

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

November 9, 2016
Commission Meeting

Upcoming Events

November 14, 6pm **Women in Cambridge networking event, featuring speaker from On The Rise**
The Abbey, 1755 Massachusetts Ave, Porter Square

December 1, 7pm **Art Meets Social Change: Celebrating Transition House's 40 Years of Activism & Advocacy in Cambridge**
City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway

December 6, 6pm **Cambridge Women's Center Political Action Committee**
46 Pleasant St, Cambridge

Introducing the Cambridge Women's Center Political Action Committee! Are you looking for ways to be more involved in your community? Do you find yourself wondering what to do next after the 2016 election? Are you invested in bringing about change? Want to meet other amazing women willing to do the work necessary for a better future? If so, please consider joining our new Political Action Committee at the Women's Center! All women welcome, no political or activist experience required. We are still in the beginning stages and are looking to have our first meeting this December. Please email Courtney, Drop-In and Helpline Coordinator at the Women's Center, for more info/to sign up: courtney.cambridgewomenscenter@gmail.com

December 7, 8am **Lori Landers Women's Breakfast: Where do we go from here?**
Post-election discussion. Kimberly is a featured presenter!

December 12, 6pm to 8pm **Know Your Rights Information Session**
Community Center at 14 Roosevelt Towers, Cambridge
Come learn about your rights from immigration attorneys and ask immigration related legal questions

December 13, 6pm, **Women in Cambridge networking event, fundraiser for Tutoring Plus**
Ten Thousand Villages, Central Square

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

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Addie, Marjorie, Pamela, Susan, Jane, Laura, Pauline, Phyllis, Lisa, Nadia, Therecia

Find It Cambridge

Nancy Tauber and Hector Acevedo came and presented on Cambridge's new service, Find It Cambridge (<http://www.finditcambridge.org/>). Find It Cambridge is an innovative online resource that empowers families, youth, and those who support them to easily find the activities, services, and resources they are looking for in Cambridge. Find It Cambridge will serve as a one-stop-shop website for those who live and work in Cambridge.

In addition to serving as a centralized information hub for the city, Find It Cambridge will also provide notifications via email and text messaging to ensure that users get reminders about upcoming events, deadlines and other announcements. Users can easily report information that is outdated or inaccurate to ensure that Find It Cambridge remains a valuable community resource.

Post-Election Debrief

As a group, we discussed what our part should be as we dissect the newly exposed (but not new) threats to women in the context of the 2016 presidential election results. They include but weren't limited to: sexual harassment, pay equity, sexual assault, gender-based violence, immigrant women and their children, women in leadership, reproductive rights and others. There was a discussion about whether we should host our own event, work with other organizations on the events they may have, or act as a clearinghouse for local events and share them with the commission's distribution lists.

Susan mentioned that the Margaret Fuller House was having a community sharing event the following night. MFNH has a distinct and defined community – meaning, there are specific people who will come to MFNH because that is their community center. Because the Women's Commission serves all of Cambridge (in particular women and girls), what type of event would be most beneficial to host?

Jane volunteered to get us the names and contact information for Lesley University staff who were on hand the day after the election, mediating a conversation with students and hearing their thoughts and responses.

It was decided that we would both look at Lesley University to possibly bring an event to Cambridge and see what other departments, agencies, and groups in the community are planning to see how we can partner and/or support any efforts that align with our mission. Possible venues that could host an event would be Lesley, the senior center, St. Bart's Church, YWCA. We could also sponsor an event further down the road such as "How to run for office?"

The Commission reaffirmed their commitment to working on specific areas: women's health (reproductive rights), immigrant rights, Black Lives Matter, and other community groups. Emily and Kimberly will keep the commission apprised of local post-election happenings.