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Subject: VCW VIEW: 2/5/15
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Brownbag Lunch Panel: Do We Still Need Women's History?
Vermont History Museum, Pavilion Building, 109 State Street, Montpelier
Wednesday, March 11th, 2015 - Noon to 1

Celebrate Women's History Month over lunch by learning from a panel of esteemed historians and scholars addressing questions facing women's history in the 21st century: Do we still need to separate out women's stories? Does it help or harm women when their history is told separately? Is there a trend away from studying women's history as a separate topic? How can the context of women's history help inform the world today?

Moderated by Cary Brown, the executive director of the Vermont Commission on Women, panelists include Dr. Felicia Kornbluh, Director of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at the University of Vermont, Dr. Marilyn Blackwell, independent historian, and Holly Allen, Assistant Professor of American Studies at Middlebury College.

This program is co-sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society and the Vermont Commission on Women as part of a series of annual programs on women in Vermont history originating in the Vermont Women's History Project. This program is free and open to the public, thanks to sponsorship from Clute Wealth Management and Key Bank and co-sponsorship from the Cabot Creamery Cooperative. Bring a lunch - free dessert and coffee/tea served. [More info here.](#)

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[Vermont Health Connect](#) Open Enrollment

Ends Sunday February 15th

Learn more [here](#) or by calling 855-899-9600.

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Save the date for the 2015 Women's Leadership Conference: Better Together: Mentoring for Success

Thursday through Friday, March 26-27, at Killington Grand Resort, Killington, VT

Keynote speaker: Bethany Bosch, Solo Swimmer Across the English Channel

Pre-Conference speakers: Comedian Josie Leavitt : Finding Your Voice and VCW Commissioner, Kerry Secrest: Developing Your Mentoring Network. More info [here](#).

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Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Seeks Policy and Economic Justice Specialist

This 40 hour per week position, which is situated at the Network's office in Montpelier, offers a competitive salary and benefit package, and the opportunity to work in a dynamic, supportive work environment on important social change issues. The Policy and Economic Justice Specialist is responsible for improving public policy to support the safety and economic well-being of all victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Vermont. They hope to recruit someone who brings the following skills and attitudes:

- Any combination of experience and education equal to a Bachelor's of Arts or Science Degree in one of the human services or related fields;
- Working knowledge of Vermont's state government, legislative process and policy analysis.
- Knowledge of Vermont's social services, housing, and government entitlement system.
- Experience in systems advocacy related to domestic and sexual violence.
- Knowledge of domestic and sexual violence;
- A demonstrated commitment to anti-oppression work and ending violence against women;
- Ability and commitment to work within a team model to achieve organizational goals;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- Excellent group facilitation skills.

The Vermont Network seeks and supports a multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural work place for the benefit of the organization, the work and the movement to end gender-based violence. They strongly encourage applicants from racially or ethnically diverse communities, LGBTQ communities and individuals with disabilities to apply. Send an application packet that includes a cover letter and resume to karents@vtnetwork.org by the close of business on February 13, 2015.

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Working Moms

A new feature on the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor's [data and statistics](#) page includes an infographic of first-time mothers. Among other stats, they show that more first-time mothers are working while pregnant, work closer to their due date and returning to work sooner after giving birth. This newest infographic bolsters their [mothers and families](#) data that includes another infographic on [working mothers](#).

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Health Department Offers [Small Businesses Grants to Support Breastfeeding](#)

The Health Department has just issued a [Request for Proposals](#) on Feb. 2 that will provide \$1,000 grants to 15 worksites in Vermont with 100 or fewer employees. The grants, funded by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), will help employers provide women with a private, clean place where they can express breastmilk for their child at work. [Link here](#) for a grant application and please act now: the deadline for the grant applications is February 20, 2015.

State and federal law requires that businesses provide time and a private space for women to express breast milk. This usually takes about 15 minutes every three hours. Breastfeeding employees need approximately an hour per work day to express milk, which can be easily divided between usual breaks. The Health Department encourages all women to breastfeed their babies for at least a year. Vermont's breastfeeding rates are among the best in the nation, according to the 2014 Breastfeeding Report Card by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ninety percent of Vermont women initiate breastfeeding (5th best in the nation), and Vermont ranks as the nation's best for breastfeeding at 6 months, 12 months, and exclusive breastfeeding at 3 months and 6 months.

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Got questions about workplace issues like [accommodations for moms who need to pump breastmilk during the workday](#), or [worker's rights to request intermediate or long term flexible working arrangements](#)? VCW's publications address these topics and many more. [More here.](#)

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[League of Women Voters of Vermont](#) presents its latest public access TV production, a panel discussion on cleaning up Lake Champlain: <https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/coming-clean-lake-champlain>

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Building Bright Futures [Briefs Legislators About Well-Being of Vermont Children](#)

In July 2011, Building Bright Futures became a nonprofit organization that now serves the dual role as the State Early Childhood Advisory Council and the governance structure for the early childhood system, aligning the work at the State level with the work of 12 regional councils across Vermont to promote improvements in access, quality and affordability of prevention and intervention services for families and young children birth to eight. This work includes maintaining a formal system for planning, coordinating and integrating early childhood programs, policies, information and resources that are recognized, consistent and supported at the State and regional levels. [Building Bright Futures](#) provided [this briefing to Vermont House Committee on Human Services \(video link\)](#) on January 27th.

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An Evening with Sojourner Truth

February 11, 7:30 pm, Vermont State House

In this living history portrayal, Kathryn Woods uses spiritual music and Truth's own words to recreate the remarkable life of the abolitionist, feminist, and escaped slave. *Hosted by the Kellogg-Hubbard Library and underwritten by Cabot Creamery.* In addition to being a [Montpelier First Wednesdays](#) talk, this performance is part of the [Farmers Night Concert Series](#), a longstanding State House tradition. Artists from around the state, in genres ranging from classical music to bluegrass to barbershop, perform in the well of the House Chamber each Wednesday night during the legislative session. [See the full schedule here.](#)

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Survey Improving Accessibility of the Victims Compensation Program through the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services

Responses to [this survey](#) will provide guidance to improve the Victims Compensation Program so that more eligible people get compensation after a crime. They are focusing on increasing accessibility for the following groups:

- people with physical disabilities
- people with developmental or intellectual disabilities
- people who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing
- people who are blind or visually impaired

- people with mental illness and seniors
- seniors aged 65 and over

The Center will use the results of this survey to improve the way they do outreach, to make the application process more accessible, and to do a better job of providing victims compensation services. The survey should take about 10 minutes and the survey's deadline is Friday, March 6, 2015. Take [the survey here](#). For more information on the Vermont Victims Compensation Initiative, or for questions or concerns about the survey, please email [Mandy Park](#).

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Sex Discrimination Guidelines

A proposed rule would clarify federal contractors' requirements to prohibit sex discrimination, updating existing guidelines to align with laws, court decisions and societal changes since they were originally issued in 1970. [Learn About the Proposal here](#).

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Vermont Works for Women's Strategies to Transform Peer Aggression Among Girls

1/2-day workshop

- Hyde Park - Feb. 12
- Bennington - March 12
- Randolph - April 8

[Learn more and register here!](#)

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Testify at Budget Public Hearing

Monday, February 9th from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The House Appropriations Committee will be holding a public hearing on the Governor's Recommended Budget for FY 2016. This hearing will take place at [Vermont Interactive Television](#) sites around the state.

[Click here](#) for more information about the hearing.

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Vermont Crime Victim Service Awards, 2015 Nomination Information

Every year the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services solicits nominations for its Crime Victim Service Awards. These awards recognize individuals or programs that, through activism and advocacy, serve crime victims in extraordinary ways. The award winners will be honored at a special ceremony held on Thursday April 9, 2015 in Honor of *National Crime Victims' Rights Week* 2015. [Click here for more info and the nomination form.](#)

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Planned Parenthood of Northern New England celebrates 50th anniversary this year with 21 health centers serving 42,000 patients per year.

Do you know someone who is in need of reproductive and sexual health care services? Maybe that person is your sister who keeps meaning to switch her birth control method...Or your friend who has a UTI and didn't know she could come to Planned Parenthood for care ...Or your coworker who hasn't had a pap test in years because she can't afford one... Or your niece who doesn't have health insurance and needs help enrolling. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England offers affordable, expert health care services, including: Birth control, like the pill, the implant, the shot, the IUD and more; Pap tests and follow up care; Testing and treatment for UTIs and vaginal infections; STD testing and treatment; Sports and school physicals. PPNNE is a Navigator organization, which means they can help individuals find and enroll in health insurance plans. [More info here](#) or call 866-476-1321.

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Volunteer Opportunities to Improve Women's Financial Stability

United Way's *Women's Leadership Council* is working to improve the financial stability for women through fundraising and program funding. As part of that effort, they would like to create a list of opportunities for community members to volunteer their time to help with the goal of improving the financial stability of women. Please [post your opportunities in United Way's Volunteer Connection online service](#). Questions or more information, please contact [Laurie](#) at 861-7832.

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[Vermont Commission on Women \(VCW\)](#)

VIEW Message – [Vermont Information Exchange for Women](#)
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