

# Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

October 5, 2016  
Commission Meeting

## Upcoming Events

October 18, 6pm **Women in Cambridge networking event**  
Mayor Denise Simmons' Office, 795 Massachusetts Ave

October 19, 7pm **Author Discussion with Kathleen Cash, *A Revolutionary Practice of Public Storytelling: Addressing Violence against Women through Community Conversation***  
Cambridge Main Library

October 20, 10:15am **Parenting Series: Societal gender expectations' impact on children's development**  
Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street

November 9, 6pm **dinner**, 6:30pm **CCSW Meeting**  
Women's Commission Office, 51 Inman Street second floor

November 14, 6pm **Women in Cambridge networking event**  
The Abbey, 1755 Massachusetts Ave, Porter Square

December 1, 7pm **Women and Words: Celebrating Transition House 40 Years**  
City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway

December 14, 6pm **dinner**, 6:30pm **CCSW Meeting**  
Women's Commission Office, 51 Inman Street second floor

## Minutes

### Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The vigil was very well attended. We think approximately 100 people came to the steps of City Hall. The readings were powerful and it was great to have the support of MENDING CamBRIDGE to read the names.

On October 19 at 7pm in the Main Library, we have our author discussion with Kathleen Cash, *A Revolutionary Practice of Public Storytelling: Addressing Violence against Women through Community Conversation*. Since 1986, Kathleen Cash, Ed.D. has been creating and conducting Community Narrative Practice programs in HIV and AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, children's rights, violence towards women and girls, and environmental education for adults and youth in Thailand, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Haiti, Uganda and the United States. Prior to that, she worked in education programs in Ethiopia, Indonesia, Thailand, Malawi, Bangladesh and the United States. Her work in narrative practice began in 1991 in Thailand, as one of the first HIV and AIDS research and education projects for representative women, through the auspices of the International Center for Research on Women, Washington D.C. Kathleen has received two Fulbright grants: one in 1988 as a lecturer in the Department of Non-Formal Education at Chiang Mai University, Thailand, and the other in 2004 to Uganda as an HIV/AIDS research fellow where her work focused on the relationship between domestic and sexual violence and the transmission of sexual disease. In 2007-2008, Kathleen received a Radcliffe Institute Research Fellowship. In July 2016, Kathleen Cash's book: *Sex, Shame and Violence: A Revolutionary Practice of Public Storytelling in Poor Communities* was published by Vanderbilt University Press.

## **CRLS Sexual Harassment and Walkout Updates**

Kimberly continues to attend meetings called by Mayor Simmons about addressing the culture of sexual harassment and assault at CRLS. At the most recent meeting, 11 students came and spoke with the group. Their reflections were moving and powerful. No one from the CRLS administration was in attendance. The group has decided to break up and work on a number of the issues raised by the students including: school climate, education for students, teacher support and curriculum development.

Thus far, none of the demands put forth by the students last spring have been addressed. However, students reported that anti sexual harassment posters have been put up in the school bathrooms. Both students and teachers admitted this will do little to spark a culture shift at the high school.

The Women's Commission hopes to connect with some students and their parents to hear how they might be helpful. Students have gone and presented to the School Committee five times and there hasn't been movement. Phyllis will reach out to her connections in the community and on the school committee to plan a conversation.