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VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women

Newsletter



July 11th, 2017

News & Resources

Marcia Merrill of Jericho Re-Elected to 5th Term as Chair of Vermont Commission on Women

The sixteen appointed members of the Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) have re-elected Marcia Merrill of Jericho to serve a 5th term as Chair. Ms. Merrill has served in this leadership role since 2006.

Reflecting on the Commission's work, Ms. Merrill stated, "I'm pleased and honored to have been selected as Chair again of this dynamic group of Vermonters who care so deeply about improving the lives of women and girls. Throughout our 53-year history, VCW has been an agent of positive change, bringing the voice, needs and conditions of women to the forefront in both public policy and public conversation, and the past few months have been no exception. Findings from our U.S. DOL Women's Bureau-funded feasibility study informed policy debate on the paid family and medical leave insurance bill. Change The Story, our innovative collaboration with Vermont Women's Fund and Vermont Works for Women, issued

its fourth report, revealing Vermont women have yet to achieve equal representation as leaders in any but a few political, civic or professional realms. We collected stories and provided testimony on a successful bill ensuring healthy pregnant workers receive reasonable workplace accommodations. Our Vermont Equal Pay Compact, a voluntary pledge employers sign indicating their commitment to closing the gender wage gap in their workplace now has 141 signers. With the energy and skills of our Commissioners, and the collective reach and intelligence of our twenty-seven Advisory Council organizations, we'll continue to capitalize on the momentum to advance rights and opportunities for women and girls in our state."

Ms. Merrill is a Certified Public Accountant, and recently retired from Montgomery & Merrill, P.C., her woman-owned public accounting firm in Burlington. In that role, she worked primarily with not-for-profit organizations, small businesses, and start-up businesses, assisting the ownership and boards of directors in the use and interpretation of financial statements, as well as providing audit and other financial statement services.



Ms. Merrill has served in board positions for a variety of community and not-for-profit organizations that focus on women's and family issues, including local, state, and national level positions for Business and Professional Women/VT, Inc. She holds a BA, Summa Cum Laude, from William Smith College and an MBA from Rochester Institute of Technology.

The Small Business Administration Explores the Impact of Women Owned Businesses

A new issue brief from the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy shows the major economic contribution of women-owned businesses. The report, "Women's Business Ownership: Data from the 2012 Survey of Business Owners," uses the most recent Census Bureau data to create a highly detailed portrait of this group, including their role in minority business communities. [Click here to read](#)

[more.](#)

Vermont Works for Women Internship Opportunities

Vermont Works for Women seeks two part-time interns, a MA/MS Women's Programming Intern and an Work Readiness Intern. Internship applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Please note in your application the semester for which you are applying. All internships are unpaid but available for academic credit. [Learn more.](#)

Online Safety tips from Umbrella

Laura Young, Youth Advocate at Umbrella has [some important tips](#) for keeping kids safe from sexual predators and digital kidnappers.

UN Women and Unilever Launch Unstereotype Alliance Aimed at Ending Sexist Ads

Only 3 percent of women in advertisements are featured in managerial positions, and a recent study found that women remain underrepresented in advertisements—and are typically depicted in the kitchen wearing revealing clothing when they are included. Earlier this month, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka gathered some of the top industry leaders at the Cannes Lions Festival of Creativity to address gender equality and women's representation in advertisements. The change has already begun, with brands as unlikely as Carls Jr.—known for their continuously ludicrous ads showing women in bikinis devouring hamburgers—hopping on the bandwagon. [Read more from Ms. Magazine.](#)

Save The Date and Call for Raffle Prizes – Girls on the Run Vermont's LUNAFEST

On Saturday, October 7, Girls on the Run VT will be hosting LUNAFEST at the Main Street Landing Performance Arts Center in Burlington -- an evening showcasing short films by, for, and about women. More info to come soon! In addition to films,

guest speakers, and food/drink, they'd like to host a raffle to benefit GOTRVT and the Breast Cancer Prevention Partners. Do you know of a local business that might consider donating an awesome item? Contact Susan:

susan@girlsontherunvermont.org.

Special thanks to June [Vermont Equal Pay Compact](#) Signers:

- [Embodied](#)
- [Main Street Alliance](#)
- [Regeneration Resources](#)

Has your business signed on to the [Vermont Equal Pay Compact](#)?

The Compact is a **voluntary online pledge** that enables Vermont employers to learn about and indicate their commitment to closing the wage gap.

We offer a [list of strategies](#) to consider and resources to inform employers.



embodied



vermont
MAIN STREET
alliance



ReGeneration RESOURCES
...helping organizations, grow, change, and manage conflict

Upcoming Events

“A Woman, Ain’t I?” – Sojourner Truth’s Story

[Tomorrow, July 12 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Cornerstone Community Center, Hartford](#)

Born a slave in New Paltz, New York, Isabella Baumfree walked away from slavery and in her travels evolved into Sojourner Truth: maid, laundress, evangelist, abolitionist, and suffragist. This free Vermont Humanities Council program, presented by Kathryn Woods, tells Sojourner Truth's story in her own words, speeches, and songs.

Women in Wind Bike and Paddle

[Saturday, July 15 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Catamount Outdoor Family Center, Burlington](#)

Taught by women, for women, this encouraging clinic teaches basic mountain bike handling skills in the morning and will explore the fundamentals of stand-up paddling in the afternoon. Enjoy a day of confidence building, exploration and camaraderie. Bring Your Own Bike or rent from Catamount Outdoor Family Center. Cost is \$100.

Ladies Get Paid: Women & Money Town Hall

[Monday, July 17 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Contois Auditorium, Burlington](#)

Ladies Get Paid Burlington will host a town hall where women will share their work war stories and together, strategize on how to better advocate for ourselves and each other. At each town hall, they ask panelists to share their stories, and open the discussion to the room, encouraging everyone to share or ask something. Panelists will include Change The Story's Jessica Nordhaus. Tickets cost \$15.

Intro to HTML/CSS with Girl Develop It

[Tuesdays and Thursdays July 18 – July 27 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Dealer.com, Burlington](#)

Learn to build your own website OR learn how to better harness your powers over the one you've already got! No prior web development experience is necessary to

benefit from this course. They'll take you from zero to sixty over four sessions, starting at the basics and ending with a simple formatted website utilizing HTML and CSS! Course fee is \$100 for four sessions. Scholarships available.

Women of the Revolution – Backstage Heroines

[Wednesday, July 19 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Bennington Battle Monument](#)

Who was the woman whose concerns about the new Constitution later took form as the Bill of Rights? Known and unknown, patriot and Tory, discover how women were key players in the Revolution.

Women Veterans Book Group

[Wednesdays, bi-weekly, July 19 – September 27 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m., VA](#)

[Women's Comprehensive Care Center, White River Junction](#)

This program provides an opportunity for Veterans to connect with other Veterans, build relationships, read insightful materials, and share experiences. This group will be led by Dartmouth Visiting Professor Suzanne Brown and Women Veterans Program Manager Carey Russ. Participants receive free copies of all readings, and a light dinner will be provided at each session. Readings will include: *Shoot Like a Girl* by Mary Jennings Hegar; *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly; *Sur*, a short story by Ursula LeGuin; and *Grounded*, a play by George Brant. Free, but pre-registration required.

Dream, Girl Screenings Presented by the Vermont Women's Fund

[Wednesday, July 19 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Manchester Community Library,](#)

[Free](#)

[Wednesday July 26 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Big Picture Theater, Waitsfield, \\$ 5-](#)

[\\$10](#)

This event is proudly presented by the Vermont Women's Fund and the Vermont Community Foundation to inspire young women to pursue their dreams of starting a business as well as women in business to support these dreams as mentors and champions. Through in-depth interviews and access to the daily lives of five incredible entrepreneurs, Dream, Girl paints a complex picture of what it means to

be a leader. The women in the film speak openly about the struggles and triumphs that come with entrepreneurship for women – from discrimination to self-care to what it means to start a family and a business at the same time.

The Safety Team: Women’s Self Defense

[Tuesdays, August 1, 8, and 15, 6:00 – 8:15 p.m., Robert Miller Community & Recreation Center, Burlington](#)

The Safety Team is dedicated to the safety, empowerment, resiliency, and well-being of women, and is offering three self-defense classes: Level I on August 1st, Level II on August 8th, and Level III on August 15th (only offered once per year). Workshop fee is \$37 per level.

Kids Out Loud! Song for a Strong Vermont

[Sunday, October 1 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., City Hall Park, Burlington](#)

This fall, 1,000 community members from around the state will gather on the Church Street Marketplace in Burlington to sing a new anthem for kids as a show of support for a strong start for all children—our future leaders, teachers, thinkers and innovators! The event features a meet-up with music in City Hall Park, a community walk down the Church Street Marketplace and, at the top block, a “flash mob” performance of the anthem and extended concert sing-a-long with Vermont musicians and featured speakers. Sign up in advance.



*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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Vermont Commission on Women
126 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

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