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# VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women

## Newsletter



September 7, 2017

## News & Resources

*TOMORROW Is the Last Day to Register for Senator Leahy's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Women's Economic Opportunities Conference*

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Featuring keynote speaker  
**MARY ALICE MCKENZIE** +  
14 \*NEW\* Sessions for Your  
Personal + Professional Development

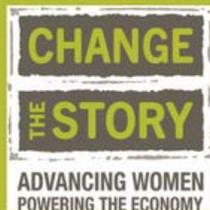
**Sept  
16  
2017**

SENATOR LEAHY'S 21st ANNUAL  
**Women's  
Economic  
Opportunity  
Conference**

Vermont Technical College | 8am-3pm



*Also featuring*



And, a "Moth-inspired"  
storytelling event in the  
afternoon.

To register: <https://www.leahy.senate.gov>

The 2017 conference includes a keynote address by Mary Alice McKenzie and workshops hosted by Vermont presenters. This year's conference will also highlight the work of Change The Story VT through workshops and group discussions. Visit [Senator Leahy's website](#) for conference agenda, detailed workshop information and speaker bios. Lunch and child care included. Learn how to negotiate your salary, create a social media plan, start your own business or navigate the gig economy, make the most of your money, and invest in women. That's to name a few! The conference will also feature a "moth-inspired" storytelling event in the afternoon, hosted by Change The Story's Tiffany Bluemle and VCW's Cary Brown, with stories from Prudence Pease, Judy Pransky, Lisa Ryan, Melody Walker Brook and VCW

Commissioner Colin Ryan! [Register here.](#)

*Tiffany Bluemle, Director of Change The Story Vermont, was honored with Champlain College's 2017 Distinguished Citizen Award! Congratulations!*

This is the 56th year of the Champlain College Distinguished Citizen award, which honors community leaders in Vermont. Tiffany Bluemle's accomplishments are particularly inspiring in light of Champlain's focus on leadership related to women's issues. Bluemle has been a speaker at the College's annual Women's Empowerment Initiative, an annual event featuring women leaders and workshops for students and the community. Bluemle has led Change The Story VT, a multi-year, systemic approach to improving women's economic opportunity, since 2015. Prior to that, she was executive director of Vermont Works for Women for 17 years. Over the past decade, Princeton University, the John Merck Fund, KeyBank, and the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce have honored her work. **Watch Tiff accepting the award and addressing Champlain College's entering class of 2021 [here.](#)**

*Congratulations Beth Sachs, co-founder and director of the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) on being honored with Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility's (VBSR) Terry Ehrich Award for Lifetime Achievement!*

VBSR will present the award at their [16<sup>th</sup> Annual Award Ceremony and Dinner on September 14<sup>th</sup>](#). Milk Money, SunCommon, and Benjy Adler of the Skinny Pancake will also be honored.

*Pride Center's SafeSpace Director, Catarina Campbell, Appointed to the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence*

Director of SafeSpace, Catarina Campbell, has been appointed by Governor Phil Scott to the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence! Having representation present on this council will allow an LGBTQ perspective to be included in the important conversations held and the actions facilitated by the council. VCW looks forward to working with Catarina on the council. [Find out more about the work of SafeSpace here.](#)

*Burlington Art Installation Celebrates National Breast Feeding Month*

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Mamava, Burlington-based creators of the Mamava Lactation Suite for nursing and pumping, has installed banners celebrating National Breastfeeding Month at The Karma Birdhouse, 47 Maple Street at Burlington's waterfront. They will be on display until September 10<sup>th</sup>. Learn more [here](#).

*Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains Seeks Business and Organization Partnerships*

The council offers Programs on Demand, a collaboration designed to connect Girl Scout leaders, volunteers, and families with businesses and organizations that expose girls to unique experiences and learning opportunities, help girls develop new skills, and enable girls to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. Providing hands-on, girl-led, girl-centered learning in STEM, the outdoors, and entrepreneurship, Girl Scouts helps all girls take the lead early and often. Businesses will gain great promotional exposure to families living in New Hampshire and Vermont through a variety of channels. Businesses offering opportunities for girls to learn about animals and the outdoors; arts and entertainment; food and cooking; history; life skills; and health and science, are encouraged to contact Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains for more information by [visiting their website](#) or by calling 888-474-9686.

*Let's Grow Kids names latest Early Childhood Superheroes: Mandi Menard of St. Albans, Laurie Metcalfe of Bennington, Johanna Page of Burlington and Lori Pinsonneault of Bennington*

The selection of Early Childhood Superheroes followed a statewide call for nominations of unsung heroes among educators, child care professionals, parents, grandparents, volunteers, business people, policymakers, civic leaders and clergy. From the nominations, a panel of early childhood experts representing Building Bright Futures, Vermont Birth to Five, the Vermont Early Childhood Alliance and Let's Grow Kids selected four Vermonters from various regions of the state who have demonstrated a commitment to the success of Vermont's youngest children through "above and beyond" contributions to children's lives. [Learn more about the Superheroes and Let's Grow Kids.](#)

*Women of Wonder Evolution Group Art Exhibit Runs Until 9/30 in Woodstock*

Women of Wonder (WOW) is exhibiting a sample of their quilts, paintings, beadwork, journals, surface design and knitted objects at the Norman Williams

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Public Library in Woodstock, Vermont. Since they shared a local quilting class ten years ago by quilt artist Dianne Hire of Maine, WOW has met monthly to share projects, feedback and support. [Their show runs until September 30<sup>th</sup>.](#)

*Tahirih Justice Center Releases Report Falling Through the Cracks: How Laws Allow Child Marriage to Happen in Today's America*

This [Tahirih Justice Center report](#) is the first comprehensive analysis of provisions in all 50 states and Washington, DC that leave children more vulnerable to forced marriage and the harms of early marriage. The report provides state lawmakers and advocates in the United States with the information they need in order to pass laws that more effectively protect children.

Read VCW's policy brief about Child Marriage in Vermont [here.](#)

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## Employment Opportunities

Vermont Works for Women of Winooski is Hiring a Full-Time Development Coordinator

Are you organized, detail oriented and like to work with lots of information? This is a great opportunity to enter into a career in development. The Development Coordinator assists the Community Relations Team in the design and execution of the organization's development and marketing plans. This position oversees the fundraising database (Little Green Light) and is responsible for a variety of development functions including gift entry and acknowledgement, reporting, analysis, and reconciliation. The Development Coordinator works with a variety of people in the organization, including the Executive Director and Director of Community Relations, to develop strategies and tactics for growing the fundraising program. [Learn more and apply by September 20<sup>th</sup>.](#)

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## Upcoming Events

*MamaSays Potluck Lunch*

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[Sunday, September 10 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Wrightsville Reservoir, Middlesex](#)

The best time of year in our little state is ending so soon, why not send it off with a lovely tribute! Bring yourselves, a dish to share, plates and serving/eating wear (they will have paper plates too) and your beautiful families! This is a great opportunity to meet and greet folks who are new to family-hood or to the area, or just to catch up and learn more about MamaSays.

*Boycotting Slavery Then and Now with Carol Faulkner*

[Sunday, September 10 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Rokeby Museum, Ferrisburgh](#)

Historian Carol Faulkner has written extensively about women abolitionists and comes to Rokeby through the Historians Against Slavery speakers' bureau. She will discuss the historical boycott of slave-made goods (the Robinsons participated) and compare it with contemporary efforts. \$2 program fee.

*Intro to Web Concepts with Girl Develop It Burlington*

[Wednesday, September 13 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies](#)

If you are a complete beginner to coding and/or want to learn how to communicate better with your technical team/friends, this workshop may be for you. In this class, participants will walk through the fundamentals of web development in layman's terms. While participants won't be writing code, the instructor will take you through various components of the web and how they work together. Registration costs \$30.

*Omya Tour with the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) North Country*

[Wednesday, September 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Middlebury](#)

Omya is a worldwide mineral processing company. In Vermont, Omya quarries marble, which then is ground, milled, and purified to produce a finely ground calcium carbonate. Calcium carbonate is a necessary ingredient used in a wide array of consumer products ranging from paint and paper, to vinyl siding and diapers. Omya seeks participation in conversations about their work in and around the community. Take a tour of the Omya quarry. Lunch will be provided.

*Crime Victims Forums*

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[Wed. Sept. 13, Burlington City Hall, Contois Auditorium](#)

[Tues. Sept. 19, Rutland Regional Medical Center, CCVS/Leahy Conference Center](#)

[Wed. Sept. 27, Aldrich Public Library, Barre](#)

[Tues. Oct. 3, Hartford Town Municipal Building](#)

[Tues. Oct. 10, St. Albans Town Educational Center](#)

[Wed. Oct. 18, Bennington Free Library](#)

[Wed. Oct. 25, Community College of Vermont, Newport](#)

[Wed. Nov. 1, Green Mountain Technical and Career Center, Hyde Park](#)

The Center for Crime Victim Services is hosting a series of listening forums around Vermont this fall to give victims and survivors of crime, including business owners and family members, a chance to speak out about their experiences in the criminal justice system. Local stakeholders and service providers will be on hand to listen and provide support. **All events will take place from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** and are free and open to the public. Vermonters can also participate by sending comments to [victimfeedback@ccvs.vermont.gov](mailto:victimfeedback@ccvs.vermont.gov).

*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl Discussion Group*

[Wednesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m., Peace and Justice Center, Burlington](#)

*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* recounts Harriet Ann Jacobs' life, under the pseudonym Linda Brent, as she fights for freedom and identity for her and her children. Dr. Emily Bernard will lead this discussion. Participants should have the book read before coming to the discussion group, and can borrow a copy of the book for free in advance of the discussion.

*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 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

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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. **Registration deadline is TOMORROW, September 8th.**

*Women & Teens Comprehensive Self-Defense Course*  
[Saturday & Sunday, September 16 - 17 from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m., Bradford Bluewave Taekwondo](#)

A two-day comprehensive approach to safety training that includes awareness, risk reduction, posture and verbal skills as well as physical skills. It is meant to provide options in critical moments when personal space has been violated. It also aims to prevent assault against females and build confidence in their ability to stay safe. This dynamic program allows the student to learn skill sets with a hands-on approach. Skills are demonstrated and explained, practiced through repetition with and without padded targets and are reinforced with physical simulation practice. Cost is \$200 for both days.

*Best Practices for Family Engagement Conference: Moving from Random Acts to a Comprehensive Approach*  
[Tuesday, September 19 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Brattleboro Retreat](#)

Build and strengthen the foundations for family engagement which already exist within organization or with community partners, use local data to inform current thinking about family engagement in Windham County, learn about promising practices being used in school districts and communities, and reflect on practices to bring back to your setting for organizational action planning. This conference is for school staff and administrators, early education providers, community organizations, law enforcement, health and wellness professionals, community leaders, and adult family members and caregivers. Hal Colston, Director of the Partnership for Change keynotes this event, sharing his experiences as a living case study of family engagement. Free for those who live or work in Windham county, \$95.00 for those outside the county.

*Women's Self Defense Level 1 with the Safety Team*  
[Tuesday, September 19 from 6:00 – 8:15 p.m., O'Brien Community Center, Winooski](#)

This beginner workshop focuses on recognizing pre-assault behavior, learning ways to

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deter or avoid an attack before it becomes physical, understanding how predators think and what they look for in their victims, enhancing decision-making around lifestyle choices that minimize vulnerability yet maintain personal freedoms, and finding the inner-strength to fight back. This workshop is sponsored by the Winooski Peace Initiative and is FREE for Winooski residents and \$37 for non-residents.

*Invest in Yourself: Women & Money*

*Friday, September 22 from 12:00 – 1:15 p.m., Contois Auditorium, Burlington*

Bring a lunch, listen, share and network with women in your community at the Greater Burlington Women's Forum lunch. The median Social Security income for women in Vermont (\$10,000) is half that of men (\$20,000), and nationally women have 50% of the retirement savings of their male counterparts, though they save at a higher rate of 7-16% more. Women are particularly vulnerable with a change of employment, health status or if they become a single head of household with minor children. (37% of VT women who are head of households live below the federal poverty level – 5x the rate of married families.) You don't have to be a millionaire—or a Wall Street trader—to invest in yourself. Panelists will address important financial topics through the lens of how they impact women.

*Jazz Jam for Mercy Connections*

*Saturday, September 23 from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m., Champlain College, Burlington*

Guests will dance to the sounds of exceptional local jazz musicians, including: Jodi Albright, Paul Asbell, Audrey Bernstein, Jane Boxall, Joe Capps, Lara Cwass, Kathleen Dolan, Houston Illo, Glendon Ingalls, Jenni Johnson & the Junketeers, Emily Ryan, Jeff Salisbury, Mark Van Gulden, Ray Vega, George Volland, and Gus Ziesing. In addition to the musical entertainment, there will be light hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and a silent auction. This signature fundraising event is made possible through generous sponsors including Leadership level sponsor, Comcast. Tickets cost \$55.

*Intermediate HTML/CSS with Girl Develop It Burlington*

*Mondays & Wednesdays, September 25 – October 4, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Champlain College*

Through the course of this 4-session class, participants will get a thorough introduction to HTML5 and CSS3 to build on previous knowledge. Participants will get hands-on

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experience working with HTML5 features like semantic elements and forms, and will learn new CSS3 properties and abilities including transformations, transitions, and animation. Finally, they'll dig into responsive design and browser compatibility. Participants will leave with readily-applicable skills and we'll be there to answer any questions you may have along the way! A \$100 entrance fee covers all four days. Students must attend all four sessions. Scholarships available.

*Book Reading: TAKE CARE: Tales, Tips and Love from Women Caregivers by Elayne Clift*  
[Wednesday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m., Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier](#)  
[Sunday, October 8 at 2:00 p.m., Phoenix Books, Essex](#)

Join Elayne Clift to hear her reading from and discussing her latest book, *TAKE CARE: Tales, Tips and Love From Women Caregivers*. *TAKE CARE* is a timely and important collection of prose and poetry by 21 contributors who have all been, or still are, caregivers. Their eloquently expressed experiences serve to support and validate other women who are caregiving – or may be in the near future. It also opens up a dialogue about the economic, psycho-social, and practical issues relating to caregiving.

*Kids Out Loud! Songs for a Strong Vermont*  
[Saturday, October 1 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., City Hall Park, Burlington](#)

Let's Grow Kids hosts this gathering 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. Digital participation possible.

*American Nurses Association - Vermont 2017 Annual Fall Convention*  
[Friday, October 6 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Shelburne Museum](#)

This year's ANA Convention theme is "Celebrating the Balance of Mind, Body, & Spirit" and topics will include Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation; Healthcare Resources Grounded in Nature: Clinical Herbalism to Community Practice through Science, Spirit, and Activism; Presentation on Nurse Compact Licensure; and A World View of Complimentary Science and Spirit Practice. Tickets cost \$25 - \$60.

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*Women's Health Initiative Skills Based Training: Insertion and Removal of Long Acting Reversible Contraception*  
*Wednesday, October 18 from 7:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Vermont Health Access, Williston*

Vermont Blueprint for Health welcomes all providers to a free in-person skill-based training "Insertion and Removal of Long Acting Reversible Contraception," featuring expert faculty from the University of Vermont Medical Center and Merck certified Nexplanon Trainers. Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) methods include the intrauterine device (IUD) and the birth control implant. Both methods are highly effective in preventing pregnancy, last for several years, and are easy to use. Faculty will lead attendees through a dynamic curriculum featuring a mix of didactic presentations and experiential learning.

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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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