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VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women

Newsletter



July 31, 2018

News & Resources

Vermonter Studies Gender Barriers in Agriculture

Vermont researcher Caroline Putscher explored the gender barriers in agriculture in a series of nineteen interviews with women farmers from nine counties. The participants described the structures and missions of their farm businesses and outlined their best practices for everything from employment to support networks. Although there were cases of overt sexism mentioned, the women were generally optimistic as they looked towards the future. Read Caroline's report [here](#).

Vermont's Kids Count Rating Drops

Vermont's ranking in the 2018 Kids Count Data Book dropped from 3rd to 8th. Created by the Casey Foundation, the annual report examines variables to determine children's overall well-being. While Vermont has ranked among the top for decades, the most recent data book notes that the state "has things to work on"—citing low birth weight, lack of high school graduation, and unsatisfactory 4th and 8th grade reading levels, among other elements. [2018 Kids Count Data Book](#)

Save the Date for the Vermont Women's Fund Annual Celebration with Girls Who Code's Reshma Saujani

The Women's Fund hosts its annual celebration this year on Tuesday, October 30 at UVM's Davis Center in Burlington from 5:30-7:30 p.m. They will kick off the evening with a cocktail reception with plenty of time to see friends and colleagues, as well as meet policymakers, business leaders, and community members from around the state. This year, guest speaker is Reshma Saujani, the national founder of Girls Who Code, an organization dedicated to closing the gender gap in technology. Girls Who Code created a template for after-school clubs and specialized summer courses for girls in grades 6 through 12. There are currently over 90,000 girls involved in nearly every state but Vermont! Hopefully, Reshma's visit here might change that. Please mark the date on your calendar!

Vermont Works for Women to Present Women Can Do Expo on October 11th

Vermont Works for Women will host its 20th annual Women Can Do (WCD) exposition at Vermont Technical College in Randolph on October 11, 2018. This energizing one-day career immersion experience is designed to introduce high-school girls from across the state to a breadth of career possibilities. It features dozens of hands-on workshops and action stations highlighting opportunities in the skilled trades, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), and non-traditional fields for women. At WCD girls may operate an excavator, weld, climb a fire ladder, build a robot, design a 3D model, create an online game, wield a chainsaw, extract DNA from cells, or change a tire. Interested in supporting this wonderful event? Contact Alison at alamagna@vtworksforwomen.org for more information. Registration for schools opens September 1, 2018.

New Rutland Chapter of Women Business Owners Network Vermont Forms

The Rutland WBON Chapter is excited to hold its first official meeting! This first meeting is a chance to learn all about WBON while also networking with other local

women. At this meeting, attendees will discuss the challenges and successes of business ownership in Rutland and what they want to learn from each other. This casual brown bag lunch meeting, held on Monday, August 6th, is a great opportunity to learn more about WBON and meet other Rutland-area women business owners! [Register here.](#)

Vermont Human Rights Commission Summer Newsletter on Family Separation

“This issue provides information about the federal administration’s “zero tolerance policy” which has separated over 2000 young immigrant children from their parents. When I first heard about it, all I could think of was the movie ‘Sophie’s Choice,’ wherein Sophie, as she is being taken away to a concentration camp in Nazi Germany, is forced to choose which of her two children will go with her and which she will likely (and, in fact) never see again. That our government is engaged in the separation of parents from their children breaks my heart. I urge you to take whatever steps you can to help reunite these families. This is a country that stands for the rights of all to protection of the law. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that we abide by it.” - Karen Richards, Executive Director. Read the newsletter [here.](#)

A Better Balance Files Class Action Suit Against Walmart for Pregnancy Discrimination

On July 24, on behalf of Ms. Hoover and another former Walmart Associate, Leigha Klopp, A Better Balance filed a class-action lawsuit challenging Walmart’s “no-fault” absence control policy as systemically violating the rights of pregnant employees. [Read more.](#)

Change The Story VT Launches New Central Vermont Business Peer Exchange (BPE) Group This Fall

This follows on the heels of the successful Burlington area [BPE](#) groups and is an opportunity for professionals in senior leadership positions to learn more about gender equity, understand how their organization/company can benefit from a

diverse talent pool, and exchange ideas with a facilitated learning community of peers. Curious? For details and more information, contact facilitators Alex MacLean (alex@leoninepublicaffairs.com) and Liz Sortino (liz.sortino@gmail.com).

Women Lead Interviews on Local 22 & Local 44

Change The Story Vermont is working with ABC 22 and FOX 44 to present **Women Lead segments**, featuring area women who lead in a variety of fields and settings. Check out the segments on the stations' Women Lead page and tune in on Tuesday nights to see who appears next. Watch those featured recently:

- [Lizbeth Ryan](#)
- [Kim Manion](#)
- [Cathleen Lamberton](#)
- [Tawnya Kristen](#)
- [Lucie deLaBruere](#)

Nominate your favorite woman leader: [click here](#).

Look for Change The Story VT at Upcoming Events:

In August: Jason Mraz at Ben and Jerrys Concerts on The Green in Shelburne
+ Downtown Street Party in Rutland

In September: South End Art Hop in Burlington

In October: Senator Leahy's Women's Economic Opportunity Conference in Randolph Center

CommonGood Vermont Releases Interactive Report: The Economic Power of Vermont's Nonprofit Sector

Interested in the nature and impact of Vermont's nonprofit sector? Based on federal tax returns, Common Good Vermont provides an in-depth look at the financial performance and distribution of Vermont's nonprofits by region and sector. [Read it here](#).

Colchester Police Chief Jennifer Morrison Awarded Hero of the Year Award

Colchester Police Chief Jennifer Morrison was awarded the Hero of the Year Award by Heroes Home Advantage Partners of Chittenden County. The award celebrates her distinguished career in Law Enforcement and her accomplishments over the past five years as Chief of the Colchester PD. [Read more.](#)

Paid Family and Medical Leave: Impact and Implementation

The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston issued a new brief summarizing the main points, research, and best practices highlighted at their 2018 symposium to focus attention on the need for PFML programs and the impact they have on businesses, the economy, and the health and well-being of low- and moderate-income workers. Read it [here](#).

Intervene: Cornell University's Award-Winning Bystander Program

[Intervene](#) is a college student bystander intervention program that includes a [20-minute online video](#) and a 60-minute in-person workshop. It was developed by the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives, a unit within Cornell Health at Cornell University, in collaboration with the Cornell Interactive Theater Ensemble. The video and workshop are grounded in public health research and social behavior theories and have been rigorously evaluated to assess their effectiveness in increasing peer bystander intervention. In the collaborative spirit of cultivating college health and well-being, Cornell has made the video, [one-page program overview](#) (PDF), and [facilitator discussion guide](#) (PowerPoint) available to the public at no cost.

Funding Opportunities

Funding Available for Organizations in the Northeast Kingdom

Funding is now available for organizations and projects in Orleans, Essex, and Caledonia Counties through the Northeast Kingdom Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation. The fund awards mini-grants (\$500 – \$1,000) and development grants (\$1,001 – \$5,000) in support of projects that benefit the people and communities of the Northeast Kingdom. Nonprofits, schools, and grassroots organizations are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. September 5, 2018. Visit vermontcf.org/nekfund to learn more and apply.

Upcoming Events

Women's Self-Defense Workshops with the Safety Team

Tuesdays July 31, August 7, & 14 from 6:00 – 8:15 p.m., Robert Miller Community Center, Burlington

Designed to help women develop a comprehensive plan for personal protection without sacrificing personal freedom, the Safety Team's workshops are based upon real-life scenarios and are taught by highly qualified female instructors. The skills are easy to learn and remember. No prior experience is necessary, and exertion is light to moderate. *\$37/class*

Domestic Violence Survivors Support Group

First & Third Wednesdays, Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, Rutland

A twice monthly support group for survivors of domestic violence, offered by the NewStory Center.

Vermont State's Attorney Candidate Forums

Thursday, August 2 from 6:30 -8:30 p.m., Vermont Law School, South Royalton

The VLS Center for Justice Reform and the Vermont ACLU are co-hosting a forum for the Vermont State's Attorney candidates in a contested primary or general election. Candidates from Bennington, Orleans, Essex, and Lamoille Counties have agreed to participate, and the event will be moderated by Professor Robert Sand, Director of the Center for Justice Reform at Vermont Law School. The forum is free and open to the general public. Light refreshments will be served.

August is Breastfeeding Awareness Month! Join the BIG Latch On 2018

[Saturday, August 4 at 10:00 a.m., Vermont State House, Montpelier](#)

The Global Big Latch On takes place at locations around the world, where women gather together to breastfeed and offer peer support to each other. Their friends, family, and community join the celebration to promote and support breastfeeding. The Breastfeeding Coalition of Central Vermont hosts this event at the Montpelier site. The Big Latch On count will take place at 10:30 am and then the group will walk down State Street to the Montpelier Farmer's Market.

A TEDx style event – Reclamation /ˌrɛkləˈmɑːʃ(ə)n/ TALKS

[Saturday, August 4 at 7:00 p.m., Spruce Peak Performing Arts, Stowe](#)

Reclamation /ˌrɛkləˈmɑːʃ(ə)n/ TALKS builds on the national conversation about the #MeToo movement. Presented in partnership with this summer's exhibition Reclamation /ˌrɛkləˈmɑːʃ(ə)n/, at Stowe's Helen Day Art Center. This exhibition features nationally acclaimed, contemporary figurative women artists painting women and will be exhibited until September 8th. More on the exhibit [here](#). In the TALKS, speakers explore the topic of Women and Power, how gender bias impacts women's lives, with the art world as one arena.

Women in Wind Dinghy Sailing Basics

[Monday – Friday August 6 – 10 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., Community Sailing Center, Burlington](#)

Dinghies offer an excellent opportunity to get an active, hands-on introduction to the sport of sailing. Boats are 12-14 feet long and seat 2 adults. Learn how to right a capsized boat on the first day of class! These fun vessels bring boaters close to the water, allowing them to feel how the waves and wind affect the boat immediately. An added bonus to this 15-hour course is the thrill of getting wet while recreating on Lake Champlain. *Includes a class textbook, Learn Sailing Right. \$310.*

Rad Girls Can with Kate Schatz and Muslim Girls Making Change

[Tuesday, August 7 at 7:00 p.m., Bear Pond Books, Montpelier](#)

Celebrate the launch of Rad Girls Can: Stories of Bold, Brave, and Brilliant Young Women, with a reading by author Kate Schatz of New York, a performance by Burlington's Muslim Girls Making Change, who are featured in the book, and a talk with Montpelier High School's Hope Petraro, who will demonstrate what local "rad girls" are doing to change the world! Plus activist postcard writing and new voter registration. Teens and tweens encouraged to attend. All ages welcome. Free and open to the public.

Female Erasure

[Thursday, August 9 at 5:30 p.m., Peace and Justice Center, Burlington](#)

Peggy Luhrs will lead a thought-provoking discussion on today's feminist movement and the possible erasure of females within the movement. Peggy is the former Director of the Burlington Women's Council, taught Ecology and Feminism at the Institute for Social Ecology, and is a designer, builder, and community Activist. Peggy hosts the Feminist Review on CCTV.

Healing From the Effects of Abuse: A Support & Empowerment Group for Women & Children

Wednesdays August 15 – October 31 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Umbrella, Newport

A free support group for women and children who have experienced physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse at any point in their lives and feel that the abuse has impacted them or their children.

How to Thrive in the Gig Economy

Wednesday, August 15 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Center for Women & Enterprise, Burlington

Ready to take your passion to paycheck? Already piecing together income – and a lifestyle – from a variety of sources and interests? This class will help participants find stability and establish competitive edge as they navigate the consumer-driven gig economy. The class will cover topics such as getting an elevator pitch honed, legal implications of operating as a freelancer, platforms to find gigs, best practices in doing gigs, resources to support your gig lifestyle, work-life/scheduling, and money considerations. Cost is \$25.

2018 Walks and Run for Children

Saturday, August 18 at 10:00 a.m., Vermont State House, Montpelier

Saturday, September 22 at 10:00 a.m., First Universalist Society Church,

Burlington

Saturday, September 22 at 10:00 a.m., Howe Center, Rutland

For the past 42 years, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (PCAVT) has been working to protect the health and happiness of children in our community. Vermont individuals, families, businesses, and organizations will step out to prevent child abuse in Montpelier, Burlington, and Rutland. PCAVT invites you to join, show your support, and to further the mission of this important organization. Food, snacks, water and tee shirts will be available for all walkers. Youngest participants will enjoy the special guest appearance in Montpelier and Burlington of web walker, Spider-Man. Pledges of \$100 or more get a picture taken with him. There will be team prizes for the top three teams at each WALK and a wonderful assortment of raffle prizes at all three WALKS. Registration opens at 8:00 and the WALKS and

RUN start at 10:00.

Girls. Empowered. Motivated. Strengthened. (GEMS) Camp

Monday – Friday, August 20 – 24, Randolph Ice Rink

GEMS is a week-long program for girls entering 6th through 8th grade. The program, which is run for and by young women, aims to build confidence necessary for girls to take on new challenges, engage in the community, and grow as young leaders. We'll host guest speakers, engage in community service, play games, and participate in group activities. The theme for the week is Taking Care; we'll focus on making positive choices for ourselves, effective communication with others, making change in our communities, forging new paths, and voicing our passions. Costs \$150.

Women's Weekend 2018 at Camp Hochelaga

Thursday - Sunday, August 23 - 26, Camp Hochelaga, South Hero

Any time women come together with collective intention, magic happens. So much magic happens at Women's Weekend at Camp Hochelaga. Healthy meals and conversations abound at the dining table, small group workshops, larger all group programming and traditional camp activities all fill the time during the weekend. Featuring Screwnomics author Ricky Gard Diamond as keynote speaker. \$110 - \$480.

Girl Develop It Burlington Summer Social

Friday, August 24 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., New Moon Cafe, Burlington

An opportunity for our community to get together outside of class for a casual chance to learn more about Girl Develop It, meet new people or catch up on life or tech! The more the merrier. Share your thoughts for upcoming classes or topics you want to learn more about! Please RSVP.

Start Up: Comprehensive Business Planning with Mercy Connections Women's Small Business Program

August 30 - December 7 on Thursdays 5:30 - 9:00 p.m., and every other Sunday 12:00 - 6:00 p.m., Mercy Connections, Burlington

Learn the language of business. This 15-week, action-oriented class is tailored to participant's individual business, using the business plan as a framework. Taught by an entrepreneur instructor team and a host of guest experts in three content areas: financials, marketing, and business management. Register today.

Liberation Rock Camp

Friday, September 7 – Sunday, September 9, This Wonderful Place, Morrisville

Ladies Rock Camp (LRC) will now be called LIBERATION ROCK CAMP and will include women and non-binary folks. LRC is a weekend overnight camp/retreat that serves as a fundraiser for Girls Rock Vermont. LRC is an opportunity for women and gender non-conforming folks age 19 and over to let loose for the weekend and play rockin' music together. You'll choose an instrument (guitar, bass, drums or keys - everyone can sing!), receive instruction, form a band, and work together to write an original song that you'll play at Moog's Place on the last day of camp. Over the course of the weekend you'll also be offered a variety of workshops on topics related to being a person who rocks! Delicious and nutritious food will be provided throughout the weekend. Sliding scale \$250 - \$700.

Women's Kayak Trip on the Connecticut River

Friday, September 14 – Sunday, September 16, Bradford, VT to Orford, NH

Paddle on flat, gently moving waters, delightful for a relaxing paddle or to stretch your muscles. Kayak rentals are available, with paddle, personal flotation device, and dry bag. Several accommodation options available. Cost is \$250 and includes food, lodging additional.

Leaders on the Rise

[Saturday, September 22 – Sunday, September 23, Camp Hochelaga, South Hero](#)

YWCA Vermont's Leaders on the Rise program is a weekend retreat centered on providing leadership development opportunities to middle school and high school aged girls through the scope of social justice empowerment. This two-day, one-night program will welcome girls to Camp Hochelaga to participate in a variety of projects with the intended purpose to demonstrate the significance and power of leaving their mark in our local community. In a rustic atmosphere, participants will have the chance to appreciate the natural beauty of camp while engaging in thoughtful dialogue to explore their identities and practice finding their voice. YWCA looks forward to partnering with a variety of community organizations to support efforts in facilitating these meaningful projects of youth empowerment and leadership development.



*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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