



Iowa Woman

A Publication of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women • Vol. XXXII, No. 2, March/April 2002

Students “Write Women Back Into History”

Over 1,500 students participated statewide in the 18th 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 65 essays submitted by 6-9th grade teachers from 30 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’s History: So that every generation will know the stories.”

The winners will be honored on Tuesday, March 19 at an 11 a.m. ceremony in Governor Thomas J. Vilsack’s formal office. 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.

6-7th Grade Category

by Brianna Routh, Parkview Middle School, Ankeny

Some may say she is visionary, some call her teacher. She may be considered powerful or humble, still others would call her a saint. I would call her pure stone. Not any ordinary stone though, she is a gem, a ruby or a diamond. Whatever she is, Thelma Volger should always be considered a treasure that our society cannot afford to forget.

Thelma has spent most of her life right here in Iowa. She grew up in the small town of Muscatine. After getting her undergraduate degree in music, she went on to get her Ph.D. in music at the University of Iowa. Thelma, now Dr. Volger, then went back to Muscatine with her husband. While raising her children, she worked in programming at her husband’s local radio station. She was also a mother full of energy as a choir director for her church, founder and leader of the boys’ choir, a Girl Scouts leader, a gardener, an artist with the love of pastels, and no doubt an extraordinary pianist. Her children say she was great at making paper dolls as well as

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8-9th Grade Category

“Roxanne Conlin” by Robert Martin, Central Academy, Des Moines

Right now, I am doing something that the subject of this paper refuses to do. Typing. Roxanne Conlin is an Iowa woman who has achieved national recognition for her work fighting prejudice and discrimination. Maybe less unintentionally, she has also had a tremendous impact on my life.

When Roxanne Conlin completed law school in 1966, she was one of only 1500 female law students nationwide, and one of three women in her graduating class. Women were not yet being taken seriously as attorneys. Roxanne knew the fate of many female attorneys was assignment to work as legal secretaries. Determined to suffer no such fate, Roxanne said, “I knew they couldn’t do that to me if I couldn’t type.” Despite her lack of typing abilities, she was mistaken for a secretary. At her first court appearance, the judge refused to let her represent her client. Roxanne recalls, “He was absolutely convinced I could not be a lawyer and I was in fact a secretary. For the first several

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2002 WWBH Winners

6-7 Grades:

- 1st Place: Brianna Routh, Parkview Middle School, Ankeny
- 2nd Place: Kathryn M. Skilton, Nashua Elementary
- 3rd Place: Lauren Davidson, Roosevelt Middle School, Cedar Rapids

8-9 Grade Category

- 1st Place: Robert Martin, Central Academy, Des Moines
- 2nd Place: Alyssa Hedrick, Wilson Junior High School, Council Bluffs
- 3rd Place: Chelsea Combs, Central Academy, Des Moines

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

- 1st Place: Kiersten Ruff, Wilson Junior High School, Council Bluffs

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

- 1st Place: Stephanie Schulze, Goodrell Middle School, Des Moines
- 2nd Place: Emily Nagle, Jefferson Junior High School, Dubuque

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

- Quinnetta Claytor, Central Academy, Des Moines

Whispers & Screams Chapter 6 To Be Held May 16-17 in Ames



Whispers & Screams are hard to hear:

Creating an Audience for Girls' Voices is an

conference sponsored by the Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force. Previous *Whispers & Screams* programs and the discussion they generated helped to define what it means to provide equal services for girls and boys "at-risk" or involved with the juvenile justice system, by recognizing that their needs are different. The conference has brought girls' voices and experiences to the forefront and disseminated information and suggestions for gender-specific programming that have been implemented across the state.

Twenty percent of last year's Whispers and Screams participants were men as compared to only 6 percent in 2000. The conference demonstrated how men play an important role in the lives of adolescent girls involved with or at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system—as fathers, teachers, counselors, spiritual leaders, juvenile court officers or program staff. The theme of this year's conference, Chapter 6 "Developing Lasting Commitments to Girls: Communities, Programs, and Leadership," hopes to build on that progress by bringing together a wider range of professionals involved with juvenile justice and at-risk youth, to continue working toward the goal of equitable services. Towards that end, this year's Whispers and Screams features three outstanding keynote presenters and workshops for men and women interested in exploring the role of communities, programs and leadership in girls' lives.

On May 16, keynote speaker Dr. Terry Tafoya from Portland, Oregon will present on "Community Outreach to Girls: The Prevention of Underage Drinking, Chemical Dependency, Sexual Abuse & Juvenile Crime." Dr. Tafoya is a Native American of the Taos Pueblo and Warm Springs Nations, a clinical psychologist,

and traditional storyteller. He is the Executive Director of Tamanawit Unlimited, an international, multicultural consulting company that specializes in bilingual education, cross-cultural competence and communication, gender and sexuality, grief and loss, Native American heritage, and spiritual healing. He is well-versed in the arts of Native American and other indigenous healing rituals. He has directed the training efforts of a national program for AIDS awareness and prevention, and serves as a national consultant for the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Project. His work in the areas of cultural diversity, educational methodology and philosophy, community healing, and cross cultural communication is professionally recognized worldwide.

In addition to basic and advanced workshops on gender-specific program planning, Whispers & Screams will continue to offer attendees specific information on female adolescent development and experiences, as well as tools for working with girls involved with or at risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system. On May 17, Senators Johnie Hammond (D-Ames) and Maggie Tinsman (R-Davenport) will make opening remarks. Following this, attorney, non-profit founder and executive director of Young at Art, Helen Pitts Miller, will give a keynote presentation on "Encouraging Young Women to Take Leadership Roles Through Art." As a resident of Fort Dodge, Iowa, her organization's mission is to "ensure that all who participate in the program acquire knowledge and develop skills and understanding through the arts that will enable them to become productive citizens and life long participants in the learning process." Specifically, Young at Art provides art education and enrichment activities primarily for at-risk children ages 5 to 17, serving up to 60 youths each month. She is a member of the Fort Dodge Area Symphony Board of Directors, Fort

Dodge Public Library Board of Trustees, Blanden Memorial Art Museum Charitable Foundation Board and the Youth Shelter Care of North Central Iowa, Inc. Board of Directors. She is also a member of Links, Inc., the 2001-2002 Leadership Iowa class, the Junior League of Des Moines and the American Association of University Women.

After lunch on May 17, Courageous Advocacy Awards will once again be presented to three outstanding advocates for girls from across the state. In addition, the Task Force will continue to honor a courageous girl or young woman. Nomination forms for the 2002 Courageous Advocacy Awards are now available on the ICSW web site at www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/girls.html and will also be published with the registration brochure.

Following the Courageous Advocacy Awards, keynote Dr. Melissa Farley from San Francisco, California will speak on "Homelessness and Sexual Exploitation." As a clinical psychologist, Dr. Farley has been a psychotherapist in private practice for over twenty years. She is currently the director of Prostitution Research and Education, a sponsored project of San Francisco Women's Centers, Inc. Following her keynote, Dr. Farley will hold a breakout session with a focus on attitudes about prostitution, self-reported sexual violence, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in girls and young women.

This year's conference will be held on May 16th and 17th at the Gateway Center in Ames, Iowa. Registration fees vary. To receive conference or exhibit registration information by mail, please contact Sue Ryan-Anderson at 515/281-6915 or 1-800-558-4427, or by email at sue.ryan-anderson@dhr.state.ia.us. Registration information will also be available from the web site at the end of March: <http://www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/girls.html>.

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creating stories to go along with them!

Thelma went to southern Australia for twenty years when she was in her fifties. During that time she worked with autistic people, both children and adults, helping them to speak for the first time in their lives. She also applied for and received government grants to develop some of her educational ideas for an academy of music.

Thelma has done many things for her community. First and foremost, in 1997 she founded the Ankeny Academy of Music. The Academy offers many different instrumental lessons such as flute, brass, and harp lessons. Dr. Volger is the piano and pre-piano instructor. She has such a large number of piano students that they are split into six levels. Along with piano, she teaches a theory class once a week for all of the different levels.

The Ankeny Academy of Music has other activities like a children's choir and free concerts performed by professional musicians. Dr. Volger also works with autistic children and their parents. She has taught several children, around the ages of three and four, how to speak by teaching them first to sing something, then speak it. In addition, Thelma is starting a program that gives at risk teens a chance to play different instruments. Thelma has likewise been recognized by the Iowa Composers Forum for her compositions on the piano. In my opinion, the Ankeny Academy of Music has turned into one of the best music programs in Iowa, and has some extremely delightful staff.

Dr. Thelma Volger has played a big role in my life these past few years. She has not only helped me with playing the piano, but she has been my role model. I admire how much she is like a stone in that she lets nothing get in her way and she always sticks to what she thinks is right. Plus, Thelma is like a gem because her beliefs help people to learn things that make them become better people. She has inspired me with her kindness and generosity toward the less fortunate. I hope to follow in her footsteps to make this world a better place for everyone. Thelma has shown me how music can enhance the world, making it more beautiful. She is treasured by all who have learned from her. Hopefully they can pass on her sparkle to the people whose lives that they touch, so Dr. Thelma Volger will be remembered by our society forever.

--"Conlin" continued from page 1

years that I practiced law, I carried my admission certificate to the Iowa Bar with me at all times."

Weathering these early setbacks, Roxanne carved a path of shocking accomplishments through the legal profession for other young women to follow. She was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa during the Carter administration, elected the first female president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, selected one of only two women members to Inner Circle of Advocates, and

awarded more than 15 verdicts of \$1 million or more in discrimination cases.

Roxanne, however, is "most proud that [her] children turned out to be very nice people." Roxanne has been married 37 years, and has four children, and four grandchildren whom she adores. Roxanne's domestic life mirrored her professional life. "I have never cleaned, cooked, washed or ironed and I do not know how to operate my dishwasher." She refused tasks assumed to be women's work so that she could focus on what she knew was more important, like being present for her children.

My life intersected Roxanne's when she hired my mother as a law clerk. I often accompanied my mother to Roxanne's office. I was ten years old at the time. I remember the small forests of paper traveling in and out of her office as she prepared for major trials. Roxanne's infinite affection for children extended beyond her immediate family. No matter how busy she was, when I arrived, she would stop what she was doing to greet me.

What I did not understand then and appreciate now is what she was accomplishing. The nights I fell asleep on the floor in Roxanne's office, my mother and many others were helping her prepare for enormous trials. One such trial resulted in an award of eighty million dollars, one of the largest jury verdicts in a discrimination case in U.S. history.

When I asked Roxanne why she chose to fight for others' rights instead of going into more profitable field of law, she responded, "I became a lawyer and endured the difficulties of law school and the practice only because I wanted to fight for the rights of individual human beings." And when I asked Roxanne what advice she would offer young women about their careers, she said, "Accept no limits."

I think Roxanne's advice is appropriate for all young people. Roxanne Conlin should be written into history because she is proof that nothing can stop us for she broke each barrier that stood before her and every accomplishment has been in the noble pursuit of equity for all.

Resources

Roxanne Barton Conlin: Overcoming bias to join elite litigators,
<http://www.nlj.com/staging/special/1217women-conlin.shtml>
Bouncers' Trial Echoes Throughout Community
<http://www.dmregister.com/news/stories/c4788998/12794157.html>

Roxanne Conlin and Associates P.C. website

<http://www.roxanneconlinlaw.com>

and an interview with Roxanne Barton Conlin (1/8/02)

Mark your calendars:

**Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony
August 24, 2002 • 10:30 a.m.
State Historical Building, Des Moines**

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, 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.

Violence Against Women Priority:

Three bills were designed to provide protection from domestic abuse for persons who are in an intimate relationship and have had contact within the past year of assault. Intimate relationship is defined as a significant romantic relationship which need not include sexual involvement. Makes victims eligible for no contact orders, and may order a person convicted to participate in batterers' treatment program. SF2100 passed the Senate on 2/6/02 with a vote of 47-0, and passed the House on 2/14/02 with a vote 91/2.

Insurance Priority: Thirteen bills have introduced parity for mental health and substance abuse care coverage; some are comprehensive, some exclude substance abuse, one calls for just a study on including substance abuse, and some don't include state employees. None had moved out of committee at the time of this writing.

Economics Priority: Several bills would develop a plan to achieve pay equity for employees in private industry, furthering the goal of eliminating wage discrimination on the basis of gender. Three of them were introduced and have had no activity since last year:

HF221 or HF532 creates a new Code chapter 91F governing wage discrimination and specifies that equal wages pertains to compensation in any form that an employer provides to employees in payment for work done or services rendered if the work on the jobs is equivalent.

HF226 defines comparable worth and prohibits discrimination in equal pay; provides penalties to employers; and creates Equal Pay Commission by the labor commissioner to study wage

disparity issues in Iowa and make a formal report 12 months after formation.

HF2117 was written this year and updates SF151 and HF431 introduced last year to prohibit a state agency from providing state financial assistance to any business that does not pay a "living wage" defined at \$8.49 per hour; and to raise the state's minimum wages to \$5.65 as of 1/1/03 and \$6.15 as of 1/1/04. The bill is stuck in the Labor and Industrial Relations Subcommittee.

Equality Priority: Amending the Iowa Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation can be found in SF6 or HF65; neither has been approved by committee in their originating chamber.

While ICSW is supporting prohibiting female genital mutilation of a female minor, concerns have been raised about SF2179 making this a Class C felony, which may be a deportable offense for a non-citizen. Sudan, a country where this is widely practiced, does not accept back their citizens under deportation; and an offender could end up in an immigration jail for an indefinite period of time.

One bill passed in the Senate last year (SF413) and one written this year (SF2125) would permit the court to suspend some time off a sentence, but they are not moving. The federal government no longer has a financial incentive attached to serving 85 percent of the sentence while Iowa prisons are filled to the brim and struggling with limited budgets. The ICSW supports increased community treatment programs for women convicted of nonviolent and non-person crimes.

ICSW supports legislation allowing victims of sexual assault to seek a civil protection order; HF2396 would do so upon the arrest of a perpetrator and HF2420 would do so upon a defendant's release from jail or prison.

SF 2214 creates additional protections and more access to services for dependent adults. ICSW supports assuring protection of vulnerable persons.

ICSW wanted to prefile a bill this

year stimulating the discussion about Iowa providing compensation to workers taking parental leave after the birth or adoption of a child. Senator Pat Harper introduced SF2028 that would pay for this up to 12 weeks out of unemployment benefits. Other states are also discussing the issue, and the chart of page 5 compares options are in place in other countries.

Bills Opposed by ICSW:

SF165 is the bill moving on English as the official language of the state. This passed the Senate in 2001; and despite a protest rally on February 13th along with a public hearing where only three presentations favored the bill, it is expected that the House will pass it.

HF2264, Woman's Right to Know bill, includes required informed consent certifying that a woman has received certain information about abortion before one is performed unless there is a medical emergency to prevent her immediate death; establishes criminal penalty of simple misdemeanor for anyone performing an abortion (but not the woman) in violation of this law. This is a slightly different version from the bills vetoed during the last two years on the subject. This bill started in the Human Resources Committee on February 8, and it is expected to be swiftly passed in the House.

SF93: repeals compliance with affirmative action programs; eliminates targeted small business (woman owner); repeals focused small business linked investments program; repeals contract set asides; and repeals comparable worth directives on wages paid to state employees. This bill has not moved since it was introduced, and the ICSW hopes it dies again this year.

SF2240 removing all references to "multicultural," "gender fair," or "global" to elementary and secondary education portions of the *Code of Iowa* was introduced and put in the Education Committee three days before the first funnel when bills must be out of committee in their own chamber.

Childbirth-Related Leave Policies in the United States and 10 Peer Nations

Country	Type of Leave Provided	Total Duration (In months)	Payment Rate
United States	12 weeks of family leave	2.8	Unpaid
Canada	17 weeks maternity leave 10 weeks parental leave	6.2	15 weeks at 55% of prior earnings 55% of prior earnings
Denmark	28 weeks maternity leave 1 year parental leave	18.5	60% of prior earnings 90% of unemployment benefit rate
Finland	18 weeks maternity leave 26 weeks parental leave child-rearing leave until child is 3	36	70% of prior earnings 70% of prior earnings flat rate
Norway	52 weeks parental leave 2 years child-rearing leave	36	80% of prior earnings flat rate
Sweden	18 months parental leave	18	12 months at 80% of prior earnings 3 months flat rate 3 months unpaid
Austria	16 weeks maternity leave 2 weeks parental leave	27.7	100% of prior earnings 18 months of unemployment benefit rate 6 months unpaid
France	16 weeks maternity leave parental leave until child is 3	36	100% of prior earnings unpaid for one child; paid at flat rate (income-tested) for two or more
Germany	14 weeks maternity leave 3 years parental leave	39.2	100% of prior earnings flat rate (income-tested) for 2 years unpaid for third year
Italy	5 months maternity leave 6 months parental leave	11	80% of prior earnings 30% of prior earnings
United Kingdom	18 weeks maternity leave 13 weeks parental leave	7.2	90% for 6 weeks and flat rate for 12 weeks if sufficient work history; otherwise, flat rate Unpaid

Source: Kamerman, S.B. From maternity to parental leave policies: Women's health, employment, and child and family well-being. *The Journal of the American Women's Medical Association (Spring 2000) 55: Table 1; Kamerman, S.B. Parental leave policies: An essential ingredient in early childhood education and care policies. Social Policy Report (2000) 14: Table 1.0.*

Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

Nominations for the 28th Annual Iowa Women's Hall of Fame are being accepted by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women until **May 1, 2002** (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. The ICSW approves the selection of four women by a committee composed of three commissioners and two public members.

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

Equal Pay 2002

While the economy continued to grow in 2000, men's real wages declined and women's real wages stagnated. According to statistics released by the U.S. Census Bureau, women who worked full-time, year-round earned just 73 percent of what men earned who also worked full-time, year-round in 2000. Although this was a slight improvement in the wage gap between working men and women found last year (72 percent), the narrowing of the wage gap was caused by a decline in men's real earnings and a leveling-off of women's real earnings, when adjusted for inflation.

The 2002 observance of Equal Pay Day will be held on Tuesday, April 16. Tuesday symbolizes the day of the week that women's earnings catch up to men's earnings from the previous week.

Iowa Arthritis Action Plan

Funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Iowa Arthritis Program's goal is to reduce the impact of arthritis and improve the quality of life of an estimated 700,000 Iowa women and men affected by arthritis. The Iowa Arthritis Action Plan guides activity toward the goal.

The Iowa Arthritis Program and the Iowa Arthritis Task Force collaborated on the five-year statewide plan. Charlotte Nelson, ICSW executive director, serves on the Iowa Arthritis Task Force and participated in the development of the Iowa Arthritis Action Plan. Iowa-specific goals, objectives and action steps were developed in the areas of surveillance, epidemiology and prevention research; communication and education; and programs, policies and systems.

Some highlights of the plan are 1) arthritis data collection and analyses, 2) an awareness campaign, 3) health care provider education and resources, and 4) the expansion of existing programs for people with arthritis.

An objective for expanding the Arthritis Self-Help Course (ASHC) in Iowa is included in the Iowa Arthritis Action Plan. The ASHC is designed to help people with arthritis learn and practice self-management skills. Topics include pain and fatigue management, exercise, medications, relationships, nutrition and problem-solving. For information about becoming an ASHC leader or participant, contact Laurene Hendricks, Iowa Arthritis Program at 515-281-5675 or lhendric@idph.state.ia.us.

The Iowa Arthritis Action Plan is downloadable in PDF format from the Iowa Department of Public Health web site. Look for the Resources, Publications and Data link at <www.idph.state.ia.us> and then find the plan under the heading Online Health Resources.

Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet

For the past three 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 ways 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 Monday, March 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in West 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, help support ICSW's noble and honorable mandates.

Cosponsors of the event include: Teree Caldwell-Johnson, Joy Corning, Fran Fleck, Mary A. Grefe, Representative Betty Grundberg, Christine Hensley, Lana Hinderks, Liz Kruidenier, D.J. Newlin, Jo Oldson, Lt. Governor Sally Pederson, Suzanne O'Dea Schenken, Mary Sconiers-Chapman, Margaret B. Swanson, Dawn Taylor, Margi Weiss, and Connie Wimer.

Cost for the event is a tax-deductible charitable contribution of \$30 and you can bring a guest for \$20. Please send your gift, along with the enclosed form by March 15, 2002. Checks should be made payable to Friends of ICSW.

For more information, contact the ICSW at 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427 or dhrcsw@dhrc.state.ia.us.

Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet



I can hardly wait for March 18th, from 5:30 - 7:30 in West Des Moines! Spending an evening with a group of interesting women sounds great to me! (Cost of the event is \$30, Guests \$20 each.)

Enclosed is my check for _____.

Name: _____ Guest: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

Calendar of Events

March

Women's History Month

- 1 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Sue Ryan-Anderson, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or sue.ryan-anderson@dhr.state.ia.us.
- 7 Whatcha Gonna Say Now! A Diversity Training Workshop.** 9 a.m. -12 p.m. \$100. Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. Iowa Council for International Understanding, 515/282-8269 x.15 or maxiciu@aol.com.
- 8 Coffee with Chrysalis - Multi-Tasking: A Curse or a Blessing.** 7:30-8:30 a.m., Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Des Moines. Free. Chrysalis Foundation, 515/255-1853 or chrysalisfdn@yahoo.com.
- 8 International Women's Day and 3rd Global Women's Strike.** <www.womenstrike8m.server101.com>.
- 9 Women of Excellence Awards Ceremony.** 12 noon. Cronks Restaurant, Denison. American Association of University Women - Denison Area Branch. Norma Coret, 712/647-2239.
- 15-17 7th Annual Women's Weekend: Celebrating Women/Celebrating Life: Mind, Body and Soul Connections.** Grace United Methodist Church, Des Moines. For more information, contact Kristin Clark at 515/283/1996 x.111.
- 16 Girl Scouting's 90th Anniversary.** 1-4 p.m. Free. State Capitol, Des Moines. Call Ellen Winking at 515/278-2881 for details and to register.
- 18 Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting.** 1-4: p.m. Blue Room, Ola Babcock Miller Building, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. Call or write for special accommodations, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461 or dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us.
- 18 Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet.**
- 19 Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest Awards Ceremony.** See front page for details.
- 19 Women of Excellence.** 6:30 p.m. Sioux City Convention Center, Sioux City. \$25. Women Aware, Inc., 712/258-4174 or 800/465-6165, or wmaware@willinet.net.
- 22-23 Beyond Rubies, A Woman's Conference 2002.** Over 85 workshops, 3 speakers and a dramatic event are planned. Fee varies. Kirkwood Community College, 800/332-2055 x. 5529.
- 26-27 2002 Conference for Public Health: Public Health in Action.** Scheman Conference Center, Iowa State University, Ames. Fee varies. Barnes Management, 319/338-2036 or barnesmanagement@compuserve.com.

- 27 Annual Celebration of Excellence and Achievement Among Women.** 4 p.m., Iowa Memorial Union, University of Iowa, Iowa City. Women's Resource & Action Center, 319/335-1486.

April

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- 4, 11, 18 Taking the Road Less Traveled in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology Career Conference for Girls,** grades 6-12. Linda Dutton, Program for Women in Science and Engineering, Iowa State University, Ames, 515/294-5319 or ldutton@iastate.edu.
- 5 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Sue Ryan-Anderson, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or sue.ryan-anderson@dhr.state.ia.us.
- 10-11 25th Annual Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse: Celebrating Service.** Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines. Iowa Department of Public Health. Training Resources, 319/363-2531 or info@trainingresources.org.
- 11 Visionary Women Event.** 6 p.m. \$45. Val Air Ballroom, West Des Moines. Young Women's Resource Center, 515/244-4901.
- 12 The Des Moines Conference for Women.** Holiday Inn Downtown, Des Moines. SkillPath Seminars, 800/873-7545 or <www.skillpath.com>.
- 16 Equal Pay Day.**
- 17 Voices of Mid-life & Older Women Meeting.** 6 p.m. Mama Lacona's, Urbandale. Althea Rausch, 515/222-1114.
- 18-19 White Privilege Conference.** Central College, Pella. Fee varies. Eddie Moore, Jr., 641/628-7484, wpc3@central.edu, or <www.whiteprivilegeconference.org>.
- 23 17th Annual Risky Business Conference: Community Youth Development -- Be the Change!** Scheman Building, ISU, Ames. Fee varies. Youth & Shelter Services, Inc., 515/233-3141 or <www.yss.ames.ia.us/riskybusiness/>.

Upcoming

- May 1 Anxiety Disorder Screen Day.** 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at designated area Des Moines HyVee stores. Call 515/254-0417 for locations.
- May 3 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Sue Ryan-Anderson, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or sue.ryan-anderson@dhr.state.ia.us.

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 2003.



Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners (FIWP) announced awards in January to 22 women enabling each to take at least one course during the current semester. A thank you note from one of the 16 prisoners funded for a course last semester summed up the goal of FIWP when she indicated, "Thank you so much! I hope this helps in the long run — both

society and the inmates — education is our biggest weapon against crime!" FIWP is a ministry of Hawthorn Hill that meets monthly. Anyone interested in making a donation may send a check payable to the United Methodist Foundation, and mail it to 500 East Court, Des Moines IA 50309. All donations received by August 15th will be available for the fall, 2002 semester applications.



The YWCA of Greater Des Moines annually presents the **Women of Achievement Award** to recognize four outstanding women who have changed the face of the community through their volunteer contributions to humanity, with emphasis on the empowerment of women, children and people of color. Award nominations are being accepted until March 15, 2002. The recipients will be publicly acknowledged for their accomplishments at a gala luncheon on

June 5, 2002. For a nomination form, call 515/244-8961 or go to <www.ywcadsm.org>.



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, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319, 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, or dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us.



The **2001 Annual Report**, (February 2002, 30th Edition) is available. The annual report details the activities of the ICSW during calendar year 2001. If you wish to receive a report, contact the ICSW at Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319; telephone, 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427, or e-mail dhr.icsw@dhr.state.ia.us. The publication is also available on-line at <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/pubs.html>.



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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 8,600 persons or organizations.

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

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