

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

October 2, 2013

Commission Meeting - Agenda

Upcoming Events

DVAM Vigil	Oct 2	5:30pm
CCSW Meeting	Oct 2	6:30pm
Cambridgeport History Day	Oct 5	11:30am
How Women Become Political	Oct 7	6pm
Girl Rising Screening	October 10	6pm
Int'l Day of the Girl	Oct 11	all day
CCSW Meeting	Nov 6	6pm
21/365 Final Forum	Nov 7	5pm
Girl Rising Forum @ Simmons	Nov 21	5pm
CCSW Meeting	Dec 4	6pm
CCSW Meeting	Jan 8*	6pm

*NOTE: The first Wednesday of the month in January falls on the 1st; the city is closed. We will meet the following Wednesday.

Women and Words!

Mary Setterholm was the featured speaker at our September 19 Women and Words! event. Currently a doctoral student at Harvard Divinity school, Mary entered and experienced prostitution throughout her life and spoke on power dynamics and effects of shaming labels among and between women. Attendees of the event agreed that more time was needed with Mary to learn about her story and to more fully discuss the topic. Commissioners requested to invite Mary back to continue the conversation.

Left on Pearl

The Women's Commission hosted a showing of *Left on Pearl* at the Main Library in Cambridge on Monday, September 30, followed by a question and answer session with the filmmakers. Approximately 85 people attended the event. *Left on Pearl* tells the story of a little-known yet highly significant chapter in the history of the women's liberation movement, the Riverside community, and Harvard University. Today, Cambridge is home to the oldest continuously-

operating Women's Center in the United States. Kimberly targeted area youth centers and agencies working with youth in an attempt to engage and enlighten Cambridge teens about this important piece of history that was so pivotal to the Women's Liberation Movement. The Women's Commission will brainstorm about more effective ways of engaging Cambridge girls, in particular, when this film is released as a feature-length documentary.

Domestic Violence Vigil

Our annual Domestic Violence Vigil took place on the steps of City Hall on Wednesday, October 2. Approximately 75 people were in attendance. Diva's Daughters performed a musical tribute to those lost in 2013. Commissioners recommended that the Women's Commission create a banner to be used every year at the vigil to hold up so that passer-bys know what is happening before and during the vigil.

International Day of the Girl

The Women's Commission is co-sponsoring a screening of *Girl Rising* with the United Nations of Greater Boston Women's Forum on October 10, 2013. This movie is a "groundbreaking film which tells the story of nine extraordinary girls from nine countries written by nine celebrated writers and narrated by nine renowned actors. Girl Rising showcases the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world." The movie will be introduced by Katrina Sousounis, a 7th grade student at R.J. Grey Junior High School in Acton, MA. In 2011 she started the first Girl UP Club in Massachusetts and since that time has organized fundraisers for Girl Up, raised awareness on girls' issues in the developing world, rallied her club to become involved in all aspects of this special cause, and created interest in other UN entities among her teachers, family, and friends.

The Women's Commission is also co-sponsoring, along with the Boston Women's Commission, an event for girls at Simmons College. We will be screening *Girl Rising* and have a facilitated conversation following the movie, along with dinner for the girls. More details to come.

November Forum

On November 7, Councilor Decker's 21/365 *Cambridge Against Domestic Violence Campaign* will host its culminating community event from 5-8pm at Cambridge College. The forum hopes to generate deep learning among participants by featuring four speakers who will highlight best practices from work going on outside of Cambridge that will focus on community activism, men's role in domestic violence, as well as national and local trends in prevention. Councilor Decker has led a tremendous effort by City Departments, local service providers, and community members to bring up the level of awareness and community involvement in addressing the issues that impact Cambridge.

New Business

The Cambridge Women's History Project has created four beautiful and informative panels to debut at Cambridgeport History Day (Dana Park) entitled *Women in Cambridgeport, 1865-1975*. The panels highlight Women in Industry, Women in Business, Women and Organizations and Women in Education. Commissioners recommended that the Women's Commission include the pdfs of these panels on the Women's Commission's website.

The Women's Commission is also currently working on a poster campaign that encourages parents to talk to their kids about healthy dating. More information will be available by next meeting.

Next meeting: November 6, 2013, 6:30pm, 51 Inman Street.