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# VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women

## Newsletter



April 13th, 2017

## News & Resources

### Change The Story Vermont Releases Fourth and Latest Report: Vermont Women and Leadership!

[Vermont Women and Leadership](#) is the fourth in a series of briefs published by Change The Story on topics related to women's economic status in Vermont. This report reveals new data about participation of women in various leadership roles in Vermont, including federal, state and municipal government, Abenaki Nations, academia, law enforcement, and the corporate and non-profit sectors. Change The Story is an initiative of the [Vermont Commission on Women \(VCW\)](#), the [Vermont Women's Fund](#), and [Vermont Works for Women](#) designed to fast-track women's economic status in our state.

VCW's Cary Brown addressed Change The Story's leadership report on WCAX's The :30 on Tuesday evening. [Watch it here](#).

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This report was released at our Equal Pay Day Press Conference. If you missed the event, you can watch the [video here](#). In addition to our Press Conference, the House adopted [House Concurrent Resolution 97](#) designating April 4th, 2107 Equal Pay Day in Vermont, and Governor Phil Scott signed the [Equal Pay Day Proclamation](#), designating April 4th, 2017 as Equal Pay Day in Vermont, pictured below:



Gov. Phil Scott Signing the Equal Pay Day Proclamation

## **Bills of Interest to Women - Legislative Update**

[An Act Relating to Accommodations for Pregnant Employees \(H.136\)](#) as passed by the Vermont House in March would ensure workers experiencing healthy pregnancies receive necessary reasonable workplace accommodations. The bill is currently in the [Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs](#), which heard testimony on the bill yesterday, including testimony from VCW Executive Director Cary Brown.

[An Act Relating to Paid Family Leave \(H.196\)](#), as passed the House

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Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, would create a statewide, employee-funded paid family leave insurance program, allowing workers to take 12 weeks of paid leave at 100% wage replacement, up to twice the Vermont livable wage. The bill is currently being discussed in the [House Committee on Ways and Means](#). It will likely be voted out by the end of this week with some changes and then will go to the House Committee on Appropriations before heading to the floor for a vote.

Weigh in on these or other bills you're interested in by [contacting your legislators](#).

## **Interested in Serving on the Vermont Commission on Women?**

The Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) is governed by 16 volunteer Commissioners. Our Commissioners are appointed to serve four year terms. We anticipate several openings. Those interested in serving should have a commitment to reducing discrimination and increasing opportunities for women. They should also be able to attend monthly business meetings, typically held on the second Wednesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Montpelier. The Commission values diversity; all interested parties of any political persuasion, including young people, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and men are encouraged to apply. Commissioners are appointed by several different entities. Interested parties should contact VCW Executive Director Cary Brown for more information at [cary.brown@vermont.gov](mailto:cary.brown@vermont.gov) or (802) 828-2840.

## **VCW Commissioner Ruth Finn Awards Deborah Pickman Clifford Vermont Women's History Prize at Vermont History Day to Students Adam Clark and Jarret Muzzy of Vergennes Union Middle School**

This annual prize is sponsored by the Vermont Commission on Women Education and Research Foundation in tribute to the scholarship, dedication and enthusiasm of the late Deborah Pickman Clifford, prominent Vermont historian and author

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specializing in women's history. The prize is awarded to an outstanding entry focusing on a Vermont woman who made an important contribution to the state or the role that women played during a time in Vermont history. This year, nominated projects included:

- Lucy Terry Prince
- The Forgotten Feminist: How Clarina Nichols Took a Stand
- Ann Story: A Legendary Vermont Figure
- May Boeve: Taking a Stand for the Environment
- A Forgotten Way of Standing: Clarina Nichols

### **Voices for Vermont's Children Releases New Report: *Seeing the Whole Child: A KIDS COUNT in the Vermont State Data Book***

Seeing the Whole Child presents data in four interconnected domains of child and family wellbeing: economic security, health, education, and family and community. The report illustrates the many ways different parts of a child's life are interconnected and why it matters. [Read the report here.](#)

### **April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month!**



Support or volunteer at your local program - [find it here.](#)

## **COTS Opens New Homeless Shelter in Burlington**

The Committee on Temporary Shelter and Housing Vermont celebrated the reopening of the COTS building at 95 North Ave. featuring 14 affordable apartments and space for programs, including the COTS Housing Resource Center, COTS' family and single-adult services and the Daystation program. [Learn more.](#)

## **The Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children is Accepting Nominations for the Early Educator of the Year Award**

The award is for outstanding home-based child care professionals who have demonstrated a commitment to quality early childhood education. The winner of the award will receive \$5,000! [Nomination deadline is May 1.](#)

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# **Employment Opportunities**

## **Mercy Connections of Burlington is Hiring a Director of Justice and Mentoring**

The Director of Justice and Mentoring oversees planning, implementation and evaluation of the Vermont Women's Mentoring Program for formerly incarcerated women and all justice-related activities, including classes, public education and effective collaborations with multiple community partners. The Director will have experience in program management, volunteer recruitment, supervision, contract compliance with demonstrated commitment to values-based leadership. Application deadline is Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. [Learn more or apply here.](#)

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## Special thanks to March [Vermont Equal Pay Compact](#) Signers:

- [Center for Health and Learning](#)
- [Central Vermont Council on Aging](#)
- [Hilltop Montessori School](#)
- [Vermont Land Trust](#)
- [Vermont Smoke and Cure](#)

The Compact is a **voluntary online pledge** that enables Vermont employers to learn about and indicate their commitment to closing the wage gap.

We offer a [list of strategies](#) to consider and resources to inform employers.



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## Upcoming Events

### **KidSafe Collaborative Annual Awards Luncheon 2017**

*[Tuesday, April 18 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Sheraton Hotel, Burlington](#)*

Kidsafe will honor outstanding individuals and partnerships for significantly

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improving the safety and well-being of children and families in Chittenden County, VT. Tickets cost \$30.

## **WBON Spring Conference: Thriving Through Change**

[Wednesday, April 19 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Main Street Landing, Burlington](#)

The WBON Spring Conference will provide practical tools and inspiring tales to help business owners flourish, no matter where they are on the business development path. Speakers will include Annette Rexroad of Road Crew Crunch, Governor Madeleine Kunin, and Laurie-Ann Murabity, professional speaker, author, and leadership coach. Registration is \$55 - \$155.

## **Greater Burlington Women’s Forum Lunch: Re-imagining Justice for Women**

[Thursday, April 20 from 12:00 – 1:15 p.m., Controis Auditorium](#)

In the last 30 years, the number of women prisoners in Vermont grew at a rate more than three times that of male prisoners. When women are incarcerated, children are disproportionately affected as well. This panel discussion will explore how Vermont’s criminal justice system impacts women and efforts underway to support justice-involved women. Learn about “For the Sake of the Children,” the campaign to “De-carcerate Vermont,” and Mercy Connections’ mentoring program. Admittance by donation, bring your own lunch and business cards. Registration requested.

## **Steps to Starting a Business**

[Thursday, April 20 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Essex Hub](#)

A free Center for Women & Enterprise workshop for women. Participants will: learn to develop business ideas and planning; consider legal structures; discuss choosing a name and entity; learn how to obtain an employer identification number, licenses, permits and insurance; and leave the session with an A-to-Z overview and

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specific tools and tips that will help them get started quickly.

## **2017 Outright Awards**

[Friday, April 21 from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., The Barns at Lang Farm, Essex Jct.](#)

The Outright Awards is an annual celebration of the best in queer youth leadership, community advocates, queer and ally partners all over Vermont. Featuring live and not-so-silent auctions, performances from local celebrities, and a heartwarming community space. Tickets cost \$15.

## **Building a World Beyond War: What Will It Take?**

[Saturday, April 22 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Winooski School District](#)

Offered by the Burlington Vermont Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the Vermont Stands for a World Beyond War Coalition, this event features keynote presentations by David Swanson, 2017 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Patricia Hynes, Director of the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, and Vermont-focused workshops. Register by April 18<sup>th</sup>, fee is \$25.

## **Intro to Version Control with Git and GitHub**

[Monday, April 24 from 6:00 – 8:45 p.m., Burlington Generator](#)

Ever make changes that broke your code and forgot how it was working before? Want to work together with someone on a code project, but aren't sure who has the latest version of a particular file? Version control can solve these and other problems! Git is a popular version control application that can track your code changes, as well as help you to be more methodical in your programming. Win-win! This session will introduce the basics of version control, how to use git to keep track of your changes to a project, and using GitHub (a hosting service) to collaborate with other developers. This Girl Develop It – Burlington class is \$35.

## **Birth Partner Preparation**

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*Tuesday, April 25 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Good Beginnings of Central Vermont, Montpelier*

Good Beginnings of Central Vermont presents Birth Partner Preparation as part of their early parenting class series, The Birthing Year. All classes in this series are free and open to the public. Registration requested.

## **Be The Parent You Want To Be for Parents and Caregivers of Children 0-10**

*Tuesday, April 25 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Dothan Brook School Library, Hartford*

The Family Place, Maple Leaf Children's Center and the Women's Health Resource Center and are pleased to host Nancy Linkroum Pennell in a free discussion about parenting. For Nancy, parenting is about building trust and positive relationships that create an environment in which children are more likely to choose cooperation.

## **Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise Screening**

*Tuesday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m., River Arts, Morrisville*

From her upbringing in the Depression-era South to her work with Malcolm X in Ghana to her inaugural speech for President Bill Clinton, the film takes us on an incredible journey through the life of a true American icon. This free film screening will be followed by a community conversation and refreshments.

## **Take Back The Night in Burlington**

*Wednesday, April 26: March and Rally at 5:00 p.m., UVM Royall Tyler Theatre & McClure Center*

*Speak Out at 6:30 p.m., Contois Auditorium*

March through Burlington, listen to keynote speakers and rally to prevent sexual violence. Honor the victims in the community who did not survive. Bear witness to songs, poems, and courageous stories at an open mic speak out together. Come

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for support, build a community, break the silence! Organized by HOPE Works.

## **BizFit: Economic Development Conference and Summit**

*Thursday, April 27 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Mountain Top Inn, Chittenden*

Sponsored by Evolve Rutland, the BizFit Conference will focus on the powerful interrelationship between healthy economic development and a healthy community by engaging all stakeholders in dynamic discussions and providing access to information on the challenges of women owned businesses, improving economic activity, and enhancing our community. Governor Phil Scott will be joined by a distinguished group of leading experts seeking to establish a more dynamic business environment that empowers individuals to establish a life balance between career, family, and wellness. Panelists will include VCW's own Cary Brown, and Change The Story director Tiff Bluemle. Registration costs \$95.

## **Take Back The Night in Brattleboro**

*Thursday, April 27 at 6:00 p.m., Brattleboro Common*

The Women's Freedom Center is hosting a Take Back the Night rally, march, and candlelit vigil in collaboration with two sister programs, PAVE in Bennington and NELCWIT in Western Massachusetts. Hear from Senator Becca Balint and musical guests before heading together on a peaceful protest march through town with banners, bullhorns, and chanting. End the evening back at the Commons with a candlelit vigil.

## **VA Women Writing**

*Mondays, May 1 – June 5 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m., VA Women's Clinic, White River Jct.*

The White River Junction Veterans Administration Social Work and Women's Health Services offer this free writing series to all women who have served in the

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military. All writing shared will remain confidential. No writing experience necessary

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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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