



THE EQUALITY STANDARD

September 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 or give
us a call at
818.243.2322

In this issue:

Click on the item to jump to it

1. [In the News](#)
2. [Fifty-Fifty Leadership Events](#)
3. [Fifty-Fifty Leadership Launches Its New Salon Series](#)
4. [Member Benefit - Free Tickets To The Geffen Theater](#)
5. [Women at Work](#)
6. [What Does Leadership Look Like](#)
7. [Letters to the Editor](#)
8. [Summer Reading](#)
9. [Did You Know...](#)
10. [Health](#)
11. [Women of Note](#)
12. [Women Around the World](#)
13. [Subscriptions](#)
14. [Events](#)
15. [Final Words](#)



IN THE NEWS

☞ The Senate confirmed U.S. Solicitor General **Elena Kagan** on Thursday, August 5th as the 112th justice to the Supreme Court, making her the fourth woman to sit on the court, and for the first time ever, there are now three women on the court, out of a total of nine. The National Organization for Women suggests that this will be a “critical mass” that will have an effect on the Court, particularly for the rights of women. Let's hope this will be the case.

☞ After a hard-fought battle to ensure the protection of American authors and publishers from extortionate foreign libel judgments, one New York-based scholar and researcher has secured the passage of the first law to achieve unanimous Congressional support this term. Initiated and promoted by **Dr. Rachel Ehrenfeld**, the Securing the Protection of our Enduring and Established Constitutional Heritage Act (SPEECH Act) protects Americans from the enforcement of foreign libel judgments that do not meet American standards of constitutional protection for freedom of speech. Dr. Ehrenfeld was the first author to stand up against the phenomenon of libel tourism, a practice by which foreign libel plaintiffs sue American authors and publishers abroad solely in the attempt to suppress free speech in the United States.

☞ Buried in the “Style” section of the Washington Post on August 13th, was an article about **Elizabeth Warren** who is being considered by the White House administration for the new post of

Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection. I wonder, had the frontrunner been a man, would he be relegated to "Style" rather than "News?"

[Read the article](#)

✧ The Commission on Judicial Appointments approved the governor's nomination of **Tani Cantil-Sakauye** as California's first minority chief justice. The daughter of Filipino farmworkers will begin her 12-year term on Jan. 3, if voters approve her in November.

Cantil-Sakauye, 50, has been a judge since 1990. A Sacramento native, she served on the Sacramento County Municipal and Superior Courts, then Schwarzenegger appointed her to the Third District Court of Appeal. Before becoming a judge, she was a county prosecutor for 3 years, and served 2 years on the staff of Gov. George Deukmejian.

Cantil-Sakauye would become the state's second female chief justices, after Rose Bird. Three of the seven sitting justices are women.



FIFTY-FIFTY LEADERSHIP EVENTS

Girls Night Out at the Geffen Theater

Sunday, September 19th

7:00 p.m.

**Love, Loss and What I Wore
Geffen Theater, Westwood**

SOLD OUT

September's event for Fifty-Fifty Leadership is an evening at the theater, laughing and crying about clothes and the stories we can tell about them.

This is a fundraiser for Fifty-Fifty Leadership.

**Tickets: \$40 each for Fifty-Fifty Leadership members,
\$45 each for non-members**

(Savings! from the box office price of \$69 each.)

Love, Loss, and What I Wore, an intimate collection of stories by Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron is based on the best-selling book by Ilene Beckerman, as well as on the recollection of the Ephrons' friends. Like the popular book, *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* uses clothing and accessories and the memories they trigger to tell funny and often poignant stories that all women can relate to. The production is performed by a rotating cast of five all-star actors, who will perform in four-week cycles.

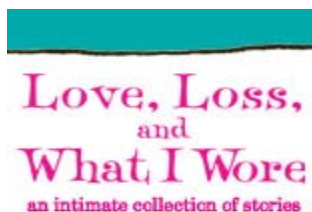
There are only a few seats left.

To make a reservation and pay with credit card, call 818-243-2322



FIFTY-FIFTY LEADERSHIP LAUNCHES ITS NEW SALON SERIES

Starting on **Sunday, November 7th** from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. we will have the first of our Salons which will be intimate gatherings in homes and other lovely locations to come together around a particular topic of interest.



written by

Nora and Delia
Ephron Ephron

Our first is **A Conversation with an Artist, Alice Asmar.**

Alice, an octogenarian, will open her studio to us and after gathering around some munchies and beverages, Pauline Field, Chair of Fifty-Fifty Leadership will lead an informal conversation, asking Alice about her life, her art, and how her background as an engineer for Lockheed led her



to her career as an artist with work in museums around the world.

There will be plenty of time for your questions also.

There will be an opportunity for holiday shopping as Alice will have cards and museum-grade prints for sale.

Do visit her website at aliceasmar.com

Location – Burbank. Address will be given when you RSVP .

To ensure a more intimate atmosphere and discussion, this Salon will be limited to 25 people

Suggested Donation: **\$15 for Members and non-members up until 10/15**

\$20 for all reservations after 10/15

To pay by credit card, email tickets@5050leadership.org or call 818-243-2322

Or to pay online, [click here](#)



MEMBER BENEFIT - FREE TICKETS TO THE GEFFEN THEATER

Lynn Nottage's "Ruined," which won the Pulitzer Prize for drama this year, will have its L.A. premiere at the Geffen Playhouse. The New York production quickly became one of the most talked about plays of the season.

The play focuses on the matron of a Congolese brothel who tries futilely to keep the outside war at bay. But violence keeps intruding thanks to the constant foot traffic of both women and men through the brothel doors.

In an interview with The Times this year, Nottage said: "I knew I wanted to tell a story that was not agitprop, that was universal, epic and unabashedly theatrical. Something truthful and yet joyful. And I didn't know how I was ever going to do that."

Nottage is no stranger to L.A. theater. Local audiences may remember her play "Intimate Apparel," which ran at the Mark Taper Forum in 2004. Her work has also been produced by South Coast Repertory in Orange County.

We have FREE tickets for the following performances:

09/12 @ 2pm

09/21 @ 8pm

09/25 @ 3pm

09/26 @ 2pm

If you are not a member, maybe now is the time to join to take advantage of the whole season at the Geffen.

For tickets: tickets@5050leadership.org

For Membership: www.5050leadership.org/Membership



WOMEN AT WORK

☞ **Do you run a small business out of your home office?** Kodak wants to reward your efficiency expertise. Tell others your secrets to success and you'll be entered to **win up to \$25,000**, just for helping others be cost-effective in their home office.

First Prize Winner Will Receive \$25,000 Dollars.

Second Place Winner Will Receive \$15,000 Dollars.

Third Place Winner Will Receive \$10,000 Dollars.

Fourth Prize Winner Who Will Receive A Free Home Office Makeover.

Winners will be selected in a two round process in which 20 Finalists will be determined based on consumer votes and the winners will be selected from among Finalists based on the results of judging by a qualified panel of judges.

All entries must be received by **September 12, 2010**. Limit one entry per household.

For complete information, go [here](#).

☞ **Contracting with the Federal Government.**

The federal government spends billions of dollars each year. Do you have a business that might provide a product or service the government wants? If so, you could be getting some of those dollars being spent. The National Association of Small Business Contractors brings access to contracts to small business owners. Their meetings and summits always include hands on one-on-one sessions with government agency and prime contractor representatives as well as details of upcoming contracting needs that are a match for small business suppliers.

Their day-long sessions are at various locations: September 28th in Washington, DC, October 27th in Atlanta, GA, November 2-3, San Diego.

National Association of Small Business Contractors
We Support America's Small Business Contractors!
1200 G Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005
tel 888-861-9290
[Learn more](#)

☞ **Be a part of California's Government**

It's with great pleasure that Fifty-Fifty Leadership introduces to you the **California Women's State Appointment Project 2010**.

The mission of this nonpartisan project is to encourage and recruit women statewide to apply for an appointment on boards, commissions, or in agencies within the new gubernatorial administration that will be elected this November.

California Women Lead, the National Women's Political Caucus-California, Leadership California, the California Commission on the Status of Women, HOPE (Hispanas Organized for Political Equality), and Black Women Organized for Political Action comprise the Coalition of organizations leading this effort to ensure we have a rich, diverse pool of women from all corners of the state included.

The end goal is to present to the next governor and their transition team binders containing the names and resumes of women who are interested in serving within the new administration in order to provide a significant pool of qualified women to serve as appointees. We will recruit women from all backgrounds and for all level of positions - high level, paid and volunteer. Many of these boards and commissions need women to serve in public positions, so women should not think they need to be an expert in a specific area to apply. There are many women currently serving on boards and commissions who learn as they go!

We know there are many amazing women throughout California. As the state faces so many challenges we need to engage women from across the state and encourage them to serve. The Coalition's goal is to not only increase the number of women in appointed office, but also to ensure that boards and commissions reflect the rich diversity of California.

We encourage all our readers to fill out the application located on the California Women Lead website, www.cawomenlead.org/cwap so you may be included in this project.

On this site, they have included information to answer any questions about the process and offer inspiration on the rewards for serving to potential appointees from women who are currently serving on and have served on boards and commissions around the state.

We look forward to increasing the number of women in appointed office in California. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact California Women Lead at cwap@cawomenlead.org.

You may also contact Rachel Michelin, Executive Director/CEO, California Women Lead at Rachel@cawomenlead.org or (916) 551-1920 with any specific questions regarding this project.

🌸 Forbes put out its annual list of "**Best Cities for Working Moms**" with Minneapolis at the top of the list. Another study, the **National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA)**, listing the highest cost states when it comes to child cares services, points to Massachusetts and New York as the most expensive, with Minneapolis third.

If you compare the two lists, you'll see that the cities coming in at the top of the "best for working mothers" list are all from the states that are the top ten when it comes to childcare costs, with all of the states having childcare costs come in at 10 to 20 percent of the income an average two-parent family brings home each year, depending on the age of the child in care. And if you are looking at just the income of a single mother, that percentage goes all the way up to 66 percent of her income.

Forbes weighed "Job opportunities, high earnings potential and a budget-friendly cost of living" as well as health care and crime. But when it comes to the cost of living index survey they used, it seems that it was focused more on costs of goods and services overall than specific services that would be needed by a working mom. It's great that she can get cheaper clothes and haircuts, but if she's paying more for daycare than you would to send a child to college for a year, that seems to be a more important factor on where is really best for working moms.

[Read the whole article](#)



WHAT LEADERSHIP LOOKS LIKE...

Last week on August 26th was Women's Equality Day, the 90th anniversary of the enactment of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and Women's Enews talked about a room full of journalists in their 30's and 40's who had no idea about Women's Equality Day, the 19th Amendment, or the fact that many brave women worked tirelessly for 72 years to get us the vote. Another blog, Care2Causes gave us a more hopeful look: young girls of 11 and 12 who not only know about it but think it important. When you're ten years old, an event that happened ninety years ago is ancient history. Girls today are used to seeing women running for office and even being confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Nancy Gruver said in her

post that she wouldn't have been surprised if they took voting for granted and felt detached from today's celebration of the 1920 ratification of women's suffrage. But take a look at what she found:

Women being able to vote, for me, means the world. The fact that older generations of women weren't able to have their voices be heard because of their gender is, quite frankly, ridiculous. I take pride in knowing people these days respect me and when I am old enough, I will be able to vote and have my voice be heard. The anniversary of this freedom is the anniversary of lots of brave women who fought to have women's voices be heard and respected, and that is why I am celebrating it. Jen, 11, NJ

Here are words that pop into my head: equality, woman prime ministers, voting, women in politics, being the first, feminism, strong girls and women, New Moon Girls, power, amazing, legendary, remembered, history. Also, it's been 90 years since we could vote... have we waited long enough to run the country? We need female prime ministers and presidents!!! And women who fought for our right to vote are heroes! They are true she-roes/heroines because they chained themselves, protested, were arrested and did many other things for themselves as well as many future generations of voting women! Many other countries have had female leaders... come on America! Canada, Australia, Ireland, Sweden, Haiti... they've all done it! Hurry up USA! Hanna, 11, BC, Canada

Voting is the quintessential symbol of democracy: the right of a citizen to express his or her opinion over the way their government is run. For me, the right for women to vote is important because it says that women have opinions and thoughts about the world, and that their husband's opinion will not necessarily be theirs as well. Women's right to vote shows that women can think for themselves and that women have equal power to men in their lives and in the political system of their country. Lena, 12, PA



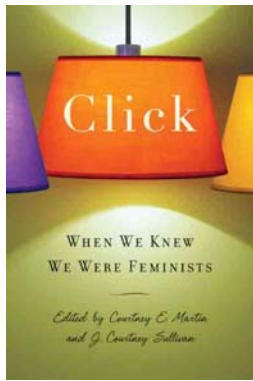
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

In a discussion recently about The Equality Standard, I was talking about the many sources from which the information here is gleaned, and it made me curious because it seems like there are dozens. So, my curiosity led me to make a list of those sources. After tracking it for most of August, I have so far come up with 69 different sources. These include blogs, women's organizations, non-profit groups, media – including news sites and magazines, and readers like yourself. So, if there is something you come across or are involved in, feel free to send it to me. If it indeed fits, it will be included, with credit given to you – unless you tell me you want to remain anonymous.

Do you know someone who is obese and is considering what to do about it? Next month will be the first of a two part article on **Bariatric Surgery** – the surgeries that cut into the stomach, including the much advertised lap band surgery.



END OF SUMMER READING



I was the only woman who worked on a ropes course during the summer I spent employed at a girls' camp in Pennsylvania. Officially, my job was to strap kids into climbing harnesses and belay them as they ventured to the top of walls, fake boulders, and the a 60-foot "adventure pyramid." Unofficially, my job was to encourage and coax the many girls who were scared to climb high.

During Parents' Weekend, one eight-year-old, who made it to the peak of the adventure pyramid, was scared to slide off the top—a necessary move for me to belay her back down to the ground. While I could have had someone simply climb up after her, I spent half an hour encouraging the girl to let go. A crowd of parents and girls formed, their necks craned backwards to look up at the little girl stranded at the top. She trembled. She whined. And, finally, when she did slide off – to enormous cheering – she hit the ground with both feet and held her hands in the air in triumph.

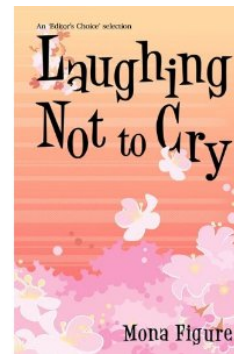
"Nice coaching," said one of the fathers.

I glowed – not just because of the happy ending for this particular camper, but because I realized how influential it was to be a female on the ropes course. I realized how important it was to disrupt the gendered assumptions so many of the girls and their parents had about the adventurous instinct. All of a sudden, my job felt more urgent: to nurture the native will of these girls to be physical, to take risks, to very literally ascend.

For me, this was one of many moments when feminism "clicked." My experience puts me in a long line of women and men who can point to a particular moment when they began to identify as a feminist. Nearly forty years ago Jane O'Reilly published "[Click: The Housewife's Moment of Truth](#)" in *Ms. Magazine*. In O'Reilly's words women "recognize the click! of recognition, that parenthesis of truth around a little thing that completes the puzzle of reality in women's minds—the moment that brings a gleam to our eyes and means the revolution has begun."

By Anna Clark in WIP

[Read the whole review](#)



Laughing Not to Cry by **Mona Figure** uses humor to tell the story of a fifty-three-year-old teacher whose husband pillaged her family's flower business, vanished with their life savings, and did it all legally. She struggles to build a new life with her senile father, the Colonel. She prevails against enemies who try to push her out of her job and off her farm, while she rebuilds her family's flower business against all odds. In the process, Dorothy, the trusting wife and victim, becomes a stronger, sassier, wiser version of herself. Her husband returns and tries to ruin her again but this time he confronts a woman to be reckoned with who beats him at his own game.

About Mona: **Mona's first job out of high school was on a daily newspaper, the *Springfield Republican*, and she's been writing every since.**

Early in her career in public relations, Mona earned far less and found promotions harder to come by than her male peers. She was among the first to be let go in a downturn or when a firm lost a client. During these rough times, she found work where she could.

She gave up serious writing to pursue a career in aerospace where the payoffs were immediate, generous and steady. Over the next 25 years she rose through the ranks at TRW. She learned engineering and science on the job from some of the most brilliant minds of the era, people with a germ of an idea that evolved into scientific spacecraft, such as Pioneer (first to leave the solar system), Mars Biology Instrument (first to land on Mars and search for life), and the Hubble Space Telescope.

Retirement allowed her to fulfill her life-long dream of writing a novel, but not before overcoming breast cancer. After surviving these, she enrolled in UCLA's Writers Program and began working on her book. Several serious

challenges threatened to end her studies but she wouldn't let them. She continued working on her novel through numerous other medical

challenges. *Laughing Not to Cry* was a long time birthing but was well worth the wait.



WHAT LEADERSHIP LOOKS LIKE – Part 2

In August, President Barack Obama awarded the 2010 Citizens Medal to 13 outstanding Americans who have "performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens."

The Citizens Medal is the second highest civilian honour in our nation. For over 40 years, the Presidential Citizens Medal has recognized America's most respected heroes and public figures as well as everyday heroes like Oseola McCarty, a washerwoman who left her entire life savings to establish a scholarship for students in need.

This year, the President decided to try something different, asking the American public to nominate selfless heroes from their community. The White House received over 6,000 nominations from around the country.

Here are a few of the winners:



When a pregnant teenager with no place to stay arrived at her door, **Daisy Brooks** welcomed the young woman in. What followed was a lifelong commitment to helping many of North Chicago's young mothers and their infants. Brooks opened Daisy's Resource and Developmental Center to serve as a dormitory, school, and catalyst for young women to improve their lives. Brooks receives the Citizens Medal for offering guidance and support to young women.

Beginning with a wagon full of coffee and sandwiches, **Lisa Nigro's** mission to aid those living on the streets of Chicago has inspired us all. Her wagon gave way to a restaurant for homeless men and women, expanding with partner organizations to provide housing, job training, and vital support to Chicagoans affected by poverty. Nigro receives the Citizens Medal for her tireless service to her fellow citizens.



After losing her husband in the attacks of September 11, 2001, **Susan** cause in educating and training Afghan widows and their children. She understands the importance of empowering women touched by and her strength of spirit has healed hearts, and fostered mutual a common future. Retik Ger receives the Citizens Medal for women's rights and demonstrating the power of America's ideals.



Retik Ger found a personal tragedy understanding and advancing



Physical limitations have not hindered **Mary K. Hoodhood's** determination to strengthen her community. Though a car accident left her paralyzed, Hoodhood began volunteering to feed the hungry through her local Meals on Wheels program. In 2001, Hoodhood founded Kids' Food Basket which provides meals to thousands of children in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area. Hoodhood receives the Citizens Medal for her remarkable efforts to nourish our nation's children.



Parent and advocate, **Kimberly McGuinness** has been a true champion for deaf students. Her persistent letters, phone calls, and visits to state legislators helped spur the passage of Georgia's Deaf Child's Bill of Rights. She has led workshops, counseled parents, and changed lives, raising awareness and support for deaf education. McGuinness receives the Citizens Medal for demonstrating the results one citizen can achieve.



For decades, **Myrtle Faye Rumph** has lent her talent and compassion to impacting the lives of at-risk youth. Her commitment to reducing gun and gang violence in her community has steered countless young men and women away from dangerous habits, and altered the course of their futures. Rumph receives the Citizens Medal for her tireless efforts to replace violence and despair in her community with a beacon of hope and humanity.



Roberta Diaz Brinton has devoted her time and talents to improving science and technology education for Los Angeles students. As Director of the University of Southern California's Science, Technology and Research (STAR) Program, Brinton has opened the doors of opportunity for thousands of disadvantaged and minority inner-city youth. Brinton receives the Citizens Medal for encouraging America's next generations to reach for the stars.

Betty Chinn, Eureka, CA

Touched by childhood tragedy, Betty Chinn brings hope to those who have fallen on hard times. Left homeless as a child in China, Chinn became mute. When she came to America, she found both her voice and her mission: aiding those without shelter on our own shores. Today, Chinn provides meals twice a day as expressions of gratitude to a welcoming nation. Chinn receives the Citizens Medal for renewing America's promise by serving those in need.



Cynthia Church turned a personal battle with cancer into a force for progress and change. Dismayed by the lack of resources for women of color with breast cancer, Church founded Sisters on a Mission, Inc, an African-American breast cancer support network in Delaware. Church receives the Citizens Medal for confronting the scourge of this terrible disease and working to halt its spread

MaryAnn Phillips, Star Valley Ranch, WY



Caring for America's injured service members, MaryAnn Phillips embodies strength and grace. An American citizen living in Germany, Phillips volunteers with Soldiers Angels at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center . She spends countless hours at the bedsides of our wounded warriors and their families, caring for them, encouraging them, and grieving with them. Phillips receives the Citizens Medal for putting her patriotism into action for our troops and our nation.

Elizabeth Cushman Titus Putnam

Shaftsbury, VT

Devoted to preserving our nation's public lands, Elizabeth Cushman Titus Putnam has inspired thousands of America's youth to protect our natural bounty. Her vision to offer land restoration and maintenance service opportunities became a reality with the birth of the Student Conservation Association. Putnam receives the Citizens Medal for helping ensure that our nation's treasured public lands are enjoyed by future generations.

[Watch video interviews](#)



DID YOU KNOW...

- Each day, up to 2,000 women, men and teens call Planned Parenthood Los Angeles to book an appointment or ask for information.
- MORE WOMEN OCCUPY TOP SECURITY POSTS:** More women are occupying significant positions at the top echelons of America's national security bureaucracy. According to a recent survey by Women in International Security, women comprise between 21 and 29 percent of the senior positions at the State Department, USAID, the Pentagon and other national security and foreign policy agencies,

penetrating what has been long considered a “tough guy” field. That same survey found that around 13 percent of the Senior Intelligence Service is female. “From me to the secretary, it’s all female,” said Karen Look, a key figure in shaping international nuclear policy, who was instrumental in the dismantling of Libya’s nuclear weapons program. *Source: LBN Alert*



HEALTH

✧ Pancreatic tumor cells use fructose to divide and proliferate; U.S. researchers said on Monday in a study that challenges the common wisdom that all sugars are the same. Tumor cells fed both glucose and fructose used the two sugars in two different ways, the team at the University of California Los Angeles found.

✧ Women aged 20-24 in the U.S. had the lowest incidence rate of breast cancer from 2002-2006, at 1.4 cases per 100,000 women. The 75-79 age group had the highest incidence rate, 441.9 cases per 100,000 women.

✧ **Teenage Sex Does Not Equal Poor Grades!**

Although it probably isn't the news some adults want to hear, researchers now say that teenagers who engage in sex are not any more likely to perform poorly in school than their virgin peers. In fact, teens in committed relationships are just as likely to earn good grades and go on to attend college, as their non-dating classmates.

The certain-to-be-controversial study did find, however, that teens who engaged in casual sex were more likely to receive poor grades, have behavioral problems and even drop out of school.

The new study, which was presented recently at a meeting of the American Sociological Association in Atlanta, challenges the widespread and long-held notion that sexual active teenagers make poor students.

Like the adults they are soon to become, it was discovered that a stable, intimate relationship helps teens navigate the ups and downs of life, while "hook-ups" tended to undermine them emotionally and in terms of productivity.

The study's results are based on the follow-up of a 1994-95 study that utilized surveys and analyzed school transcripts. It is one of the largest studies ever conducted to see how teen's sexuality affected their learning.

Some highlights of the researchers discoveries include:

- Teens in serious relationships have comparable grade-point averages and interest in school and college aspirations, as those who were not in sexual relationships.
- Teens in serious relationships were not more likely to have problems in school, be suspended or absent.

These positive results mean it might be time to revamp sex education to stress the importance of relationships and to tout its benefits.

But the research also reaffirmed the negative effects of casual sex.

- Teens engaged in casual sex had lower GPA's, less interest in school and got into more trouble.
- They had a higher suspension rate and were less likely to go to college than their virgin peers, or those who were in serious relationships.
- Teens who "hooked up" also had higher truancy and dropout rates.

These findings speak loudly to the very real and damaging affect casual sexual intimacy can have on young people during what is already a chaotic, emotional and hormonal period of their lives.

The data points to the need of adults to take a more realistic stance on teenage sexuality. Finding a middle ground between resigned acceptance and abstinence education would be a good place to start.

[Read more](#)



WOMEN OF NOTE

🎶 Attorney **Gloria Allred** fasted for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Allred did a 90-meal, solid-food fast beginning on July 27th to bring attention to the Equal Rights Amendment (House Joint Resolution 61), introduced by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). Her fast ended on August 26th, the 90th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage.

🎶 **The Safety Girls** performed at the Fifty-Fifty Leadership's Women's Equality Day celebration last month and they are three girls, and their producer, making a difference.

The Safety Girls Organization began to do with empowerment and prepared and not scared and to There are so many tragedies that lack of knowledge. If only they could most of these tragedies could be repetition. A "catchy" tune will effective than just verbal



in 2007 with an idea and a dream. It has education - to empower a child to be educate a child to make smart choices. befall children today mainly because of be given some safety "tools" to use, then avoided. Children learn through linger in their minds and be more communication.

Founder, **Jacquie Sullivan**, perform songs teaching safety. They teach child safety through music and entertainment. Thus began the Safety Girls vocal group. The songs are designed to be educational, but at the same time entertaining, for both children and adults.

Jacquie's background is in composing and singing jingles such as Budweiser Beer, Dominos Pizza, Ford, Toyota, and many others. She thought that it would be good to write "jingles" to teach about safety topics. She started with the theme song, "Stand Up for Safety!"

The sound is derived from a combination of Rap, R & B, Rock, and Pop music emerging from today's popular artists. Kids need to know about the basics of safety like calling 911, what to do in case of a fire, electricity precautions; using seatbelts, and stranger awareness. These can be very dry topics, but if they are presented in a creative way, kids will listen. The Safety Girls want kids to become aware of safety measures. What better way than through song?

Amber, Nikki, and Essence are the Safety Girls. They are multi-talented young ladies who have the desire to help children. Because of the success of their first album, the group is in the studio recording their second. It will include topics such as cyber bullying, healthy eating, what it is to be a hero, and drugs and alcohol, to name a few. With their fresh sound the Safety Girls are helping children all over the world.

Please show your support for the Safety Girls by telling your friends and family about them. Check them out at www.youtube.com/user/safetygirls



WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

☞ The Afghan Ministry of Public Health confirmed what has until now been just a disturbing supposition: the cases of mass sickness at girls' schools across Afghanistan over the past two years were indeed caused by poison gas. There have been no fatalities, and no one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the MPH's spokesman, Dr. Kargar Norughli, said that his ministry and the World Health Organization (WHO) had been testing the blood from victims of the mass attacks, and discovered toxic compounds.

Because the origin of the attacks is unclear, one reaction has been to dismiss the attacks as random, rather than targeted assaults on girls who are actively seeking an education. But the fact that all of the attacks have been on girls' schools or mixed schools during hours set aside for girls makes it clear that these are gendered attacks.

The poisonings have happened mostly in areas with large Pashtun populations, where opposition to girls' education is strong. This opposition manifests itself in various and often violent ways; girls' schools are burned down, teachers are attacked and beheaded, and acid is sprayed in girls' faces as they walk to school. These poison gas attacks seem simply to be the latest in a systematic campaign to intimidate girls from attending school.

Until recently, Afghan girls were completely unable to attend school. There are now more than a million Afghan girls attending schools throughout the country. For the sake of these girls, the Afghan government needs to make their safety a priority - they have the right to access their education without fear. *Source: Care2Causes*

☞ Over the course of July and August, monsoon rainfall caused the worst floods in living memory in **Pakistan**. The flooding has affected some 13.8 million people, 6 million of whom are in urgent need of assistance.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, has rushed mobile reproductive health clinics staffed by female health workers and supplies to help with childbirth, as well as packages of supplies to support the health and hygiene of displaced people, particularly pregnant women and infants. It has deployed seven fully equipped and staffed mobile clinics and is supporting 13 existing government health facilities in ten districts of three provinces. Additionally, UNFPA has provided a total of 1900 women's hygiene kits, 800 newborn kits and 1,531 clean delivery kits to ten flood affected districts.

Though the floods are no longer making headlines, the scale of destruction from Pakistan's monsoon flooding in July and August of 2010 surpassed the devastation from the 2004 Tsunami, the 2005 northern Pakistan earthquake, and the 2010 Haiti earthquake combined. This includes:

1.5 million women of reproductive age
40,500 who will give birth in the next three months
6,075 surgical interventions expected to be necessary in the next three months

☞ A **Saudi** royal order limiting the number of religious rulings, or fatwas, that can be issued is an attempt to bring order to what has become a chaotic field since the advent of satellite television and the Internet, analysts say.

King Abdullah's decree, issued Thursday, prohibits anyone other than Islamic scholars appointed by him from issuing public religious rulings.

Abdullah has tried to curtail some of the powers of conservatives, including the religious scholars, and taken cautious steps to improve the situations of women.

In June the Saudi public was startled by a fatwa advocating that women breast-feed unrelated men to establish "maternal relations" and thus get around the Islamic prohibition on the mixing of the sexes. A few months earlier, another scholar had urged the killing of anyone who facilitated the mixing of men and women in workplaces and universities.

☞ The Taliban has stoned to death a couple in northern **Afghanistan** that it says carried out an extramarital affair. The 23-year-old woman and 28-year-old man had their hands tied behind their backs and stood in an empty field as some 100 people gathered to watch and help carry out their sentence. It took place in a Taliban-controlled village in Kunduz province. Earlier this year, the Taliban killed a pregnant widow after accusing her of adultery.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscription: \$15

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

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.

Tuesday, September 7, 2010, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

THE ANGINA MONOLOGUES

Kathy E. Magliato, MD, MBA, FACS

Director of Women's Cardiac Services, Saint John's Medical Center
Presented by Women in Health Administration of Southern California

The Upper West

3321 Pico Boulevard | Santa Monica, CA 90405

310-586-1111 | <http://www.theupperwest.com>

Light appetizers will be served; Happy Hour Specials until 7 pm

Registration: Members: \$15 Non-Members: \$22

If you ask a group of women what the most serious threat to their health is, most will respond "breast cancer." And they would be wrong. Heart Disease is the #1 killer of women in the United States, taking more lives than all the cancers combined. The statistics are alarming:

- **2.5 million US women are hospitalized for cardiovascular illness each year.**
- **500,000 women die each year from cardiovascular disease (vs. 446,000 men).**
- **Every 30 seconds 1 woman in the US dies from CV disease.**

Dr. Kathy Magliato, Director of Women's Cardiac Surgical Services at St. John's Medical Center in Santa Monica, CA is one of the few female cardiothoracic surgeons in the world. She will present a lively and engaging talk educating attendees about heart disease, stressing that it is critical for women to know their cholesterol numbers as well as other indicators that predict heart disease.

As a working mother, Dr. Magliato understands how females are the caregivers for everyone but themselves. She'll underscore the importance of heart care and knowing the warning signs. You'll hear about real-life patients and their lifestyles and how she has made it her mission to change the perception that heart disease is a man's illness.

Dr. Magliato is also a successful author, having published *Healing Hearts: A Memoir of a Female Heart Surgeon*, which provides “an inspiring example of living and loving life to the fullest.” Publishers Weekly (starred review). “Hopefully my book will reach out to women to say, ‘Yes, you can have it all.’ ” Dr. Magliato’s interview with WNYC The Leonard Lopate Show.

The first 10 event registrants will receive a complimentary copy of Dr. Magliato’s book (a \$24 value). Additional copies will be available for purchase at a discounted rate at the event. For more information about Dr. Magliato, please visit <http://kathymagliato.com>.

Registration Form: The Angina Monologues | September 7, 2010
The Upper West | 3321 Pico Boulevard | Santa Monica, CA | 310-586-1111
Valet and Street Parking are available.



Sunday, September 12th

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Access Africa: Empowering Women through Microfinance
Learn how CARE is working to bring financial services to Africa’s
poor and how you can make a difference

The Maxwell House, Western Justice Center

55 South Grand Ave, Pasadena 91105

Suggested donation: \$5

Light refreshments served

RSVP to Deanna Arthur at deannaauw@gmail.com or 626-818-6536



Friday, September 17th

3rd Annual Women in Pain Conference

Gender Matters "Raising the Curtain on Pain"

Free to all women in pain and their caregivers!

Location: California Endowment’s Center for
Healthy Communities in downtown Los Angeles.

This empowering event will feature keynote speakers, celebrities, legislators, workshops, breakout sessions, live performances, and a patient/doctor dramatization that will focus on the interconnection between the mind, body and spirit.

The conference will focus on Integrative Medicine and the Creative Art Therapies. Throughout the day, dance, theatre, music, visual arts and standup comedy will be staged to paint literal and metaphorical murals of the pain experience.

Women in pain and their caregivers can attend the all-day conference free of charge.

Registered nurses in attendance are eligible to receive five CEU credits.

For those unable to attend, the conference will be broadcast live via worldwide webcast.

For more information and to register, please visit the conference website at:

<http://forgrace.org/women/in/pain/C248>



Sunday, September 19th

7:00 p.m.

Love, Loss and What I Wore

Geffen Theater, Westwood

Join Fifty-Fifty Leadership for a Girls Night Out and Fundraiser

Sold out



Saturday, October 9th

CrimeSurvivors’ Survive and Thrive Run Walk Health & Safety Expo

This year’s event will be at the Orange County Sheriff Regional Training Academy in Tustin, Ca. The purpose of this event is to bring awareness, prevention and survival to all surrounding communities while offering resources and services to victims of crime so they may walk away empowered with the tools to survive and thrive.

For more information and to register to run or walk: www.surviveandthriverunwalk.org



EVENTS – AROUND THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD

Saturday, September 11

12pm – 3pm

Out of the Archives Seminar

The Women's Library
London Metropolitan University
Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT
England

This seminar brings together the artists commissioned for the Out of the Archives project alongside guest speakers to present and discuss visual responses to the gendered archive.

[Contact info](#)



Saturday, September 25th

COME CELEBRATE WITH WIN, CAWA,

US WOMEN CONNECT

AND THE BEIJING PLATFORM'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

TIME: 6:00 - 9:30 pm

LOCATION: Delancey Street Town Hall
600 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94107

WIN and CAWA are celebrating and commemorating 15 years of connecting women across cultures for collective action on the Beijing platform for action locally and globally

Ethnic delicacies, film and video retrospectives, music by the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco and jazz singer Thuy Linh Tran-Arrigoni.

Rose Aguilar, MC and KALW, Your Call Radio, will moderate a roundtable conversation with visionary activists on 'hot button' issues.

Help us honor leading change heroines and heroes: Elahe Amani, Madeline Duckles, Mimi Silbert, Elisa Maria Sanchez, Public Defender Jeff Adachi, Assemblyman Tom Ammiano and Mexican Consul Miguel Escobar Valdez.

Jean Shinoda Bolen will close the circle of Beijing 1995 to 2010 with "Envisioning the Synergy: A UN NGO 5th World Conference on Women 2015!

Women's Intercultural Network (WIN)
win@win-cawa.org, www.win-cawa.org
Phone: 415-221-4841 Fax: 415-373-3932

San Francisco, California 94117 USA



Wed., Sept. 29 - 7:30 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 30 - 7:30 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 1 - 7:30 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 2 - 7:30 p.m.

Now That She's Gone

Written & Performed By Ellen Snortland
Four Performances Only!

Pangea World Theater
711 Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Tickets are \$15 or \$12 students & seniors; can be purchased online at: www.pangeaworldtheater.org --tickets may also be purchased at the door, if seats are still available.

No one under 12 will be admitted.

For more info, email barbara.lavalleur@gmail.com or call her at 612-578-2422
or call Pangea at 612-822-0015

Ticket purchases: Brown Paper Tickets web link:
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/124620> or call 1-800-838-3006

EVENTS – ONLINE

Wednesday, September 8

Thursday, September 16

1:00 p.m.

FREE Webinar Series on Social Security!

OWL (The Older Women's League) is pleased to announce that the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) will be hosting a free webinar series on Social Security.

Social Security, whose average benefit is \$15,856 for a man and \$11,972 for a woman, provides vital protections against the loss of wages as the result of disability, death, or old age. \$11,972 is barely above poverty, and too many older women are struggling to meet their basic needs. As a result, Social Security, pensions and savings are especially critical for women, but many do not know how to best take advantage of these programs or how to "catch up" if they've gotten behind.

In order to help women prepare for retirement, the National Women's Law Center is hosting a two-part series of webinars for service providers, advocates, and individuals. These webinars are free, but registration is required:

1. Planning for the Future: What Women Need to Know About Social Security
1:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, September 8, 2010
2. Planning for the Future: What Women Need to Know About Pensions and Savings
1:00 p.m. EST on Thursday, September 16, 2010

[Register for the webinar](#)



FINAL WORDS



Shirley Sherrod: *Life is a grindstone. But whether it grinds us down or polishes us up depends on us.*



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.