dandekar!** Senator Tinsman was honored by the Women Legislators' Lobby as a Pacesetter for her outstanding legislative service and progressive public policy work. Representative Dandekar was named a 2004 Flemming Fellow from the Center of Policy Alternatives for her leadership ability, dedication to public service and commitment to implement practical public policy.



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.

Suzanne O'Dea Schenken, President • Charlotte Nelson, ICSW Executive Director • Lori M. SchraderBachar, Editor

