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# VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women

## Newsletter



February 27th, 2018

## News & Resources

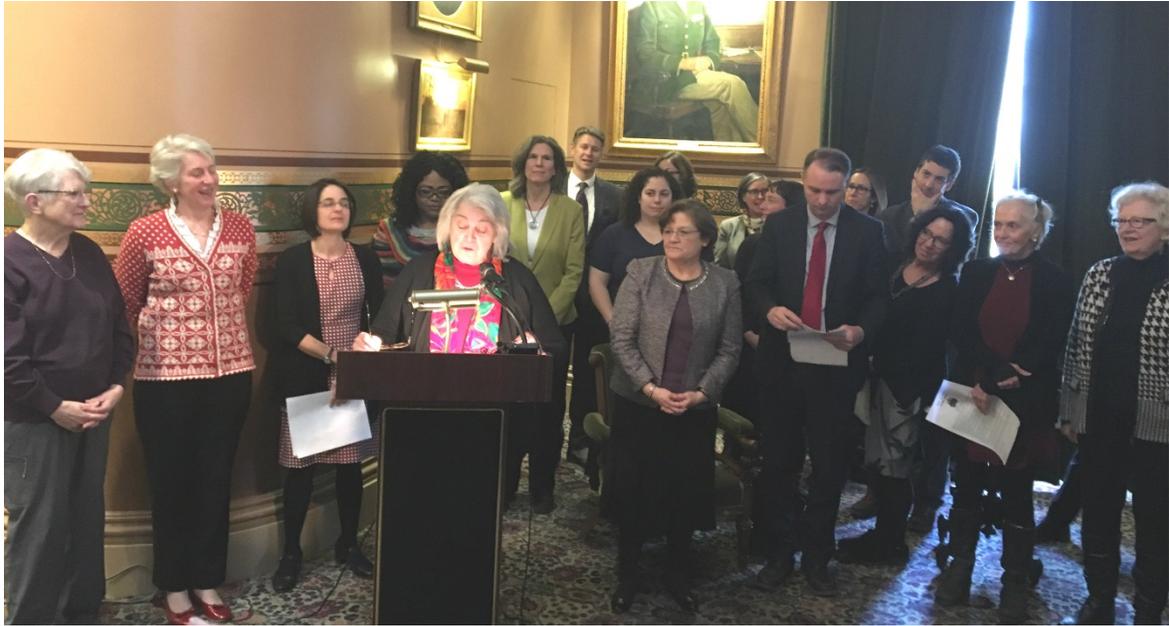
### *VCW's Lisa Senecal Discusses Sexual Harassment on VT Edition*

VCW Commissioner Lisa Senecal and Rep. Sarah Copeland-Hanzas spoke with Bob Kinsel on VPR's Vermont Edition about Vermont's new bill aimed at preventing and responding to sexual harassment in the workplace, H.707. [Listen here.](#)

### *Vermont Senate Passes Resolution Calling for a Vermont Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)*

The resolution calls on the Senate in 2019 to initiate Vermont's Constitutional amendment process to create an Equal Rights Amendment that would read "Equal protection under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of race, sex, age, religion, creed, color, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin." At the press conference introducing the resolution, VCW Director Cary Brown said she was "proud of Vermont, for recognizing that equal rights means equal rights for everybody, and to put this into place as not just the law of the land, but as a concrete statement of our principals."

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Senator Virginia "Ginny" Lyons, Resolution Lead Co-Sponsor said "Laws can be changed...Our goal is to put in place a constitutional amendment that will realize benefits to all the people of the state, and especially those groups that are under-protected...This resolution was signed by all 30 Senators. We will be working with you and others across the state to ensure that we have the support we need to move this forward over the next two biennium, and then to take the vote to the people."

#### *Girls on the Run Vermont Announces 19<sup>th</sup> Season | Registration Open & Coaches Needed*

Girls on the Run Vermont (GOTRVT) welcomes its 19th season and program registration is open! Coaches/mentors are also still needed at many locations as the program cannot be delivered to the girls without them. Coaches can be parents, teachers, or community members and do not need to be runners or have previous coaching experience, just a passion to empower local young girls. More at [girlsontherunvermont.org](http://girlsontherunvermont.org).

#### *Black Lives Matter Flag Flies at Montpelier and Burlington High Schools*

In February, both Montpelier and Burlington High Schools began to fly the Black Lives Matter flag. Read more about the decision [here](#). Look for details about BLMVT's My Sister's Keeper Conference Part 2 taking place this March in our events section.

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### *February is Black History Month*

This year, we reflect on the life of Grafton native Daisy Turner, who lived from 1883 - 1988 and was the daughter of former slaves who moved to Vermont after the Civil War. Daisy was a gifted storyteller and rights activist. She is the subject of several works by Vermont Folk Life. Learn more about her [here](#).

### *Before Your Time: From Communes to Commerce Speaks with Hinda Miller, Co-Inventor of Sports Bra*

In [this podcast](#), hear from three entrepreneurs who found 1970s Vermont to be the right place at the right time. Hinda Miller, one of the inventors of the sports bra, turned a personal hunch into a product that changed athletics forever.

### *Summer Camp Registrations Open*

- [Girls Rock Camp](#)
- [Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains](#)
- [Ladies Rock Camp](#)
- [Vermont Tech's Coder Camp for Girls](#)
- [Vermont Tech & Vermont Works for Women's Rosie's Girls STEM Leadership Camp](#)
- [Vermont Works for Women Rosie's Girls and Dirt Divas](#) (coming soon)

### *Michelle Fay: Paid Leave Programs Critical for Low-Income Families*

"The Legislature is considering two proposals that will improve families' economic security, and they are inexplicably being pitted against each other. Both a statewide paid family and medical leave insurance program and increasing the minimum wage are important. Passing them together as an economic support package for working families (as our neighbors in New York did) makes all kinds of sense. Coordinating their implementation will ensure that the nominal cost of paid family and medical leave premiums, paid through a payroll deduction, is more than offset with increased wages..." [Read more.](#)

### *Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services Seeking Nominations for Crime Victim Services Awards 2018*

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These awards recognize victim activists who have inspired us through their acts of courage and compassion, programs or individuals whose work has been particularly innovative and pioneering, and those who exemplify the long-term commitment that characterizes many of Vermont's victim service providers, some of whom are themselves victims of crime. The award winners will be honored at a special ceremony the week before National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 8 – 14, 2018. Learn more and nominate someone [here](#).

#### *2018 Stalled at the Start Report Released by Let's Grow Kids*

Let's Grow Kids, with the advisement of Building Bright Futures, the Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children, Vermont Birth to Five, the Vermont Child Care Providers Association, and the Vermont Department for Children and Families Child Development Division, released its 2018 report on the supply of and demand for regulated infant and toddler child care in Vermont. Read it [here](#).

#### *Congratulations to Vermont's Winning Women Olympians!*

[Jessica Diggins of Stratton](#) won a gold medal in team sprint freestyle cross-country skiing.

[Amanda Pelkey of Montpelier](#) played on the gold medal winning Women's Ice Hockey team.

[Mikaela Shiffrin, a Burke Academy graduate](#) won a gold medal in giant slalom and a silver medal in alpine combined.

#### *Vermont Attorney General TJ Donovan Calls for End to Arbitration in Sexual Harassment Cases*

Attorneys general from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and five U.S. territories urged Congress to take action to ensure that victims of workplace sexual harassment can have access to the courts in a letter sent to Republican and Democratic leadership in the House and Senate. Some employers require employees to bring complaints in arbitration proceedings, rather than in a court setting. Clauses in contracts are often presented in "boilerplate" language that gives employees little option, the attorneys general wrote. Many employees do not realize the clause is a part of the agreement until they seek court action. [Learn more](#).

#### *Vermont Entrepreneurs: Sugarbush Peak Pitch Registration Open*

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FreshTracks Capital announces the return of Peak Pitch, a start-up business pitch event on the slopes, scheduled for Thursday, March 15th. Now in its fourteenth year, Peak Pitch brings aspiring entrepreneurs and investors together for a unique version of the classic “elevator pitch:” a shared chairlift ride gives entrepreneurs the opportunity to pitch and tune their business plans with venture capitalists, individual investors, commercial lenders and other entrepreneurial advisors, during a day of skiing and snowboarding at Sugarbush. Register as an investor or entrepreneur for the event [here](#).

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## Funding Opportunities

### Vermont DCF Announces Strengthening Families Grant

The Vermont Department for Children and Families has announced the application process for the Strengthening Families Grant, designed to ensure affordable access to high quality, comprehensive early care and education programs for children and families challenged by economic instability and other environmental risk factors. The grant program will provide funding to regulate early care and learning programs that have 3, 4, or 5-STARS for a one-year period with an option to fund up to three years. [Click here](#) for the online grant submission information, due March 19th.

### Funding Available to Support Vermont’s LGBTQ Communities

Funding is now available for new or existing projects, programs, and organizations that serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities in Vermont through the Samara Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation. The Samara Fund's mission is to help create vibrant Vermont LGBTQ communities and ensure that LGBTQ Vermonters are connected, healthy, appreciated, safe, and empowered. This year, the Samara Fund will accept applications for projects or organizations that serve critical needs within LGBTQ communities or support HIV/AIDS services or prevention at the grassroots level. Nonprofits may apply at any time for up to \$3,500; applications will be accepted through April 12. Visit [vermontcf.org/samara](http://vermontcf.org/samara) to learn more.

### Funding Available for Vermont Artists and Arts Organizations

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Funding is now available for Vermont artists and arts organizations through the Vermont Arts Endowment Fund and the Concert Artists Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation. The Fund awards grants up to \$5,000 to support the creation and presentation of new work by Vermont artists and arts organizations. Grants are typically made in the fields of dance; theater; music composition and performance; creative writing, including poetry, short stories, novels, and plays; sculpture; painting; photography; and film, although work in other media may also be eligible. The Concert Artists Fund awards grants up to \$10,000 per year to support organizations that present performances of classical music in Chittenden County on a two-year funding cycle. Applications to both funds will be accepted through April 12, 2018. Visit [www.vermontcf.org/availablegrants](http://www.vermontcf.org/availablegrants) to learn more.

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## Upcoming Events

*GBWF Lunch | Slam Poet Activists - Muslim Girls Making Change*  
[Friday, March 2 from 12:00 – 1:15 p.m., Contois Auditorium, Burlington](#)

Activist-performer youth slam poetry group [Muslim Girls Making Change](#) (MGMC) will present their powerful words. These local high school stars, Kiran Waqar, Hawa Adam, Lena Ginawi, and Balkisa Abdikadir, are dedicated to social justice through poetry. Tired of having their voices ignored by older generations, they turned to slam poetry to be heard and to make a change. Since forming MGMC, these girls have competed at international levels, won numerous awards, performed widely, and help lead several local and nation initiatives. Their poetry tackles stereotypes and misconceptions about their faith, identity, and fashion.

*UVM Race, Gender, and Sexuality Student Conference*  
[Friday, March 2 from 12:30 – 6:00 p.m., UVM Davis Center, Burlington](#)

Facilitated by Tiffany Dena Loftin, National Director of Youth and College at the NAACP. Her primary focus is organizing Black millennials by training, mobilizing and developing new leaders to address and win racial and economic justice issues locally and around the world. Before working at the NAACP, she served as the racial justice organizer for the AFL-CIO where she trained thousands of union workers in grassroots organizing and

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coordinated the national accountability sessions with international leadership across the country. Tiffany has also served as White House Commissioner for President Barack Obama, was a political analyst for News One Now with TV One, and served as President of the United States Students Association.

*Know Your Rights Workshop*

*Friday, March 2 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., 20 Allen St., Burlington*

Speakers from the Vermont Human Rights Commission, ACLU Vermont, the Burlington Police Department, Vermont Legal Aid, Rice Memorial High, and Infinite Culcleasure will discuss issues facing youth of color in Vermont. Voice your questions about law enforcement, housing, education, cyberbullying, and your civil liberties.

*Vermont's Musical Ladies*

*Sunday, March 4 at 2:00 p.m., Brown Public Library, Northfield*

Singer and researcher Linda Radtke, joined by pianist Arthur Zorn, explores the contributions of Vermont women to the traditions of parlor songs, women's club music contests, and social reform efforts. Oceana Judah, Diane Martin, Edwina Flint, and Helen Hartness Flanders represent the richness and invention of the female composers included in the sheet music collection of the Vermont Historical Society. Abolition, child welfare, temperance, the patriotism of war heroes, and the concerns of those left at home during times of war captured the hearts of these women who sometimes disguised their gender for publication. Though they were often published in the local print shop, they have sometimes been ignored by musicologists since.

*International Women's Day Celebration*

*Wednesday, March 7 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Burlington High School*

This day is dedicated to celebrating and honoring the women and girls of the planet and to committing to ensuring the rights of women of all ages so they can lead secure, creative, healthy, and free lives. 2018 Honorees of this fifth annual event include Sue Gillis, Barbara Jordan, Dolly Fleming, and Robin Lloyd.

*Rosie's Mom: Forgotten Women of the First World War*

*Thursday, March 8 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Stratton Mountain School*

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One hundred years ago, a full generation before Rosie the Riveter, women rolled up their sleeves and entered war industries where they had never been welcomed before. They ran powerful machinery, learned new skills, and faced the sullen hostility of the men in the shops. In this illustrated lecture, historian Carrie Brown reveals their courage and their hard work and explores how these women helped shape the work that their more famous daughters would do in the next World War.

*First Amendment, Freedom of Religion*

*Thursday, March 8 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier*

The League of Women Voters in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library hosts an animated conversation on the fourth of its Freedom Series on the First Amendment, *Freedom of Religion*. Keynote speaker Rob Boston, Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU), will provide an overview of the fundamental principles of religious freedom, focusing on current court battles that test the scope and meaning of this constitutional principle and how it interacts with other core freedoms.

*Women's Film Festival*

*Friday, March 9 – Sunday, March 25, New England Youth Theatre, Brattleboro*

The annual Women's Film Festival in Brattleboro, VT is the longest running women's film festival in New England. Now in its 27th year, it is a celebration of movies from around the world and a platform for women to tell their own stories. It is also a major fundraiser for the work of the Women's Freedom Center, a non-profit domestic and sexual violence organization in Southeastern Vermont. Over the course of three weeks more than 50 documentaries, feature films and shorts will be screened. There is truly something for everyone with films about sports, arts, friendship, activism, lesbian/queer lives, motherhood, gender roles, religion, and romance. New this year is a series of Shorts Programs; they will have several screenings of exciting short films including an evening of Queer Shorts. Movie passes cost \$8 – \$10.

*Revolution! – The Women's Film Festival Gala Event*

*Friday, March 9 from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., New England Youth Theatre, Brattleboro*

The 27th annual Women's Film Festival Gala is here and it's time for a Revolution! In honor of the opening night film, *Left on Pearl*, the gala theme this year is revolution. Dress up as your favorite activist, be inspired by a revolutionary time period, or just

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rebel against patriarchal clothing standards by being your most glamorous, comfortable self! Kicking off the Women's Film Festival, the Gala begins with a reception of champagne, wine & hors-d'oeuvres, followed by a screening of *Left on Pearl*. This inspiring documentary highlights a significant event in the women's movement when hundreds of Boston area women took over a Harvard-owned building to demand a Women's Center and low-income housing for the community being displaced by the expanding university. Tickets for the gala are \$30. All proceeds benefit the important work of the [Women's Freedom Center](#).

*Urban Bush Women: Hair and Other Stories*

[Friday, March 9 at 8:00 p.m., Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Burlington](#)

"Urban Bush Women have interpreted the black experience with passion and focus for thirty years." —*Village Voice*. *Hair and Other Stories* uses the visceral and intellectual power of UBW's unblinking approach to elicit conversations between and among the performers and audience in this new dance/theater piece. Self-image, race, and gender inequality are studied through the lens of hair, specifically that of African-American women, while choreography, personal narrative, and theater entwine in dance showcases that range from experimental to sublime. Founded in 1984 by choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, UBW weaves contemporary dance into traditions of the African Diaspora. Tickets cost \$15 - \$46.

*Ladies Get Paid: How to Yield Influence at Work*

[Saturday, March 10 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., Webinar](#)

This webinar will give you a framework you can use to make the case for whatever you want at work. Key takeaways include: identifying + articulating strengths, learning to protect energy, finding allies, making your manager your advocate, finding opportunities to raise your hand, making the business case, and creating a personal growth game plan. This class is best for anyone at any stage of their career. Lessons are also applicable for those starting or running a business. Registration costs \$45; includes a recording and materials.

*The Epic Story of Central Asian Amazon Women Warriors: Qyrq Qyz*

[Saturday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m., Spruce Speak Performing Arts, Stowe](#)

Before Margaret Mead, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jane Goodall, Sarah Bernhardt, Rosa Parks,

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Carry Nation, Clara Barton, Amelia Earhart, Nightingale, Gertrude Stein, and Susan B. Anthony, came: Qyrq Qyz. In the wind-scoured steppe of Central Asia, nomadic Turkic clans rise to defend themselves against invaders from the east. Leading the defense is Gulayim, a teenage girl who gathers around her a group of forty young female warriors – Amazons of the steppe. Vanquishing the invaders, the forty girls secure their clans' freedom and build a society founded on justice and compassion. Qyrq Qyz is about woman power in Muslim cultures, and Islamic and female stereotypes. Enduring for centuries in a male-dominated epic tradition, this powerful matriarchal narrative comes to life in an avant-garde multimedia concert. Projected images transport the audience to the wind-scoured steppes of Central Asia. Seven virtuosic young female bards from that region sing, recite, and play traditional instruments to share an ancient oral epic of female courage and empowerment. Tickets cost \$20 - \$35.

*Transforming Trauma: How Sharing Stories Can Help Us Heal*  
[Tuesday, March 13 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Bear Pond Books, Montpelier](#)

A book launch celebration for Erin Moulton's new anthology *[Things We Haven't Said](#)* that includes a panel discussion with Denise Casey of Burlington's Young Writers Project and Yasmeen Hossain, Interim Executive Director of SafeArt. The panel will investigate the ways in which storytelling and self-expression can transform the impacts and trauma of sexual abuse. Panelists will draw upon their multi-layered experience in teaching, art therapy, performance, and counseling. Parents, educators, counselors, social workers, and teens or anyone who identifies as a survivor of trauma are encouraged to attend.

*Early Childhood Day at the Legislature*  
[Wednesday, March 14 from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Capitol Plaza & Vermont State House, Montpelier](#)

The Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance, Let's Grow Kids, and Building Bright Futures present this opportunity to attend workshops, have lunch with legislators, meet with legislators about early childhood issues, take action at the State House, and network and exchange information. Register by Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> for \$35 - \$40; includes breakfast and lunch.

*Social Justice Activist Award Ceremony and Celebration Honoring Muslim Girls Making Change*

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[Thursday, March 15 from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, Burlington](#)

This Peace and Justice Center event will celebrate a new generation of movers and shakers, where they will award the Ed Everts Social Justice Activist Award to Isaiah Hines and Muslim Girls Making Change. Doors will open at 5:30, and at 6 a buffet of chili, cornbread, and fixings will be served. There will also be a silent auction and cash bar running the entire evening. The awarding will begin at 7 p.m., followed by a dance party hosted by DJ Brunch and Crystal Jonez. Tickets are by suggested donation of \$25, high school students free.

*The Far Traveler: Voyages of a Viking Woman*  
[Thursday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m., Chelsea Town Hall](#)

According to the medieval Icelandic sagas, a Viking woman came to the New World 500 years before Columbus. Gudrid the Far-Traveler, sister-in-law of the explorer Leif Eiriksson, tried to set up a colony on the shores of the Gulf of St Lawrence around the year 1000. While this story was long thought to be a myth, author Nancy Marie Brown tells how more and more of Gudrid's story is being proved true by recent archaeological digs in Newfoundland, Greenland, and Iceland.

*Integrity of Journalism: How to be a Critical Thinking News Consumer*  
[Saturday, March 17 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier](#)

The League of Women Voters Annual Spring Lecture & Lunch features veteran journalists John Christie and Naomi Schalit who will discuss the critical connection between journalism and democracy and provide an inside look into how investigative journalism is done. The husband and wife duo founded the non-profit Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting (MCPIR) in 2009 because of their concern about the decline of and need for investigative reporting in Maine. MCPIR gives citizens information on unreported problems in state and local government and public officials, which has led to significant changes in state law and policy. Tickets \$5 for non-League members.

*Women on Fire: Carrying the Torch | Vermont Women in Higher Education's Annual Spring Conference*  
[Thursday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m. – Friday, March 23 at 4:00 p.m., Killington Grand Resort](#)

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Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Vermont Women in Higher Education, this conference features networking, empowering speakers, and a wide selection of professional workshops. Additional activities include Wellness Workshops & Self Care opportunities, a raffle, and more, all at the beautiful Killington Grand Resort. The theme this year is "Women on Fire: Carrying the Torch." Registration costs \$50 - \$160.

*My Sister's Keeper Challenge Conference, Part 2*

*Friday, March 23 at 5:00 p.m. – Sunday, March 25 at 12:00 p.m., Green Mountain College, Poultney*

My Sister's Keeper Challenge is the result of Black Lives Matter VT marrying the 2017 Women's March. In an attempt to answer the question "what next?" BLM VT presents the second part of a three-part series, March 23-25, 2018. The theme is "Listen, Learn, and Mobilize." Pre-workshops Friday night, white sisters (prepare for what they are about to behold) sisters of color (trauma relief). Saturday (performances, keynotes, workshops, spa night, and more). Sunday (keynote, performances, strategic planning, raffle). Seating is limited, register now for \$225.

*Vermont Women's Expo*

*Saturday, March 24 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Champlain Valley Expo, Essex Jct.*

Make it a ladies' day at this event for women of all ages. Free seminars, goody bags, door prizes, and over 100 exhibitors with products and services for women. Admission is \$5.

*Tax Reform & Your Business: A Q&A with the Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE)*

*Tuesday, March 27 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., CWE Vermont, Burlington*

*Tuesday, March 27 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., CWE Vermont, Burlington*

CWEVT will host this special Q&A session with Patti Bisson, tax advisor, business strategist and instructor to begin to get questions answered. Although IRS guidance is still unrolling, Patti will be able to break down some of the changes into bite-sized pieces. Registration costs \$5.

*Salary Negotiation Workshop*

*Thursday, April 19 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Community College of Vermont, Rutland*

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This free Vermont Commission on Women event, sponsored by the New England Women's Policy Initiative and facilitated by Lindsey Lathrop-Ryan, Career Coach at FromWithin Coaching is designed to teach participants how to negotiate for a better salary or pay rate, and to get participants to a place of feeling confident and ready to avoid the traps that many fall into, and will allow plenty of time for questions and practice. If you're starting a business and setting your rates, this workshop is for you too! Register to reserve your seat.

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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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