

Talbert, Lilly

To: Talbert, Lilly (Lilly.Talbert@state.vt.us)
Subject: FW: VCW VIEW: April 7th

Women's Day at the State House

Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) in Partnership with our [Advisory Council organizations](#)

Next Tuesday, April 14th - Activities from early morning until noon

April 14th is Equal Pay Day. This date symbolizes how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year. In Vermont, women earn 83 cents for every man's dollar, which amounts to approximately \$756,255,852 a year in lost wages. Equal pay can make a difference in whether families can afford healthcare, child care, higher education and a secure retirement. Join us in the cafeteria for a special Equal Pay Day inspired snack to start the day. Meet and mingle with [VCW's Advisory Council Member Organizations](#) and learn about their work helping Vermont's women and girls in the Card Room. Gather in the House to hear the Equal Pay Resolution read at 10. After that, join Governor Shumlin for a proclamation signing and press conference. Please [RSVP if you plan to join in](#) and remember to **wear RED to symbolize that women are "in the red" due to the gender wage gap.**

...and at UVM

On the same day, visit VCW's amazing and dedicated interns, Rebecca White and Emmi Hodess at UVM's Davis Center. They will be set up near the Free Cone Day line for Ben & Jerrys, informing students about the wage gap and engaging them in a social media campaign. Stay tuned that day to our social media channels: [on Facebook](#) and [on Twitter](#) for info.

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Brookings Institution Scholar to Discuss New View of Marriage

Isabel Sawhill, author of "Generation Unbound: Drifting Into Sex and Parenthood without Marriage"
TODAY, April 7 at 1 p.m., [Wake Robin](#), Shelburne

Her talk will be based on her book. In an interview with Sawhill, the Washington Post writes, "In 'Generation Unbound,' a book released this past fall that has opened a new front in the culture wars, Sawhill ... argues that it is high time we stopped trying to revive marriage. Instead, she says, we need to figure out what will replace it if we are to stem the rise in single-parenting that has done more in the past few decades to increase child poverty than some of the biggest social programs, such as food stamps, have done to decrease it." Sawhill serves as the co-director of the Budgeting for National Priorities project and the Center on Children and Families. She served as vice president and director of the Economic Studies program from 2003 to 2006. Prior to joining Brookings, Sawhill was a senior fellow at the Urban Institute and served as an associated director at the Office of Management and Budget. Free and open to the public.

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Vermont Foodbank Hunger Action Conference

Friday May, 8, Killington Grand Resort Hotel

This year's day-long conference will explore the relationship between hunger, health and nutrition and will include presentations and workshops from a broad spectrum of experts. The event is a valuable opportunity for charitable food providers and other non-profits, community and business leaders, volunteers, advocates, elected officials and concerned citizens to network, share their knowledge and experience, and learn from experts on the causes and effects of hunger as we work together to address the challenges we face in our communities. Learn more and register [here](#).

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[Women Business Owners Network](#) Annual Spring Conference: Over, Under, Around or Through: Transforming Obstacles into Building Blocks for your Business

Tuesday, May 5th, from 9am - 5pm, with cocktail reception following
Hilton Hotel, 60 Battery Street, Burlington

Running a business requires confidence, strength, determination, consistency and daring. These are traits that keynote speaker Bethany Bosch brings to her long distance swims. Bethany, of Wallingford, Vermont, became the 466th woman in to swim the English Channel last summer. She has returned to Vermont to share her inspiring story of overcoming obstacles in her keynote speech entitled 'The Business of Swimming the English Channel'. Morning panel discussions cover common pitfalls of the seasoned business owner, and best practices for growth and communication skills for the solo entrepreneur. Afternoon workshops cover strategies for staying fit at the office, public policy and advocacy, and techniques for breaking mental blocks. The conference ends with a presentation by Kerry Secret, executive coach, former gymnast, VCW Commissioner, and founder of the Women's Leadership Circles of Vermont, who will speak on Life Lessons from the Balance Beam. For more information, contact jill@wbon.org. Register for the conference [here](#).

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[Career Girls](#)

[Career Girls](#) is an online platform that showcases video clips of diverse women role models sharing career and educational advice to inspire young girls to expand their horizons, improve their academic performance, and dream big about their futures.

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Catch up on the latest accomplishments of **Vermont's Early Learning Challenge Grant** [here](#).

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Read **Building Bright Futures' [How Are Vermont's Young Children and Families? 2015](#) report**, for a factual depiction of young child and family well-being at a point in time, as well as progress on selected indicators and outcomes for children and families in our state.

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Women's Health Resource Center

9 Hanover Street, (on the mall) Lebanon NH 03766

Affiliated with Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and offering free programs and support groups in Pregnancy and Parenting, General Women's Health, Healing Arts, First Aid and Safety, center staff can be reached at 603-650-2600 for more information, link [here](#).

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Words of Wisdom from Lea Wood

We join with Advisory Council member Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILF) in celebrating the life of Lea Wood who passed away recently at 98. She leaves a legacy of poetry and activism and was a source of inspiration for those that knew her. Quoting Lea: "Be an example of what you believe is a good life. Never be afraid to take a stand against injustice and hatred. When questions come up and changes and decisions need to be made, follow your heart. Discover your own unique gifts that you can give to our human community. Be your authentic self, outrageous and eccentric. Let your spirit and soul thrive and learn to love yourself."

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Uniting a Global Movement of Women's Power to Stop War

VCW Commissioner Charlotte Dennett and Robin Lloyd of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Burlington Branch will present their performance piece, "Talking with our Grandmothers: World War I and the Women's Peace Movement" at the WILPF 2015/100th Anniversary Conference, Uniting a Global Movement of Women's

Power to Stop War at the Hague. Using dialogue, letters and images they recreate the heroic efforts of women on both sides of the conflict to meet together and propose initiatives to stop the war.

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April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)

Message from [Umbrella](#)

Now in its fourteenth year, SAAM activism has been instrumental in bringing this once-hidden issue to the forefront of public discussion. We are now all too familiar with the statistics: 1 in 5 women is a survivor of rape, and 1 in 2 women and 1 in 5 men have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lives ([CDC](#)). In recent months, stories of sexual assault on college campuses like UVA and Columbia University, in the military, and by celebrities and professional sports players have dominated headlines. If you're a parent, teacher or mentor, get involved with changing the culture around rape by talking to youth in your life, both boys and girls, about sexual assault and healthy relationships; not simply coaching our daughters to avoid potentially dangerous situations. If you're attending college, it means holding universities accountable for their obligations to ensure that *all* students can complete their educations without fearing for their health and safety. Culture change also means supporting members of the military who speak out about sexual assault and harassment. It means creating a culture wherein all survivors feel that their voices are validated, and not scrutinized or silenced. SAAM presents all of us with a wonderful opportunity to engage new voices, to invite people—people who may never have been a part of this movement—to join us in stopping sexual assault, rape and abuse. After all, sexual assault is not just a women's issue and it's not simply a survivor's issue. It's everyone's issue and the solution lies in all of us. Find info about your local domestic and sexual violence organization [here](#).

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Mother's Day Fun Run & Picnic Lunch

Sunday May 10 8:30-1

Burke Mountain in East Burke, Vermont

Traversing the ruggedly beautiful countryside at the base of Burke Mountain the course challenges and delights runners and walkers of all levels. The 5k and 10k races will be run simultaneously, primarily over backroads. There will also be a Kids' 1/2 Mile Fun Run prior to the main race. All registrations include a delicious picnic-style Mother's Day Lunch following the race. Additional meals \$10/adult, \$5/child and kids under 5 eat free. Face painting, music, bounce-house and more for the whole family! All proceeds benefit [Umbrella](#), a nonprofit organization that exists to ensure that communities in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont offer safety, support, and options for self-determination to women and families. Event schedule and times: Registration and check-in begin at 8:30 am, kids fun run at 9:30 am, 5/10k race at 10am, followed by Picnic Lunch and Award Ceremony. [More info or register here](#).

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VT Arts Council's Vermont Creative Network Community Forums

Upcoming forums:

April 14, Kellogg Hubbard Library, Montpelier

April 16, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington

April 22, St. Johnsbury Atheneum, St. Johnsbury

April 23, St. Albans Free Library, St. Albans

April 28, Morristown Centennial Library, Morrisville NOTE: Time is 3:30-7 p.m.

May 5, Marlboro Graduate Center, Brattleboro NOTE: No childcare available

The Network will advance the creative sector in our state. Each forum will run from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dinner will be served and art activities for children ages 5 to 12 will be available from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Preregistration is required. More info [here](#), register [here](#) or call 802.828.3291.

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Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor's [Women's History Month Blog Post](#)

When [Frances Perkins](#) stepped into her role as the Labor Secretary in 1933, she was the first woman in the United States to hold a Cabinet Secretary position. That wasn't the only barrier she broke. As the longest serving Secretary in the U.S. Department of Labor history, when she left her post in 1945 she had championed transnational policies that still shape our modern workplace, including the forty-hour work week, minimum wage laws, and unemployment benefits. More on this story and others at the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor's [Women's History Month Blog Post](#).

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Listen to (or read) the **Vermont Public Radio Commentary Series** celebrating Women's History Month (March) [here](#).

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Congratulations to new the **new interim Executive Director for Vermont Works for Women**, Angela J. Wells! [Read more about Angela here](#).

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Pride Center of Vermont's 17th Annual LGBTQA Community Celebration

Friday, May 8th, ECHO Aquarium and Science Center on Burlington's Waterfront

Join Pride Center of Vermont and Host Hillary Boone at this 17th Annual LGBTQA Community Celebration as they honor those who have made exceptional contributions to the community. Inspired food stations with tantalizing culinary delights! Amazing auction items! Bid on an experience. Find the perfect gift. Eat well and have a fabulous evening surrounded by LGBTQA community. [Learn more and reserve tickets here](#).

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WomenwritingVT Presents: Writing with Intention: A Six-Day Retreat for Women

Friday July 10th - Wednesday July 15th

Sky Meadow Retreat, Stannard, Vermont

This annual July retreat is for any woman interested in exploring the written word, regardless of experience. Women new or returning to our community; women in transition or wishing time and space to deepen into your words, your lives; the curious, the dedicated, neighbors, the far-distant – *all are welcome!* More information: [email](#) or [visit here](#).

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Deborah Pickman Clifford Vermont Women's History Prize Awarded

VCW Commissioner Ruth Finn of Barre again took part judging at Vermont History Day on March 28th at U-32 High School in East Montpelier. Ruth awarded the Deborah Pickman Clifford Vermont Women's History Prize. This prize goes to an outstanding entry focused on a specific Vermont woman who made an important contribution to the state, or on the role women played during a particular time in Vermont's history. The Prize is in special recognition of the scholarship, dedication and enthusiasm of the late Deborah Pickman Clifford, prominent Vermont historian and author specializing in women's history. Congratulations to Lilianna Ziedins of Crossett Brook Middle School. The title of her documentary was "Politics Through the Eyes of a Legendary Woman: Madeleine Kunin." Teacher Lori Morse worked with Miss. Ziedins. Read more about Vermont History Day [here](#).

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April is STD Awareness Month

One in two sexually active young people in the U.S. will contract an STD by the time they're 25 — and most won't know it because there are often no symptoms. The only way to know is to get tested. Learn more about STDs and testing [here](#).

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Bess O'Brien's New Documentary about Eating Disorders in Vermont

6:30 pm, Sunday, April 12th,
SEABA Gallery, 404 Pine Street, Burlington,

This feature length film focuses on the lives of women, girls and boys caught in the downward spiral of eating disorders and their struggle to regain a sense of self-compassion and healing. The documentary addresses body image; a lack of connection with one's physical and emotional being; and the need to delve deep within one's self to find the systemic triggers of this disease. It also includes stories focused on the long road to recovery. The film will tour the state in the spring of 2016. Bess O'Brien has been making films for twenty years, including "The Hungry Heart" on prescription drug addiction in Vermont; "Ask Us Who We Are", a powerful documentary about foster care in Vermont; "Journey into Courage" about domestic violence survivors and the acclaimed feature film "Shout it Out" based on the lives of Vermont teens. Bess O'Brien co-founded Kingdom County Productions with her husband Jay Craven in 1990. See clips from the film, hear from those affected by eating disorders who are in the film. Meet Bree Greenberg-Benjamin, renowned director and clinician at the Center for Integrative Therapy, and hear from Bess O'Brien as well. More information [here](#).

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2015 [Outright](#) Awards and Not-So-Silent Auction

Friday, April 10, 2015 from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM (EDT)
The Barn at Lang Farm Essex Junction

An annual Hollywood style awards celebration of the best in queer youth leadership, organizing, and the outstanding queer community of Vermont. More info and register [here](#).

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[Vermont Commission on Women \(VCW\)](#)

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