



THE EQUALITY STANDARD

June, 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

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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,
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IN THE NEWS



☞ **Justice Sonia Sotomayor** of the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals has been nominated by President Barack Obama for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Consistent with Obama's other cabinet and ambassadorial nominations, Sotomayor is a highly respected mainstream has distinguished herself through her academic ability and

candidate. She professional skills, but not her ideology.

Justice Sotomayor was nominated by President George H.W. Bush to the federal bench in 1991 and later promoted by President Clinton to the federal court of appeals.

She is fifty-four years old and was born in New York to Puerto Rican immigrant parents. She would be the first Latina Supreme Court Justice if confirmed and would join Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg as the second woman currently on the high court.

“I would hope that a wise Latina woman with the richness of her experiences would more often than not reach a better conclusion than a white male who hasn't lived that life.”

🌀 **Alysa Stanton** recently completed rabbinical school and is about to become the first ever black female rabbi. Stanton will be ordained June 6 in Cincinnati and will be Rabbi at a synagogue in North Carolina.



The Reform and Conservative movements of Judaism first began ordaining women in the 1970s and 1980s. But no black woman has been ordained until now.

"I try not to think about it," Stanton said in a telephone interview from Cincinnati this week. "It's daunting. I'm taking it with a sense of awe and reverence. And a healthy dose of fear. "I try not to focus on being the first. I focus on being the best -- the best human being, the best rabbi I can be."

Stanton was born in Cleveland and lived in Cleveland Heights, attending Boulevard Elementary School, until she was 11 when her family, Pentecostal Christians, moved to Denver.

Thanks to Lana Haddad, Feminist, for letting us know about this.

🌀 **Dr. George Tiller** was murdered as he was serving as an usher in his church this morning. For almost two decades Dr. Tiller lived under intense harassment having been shot more than once. Even under these adverse circumstances, Dr. Tiller never wavered in his commitment to providing abortion services and other reproductive health care to women and their families, often in the most difficult and heart-breaking circumstances.



🌀 President Obama has recently appointed Dalia Mogahed to the Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Senior analyst and executive director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, Mogahed has worked to dispel stereotypes and misconceptions about Muslims and Islam. She recently co-authored the book *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think* with Islamic Studies professor John L. Esposito.



With regard to her new position, she believes, "I see my role as offering the voices of the silenced majority of Muslims in America and around the world to the council so that our deliberations are informed by their ideas and wisdom. I believe that I was chosen because the administration cares about what Muslims think and wants to listen."

🌀 On May 18th, the Los Angeles City Council approved the funding to eliminate the backlog of untested rape kits and will hold the LAPD accountable for spending this money on this. *Thanks to Lindsey Horvath, President of Hollywood NOW and newly appointed West Hollywood City Council Member, for letting us know about this – and for being a prime mover in making this happen.*



WOMEN IN BUSINESS

🌀 **Ursula Burns** was named Chief Executive Officer of Xerox Corporation last month. Current CEO Anne Mulcahy will retire July 1st. How often do we see this? A woman CEO of a major corporation, succeeded by another woman. Because there are so few women in such top level executive positions, those that manage to get there do not always reach down and help the next woman up. Bravo to Ms. Burns and bravo to Ms. Mulcahy for not forgetting those of us trying to reach up. Ms. Burns is the first African American woman to head a Fortune 500 company.



🌀 **Have knowledge to share?** A women's resource directory called 800Muses.com launches June 8th. You will have a chance to network with another 799 amazing women (we plan to launch with 100

Muses, adding 700 by year's end). Complete details are at the site, and a muse profile intake form is available there as well: <http://www.800Muses.com>.

Thanks to award-winning author, Carolyn Howard-Johnson for sharing this with us
The National Women's Business Owners Corporation is making an outstanding opportunity available--at no cost--to Women Business Enterprises (WBEs) who want to increase their exposure to public and private buyers across the country. NWBOC has launched a website for all women business owners.

Join over 3000 women business owners from across the countries who have registered since the Marketplace was launched. If this describes your company, please go to

<https://nwboe.economicengine.com>

Click on "Sign Up Now – WBE" on the left hand side menu. It takes only 5-10 minutes to get register your company.

If you have any question about the site or registration, please call NWBOC customer support at 1-866-526-9266. We are available from 8am Eastern to 5pm Pacific.

Questions about the NWBOC Certification process, Call 1-800-675-5066, or visit www.nwboc.org
Thanks to Elaine Lyles of Harmone Consulting for letting us know about this opportunity



FREE TRUCK DRIVING CLASSES FOR WOMEN

**The Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women in partnership with the
Department of Transportation (DOT) presents**

ATTENTION WOMEN:

Improve Your Marketability In Workforce With A Class B License!

**When: June 16 through July 16, 2009. Every Tuesday and Thursday from
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (including lunch break)**



**Where: 1016 N. Mission Rd., Building B. Los Angeles, CA 90012
(Downtown LA)**

**Benefits: Participants will earn a Class B license which will enable them
to drive trucks, buses, farm labor vehicles, trailers under 45 feet and
any vehicle weighing over 26,000 pounds (11,793 kg).**

RSVP by June 10, 2009 by 5:00pm

To sign-up or to obtain more information, please contact Rayshell Chambers at
(213) 978-0300 or via email at rayshell.chambers@lacity.org.

Sign Up Now! Space is Limited

Click below for FREE Truck Driving Class flyer:

http://simplesend.com/simple/uploadedimages/000370/2009-05_Truck_Driving.pdf

This event is a part of the Commission's *Women in the Workforce* initiative, which aims to increase the number of women in the workforce through collaborations among city departments, labor unions and community-based organizations.

Please Note: All Are Welcome To Attend!

Thanks to T. Julie Mairs for letting us know about this class

🌀 **Connie Sparks** means business. Her program, *Meeting of the Minds*, will help you create the perfect model to achieve growth in the areas of productivity, finance, and marketing. This unique program was personally designed for professionals, business owners, and managers alike. She recognized the need for growth and continuity in the small business community and workplace and created a tier modeling system to be used at any level. The only requirement-commitment, accountability, and high expectations for success. Find out more. Call Connie at 661 208-8229. www.wadeinstitute.org



OUR CULTURE: HOW IT AFFECTS MEN

🌀 Consider these recent headlines:

"Teen Escapes as Father Kills Family" (in Florida)

"Maryland Town Anguished, Baffled After Man Kills Wife, Three Children and Self"

"Four Dead in Baltimore Hotel"

"Police Continue Probe into Murder-Suicide of Wilmington Family" (California)

"Despondent Dads Driven to Kill Loved Ones" (California, Washington, Maryland)

Until recently, cases of a parent killing his or her whole family were extremely rare. According to Kristen Rand, legislative director of the Washington, D.C.-based think tank Violence Policy Center, these cases "were so rare we didn't bother to count them as a separate category."

But 2007 saw several such cases, in which fathers were usually the killers. In Alabama, one father threw his children off a bridge; in New Jersey, a man drowned his daughters, then hanged himself; and a California man shot his wife and two daughters in a parked car before turning the gun on himself. Over the next two years such mass killings have escalated.

This excerpt from the Womens ENews points to a growing problem with the male imperative designed into our culture. "A precipitating crisis and the failure of the man to call out for help." Is what the writer points to as a major contributing factor in all of these cases.

How are we training our children? Our boys? What are we expecting of our men? With the economic downturn and many men losing their jobs and unable to keep their family home and provide for their family, they feel that they have no value as a human being and when they turn to violence, it is against women and children.

"We must examine this culture that defines what it means to be a "real man" in our society and that produces men who react to personal crisis with such premeditated violence against the women and children in their lives."

[To read the whole article, Click Here](#)

🌀 **And its not just in the U.S.:** In there's a rape simulator game RapeLay, which is produced and sold in Japan, including through Amazon Japan. The aim of RapeLay is for the player to manipulate the game in order to simulate raping a woman and her two school-aged daughters, one of whom appears to be a young child. Equality Now is calling for the withdrawal from sale in Japan of all games that involve rape, stalking or other forms of sexual violence against women and girls. Equality Now is also urging the Japanese government to take effective measures to overcome negative stereotypical sex-discriminatory attitudes and practices that hinder women's equality.

🌀 **Jackson Katz, author of *The Macho Paradox***, is one of America's leading anti-sexist male activists. An educator, author and filmmaker, he is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in the field of gender



violence prevention education with men and boys, particularly in the sports culture and the military. We recently featured a review of his book, which can be seen [Here](#)

As he pointed out to a mixed crowd at Cal Tech University recently, men tune out when they hear about “gender” issues; they think it does not apply to them.

Violence is not a gender issue. It is a violence issue, and it is a male issue. Men commit acts of violence. All men can help, and he works tirelessly to get that word out, particularly speaking to and training men in sports and the military – two very “macho” environments. [Buy Macho Paradox now!](#)

Mr. Katz referred us to a new report on a study just completed,

Engaging Men in Gender Initiatives: What Change Agents Need to Know

Author: Jeanine Prime and Corinne A. Moss-Racusin, May, 2009

Catalyst, the premier research company studying women’s status in the workplace, believes that men have a critical role to play in diversity and inclusion efforts, especially initiatives to eliminate gender bias. Yet too often men are an untapped resource in such gender initiatives. To address this gap, Catalyst has embarked on a new series of research called *Engaging Men in Gender Initiatives*, which offers evidence-based advice about the most effective ways to partner with men in ending gender inequalities at work.

The study findings supported the view that before individuals will support efforts to right an inequality they must first recognize that the inequality exists. Men who were more aware of gender bias were more likely to say that it was important to them to achieve gender equality. Other findings revealed three key factors that predicted men’s awareness of gender bias: 1) defiance of certain masculine norms, 2) the presence or absence of women mentors, and 3) a sense of fair play. Of those three factors, having a strong sense of fair play, defined as a strong commitment to the ideals of fairness, was what also best differentiated men who actively championed gender equality from those who were not similarly engaged. Lastly, interview findings revealed three key barriers that could undermine men’s support for initiatives to end gender bias: apathy, fear, and ignorance about gender issues.



STUDENTS ACTIVE FOR ENDING RAPE

Excerpts of An Interview with Margaret Mikkelsen, Executive Director of S.A.F.E.R.

by Jennifer Lauren, Fifty-Fifty Volunteer and Master’s Degree student

Q. How did you come to work on raising awareness about rape, did you work on other issues or in other fields prior to working with SAFER?

I worked on this issue in college, and again during graduate school. I've also worked in the fields of education reform and maternity care policy.

Q. Is the main goal of Students Active for Ending Rape to raise awareness amongst youth, or is it also to change school policies that do not address this issue? Please share what you see as the agenda of this organization.

The main goal of SAFER is to have every college implement effective sexual assault policies. We work toward our goal by helping students build campus reform movements. Awareness-raising is part of our work, certainly, but policy reform is really the heart of it.

Q. Is there a goal to reach out and educate men and boys about rape, and not just women and girls? If so, how does the educational campaign that is designed to reach males differ from the one that targets women and girls?

Since we're not an education organization, we don't do work that is specifically designed to educate men and boys. All our work is designed to help the activist, of any gender, who wants to make a difference on his or her campus. We do include some advice for men who are working in these movements who may not be aware of the privilege they bring to the table as men.

Q. What do you find is the most looming or most often encountered impediment in creating change in faulty school policies, and also changing mindsets?

There are so many, it's hard to pick! Victim-blaming culture is a huge one. It makes people feel safe and unaccountable if they can blame sexual assault on victims. Then they feel it won't happen to them, because they won't do whatever the victim did to "deserve" the assault, and they don't have to step up and take a stand against violence in their communities. Taking that first step, of saying no one "asks" to be assaulted, and admitting that the larger community has a role to play in stopping sexual violence, is a big first step, but it's a necessary one.

8. On the SAFER website, students, concerned citizens and burgeoning activists can download a manual "Change Happens: A Guide to Reforming Your Campus Sexual Assault Policy." There is also a SAFER campus activist mentoring program and workshops. Can you speak about how you see the college landscape today in regard to activism, and in particular activism on this issue. Do you feel a difference in climate between activists of this current generation with those of past years?

Well, I'm really too young to comment on past generations! I graduated from college in the late 90s, and there was certainly a fair bit of campus activism going on. However, we weren't very sophisticated or organized. I think student activists today are very media-aware, and have access to amazing organizing training and tools. Different campus movements struggle with different things. Some with issues of diversity and privilege, others with a lack of clear goals or targets, some are co-opted too easily by administrators. But overall, I'm always impressed with the college activists I meet.

Q. Recently, on March 18, 2009, The New York Times published an article, "Teenage Girls Stand by Their Man" in which the writer Jan Hoffman found that the female high school students in the New York City school she interviewed largely sympathized with the singer Chris Brown who, as widely publicized, was arrested for domestic violence against his girlfriend. They also seem to blame the victim, singer Rihanna. The article goes on to discuss how their response is in keeping with the learned social signals we are taught as girls, that "What really matters is that we don't destroy boys." How does an organization like SAFER confront these problematic social signals?

We have to always be talking about these issues, confronting them, asking hard questions, challenging each other. We do a lot of this on our blog, and also in trainings with students.

Q. Rape is difficult for many to speak about, yet it continues to happen and must be dealt with. Are you optimistic or concerned about the current discussion going on now about what needs to be done about rape? Are you confident we are on the right path in confronting this issue and the more subtle social signals Hoffman talks about in her article?

Honestly, it depends on the day of the week. When I watch television, often I'm horrified. For example, we're big American Idol fans in my house. But when Ryan Seacrest referred to a group of female dancers as a male performer's harem, I was so angry. But then when I see a great article about sexual violence in a student newspaper, I'm hopeful. I guess I wouldn't do this work if I didn't believe we had a chance of winning!

Q. What is one thing that the readers of Fifty-Fifty Leadership and The Equality Standard can do to raise awareness about this issue?

Speak up. Speak up when you see an ad that equates sexual violence with sex. Speak up when your kids are headed to college. Speak up when you learn an abstinence-only sex ed class is perpetuating traditional gender norms. Speak up when you hear someone blame a victim for being assaulted. Speak up when you hear someone excuse someone for committing assault. Call your alma mater, find out what they're doing about sexual violence. Withhold your money if they aren't doing enough. I guess that was more than one thing!

To read the whole interview: [Click Here](#)

Jennifer Lauren is a writer and researcher based in New York City. She represents the NGO Globe Aware at the United Nations, and has worked with organizations such as Open Society Institute on research projects related to human rights and international law. She has worked as a grant writer for the development of several local and international projects.



A PLEA FOR HELP

I recently received an email asking for support for Silva Harotonian (www.freesilva.org), a woman who is being held in an Iranian jail and appears to have been wrongly detained and sentenced.

Another woman, [Roxana Saberi](#) was released from Iran's Evin Prison, to the relief of her family, friends and supporters. In responding to pleas for mercy, Iranian authorities suspended Roxana's sentence and have ended her difficult ordeal.

As her supporters celebrate Roxana's freedom, Silva's cousin implores us to please remember her cousin Silva, who is still imprisoned in Iran. Silva also is being held in Evin Prison on charges of fostering a "soft revolution."

I am passing on this request to forward this information and a link to their Web site (www.freesilva.org) to join in their [appeal](#) and strengthen their collective voice. Do visit the website and consider helping any way you can.



READING MATERIAL



☞ I had the distinct pleasure of hearing **Riane Eisler**, pictured, speak recently on her new book, **The Real Wealth of Nations** recently.

Ms. Eisler is slight, and a package of energy bursting at the seams. She has written many books, the most famous of which is *The Chalice and The Blade*.

In her new book, which I am in the middle of reading, she suggests that it is critical that we create a "Caring Economics" – caring for ourselves, others and the planet while we do what we do.

If you have not read any of her books and if you in any way are making a difference or want to make a difference for our world, pick up this book. [Buy It Now!](#)



🌀 *Paula Constantino of 1,000 Women Can Change The World told us about this book:*

The book inside may have been **small in size** but its impact was **tremendous – so colorful both in its whimsical illustrations and heart-warming messages!** It made my heart sing at a time when it needed it the most.

In this time of economic and other stress – we all need to take a bit of time out of our to day to enjoy who we are – **The Lovely Book** is the perfect tonic to brighten our day – to open our hearts to feel good about who we are – to remind us how the little things in our lives can bring us joy.

Wondering how Lehla came to the write this delightful book... it came to her in a flash as her three little ones were tugging on her weary body – she went to work on a big colorful canvas with positive words – then transformed it into this amazing book. In her own words...

“There are lots of demands on women, and I think that women put a lot of demands on themselves. So this book is for all the wonderful women out there who need a breather and want to stop and laugh and remember what makes them happy.”

To uplift your spirit – visit Lehla’s whimsical website at <http://www.lovelybooks.co.za> – when you buy her book and mention “1000 Women” 10% is donated to empowering our life-enhancing initiative at <http://1000womencanchangetheworld.org> –

Pamper yourself while doing good!



WOMEN’S HEALTH

Mastectomy Bill – In March, 2009 this bill, which will require insurance companies to cover a minimum 48 hours in hospital for recovery from a mastectomy, was introduced for the SIXTH time. It is in committee in both the House and the Senate. Please write to your elected representatives and urge them to vote for this important legislation.

Thanks to Ria Severance, Licensed Psychotherapist, Karen Kalensky, Actress Extraordinaire, and Beryl Stoker for letting us know about this legislation



Miracles in Mexico: Liga International’s Flying Doctors of Mercy By Maia Mosse

Maia Mosse has been a Volunteer with Fifty-Fifty Leadership for several years

The ophthalmologist begins operating on the old woman’s bulging eye to remove her cataract and insert a new, synthetic lens. Her bravery is moving: she is awake for the procedure and surrenders to the surgeon, a



stranger unable to speak her language. She grips my hand; I stroke hers reassuringly, translating and talking her through the surgery in Spanish. I witness the bestowing of sight on this woman, blinded by cataracts moments earlier.

She and 500 others have traveled many miles, many on foot, to await free treatment at the clinic. In Mexico, only employed residents who contribute to the state social security system have healthcare; the unemployed are out of luck. After several hours, even days of waiting in the heat of San Blas, Mexico, these patients receive care from the American medical team volunteers organized by Liga International. At the end of a long day of waiting, patient Edna Guadalupe explains in Spanish: "It's worth traveling the distance and waiting – it is the only help for those of us who have no resources."

Like many patients, Edna Guadalupe discovered Liga listening to the radio. She heard how Liga flies American volunteers the first weekend of every month October through June to staff three



clinics in Sinaloa, Mexico, a remote sliver along the mainland coast. She learned that Liga provides medical care for a wide array of conditions, from a cough to extra toe removals. Other patients found out about Liga through family and friends whose lives have been transformed by the medical work.

That was how a 3-year-old boy came to be on the operating table for oral surgery for an extra flap of thick skin tethering his tongue to the bottom of his

mouth. Post-surgery, he looked up adoringly at his mother, pleased he could speak and laugh freely.

The team of volunteers includes a compassionate group of doctors, dentists, nurses, medical and dental students, engineers and construction specialists, pilots and Spanish-English translators (including non-professional translators), eighteen years of age and older. Some volunteers are veterans, like Dr. Richard Lepird, a retired surgeon who regularly travels with Liga. Dr. Lepird remains inspired by Liga because "they are doing a tremendous job of providing a full spectrum of medical specialties to populations without access to this level of medical treatment."

Alongside veteran volunteers, new waves of volunteers eagerly sign up to staff the Mexican clinics. Competitive medical programs from some of the United States' most prestigious universities, including University of California, Los Angeles, provide scholarships based on merit to students eager to gain an array of hands-on medical experience, while being of service.

With plans to study dentistry, undergraduate Adam Sims appreciated the opportunity and encouraged other undergraduates to apply for Liga's coveted volunteer positions: "It's something that you won't experience anywhere in the States – you have to come here to see and experience it."

As an eighteen year-old, bilingual high school senior, I applied and was granted the opportunity to translate, while observing surgeries and comforting distressed patients. Translating allowed me to meaningfully engage people outside my usual realm of experience, while making a difference and observing medical practice, first hand.

The first time I witnessed cataract surgery, I was mesmerized by the surgeon's fine motor skills and the

quick healing nature of the eye as an immune privilege zone. Next I intently watched tumor removals and hernia repairs, noting the precise incision stitching of inner layers of skin to avert scarring.

Healing and crafting, two of my interests, converged to change lives. I credit my two trips to San Blas with my current desire to become a surgeon.

In the fall of 2009, I will pursue Biology and English at Stanford University, where I will continue to recruit resources to train local women to provide basic health care to villagers and to train others, while building a much needed women's clinic. Ultimately, Liga's Executive Director Jim Ott said, "We know it will take time, but one serious dream we are committed to is the construction of



a women's clinic that would cater to all the special medical needs of women in the area. We already have a mammography unit; we even have plans drawn up! The project will take a half a million dollars, more money than Liga has ever spent on anything in its history." Although Liga fundraises to help cover and reduce costs, monetary donations are running dry in the current economic crisis. Nevertheless, Ott said Liga is committed to raising the money slowly and steadily. I think to myself: it only takes one dollar from 500,000 people! We can do this!

Since Liga began trips in 1934, American volunteers have worked closely with local volunteers, who collaborate in all tasks, including medical care, building maintenance, and cooking to keep the entire volunteer staff going. Local volunteer Aracely Armenta explained in Spanish, "The American doctors who volunteer share generously their techniques and training with local doctors, who similarly donate their services when Liga's doctors are in San Blas. In fact, doctors who specialize in heart surgery from the world-renown Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles fly to the Obregon clinic to teach our local doctors heart surgical procedures."

Liga does not merely give aid – it empowers communities to function semi-independently. Another local volunteer, Maria Garxiola, describes in Spanish the general local reaction to Liga as, "Welcoming and invested in Liga's development." Liga's ongoing success is dependent on the care with which local volunteers and community members have been included as personal stakeholders in Liga's projects, at every level.

Liga's success is also colored by a remarkable administrative ability to keep overhead costs down while providing care so personalized and extensive that it merited a featured segment on CBS News. When asked to reveal the secret of Liga's success, Ott says, "virtually everybody is a volunteer and all medicines and supplies are donated. The last time we did an audit, we determined we provided over 7.5 million dollars in services."

For twenty-seven years as Clinic Coordinator of San Blas, Jacki Hanson, coincidentally a Stanford University graduate, has built the San Blas clinic from a plot of bare ground to a two story facility complete with dormitories and a kitchen for visiting medical teams, as well as a pharmacy, dental room, operating rooms, and twelve separate consulting offices for doctors to see patients. Ms. Hanson has watched Liga evolve: "When we started, we were working in a church and we'd see fifty people a day. Now we regularly see between three and five hundred!" Ms. Hanson said she measures her success "one life at a time," making miracles out of what some patients may consider untreatable punishments from God, such as the easily treatable skin disease called ulcerated venous stases.



As I walked an elderly cataract patient to her chair, she turned to me and squeezed my face between her hands, kissing my cheek: "Bendita Sea" – "Blessed be." I return the kiss to her cheek, as is the custom, and I am truly blessed.

Join Liga to empower communities and transform the quality of life for thousands! We will build the Women's Clinic fifty cents at a time. If one million people give even fifty cents to Liga by credit card the Women's Clinic will be a reality. Just visit the following link, ligainternational.org/Web/Liga/Pages/Donations.asp and direct your tax deductible donation by writing "Women's Clinic" under "Purpose." Please consider donating and emailing this link to at least three friends, asking each to donate fifty cents and to e-mail the link to three more friends. No donation is too small. With your help, we can easily reach our goal in six months! My personal dream is that the clinic will be a place to train, employ and empower local women to provide health care for other women, creating an ongoing cycle of support for women in the area.

Liga also request donations of supplies and equipment. If you are a either a concerned citizen, physician or medical professional who may be able to donate supplies, please consider the following: Newer medicines offered as physician samples are still needed as well as many ordinary medications that physicians no longer receive as samples. Liga welcomes donations of common medicines, medical supplies and equipment, including but not limited to toothbrushes, aspirin, vitamins, antifungal creams, simple antibiotics (e.g. Amoxicillin), anti-depressants (e.g. Tegretal), pain-killers or anti-inflammatory medications (e.g. Tylenol), blood pressure monitors, c-arms, walkers, wheelchairs.

To learn more about Liga and offer donations of money, supplies, equipment and your time, visit ligainternational.org, or contact Liga at either LIGA@ligainternational.org or (909) 875-6300. For check donations, please indicate "Women's Clinic" in the "memo" space to direct your donation to that project, and mail to: 1464 North Fitzgerald, Hanger 2, Rialto, CA 92376. Contact the author, Maia Mosse from Pasadena, California at (626) 487 6797 or mmosse@stanford.edu.

Did you know?????

Kids who watch TV more than 2 hours a day are twice as likely to develop asthma as those who watch less? So says a study by researchers in Britain who tracked more than 3000 children. According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, asthma is most the common serious disease of children, and one theory states that reduced exposure to germs affects development of kids immune systems. So get the kids off the couch and out into action!

Thanks to Camille Levee of Glendale Healthy Kids for this information



WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

☞ India, with its growing economy and young workforce (the median age of India's 422 million workers is 25), is projected to become the world's third-largest economy by 2035. In point, 34 Indian companies were already listed in the Forbes Global 2000 ranking in 2008. However, India is facing a sizable shortage of talented workers that will threaten its own growth and the success of multinational companies reliant on young Indian talent. Here's why:

- India's literacy rate is less than 60% (the rate in the U.S. is 99% by comparison)
- Less than 12% of India's workforce has a college degree
- 50% of India's working women will opt out of the workforce by the age of 30

☞ 60 million girls around the world are married before the age of 17 — many to men twice their age or older. They need our help. Please, ask your member of Congress to help prevent child marriage by co-sponsoring the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2009. CARE helps you send that e-mail to your Congressperson here:

<https://my.care.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=361>

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



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Leadership Circle Scholarships: \$50

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P.O. Box 11202, Glendale, CA 91226

Questions? Call 818-243-2322



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.



**Monday, June 8
11:30 to 1:30
Verdugo Hills BPW
at Dream Dinners
4121 Pennsylvania Ave, Unit F
La Crescenta, CA 91214**

**RSVP: By June 5th to
Judee Carrico 818-249-5489 or bjbkarr@yahoo.com**

**or
Julia Rabago 818-903-0661 or juliarabago@sbcglobal.net**

Members: \$15 Guests: \$20

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**June 9 – June 11  
San Francisco**

**Women in Business 2009: The Bridge to Quality**

With **over 2,000 attendees** expected from across the country brings together Women Business Enterprise owners, senior corporate executives, supplier diversity and procurement professionals, leaders of government, community and national business organizations for networking events, Symposiums, workshops, an international track, and the nation's largest Business Fair (about 400 exhibitors) especially for women business owners. What makes this Business Fair so unique is the corporate supplier diversity and procurement professionals are waiting in a booth just to meet you and to hear about your company!

**You can find out more about Women in Business at these links:**

**[www.wbenc.org/wib2009](http://www.wbenc.org/wib2009) - registration & information**

**[www.astrawba.org/wib\\_2009](http://www.astrawba.org/wib_2009) - Host Committee & SF info site**

**[www.myspace.com/womeninbusiness](http://www.myspace.com/womeninbusiness) - Blog, videos, pre-conference events, and updates**

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**Thursday, June 11
2009 Summer Women's Leadership & Mentoring Alliance (WLMA) West Coast Event
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Featuring Keynote Speaker: Jessica Weiner

Jess is the Chief Creative Officer for Talk to Jess, LLC, a media company dedicated to creating a nation of confident women and girls.

If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact Angela Sabbe from Navigant Consulting at asabbe@navigantconsulting.com or 213.670.3230.

Where:

**Office of Navigant Consulting, Inc.
300 S. Grand Avenue, 29th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071**

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**Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>  
Quick On-Site Photo Session with Lesley Bohm  
at Dr. Cindy Brown's Cinderella System Event!!**

Your image can be used for:

**Your Business Website**

**Facebook/Twitter**

**Online dating sites**

**Online Social Networking**

You'll need to be CAMERA READY. This means:

- Hair and Makeup done (light and pretty)
- Nice outfit (solid colors are best) upscale casual or nice business.

You will get a quick one look photo session with Lesley and an online proof sheet with One final retouched image emailed to you - ready to use!

**This One-Look quick session will be *only* \$197.**

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**Saturday, June 13, 2009
7:00 PM - Midnight
KIDSAVE's 10th Anniversary Celebration**



Featuring Celebrity Host, Access
Hollywood's Nancy O'Dell
House of Blues, Sunset Strip
Entertainment by Super Diamond

All proceeds go to support Kidsave programs.
Elise Martinet at (310) 479-5437
or email her at elise@kidsave.org



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Want to get word out about your business? Advertising in The Equality Standard will get your information in front of over 2,000 viewers – and more. Our readers are women and men of all ages and varied interests. To learn more and discuss if this indeed would be a good marketing tool for you, please call 818.243.2322 or email us at info@5050Leadership.org



FINAL WORDS

Elaine Partnow, the editor of "The Quotable Woman: The First 5,000 Years," has chosen six quotes from Ellen Snortland of Fifty-Fifty Leadership to be in her next edition. Here are the quotes she chose:

[My dog is] faithful, loving, valuable, warm, nurturing, intelligent, affectionate, and capable of ripping someone who attacks me or my loved ones to ribbons. She's a bitch and, except for the way she drools and sheds, I want to be just like her. "Unfurl Your Bitch Flag," Beauty Bites Beast: Awakening the Warrior Within Women and Girls 2001

Santa is so old hat. A Madison avenue puppet, he's also sexist, racist, runs a male-only sweatshop, abuses reindeer, ignores borders with impunity and is a poster child for gluttony. Is there anything admirable about him? For goodness' sake, he's a break-and-enter artist, which at the very least must be an impeachable offense. "Impeach Santa!" Pasadena Weekly 20 December 2007

This country does not take kindly to liberals, remember? They actually get shot and killed if you'll recall our pantheon of assassinated leaders. Not a conservative among them. "A Delicate Balance," Ibid. 17 January 2008

"Y" is for the Y chromosome. Hmm. Why indeed? "Eliot's Alphabet," Ibid. 2 March 2008

I assert that if and when the females of our species could learn how-to stop violence WHILE it's happening to them, we'd see a transformation of women's potential and participation in problem-solving on the planet within a remarkably short amount of time. The adage "Think Globally, Act Locally" is perfect. There is nothing more local than one's body, and if a critical mass of women could protect their own bodies, the globe would benefit. "My Unlikely Life Mission, Self-defense as Physical Literacy," Women's International Perspective April 2008

I realized when I was 10 that there was no rehearsal for courage. Now That She's Gone: Unraveling the Mystery of My Mother (play) 2008



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