



**CENTER FOR THE WOMEN
OF NEW YORK**

THE NEWS

Volume 22, Issue 4 March 2010

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CWNY GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

7:15 PM

QUEENS BOROUGH HALL, Room 213

Focus on Sex Trafficking in the Community



Queens County, with international airports located within its borders, is a gateway for exploitation of young women who come to this country thinking they will have an opportunity for a better life. Many of these women are victims of human trafficking and have become involved in prostitution against their will. This is a gross violation of accepted civilized norms and agreements.

A coalition spearheaded by the Center for the Women of New York and UNA-USA/Queens Chapter will present a panel discussion addressing the impact of global trafficking on the Queens community.

The panelists will include:

Moderator, Ann Jawin, *Founder and Chair of the Board of Directors, CWNY*
Anthony M. Communiello, *District Attorney's Office*
Susan Jeng, *River in the Desert, Flushing, Queens*
Hon. Grace Meng, *New York State Assemblywoman*
Karen L. Seigel, PhD, *Psychologist, NGO representative to the UN from Zonta Int'l., Charter President of the Zonta Club of Great Queens*
Jennifer Dreher, *Sr. Director, Anti-Trafficking Program, Safe Horizon*

Refreshments

For further information, call (718) 793-0672 or visit www.cwny.org

Message from the Chair:

March is Women's History Month and while I am sure it wasn't planned that way, the breakfast honoring Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney on February 1st at the Yale Club was most appropriate. Gloria Steinem, Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Terry O'Neill, the president of National NOW, and leaders of women's groups came together to honor her.

I have never seen so many high-profile women of national stature in one room before. The main theme of the speakers, led by Gloria Steinem, was that the women in the room, most of us veterans in the fight for women's liberation, stood on the broad shoulders of the women who came before us. We, in turn, must serve as role models for the young women to follow us! As they came forward, were introduced and spoke, I had the thought that if our enemies were so inclined, they could have wiped out the whole women's movement in the U.S. with one bomb!

Our Book of the Month selection for February is also extremely relevant to women's progress. *HALF THE SKY* by Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn, a remarkable husband and wife Pulitzer Prize winning team, gives a comprehensive account of the status of oppression against women around the world.

We had planned our panel on sex trafficking, which will take place on March 2nd, long before I read the book. The level of suffering which is documented is so severe that the only relief from the pain of reading about it is the strong call to action outlined by the authors, with practical steps everyone can take.

Our goal with this conference is a small step toward curbing the advertising in our community papers, for services that are clearly a front for prostitution. Encouraging more clients and demand will only increase the need to keep up the supply, and entrap even more women in sex slavery.

We hope you will attend and help us to curb this practice.

~Ann Juliano Jawin

CWNY BOOK & CULTURE CLUB NEWS

For March
the Book Club selection is:

The Girls from Ames: A Story of Women and a Forty-Year Friendship

by Jeffrey Zaslow



Anita Blank, Chair

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Bay Terrace Barnes & Noble

Bookstore, 7:30 pm

26th Ave & Bell Boulevard, Bayside, NY

Jeffrey Zaslow is a columnist for *The Wall Street Journal* and, in 2009, was the author or co-author of three best-selling books. In *The Girls from Ames* he writes about long-term female friendships and what makes them work, why they last and how important they are to women.

**Join us on the 3rd Wednesday
of every month at 7:30 pm.**

Pay Equity Update

A huge goal of the Coalition on Pay Equity is to establish the concept of "comparable worth." It has been an established practice in our society for years to value jobs that men do as worth more in wages than so-called "women's work." Consequently, jobs held almost exclusively by women—childcare, domestic work, home health care, etc.—pay little more than a shocking minimum wage, this despite the importance of the job, the skills involved and the hard work necessary to do it well.

Domestic workers and childcare attendants get the least pay. Many are paid only by the day, have no sick leave or any benefits for health care, etc.

In a giant step forward, women representing family day care providers voted for union representation through the United Federation of Teachers. In January, they signed their first-ever contract with the state, setting them on the road to earning a living wage and to being valued for the important work they do.

23rd Annual Anniversary Luncheon

May 22nd, 2010

Douglaston Manor Golf Club

Our October 22nd Anniversary Dinner was a huge success. We received many favorable comments about our choice of location, the Douglaston Manor Golf Club.

Our decision was to change the time and season from dinner to a Saturday luncheon in May, thus taking advantage of the beautiful setting – the highest point in Queens with a lovely panoramic view from the front terrace.

This decision also allows us to lower the price from \$90 to \$75. This is our annual fundraiser so please **HOLD THE DATE** and plan to bring your friends and family.

Ouster of N.Y.S. Senator Hiram Monserrate

The expulsion of Hiram Monserrate from the N.Y. State Senate, the first in over 80 years, took place last week and a special election to replace him will take place on March 16th.

Senator Monserrate was found guilty of a misdemeanor charge for forcibly dragging his girlfriend out of his apartment building, but the judge cleared him of felony assault charges for slashing her in the face with a broken glass.

The strong vote of 53 to 8 was a victory for those legislators and for the community and women's groups who called for his ouster. There are a considerable number of people who believe that the Senate violated the State Constitution and plan to challenge the Senate's action.

What is clear, however, is that there was a universal condemnation of this action as a clear instance of domestic violence! For this reason, the campaign against domestic violence is showing signs of improving awareness and lack of tolerance for this crime of violence against women.

“Shop Smart and Do Good” Charity Day May 6th at Lord & Taylor

The popular Garden City Charity Day we held last Fall is being repeated just in time for Spring.

Mark your calendar for May 6th. This time, we are going to go to the Manhasset store.

Convenient to the L.I.R.R. station for our non-drivers and more centrally located for many of our members, we are looking forward to having this unique opportunity to get everything in the store at a generous discount.

For a \$5 contribution, the especially appealing offer about this discount is that it applies to 20% for one item including cosmetics and fragrances (including brand names such as Clinique, etc.) and 15% for anything else in the store!

Start saving for this special shopping treat!

WANTED:

We currently have a need for ink cartridges for the following printers:

- ? **HP Laser Jet P1006**
- ? **HP PSC 1350**
- ? **HP J3680 All-in-One**

Focus On Senior Women

Women of all ages have problems that are of specific urgency and meaning at different stages of their lives – young single women interested in finding a mate, women with young children and their various issues, etc. Senior women also have issues that we have not given special attention, linking their needs to needs that affect all women.

However, senior women do have special problems and often get overlooked. Passive senior women who simply accept their loss of income and status and attention from their circle of family and friends often become “invisible”! Those who fight for attention and recognition are often described in disparaging terms.

We will try to feature information in our limited space in an effort to fill the gap. If we are not senior women now, we will become senior women in the future, if we are lucky!

Dr. Arline L. Bronzaft is a long-time feminist who has worked on the problems of senior women. We appreciate her sending us information on a relevant topic, which we have excerpted below. You may, if you wish, contact her at albtor@aol.com.

IGNORING NOISE COMPLAINTS OF OLDER WOMEN

By ARLINE L. BRONZAFT, Ph.D.

COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF NEW YORK CITY

According to the World Health Organization, noise pollution diminishes quality of life. Research indicates that the stress brought on by noise can adversely affect our mental and physical health. Furthermore, when an individual feels that nothing can be done to alleviate the noise, the stress factor increases, potentially leading to greater health impacts.

The revised 2007 Noise Code has addressed many public noise problems but, unfortunately, the Code essentially does not cover neighbor noise problems. As Chair of the Council on the Environment of New York City, I have received many calls from residents subjected to neighbor noises who ask us to intervene on their behalf.

Calls from senior citizens, most of whom live in rent controlled or rent stabilized apartments, frequently include statements describing how their complaints have been dismissed by their landlords or managing agents. They also add that they are reluctant to take matters to Housing Court because they fear confrontations with their landlords or managing agents.

I want seniors to know that their noise complaints are not unique to them and knowing this may give them the strength to correct the problem. Public officials should be contacted for assistance with noise issues, as should the City's Mediation Boards and Housing Court. New Yorkers may have to deal with the din of our busy thoroughfares and transit systems, and these too should be lessened, but we do not have to cope with unreasonable noises in our homes.

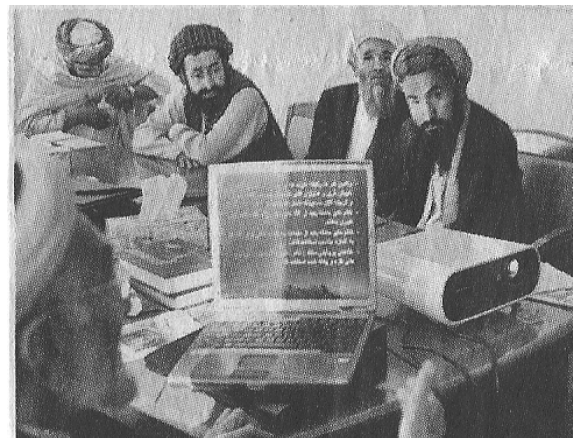
Broaching Birth Control with Afghan Mullahs

Not all our news is negative. We can hardly believe this encouraging article was printed in the NY Times on 11/15/09. Afghan religious leaders were receptive to the idea of birth control! An excerpt from this article, written by Sabrina Tavernise, is as follows:

It was a seminar on birth control, a likely subject for a nation whose fertility rate of 6 children per woman is the highest in Asia. But the audience was unusual: 10 Islamic religious leaders from this city and its suburbs, wearing turbans and sipping tea. The mullahs were reluctant participants. Truth be told, they were paid to show up. But surprisingly, they seemed to emerge from the session invigorated.

The message was simple: Babies are good, but not too many; wait two years before having another to give your wife's body a chance to recover.

The article goes on to say that the women are so happy to have birth control pills. They want to have fewer but healthier children. Even though husbands forbid the taking of the pills, women are for them. It is against their laws, the men say. However, Mr. Massoom, the mullah trainer, put it most directly: “This is an Islamic country,” he said. “If the clerics support this, no one will oppose it.”



Afghan religious leaders attend a workshop on birth control, birth spacing and breastfeeding.



At the CWNY General Meeting in February, Ann Jawin (center front) presented an illustrated talk on her meeting with women's groups in Israel.

CLASSES OFFERED BY CWNY

1. MEDICAL SECRETARY (fee is \$100)

This course is designed to help students become an Administrative Medical Secretary. Job opportunities in the medical field are continually changing with varying degrees of education and specialization. The areas of medical transcription, terminology, CPT coding, billing, bookkeeping, purchasing and all modalities leading to employment are covered.

The Medical Secretary Course is 8 weeks long, with two-hour classes meeting once a week. Minimum typing skills are recommended.

2. FAMILY DAY CARE TRAINING PROGRAMS

a. Beginning class: This popular class will continue at our Queensborough Hall office. The three-day session is offered throughout the year at scheduled times. The program is designed to train and certify providers to care for children in their own homes. It is given under the supervision of the NYS Office of Child Services and provides professional early childhood development training.

This fifteen-hour **HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM** is for new and existing family childcare providers. It is an opportunity for women who want to start their own business. There is a severe need for affordable family daycare in this city.

The registration fee will be \$25 and the cost of the training program will be \$200. **OPPORTUNITIES ARE PROVIDED FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR APPLICANTS WHO COMPLETE THIS PROGRAM.**

b. Advanced class: FAMILY DAY CARE FOR CERTIFIED PROVIDERS - CWNY is also offering the 30-hour course required for professional development for current family daycare providers to maintain their license.

For those day care providers who are already providing family daycare, the 30-hour course required to maintain their license is also available. Please call for date of Orientation.

3. HOME HEALTH CARE AID (amount of fee varies with the program)

This three-week training course provides women with the opportunity to enter the field of health careers. Home Health Aides are very important to their patients and patients' families. The care and comfort they provide is immeasurable. Home health aides will comply with the New York State Department of Health requirements of inservice and an annual health assessment at our offices at Queensborough Hall.

Home health aides will assist with the personal needs of clients; communicate orally and in writing with the client's families, visiting nurses, therapists, etc.; assist clients in pharmacy medication containers, and storing medications properly; assist with ambulation; perform household duties and escort clients.

Orientation will be given at the Queens Borough Hall site. Because of the need for special training equipment, the classes will take place at another location in the borough.

Center for the Women of New York

Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd.,
Room 325
Kew Gardens, NY 11424

Address Service Requested

OPEN EVERY BUSINESS DAY
10 AM – 5:00 PM
*All programs are by appointment
& pre-registration only.*

Tuesdays: Family Day Care Training*
Medical Secretary – 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Job Club – 5:30 pm
Legal Clinic – 6:30 (by appointment)

Thursdays: Home Health Aide Class*
Support Group – 6:00 pm

Call to register for all CWNY programs:
(718) 793-0672
Fax 718-793-0020 www.cwny.org

*Please call for updates as schedules are
subject to change due to space availability at
Queensborough Hall and weather conditions.*

* Call for schedule

Dues for the '09-10
year are now due.
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(Date on label shows
date of last dues
payment.)

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your dues
and make
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our website:
www.cwny.org**

Center for the Women of New York

Center for the Women of New York works hard to respond to women's needs. We currently offer a help line, monthly programs, a newsletter, and support groups. Please take part in our important work of helping women by sending us your membership contribution.

I am glad to support the Center for the Women of New York and enclose my check for \$ ____.
? New Member ? Renewal Date _____
? \$15 (Income \$0 to \$10,000) ? \$25 (Income \$10,000 to \$25,000)
? \$35 (Income \$25,000 and over) ? \$50 Friend ? \$100 Sponsor
? \$75 (Business & Professional Women) ? Other Contribution _____

Please make checks payable to Center for the Women of New York. Your contribution is tax deductible. Credit card payments accepted. Call (718) 793-0672. Membership is from Sept. 1st through Aug. 31st.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

I am particularly interested in:

Arts	Domestic Violence	Education
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Job Club	Membership	Newsletter
Political Action	Programs	Publicity
Sexual Harassment & Employment Discrimination		Social
Support Group		