



THE EQUALITY STANDARD

May, 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



Pictures of Afghan women. Story **In the News** below

In this issue:
Click on the item to jump to it

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

1. [In The News](#)
2. [C.E.D.A.W.](#)
3. [Career Workshops at Women at Work](#)
4. [Women in Business](#)
5. [History of Mother's Day](#)
6. [Nominations for Great Women](#)
7. [Women in Science & Engineering](#)
8. [Letters to the Editor](#)
9. [Reading Material](#)
10. [Statistics on Women](#)
11. [Subscriptions](#)
12. [Events](#)
13. [Advertising In The Equality Standard](#)
14. [Final Words](#)



IN THE NEWS

☞ On April 15, hundreds of brave women took to the streets of Kabul. They were protesting a law passed last month by the elected government of Afghanistan that gives Shiite men the right to demand sex from their wives once every four days — essentially legalizing the marital rape of Shiite women.

So these 300 courageous women exercised their right to protest this barbaric law. And they were met with over 1,000 counter-protesters, some of whom threw stones at them, spat at them and called them whores. *Thanks to Mabel Liota, Massage Therapist for this item*

And more on this from award-winning author, Carolyn Howard-Johnson:

Blog: MRS. LIEUTENANT: A SHARON GOLD NOVEL

Post: New Afghan Law Makes It Legal for Husbands to Rape Their Wives

Link: <http://mrsliutenant.blogspot.com/2009/04/new-afghan-law-makes-it-legal-for.html>

🦋 Hermosa Beach -- Police say a woman in her 20s avoided abduction today by punching one of three suspects who pulled up alongside her van.

The alleged kidnapping attempt occurred on Fourth Street near the woman's home at about 2:00 Monday afternoon.

Police say the van pulled alongside the woman and the men in the van asked for directions. As the victim approached the van to give directions, the van door swung open, and one of the suspects tried to physically pull the victim into the van.

The victim said she saw ropes inside the van. She fought back, and was able to escape from the suspects grasp. The victim fled the area and called police. The van was last seen fleeing the area in an unknown direction. This item, which was on KTLA News on April 6th, was sent to us by Nelson Nio of Shield Self Defense. *As we have mentioned in The Equality Standard before, it is so essential for women and girls to learn how to defend ourselves – starting with the verbal defense of shouting, something we are not generally taught its ok to do. Ellen Snortland, international advocate on women's self-defense, has not only written the book, Beauty Bites Beast which is now in three languages but speaks and advocates that as women and girls we must be taught how to defend ourselves. We can lower the assault, rape and even domestic violence if we know how to defend ourselves – and if men know we know.*

*Paula Constantino of 1000 Women Can Change the World reports that according to a U.N. study, **In the USA a woman is battered, usually by her husband/partner, every 15 seconds (UN Study)***

This is what one of our members said after taking just the first session of an Impact Personal Safety class recently:

“The first time I was attacked today from behind by this HUGE guy, the tears came, but I don't think it's just fear. I think it's the instant loss of attachment and affinity to the significant men in my life -- the isolation and blame that go with choosing my well-being, and not someone else's, especially theirs, first. I am so eager to do this work, internally, as well -- to have whatever's there, come up.

I know that without a doubt I can be fierce on behalf of a friend, my children, even a stranger being bullied -- I have done it, repeatedly. I was brave, did what there was to do, and kept people safe -- the tears didn't come until after the ordeals were over. But there is no "body memory" as they call it in the class, of really going all out on *my own behalf* and not stopping until the fr is out of commission. We're not just supposed to look around us to break the tunnel vision imposed by the adrenaline -- we're supposed to assess whether the assailant is really out of commission, and we don't stop until he is.

There is a freeze that I've been socialized to heed. I am so hungry for my body memory to be on my side. What occurred to me after class was that there is no homework. They are trusting the training and my body to get enough experience to just KNOW what to do. They are trusting my body. I must trust my body, my Self to take care of me, just because once it's learned, it just will. That's HUGE!!

I left a message asking about the graduation date. I can see how critical it is for my friends, for our daughters to feel that right, in their bodies, to protect themselves in any way they can. I want my body to be on my side. Because it's a more intimate relationship, and there is more to lose as far as "my body" is concerned, I still freeze up when my ex even starts talking, sometimes. It's as if my IQ drops out from under me. I'm not there for myself! Only when I've had some distance do I know *how or that* I have been "hit." Also, I've had some mild form of depression probably most of my life. I knew for all the clients I have sent to do this class, that the class would be life-changing. To the extent that depression is suppressed anger and pain, I know this is one way to access the suppressed anger and rage about the heart-breaking betrayals -- self-inflicted, learned, and otherwise.”

I will be going to this graduation. Anyone who would like to see for themselves what a full, frontal impact self defense class looks like, do come on Sunday, May 31st at 10:30 a.m. 8535 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood. Call 310-360-1096 for details

🌸 Laws against domestic violence are only as effective as the judicial systems that enforce them. The new **Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School**, funded with a \$1.5 million grant from the Avon Foundation for Women, will help improve the judiciary's understanding of laws protecting women around the world.

Starting in the fall, the center will work with judges, legal professionals and governmental and nongovernmental organizations to improve access to justice, in an effort to eliminate violence against women and girls. Its main initiatives will include intensive legal clinical projects, providing legal research for judges, hosting conferences and events, and maintaining an extensive online library of relevant laws, articles and reports. The center also will serve as a forum for judges and legal practitioners to share ideas and strategies on the role of the justice system in facilitating access to justice for women victims of violence.



Participants in the March 3 Avon Foundation for Women press conference are, from left, Barbara Holden-Smith, vice dean of Cornell Law School; Andrea Jung, Avon chairman and CEO; Reese Witherspoon, Avon global ambassador; and Joan Winship, executive director, International Association of Women Judges.

🌸 Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius



won U.S. Senate confirmation on April 28 to serve as the nation's health and human services secretary filling the final seat in President Obama's Cabinet on the eve of his 100th day in office. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.), who is leading the Senate's health-care reform effort, cited Sebelius's success in a Republican state (She is a Democrat) as vital experience to building support for the legislation across party lines. "Governor Sebelius' record shows that she approaches problems from all sides. She is prepared to try creative solutions. She is forward-thinking. She's willing to work with everyone," Baucus said on the Senate floor.



C.E.D.A.W.

What does the United States of America have in common with Iran and Qatar, Somalia and Sudan, Nauru, Palau and Tonga?

These are the only countries in the world that have not ratified the United Nations Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Is this the company we want to keep?

CEDAW is the most comprehensive and detailed international agreement which seeks the advancement of women. It will contribute to achieving equality of men and women throughout the world.

CEDAW establishes rights for women in areas not previously subject to international standards. Not only does CEDAW define discrimination against women for the first time, it calls for action in nearly every field of human endeavor: politics, law, employment, education, health care, commercial transactions and domestic relations. Moreover it establishes a committee to review periodically the progress being made.

Is this something new – no. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly and opened for signature on December 18, 1979 – 30 years ago!

How can it be that Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, and China – to name just three countries not known for their support for and empowerment of women – have ratified it yet we have not?

There are many politicians, Republicans and Democrats who agree that this needs to be ratified. Please take a moment and write to your Senators and let them know that it is time, 30 years is long enough. Particularly, please contact members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee [Click Here](#) to see who's on the Committee.

Billie Heller has been working to get CEDAW ratified by the U.S. since it was first adopted. She was recently honored and richly deserves that honor. Let's help give Billie the satisfaction of seeing it passed, and help so many women here and throughout the world who still face discrimination.



CAREER WORKSHOPS AT WOMEN AT WORK

Women At Work has many workshops to help you after a job loss, or if you need to make a change. Courses such as **Moving on After a Job Loss, Interviews that Win Jobs, Social Media 101 and 45+ and Job Hunting**

For a complete workshop schedule [Click here](#)
Call 626-796-6870 for times and to enroll



WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Where else can you get a mini-workshop, networking and coffee for \$8? **The Entrepreneur Success Network**, with **Chris Reiter and Pauline Field** facilitating, is indeed offering just that. Join them and other successful business women and men at the Pasadena Women's City Club, 160 No Oakland, Pasadena every Friday from 7:30 -8:15 a.m. Check out the topics [here](#) and take advantage of the best deal in town to help grow your business.

Last month we showed pictures from the Women of the World awards and failed to mention that it was Lesley Bohm of Lesley Bohm Photography, (213) 625-8401 www.bohmphotography.com lesbohm@mindspring.com that took the great pictures! Thanks to Lesley.

Pasadena Magazine, who's May issue is their "Women's Issue," hosted a Women in Business lunch last month at the Huntington Gardens. Are you on their mailing list? If not, contact them at info@pasadenarose.com. They are currently the media sponsor for six events in the Pasadena area and their events are always sold out and FUN!

The Women In Business lunch was no different. Speakers included **Pauline Field** (pictured) of Fifty-Fifty Leadership, TV personality **Susie Coehlo**, **Susan Gaelas** of the Girl Scouts and **Monique Motano**, Owner of Bravo Urban Spa & Salon who co-hosted the event.



Pick up the Pasadena Magazine and you'll begin to see what all the buzz is about. You'll also notice events on May 7th & 8th listed below for which they are the Media Sponsor.

🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸 HISTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY

Thanks to the National Women's History Project for the following:

Given the following possibilities, how many of us could pick the right answer?

Mother's Day began:

- * In 1858, when Anna Jarvis, a young Appalachian homemaker, organized "Mother's Work Days" to improve the sanitation and avert deaths from disease-bearing insects and seepage of polluted water.
- * In 1872, when Boston poet, pacifist and women's suffragist Julia Ward Howe established a special day for mothers --and for peace-- not long after the bloody Franco-Prussian War.
- * In 1905, when Anna Jarvis died, her daughter, also named Anna, decided to memorialize her mother's lifelong activism, and began a campaign that culminated in 1914 when Congress passed a Mother's Day resolution.

The correct answer: **All of the above.** Each woman and all of these events have contributed to the present occasion now celebrated on the second Sunday in May.

The cause of world peace was the impetus for Julia Ward Howe's establishment, over a century ago, of a special day for mothers. Following unsuccessful efforts to pull together an international pacifist conference after the Franco-Prussian War, Howe began to think of a global appeal to women. "While the war was still in progress," she wrote, she keenly felt the "cruel and unnecessary character of the contest." She believed, as any woman might, that it could have been settled without bloodshed. And, she wondered, "Why do not the mothers of mankind interfere in these matters to prevent the waste of that human life of which they alone bear and know the cost?" Howe's version of Mother's Day, which served as an occasion for advocating peace, was held successfully in Boston and elsewhere for several years, but eventually lost popularity and disappeared from public notice in the years preceding World War I.

For Anna Jarvis, also known as "Mother Jarvis," community improvement by mothers was only a beginning. Throughout the Civil War she organized women's brigades, asking her workers to do all they could without regard for which side their men had chosen. And, in 1868, she took the initiative to heal the bitter rifts between her Confederate and Union neighbors. The younger Anna Jarvis was only twelve years old in 1878 when she listened to her mother teach a Sunday school lesson on mothers in the Bible. "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day," the senior Jarvis said. "There are many days for men, but none for mothers."

Following her mother's death, Anna Jarvis embarked on a remarkable campaign. She poured out a constant stream of letters to men of prominence -- President William Taft and former President Theodore Roosevelt among them -- and enlisted considerable help from Philadelphia merchant John Wannamaker. By May of 1907, a Mother's Day service had been arranged on the second Sunday in May at the Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, where Mother Jarvis had taught. That same day a special service was held at the Wannamaker Auditorium in Philadelphia, which could seat no more than a third of the 15,000 people who showed up.

The custom spread to churches in 45 states and in Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Mexico and Canada. The Governor of West Virginia proclaimed Mother's Day in 1912; Pennsylvania's governor in 1913 did the same. The following year saw the Congressional Resolution, which was promptly signed by President Woodrow Wilson.

Mother's Day has endured. It serves now, as it originally did, to recognize the contributions of women. Mother's Day, like the job of "mothering," is varied and diverse. Perhaps that's only appropriate for a day honoring the multiple ways women find to nurture their families, and the ways in which so many have nurtured their communities, their countries, and the larger world.

🌸 And speaking of motherhood, congratulations to 5050 Leadership Board Member, **Mi Kim** who became a new mother. Her daughter, **Jade** was born on March 29, 2009 at 6:54 p.m. 7 lbs, 13 ozs. 19 1/2 inches.



NOMINATIONS FOR GREAT WOMEN

✧ Nominations for the L'OREAL Women of Worth program are now being accepted. This program will recognize ten exceptional women in the United States who have made significant volunteer contributions in their communities. L'OREAL will make two \$5,000 donations on behalf of each honoree, one to the nonprofit organization of her choice, and a second to the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund. From among the honorees, one woman will be selected by the public as the National Woman of Worth and will receive an additional \$25,000 donation for her cause. To be eligible for this award, nominee' volunteer activities must have occurred in the continental United States and primarily benefited domestic American needs. All nominees must be at least 18 years of age and legal residents of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia. Nominations will be accepted online through July 13, 2009.

<http://www.womenofworth.com/nominations/home.aspx>

✧ Senator Carol Liu, Assemblymembers Anthony Portantino and Paul Krekorian are hosting a Women In Business Legislative Update and Awards Luncheon on Oct. 2, 2009. If you know of a deserving businesswomen who should be acknowledge please contact Lena Kennedy for a nomination form, and get it back to her office no later than May 29 Lena.Kennedy@sen.ca.gov



WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



Recently California State University, Northridge celebrated it's 50 year Anniversary . I was happy to see that there is a group, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE). WISE is a program that was founded about 20 years ago to provide support to women in Science, Math and Engineering. Bonnie Campbell, PhD. and Diane Kulisek were among the founders, with Bonnie providing the faculty focal point from within the College of Engineering.

Shown: l to r Pauline Field and CSUN President Jolene Koester

If you are deciding on which college to go to in the Fall or have you just started looking for next year, CSUN is worth a look. Since Jolene Koester has been President in 2000, CSUN has grown in stature and their academic programs are worth consieration.

Are you an Alum that studied Science, Math or Engineering? Think about getting in touch with WISE and being a mentor to women currently attending.

her journey interviewing mothers in war zones including Iraq, Israel and the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan and the US. These powerful first-person stories offer dramatic insight into the impact of war on mothers, families, communities, and cultures around-the-world. In Galleymore's new book, *LONG TIME PASSING* [PLUTO PRESS (Distributed by Palgrave Macmillan)], she gets to the heart of extreme social experiences—war and warriors, mothers and children, communities and cultures—and explores the meaning of courage, fear, and leadership.

☞ *Another book that deals with war. Thanks to Joan Hoffman of Hoffman Architects for letting us know about this:*

NEW YORK -- Female U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan have more to fear than roadside bombs or enemy ambushes. They also are at risk of being raped or sexually assaulted by fellow soldiers.

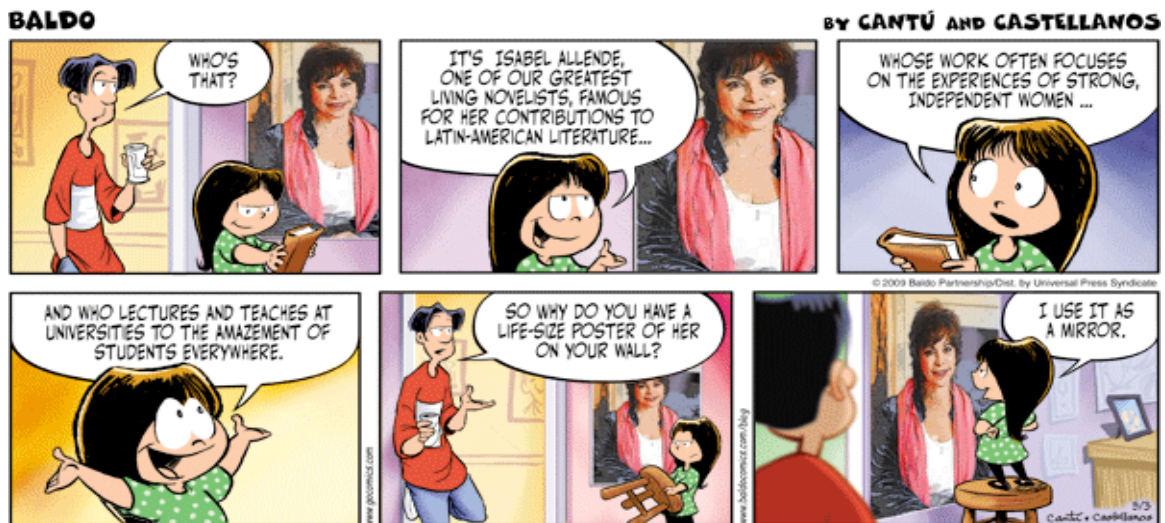
"The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq," a book based on 40 in-depth interviews, recounts the stories of female veterans who served in combat zones and tells of rape, sexual assault and harassment by male counterparts.

Some were warned by officers not to go to the latrine by themselves. One began carrying a knife in case she was attacked by comrades. Others said they felt discouraged to report assaults.

"The horror of it is that it is their own side that is doing this to them," said the book's author, **Helen Benedict**, a journalism professor at Columbia University in New York. The book was released in the United States on Wednesday.

One in 10 U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan are female, and more women have fought and died in the Iraq war than any since World War Two, according to U.S. Department of Defense statistics cited in the book.

"Because women are under so much more danger now and actually in the battle, it's a particularly tragic situation because all soldiers are supposed to be able to rely on one another to watch their backs," Benedict said. "And how can you feel that way if your fellow soldiers are harassing you all day or trying to rape you or actually even raping you?"



STATISTICS ON WOMEN

Did you know that pregnancy is the leading cause of death for girls aged 15-19 worldwide?
Did you know that 35% of pregnant women in low-income countries do not have access to or contact with health personnel prior to delivery?

Did you know that worldwide 600 million women are illiterate versus 320 million men?

Thanks to Americans for UNFPA for these statistics.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Like this newsletter? Aligned with our vision? Give yourself a gift – subscribe today.

Annual Subscription: \$15

Fifty Membership Levels: \$50 - \$100 - \$250 - \$500 – Other

Leadership Circle Scholarships: \$50

[Click Here to Subscribe/Donate Online](#)

Call 818-243-2322 to subscribe with your credit card
Send your check, payable to Fifty-Fifty Leadership to:
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.



Tuesday, May 5

11:00a.m. - 1:30 p.m

Women Making A Difference

Los Angeles Business Journal's

Luncheon and Awards Ceremony

Millennium Biltmore Hotel

506 South Grand Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90071

\$100

For tickets or information visit

www.labusinessjournal.com or call: 323-549-5225



Wednesday, May 6

7:00 p.m.

**FLOWERS AREN'T ENOUGH production by Naomi Ackerman, Hollywood NOW Member
NCJW-LA, 7 pm**

FLOWERS AREN'T ENOUGH is a monologue that tells the story of Michal, a young woman from an upper-middle-class family who finds herself in an abusive relationship. Michal describes how her partner gradually narrows her world, isolating her from her surroundings. We see her denial, her guilt and how social conditioning intensify her shame and despair. We witness Michal sinking into darkness and then watch how she takes charge of her life, and rediscovers herself.

NCJW-LA, 543 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles. RSVP to Susan at Susan@NCJWLA.org



Wednesday May 6 – Friday May 8th

How To Overcome Stress in Public Speaking

Presented by Barbara Rocha, author of Getting Over Yourself

Barbara has over 30 years helping people let go of the fear of speaking in front of people.
Find out more: Phone: (626) 792-8075 www.gettingoveryourself.com



Thursday, May 7th
8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Healing Work Demonstration

Yoga Groove Studio
10502 Magnolia Blvd (2 block east Cahuenga)
North Hollywood

The goal is to provide information and demonstrations of energy healing work for people who are curious about it. We are also inviting existing lightworkers to come and share their experience and network.

The majority of my students are women of all ages, and energy work is VERY empowering.
If you or anyone you know would like to come, all are welcome. This is a free event.

<http://yogagroovestudio.com/reiki.pdf>



Thursday, May 7th
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Reds, Whites & Shoes – The Wine Seminar

Enjoy a chic wine seminar pairing exceptional wines and hors d'oeuvres with fashionable shoes and accessories
Red, White & Bluezz, 70 South Raymond, Pasadena
Benefiting Pasadena Planned Parenthood & San Gabriel Valley's Health Education Programs
For More Information: styleuncorked@pppsgv.org or call 626-794-5737 x102

And

Friday, May 8th
6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Style Uncorked – The party that's not to be missed
The Maxwell House, 55 South Grand Avenue, Pasadena
Also benefiting Pasadena Planned Parenthood & San Gabriel Valley's Health Education Programs
For More Information: styleuncorked@pppsgv.org or call 626-794-5737 x102



Saturday, May 9, 2009, 2pm - 4pm
Pasadena YWCA presents
Women of Excellence Leadership Speaker Series
Suzy Welch

Suzy is a renowned author, mother of four teenage children and the wife of former GE CEO Jack Welch. She is a dynamic woman, respected journalist, a management consultant and lecturer on women's leadership and a writer of both fiction and non-fiction. She is currently a columnist for *O* (Oprah's magazine) and co-writes a weekly column with her husband for *BusinessWeek* magazine.

Suzy will be speaking on personal decision-making strategies and balancing work and life issues, a topic also addressed in her latest book entitled *10-10-10*. Jack Welch will be in attendance to introduce Suzy as well as for a question and answer period.

The Forum, All Saints Church, 132 North Euclid Avenue, Pasadena
Tickets are \$40 and include refreshments, \$50 at the door
Ashley Phillips at 626-296-8433. Make checks payable to: YWCA Pasadena-Foothill Valley



Sunday, May 10th
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Tuesday, May 12th
Mother's Day Capitol Hill Event
Elder Abuse - A Women's Issue

You are invited to attend!

10 AM - U.S. Senate Office Building - Russell 485
RSVP: owlinfo@owl-national.org



Monday, May 11

7:00 p.m

Altadena Public Library

Getting Your Book Published

Ellen Snortland, author of Beauty Bites Beast which has been translated into Spanish and Portuguese, and a columnist for Pasadena Weekly for 18 years will be speaking about “regular” and “self” publishing. Bring your questions

Altadena Library District

Community Room

600 East Mariposa Street,

Altadena, CA 91001

626-798-0833 or

www.altadenalibrary.org



Saturday, May 16th

10:00 Boutique

11:45 Luncheon

An Affair to Remember

American Business Women’s Association of Glendale

Presents

Fashion Show and Luncheon

In the Starlight Room of The Castaways Restaurant

1250 East Harvard Road, Burbank, CA

Tickets: \$40

Please Make Check Payable to: ABWA Verdugo Glen Chapter & Mail to:

Donna Hempel, 1177 North O’Malley Avenue, Covina, CA 91722-1452 - 626/966-3488



Saturday May 16th & Sunday, May 17th

3rd Annual New World Fair

the exciting healthy lifestyle, earth-friendly and conscious living celebration at the Pasadena Convention Center. This item brought to us by Carina Garcia who will have a booth #526 **Waioara, Rediscover Your Youth!** along with my partner **Victoria Smith** who will have her iridology camera with her so you can receive a free reading of your eye! To get more information about the fair: NewWorldFair.org.



Sunday, May 17

10:15 a.m.

Acclaimed author and human rights activist, Riane Eisler

Dr. Eisler gained initial fame through her classic book, “The Chalice and the Blade” and has continued her advocacy of workable partnership models through the publication of her latest book, “The Real Wealth of Nations.” Her books will be available for purchase.

There is ample parking but arrive early. This event is apt to be packed.

All Saints Church

132 N. Euclid Ave.

Pasadena, CA 91101

www.allsaints-pas.org

This is a free event



Sunday, May 31

11:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**15th Anniversary of Women Against Gun Violence and
Annual Courageous Leadership Awards Brunch**

Skirball Center

www.Wagv.org

310-204-2348



Tuesday, June 9th

2:00 – 7:00 p.m.

2nd Annual Women in Banking Forum

Westin Pasadena

Contact Laurie Eaton 916-438-4433 or email leaton@calbankers.com



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 26th

Fifty-Fifty Leadership's

LOVE YOURSELF EVENT

The opportunity to have an afternoon for YOU.

If you want to volunteer in the planning or at the event or you are interested in Sponsorship, email

info@5050Leadership.org or call 818.243.2322.



ADVERTISING IN THE EQUALITY STANDARD

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

Thanks to Billie Heller for this poem written by Anasuya Sengupta when she was 20 and a college student. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton read it in New Delhi, India

My grandmother was always silent – always aggrieved – only her husband had the cosmic right (or o it was said) to speak and be heard.

*They say it is different now (After all, I am always vocal and my grandmother thinks I talk too much).
But sometimes I wonder.*

When a woman shares her thoughts, as some women do, graciously – it is allowed.

When a woman fights for power, as all women would like to, quietly or loudly, it is questioned.

And yet, there must be freedom – if we are to speak.

And yes, there must be power – if we are to be heard.

And when we have both (freedom and power) let us not be misunderstood.

We seek only to give words to those who cannot speak (too many women in too many countries).

I seek only to forget the sorrows of my grandmother's silence.



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

If you received this newsletter in error, please hit "Reply" and write "Remove" in the subject line.