



## THE EQUALITY STANDARD July 2010

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

### **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](http://www.5050Leadership.org) or give  
us a call at  
818.243.2322

*Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!*



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### IN THE NEWS



🌸 Solicitor General **Elena Kagan's** nomination hearings before the senate to become the fourth woman ever to serve as a Supreme Court Justice ended on Thursday and it is expected that she will be confirmed later this month. Talking to reporters about the hearings she said, "I found it somewhat wearying but actually a great moment in my life."



🌀 AUSTRALIA WELCOMES FIRST FEMALE PM: **Julia Gillard** became the first female Australian Prime Minister Thursday after former Labor leader Kevin Rudd stepped down. Rudd, faced with rising unpopularity after he abandoned a carbon-reduction plan and imposed a new mining tax, has now become the shortest-serving Australian Prime Minister since 1972. Gillard is considered more left-wing than Rudd, but lawmakers believe she has a better chance of gaining more voters for the embattled Labor Party since she has a warmer personality than her predecessor. Gillard will have a tough challenge in the next general election, however: Several mining companies are expected to pump money and energy into the Conservative Party to have the mining tax repealed.



## FIFTY-FIFTY LEADERSHIP EVENTS

Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m.

**KELLY HAYES-RAITT – TALES OF A FEMALE NOMAD**



Kelly Hayes-Raitt, Writer and former political consultant is indeed a nomad. Traveling around North America housesitting and living in writers' colonies for the past 2 years while she rents out her own home in Santa Monica, CA, to finance her writing.

Several of her pieces are featured in the book just released called

***Female Nomad & Friends:***

***Tales of Breaking Free and Breaking Bread Around the World.***

It is a scrumptious summer read that celebrates traveling, connecting and eating around the world. The stories in this anthology include people taking risks, seeking adventure, stepping out of the box, and discovering that beneath the beautiful differences that make us unique there is a universal sameness that bonds us.

***Copies of the book will be available for purchase and all proceeds from the book support vocational scholarships for children living in slums in India; none of the contributors received compensation.***

Two of Kelly's pieces are about her pre- and post-invasion trips to Iraq. "Tongue-Tied" is the poignant story of a beggar girl Kelly befriended a month before the war and found 3 months later.

Kelly's bio is on her blog at [www.PeacePATHFoundation.org](http://www.PeacePATHFoundation.org).

Fifty-Fifty Leadership and UNA Pasadena brings you this Coffee Talks presentation.

7:00 p.m.

Refreshments

Armory Center for the Arts

145 North Raymond Ave, Pasadena 91103

Suggested Donation: \$10



## MEMBER BENEFIT – FREE GEFFEN THEATER TICKETS

The last show of the season is coming up and it has been getting rave reviews in Washington D.C. “**Thurgood**” starring Laurence Fishburn is about the Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall.


*Peter Marks of the Washington Post says, “The portrayal’s so alive you could claim with some justification that the great man spoke to you.”*

We have tickets for the following date and time:  
Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00

If you are a member, email [tickets@5050leadership.org](mailto:tickets@5050leadership.org) with your request.  
Not a member yet? [Join now](#) and you may still get tickets for this great show



## WOMEN AT WORK

 **Women in Business:** According to the Center for Women’s Business Research, 10.1 million firms based in the United States have women as 50%+ stakeholders. These businesses employ 13 million people and are generating \$1.9 trillion in sales as of 2008. Women in business are surviving and thriving despite the unstable times created by the current economic recession. Even more impressive, a woman of color owns 26% percent of all women-owned businesses and those organizations are growing at the fastest pace. That’s 2.3 million companies with a woman of color at the forefront! It is no secret that women who own businesses have become influencers in today’s increasingly global economy. We celebrate those women today and everyday! *Source: BlogOnSisters*

 Only six companies made the cut for Working Mother’s inaugural list of Best Companies for Hourly Workers. Hourly employees, though they make up a significant portion of the American workforce (61% of whom are female), often don't get the benefits they need or deserve.

For the winning companies, hourly employees really are the backbone of the organization as they averaged 87% hourly workers. Impressively, the average of minimum hours to work to be eligible for benefits was 24 hours per week.

"One of the things that was highly valued and available was the opportunity to be able to know your schedule a month in advance and be able to ask for flextime a month in advance - all of those things that the managerial class takes for granted," says Carol Evans, Working Mother President.

UNM hospitals in Albuquerque, New Mexico is one of the six companies and among other benefits, employees can donate vacation leave directly to other employees who are having a catastrophic event, and the employee in need can get a maximum of 480 hours donated for their serious illness event (or their family's).

They can also donate four hours of vacation leave each year to the medical crisis leave bank, where participating employees can use up to 240 hours of leave for their or their family's serious illness event.

[Read more...](#)

Here’s a sampling of the events and classes being offered by Women at Work in Pasadena this month:

Employer Forum

Wednesday, July 7

3:00pm to 5:00pm

Employers will be on-site to describe job opportunities and current openings. Visit the Women At Work website for names of confirmed employers.

\$3 Donation Requested

Job Searching on the Internet

Thursday, July 8

4:00pm - 6:00pm

- Learn how to find job openings online
- Get tips on how to search effectively
- Learn what types of websites are available to job seekers

Pre-requisite: Must know how to use the internet

\$20 by July 6, \$25 after

Saturday, July 10

10:30am - 12:30pm

Learn how to use "Linked In," the most popular online networking site for professionals. Required: Attendees should register for a Linked In account before they come to the workshop. Visit [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) and click "join today" to start your own Linked In account.

Pre-requisite: Must know how to use the internet

\$20 by July 7, \$25 after

For a full list and more information: [www.womenatwork1.org](http://www.womenatwork1.org)

or call them at (626) 796-6870



## SUMMER READING

 **Books for Girls:** New Moon Girls' ([www.newmoon.com](http://www.newmoon.com)) list of summer reading recommended by the members of their creative online + magazine community for girls ages 8 and up.

Some of the books are for the younger end of the age range and some are for age 13 and up - if you're not sure, check them out yourself. A lot depends on the individual reader.

We like these books especially because they're all about girls who are smart, brave, bold, funny, and adventurous!

Happy Reading!

*Charlotte's Web* by [E.B. White](#)

*Ramona the Pest* by [Beverly Cleary](#)

*The Hundred Dresses* by [Eleanor Estes](#)

*Pippi Longstocking*, by [Astrid Lindgren](#)

*Sarah, Plain and Tall*, by [Patricia McLachlan](#)

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, by [Betty Smith](#)

*Harriet the Spy*, by [Louise Fitzhugh](#)

*The Secret School*, by [Avi](#)

*Matilda*, by [Roald Dahl](#)

*Inkheart*, by [Cornelia Funke](#)

*The Secret Garden*, by [Frances Hodgson Burnett](#)

*Anne of Green Gables*, by [L.M. Montgomery](#)

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, by [Harper Lee](#)

*A Wrinkle in Time*, by [Madeleine L'Engle](#)

*The Secret Language of Girls*, by [Frances O'Roark Dowell](#)

*Esperanza Rising*, by [Pam Munoz Ryan](#)

[Because of Winn-Dixie, by Kate DiCamillo](#)

[Eleven, by Lauren Myracle](#)

[11 Birthdays, by Wendy Mass](#)

[Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret, by Judy Blume](#)

[Isabel of the Whales, by Hester Velmans](#)

[The Sisters Grimm, by Michael Buckley](#)

[Gaia Girls, by Lee Welles](#)

[The Goose Girl, by Shannon Hale](#)

[Ella Enchanted, by Gail Carson Levine](#)

[The Mother-Daughter Book Club, by Heather Vogel Frederick](#)

[The Wild Girls, by Pat Murphy](#)

[Flipped, by Wendelin Van Draanan](#)

[The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins](#)

[Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath](#)

🔗 **Books for women: Check out the books highlighted by Womens Enews: [Womens enews reading list](#)**



## WHAT DOES LEADERSHIP LOOK LIKE

🔗 We live in a world where Peyton Manning walks off the Super Bowl field without shaking anybody's hand. Where Tiger Woods leaves the Masters without a word of thanks to the fans or congratulations to the winner. Where NFL lineman Albert Haynesworth kicks a man's helmetless head without a thought. So if you think sportsmanship is toast, this next story is an all-you-can-eat buffet to a starving man (*sic*). It happened at a junior varsity girls' softball game in Indianapolis this spring. After an inning and a half, Roncalli was womanhandling inner-city Marshall Community. Marshall pitchers had already walked nine Roncalli batters. The game could've been 50-0 with no problem.

...This was the first softball game in Marshall history. A middle school trying to move up to include grades 6 through 12, Marshall showed up to the game with five balls, two bats, no helmets, no sliding pads, no cleats, 16 players who'd never played before, and a coach who'd never even seen a game. One Marshall player asked, "Which one is first base?" Another: "How do I hold this bat?" They didn't know where to stand in the batter's box. Their coaches had to be shown where the first- and third-base coaching boxes were.

That's when Roncalli did something crazy. It offered to forfeit.

Yes, a team that hadn't lost a game in 2½ years, a team that was going to win in a landslide purposely offered to declare defeat. Why? Because Roncalli wanted to spend the two hours teaching the Marshall girls how to get better, not how to get humiliated.

That's about when the weirdest scene broke out all over the field: Roncalli kids teaching Marshall kids the right batting stance, throwing them soft-toss in the outfield, teaching them how to play catch. They showed them how to put on catching gear, how to pitch, and how to run the bases. Even the umps stuck around to watch.

This is the kind of thing that can backfire with teenagers -- the rich kids taking pity on the inner-city kids kind of thing. Traylor was afraid of it, too.

"One wrong attitude, one babying approach from our players would shut down the Marshall team, who already were down," wrote Traylor. "But our girls made me as proud as I have ever been. ... [By the end], you could tell they were having a blast. The change from the beginning of the game to the end of the practice was amazing."

Roncalli wasn't done. Traylor asked all the parents of his players and anybody else he knew for more help for Marshall -- used bats, gloves, helmets, money for cleats, gloves, sliders, socks and team shirts. They came up with \$2,500 and worked with Marshall on the best way to help the program with that money. Roncalli also connected Marshall with former Bishop Chatard coach Kim Wright, who will advise the program.

"We probably got to some things 10 years quicker than we would have had without Roncalli," says Marshall principal Michael Sullivan.

And that was just the appetizer. A rep from Reebok called Sullivan and said, "What do you need? We'll get it for you." A man who owns an indoor batting cage facility has offered free time in the winter. The Cincinnati Reds are donating good dirt for the new field Marshall will play on.

... Marshall never won a game, but actually had leads in its last three games. In fact, it went so well, the players and their parents asked if they could extend the season, so they're looking to play AAU summer softball.

Just a thought: Major League Baseball is pulling hamstrings trying to figure out how to bring baseball back to the inner city. Maybe it should put the Roncalli and Marshall girls in charge?

*Source: Excerpted from an article by Rick Reilly of ESPN on The Good News Network*

[Read more...](#)

✎ **Kris Coronado** reported recently on another way to contribute. **Penny Proudfoot** was looking for a new way to express herself as she had ruined her camera and started using her children's chalkboard. The chalkboard was what her three children used to advertise the sale of their homegrown produce along the busy street they live on. As the season ended she decided to write a message of her own: "Did you make a difference today?"

"I wanted to make people think," she said. "You wake up in the morning, and all you do is read the newspaper, and there's nothing really good. I just wanted people to drive by and say, 'Oh, my gosh, that's for me today.' "

Soon Proudfoot was writing uplifting or humorous one-liners every other day. It became as routine as feeding the 11 chickens that produce the family's eggs. The stay-at-home mom would throw on a baseball cap before sundown, walk out to the sign and write a message as quickly as possible to avoid being noticed.

"Enjoy what you already have." "Don't eat the yellow snow." "Impossible is only in the dictionary." She estimates she has written more than 200 phrases.

It wasn't long before those reading the board started writing back.

Sitting at her kitchen table, Proudfoot leafs through the cards and notes she has received from strangers since that August day. "This is what keeps me going," she says. "Once this started happening, that's when I knew I wasn't the biggest dork in the world."

"Dear Ms. Motivator, Thank you for the daily message. I drive by every day and really enjoy your board. It makes me laugh or think and appreciate the small pleasures in life. I don't know if anyone else has written, but wanted you to know how much impact you are having."

It didn't stop there. Chalkboard followers started leaving boxes of chalk in the mailbox. Avid reader Debbie Rosenbaum stopped by with cinnamon rolls unannounced on Easter morning. "It did take a little courage, but she was very sweet," recalls the 52-year-old Rosenbaum, who often passes the sign on the way to church with her family. "She actually teared up and said, 'Gosh, no one's ever done anything like this for me before.' It was very touching. I'm glad I stopped."

The chalkboard inspired emergency room crisis counselor Linda Hodges Sthresley, 63, to start a smaller-scale version, writing on note cards, then a miniature chalkboard, at her desk at Chippenham Hospital. "People tell me they enjoy looking at it," she says.

"Penny is saying things to people she doesn't know that a lot of people don't get to hear anywhere else," says the retired police officer. "She's doing what everybody should do: Be nice and encourage other people."

[Read more...](#)



## DID YOU KNOW...

It appears that talking to your mother on the phone can be as soothing as getting a hug from her. Researchers put more than 60 young girls in stressful situations, sending their hearts racing and levels of the stress hormone cortisol soaring. The mothers of one group of girls were available immediately afterwards to offer physical comfort like hugs, while the moms of another group spoke to their daughters on the phone. A third group of girls was simply shown an emotionally-neutral film. Those who talked to their mothers on the phone or received physical comfort showed a reduction in cortisol levels and a rise in oxytocin levels that was not seen in those who watched the film. *Source: LBN Alert*



## HEALTH

The Wall Street Journal reported recently on a new study showing that **lung cancer** is the leading cancer killer of women and that it is on the rise. Researchers are so far unclear of why.

[Read more...](#)

Fifty years ago, the **birth control pill** first came on the market. Planned Parenthood's President, Cecile Richards notes "On this 50th anniversary, it's important to look back and see how far we've come. But the truth is that for many women, FDA approval wasn't enough to make The Pill available. At first, many states allowed sales only to married women. Doctors across the country flat-out refused to prescribe The Pill. And large numbers of women simply couldn't afford any contraception at all.

The laws against prescribing The Pill to single women are thankfully gone now, and we've certainly come very far since 1960. But we still have so much more to do. Even today, pharmacists in many states can refuse to distribute contraception. Health insurance companies can refuse to provide coverage for The Pill. And far, far too many women still can't afford the reproductive health care they need."

This is at the time when the FDA is considering a new French drug that will prevent pregnancy for up to five days after unprotected sex. The drug is currently available in 22 countries but if the political controversy around the RU-486 pill which lasts only 72 hours is any indication, this might also get bogged down in debate for a long time.

Twice as many women today as in the 1970's are ending their childbearing years without having borne a child according to the Pew Research Center. Nonetheless we are going backwards in keeping healthy the women who choose to be pregnant and give birth because twice as many women are dying during pregnancy and birth than 23 years ago. Women's Enews reported that **our maternal mortality rate is rising**. The U.S. rate climbed to 13.3 deaths per 100,000 births in 2006 from 6.6 deaths in 1987, according to Amnesty International. Black, non-Hispanic women were seven times more likely than white, non-Hispanic women to die during pregnancy in New York City. Women 40 years and older were 2.6 times more likely to have a pregnancy-related death. Nearly 80 percent of the women who died had Cesarean sections. The death rate for women with no insurance was nearly four times higher than for insured women, and nearly half of all women who died from pregnancy-related causes were classified as obese.

[Read more ...](#)

☞ Accessibility of abortion remains an extremely problematic issue...In Iowa, however, they seem to have found an extremely creative and tech-savvy solution to this issue: videoconferences.

The *NYT* reports, that from their offices, "doctors ask a woman on the computer screen before him one final question: Are you ready to take your pill?" When the woman responds affirmatively, the doctor can, with a click of his mouse, open a modified cash drawer next to the nurse in the clinic where the woman sits, dispensing RU-486, the pill that will end her pregnancy.

Only Planned Parenthoods in Iowa have begun to use this method, but others have begun to question whether this might be the safest and most effective way to reach women who live in far-off areas where doctors might be unwilling or unable to travel. And this has happened many times in Iowa since 16 clinics began to use the technology in June 2008: over 1,500 such abortions have been performed.

The patient's relationship, in the case of these abortions, is mostly with the nurse, who performs "blood tests, a medical history, an exam, an ultrasound and counseling on matters like what to expect from the procedure and plans for a follow-up exam are completed." These results are then shared with the doctor, with whom the patient and nurse then meet over a private network.

In fact, this procedure seems like a logical and practical solution; the internet is being used for increasingly more personal communications, and it seems that this is simply a way to reach women who might otherwise not be able to access life-changing procedures.

*Excerpted from an article by Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux*  
[Read more...](#)

☞ In the last ten years, rheumatoid arthritis has seen a 50 percent increase in women, jumping from 36.4 per 100,000 in 1995 to 54 per 100,000 in 2005. This translates to an ever-increasing number of women looking for treatment and ways to keep what can be a debilitating condition at bay. Results from a recent U.S study out of Georgetown University indicated that drinking tea raised the risk of RA in post-menopausal women. Researchers studied more than 76,000 women between the ages of 50 and 79 and concluded that consuming tea, in any amount, increased the chances of developing RA by 40 percent, while women who drank more than four cups a day ran an increased risk of 78 percent. Interestingly enough, coffee seemed to have no effect on the development of RA in the study group. *Source: LBN Alert*

☞ Camille Levee, Executive Director of Glendale Healthy Kids writes, "...in the 40's, the average dinner plate size was 9". It is now 12". Could that be one reason for the obesity epidemic?" A question worth pondering as we continue to obey the parental direction to clean our plates.



## WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

☞ **NAMIBIA HIV WOMEN SUE OVER FORCED STERILIZATION:** Three women in Namibia are suing the state for allegedly being sterilized without their informed consent after being diagnosed as HIV positive. The women say the doctors and nurses should have informed them properly about what was happening. The rights group representing them, the Legal Assistance Centre, says it has documented 15 cases of alleged HIV sterilization in hospitals since 2008.



## SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Annual Subscription:** \$15

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Send your check, payable to Fifty-Fifty Leadership to:  
P.O. Box 11202, Glendale, CA 91226

Questions? Call 818-243-2322



## **EVENTS Southern California**

Tell us about events in YOUR area that we can post here.



### **Sundays in July and August**

#### **Kacee**

An evening of great entertainment with singer Kacee and a great cast  
For an evening of vaudeville  
7:30pm Largo at the Coronet  
366 N La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles  
Tickets: \$30 (\$35 at the door)  
[www.yourtownfollies.com](http://www.yourtownfollies.com)



### **Saturday, July 10**

**2:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tea Party**

Shepherd's Door – Helping Domestic Violence Shelters  
Dress up and have some fun  
Hear Allan Pratt, Motivational Speaker and Sunda Coonquist, Comedienne  
Tea Rose Garden  
28 South Raymond Avenue  
Pasadena  
\$45 – must be purchased in advance  
Call Tunisia Offray at 323-762-5468



### **Tuesday, July 20**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Fifty-Fifty Leadership and UNA Pasadena presents**

**Kelly Hayes-Raitt**

**As part of the Coffee Talks series**

\$10

Call or email for reservations  
818-694-0588  
[tickets@5050Leadership.org](mailto:tickets@5050Leadership.org)



## **FINAL WORDS**

A beautiful Independence Day wish from a wonderful artist:

***We have more laughter than the world has problems,  
more hugs than children have giggles  
and more wonder than we can imagine***

**Leigh Adams, Artist, Teacher**



***Members and Subscribers: If you are changing your email address, remember to let us know so you will continue getting the newsletter uninterrupted.  
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