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VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women

Newsletter



OCTOBER 1, 2019

News & Resources

Welcome Nancy Brooks of St. Albans to the Vermont Commission on Women

[Governor Phil Scott has appointed Nancy Brooks of St. Albans](#) to serve on the Vermont Commission on Women (VCW). Ms. Brooks is a graduate of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and completed specialized training in Champlain College's Digital Editing program.

She served as Chief of Staff to then Lt. Governor Scott, and later, as the Chief Marketing Officer for the State of Vermont. In this position, she advised departments and agencies on marketing strategies and messaging, as well as improving the state vendor bidding process. She's served as Marketing Director and as writer and editor, for various organizations in the retail,



technology and education sectors, and is currently an independent marketing consultant. Ms. Brooks served on the Berlin Selectboard and as Wheels for Warmth volunteer.

The Voices of Women in America Initiative | National Association of Commissions on Women

The National Association of Commissions on Women has opened an [on-line questionnaire](#), asking the women of the U.S. and its territories to tell us what their top five issues and concerns are. The survey is open until December 31 and only takes a few moments to complete. We appreciate your help in making sure the voices of Vermonters are represented in this national initiative.

VCW's Cary Brown & Marybeth Redmond on "Incarcerated Women" panel October 9th in Montpelier

The Impact of Incarceration: Women, Families, Society

Wednesday, October 9, 2019
7-8:30pm Kellogg-Hubbard Library

A panel discussion of the issues around women's incarceration and how it differs from men's. Topics will include the impact on families and children and feature a reading from an anthology of incarcerated women's work.

Moderated by
Cary Brown,
Executive Director of
the Vermont
Commission on
Women



Marybeth Redmond was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives in November 2018. She co-founded writing inside VT, a program for Vermont's incarcerated women which utilizes writing as a tool for self-change.



Kassie R. Tibbott, Esq. is the Coordinator of the Community Legal Information Center (CLIC), a research fellow for the Center for Justice Reform at Vermont Law School, and co-editor for writing inside VT.



Ashley Messier is the Smart Justice Organizer for the ACLU of VT and a consultant for the Cabot Centennial Re-Entry Project.



Criminal Justice in Vermont Speaker Series

The League of Women Voters, in partnership with Kellogg-Hubbard Library, is pleased to present its 2019-20 Speaker Series on "Criminal Justice in Vermont." Five thought-provoking lectures engaging expert speakers will be held on the second Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Hayes Room at the Library located at 135 Main Street, Montpelier.

November 13 – Prison Health Care A panel discussion of health care in prisons in Vermont including opiate addiction, aging, disability, and access to care. Moderated by Susan Clark.

January 22 – Implicit Bias A special two-hour workshop led by Bor Yang, Exec. Dir. of the Vermont Human Rights Commission. Learn how biases we are not aware of shape our responses to the world and people around us.

February 12 – Racial Bias in Criminal Justice in Vermont A look at why people of color in Vermont are overrepresented in prisons and have been found to be more likely to be stopped by police, including a discussion of the Vermont State Police's fair and impartial policing program.

March 12 – Transitioning Back to the Community after Incarceration A look at the challenges facing Vermonters when they are released from corrections and the community support available to them.

The Speaker Series is free and open to the public with dedicated time for questions. For more information please call 802.229.4737 or email lwovfvt@gmail.com.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The LWV thanks our partners for supporting this series, the ACLU, the Commission on Women, Disability Rights Vermont, the Kellogg Hubbard Library, and the Peace and Justice Center. Background photo by Terry J. Allen.



Seven Days | Merriam-Webster Adds 'Bechdel Test' to its Dictionary

Vermont's [cartoonist laureate has earned a new honor](#): her very own entry in the Merriam-Webster dictionary. Alison Bechdel introduced the world to the test in a 1985 "Dykes to Watch Out For" comic strip, in which two women try in vain to find a movie that passes a test with three criteria: "One, it has to have at least two women in it," the strip reads, "who, two, talk to each other about, three, something besides a man."

Congratulations to Jan Demers, recipient of the 2019 Con Hogan Award!

Demers is the Executive Director of Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO), serving Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties. The \$15,000 award, to be used however the recipient chooses, will be presented at a public reception on [Wednesday, October 2 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM](#) at the Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier.

***The Mend* from the Center for Crime Victim Services**

Watch or listen to the Center for Crime Victim Services' "The Mend" a series for survivors and victims of domestic violence. The latest episode features Rep. Maxine Grad (former Chair of VCW) on laws and policy. [Watch](#) or [listen](#).

Tiffany Bluemle of Change The Story VT Elected Chair of the Board of Public Assets Institute

"A non-partisan nonprofit with offices in Montpelier, Public Assets Institute is the state's premier independent research organization on Vermont budget, tax, and economic issues and the source for timely and in-depth state fiscal and policy analysis. I have long respected and depended upon Public Assets for budget information and analysis. The role that it plays in shedding light on complicated issues and in shaping public conversation and priorities is critical. I am honored to serve as chair of a board that is rich in experience and expertise and am particularly

happy to welcome the presence and insights that both of these accomplished young individuals bring to our work' [said Bluemle, who is director of Change the Story Vermont.](#)"

Cheers and Thanks to Vermont Woman Newspaper Staff

"A newspaper's editorial content should inform, inspire, and educate, bringing public awareness to issues of concern and highlighting achievements" – Sue Gillis, Publisher. VCW applauds and thanks Ms. Gillis and all who staffed and wrote for [Vermont Woman newspaper](#) over the years.

What Matters This Week: Xusana Davis

Local 22 & Local 44's Lauren Maloney talks with [Vermont's first executive director of racial equity](#). Xusana Davis will be working with state agencies to identify and address systemic racial disparities that prohibit expansion of diversity in Vermont. She'll also gather and analyze race-based data to determine the nature and scope of racial discrimination within state government.

Change The Story VT Partners with Burlington Girls Soccer to Create #EqualPlayEqualPay Jerseys

Inspired by the U.S. Soccer Women's National Team's efforts to achieve equal pay for equal work, the Burlington Girls Soccer teamed up with our partnership initiative Change The Story VT, on these [#EqualPlayEqualPay jerseys](#). The money raised goes to scholarships for young players. Know of a team interested in teaming up to create their own #EqualPlayEqualPay jerseys? Get in touch with Aly at ajkurts@changethestoryvt.org.

LGBTQ Community Health Needs Assessment | Pride Center of VT & VT Dept. of Health

This survey is designed for all people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, aromantic, pansexual, two-spirit, HIV-positive, or another sexual or gender minority. By [participating in this survey](#), help bring Vermont one step closer to understanding how the experience of being LGBTQ+ in Vermont relates to all aspects of our collective health and well-being.

Health Disparities Faced by Transgender Youth

The Vermont Department of Health recently released a [data brief on health disparities faced by transgender youth in Vermont](#).

Vermont lawmakers urged to ban female genital mutilation | VTDigger

“Judge Bernard Friedman, who sits on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, ruled in 2018 that the federal law enacted in 1996 banning female genital mutilation was unconstitutional because Congress did not have the authority to pass it. Because genital mutilation is considered a “local criminal activity,” the procedure should be regulated by states, Friedman determined.

Which is why state legislators need to act urgently, [said Liz Yore, the head of EndFGMToday](#), an organization that aims to end female genital mutilation in the US. Yore said she is worried that states like Vermont that don’t have protections could provide an open legal window for procedures to take place. But like other illicit markets, it’s hard to tell for sure how often this loophole may be exploited.”

Chelsea Henderson: Beyond Tolerance to Empathy | VTDigger

“One thing is clear to me: Tolerance was never the goal. The true aim is empathy, recognizing the humanity and dignity in each individual. Pronouns are such a small step in that direction; just a token of recognition that means the world to the youth

who are most deeply impacted by an experience of gender that so many are able to take for granted. I'd hope we can all agree that we want all Vermont youth to feel important and valued at school. Using correct pronouns says to a youth: I hear you. It says: You are valued here." [Read more.](#)

U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau Launches New Website

Check out the [newly redesigned site.](#)

Chittenden County Diaper Bank Receives Donation of 255,000 Diapers

The [Junior League of Champlain Valley \(JLCV\) Diaper Bank](#) kicked off National Diaper Need Awareness Week by [announcing the donation made by the National Diaper Bank Network](#) (NDBN) and its founding sponsor Huggies. The JLCV Diaper Bank provides roughly 100,000 free diapers annually to children and families served by area food shelves.

Burlington Early Learning Initiative (ELI)

Through grants and customized support for childcare programs, [Burlington's initiative](#) has created 85 new high-quality childcare slots (70 for infants and toddlers). In August, a scholarship program for low-income families began, helping 15 children ages birth to three access high-quality childcare for the first time.

North Star Monthly | Keeping Kids Healthy by VCW Commissioner Lisa Carlson

VCW Commissioner Lisa Carlson writes for the North Star Monthly, and last month shared her perspective [about keeping children healthy.](#)

Lisa Senecal
of Stowe



Lisa Senecal and Cary Brown on the Dave Gram Show on WDEV

Lisa Senecal and Cary Brown of the Vermont Commission on Women stop into [the Dave Gram](#) show featured talk about sexism in the media, culture and politics.

Employment Opportunities

VBSR is Hiring a Public Policy Manager!

VBSR is a business association with over 700 members, advocating for policies which support workers, communities and the environment. [The Public Policy Manager](#) helps give members a voice on sustainable economic development and social equity issues. Office in Burlington, Consistent presence at the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier during the Legislative Session is primary.

Out in the Open is Hiring a Programs & Volunteer Coordinator!

[Programs & Volunteer Coordinator](#) will be responsible for *staffing and supporting current*

Funding Opportunities

2020 Make Way for Kids Grants from Let's Grow Kids [Make Way for Kids](#)

provides grants and technical assistance to childcare programs to help increase the availability and quality of early care and learning programs for Vermont's children. To increase the availability of high-

programs; expanding new programs and community support in accordance with the strategic plan; and expanding, training, and supporting our growing volunteer base. They will work in collaboration with the Executive Director (ED) and the Director of Development & Outreach (DDO) as part of a collaborative team building a powerful movement of rural LGBTQ folks.

WISE is Hiring a Development Coordinator in Lebanon, NH!

Primary responsibilities of the [Development Coordinator](#) include managing the donor database, gifts, and coordinating fundraising events. Additional responsibilities may include grant-writing, donor communications, donor research, and other fundraising-related projects.

quality early care and learning spaces, it offers short-term financial and technical assistance that supports local expansion, quality improvement or program start-up.

To participate in the next round of Make Way for Kids, please join one of the following informational Make Way for Kids calls (1-802-448-4854): October 3 at 1 PM or October 15 at 1 PM.

For more information about Make Way for Kids, [please contact Sherry Carlson](#).



September Change The Story Commentary Series in VTDigger

provided by Change The Story Vermont

Tiff Bluemle: A Drive for Diversity Starts with Data

"Collecting and publishing data makes a statement – about what we value, who is visible, and the priorities that drive our decision-making. If we're serious about attracting and nurturing diversity, we've got to stop wringing our hands about the limits of the Census and pursue and make public the data that public and private organizations can collect. To compete for talent, companies like Buffer now publish corporate diversity stats on their websites. The City of Boston built and maintains a public dashboard that reports on employee diversity. In 2011, the state of New York committed to increasing the percentage of state contracts with women- and minority-owned businesses, which at the time was about 10%. By 2018, that percentage had nearly tripled to 29%. We could be doing these things, too."

Read [Tiff's entire commentary](#).

Upcoming Events

Vermont Women's Mentor Training | Mercy Connections

[Wednesdays, October 2 – 23 from 5:30 – 7:30 at Mercy Connections, Burlington & Wednesday, October 30 from 5:30 – 8:00 at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, South Burlington](#)

Graphic Novels to Watch Out For with Alison Bechdel

[Wednesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m., University of Vermont Davis Center, Burlington](#)

22nd Annual Women's Health and Cancer Conference

[Friday, October 4 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., DoubleTree by Hilton, Burlington](#)

The Woman's Hour: Sex, Race, and Money in the Fight for the Vote

[Friday, October 4 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Middlebury College](#)

Elayne Clift: Around the World in Fifty Years

[Friday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m., Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier](#)

2nd Annual Walk to End Domestic Violence | Courtney's Allies

[Saturday, October 5 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Barre Recreational Field](#)

**LEAD-VT Electoral Training [non-partisan] | RAD, VT-NEA, PPVAF,
VCA, ACLU-VT, VT Women's March**

[Saturday, October 5 from 9:00 - 4:30 p.m. Northern Vermont University-Lyndon](#)

[Saturday, October 19 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Rutland Regional Medical Center](#)

[Saturday, November 2 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., St. Albans City Hall](#)

Mama Says Costume Swap | Good Beginnings of Central Vermont

[Saturday, October 5 from 10:30 a.m. - noon, Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier](#)

**Cultivating Allyship in School Culture | Author Lisa Bunker and
Mara Iverson, Director of Education at Outright Vermont**

[Saturday, October 5 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Bear Pond Books, Montpelier](#)

**Talk: The Saddest, Angriest Black Girl in Town with Robyn Smith
and Whit Taylor**

Saturday, October 5 at noon, Fleming Museum, Burlington

Take Steps in Their Shoes | Steps to End Domestic Violence

Saturday, October 5, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Arts Riot, Burlington

Eleanor Roosevelt: Hammering Out Human Rights | WILPF

Tuesday, October 8 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., South Burlington High School

Tuesday, October 8 from 1:30 – 2:45 p.m., Peoples Academy HS, Morristown

Wednesday, October 9 from 9:51 – 10:57 a.m., Rice Memorial High School, South Burlington

Wednesday, October 9 from 2:12 – 3:05 p.m., Spaulding High School, Barre

League of Women Voters Presents: “Incarcerated Women” |

Moderated by VCW’s Cary Brown

Wednesday, October 9 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier

Statewide Outreach and Policy Conference | 3SquaresVT

Thursday, October 10, from 9:30 – 3:30 p.m., Vermont Law School, South Royalton

Eleanor Roosevelt and the Drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights | WILPF

Thursday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m., Mead Memorial Chapel, Middlebury

The Importance of Eleanor Roosevelt to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Critical Reflections | WILPF

Friday, October 11 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Billings-Ira Allen Lecture Hall, Burlington

Trivia Night for DV Awareness | Circle

[Friday, October 11 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Espresso Bueno, Barre](#)

Voting: Around the World in 80 Years | AAUW

[Tuesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m., Bennington Free Library](#)

25th Anniversary Celebration with Megan Twohey & Jodi Kantor | Vermont Women's Fund

[Wednesday, October 16 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., University of Vermont Davis Center, Burlington](#)

Biennial Conferral | U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women

Emerging Trends: *[Thursday, October 17 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., online](#)*

Administration of Grants: *[Wednesday, October 30 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., online](#)*

Women's Economic Opportunity Conference | Office of Senator Patrick Leahy

[Saturday, October 19 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Vermont Tech in Randolph](#)

Creating Gender-Affirming School Environments | VT Higher Education Collaborative

[Monday, October 21 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn, Lebanon, NH](#)

Moments of Reckoning in the Campaign for Women's Rights | Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance (VSCA)

[Sunday, November 3 at 4:30 p.m., Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, Burlington](#)

2019 Fall Awards Dinner with keynote Wanda Heading-Grant | Vermont Women in Higher Education

[Tuesday, November 5 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., UVM Alumni House, Burlington](#)

Save the Date for the Voices for Vermont's Children Policy Conference | Voices for Vermont's Children

Wednesday, November 6th, Capitol Plaza, Montpelier



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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Forward

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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