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VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women

Newsletter



August 9th, 2017

News & Resources

Alimony Story Request

In 2017, the Vermont General Assembly passed Act 60, An act relating to creating the [Spousal Support and Maintenance Task Force](#). The Task Force is charged with reviewing and making legislative recommendations to Vermont's alimony laws. As a member of the Task Force, the Vermont Commission on Women will provide research and information, including presenting voices and stories of Vermont women on this issue. We're looking for women (nationally 97% of alimony recipients) who are willing to share their stories about receiving or paying alimony in their Vermont divorce. Maybe:

- they put their spouse through medical school or law school.
 - they were a full-time homemaker and parent, providing considerable flexibility to a working spouse by facilitating early mornings and late evenings, last-minute meetings, and business travel, and thereby contributing to the earning power and career advancement of their spouse.
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- as the stay-at home parent, time away from their careers resulted in lost income, opportunity, and career advancement.
- they were still serving as primary care giver to a child of the marriage.
- they were victims of domestic violence and face diminished earning capacity as a result of missed career or educational opportunities, or are dealing with physical or emotional health ramifications as a result of domestic violence that inhibit the ability to work and support themselves.
- they had agreed to be the full-time homemaker, and now have no work experience and alimony payments prevent them from sliding into poverty.
- there wasn't sufficient property available to provide a just and equitable division.
- their health or physical or mental disability reduces their ability to work and support themselves, or maybe they are caring for a child of the marriage with a serious physical or mental disability that requires extra care and supervision.
- they pay out alimony to an ex-spouse who fits the descriptions above.

Got a story to share about receiving or paying alimony in your Vermont divorce? [Share it with us.](#)

Mercy Connections welcomes new Program Directors and Development Assistant

Mercy Connections is pleased to welcome Joanne Nelson, Director of Justice & Mentoring Programs; Cathy Ainsworth, Director of Education & Transition Programs; and Kirsten Wilson, Development Assistant.

Joanne most recently worked as the Director of the Plattsburgh Alumni Association at SUNY Plattsburgh and continues to serve as a Mercy Associate. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, a Master of Education and Master of Arts in Theology from Saint Michael's College. She currently lives in Essex Junction, Vt. Regarding her role at Mercy Connections, Joanne shares: "I followed my heart and soul to Mercy Connections to become a part of a mission which seeks to include, support, mentor, and to offer a place of justice for all."

Kirsten, a former Author Events and Publicity Assistant at Chelsea Green Publishing, reflects, "What I most appreciate about Mercy Connections is the culture of kindness and radical hospitality—it is infectious and radiates through you as soon as you arrive here." She is a graduate of Saint Michael's College with a Bachelor of Arts in English and International Relations and lives in Winooski, Vt.

Cathy, a tenth generation Vermonter who resides in Sheldon, Vt., most recently served in the role of Director of Evaluation, Grants & Reporting at Mercy Connections. A graduate of Wheelock College with a Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts and a concentration in Elementary Education, she says: "I have been closely involved with the growth and evolution of Mercy Connections at all levels. I am proud of how the organization has developed and look forward to continuing to contribute my talents here as we move into the future."

Applications for Vermont Early Childhood Alliance 2018

Legislative Agenda

The Alliance's Legislative Agenda is crafted annually in partnership with early childhood organizations that are advancing policy solutions through the legislative process. Selected issues will make up the 2018 Legislative Agenda and the proposing organization would be established as the "lead" on legislative and advocacy strategy. [Learn more.](#)

AAUW Accepting Applications for Fellowships and Grants

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is now accepting applications for a variety of fellowships and grants for women completing graduate work. Application deadlines range from November 15th - January 15th. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Save the Date for the Women's Summit at the University of Vermont on November 2nd

The Women's Summit will cover topics including feminism and intersectionality, mentoring, how men can support the advancement of women, pay equity, and more. Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, professor of Women's Studies at Spelman college

and Founding Director of the Women's Research and Resource Center will deliver the keynote. [Learn more.](#)

Save the Date for the Women Business Owner's Network Fall Conference on November 8th at Hotel Vermont

Vermont Victim Assistance Academy Accepting Applications

Offered by the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, the Vermont Victim Assistance Academy (VVAA) is a 64-hour introductory educational opportunity designed to improve the quality and consistency of victim services in Vermont. The VVAA integrates core concepts and best practices that encourage a victim-centered, multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to supporting those whose lives have been impacted by crime. The program costs \$250 and runs from October 2nd - May 18th. Applications are due September 6th. [Learn more or apply.](#)

Top 10 Ways Families Can Encourage Girls' Interest in Computing

From the National Center for Women & Information Technology, [here are 10 ways](#) that family members can encourage the girls in their lives to study and have a career in computer science and related technology fields.

New Case File Review Guidebook for Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART)

Recently, the [Sexual Violence Justice Institute](#) (SVJI), a special program of the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, published a step-by-step guide that leads Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) coordinators through the SVJI process of reviewing law enforcement case files. In [What Do Sexual Assault Cases Look Like in Our Community? A SART Coordinator's Guidebook for Case File Review](#) (PDF), SARTs will find an effective process for identifying areas for improvement and areas of success in their approach to working with and supporting victims. The guidebook is appropriate for agencies involved in sexual assault cases: law enforcement, medical, prosecution, advocacy, and probation.

Employment Opportunities

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is Hiring

The Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is seeking a mission-oriented full-time (40 hour/week) Project Attorney to serve in their non-profit clinic providing legal services to victims of violence. The Project Attorney will represent victims of sexual violence, stalking, and domestic violence including women, children, and men of any sexual orientation, culture, religion, or race. The Project Attorney will represent victims statewide in the criminal process and/or civil proceedings. J.D. and in-depth knowledge of legal issues pertinent to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Vermont required. Access to personal transportation is required. Please send resume and cover letter to kelli@vtnetwork.org. Position open until filled.

Girl Scouts of the White and Green Mountains is Hiring

Funding Opportunities

AAUW Community Action Grants

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is accepting applications for Community Action Grants from individual women and non-profit organizations for projects that address issues related to the needs of women and girls or that provide information to educate and benefit the public on those issues. Grants range from \$2,000 - \$10,000 and *applications are due January 15th*. [Learn more and apply.](#)

U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau Announces Funding to Support Women in Apprenticeships and Nontraditional Occupations

The [Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations \(WANTO\) Technical Assistance Grant](#) Program is designed to help employers and labor unions recruit, train, and retain women in apprenticeship and nontraditional

The Girl Scouts of the White and Green Mountains is hiring a full-time Community Engagement Specialist, responsible for successfully culminating recruitment efforts by collecting leads and converting prospective members into registered members for their assigned areas. She/he is responsible for securing increased adult volunteer participation needed to implement Girl Scouting within an assigned area. He or she will work to increase awareness and participation in Girl Scouts through a variety of in person meetings, Discover Girl Scouts events, presentations, and networking opportunities with community organizations, corporations, schools, educators, faith-based intuitions, and other community constituents within an assigned geographic area or throughout all regions of the Council as assigned. [Learn more or apply.](#)

occupations. This year, grant funds will be awarded to provide one or more of the following types of technical assistance:

- Developing pre-apprenticeship or nontraditional skills training programs;
- Providing ongoing orientations for employers, unions, and workers; and/or
- Setting up support groups and facilitating networks for women.

Grantees may work with employers and labor unions in the full range of industries in which women are traditionally underrepresented or disproportionately concentrated in lower-wage occupations, including advanced manufacturing, energy, healthcare, information technology, and transportation. *Applications are due August 23, 2017.*

Upcoming Events

How Language Helps Shape Our Response to Sexual Violence – Webinar

[Thursday, August 10 at 2:00 p.m., online via the International Association of Forensic Nurses](#)

When discussing sexual violence, people often use the language of consensual sex to describe assaultive acts or use euphemisms, erotic, or affectionate terms to portray violent acts. This language implies consent and romance, rather than criminal acts. In addition, folks tend to describe violence against women in passive terms, which allows the perpetrators of this violence to remain invisible and unaccountable. People also use language that objectifies or blames sexual assault victims. This interactive session will explore the language of sexual assault: how to talk about and write about this crime. They will discuss specific examples of the language we use and explore how to discuss sexual assault in a way that more accurately depicts the crime. This free session is applicable to all members of the response team who work with survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Safeline Logo Celebration

Thursday, August 10 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., North Common, Chelsea, VT

Safeline has a new logo and they want you to celebrate with them! Come to the North Common in Chelsea, Vermont for guest speakers, activities, and snacks! Activities for the afternoon include: Unveiling Safeline's new logo by Executive Director, Linda Ingold; Wynona Ward and Patsy French will speak about how Safeline connects with the community; Felicity Swayze, Board Chair, will speak about Safeline's services and work in the community; A silent auction; Delicious cake; Lawn games; and Music by David Kenyon. [Click here to view available silent auction items and to bid early.](#)

Women in Wind Summer Soiree

Thursday, August 10 from 4:00 – 7:30 p.m., Community Sailing Center, Burlington

The Summer Soiree is an event in partnership with the Greater Burlington Women's Forum. It includes on-water recreation (sailing or paddling, weather dependent) around Burlington Bay. Afterward, participants meet on the deck for refreshments, and time to connect with each other.

Ladies Get Drinks

Tuesday, August 14 from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., The Spot on the Dock, Burlington

The lady revolution is starting. Learn more at www.ladiesgetpaid.com and join them for a drink on the dock.

Mastering Salary Negotiation & Interviewing

Tuesday, August 15 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Burlington

Prepare for the busy Fall hiring season! This Girl Develop It Burlington workshop is geared towards improving interviewing and salary negotiation skills, building confidence and learning from women who are looking to hire. In tech, the wage gap is worsening, which is why it's key to have a well-developed strategy to handle both interviewing itself and the salary negotiation process. This workshop will start with a panel discussion comprised of professional women who have both hired and been hired, negotiated their salaries and had to negotiate salaries. Then, it will dive into a series of speed-dating-like rounds of interviews, during which participants will have a short time to mock interview for a job and then receive immediate feedback from the experts – women who have excelled in this area. By the end of the evening, attendees should leave armed with a strategy that helps prepare them for future interviews and salary discussions, in an effort to close the pay gap in their life and help them land their dream role. Costs \$20.

Girl Rising Screening and Reading with Author Tanya Lee Stone

Thursday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m., Main Street Landing Film House, Burlington

Join Vermont Works for Women for a special select reading and screening of Girl Rising. Meet author Tanya Lee Stone as she shares incredible stories of girls from around the world. Each story tells a tale about the power of education to change the future for girls, families, communities and entire nations. Proceeds support Vermont Works for Women. Tickets: Adults, \$10.00 / 18 & under, free. Available at the door.

Nonprofit Management Summer Camp

[Friday, August 18 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Hilltop Montessori School, Brattleboro](#)

Organized by Marlboro College's Center for New Leadership, the fourth annual Nonprofit Management Summer Camp is a retreat for nonprofit professionals in southern Vermont. Participants can choose two from six offered workshops. Workshops are tool-based, out-of-your-seat sessions, that encourage participation, connection, and fun. Attend for a day of catching up, connecting with nonprofit colleagues and innovating sector leaders, and eating smores. Workshop presenters include VCW Commissioner Kerry Secret. Registration is open and costs \$75.

Women's Equality Day Proclamation

[Tuesday, August 22 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., Vermont State House, Montpelier](#)

On August 26th, 1920, the certification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave American women the right to vote. The annual celebration of Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of this historic date. On August 22nd, 2017, Governor Phil Scott will formally proclaim "Women's Equality Day" in the Governor's Ceremonial Office in the Vermont State House.

Start Up: Comprehensive Business Planning

[August 24 – December 10 on Thursdays from 5:30-9:00 p.m., and every other Sunday 12:00-6:00 p.m., Mercy Connections, Burlington](#)

Learn the language of business with Mercy Connections Women's Small Business Program. This 15-week, the action-oriented class is tailored to participants' individual businesses, using the business plan as a framework. Taught by a seasoned entrepreneur instructor team and a host of guest experts in three content areas: financials, marketing, and business management.

My Sister's Keeper Conference

Thursday, August 31 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Stoweflake Resort

Black Lives Matter VT presents “My Sister’s Keeper Challenge” Conference. Help unite women in Vermont against racism! Online Registration is \$55: includes admission, lunch, child care, and take aways.

Welding for Women

Saturday & Sunday, September 9 – 10 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Vermont Tech, Randolph

It's not just a guy's world - the iron workers' union just announced an eight-month maternity leave for women workers! Head to VTC for a two-day, introductory, hands-on welding course for women only. With an emphasis on safety, they'll explore MIG, Stick, and Oxy-fuel welding as well as the ancillary hand and power tools necessary for this craft. No prior experience required. Natural fiber clothing and leather boots are a must. All other safety equipment provided.

Fall Doe Camp

Friday, September 15 at 8:30 a.m. – Sunday, September 17 at 2:00 p.m., Jackson's Lodge, Canaan

Vermont Outdoors Woman is sponsoring an outdoor education retreat for adventurous women. Fall Doe Camp will offer three days of classes to be held in the woods, in the lodge, on the lake, and on the sandy beach as foliage season begins in the Northeast Kingdom of VT. Campers can choose from a list of classes that include: Archery, Birding, Firearms Marksmanship & Safety (Muzzleloader, Handgun, Rifle and Clay Shooting), Outdoor Cooking, Survival Skills, Log Rolling, Fly Fishing, Boat Fishing, Deer Hunting, Ax Skills, Camping, ID Ferns, Trees & Wild Edibles, Wildlife Photography, Panning for Gold, Advanced Shotgun, Basket Weaving, Dowsing, Building a Harmonious Labyrinth, Coping With Critters While Camping (bears, raccoons, black flies, ticks, etc.), Chainsaw Skills & Safety, Land & Water Mobility Skills, Fitness and more. Early morning (before breakfast) options include yoga, birding or a morning run and swim. Cost is \$390 per person

and includes food and lodging, discounts available.

Senator Leahy's 21st Annual Women's Economic Opportunity Conference (WEOC)

[Saturday, September 16 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Vermont Technical College, Randolph](#)

This free conference will continue the long tradition of bringing women together for a day of personal and professional growth, with exciting new offerings that this year's partnership with Change The Story VT will provide. Given the similar goals of WEOC and Change The Story, this is a natural alliance to promote opportunities that will help advance economic goals and strategic thinking. Mary Alice McKenzie will be this year's keynote speaker. Mary Alice has served for a decade as the director of the Boys & Girls Club of Burlington, where she has worked tirelessly to help young women and men aim high and achieve their goals. A lawyer in her past life, Mary Alice's work with the Boys & Girls Club has literally changed lives with initiatives such as the Early Promise program. Her highly anticipated keynote promises to be inspiring and enlightening. *The registration deadline is September 8.*

Trauma-Informed Sexual Assault Investigation and Adjudication Institute

[Tuesday, October 17 – Friday, October 20, Courtyard Boston Downtown](#)

The NCCPS Institute provides college and university administrators involved in investigating and adjudicating sexual misconduct cases information and resources necessary to conduct fair and balanced investigations that consider the potential impact of trauma and are in line with evolving practices. The curriculum design allows for individuals and teams to learn collaboratively. Campus officials and partners who may make up a team include Title IX coordinators, administrative investigators, hearing and appeals board members, student conduct and student affairs professionals, residential life staff, human resources personnel, deans of

students, advocates, legal counsel, campus safety and law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and other community partners.



We choose events for VIEW from our [statewide events calendar](#) for women and girls. **If you'd like your event featured in the VIEW**, make sure you [add it](#).

Looking for more? You'll find many more events for women & girls in Vermont on the calendar.

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The Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) is a non-partisan state agency advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls. Sixteen volunteer commissioners, along with representatives from organizations concerned with women's issues, guide VCW's public education, coalition building, and advocacy efforts. For more information, please visit us at <http://women.vermont.gov>.

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