



THE EQUALITY STANDARD

August, 2009

This is the monthly publication on women's issues, local and global, published by Fifty-Fifty Leadership, A non-profit organization promoting women's equal leadership



Corazon Aquino, Former President of the Philippines
See "In The News" below

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Our Vision
That 50% of
leaders are
women
Our Mission
To transform
the culture
within which
we live to one
that **naturally**
includes
women on an
equal basis in
the selection
of leaders

Visit our website,
www.5050Leadership.org or give
us a call at
818.243.2322

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IN THE NEWS

🌀 [Huffington Post Article on Pro-Life and Pro-Choice Dialogue](#) - a piece by Public Conversations Project Associate Mary Jacksteit shares two examples of pro-choice and pro-life activists using dialogue to defuse tension and reduce violence.

Article: [Read story](#)

Thanks to Kelly Hayes-Raitt, Author, for letting us know about this

Also on the topic of choice, Womens ENews reports on the backlash from the Mexican Supreme court's decision to decriminalize abortion last year. [Read story](#)

🌀 Former President **Corazon Aquino**, who swept away a dictator with a "people power" revolt and sustained democracy by fighting off seven coup attempts in six years, died on Saturday, her son said. She was 76. [Read NY Times Story](#)



COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

I bet I can find 1,000,000 people who hate Domestic violence & Child Abuse is a group on Facebook that was formed to -

- A: Raise awareness about domestic abuse
- B: Provide a safe place to talk about our experiences
- C: Create a Domestic Violence Memorial for those who have been murdered by DV

My **FIRST** Goal: TO REACH 1,000,000 people who have been affected by domestic violence or just have a strong desire to see more education about domestic violence in our local communities and especially our schools.

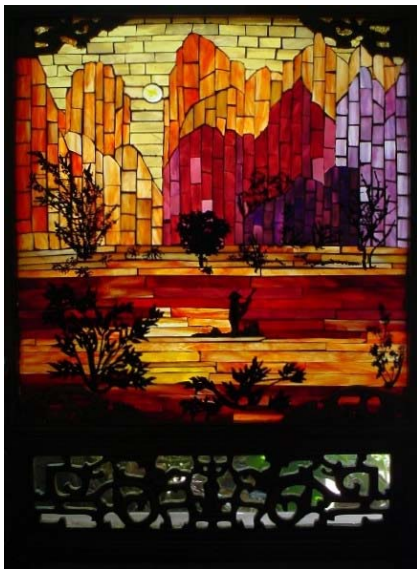
My **SECOND** Goal: TO CREATE an online Domestic Violence Memorial where people can post information about loved ones who have passed away from domestic violence.

[Click Here](#) to read more and join the group

On the website is a warning list of what to look for – for yourself or others:



WOMEN IN BUSINESS



✿ Glass is an art medium that is being used more and more these days – all the lovely jewelry, in hotels, restaurants and more. Leigh Adams is a true creative master in glass and mosaic – which can also be glass.

She has been invited to work in many countries throughout the world, and she loves to work with children.

Leigh is as multi-faceted as her mosaics. I could fill these whole pages with all the types of art she does, but let me just give you a few of her words:

I am a glass and mosaic artist seeking commissions that create a world of color and ambience for my clients. I delight in designing original pieces of work that both inspire and enliven, creating ambience and atmosphere. You can see my work at the LA County Arboretum where I am Artist in Residence as well as at local institutions and private homes and gardens. Please take a look at my website, [Click here](#) or call me at 626 797 3728.

Begin seeing your dreams in the spaces most important to you!



GRANT AVAILABLE

Thanks to Kelly Hayes-Raitt, Author, for letting us know about this

Common Sense California (CSC) today announced the re-launching of its annual “Citizen Engagement Grant Program”, offering funding for public participation efforts around the state. It continues to be the only grant program of its kind in the nation, supporting governments and non-profits that want to legitimately engage the informed “public voice” on a variety of local policy issues.

For 2009, CSC is offering grants from \$1,000.00 to \$7,500.00 to municipalities (cities, counties, school districts, regional governments) and non-profit organizations.



HAVE FUN, MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Get ready. Starting next month, we will be launching **Fun-4-5050**.

Following up on my introduction last month, I have heard from lots of you that you are really excited about the opportunity to have some fun, learn something, or go somewhere new – and help 5050Leadership too.

With so many people out of work, business down, or just afraid of when this sour economy will sweeten again, many people have curtailed their philanthropy. This is an easy way to be nice to yourself – we all need to have fun – and to know that you are helping others as well as yourself.

Take a look at the events listed below under ‘Events.’ Is there anything you would like to attend? Whether it is a free event or one that costs money, starting September 1, you will have the opportunity to go to these events and pay an extra \$5 as a donation to Fifty-Fifty Leadership.


Just \$5. if you go with a couple of friends, that is \$15 (3 x \$5) for Fifty-Fifty Leadership. You will be helping bring Leadership Circles to women who want to become leaders or who are leaders and want to hone their skills.

If there is a particular event or type of event you are interested in, I would like to hear about it. If you live in another part of town or another part of the country – as many of you do – consider doing this as a way to raise money to help start a Leadership Circle, finance completion of our database of conferences for women, and more.

Send me an [EMail](#) or call Pauline at (818) 243-2322 with your ideas



HEALTH

 We have all been hearing about health care reform and there are lots of opinions about the best way to do it. I have avoided bringing it onto these pages, but OWL, the Older Women’s League, featured an article that appeared in the blog, The Huffington Post, by Martha Burk, a political psychologist and co-founder of the Center for Advancement of Public Policy.

In her article, Ms. Burk points out that there is an “age rating” being considered. This is not a problem for people of medicare age, 65 and older, but for those from 50 – 65. “Since everybody knows older people are more likely to have pre-existing conditions, it’s a back door way to replace exorbitant premiums for pre-existing conditions with exorbitant premiums for being older,” says Burk.

Burk goes on to point out that, “...the plans would particularly affect older single women, already lower on the income scale and less likely to have employer coverage. They rightly pointed out that if gender rating

was on the table, every women's group would be raising holy hell...Profits over people - it's the American way."

🌀 Speaking of healthcare and older women, Neal Peterson, Health Savings Account Specialist, sent us a link to WebMD which has a checklist of what we should be screened for when we reach 40.

This includes screenings for:
Breast, cervical, colorectal and skin cancer
Heart and eye disease
Bone and thyroid health, and
Vaccinations and immunizations

The checklist gives details about each screening and on age and frequency.

[Click Here to see the article and printable checklist](#)

🌀 Thanks to Camille Levee, Executive Director of Glendale Healthy Kids for this: August 15 is National Relaxation Day, so this issue has a few stress relief tips as we move into the hot summer! Kids can cause stress, so count to 10 when things get stressful. Find news ways to be active with the kids (walk, bike, garden, etc) Work on relaxation techniques **WITH** the kids. Find a quiet place to relax and take 5 minutes. Practice abdominal (deep) breathing. Do some quick fingertip massages on the back of your neck and shoulders. If you have longer, go get a 30 minute massage. Take time to eat regular meals.

Whatever you choose to do, remember that children who are depressed, stressed or anxious entering 1st or 2nd grade are more likely to be at risk if being victimized by 3rd grade. (The Society for Research in Child Development Inc) And kids take their cues from you!

🌀 *Patricia Richard, Financial Consultant, sent me this item and although I have included this before, I think it bears repeating:*

There's a bill (which has been introduced to the House no less than 6 times) called the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act which will require insurance companies to cover a minimum 48-hour hospital stay for patients undergoing a mastectomy. It 's about eliminating the ' drive-through mastectomy ' where women are forced to go home just a few hours after surgery, against the wishes of their doctor, still groggy from anesthesia and sometimes with drainage tubes still attached.

Lifetime Television has put this bill on their web page with a petition drive to show your support.. Last year over half the House signed on. PLEASE! **Sign the petition by clicking on the web site below. You need not give more than your name and zip code.**

<http://www.mylifetime.com/community/my-lifetime-commitment/breast-cancer/petition/breast-cancer-petition>

This takes about 2 seconds.

🌀 Los Angeles County now offers **free test kits** for women to find out if they have Chlamydia or gonorrhea, two sexually transmitted diseases. Go to DontThinkKnow.org for details on how to get your kit.

🌀 **No health insurance?** Here's a list of resources:

HealthyCity.org has created a database of hundreds of organizations providing free and low-cost care for the uninsured

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance program can help find reduced-cost or even free programs specific to a patient's locale and condition Go to HelpingPatients.org or call (888)477-2669

In Los Angeles County:

The county [Department of Health website](#) gives you information on its hospitals and clinic programs UCLA's Clinical Dental Center provides services at about 50% of going rates. Click here: [UCLA](#) or call (310)206-3904

Department of Mental Health has a 24-hour help line at (800)854-7771 and can give information on no-or-low cost services

Orange County:

Click here for the [OC Health Website](#) and click on "Clinics and Hospital locations."

Riverside County:

[Riverside County Medical website](#)

San Bernardino County:

The county hospital is in Arrowhead and has several outpatient clinics-

[Medical Center](#)

Ventura County:

The medical center is the hub of the public medical service system-

[Medical Center](#)

☞ **Do you have kidney disease?** Do you know about the Renal Support Network?

Lori Hartwell, President and Founder has been a kidney patient since she was 2 years old and is a powerhouse advocate for every kidney patient.

If you are in the Los Angeles area, the Renal Support Network will have a Patient Lifestyle Meeting on Sunday, August 16th from 12:45 – 5:00p.m. Patients and one guest will be admitted at no charge. Buffet lunch will be served at 12:45 p.m.

To register and for more information about the event and the Renal Support Network , go to RSNhope.org

If you cannot attend that day or if you are in a different part of the country, support is just a phone call away. Call the HOPEline at (800) 579-1970 Monday – Friday 10 am – 8 pm (PDT)



BOOKS, MOVIES

A Jury of Her Peers: American Women Writers from Anne Bradstreet to Annie Proulx, by **Elaine Showalter**

Ms. Showalter explains that this is the "first literary history of American women writers ever written." The book is organized by decades, starting in 1650 when Anne Bradstreet, a settler from England wrote the first book by a woman living in America. It took no fewer than 11 testimonials by male friends, family and critics to convince the London publisher that it was indeed written by a woman and worthy of publication.

Shanghai Girls is the newest novel by **Lisa See**, always a good read. This novel opens in China in 1937 where sisters work as model and they are forced to marry two brothers so their father can pay off his gambling debts.

Do you love **Meryl Streep**? I am always amazed at the chameleon she is. I have seen the preview for her new movie, **Julie and Julia** which opens August 7th, and I did a double take. She IS Julia Childs! Amazing. I can't wait to see the movie.

Women are still in the minority on the big screen, and behind it, but the new movie, **Post Grad**, seems like it could have had a male star as easily as a woman, so we are making headway, however small.



WOMEN OF NOTE



After 9 centuries of male monopoly, **Giorgia Boscolo** (left) recently became the first female gondolier in Venetian history

Dr. Robin R. Murphy (right) heads the Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue, where she commands an arsenal of unmanned craft that specialize in emergency response.



Conchita Cintron, (below) who recently died at age 86, broke the male-dominated sport of bullfighting at 13 in 1935 and become one of the world's first famous female matadors with a career that spanned Europe, Central and South America.



WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

☞ **The WIP.net** reported recently that in **Kenya** teenagers spend hours engrossed in a video game, but they are not battling other-worldly forces with super-human weapons; instead, they are finding their way through a familiar-looking city, trying to negotiate real-life situations and learn how to avoid HIV infection.

"You are able to relate to the behaviour of any one of the characters in the video game and you are able to discard bad behaviour ... [such as] using drugs because you can actually see drug abuse leads that particular character into acquiring HIV due to recklessness," said Perpetua Nduku, one of the young people at the Mukuru community centre, which is visited by about 35 teens a day - 50 a day at the weekend.

The game targets young people aged between 15 and 19 and focuses on five key behaviours that can reduce HIV infections among youth: delaying the onset of sexual activity, abstinence, avoiding multiple sex partners, correct and consistent condom use, and uptake of voluntary counselling and testing services.

[Read the whole story here](#)

☞ **Rwanda:** Rather than relying on dwindling food rations in refugee camps in Uganda, many Rwandan women have planted gardens to feed themselves and sold extra maize, cassava and potatoes in local Ugandan communities. This has provided them with a measure of sustainability.

Now, official efforts to repatriate Rwandan refugees from Uganda--15 years after the genocide--are threatening that fragile financial security. As refugees abandon fields and gardens in the camps in

the southwestern part of the country, many have been left vulnerable to hunger and poverty, refugee advocates here say. *Women's ENews*

[Read the whole story here](#)

🌀 The **Good News Network** had the following article: This **Afghanistan** girls' school successfully prepares students for University but without any roof, walls, library, or many books... until now. Watch the video on the YouTube Good News Network Channel

[Watch the video](#)



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EVENTS

Please let us know of events in YOUR area that we can post here. If you know of conferences, programs that will inform, educate and inspire, we will consider them for publication. Ed.



Saturday, August 8th, 7:00 p.m.
Party – for Charity
YOU ARE INVITED !!!!

Leslie Bohm is hosting a party at her studio - it is a charity event for the Success Foundation, and she will be honoring her friend Dorcy Russell who is turning 40
Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a cocktail party
It is a Hollywood glamour theme so dress up...

www.SUCCESSFoundation.org

The SUCCESS Foundation is committed to distributing 10 million SUCCESS for Teens(TM)books and CDs to our nations youth. The SUCCESS Foundation encourages today's teens to become tomorrow's achievers.

The event will be Old Hollywood Glitz and Glamour. Stroll in on the Red Carpet. Have your picture taken Hollywood style. Dance to the tunes being spun by VOX Dj's...Celebrate with a fabulous cocktail party presented by chef to the stars Meg Hall... sip champagne with Strawberries...this is L.A. baby you never know who you might see stroll in on the Red Carpet...The suggested \$100 donation will ALL go to The SUCCESS Foundation and it is tax deductible.

See you in Hollywood Baby! (in my cool downtown loft , party style...!!!)
xoxo lesley

[Directions to Studio and Website - Click here](#)
email Lesley: lesley.bohm.photo@gmail.com

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Lesley Bohm Photography | 201 S. Santa Fe Avenue Suite 301 | Los Angeles | CA | 90012



Saturday, August 8
10:30am-12:30pm
Quickbooks Training

Learn how to use Quickbooks, the most commonly used accounting package for small and medium sized businesses.
\$45

Women at Work
3971 E. Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91107
Call to register: (626)-796-6870 x 14

Visit their website to view more classes and to see their other services:
www.womenatwork.org



August 8, 2009
3:00 - 6:00 pm
Open House Fund Raiser

Location: The Yoga Loft, 21228 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA 91364

The purpose of this event is to invite the community to view the very special items and services that are available through www.madeinthevalley.net, to introduce people to The Yoga Loft www.yogaloftla.com a place to go to take a break from the demands of the day and find a sense of inner peace, and to support the work that Safe Passages www.safepassagehome.org and Safety Harbor www.SafetyHarborKids.org.
20% from any sales made will be divided between the above charities.



August 26th
Women's Equality Day
Are you registered to vote?



Saturday August 29
Gates open at 1:30
Show starts at 2:30
The Gatsby Jazz Festival

In Association with the
Regional Black Chamber of Commerce- Southern California

Thousands of jazz enthusiasts will descend upon the Beautiful Malibu Country Club to experience an evening of great music, shopping and fun at the 2009 Gatsby Jazz Festival. Musical guests will include: **Bobby Caldwell, Joyce Cooling, Marcus Johnson, Freddie Fox, Tim Cunningham, The Bass King.**

This is a white Linen & Lawn Event
so please dress in all white or Linen Attire if possible.

Private VIP Cabanas available also...
Tickets... \$40 - \$130 per person...
Contact: RBCC @ 818-464-3484 for ticket information
www.regionalblackchambersfv.info

Thanks to Deb Halberstadt, Photographer, for letting us know about this event



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FINAL WORDS

As August 26th marks the 89th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the vote, I thought this quote appropriate:

"We've chosen the path to equality, don't let them turn us around."

—Geraldine Ferraro

(The first woman to be nominated as Vice President of the United States)



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