

VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women Newsletter



February 4th, 2021

News & Resources

28 Days of Black History | Anti-Racism Daily

A virtual exhibition of 28 works that celebrate Black legacy in the U.S. [Delivered each evening in February via email.](#)

The Real Rosa Parks Story Is Better Than the Fairy Tale | NY Times

“Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks dominate the Civil Rights Movement chapters of elementary and high school textbooks and Black History Month celebrations. And yet much of what people learn about Mrs. Parks is narrow, distorted, or just plain wrong. In our collective understanding, she’s trapped in a single moment on a long-ago Montgomery bus, too often cast as meek, tired, quiet and middle class. The boycott is seen as a natural outgrowth of her bus stand. It’s inevitable, respectable and not disruptive. But that’s not who she was, and it’s not how change actually works. “Over the years, I have been rebelling against second-class citizenship. It didn’t begin when I was arrested,” Mrs. Parks reminded interviewers time and again.” - [Jeanne Theoharis via the New York Times](#)

The COVID-19 Crisis and Vermont Women Data Dashboard Update | Vermont Commission on Women

In [last week's update](#), we looked at unemployment claims in Vermont for December 2020. 69.2% of claims were attributed to women, while 30.8% were attributed to men. Over 7,750 Vermont women filed for unemployment in December. This can be compared to the same period in December 2019, during which women filed only 1,011 claims; marking more than a 668% increase for the same period in 2020.

Of those collecting regular unemployment in Vermont, 73% are women | VTDigger

“The Institute for Women’s Policy Research touched on the state differences in a recent brief that singled out Vermont and Rhode Island as the states with the highest proportion of state unemployment claims made by women. The report shows that layoffs in the accommodations and food services sectors had been particularly high in those states.” – [Anne Wallace Allen for VTDigger](#)

Vermont Conversation: Local media reckons with its own racism and sexism | VTDigger

[David Goodman discusses sexism and racism in the Vermont media](#) with two media leaders and two signatories of the letter to the Vermont media. Alex MacLean, partner and president of Leonine Public Affairs, and Kiah Morris, Movement Politics Director for Rights and Democracy Vermont and a VCW Commissioner, both signed the letter to the Vermont media. Cathy Resmer, deputy publisher of Seven Days, and Anne Galloway, founder and editor of VTDigger, acknowledged the need for change.

VCW Commissioner Ashley Messier featured on *The Mend* | Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services

Host Anna Nasset was joined by Ashley Messier from Women's Justice & Freedom Initiative to talk about [Reimagining and Abolishing the Prison System](#). Ashley Messier, Executive Director of WJFI is no stranger to the prison system. A lifetime ago, Ashley was incarcerated as the result of being the victim of Human Trafficking. This experience sparked her passion to help other women who have been in similar situations and sent to jail for a crime they were forced to commit.

9to5 Q&A with Rhoni, Cary | Vermont PBS

On Thursday, January 28th, VCW Executive Director Cary Brown joined Vermont Works for Women Executive Director Rhoni Basden and 9to5 Boston co-founder Janet Selcer for a Q&A

discussion following a screening of the new film, *9to5: The Story of a Movement*. In case you missed it, you can [watch the film](#) as well as [the Q&A](#).

Women Can Now Enlist in Combat Roles in Vermont Army National Guard | NECN

“It’s high time that doors everywhere are opened for women,” [VCW Executive Director Cary Brown said Tuesday in an interview with NECN](#). Brown praised the Vermont National Guard for working to achieve the new recruitment milestone. “I would also say, though, they need to be aware — and I know that they are — that it’s one thing to bring women in, it’s another thing to keep them,” Brown said. “You have to make sure that you have an environment that is welcoming, an environment where people are not going to be assaulted or harassed, and are not going to be made to feel unwelcome or undeserving.”

"The Courage of their Convictions: African American Women in the Fight for Women's Suffrage" | St. Michael's College Professor Kathryn Dungy

St. Michael's College professor Kathryn Dungy weaves the history of the 1913 march for women’s suffrage in D.C, the exclusionary and racist practices of suffragist leaders including Alice Paul, and the role of the Black sorority Delta Sigma Theta, founded just six weeks before the march by 22 Howard University female students, in coalescing its members and mentors around political activism and social strength. Watch Professor Dungy's presentation "[The Courage of their Convictions: African American Women in the Fight for Women's Suffrage](#)" from the May 2020 Ethan Allen Homestead and VSCA symposium: One Event, Many Perspectives: The Centennial of Women's Suffrage.

VT Legislation of interest to women & girls | Vermont Commission on Women

Follow the Vermont Legislative Session with VCW, using our [spreadsheet listing bills of interest to women and girls](#) during VT’s 2021 legislative session.

Access to Vermont’s Legislative Process Has Never Easier

Watch the legislature and Committee discussion, witness testimony live from home, or catch up later; all proceedings are available on YouTube. Find the [streaming links](#).

Abenaki Vermont Veteran Featured During Biden’s Inauguration | SevenDays

Dressed in a white, handmade dress with otter pelts tied into her hair, Takara Matthews flashed across the screen for just a few seconds during President Joe Biden’s inaugural

ceremony on January 20. But the Franklin County woman says she was proud to represent her state, her Abenaki culture, and her career as a member of the military. 'It's never about me,' Matthews said. 'It's about representing my people. I just want to make people proud.' – [Sasha Goldstein for Seven Days](#)

Is Your Farm Receiving the Support You Need Since COVID-19 Began? | Women's Agricultural Network

The UVM Extension Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Department of Community Development and Applied Economics want to know what helps farmers succeed under difficult conditions. For taking part in this research study, you will be reimbursed for your time and input. **The first 225 respondents to complete the survey will receive a \$40 gift certificate.** Please [help us all learn by completing the survey](#) about your last two farming years. It should only take about 20-30 minutes to complete. All responses are kept confidential and will not be associated with your name.

Vermont Women's Mentoring Program is looking for mentors | Mercy Connections

Do you want to make a difference in this time of uncertainty? Mercy Connections partners with the Vermont Department of Corrections and others to [match trained volunteer mentors with incarcerated and court-involved women to coach and support them while making the transition to restorative and sustainable lives across Vermont](#). Interested in becoming a mentor? Participate in their upcoming 5-week remote training, Wednesdays, March 3rd – March 24, & 1 Monday session on March 29, all 5:30-7:30 PM. Women interested in the training do not need to have prior knowledge of the criminal justice system or mentoring experience to participate.

Three inmates test positive for Covid-19 at women's prison | VTDigger

"Three inmates have tested positive for Covid-19 at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, the state's only women's prison. The South Burlington facility has been locked down since six staff members were found positive for the virus during routine staff testing on Jan. 21, according to the Vermont Department of Corrections. Inmates at the facility were tested on Jan. 26." - [Xander Landen for VTDigger](#)

Traffic stop report shows lack of progress on racial disparities | VTDigger

"A new traffic stop study from the University of Vermont that analyzed six years of data found that racial profiling of Black people has continued unabated, despite marijuana legalization and years of attempts at police reform.

Stephanie Seguino, a professor at the University of Vermont, led a 2017 study that was the first to reveal widespread racial disparities in traffic stops in Vermont. In 2014, the state began

requiring police departments to release data on the outcomes of traffic stops and the race of people they'd pulled over. Seguino's latest study, in partnership with Cornell professor Nancy Brooks and data analyst Pat Autilio, has data up to 2019, the first full year that marijuana possession was legal in Vermont. The research shows that, while the number of searches police conducted during traffic stops declined post-legalization, **the disparity between Black and white drivers increased.**" – [Erin Petenko & Alan Keays for VTDigger](#)

New Site: VermontFoodHelp.com | Hunger Free Vermont

Hunger Free Vermont has launched a new website, www.vermontfoodhelp.com, which features information about Vermont's 3Squares program, eligibility, what to expect, and how to apply. Benefits & eligibility has been increased in response to COVID-19. Even if you have not qualified in the past, you may be eligible now.

How can we eradicate poverty? | Vermont Conversation

[David Goodman spoke with Joanne Goldblum and Colleen Shaddox](#), co-authors of the new book *Broke in America: Seeing, Understanding, and Ending U.S. Poverty about their road map to eradicate poverty for millions of Americans through policy changes.*

Racism in Bernie Sanders' state? Yes, say powerful Black women forced to leave southern Vermont | The GroundTruth Project

"Lisa Ryan isn't going to leave Rutland County. But staying — particularly in her position as a member of city government — has become a challenge... 'It was such a fight,' she said. 'It was eight months of pure hell. I had community members bullying me, I had older men bullying me and harassing me, I had people I don't even know saying things to me. All because I wanted this training to happen for everybody.' She was harassed by other aldermen, city officials and their spouses, she said." – [Emma Cotton for The GroundTruth Project](#)

Report: People of color face harassment and threats in elections, health care, good jobs | VTDigger

"A new report paints a dismaying picture of racial equity in the state. The report finds that people of color have been the targets of harassment and threats, whether they were running for office, serving in the Legislature, or just driving in the state. They are underrepresented in state government management roles, and overrepresented in both Covid infection and death rates. The report — presented by the state's racial equity executive director, Xusana Davis — pointed to 'xenophobia' in the state that has been exacerbated by fear and anxiety over the coronavirus." - [Amanda Gokee for VTDigger](#)

Kesha Ram: Vermont's lack of racial diversity is a retention problem, not a recruitment problem | VTDigger Commentary

“This is a misconception about Vermont’s painful history and persistent problems, however. Our lack of diversity is not a problem of recruitment. Vermont, or N-dakinna as it was previously called, has been the home of the Abenaki people for centuries before white settlement. Today, our dairy farms and apple orchards are largely maintained by Latinx and Jamaican workers who live in the shadows, often in substandard housing and working conditions. Overall, 90% of Vermont’s population growth over the last decade has come from the in-migration of Black, Indigenous, and people of color-identifying (BIPOC) residents, largely from refugee resettlement and the pull of higher education and large institutional employers. Many are drawn to our open spaces, working lands, and bustling downtowns and village centers.” – [Senator Kesha Ram via VTDigger](#)

Hartford board member resigns, cites bigotry | Eagle Times

““Though I no longer feel safe nor welcome in a place I have called home for 15 years, [I still care very much for the community and its right to exercise the democratic process](#),” Barrow wrote in the letter she shared with the Valley News.”

Monday, February 8th: Centennial of Vermont's Ratification of the 19th Amendment | Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance

Next Monday, February 8, 2021, marks the 100th anniversary of Vermont’s ratification of the 19th Amendment. Our state’s ratification came five months after that of Tennessee, the requisite 36th that put the 72-year suffrage movement over the finish line. What is the backstory behind Vermont’s absence from the pathbreaking first 36 states? To find out, tune into or [watch the YouTube video of WCAX-TV's Across the Fence, February 8, 12:15 p.m.](#) Host Fran Stoddard explores this little known history with Sandra Dooley, Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance executive committee member, and historian, Marilyn Blackwell. Watch your local news source for Blackwell’s informative commentary on this subject.

Meet the Vermont teacher behind Bernie Sanders' viral mittens | NBC News

“Vermont teacher Jen Ellis, 42, has received thousands of emails about Sen. Bernie Sanders’ Inauguration Day mittens. After a few days, she decided to make three more pairs, two of which she’s donated to charities. She donated one pair to Outright Vermont, an LGBTQ youth organization, and another to Passion 4 Paws, a dog rescue in Vermont. Ellis is auctioning off the third pair on eBay, and the proceeds will go toward her daughter’s college fund.” – [Jo Yurcaba for NBC News](#)

After a stillbirth, she says she suffered another blow: No paid leave | The Lily

“O’Donnell had already been granted paid leave that would have had her out for the rest of the school year, but once she gave birth, she notified her employer that she wouldn’t need as much time. Instead, she was asking for eight weeks for postpartum recovery. The city denied her paid family leave when she updated her information. The first-grade math and science teacher hired a lawyer, who told her that she was denied leave because she couldn’t produce a birth certificate.” - [Lateshia Beachum for The Lily](#)

Treasurer reminds Vermonters to search for their missing money | Vermont Business Magazine

Vermont State Treasurer Beth Pearce today marked the 1st ever National Unclaimed Property Day by reminding Vermonters that it’s never been easier to claim their missing money using a new, online system that the Treasurer’s Office launched last summer. Vermonters can quickly search 760,000 properties valued at more than \$99 million by visiting missingmoney.vermont.gov.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Marketing & Communications | Mercy Connections

The [Director of Marketing and Communications](#) will lead Mercy Connections’ marketing and communications strategies, provide guidance to the Executive Director, and assume responsibility for a range of critical marketing and communications initiatives and activities. The overarching goal is to significantly lift Mercy Connections’ profile in the Vermont community. Interested candidates should craft a compelling 250-word appeal describing why you’re the best candidate for the position and what inspires you about it. Forward your letter and resume to Alana Shaw at ashaw@mercyconnections.org by February 15, 2021. Mercy Connections, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

Domestic Violence Response Project Director | VT Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

[This role will coordinate efforts](#) to analyze, evaluate and innovate the systems which respond to individuals who use violence in their intimate partner relationships. The Domestic Violence Response Project Director is funded through a federal grant for 3 years, with the intention of continued funding. Submit cover letter and resume to Sarah Robinson, Deputy Director, at sarahkr@vtnetwork.org by February 10th.

Executive Director | Disability Rights Vermont

Disability Rights Vermont (DRVT) is a statewide nonprofit organization seeking an experienced Executive Director (ED) to lead their organization. The successful candidate will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the agency as they continue to promote the equality, dignity, and self-determination of people with disabilities. The Executive Director is responsible for the overall leadership and management of DRVT. [Applications will be received until February 5.](#)

Program Fulfillment Coordinator & Executive Director | Peace & Justice Center

The [Program Fulfillment Coordinator](#) is responsible to execute logistical and technical needs related to PJC educational programs, events, volunteer management, development, and communication by utilizing the website, data base, social media, and other applications, platforms, and programs to ease the process of promotion, registration, and other coordination of said operations.

The [role of the Executive Director](#) is to strengthen the organization's long-term vision, create innovative strategies, facilitate teamwork, and unite diverse constituencies around shared solutions. Team leadership, fundraising, and communication are core responsibilities. The ED must have a strong understanding of economic and racial justice issues, particularly institutional racism, white privilege, classism, in addition to knowledge of issues related to peace, human rights, and globalization.

Equity, People & Culture Generalist | Vermont Foodbank

The Vermont Foodbank seeks a detail-oriented, highly motivated, customer-service focused person for a new position as [Equity, People & Culture Generalist](#). They are looking for someone who can take the lead with recruiting, onboarding, and absence management as well as provide general human resources support duties. The Generalist is the first point of contact for employment inquiries and supports other HR administrative operations within the team. This position requires a high level of collaboration, communication, technological literacy, and the ability to successfully handle confidential information. Customer service, sales/marketing, office management and/or previous HR experience is highly desirable. The position is based out of the Barre facility.

Funding Opportunities

COVID-19 Relief | COVID-19 Stimulus Equity Fund

The [Stimulus Equity Fund is Vermont's COVID-19 relief fund](#) for those who were excluded from the federal stimulus due to their immigration status. [Applications are now being accepted](#)

[through March 1st](#). If you were ineligible to receive a 2020 federal coronavirus stimulus payment due to your immigration status, you may be eligible for relief from this program.

Farm to School Grants | Vermont ACCD

The [Community Supported Agriculture \(CSA\) Grant](#) reimburses 80% of the cost of CSA shares. [The Farm to School Vision Grant](#) supports innovative ideas that address emergent issues within farm to school. [The Farm to School Child Nutrition Implementation Grant](#) provides financial and technical assistance to education organizations looking to advance their farm to school programs.

Northern Vermont Recovery Loan Fund | VT Community Loan Fund

Business owners from Vermont's six northernmost counties of Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille and Orleans Counties may be eligible for these loans. The [NVRLF provides flexible terms and low- to no-cost debt financing, along with business coaching services and other supports](#). Loans amounts range from \$5,000 to \$240,000 and may be used for real estate and land acquisition; facility construction or improvement; equipment; inventory and working capital. The loan's interest rate typically will be 0% for the first two years, and then fixed at 3% for up to eight more years.

Funding Available from the Vermont Women's Fund

To achieve a deep and strategic impact, the Vermont Women's Fund focuses grantmaking on supporting women and girls on pathways to economic well-being, including career development, an area highlighted by the research of our initiative, *Change The Story*. [Grants of up to \\$10,000 will be awarded, proposals are due March 19th.](#)

SEID Grants | Northern Border Regional Commission State Economic & Infrastructure Development Investment Program

[Grant applications are open now](#). SEID grants can be used for a wide array of infrastructure and programming related to economic development.

Events

Using Collaboration to Unlock Business Opportunities with Carin McCarthy of VT Collaborative Circle | WBON

Tomorrow, Friday, February 5, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Postnatal Movement with Amy LePage | Good Beginnings of Central Vermont

Saturdays, February 6 & 20, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Birth Healing with Marianne Perchlik | Good Beginnings of Central Vermont

Sunday, February 7, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

What to expect when you're considering a partnership | Center for Women & Enterprise VT

Monday, February 8, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development | Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

Tuesday, February 9, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Medicare & You Workshop | Central VT Council on Aging

Wednesday, February 10, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Racial Disparity in Policing & Juvenile Justice | League of Women Voters of Vermont & Kellogg-Hubbard Library

Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Idea to Action! Your 3-Week Roadmap to Self-Employment | Mercy Connections

Thursdays, February 11, 18, 25, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Social Hour with the Pride Center of Vermont | Vermont Works for Women

Thursday, February 11, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Inspiring Change in 2021 | Women’s Freedom Center

Thursdays, February 11 – March 4, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Mindful and Positive Parenting | SafeArt

Bi-weekly on Thursdays, February 11 – March 25, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Virtual Lobby Day | Planned Parenthood Vermont Action Fund

Friday, February 12, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Training of Trainers: Everything Everyone Needs to Know to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse | Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, February 16-18, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Youth Acting Vision | SafeArt

Monday, February 15 – Friday, February 19, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Advocating for Accessible and Equitable Education for All | VocRehab & VCIL

Monday, February 15, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Healthy Relationship Workshop | Women’s Freedom Center

Monday & Wednesday, February 15 & 17, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. or

Tuesday & Thursday, February 23 & 25, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

Women’s Health Webinar Series | Southwestern Vermont Medical Center

Sexual Health 101 | Tuesday, February 16, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

Opioid Safety | Thursday, February 18, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

Social Health 101 | Tuesday, February 23, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

Opioid Recovery | Thursday, February 25, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

How the Personal Becomes Professional: Unconscious Bias in the Workplace with Tabitha Moore | VBSR

Thursday, February 18, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Mid-Winter Parents Circle | SafeArt

Bi-weekly on Thursdays, February 18 – April 29, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Artful Hour for Youth | SafeArt

Monday, February 22, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Seeing & Disrupting Racism | Peace & Justice Center

Monday, February 22, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Is There a Future for Black Entrepreneurs in Vermont? | Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Finding Balance with Respectful Infant Care with Jean Newberry | Good Beginnings

Saturday, February 27, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.



Copyright (C) 2021 Vermont Commission on Women. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this e-mail because you opted in to receive our VIEW Newsletters.

Vermont Commission on Women
126 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

[Add us to your address book](#)
[Update Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

