



THE EQUALITY STANDARD

June, 2008

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 or give
us a call at
818.243.2322



Karin Stahre-Janson - first female captain of a major cruise ship. See below

In this issue:

1. In The News
2. Women in Business
3. Positions Available – Oregon
4. First Female Captain of a Major Cruise Ship
5. CA Women's Commission Wants To Hear From YOU
6. Inspiration
7. Scholarships and Fellowships
8. Call for Nominations – CA Women In Business Awards
9. Letters to the Editor
10. Events
11. The Equality Standard Blog
12. Membership – Subscriptions - Tell a Friend
13. Final Words



IN THE NEWS

🌀 *Thanks to Attorney Margalo Ashley-Farrand for the following:*

Better Late Than Never. On May 15th, Congress took the first step toward honoring suffragist Alice Paul with the Congressional Gold Medal. The House of Representatives recognized Alice Paul for her role in winning women's suffrage by passing legislation to award her the Medal. Paul was one of the leading figures responsible for the passage of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote and penned the early version of the Equal Rights Amendment that would enshrine women in the Constitution. This long overdue honor recognizes Alice Paul as one of the great women in history for her work to promote women's rights, freedom and equality. A similar bill will now come before the Senate so that she can posthumously be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

It was only 89 years ago that women had no voting rights, little power, and married women had no separate legal status.

With the help of Paul and her tenacity to do what was right, women now can not only vote, but own homes, run businesses, play sports, be a U.S. senator, or become the first women president.

✍ The **Maryland House Judiciary Committee**--dominated by legislators who were defense attorneys--is the place where good bills go to die, the Washington Post reported May 11.

Bills protecting victims' rights that sailed through the Maryland Senate have been blocked by the House committee, including a bill to revoke paternity rights from accused rapists whose victims had a child. The committee also halted a proposal to revoke guns from accused abusers. Another killed bill would have lengthened the amount of time protective orders can remain in effect; Maryland women who seek protective orders from courts bear the highest burden of proof in the country.

The committee is chaired by Joseph F. Vallario, who angered women's rights activists when he argued against the paternity bill by invoking 17th century English jurist Lord Hale, who said juries should be suspicious of women's claims about rape.

More than 22,000 crimes of domestic violence were reported in Maryland last year, including the murders of 52 women and children.

✍ Congratulations to our own **Ellen Snortland** for receiving the first annual Spirit of Being Human Award in recognition for Ellen's honoring the dignity of the human spirit through her work. Learn more about their organization at www.spiritofbeinghuman.org

✍ **Women Left Out Again.** The rising global demand for biofuel is likely to pass by female farmers, suggests women's enews in reporting on a study by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. This is in good part due to their lack of access to land, capital and technology. Also because women depend on targeted marginal lands for which women more often than men depend on for food, fuel and livestock feed, and because the intensive resource requirements are beyond the reach of farmers who work on less than 10 acres of land.

In Brazil just 11 percent of land is owned by women. In sub-Saharan Africa land is traditionally inherited through the male line. In Cameroon women but own less than 10 percent of the land. In Burkina Faso women cannot own property without the support of a husband or male relative.

In Middle Eastern and North African countries that follow Sharia law, women inherit half of what is allocated to men. South America and Caribbean countries, also have a cultural history of favoring male inheritance.

Without land as collateral, women often face higher interest rates on their loans than men.

Without new funds to support emergency measures, 100 million people could be plunged into hunger, according to the World Food Program's executive director, Josette Sheeran.

✍ *Thanks to Monica Hubbard, Consultant, for letting us know about this:*

Boys vs Girls. A May 20 study from the American Association of University Women concludes that girls do not succeed at the expense of boys and that income disparities rather than gender has a greater impact on educational performance and achievement. The study examines student performance over the past 35 years in 50 states and focused on standardized test scores. Both girls' and boys' performance is improving. The association says the study debunks the "boy's crisis" theory in education and provides a more extensive view of gender equity trends.

<http://www.aauw.org/research/WhereGirlsAre.cfm>

🎶 **Breakthrough in Saudi Arabia.** The Los Angeles Daily News reported recently that a musical quartet, including one woman, staged the first-ever performance of European classical music in a public venue before an audience of women as well as men. The breakthroughs this concert represented were many, including the fact that public music is banned and men and women are segregated everywhere. Families attended together and one 11-year old said, "I was amazed at the sounds coming from the musical instruments, I have never been to alive concert before."



WOMEN IN BUSINESS

🎶 **Legal services** can get expensive, but when you or your business need a lawyer, you need one. It makes so much sense to do something to help lower those legal bills. Pre-Paid Legal is a company that does just that. By paying a small monthly fee you get many services at no charge and others at a reduced rate. A strong feminist and supporter of Fifty-Fifty Leadership offers this service. You can reach Bruce Malter at www.wearererepresented.com or call him at 818-203-3618.

🎶 **Looking for a good investment?** Take a look at the Women's Equity Fund, with \$34 million total net assets, founded in 1993.

Plenty of other funds have added gender-equity criteria to company report cards that also grade companies on factors such as their toll on the environment and safety standards inside their factories.

But the Women's Equity Fund remains the only fund to judge a company's social responsibility solely on its gender practices.

Despite a broad market downturn, this "pure play" in gender-driven investment has been holding up along with the other socially responsible funds. For the year that ended Dec. 31, 2007, for instance, the Women's Equity Fund had total returns of over 10 percent.

During the first quarter of 2008 the fund also weathered an overall decline in the market better than most. It posted an 8.95 percent drop while the Standard and Poor's 500--a broader market measure--was down 9.45 percent.

In October of last year, Catalyst, the New York corporate research group, studied 520 major companies and found that on average companies with the highest percentage of women on their boards of directors outperformed those with the least by 53 percent.

🎶 **Does Your Business Need a Tune-Up?** If your company or non-profit is taking longer than you expected to fulfill its mission; if it's not as profitable as you know it should be; or if there is some other problem you just don't have time for or maybe are not sure how to handle, call The Business Doctor. Pauline Field has over twenty-five years experience working with companies like yours. Call today for a free initial assessment. 818-243-4864



POSITIONS AVAILABLE - OREGON

Job Opportunities at two Oregon Youth Authority locations - MacLearan Youth Correctional Facility and Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility. They are seeking applicants for a Superintendent position at each of the facilities.

Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility is the only secured facility for young women in the state of Oregon,

and can house up to 75 youth.

For more information, www.oregon.gov/OYA and www.oregonjobs.org/DAS/STJOBS/stjobsapplication.shtml

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FIRST FEMALE CAPTAIN OF A MAJOR CRUISE SHIP



l-to-r Pauline Field, Captain Karin, Barry Allen

Barry Allen (a 5050 Leadership Board member) and I just returned from a three-day Baja California cruise and of course, Fifty-Fifty Leadership is always in my mind. We were watching the ship pull away from its moorings in San Pedro and as we were starting to unwind, the Captain was introduced over the PA system to welcome us all aboard and tell us that we were on our way – well, actually I am not sure what she said because when I heard her voice I was so blown away by the fact that the captain was a woman, I didn't hear her words. Needless to say I had to explore further.

Karin Stahre-Janson, Captain of the Monarch of the Seas, one of a fleet of 22 ships of the Royal Caribbean International cruise company, was named Captain in May, 2007 and is the first female Captain of a major cruise ship. As you can see from her brief bio below, she is used to being in a male-dominated environment, having worked on cargo ships prior to moving to cruise ships. The incredible passion she has for the sea and her work is obvious when listening to her so it was no surprise that during the weekend, she was presented with a plaque showing that the ship had been awarded the Best Ship of the Fleet by Royal Caribbean.

Despite having to run her ship, Captain Karin was kind enough to take a few minutes out of her busy schedule to grant me a brief interview:

5050 – What are a couple of things to which you attribute your success?

Captain Karin – Multi-tasking. As you can imagine, there are always many things in front of me to be done on a ship of this size. It has been proven that women are better at that.

June 19, 2008

1:30 to 5:30 PM
Hiram Johnson State Building
Milton Marks Auditorium
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Additional hearings will be held in the following locations:

June 26, 2008

1:30 to 5:30 PM
California Western School of Law
Moot Court Room
225 Cedar Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Deadline to submit testimony sign-up form: June 19, 2008

July 23, 2008

1 to 5 PM
Lewis Library and Technology Center
Steelworkers Auditorium
8437 Sierra Avenue
Fontana, CA 92335

Deadline to submit testimony sign-up form: July 16, 2008

Issues for testimony include, but are not limited to, **human trafficking** reproductive freedom **child support** *title IX* **access to healthcare** childcare **universal healthcare** **financial challenges/education** **domestic violence** *education* **equal pay** Arts **employment discrimination** stalking **sexual assault** hate crimes **child custody** **athletic equity** **disability** spousal support **women in prison** CalWORKs **equal rights amendment** **feminization of poverty** **CEDAW** **teen pregnancy** **women of color** **sexual harassment**

Organizations and individuals are encouraged to participate in the public hearings.

You may fill out the form online by visiting www.women.ca.gov.



INSPIRATION

Thanks to Carolyn Howard-Johnson, Award Winning Author, for sending this link:



If you have ever tried to do something and gave up, or if you are currently faced with something you are not sure you can accomplish, take a couple of minutes to watch this video of Libby Sauter who was determined to do what she set out to do:

[Click Here to watch the video](#)

Want more inspiration? Come to Margaret Shepherd's VisionBuilding event on June 17th. See below under events or call 818-243-2322 for more information



SCHOLARSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

Scholarship

While doing my background research for the story about Captain Karin Stahre-Janson, I discovered the Women's Maritime Association and found that as well as being a resource for women in that industry, they noted scholarships that are available for women interested in careers. Here's their note:

Did you know that there are scholarships available for women who are seeking careers in the maritime industry? The source of this money is The Brier Foundation, created by Pinky Brier. Pinky was a pioneer in the aviation industry and through perseverance and hard work, she made a name for herself and achieved financial success. It was always her desire to help other women who wanted to work in transportation, and in 2004 she set up a foundation to provide scholarships to women in the fields of maritime and aviation. The foundation is managed by her niece, Sandy Pinkert. The foundation is rare in that it recognizes that maritime education is not always college accredited. Although a portion of the money goes to maritime academy students, the Brier Foundation also funds hawsepipers, This is especially timely considering all the new U.S. Coast Guard requirements for training. For more information, visit the Brier foundation web site at www.thebrierfoundation.org, e-mail pinkyflies@thebrierfoundation.org, or call 1-866-746-5913 (1-866-pinky1flies)

For further information also see the Women's Maritime Association at: www.womensmaritimeassoc.com

Fellowship

We are pleased to announce that the Women's Policy Institute (WPI) is now accepting applications for its sixth class of fellows. The only program of its kind in the nation, the vision for the Institute is to increase the number of community-based women leaders in California who are actively involved in shaping and implementing policies that affect the health and well-being of women and girls. The program provides intensive advocacy and leadership training each year for a diverse group of up to 30 California women who are leading non-profit organizations and seek to act as a bridge between the needs of communities and policymakers. In its first five years, the WPI has trained over 130 women, and fellows have helped to pass nine new laws that positively impact women's lives throughout California. Areas of focus for the 2008-2009 program are: economic justice, environmental health & justice, criminal justice, reproductive health & justice, and elder women's issues. The Women's Policy Institute is a program of the Women's Foundation of California.

For more information on the Women's Policy Institute and to download an application, please visit <http://www.womensfoundca.org/wpiapply>

The deadline for applications is June 11, 2008.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR CALIFORNIA WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARDS

Thanks to Brenda Trainor, Telecommunications and IT Consultant for letting us know about this: The Ninth Annual Women in Business Legislative Update & Awards Luncheon will take place at The Castaway Restaurant in Burbank on September 19th. The owners of the Los Angeles Sparks, Carla Christofferson and Kathy Goodman, will be our keynote speakers for this year's event. We request your help to find nominees for this year's event. The awards will honor local women who possess the exceptional qualities that contribute to the economic vitality and diversity of the 21st Senatorial and 43rd

and 44th Assembly Districts. We count on your assistance to find the unique women who make up our nominees.

Women in Business celebrates progress for women businesses and encourages further advancement. Please help us find women business owners who exemplify this leadership. Each nominee must live or work in one of our legislative districts. You can verify the eligibility of a nominee at <http://192.234.213.69/Imapsearch/framepage.asp>.

If you have questions about this process and to get a nomination form and instructions, please call Matthew Dodson at (626) 683-0282.

Senator Jack Scott
21st District

Assemblymember Paul Krekorian
43rd District

Assemblymember Anthony Portantino
44th District



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We were a host family for: Eniko a girl from Hungary 3 years ago. She was wonderful! The sister my daughter Natasa never had. We miss her. They have youth from all over the world ready to be placed for fall. Open your home and hearts. It is a fulfilling family experience. - *Doris Kouyias*

If you or anyone you know would like to be a host family visit the website of Youth for Understanding www.YFU-USA.org, or talk to an Admissions Counselor about study abroad programs at **1.800.TEENAGE**, or talk to a local area representative about hosting and volunteering at **1.866.4YFU.USA**.



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.

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June 5 – 7th

New York City

National Council for Research on Women

Hitting the Ground Running: Research, Activism, and Leadership for a New Era

Thanks to Kelly Hayes-Raitt, travel and human-rights writer for letting us know about this upcoming conference

For more information and to register, please email Jessyca Dudley at jdudley@ncrw.org.

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June 11 – 13th

National Women's History Project

National Networking Conference

Minneapolis, MN

[NWHP Conference Registration for Network Members](#)

[NWHP Conference Registration for Non-Network Members](#)

For more information call: (707) 636-2888

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Friday, June 13th

11:30 a.m.

ERA – 34th Anniversary Luncheon

San Francisco Marriott

Keynote Speaker: Susan Estrich, legal scholar, political analyst, and first woman to run a national presidential campaign

For more information call (415) 575-2395 or email events@equalrights.org. Tickets will be available in early May.

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**Sunday, June 15th
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**

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**Tuesday, June 17th
6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Visionbuilding for Panoramic Success**

YWCA, 735 E Lexington, Glendale, Redwood Room
\$99 – Bring a friend for **Free!**

Call now to reserve your place: 818-243-2322

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**Thursday, June 19th
Sarah Weddington**

Thanks to Monica Hubbard, publisher of Wired Women, for letting us know about this event

She argued Roe v. Wade before the U.S. Supreme Court. Her name, if you've forgotten, is Sarah Weddington, and she'll be in Pasadena on June 19 to speak at a benefit for Planned Parenthood. Call for an invitation and sponsorship opportunities. (626) 794-5737.

For more information and registration call 818.243.2322

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**June 24th – June 26th
Women in Business 2008
Atlanta, Georgia**

Women's Business Enterprise National Council again presents this must not miss business event. Last year it was in Los Angeles and attended by over 2500 people.

Learn about doing business globally at their International Day; meet corporate purchasing agents; network with other women (and men) business owners ... have fun while learning and helping your business to grow

For more information go to <http://www.wbenc.org/wib2008/newsletter/index3.htm>

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**June 26, 2008
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
"School's Out!" Summer Celebration
Staples Center Arena**

City Scholars Presents a Pre-Game Party & Half-Time Salute
for their

**AfterSchool Excellence - Youth Hero Award (ASE-YHA)
2008 Nominees**

SPARKS are sure to fly against the WNBA Washington Mystics at this sizzlin' celebration for City Scholars Foundation® and our 2008 ASE-YHA Nominees. So, mark your calendars and plan to join us and over 7,500 fans!

For ticket and sponsorship information, call (213) 627-1792.

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**Sunday, July 11th
Tea Party
Shepherd's Door
Domestic Violence Resource Center
Tea Rose Garden
Come Out, Dress-Up and Have Fun
For more information call (626) 683-1640**



THE EQUALITY STANDARD BLOG

Check it out: [The Equality Standard Blog](#)



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FINAL WORDS

Rather than a poem or written quote, I invite you to watch this brief video of Severn Cullis-Suzuki, then a young girl whose passion captured the delegates of a UN Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. I was reminded of this speech by Ria Severance, the Executive Development Consultant who advertises in this newsletter, and who shared it with the following words:

This child embodies the courage, commitment it takes to make a difference -- what our hearts all long for. I can't help weeping in the presence of the soul-food her presence is. What we must spend our lives committing ourselves and our time to . . . We have to acknowledge and be proud of this girl, and the parts of us like her that lay dormant, unattended . . . by neglect or self-preoccupation.

She has a life worth living, every day -- a focus and a value system that touch move and inspire her to live fully, every day. She is wealthy beyond measure. She is ours and we are hers. Please share this with everyone you know.



MakethisVideogoarou
ndtheworld.wmv

To see more of what Severn, now in her twenties, is up to, [Click Here](#)



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