

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

December 13, 2017

Commission Meeting

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 3, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Mending Cambridge in a #MeToo Moment

An interactive conversation for men on ending sexual harassment and gender-based violence

The Sonia Room at the Middle East, 10 Brookline St., Central Sq., Cambridge

Thursday, March 8, 8am

International Women's Day Breakfast, TBD

Simmons College

Cambridge Women's Commission, Women's History Month Event (details TBD)

March 21 or 22 at the Cambridge Main Library

Wednesday March 28, 5pm

Trailblazing Women Event (details coming soon)

Workshop for CPSD parents around #MeTooK12 issues

April 3 or April 25

Agenda

Cambridge Police Youth Boxing Program, Update

Since its establishment in 2011, the Cambridge Police Youth Boxing Program has offered year-round free boxing classes to over 650 youth. Participants, who range in age from 10 to 24, are referred by a variety of agencies including schools, DCF, DYS, Juvenile Probation, The Home for Little Wanderers, the Guidance Center, and residential programs such as Germaine Lawrence. While participants come from a wide variety of backgrounds, many are growing up with limited family support and few material resources, and a large number have a history of state agency involvement.

With a focus on mentorship, the goal of the program is not to train fighters but to support participants in adapting to and handling difficult life situations, functioning in a team setting, and extending a spirit of sportsmanship. For girls and young women, who in recent years have outnumbered male participants in many of the classes, this program offers a unique opportunity to build healthy relationships, self-esteem, and a positive body image in a safe, supportive environment. In addition, many of the young women in the program are working towards rebuilding a sense of personal safety after experiencing trauma.

The Cambridge Police Boxing Program sends a HUGE thank you for the large donation of workout clothing and menstrual hygiene products from the Cambridge Women's Commission. The girls are already using the donated clothes.

Women's History Month Planning

This past year has been quite a year for women and women's issues – from the #MeToo movement, to the silence breakers on the cover of Time, from the Women's March last January, to record numbers of women running for office, and the words Feminism and Sexual Violence showing up everywhere.

We are planning a screening of *Women's March, a documentary film about democracy and human rights* at Cambridge Main Library on March 21 or 22. More information and a preview of the film can be found here:

<http://womensmarchfilm.com/>

We are looking for commissioners to help plan this event. Commissioners will help decide what area(s) to focus on, who should be on a post-film panel, etc. How can we mark this historic year?

Connection, Collaboration, and Conversation within the CCSW

Pamela would love to do something with empowerment through public speaking for adults and/or youth. This could be a one-off or multi part workshop. Another idea was to have a discussion along the lines of *Dating While Feminist* or *Dating in the Current Climate*. Pamela can also facilitate a workshop on workplace negotiations.

Nadia expressed interest in helping with Promtacular in some way.

Jane is interested in doing a program/workshop on financial literacy, with a focus on women, negotiating salaries. She noted that many college students are much more comfortable talking about sex than money.

Srin mentioned that this is women's moment to shine in civic participation. She would be interested in working on something with EMERGE or EMILY's List.

Other

The CRLS Black Student Union created this piece on micro-aggressions faced by students at the high school. Take a look at their amazing work. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZITwyJ677Ro#action=share>

The New Yorker piece *Cat Person* has gone viral. If you haven't read it, here's the link to the [story](#). And here's a response [from The Atlantic](#). Should we begin a monthly feminist article/short story/podcast discussion group?

The question arose as to whether we should reach out to the newly elected City Councilors individually to schedule a CCSW coffee/tea meet and greet. It was agreed that this is a good idea.