

# Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

March 8, 2017

## Commission Meeting

### Upcoming Events

#### **March 8**

#### **International Women's Day Celebration: Music, Poetry and Collaborative Art**

7-9pm YWCA-Cambridge, 7 Temple Street.

Join with other people to work on collaborative banner celebrating women that will be displayed at the YWCA! Feel free to bring your favorite art supplies and your favorite empowering poem to share.

#### **March 21**

#### **Women in Cambridge: A Night at the Theater**

6pm Central Square Theater, 450 Mass Ave., Cambridge

For March, we are taking a trip to the Central Square Theater to mingle and meet the Directors! They have a beautiful and versatile space, as well as a wide range of productions, programs, and community involvement. Catherine Carr Kelly, Debra Wise, and Lee Gardner will be there to share their passion for the Central Square Theater with us. This is a can't miss!

#### **All Month Long**

#### **Women Take the Reel Film Festival**

Also, please consider one of the many outstanding films being shown in the *Women Take the Reel* Film Festival, many of which are being shown in Cambridge.

<http://wgs.mit.edu/women-take-the-reel/>

This annual film festival is a collaborative effort among Women's and Gender Studies departments involved in the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies (as well as select institutions/universities aligned with its mission) that features films directed by women and about issues relating to gender, race, sexuality, class and/or feminism.

All films are free and open to the public.

#### **Save the Date! Friday, April 14 and Monday April 17**

#### **Left on Pearl official premiere at the Boston International Film Festival**

*Left on Pearl*, a documentary film about the 1971 building takeover that led to the founding of the longest operating community Women's Center (located in Cambridge!) in the United States, has been selected to be screened at the Boston International Film Festival on the evening of Friday, April 14. This will be their official premiere. More details to come soon. For more information, visit [leftonpearl.org](http://leftonpearl.org).

## Minutes

Present: Susan, Pauline, Pamela, Therecia, Golnaz, Nadia, Jane, Marjorie

### **International Women's Day Breakfast**

Pauline and Pamela attended this year's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary breakfast at Simmons College, *Responding to Changing Policies: Engaging Women's Voices*. The morning was an informative discussion among women leaders in government and advocacy. Panelists discussed the current challenges and opportunities facing immigration, religious freedom, our climate, and LGBTQIA policy, with a specific focus on strategies for women organizing for action.

Moderated by Sylvia Ferrell-Jones (YW Boston), panelists included:

- Tahirah Amatul-Wadud, Law Offices of Tahirah Amatul-Wadud

- Alejandra St. Guillen, Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement
- Zeyneb Pervane Magavi, Mother's Out Front
- Chastity Bowick, Transgender Emergency Fund

### **Reproductive Justice Conference**

Susan shared with the group about a conference she is involved with at Hampshire College in April. This year's topic is, *From Abortion Rights to Social Justice: Building the Movement for Reproductive Freedom*. More information can be found at: <https://clpp.hampshire.edu/conference/2017-conference/vision>

### **Women&Words**

Marjorie attended our March 2 Women&Words!, *From March to Action: How to interweave and intersect the women's movement with other movements to create the world we envision*.

The women's movement is becoming hyper-local with community groups forming to share in the resistance and actions. It is becoming a movement for all people—across class, race, religion and sexual orientation. Mary Wallace, co-founder of the Boston Women's March, and Janet Santos, Executive Director of the Boston Women's Fund, discussed what we can do to affect change in today's world. There was also a lot of sharing between participants and a discussion about what can be done *in Cambridge* as we moved forward.

### **Safe Communities Act**

Senator James Eldridge from Acton sponsored the bill. The bill, which has not yet been assigned a hearing date with the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, would do a number of things, including:

- Prohibiting local and state officials from creating a Muslim or other religious registry
- Requires due process for immigrants held in detention.
- Prevents local and state police from becoming immigration officials.
- States that police resources won't be used for federal immigration authorities.

In Massachusetts, Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Newton and Lawrence are among some cities designated as sanctuary cities. The Cambridge state delegation are supporters of the bill, along with many Cambridge City Councillors.

### **Equal Pay Committee Event**

On March 30 in Cambridge, there will be an Equal Pay Committee press conference with Mayor Simmons announcing the local Cambridge businesses who have signed on as early adopters of the Equal Pay law that takes effect in July, 2018, as part of the Harvard Square Business Association's Women's History Month Breakfast celebration.