

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

April 1, 2015

Commission Meeting - Minutes

Upcoming Events

April 14 - Women in Cambridge: Cambridge Local First!

Ole Mexican Grill, 11 Springfield Street, 6-8:30pm

We are spending April at Ole in Inman Square for tapas and tequila. Ole is a wonderful locally owned restaurant and coincidentally, Carissa Blackburn will be with us. She is the new Executive Director of Cambridge Local First and I am sure she can give us tips on how to keep Cambridge's local funky vibe alive.

April 27 – Promtacular

Afternoon, Session I: 3-4:30pm, Evening, Session II: 5-6:30pm

Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Community Room, Lower Level 2

April 28 - “The Talk” Realistic Strategies for Promoting the Sexual Safety of Young Children

Cambridge Main Library, 6:30pm

Dr. Nora Shine, a Child Psychologist and parent of two young children, has created a workshop in which she shares realistic strategies that parents (and teachers/counselors) can use to promote the safety of their young children, especially in regards to child sexual exploitation. Dr Shine draws upon her knowledge as a Child Psychologist, her experience as a parent, and her training as a facilitator in sexual abuse prevention from two nationally renowned organizations (D2L and StopItNow), to teach parents what really works in keeping kids safe from harm. Dr Shine will share research-based information about effective (and realistic) strategies that can be used to protect your children, and the children in your communities.

June 9 – Girls’ Sports Day

Women’s History Month Updates

All 2015 International Women’s Day and Women’s History Month events were a success. Now in our 18th year, the IWD breakfast at Simmons featured three inspiring speakers on Making Women’s Rights Real. We had approximately 150 attendees.

Our Cambridge Women’s Heritage Event at the library was excellent as well. About 75 community members joined the commission for a lovely reception, documentary screening, and post-film discussion.

The Women's Commission also participated in two roundtable events connecting youth with local women leaders. The GOLD group connected eighth grade girls with women from a huge breadth of backgrounds. Rep. Katherine Clarke gave inspiring closing remarks.

The second event was at CRLS. Approximately 65 students, boys and girls, met with female community leaders and discussed feminism, career paths, wage equity that were crafted questions by the student council as well as many other topics that were of interest to students.

We are also happily in our second month of collaborating with Women in Cambridge and had another well-attended meetup at Sidney's Grill in Central Square. Risa Mednick from Transition House was the featured speaker.

Commissioner-led project updates

Srin recently attended a "creative mornings" breakfast seminar in Cambridge. One of the speakers was Nadeem Mazen, Cambridge City Council and owner of danger!awesome in Central Square. Srin is going to reach out to Nadeem about possible ways we could support his efforts to engage youth, girls specifically, to work on cutting edge technology such as laser cutters and 3-D printers. Srin will also investigate what is already going on in Cambridge - the Possible Project, the STEAM Initiative, Science Fest, Do It Your Own Damn Self, Girls Who Code, etc.

Laura gave her report on the Mammovan. We are going to host it here in Cambridge on Saturday August 15. Many commissioners suggested that a location around the YWCA/City Hall/Senior Center could be a good central location for the women who are hoping to connect with. Next steps: organize a team who will work on this, appoint a site coordinator (Laura?), create a flyer for the event, sign up 35 women, connect with Transition House, On The Rise, YWCA, Cambridge Elder Services, etc.