

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

March 14, 2018

Commission Meeting

Upcoming Events

Speaking up and out: Women reshaping the media narrative

Friday, March 16, 8-10am

Simmons College, Paresky Conference Center

Join us as we celebrate International Women's Day with an informative discussion among leaders in women's advocacy. Our panelists will explore women centered media, the challenges inherent in the absence of women's representation, and what we achieve when we elevate women's voices.

Women in Cambridge: Networking and Socializing for Women in Business

Monday, March 19, 5:30-7pm

Miracle of Science, 321 Mass Ave. Cambridge

After a brief hibernation this winter, Women in Cambridge is reemerging this spring stronger, more vibrant, and more fun than ever! Join us for some informal networking, time to share a little about who we are, and briefly hear from the Cambridge Women's Commission, a department within the City of Cambridge who helps organize Women in Cambridge, as well as many other exciting events, lectures, and programs throughout Cambridge.

The Women's March: Stories of Energy, Unity, and Activism

Wednesday, March 21 6-7:30pm

Cambridge Main Library

Please join us for a screening of the compelling new documentary Women's March (30 mins). Filmed at Women's Marches in five U.S. cities, including Boston, the film explores democracy, human rights, and what it means to stand up for your values in today's America.

Following the film, we will have a panel discussion with local women who are creating powerful movements in our community.

2nd Annual Trailblazing Women Communal Reading & Community Conversation

Wednesday March 28, 5:45-8pm

Cambridge City Hall

Honoring local trailblazing women, and including a group reading and community conversation on racism.

Parenting in the Hyper-Sexualized Digital Age: Challenges and Solutions

April 25, 2018 at 6:30 PM

Putnam Avenue Upper School Theater

A talk for parents of pre-tweens and tweens with Dr. Gail Dines, Professor Emerita at Wheelock College, and founding president of Culture Reframed, her organization dedicated to working with parents/caregivers to build resistance and resilience in children and youth to our hypersexualized digital age.

Minutes

Present: Marjorie, Susan, Therecia, Pamela, Jane
Guest: Amelia Joselow

City of Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

Amelia Joselow spoke with the commission about her new role in the city. Amelia is the Research Associate and staff person for the City of Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission. Their mission is to advocate for a culture of respect and to monitor progress toward equality of all persons with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity. The Commission also promotes policies and practices that have a positive effect on the health, welfare and safety of persons who live, visit or work in the City of Cambridge with regard to sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression. Amelia has been working on a report about LGBTQ+ inclusion in youth after school programs and will soon be working on a project about LGBTQ+ older adults in public housing in Cambridge. She is interested in the intersection of women's issues and LGBTQ+ issues and hopes to collaborate in the future.

Citywide SOGI Training

This past summer and fall, over 1000 Cambridge employees attended a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) training, presented by Fenway Health Institute. The Women's Commission was on the committee to help the city deliver these workshops.

The training sessions were designed to reinforce existing city policies as well as build additional staff proficiency in providing services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) communities. The aim was to create an even more welcoming and inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ City employees.

In the workshop, City employees learned to:

- Differentiate SOGI terms, cultural concepts and considerations
- Identify City policies regarding SOGI considerations and workplace expectations to value diversity
- Recognize ways that sexual orientation and gender identities may be directly impacted during the delivery of City services
- Identify opportunities to create predictably positive experiences for LGBTQ+ communities during the delivery of City services

CRLS and Sexual Harassment

Therecia asked for any updates on the issue we reported in 2016 involving students at CRLS and sexual harassment. Mayor Simmons's committee to address the harassment met until 2017. The committee came up with action steps and recommendations to address the culture at CRLS. Kimberly will provide the final copy of the recommendations to the Commission.