

From: [Talbert, Lilly](#)  
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Subject: VCW VIEW: August 14th  
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Today, August 14<sup>th</sup> is the Anniversary of Social Security being signed into law. Read the new Institute for Women's Policy Research report, [Enhancing Social Security for Women and Other Vulnerable Americans: What the Experts Say](#) about ideas for reform and the value of social security for Americans.

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### Classes at Women's Small Business Program / Mercy Connections

Start Up, a 15-week comprehensive business planning course, starts Thursday, August 21st

Designed for and by women, the Women's Small Business Program Start Up course is the premier entrepreneur education program for women who want to take action. In an interactive, non-academic classroom environment, learn the language of business from seasoned entrepreneurs. From income statements to statement of purpose, business plan of operations to marketing implementation, this class has it all for the budding or expanding entrepreneur. Taught in 3 content areas by 3 different instructors and a host of experts in the field, you'll find support professionally and personally in a fun, safe, inclusive environment. More info or to [register here](#) or contact Gwen / (802) 846-7338.

6 Weeks to Personal Financial Empowerment, starts Tuesday, September 9th

Did you know the # 1 concern for women is financial security? So why aren't we talking about it? Many of us feel fear and out of control around our personal finances, and don't even know where to begin to start sorting it out. In this action-based, ground-breaking class, participants will learn the language of personal finance by receiving the technical knowledge and support they need to make informed decisions about their financial and personal future. Forget dieting; by taking an asset-based approach in this safe, supportive class, women build a perspective of abundance and feel able to take control of their financial life, whatever their current situation. Participants leave this class with a personal financial plan, knowing what questions to ask, and with the decision-making and resource structures in place to identify how to answer them. [Apply here](#).

[The Women's Small Business Program](#) is a program of Mercy Connections, an educational non-profit in Burlington dedicated to nurturing self-sufficiency in women through education, mentoring, and community. Women's Small Business Program Mercy Connections / 255 S Champlain St., Suite 8 / Burlington, VT 05401.

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Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL)  
Apprenticeship classes in the Electrical and Plumbing trades  
Classes begin in early September and end in early April at many sites around the state

VDOL provides this classroom instruction, test preparation and job training grant to Vermont Technical College. Instruction is delivered via traditional classroom setting or via interactive television sessions when student numbers are low in a particular geographic area. Students must be employer-sponsored. Learn more by contacting the [Vermont Department of Labor Apprenticeship Staff](#) at 802-828-5250, or directly contact employers in these trades.

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18th Annual Women's Economic Opportunity Conference

Saturday, September 20th at Vermont Technical College in Randolph

Registration is now open for this free and fabulous statewide women's conference presented by U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy. The day's events will bring together hundreds of Vermont women exploring new careers, forging professional contacts, discovering financial resources and getting more from social media. With 30 workshops to choose from, there will be a wide range of offerings for many skill levels. This year's conference features a new Coaching Café, where more than a dozen skilled coaches will hold one-on-one sessions for conference-goers looking to turn their ideas into action. Donna Carpenter, President of Burton Snowboards, will be this year's keynote speaker. She will discuss her style of professional leadership, her approach to balancing life's demands, and her commitment to hiring, retaining and promoting women in a male-dominated industry. In the interest of making this conference accessible to all, there is *no charge for registration, lunch, or pre-arranged child care*. Register (deadline is Sept. 10th) and [learn more here](#).

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Pregnant and Working?

Recently, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) issued enforcement guidance on pregnancy discrimination and related issues. Find [The Enforcement Guidance](#), [Q&A document](#), and [Fact Sheet](#) on [EEOC's website](#).

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[Vermont Women's Business Center](#) presents Business Wisdom Circle

Tuesday, August 26, 4:30 to 6:30

Capstone (formerly Central VT Community Action) Campus, 20 Gable Place, Barre

As we approach the third anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene, it is the perfect time to take a step back and think about the ways in which your business might be vulnerable to the unknown and to create some "just in case" contingencies. The Business Wisdom Circle is a monthly women business owners peer-to-peer mentoring & networking event where women at any stage of business come together to share challenges, strategies, feedback, resources, support, inspiration and fun. \$10.00 includes light refreshments, reduced coupons are available. More information:

[Maureen Dougherty](#), 802-479-9813, facebook: VtWBC.

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New England Women's Policy Conference: The Unfinished Agenda

Friday, November 7th, 10 AM-5 PM

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston, Mass

The Vermont Commission on Women joins with UMass/Boston's Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, five other New England-based women's commissions and our region's Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor to convene "The Unfinished Agenda: New England Women's Policy Conference".

Honorary Host Committee Co-chairs will be Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), reflecting the conference's emphasis on bipartisan approaches. The conference theme, "Economic Security for All Women and Their Families," will provide a platform for analyzing the impact of the recent recession and the widening inequality in wages and wealth. Participants will build bridges and forge solutions to enhance women's economic security through the public policy process and in partnership with the private sector.

The conference expects to bring together more than 350 leaders—women and men—from diverse communities in the six New England states, including elected officials, heads of nonprofits, business executives, and members of state women's commissions. These leaders will return to their states and work with local stakeholders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to enact change.

Save the Date flyer [here](#). Venue Directions and Parking info [here](#).

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5th Annual Courage in Bloom Garden Ceremony, Honoring Victims and Survivors of Crime

Friday, September 5th, 2014 from 1 - 3:00 PM

Courage in Bloom Garden, Between 10 & 12 Baldwin Street in Montpelier

Held in the lovely memorial garden each year, this event will feature keynote speaker Kim Fountain of the Pride Center of Vermont, an opportunity to hear the voices of crime survivors, live music by Jay Ekis, and an ice cream social to close. More info [here](#) or contact [Mandy Park](#): 802-241-1250 x 114.

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[Read the Fact Sheet](#) developed by the Department of Labor's Women's Bureau on Older Women and Work.

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[Umbrella, Inc.](#) presents a South of the Border Fiesta Fundraiser

Saturday, September 6th from 6 - 9:00 PM

Cornucopia, 125 Main Street #3, Newport, Vermont 05855

Celebrate over 5 years of Umbrella's advocacy programming in Orleans and Northern Essex Counties as well as Cornucopia's first year of job skills training and Meals-on-Wheels delivery. \$50/participant, includes fresh, local produce prepared as Mexican fare by [Cornucopia's chef and trainees](#), refreshments, entertainment (including salsa dancing), a silent auction and raffle prizes. For more information [contact Renee](#) at (802) 748-1992 x 329.

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[Parenthood of Northern New England's Night at the Vermont Lake Monsters](#)

Centennial Field, Burlington

Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:05 PM

PPNNE receives half of all ticket sales for this game if purchased [through this link](#).

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[Vermont Humanities Council](#) events

Beatrix Potter Revisited

Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM

West Enosburg United Methodist Church, 1725 Tyler Branch Rd, 7:00 pm. Shirley Duso, (802) 933-4394.

Using books, props, and bibliography, Helene Lang presents the life of Beatrix Potter, highlighting her artistic talent, her writing ability where every word is appropriate and perfectly arranged, and finally, her years as a countrywoman raising Herdwick sheep. The presentation takes her from her Victorian childhood, through the years of her little books, to her final thirty years of farming in England's Lake District. Hosted by the Enosburg Historical Society. More info: Shirley Duso, (802) 933-4394.

Book Discussion: "Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America" by Barbara Ehrenreich

Monday, September 8th, 7:30 PM

Wake Robin Retirement Community, Shelburne, 200 Wake Robin Dr.

Who is the working class? Look past the stereotypes to examine the realities of minimum-wage existence, small-town economics, social divisions, and what does or doesn't constitute the good life. Led by Helene Lang. Advance Signup Required, Natalie Albers, (802) 985-0659.

Anne Frank's Neighbors: What Did They Do?

Wednesday, September 17th, 6 PM

Dorothy Alling Memorial Library. Williston

Although Anne Frank's Diary is the most widely read nonfiction book in the world

after the Bible, little attention has been paid to her neighbors—the people who lived alongside the Jewish population as persecution intensified. Mary Fillmore examines the choices they faced and the decisions they made in the face of those choices. Why did some people ignore the situation, while others felt compelled to resist? What can we learn from them as we face the humanitarian crises of our own time? More info: Kathy DeLuca, (802) 878-4918.

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National Women's Law Center [just released a new report, "Underpaid and Overloaded: Women in Low-Wage Jobs"](#) showing that regardless of their education level, age, marital or parental status, race, ethnicity, or national origin, women are more likely to work in a low-wage job than their male counterparts. Working in a low-wage job makes supporting a family incredibly difficult. In addition to the constant struggle to make ends meet, workers in these jobs face a drumbeat of challenges and headaches — like lack of access to affordable child care and paid sick days, discrimination and harassment, unpredictable work schedules, and barriers to reproductive health care. Not to mention a wage gap: even in these low-wage jobs, women working full time, year round are paid 13 percent less than men.

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[Million Women Mentors](#) is an engagement campaign and national call to action that mobilizes corporations, government entities, non-profit and higher education groups, around the imperative of mentoring girls and young women in STEM fields.

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Public Comment Period/Hearings on Agency of Human Services and Department for Children and Families

The Governor's Council on Pathways from Poverty, in collaboration with Agency of Human Services and Department for Children and Families is seeking public comments on ways to improve their delivery of services to families with children. There are three ways to provide your comments:

In person: Attend a public hearing. Hearings will be held on two dates: August 28, 2014 at 6:00 PM and September 5, 2014 at 2PM. You can attend at any of the 13 Vermont Interactive Television sites located around the state. For a complete list of VIT sites go to <http://www.vitlink.org/location> or call (802) 728-1455.

By mail: Mail your comments (through September 30<sup>th</sup>) to: Agency of Human Services, Secretary, 208 Hurricane Lane, Suite 103, Williston, VT 05495.

On line: Complete an [online survey](#).

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In the [Summer 2014 edition of the UConn Department of Economics newsletter, The Connecticut Economy](#) Vermont ranks as the #1 Best State to be Female.

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VCW Commissioner and Chair of our Economic Equity and Security Committee,

Laine Dunham, is also [Hildene's](#) Vice President & Creative Director. Read about her work in this [Telly Halkias piece recently in Vermont Digger](#).

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The Incarcerated Women's Initiative, Then and Now: Vermont Summit on Women in Corrections

Tuesday, September 30th, Chase Community Center, Vermont Law School, South Royalton

In 2005, the Agency of Human Services developed the Incarcerated Women's Initiative (IWI) to address the growing number of women in prison and minimize the overall impact on their children, families and communities. As the IWI's tenth anniversary comes up, this summit will serve as an opportunity for community leaders, legislators, legal professionals, criminal justice-involved individuals and other interested citizens to re-examine the history of incarcerated women, to discuss the issues still facing women in corrections today, and to propose new policy recommendations. Formal invitations will be sent out soon with registration details. For more information, please contact [Claire.Greene@state.vt.us](mailto:Claire.Greene@state.vt.us).

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Vermont Commission on Women's (VCW) Panel Discussion: Successful Reentry for Women in Corrections

Wednesday, October 8th, 2014, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

St. Albans City Hall, Council Chambers

VCW presents this panel discussion, "Successful Reentry" with a focus on employment, educational opportunities, risk reduction, anti-recidivism programs, health care, and support for building better and stronger relationships with family, children and the community as a whole. The Commission will share the findings from this forum with the legislature, policy makers, and various state and community organizations with the goal of creating a correctional system that is more responsive to the unique needs of the women. Questions? Contact [us](#).

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Invite a [Let's Grow Kids](#) Speakers Bureau Member to your Community

The Let's Grow Kids Speakers Bureau is a diverse and growing network of 27 trained spokespeople who are available to talk about early childhood development and the Let's Grow Kids campaign at venues like Rotary Clubs, Board meetings, playgroups, staff meetings, congregational committees, or other gatherings of Vermonters who care about children. Would you like to invite one of them to a community group you are involved in? Contact [Kelly Ault](#) as the Campaign Speakers Bureau, 802-272-0795.

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Back to school shopping? Prevent Child Abuse Vermont Benefits: Macy's Shop For A Cause

Saturday, August 23rd

Purchase passes at \$5.00 each, save 25% on almost everything in the store and 10% on other things. More information and to order cards, contact Ed Bride, Deputy / Development Director at Prevent Child Abuse Vermont: [ebride@pcavt.org](mailto:ebride@pcavt.org) / 802-229-5724

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Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) VIEW Message – Vermont Information Exchange for Women

126 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05633-6801

800-881-1561 | [women.vermont.gov](http://women.vermont.gov) | Find us on Facebook | Follow us on Twitter

Celebrating 50 Years of Progress | 1964 - 2014

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