

she

Shines™

SUMMER 2012 • FREE

celebrating the aspirations and accomplishments of women

share it
trust it
smile

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

published by YWCA Northern Rhode Island
volume 8, number 2 • www.sheshines.org
celebrating women holding office



she Shines calendar

Hi Mollie!

photo by
Deborah L. Perry



may

- **May - June, Girls Just Wanna Paint:** Exhibit at Duxbury Free Library, 77 Alden Street in Duxbury, MA. A 'Meet the Artists' Opening on May 19th, from 2 to 4pm. See work in acrylics by Kelley MacDonald, cover artist for the summer edition of *She Shines*. www.duxburyfreelibrary.org
- **May 3, Speed Networking:** Join Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce for breakfast and networking from 8 to 9:30am. Quick, focused opportunities to meet those who can propel your career and business. Cost: \$5 for members. \$15 for non members. www.nrichamber.com
- **May 5 - 27, Imagination Playground:** At Providence Children's Museum, 100 South Street in Providence. Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 5pm. Inspires children to invent their own ways to play, shape environment, make their own rules, and work together to create imaginative structures. Admission: Free for members. \$8.50 for non-members. www.ChildrenMuseum.org
- **May 5, Walk to End Domestic Violence:** 10am at Rose Larisa Memorial Park, Bullocks Point Avenue in Riverside / East Providence. Registration: \$20 and includes t-shirt. www.womenscenterri.org
- **May 5, The Big Night Out Fiesta:** Join Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ocean State at the Hyatt Regency Newport on Goat Island. Enjoy an elegant sit-down dinner, live and

silent auctions, and dance the night away to Nancy Paolino and the Black Tie Band. Tickets: \$125. www.bbbsos.org

- **June 2 - 3, Rhode Island Mission of Mercy / Free Dental Care:** At Community College of Rhode Island Flanagan Campus, 1762 Louisquisset Pike in Lincoln (RIPTA bus service available from Kennedy Plaza, Providence). Doors open at 6am. Patients seen on first-come, first-served basis. For adults and children who are uninsured, underinsured or otherwise unable to visit a dental office and do not have a medically compromising condition that prohibits receiving care. Children under age 18 must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Cleanings, fillings, extractions, limited treatment partial dentures and some root canal therapy will be offered. All work is provided for free by dental professionals and community volunteers. Photo identification, social security number or other personal identification or documentation is not required. Interpreters available to assist patients. Please do not wait for the Rhode Island Mission of Mercy to seek care for severe dental pain, as this could signal a serious condition. Visit www.rimom.org for a list of low cost dental clinics and other Rhode Island dental information.
- **June 3, Gloria Gemma 5K:** 11:15am at Assembly Point, RI State House. Walk

june

w/dog: \$30. Run: \$25. Walk: \$25. Child (12 and under): \$15. Virtual Participant: \$10. Final event of Flames of Hope weekend. www.gloriagemma5k.org

- **June 16, Opening Day Garden of Wings Butterfly Pavilion:** At The Farmer's Daughter, 716 Mooresfield Road in Wakefield. Monday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Immerse yourself amidst hundreds of brilliant butterflies as you stroll through a landscaped pavilion brimming with flowering plants. Discover the beauty of Rhode Island's indigenous butterflies and moths. Admission: \$3 for children (3-12). \$5 for adults. www.thefarmersdaughterterrri.com
- **June 20, Rhode Island Cancer Summit:** The Changing Faces of Cancer Survivorship from 7:30am to 3pm at Crowne Plaza, 801 Greenwich Avenue in Warwick. For health-care professionals, community members, cancer survivors and caregivers. Free and open to the public. CEUs available. Contact 401-222-7899 for details.
- **June 24 - 29, Youth Leadership Institute for Teens:** Youth ages 14-18 explore the complexities of some of the most important issues in human relations: sexism, racism, ableism, homophobia, interfaith respect, cultural appreciation, privilege, prejudice and discrimination. They work together to create solutions for our future. At Camp Canonicus in Exeter. Registration: \$500 for the week-

july

long overnight lodging, food and program expenses. Full and partial scholarships available. Sponsored by Rhode Island for Community & Justice. Online application at www.ricj.org.

- **July 4, Parade Picnic at Linden Place:** 1810 Federal mansion in the heart of Bristol. Reserved bleacher-style seating, tables and chairs under the shade of Linden trees, continental breakfast, picnic lunch and restrooms. Watch the annual parade in patriotic style and support the restoration of this landmark. Tickets: \$70 adults, \$55 children (includes breakfast and lunch). Linden Place members receive \$10 discount on tickets. www.lindenplace.org
- **July 9 - 12, Girls Summer Camp at All That Matters:** From 1 to 4pm each day with celebrated yoga-for-teens teacher Nancy Escher. Yoga is a powerful, natural and effective way for girls to thrive in their physical bodies and cultivate their body-mind-spirit connection. Girls ages 9-13 will enjoy four afternoons of exploration, learning, movement and fun. Registration: \$125. www.allthatmatters.com

Events are listed in the calendar as space allows. Submissions may be e-mailed to info@sheshines.org, faxed to 401-769-7454, or mailed to *She Shines*, c/o YWCA Northern Rhode Island, 514 Blackstone Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895.

18th Annual YWCA Golf Tournament

Sunday, July 15, 2012

1pm Shotgun

at Foster Country Club

Support YWCA Northern Rhode Island as a player, sponsor or raffle prize donor.

The funds support YWCA breast health awareness and outreach programs.

For more information, visit www.ywcanri.org. To participate, call Holly Courtemanche or Debbie Fay at 401-769-7450.



"Women make up less than 10 percent of world leaders . . . Women's participation is fundamental to democracy and essential to the achievement of sustainable development and peace in all contexts - during peace, through conflict and post-conflict, and during political transitions."

- UN Women / United Nations

Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Women and Politics in Rhode Island

Federal Office:

U.S. Representatives Claudine Schneider (1980-1990)

State Office:

General Treasurer Gina M. Raimondo (2011-present)

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts (2007-present)

State Treasurer Nancy J. Mayer (1993-1999)

Secretary of State Barbara Leonard (1993-1995)

Secretary of State Kathleen S. Connell (1987-1992)

Attorney General Arlene Violet (1985-1987)

Secretary of State Susan L. Farmer (1983-1986)

For more information, visit Center for American Women in Politics:

www.cawp.rutgers.edu



publisher
Deborah L. Perry



editor
Lisa Piscatelli



website administrator
Meaghan Lamarre



summer edition coordinator
Meghan Grady

contributors:

writers

Sabina Matos, Diane C. Mederos, Donna M. Nesselbush, Gina M. Raimondo, Claudine Schneider, Nancy Stevens, Teresa Tanzi and Myrth York

photographers

Agapao Productions, Kimberlee Praast and courtesy photos as attributed

cover artist

Kelley MacDonald

She Shines

c/o YWCA Northern Rhode Island
514 Blackstone Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895
www.sheshines.org | info@sheshines.org
401-769-7450

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how to:

contribute *She Shines* welcomes letters to the editor, articles, poetry, stories, graphics, photos and calendar events. Contact us if you have an inspiring story to tell or have a suggestion of someone to be featured. Only original contributions will be considered and may be edited due to space limitations. Include contact information: name, e-mail, address, and phone number. Images provided electronically must be high-resolution.

submit cover art The cover is reserved as a gallery of art in keeping with the *She Shines* theme. For consideration, send in a photo by e-mail attachment or mail. This is a wonderful opportunity for local artists to show their work. A biography is published in conjunction with the "Artist Canvas" section of *She Shines*.

advertise Visit sheshines.org to view the advertising media kit. *She Shines* reserves the right to refuse to sell space for any advertisement the staff deems inappropriate for the publication.

receive the magazine *She Shines* is a free publication mailed to members and friends of YWCA Northern Rhode Island. To be added to the mailing list, send in the subscription form - available online at sheshines.org. The magazine is also available at YWCA Northern Rhode Island and at various special events.



"Peaceful Garden, this 'Painting Safari' was held at Linden Place in Bristol. Of all the places and things I could paint, I was drawn to the small garden area with the beautiful green hydrangeas and pink lilies, not to mention the fabulous red, white and blue buntings." Kelley MacDonald finds that women from her workshops, often share how painting gives them something positive and hopeful to look forward to. *Photos courtesy of MacDonald.*

getting where you want to be

"Women need to stand up and protect our rights – and support and coach other women . . . in my own way, through my art, I pour out my heart and soul."

- Kelley MacDonald

Kelley MacDonald paints in a contemporary realist style, focusing on small daily paintings and large landscapes and skyscapes. The process of "almost" daily paintings hones her skill of composition and proportions. She acknowledges that as an artist, one needs to paint acres to get to where you want to be. She goes on "safaris" to paint, teach and sell her art.

Her own journey towards art was stumbled upon, considering that she never pursued art or even stepped into an art museum until her college days. Pivotal was an art history class while attending Wheaton College. Later she discovered that she didn't just want to study the history, she wanted to participate. She has been creating, studying and speaking art ever since. MacDonald shares art in workshops, shows, online and as a guest host on a radio show highlighting artists.

She even organized a "Girls Just Wanna Paint" Challenge Group, perhaps in a way replicating her all girls educational environment from elementary to high school. "That experience gave me confidence. I get upset when I see girls/women step back. Our opinions matter."

"We started a blog and every month have a topic that we interpret in paint. On the first of the month we post them. That week we get together to see the work in person, have a glass of wine and a pot luck dinner. We share information on upcoming shows and events, painting tips, and support for each other, personally and professionally."

Each year, she takes 2-3 week long painting trips to various places with women of all ages, and from all kinds of backgrounds. "The camaraderie is unbelievable. We critique and encourage each other."

MacDonald lives in Tiverton with an inspirational view of the Sakonnet River. She participates in the South Coast Open Studio Tour in August, and brings work from her studio to display in her yard. She is also a proud member of the Providence Art Club.

MacDonald welcomes visitors to her Stonebridge Studio in Warren by chance or appointment. Visit her blog, <http://kelleymacdonalddailypaint.blogspot.com> or e-mail kcareymac@hotmail.com.

- Lisa Piscatelli, special to *She Shines*

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School Committee Member

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Bristol Town Administrator

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YWCA Northern Rhode Island
spring mini session brochure



"We should never take women's rights for granted."

- Deborah L. Perry

moving forward

we need more women in politics and government

We need more women to run for elected positions because that is the only way we can increase the number of women holding public office. Historically in Rhode Island, and across the United States, women have been underrepresented in positions of elected office. As women, we need to change that.

YWCA Northern Rhode Island is committed to supporting women who hold office, women planning to run for office or becoming involved in campaigns, and encouraging women to become more included in the electoral process. More and more we see women's rights being challenged. To ensure we are moving forward and not backward, we need women to have a voice in politics.

To date, former U.S. Representative Claudine Schneider is the only woman to ever represent Rhode Island in the United States Congress. She is a trailblazer and created a path that we hope many other Rhode Island women will follow in the future.

In this edition of *She Shines*, YWCA is recognizing eight women who either hold or have held public office in Rhode Island. Read about why they feel we need more women holding office at all levels of government and learn about their experiences as elected officials.

You'll also read about Maryellen Butke, an advocate for education reform, who learned the importance of making your voice heard as a parent trying to navigate the public education system. Now, she is working to ensure all Rhode Island children have access to a high-quality public education. Butke is an example of how as an individual you can work with decision-makers and elected officials to create positive change in your community.

These are just a few of the amazing female advocates making a difference in our state. In many ways, they have turned personal into purposeful. Now they inspire us to get involved in the political process, too. ✨

Very truly yours,

Deborah

Deborah L. Perry
president / chief executive officer, YWCA Northern Rhode Island
publisher, *She Shines* magazine



For more information about YWCA Vote, visit www.ywcavote.org.

For more information about voter registration, visit the Rhode Island Secretary of State Office's website at <http://sos.ri.gov/> or contact your local Board of Canvassers.

why women should vote

As an organization that has been dedicated to improve the lives of all women in our nation for more than a century, YWCA is proud of the role we have played in voter education efforts. This election season is critical to the well-being of women, girls and people of color. During this election season, our vote counts now more than ever.

Voting is the most important tool that women and people of color have to help shape the policies that affect their lives and those of their loved ones. Voters cast ballots for elected officials who make major decisions that impact the lives of women, girls and people of color.

Every election, voters have a choice to elect candidates to positions of power who make critical decisions about state, local and federal budgets, education, and health care. These candidates are involved in key decisions that shape the future of our families, communities and our nation.

Women are a powerful voting bloc in the United States. Women typically have higher voting participation rates than men. The United States Census reports that in the 2008 Presidential Election, women had a higher voting rate (66 percent) compared to males (62 percent).

Young women, in particular, play a critical role in the outcome of elections. According to a Rock the Vote report, there are nearly 22 million women between the ages of 18 and 29 eligible to vote in the U.S. Young women vote at higher rates than their male peers. In fact, in 2004 young women led the overall young voter turnout increase, jumping 10 percentage points over 2000 levels.

Women influence the direction of critical policies such as childcare, healthcare, personal safety and economic security, budget and tax issues, education and a healthy environment. Senior women especially, are concerned about campaign issues related to retirement security specifically Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare.

When women vote, it drastically shapes the outcome of any given election. Women largely determine the issues debated on the campaign trail and as a large voting bloc, they significantly influence which candidate wins.

YWCA USA advocacy priority issues

- Increasing Women's Income, protecting women's economic and financial security
- Welfare Reform, ending poverty and supporting economic security
- Child Care & Early Education, ensuring opportunities for a new generation
- Racial Justice, ending discrimination and promoting equality
- Hate Crimes, strengthening hate crime laws
- Affirmative Action, promoting equality
- Violence Against Women, preventing and ending violence against women
- Health Care, supporting health care reform
- Global Issues, supporting human rights
- Housing, creating affordable housing

YWCA believes that the right to vote is the foundation of our democracy and that every eligible person in the United States should be able to routinely, easily and successfully exercise his or her right to vote. Practices and tactics which disenfranchise voters undermine the constitutionally-protected right to vote.



Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill

Rhode Island's first female legislator

Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill (1880-1975) – youngest of 13 children of a former Woonsocket city councilman – became Rhode Island's first female legislator in 1922. Other state and national titles would follow including Deputy Senate Floor Leader and Democratic National Committeewoman.

O'Neill was also appointed as President Franklin Roosevelt's legislative liaison to the U.S. Bureau of Narcotics. She held this position through the Great Depression and most of World War II. O'Neill resigned in 1943 to return home, where she held an executive position with the Rhode Island Department of Labor until her 1954 retirement.

At the 4th annual Women Holding Office Celebration on April 30, 2012, six women were honored as the second recipients of the Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill Award – Bristol Town Administrator Diane C. Mederos, State Senator Donna M. Nesselbush, General Treasurer Gina M. Raimondo, former U.S. Representative Claudine Schneider, former East Providence School Committee Member Nancy Stevens, and former State Senator Myrth York. ❖❖❖

Women Holding Office articles begin on page 11.

*Image likeness from a photo of Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill:
Katherine Gregg, "Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill, A starring role at the
State House", The Providence Journal-Bulletin, March 1994.
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event underwriters and participants



Female Elected Officials:

Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill
Honorees
Rising Political Stars
Women Holding Office

Lead Agency:

YWCA Northern Rhode Island

Honorary Host:

Kati Machtley

Emcee:

Reza Corinne Clifton

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at Bryant University
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Leading Women SENE/CT
League of Women Voters of
Rhode Island
Rabbi Peter W. Stein, Temple
Sinai of Cranston
and the many event attendees . . .

Event Committee:

Joyce Dolbec
Melody Drnach
Meghan Grady
Lisa Piscatelli
Sandy Riojas
Toby Simon
Amy Stein

smart women make smart financial decisions



Joanne M. Daly
Vice President/Financial Advisor
UBS Financial Services Inc.

Joanne is passionate about helping smart, affluent women and their families gain greater control of their financial life. Many of Joanne's clients are women who have become responsible for their financial future after experiencing divorce, death of a spouse, career transition or inheritance of significant wealth. Joanne works in partnership with her clients to help them become financially empowered and secure in their financial future. She helps her clients take control of their financial life through personal financial coaching sessions, educational workshops and developing their personal financial lifestyle plan. Each plan incorporates a personalized investment strategy and Joanne's proactive wealth management process. Joanne's financial planning knowledge and expertise with her 20 years of combined CPA and wealth planning experience gives her the exceptional ability to offer a boutique of wealth management services and resources exclusively to her clients. Joanne is chair of the Financial Planning and Literacy Committee of the RI Society of CPAs. She is a past recipient of the YWCA Women of Achievement Award for helping women become financially empowered and is a frequent guest speaker at community and corporate events. Contact Joanne for a complimentary consultation, about speaking at an event or to attend a seminar.

One Citizens Plaza, Suite 900
Providence, RI 02903
phone: 401-455-6731/800-333-6303 fax: 855-870-7984
email: joanne.daly@ubs.com
web: www.ubs.com/fa/joannedaly

RI NOW Supports Women Holding Office!



RI NOW's purpose is to take action to bring women into full participation in all aspects of public and private life without experiencing barriers based on gender.

To learn more about RI NOW please visit our website at www.ri-now.org.

RI NOW is a 501(c)(3) advocacy organization that works to improve the status of women and girls in our state. RI NOW also has a political action committee (RI NOW PAC) that works to elect progressive candidates and other leadership candidates to state and local offices. For more information, and to donate, please visit www.ri-now.org.



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to find out what the Chamber can offer your business.

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or kboie@nrchamber.com



We are proud to celebrate Women Holding Office!

Congratulations to the recipients of the YWCA Northern RI Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill Award and the Rising Political Stars



RHODE ISLAND DEMOCRATIC PARTY
www.ndemocrats.org

We are proud to celebrate Women Holding Office

Congratulations to the 2012 Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill Award Recipients and Rising Political Stars



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For People With Differing Abilities, Inc.
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www.oppunlimited.com

Women & Infants' Medical Office Building and the YWCA of Northern Rhode Island invites you to join us for a *May Breakfast*

Our 8th Annual Women's Health Event

Thursday, May 17, 2012
9 - 11:30 am
Women & Infants' Medical Office Building
2168 Diamond Hill Road
Woonsocket, RI

Topic: *It's Your Time: This Year Make Your Health a Top Priority.*

Presenters: Wendy Fox, DPT, and Cassandra Carbery, MD, and David Edmonson, MD.

Discussion will include urinary and pelvic floor, breast health and steps to take for a healthier you.

A light breakfast will be served.

To register, please call (401) 767-2122 or visit womenandinfants.org.



Speaker Gordon D. Fox and the Rhode Island House of Representatives

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE ISABELLE AHEARN O'NEILL AWARD

- General Treasurer Gina M. Raimondo
- State Senator Donna M. Nesselbush
- Bristol Town Administrator Diane C. Mederos
- former U.S. Representative Claudine Schneider
- former State Senator Myrth York
- former East Providence School Committee Member Nancy Stevens

CONGRATULATIONS TO RISING POLITICAL STARS

- State Representative Teresa Tanzi
- Providence City Councilwoman Sabina Matos

You are well deserving of these honors for your many contributions to the State of Rhode Island

Paid for by the Friends of Gordon D. Fox

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Deb Ruggiero

Host/creator of **AMAZING WOMEN**

- 2011, 2008 Associated Press Award for BEST Public Affairs Show
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www.amazingwomenri.com

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ywca

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spring mini session 2012

northern rhode island

REGISTRATION BEGINS 4/30/12

FIVE WEEK SESSION
5/14 - 6/16/12

closed 5/28
Memorial Day



GYMNASTICS ACADEMY

BASIC GYMNASTICS

3 1/2 to 5 years old

BEGINNER GYMNASTICS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

A great all around introductory gymnastics program. Preschoolers have the opportunity to advance to higher levels.

Fri. 3:30-4:30pm \$35/5wks
Sat. 10:30-11:30am \$35/5wks

4 to 7 years old

BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE GYMNASTICS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

A great all around introductory gymnastics program. Students have the opportunity to advance to higher levels.

Thurs. 4:30-5:30pm \$35/5wks

5 to 12 years old

BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE GYMNASTICS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

A great all around introductory gymnastics program. Students have the opportunity to advance to higher levels.

Fri. 4:30-5:30pm \$35/5wks
Sat. 9-10:15am \$44/5wks

13 to 18 years old

TEEN GYMNASTICS

Specifically designed for teenagers.
Tues. 5-6pm \$35/5wks

CONTINUING GYMNASTICS

All classes listed below require permission from the instructor for participation. Call Jennie Graham or Debbie Fay at 769-7450. YWCA Northern Rhode Island Gymnastics Academy Competitive Coaches are USA Gymnastics Certified.

4 to 7 years old

ADVANCED PEE WEE GYMNASTICS-LEVEL I & II

Thurs. 3:30-4:30pm \$35/5wks

5 to 12 years old

ADVANCED GYMNASTICS

Tues. 3:45-5pm \$44/5wks

COMPETITIVE TEAM:

Monthly fee for all competitive teams:

One day a week \$48/month

Two days a week \$96/month

Three days a week \$120/month

Jennie Graham, Head Coach

Breonna Lenart, Assistant Coach

PRE TEAM

Sat. 11:30am-1:30pm 5 to 12 years old

HOT SHOTS 4 to 9 years old

Sat. 9-11am

TEAM A 8 to 16 years old

Sat. 10:30am-12:30pm

TEAM B 8 to 16 years old

Tues. 4:30-6:30pm (optional)

Sat. 10:30am-12:30pm

TEAM C 8 to 16 years old

Tues. 4:30-6:30pm

Sat. 2:30-5pm

TEAM D 9 to 18 years old

Tues. 4-6:30pm

Fri. 4-6:30pm

Sat. 2:30-5pm

SUMMER CAMPS

Register today at 514 Blackstone Street, Woonsocket | 401-769-7450. Registration and deposit required for summer camps. \$5/week members. \$10/week nonmembers. Safety is our first priority. Our second priority is fun.

DOODLE BUGS

For children 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 years of age (may wear pull ups). From 9am-1pm, Monday through Friday (2 day minimum). Daily cost: \$20/day. Weekly cost: \$100/week. In order to participate, you must register your child in advance, 769-7450. Early Birds and/or after camp options available. Families needing additional hours, speak with receptionist regarding rates.

Begins June 11. Enjoy books, games, activities, water play, playground, and more with weekly themes . . .

June 11-15: Dive into Summer

June 18-22: Jump, Jump, Jump

June 25-29: Make a Noise

July 2-6: Parade for All

July 9-13: Down on the Farm

July 16-20: Little Ducks and Friends

July 23-27: In the Jungle

July 30-Aug 3: Polar Pals

Aug 6-10: The Big Wide Ocean

Aug 13-17: It's "Shore" Fun

Aug 20-24: Summer Spectacular

BUSY BEE

For children 3 to 5 years of age. From 9am-1pm or noon-4pm. Monday through Friday (2 day minimum). Daily cost: \$15/half-day.

Weekly cost: \$75/week. In order to participate, you must register your child in advance, 769-7450. Early Birds and/or after camp options available. Families needing additional hours, speak with receptionist regarding rates.

Begins June 11. Enjoy books, games, activities, water play, playground, and more with weekly themes . . .

June 11-15: Let's Get Messy - Arts and Crafts

June 18-22: Music and Movement

June 25-29: Fun in the Sun

July 2-6: Celebrate - Red, White and Blue

July 9-13: Road Trip - Going on Vacation

July 16-20: The Great Outdoors - Camping

July 23-27: Wheels and Gears

July 30-Aug 3: Up, Up and Away

Aug 6-10: Dinosaurs and Volcanoes

Aug 13-17: Favorite Storybook Characters

Aug 20-24: Lions, Tigers, and Bears, Oh My!

KIDS SPORTS CLUB

For children 4 to 6 years of age. From 9am-1pm. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Weekly cost: \$60/week. In order to participate, you must register your child in advance, 769-7450. Early Birds and/or after camp options available. Families needing additional hours, speak with receptionist regarding rates.

Begins June 18. Enjoy sports, cooking, crafts, water play, playground, and more with weekly themes . . .

June 18-22: T-Rex T-Ball

June 25-29: Bugs, Bugs, Sports and Bugs

July 2-6: Transportation Run

July 9-13: Under the Sea Floor Hockey

July 16-20: Chef Combo's Fantastic Fitness Fun

July 23-27: Bob the Builder Basketball

July 30-Aug 3: Scooby-Doo Soccer

Aug 6-10: Clifford Kickball

Aug 13-17: Zoo Animals Basketball

Aug 20-24: End of Summer Surprise Week

ADVENTURE

Accredited by the American Camp Association. For children 6 to 12 years of age with groups divided by age. Junior Leadership option available for children 13 and over. From 6:30am-6pm, \$29/day. Half days/\$15 for 4 hours. No extra charges for trips or other activities. Accept DHS subsidy. Free snack provided in the afternoon. In order to participate, you must register your child in advance, 769-7450. Call for details.

Begins June 14. Enjoy sports, arts/crafts, cooking, dramatic play, imagination/creativity, games, guest presenters/workshops, field trips and more with weekly themes . . .

June 18-22: Getting to Know You

June 25-29: Health & Safety

July 2-6: Our World

July 9-13: Animal Week including Dinosaurs

July 16-20: Our Nation

July 23-27: Expanded Horizons

July 30-Aug 3: Ancient Mythologies

Aug 6-10: Arts and Dramatic Play

Aug 13-17: Mysteries of the Deep

Aug 20-24: End of Summer Funtacular





PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Enroll today for the preschool year 2012-2013: We know the first six years of a child's life are the most important to his/her physical, emotional, social and cognitive development. We have a history and reputation of providing quality and meaningful learning experiences. Children must be 3 years old prior to September 1, 2012 and toilet trained to be eligible to attend.

Open House Dates: Parents and children are welcome to explore the classroom, meet teachers and receive a tour of the facility.

- Monday, May 7 from 4:30-6:30pm
- Wednesday, May 9 from 9:30-11am
- Wednesday, May 16 from 4:30-6:30pm
- Thursday, May 31 from 9:30-11am

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER

Open for child care at 6:30am. For details on child care, pre-preschool or preschool call Mary Anne Deslauriers, Director of Early Childhood Education, at 769-7450.

YWCA is a provider agency of the NACCRRRA Military Fee Assistance Program. *

CHILD CARE

INFANT/TODDLER

Our philosophy is to provide a developmentally appropriate program for children 8 weeks (6 weeks with pediatrician consent) to 3 years that focuses on a child's individual needs. We provide a safe and nurturing program, parents can rely upon throughout the year. The Early Childhood Learning Center encourages healthy social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. Licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. *

PRE-PRESCHOOL

LITTLE LEARNERS

Pre-preschool for children 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 years of age. With a consistent daily schedule modeled after our existing preschool program, children will be offered opportunities for socialization, creativity, and toilet training. Daily schedule includes circle time, songs, storytime, snack, play, and creative projects.

9am-noon. Two, three, or five day options available. Early Birds and Lunch Bunch available. Child care option also available for the afternoon. *

PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL

The YWCA preschool is a developmental program for children age 3 to 5. Our philosophy is reflected in a "hands on" approach to learning through interactive experiences with peers, the environment, and adults. Our most important function at the YWCA preschool is to ensure that each child's first school experience is safe, joyful, and enriching. Our curriculum and assessment align with the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards. Two, three, and five-day programs with morning, afternoon or full day options available. Licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Education and by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. *

STEPPING STONES

Unique transitional program for children whose parents are postponing Kindergarten entrance. YWCA Stepping Stones is a developmentally appropriate setting where children participate in a program designed to enhance growth and development socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically. Our curriculum and assessment align with the Rhode Island Early Learning Standards. Small class size (maximum 15) allows for much individual attention and teacher/peer involvement. Program meets Mon.-Fri., 1-4pm. Licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. *

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAMS:

YWCA offers programs to help accommodate a parent or guardians' schedule. \$6/hour

EARLY BIRDS

Children enjoy morning activities in a classroom environment from 6:30-9am, then are escorted to respective classrooms.

LUNCH BUNCH

Children eat lunch in a social environment then are offered activities and gym/playground from noon-1pm. Lunches brought from home.

AFTER PRESCHOOL CARE

Children are engaged in age-appropriate activities including gross motor play in playground from 4-6pm.

YOUTH ENRICHMENT

Now open for youth enrichment at 6:30am. For program details call Nathan Smith, Youth Enrichment Program Coordinator, 769-7450.

APPLE YOUTH ENRICHMENT

For students attending any Woonsocket elementary school (public or Catholic) and the Woonsocket Middle School. Mon.-Fri., 2-6:30pm (3 day minimum). Before school option available beginning at 6:30am (not available for Woonsocket Middle School). Children are bussed to/from YWCA and their schools, enjoy a free afternoon snack, participate in fun activities, offered homework help,

and special events. Builds on the strengths and values of youth by providing them with a supportive, safe, and culturally diverse environment in which they can develop positive qualities for school success and a productive future. Activities geared towards fostering individual creativity and imagination and the ability to implement the child's own original ideas. Library available. *

SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WE'RE OPEN

We are there for you when school is closed. YWCA provides an all day youth enrichment program for children age 6-15 when school is cancelled due to inclement weather and during school vacation. In order to participate, you must register your child in advance, 769-7450.

BEFORE KINDERGARTEN CARE & AFTER KINDERGARTEN CARE

Transportation provided. Flexible hours. Qualified, friendly staff will provide enrichment activities for your child in safe indoor and outdoor environments. Morning: gross motor play in gymnasium, creative play, stories, music, movement, free choice play, table games, and time to eat (breakfast brought from home). Afternoon: sports classes, gymnastics, homework time and youth enrichment activities. Licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families.

BEFORE SCHOOL AGE CARE & AFTER SCHOOL AGE CARE

Transportation provided. Our philosophy is to provide a developmentally appropriate program for children in Kindergarten to age 15. The program focuses on a youth's individual needs. We provide a safe, nurturing and enriching program, which parents can rely upon throughout the year, especially after school, school vacations and during the summer. Licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. Program encourages healthy social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development.

APPLE Youth Enrichment Curriculum includes:
Academics
Physical Education/Recreation
Prevention
Leadership
Empowerment.

PARENTING PROGRAMS

For details, call Deb Smith, RN and Parenting in Progress Site Coordinator, at 769-7450.

PARENTING

16 to 21 years old

PARENTING IN PROGRESS®

Parenting In Progress (PIP) is an alternative education, life skills, and job training program housed at YWCA. Collaborative partners for this YWCA program include: Woonsocket Education Department, Project RIRAL, BVCAP, Connecting for Children and Families, and area businesses. Eligible applicants must live in Woonsocket and be pregnant or parenting young women under 21 years old. Mon.-Fri., 9am-1pm.

ART STUDIO

ART CLASSES

New and returning students welcome. Every session, new artists and projects are covered.

5 to 10 years old

ART FOR CHILDREN

Introduces young students to basic color theory via fun, hands on, interactive lessons and creativity games. We'll explore a variety of materials and learn about a famous artist or two. Art material fee included in session fee. Missie St. Sauveur
Fri. 5-6:30pm: \$53/5wks

11 and 12 years old

ART FOR TWEENS

Call for appropriate art class placement, 769-7450. We will gladly try to accommodate.

13+ years old

ART FOR TEENS

Appropriate for a range of experience levels. Combines theory and hand-on projects with a relaxed and social atmosphere. Each class is divided into two section. In the first, a lesson plan that incorporates art theory, history, new materials and/or technique. Second half, student work on guided projects of their own choice. Art material fee included in session fee. Missie St. Sauveur
Mon. 5:15-6:45pm: \$42/4wks

Adults and Teens

FEARLESS ART FOR ADULT BEGINNERS

Have you always itched to try painting, sketching or sculpting? In this class, you get an introduction to art-making, and a little art history, in a relaxed, non-judgmental atmosphere. Come have fun. You may be surprised by what you create. Art material fee included in session fee. Note: Teens welcome if attending with adult. Missie St. Sauveur
Mon. 7-8:30pm \$42/4wks



SHE SHINES™
Metcalf Award Winner
for Diversity in the Media
www.sheshines.org

Published by YWCA Northern Rhode Island, *She Shines* is a magazine that celebrates the aspirations and accomplishments of women.

Share it. Trust it. Smile.

To receive a FREE subscription or reserve advertising space, contact Lisa Piscatelli at 769-7450.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Gym activities are under the direction of Debbie Fay.

GYM ACTIVITIES

Walking to 3 years old

JUMPING BEANS

Gymnasium play with parent.

Tues. 9-10am \$35/5wks

Thurs. 10-11am \$35/5wks

JUMPING BEANS GETS MESSY

One hour of gymnasium play with parent then

1/2 hour of messy activity - crafts or cooking.

Fri. 9-10:30am \$53/5wks

SOCIALIZATION ACTIVITIES

2 1/2 to 3 1/2 years old

Independent classes for your child

(do not have to be toilet trained).

SMALL WORLD I and II:

Children offered opportunities for socialization, creativity and toilet training. Includes storytime, songs, crafts, playtime and snack.

SMALL WORLD I

Deb Nault

Thurs. 9-10am \$35/5wks

Fri. 9-10am \$35/5wks

SMALL WORLD II

Deb Nault

Thurs. 10am-noon \$70/5wks

Fri. 10am-noon \$70/5wks

WELLNESS PROGRAMS

EXERCISE FACILITY

17+ years old

WOMEN'S WORKOUT ROOM

Enjoy the privacy of a women's only facility with: a four stack universal machine, bikes, free weights, treadmills and showers. You must pay a \$20 instruction/processing fee and attend an introductory session in order to be eligible to use room. YWCA adult female membership required. For appointment, call Lisa Piscatelli at 769-7450.

EXERCISE

16+ years old

AEROBIC DANCE

Improve your aerobic fitness. Benefits include increase in heart health, muscular endurance, mood, energy level and a decrease in shortness of breath. Fees reflect member rates, nonmembers pay an additional \$20.

Colette Doura

Mon./Wed., 7:15-8:15pm

\$60/9wks

BELLY DANCING I

Learn exciting moves of ancient Middle Eastern art form: snake arms, figure eights, hip circles, traveling steps and shimmies. Class is for first time students or those wanting to continue with basics before mov-



ing on to more advanced skills. No previous dance experience required. Fun, supportive environment.

Aimee Renaud

Tues., 6:30-7:30pm \$35/5wks

BELLY DANCING II

Continue to learn and evolve in the timeless beauty of the belly dance. Perfect the basics, along with learning new steps, undulations, turns and choreographies. For returning students who are ready for some more advanced moves. Introduction to veil and music theory will be covered as the session progresses. Stay fit while feeling like a goddess!

Aimee Renaud

Tues., 7:30-8:30pm \$35/5wks

GOLF LEAGUE

WOMEN'S GOLF LEAGUE

Begins May 7 at Melody Hill Country Club. YWCA Membership plus \$50 league fee. All golfers must also pay weekly green fees at Melody Hill Country Club. Call Debbie Fay for details, 769-7450.

VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES

All volleyball leagues are under the direction of Debbie Fay. Come prepared to play on organizational nights. Dates subject to change due to weather or other uncontrollable circumstances. To verify times/dates, call Debbie Fay at 769-7450. Volleyball pick-up games for YWCA members. Front desk will collect names and phone numbers of players interested. Night and time will be decided by players availability. \$5 each week you play.

INTERMEDIATE MIXED CO-ED

Sunday: Intermediate. Players bring in their own teams. If you don't have a team, we will try and help you find one. Organization night is Sunday, November 4 from 6-8pm. League starts on Sunday, November 11. \$116/20wks & playoffs/plus membership fee. May pay in two installments.

POWER CO-ED

JOHN PIETROPAOLI LEAGUE

Tuesday: Advanced. Teams are formed by a draft. Organization night is Tuesday, September 11 from 6:45-8pm. League starts on Tuesday, September 18.

\$58/10wks & playoffs/plus membership fee.

INTERMEDIATE CO-ED

Wednesday: Intermediate or above. Players bring in their own teams. If you don't have a team, we will try and help you find one.

Organizational night is Wednesday, September 12 from 6-8pm. League starts on Wednesday, September 19.

\$58/10wks & playoffs/plus membership fee.

WOMEN'S CLUBS

APRES-MIDI

The Apres-Midi Club provides opportunities for women to share activities, information, and gain new friendships. Activities include guest speakers, outings, restaurant tours, luncheons and demonstrations. Membership is open to women 30 years of age and over. Meetings held on alternate Thursdays at 1:30pm from September through June. Call YWCA for details, 769-7450.

WALKING CLUB

If interested in participating in a Walking Club, call Joyce Dolbec at the YWCA Health Office, 769-7450.

HEALTH

BREAST CANCER INFORMATION

The Love/Avon Army of Women provides women the life-changing opportunity to partner with the scientists who are conducting the research that will move us beyond a cure and teach us how to end breast cancer once and for all. Sign up at www.armyofwomen.org.

CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT

Living Well Rhode Island. If you have asthma, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, arthritis or another chronic disease, this FREE workshop is for you. You will receive a healthy life book and relaxation CD. Topics: how to manage your symptoms, how to communicate effectively with your doctor, how to lessen your frustration, how to fight fatigue, how to make daily tasks easier, and how to get more out of life. A friend, caregiver or relative is welcome to attend with you. Workshop begins on May 16 from 2-4:30pm at The Villa at Saint Antoine, North Smithfield (6 consecutive classes). For details, contact Lisa Piscatelli at 769-7450.

DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT

Living Well Rhode Island. If you have diabetes this FREE workshop is for you. You will receive a healthy life book and relaxation CD. Topics: overview of diabetes and self management, healthy eating, preventing or delaying complications, physical activity, dealing with difficult emotions, medication usage, communication skills, strategies for sick days, working with your health care professional, planning for the future, and more. A friend, caregiver or relative is welcome to attend with you. This workshop includes 6 consecutive classes that are held for 2 1/2 hours each. Call for the schedule and to register. For details, contact Lisa Piscatelli at 769-7450.

ENCOREplus®

ENCOREplus® is a systematic approach to women's health promotion, in particular, breast and cervical cancer education. YWCA offers community outreach, breast and cervical health education, linkage to clinical screening services and assistance in accessing and navigating diagnostic treatment services when necessary. YWCA also offers support during diagnosis and treatment.

If you are over age 40 and have no health insurance or your insurance does not cover breast and cervical screenings every year, you may qualify for FREE services. The Rhode Island Department of Health Women's Cancer Screening Program provides a women's health exam including clinical breast and pelvic exams, pap smear, mammogram and follow-up services. For more details call Joyce Dolbec, YWCA Health Consultant, at 769-7450. If hearing/speech impaired call 1-800-745-5555.

MATTER OF BALANCE

FREE program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. Learn to: view falls as controllable; set goals for increasing activity; make changes to reduce fall risks at home; and exercise to increase strength and balance. Who should attend? Anyone: concerned about falls; interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength; who has fallen in the past; and who has restricted activities because of falling concerns. This workshop includes 8 consecutive classes that are held for 2 hours each. Call for the schedule and to register. For details, contact Lisa Piscatelli at 769-7450.

MINORITY HEALTH PROMOTION

YWCA Northern Rhode Island has been designated as a Minority Health Promotion Center by the Rhode Island Department of Health. It is the only organization in northern Rhode Island to receive such a designation. Our Association develops and implements health information, health education and risk reduction activities that improve the quality of life and eliminate health disparities for Woonsocket's racial and ethnic populations. Call the YWCA Health Office for more information, 769-7450.

SMOKERS' QUITLINE

1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) FREE cessation information, multi-session telephone counseling, and self-help materials. Call the YWCA Health Office for more information, 769-7450.

YWCA HEALTH IN CENTRAL FALLS

YWCA Northern Rhode Island in partnership with our sister agency offers health outreach and information to members of the Central Falls community. Contact Joyce Dolbec for further information, 769-7450.

YWCA NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND

CONTACT US

514 Blackstone Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895
T: 401-769-7450
F: 401-769-7454
www.ywcanri.org

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

6 to 16 years: \$12
17 to 64 years: \$22
65 and over: \$17

Children under 6 must be covered by a parent or guardian membership. Membership fees are not refundable or deductible as a charitable contribution. Reduced rates are available in some classes for members 65 and over. All classes and activities are open to both sexes unless otherwise indicated in the class description. A member may use the membership card at all other YWCAs in the USA.

YWCA membership, paid yearly, is required for participation in all programming except as otherwise indicated. Special non-member fees are available for some adult programs. Men and boys are welcome as associates. As a YWCA member, you have access to:

- low cost, innovative programs
- special membership events
- volunteer opportunities
- use of YWCA facilities nationwide
- membership in the oldest, largest women's movement in the nation

HOURS

Monday to Thursday, 9am-9pm
Friday 9am-6:30pm, Saturday 9am-4:30pm
Child care hours: Monday to Friday, open at 6:30am. (arrange with program director)

TOURS

Are you new to YWCA? Call for more information or to schedule a tour, 769-7450.

SCHEDULE

Classes run in consecutive sessions during the school year with a new schedule for summer.

ROOM RENTALS

Room rentals are available for events. Contact YWCA for details, 769-7450.

STORM POLICY

For YWCA cancellations and closing announcements, listen to radio stations WOON 1240AM & WNRI 1380AM or watch Channel 6, 10 & 12. School system delays, early dismissals, and professional days do not apply to YWCA schedule.

EVENTS

For event details, call 769-7450.

- **May 7, PIP Mother's Day Breakfast:** At Chaplin-Perez Center. Contact: Deb Smith.
- **May 9 on Senior Holistic Health, May 23 on Relaxation Techniques and June 6 on Benefits of a Relaxation Tea:** This Senior Wellness Series is from 1-2pm at The Meadows,

North Smithfield. Contact: Joyce Dolbec.

- **May 15, Seminar on Current Cancer Treatments:** Begins at 5pm, Landmark Medical Center in Woonsocket. Speaker: Dr. Nadeem. Contact: Joyce Dolbec.
- **May 16, Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Tobacco Community Meeting:** From 5:30-7pm at Cumberland Public Library. On emerging tobacco products. Contact: Meghan Grady.
- **May 17, National Women's Health Week Breakfast:** From 9-11:30am at Women & Infants, 2168 Diamond Hill Road in Woonsocket. Discussion will include urinary and pelvic floor, breast health and steps to take for a healthier you. Presenters include Wendy Fox, DPT, Cassandra Carberry, MD, and David Edmonson, MD. A light breakfast will be served. Call 401-767-2122 to register. Sponsored by Women & Infants and YWCA.
- **June 13, Parenting in Progress Graduation and Awards Ceremony:** At 11am in YWCA Activity Center.
- **June 22, Gymnastics Show:** Details TBA.
- **July 15, Golf Tournament:** Support YWCA as a player, sponsor or raffle prize donor. 1pm Shotgun at Foster Country Club to benefit ENCOREplus®. Contact: Debbie Fay or Holly Courtemanche.

CONGRATULATIONS

YWCA gymnast wins State Championship: On April 1, Anna Therien of Woonsocket placed first in Rhode Island Championship Meet for Level 4 USA Gymnastics ages 12-14.

CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK

Search and Like:
YWCA Northern Rhode Island



NOTABLE

- American Camp Association Accredited
- Licensed by Rhode Island Department of Education
- Licensed by Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Member of RI Afterschool Plus Alliance
- Member of National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
- Member Agency of The Fund for Community Progress
- Participating Organization of Combined Federal Campaign
- USA Gymnastics Certified Coaches



eliminating racism
empowering women **ywca**

ADVOCACY

National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month



May exhibit

YWCA Northern Rhode Island and The Rhode Island Alliance are pleased to present a multimedia exhibit by photographer Michael Nye - Children of Children, Portraits and Stories of Teen Parents. Hosted by The TSETSE Gallery, the exhibit will run from May 8 to June 11, 2012. Viewing hours are Thursday and Friday from 12 to 6pm and Saturday from 12-3pm or by appointment.

YWCA works to eliminate racism and empower women through comprehensive programs and services which promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The Rhode Island Alliance is a statewide organization dedicated to reducing teen pregnancy and empowering pregnant and parenting teens. For more information, contact Deborah Perry at 401-769-7450 or ywcaofnri@aol.com.

Join us for Opening Night: Tuesday, May 8, 2012 from 7 to 9pm

The TSETSE Gallery: 51 Empire Street, Providence

Space is limited. RSVP required: ywcaofnri@aol.com

Suggested contribution: \$5

"Parents and schools should make viewing this show mandatory for every teenager . . . These photographs are far more passionate and powerful than any words of wisdom we impart." - Naples Daily News, Florida

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eliminating racism
empowering women **ywca**

**YWCA Northern Rhode Island
is dedicated to eliminating racism,
empowering women and promoting
peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.**

SPRING MINI SESSION 2012



Gina M. Raimondo

General Treasurer

We are mothers, wives, sisters and daughters. With our many roles and responsibilities, it is not surprising that the more we have to get done, the more we value teamwork. Our power is amplified and our reach is broadened when we choose to work together.

The same is true in government, especially in Rhode Island. Our state needs leaders who are willing to put aside divisive rhetoric, and who share a commitment to stepping up and doing the right thing.

Now, it is true that as women we have heard at some point that something is impossible to do. Rather than letting words of discouragement weaken our resolve, we must instead be bolstered and reaffirmed by the truth that every one of us has the power to make a difference. It is important to make

sure our unique perspectives are heard as a part of every debate. The more women who decide to step forward to voice an opinion or idea while engaging others, the stronger our families, neighborhoods, schools and state will become.

Rhode Island faces many challenges and there is much work to be done to put us back on a secure path. If you see an opportunity to change something for the better or to right a wrong, have confidence in the power of your efforts, and decide to serve. There is no time to worry about whether others think you are the right woman for the job. You are, and the time to act is now. Let's work together to accomplish great things for the State of Rhode Island and for each other. ✨

Photo by Agapao Productions.



Nancy Stevens

former East Providence School Committee Member

Why do we need more women holding public office? I think women are well versed in all areas of running and taking part in public office. It's much like running a home. You've got your politics, your money worries, all kinds of different things. If you look at running a city like running a home, then you have to account for all of the same things. I think women are basically more honest than men when it comes to political arenas, there's no old boys network, and women are more apt to think for themselves and have an objective of what they want to do and accomplish.

I believe women have been afraid to run in the past, because I'm sure they felt they wouldn't get elected. Men have always been projected as being

more capable or intelligent, whereas women held the role of homemaker and were not seen as capable of running the high finances and issues of a city, state or a country. Now we are also seeing more women coming forward and being more aggressive in foreign countries – taking the lead where they've been held back in the past.

We need the younger generation of women to believe they can be in leadership roles and not just be “women.” We need to look more to college graduates and groom them to believe they can do this. They have a job to do, and it's up to the older generation to help them get there. . . .

Photo courtesy of Stevens.



Diane C. Mederos

Bristol Town Administrator

I cannot believe it has been close to thirty years since I decided to run for town clerk in Bristol. Back then only men had held the office and the idea of a woman in the position was met with some resistance. Ironically, though I had a good number of supporters, it was women that came to me during the campaign and asked me if I really thought I could do the job. It makes me think just how difficult it was for Isabelle Ahearn O'Neill in 1922, when her decision to run for office was no doubt looked upon with disapproval by many at a time when there were no women predecessors to reach out to for counsel.

Much has changed in those years, and women have proven to be not only formidable candidates but excellent political leaders. Women tend to be measured and logical in our response to problems and adversities. Women understand the notion that it is sometimes necessary to compromise to further a solution, though we have figured out that we do not have to compromise our principles in the process. And most important, women's participation in government tends to add an aura of civility in an arena that doesn't always lend itself to being civilized.

We must continue to encourage women to seek political office, to tell them, "Yes, you can certainly do the job." We need them to represent all of us, our daughters and granddaughters. Much work has been done, but there is so much more to do to ensure that we have a sufficient number of female voices supporting all of us. ❖❖❖

Photo courtesy of Mederos.



Donna M. Nesselbush

State Senator

The reason we need more women in government is because we need a better world, a better country, a better state and better communities. Women are uniquely qualified to make a difference on all of these fronts. We make up more than half of all voters, yet men hold 75 percent of public office. This disparity is shocking.

Our quest to play a greater role in government must be seen as part of the larger women's movement, from suffrage to reproductive freedom to the still well-fortified glass ceiling. At a speech conceding her presidential defeat, Hillary Clinton said: "Although we weren't able to shatter the highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, it's got about 18 million cracks in it. And the light is shining through like never before, filling us all with the hope and the sure knowledge that the path will be a little easier next time."

We women need to stick together, to speak truth to power, and to hold the bar high for needed reform. We need to work to make everyone's path a little easier, whether it's the path to a promotion, to equal marriage or the path to elected office. At a time when our hard fought rights are under attack, it is important, now more than ever, to stand together, defend our progress and work toward a destiny that is light-filled, fair and just. We must work to bridge the divide between those who vote for elected officials and those who become elected officials. Each of us has responsibility: to ourselves, our families, our communities, our state, our country and indeed the very world we live in. The next generation craves women leaders, now more than ever. ✨

Photo courtesy of Nesselbush.



Claudine Schneider

former U.S. Representative

We need more women in Congress . . . now.
Let me count the ways!

First, we're half the population. Yet, today, Congress has only 92 women out of 535 Senate and House seats: a pathetic 17%, which is far less than half of the 42.1% average in Sweden, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Denmark. Worse, the US ranks #69 of 195 globally for women in legislatures.

Now, all that under-representation might not be so awful, if women's issues were well represented on Capitol Hill. In my first term, I was shocked to learn that only 13% of the health research budget was spent on women's health! It's better today, but not 50/50. Much like the issue of equal pay: in 2012, we still only make about 75% of what men do for equal work.

Next: we need many more women in Congress to stand up for all those issues that, traditionally, we care about: e.g., education, the environment and the right to manage our own bodies – all of which are under siege. Women will either

move forward . . . or backward.

How about role models for girls and young women? Isn't it painful to have so few Congresswomen to inspire them?

And, perhaps most importantly, we need more women in Congress because Congress is hovering somewhere between "ineffectual" and "insane". Congress' approval ratings range between 5-10%. Research indicates that this Congress and the last one are the most polarized since Reconstruction. Frankly, this is a very dangerous state of affairs – one that I'm addressing in a soon-to-be-released book that details how Congress worked back when I was in it . . . and what we need to do to get it to work again.

Simply put, we need more women in Congress because women typically have less ego; we're less likely to sling mud; and we're better at collaborating.

As I said, let me count the ways. ❖❖❖

Photo courtesy of Schneider.



Myrth York

former State Senator

Why should women run for public office? Because it's in our self-interest!

Albert Einstein said: "The significant problems we face today cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." Solutions to the challenges we face will come only from a diversity of perspectives, different ways of looking at problems, than we have today. Women bring diverse ways of thinking, different problem solving skills along with different conceptions of the problems themselves, to the table. For example, women often have a more community-based approach to life and to its challenges. The current entrenched dichotomies in our society: right – wrong; win – lose; strong – weak, won't change unless and until more women are part of the solution finding process.

Our politics must be rooted in the values of compassion, community and civility. The questions we need to ask are: how do we treat the poor, the stranger, the outcast, the vulnerable, the children?; do our political policies and processes help build or destroy our community life?; and is the character and quality of our public discourse and decision making based in respect and tolerance for each other? History demonstrates that women are especially well suited to moving us to a politics of values.

Women must run for public office and participate in our political process to ensure the values and issues that disproportionately impact us – poverty, health care, aging and income – will come to the forefront of our policy priorities. Our own interests as well as the interests of our society will be best served when women are full and equal members of public life and that only happens when women run, win and serve, at all levels, as elected officials. ❖❖❖

Photo courtesy of York.



Sabina Matos

Providence City Councilwoman

It is important that women are elected to public office because women bring a different and important perspective when dealing with issues. Often time women bring a fresh voice to the table. Furthermore, we tend to tackle issues by approaching things from a different angle. Our decision making process tends to be more focused on the well being of the community as a whole; it is almost as if the mothering instinct is always on.

At this time, for a woman to serve effectively in elected office can be challenging; many times we have to work twice as hard as our male colleagues to call attention to an issue of importance. If we had more females voices in elected office this would be different. More women involved in the political process will translate eventually into more women in leadership positions and at the decision making tables.

Regardless of the challenges, women learn to work with what we have, and yes, work harder if need be in order to find the way to ensure that our voices are heard and our points of view are respected. There are always those whom would prefer to take for granted our role; but instead, their actions really make us stronger. Many times, those actions are the catalysts that transform us into becoming more assertive in our discourse in order to defend our point of view.

As you can see, there are several issues involving women in public office. First, we definitely need more women in elected office and we need to continue to encourage other women to run for office. Secondly, we also need to ensure that once in elected office, women feel empowered and have a good understanding of their authority. ❖❖❖

Photo courtesy of Matos.



shining

with Maryellen Butke

reforming education

Maryellen Butke is the executive director of RI-CAN. She is also the co-founder of Rhode Island is Ready, a statewide, grassroots education reform campaign that has played a leadership role in pushing for an equitable funding formula for Rhode Island's public schools.

What is RI-CAN?

“Launched in December 2010, RI-CAN (Rhode Island Campaign for Achievement Now) is an education reform advocacy organization building a movement of Rhode Islanders creating the political will to enact smart public policies to ensure that every Rhode Island child has access to a great public school.



Do you believe it is important for women to get involved in the political process?

“Absolutely, unequivocally yes! Women have a unique perspective on the world, on Rhode Island and on politics. I would love to see our state legislature be represented equally by women and men, and who reflect the diversity of our Rhode Island community, our state and our country. For democracy to truly work, we need a symphony of voices representing our constituencies.”

Women and girls have made tremendous strides in the classroom during the past forty years and since the passage of Title IX. Do you see this progress threatened as budget cuts are taking place at the local, state and federal level?

“It is not a simple yes or no. I believe it is critical to understand how our money in education is spent, and how to keep a laser-like focus on ensuring money is well spent on what matters: supporting and retaining high quality teachers and administrators, and resources in the classroom. Some of what we need to do in education is free. We need to infuse the mindset that all children can learn at high levels when they have a great teacher in a great school. We need parents who are actively engaged in their children's education lives. And we need children who are held to, and hold themselves to the very highest standard. It will take every single one of us to transform our public education system.”

According to the Institute for Women's Policy and Research, women now receive only one in four sub-baccalaureate awards in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), down from one in three in 1997. Do you have any thoughts on how we can encourage more girls and women to enter STEM careers?

“My immediate thought is mindset. We have to infuse the mindset of our young women with messages of high expectations and the belief that they can do any-

thing and everything they put their mind to. Increased exposure to STEM, female role models in those professions, and an infusion of opportunities which create these possibilities in our girls is critical.”

Research indicates that teenage parents experience reductions in their educational attainments compared to teenagers who are not parents, and many of these young parents drop out of school. For the past 28 years, YWCA has run an alternative education program to meet the needs of some of these young parents. Do you know of any additional strategies to help reduce the negative consequences of early parenting?

“We need to ensure that our children respect themselves, their bodies and have all available information to make healthy decisions for themselves. Young people who are sexually active need easy access to birth control options paired with counseling that helps them make informed decisions about their sexual health and well being. Once a young woman does become pregnant, we have to relentlessly pursue them, and welcome them into school, ensuring that they do not fall behind on their education. The work of YWCA is instrumental in providing an alternative education system for young women to complete their education after becoming a parent.”

Why did you become an advocate for education reform?

“My background, my MSW and PhD are in social work and I ran my own business, the Angell Street Wellness Collaborative with three other women for many years. In 1995, I met a little girl who was in foster care, and I subsequently adopted her. When I sent her to our local public school in the first grade, my eyes were opened to the world of public education in an urban setting. The fit wasn't good for Alicia, who cried often, asking to leave school. She had some special needs, that were not well met by the school she attended. As a parent, I felt trapped and completely

unprepared to deal with the challenges presented. I read everything I could about education and found a newly opening charter school, Paul Cuffee. Alicia secured a spot for the 2nd grade – and she thrived within their environment of high expectations and a culture and climate that was rigorous and joyful. Alicia is now a high school junior, and we are embarking on our first college journey this month. Advocating for Alicia inspired me to advocate for all of Rhode Island's children to have access to a high quality public education. I believe that as a community, we are responsible for all of Rhode Island's children and must be fierce advocates for all of our kids. Having fought to ensure that my own two children had the best possible educational opportunities, I now want to ensure that every Rhode Island child gains access to those same opportunities.”

What are your hopes and dreams?

“I envision a Rhode Island (and a world) of vibrant democracy, equal access to power, and the ability to have fierce, vigorous and civil debates that make our community strong. I see a community that successfully ‘raises all boats’ in the words of JFK – and supports the tradition of reaching back to pull others up when we are risen up. My intention is to see others through a loving lens, believing that in order to truly understand others, we must walk a mile in their shoes. From that perspective, there would be many fewer opportunities to judge. On the education front, I see a day in Rhode Island where a parent can walk into any public school and get goose pimples from the vibrant and dynamic work that they feel as they enter. There are engaged, happy and inspiring (and inspired) teachers, a dynamic, respectful and driven leader, and kids who are being held to high expectations and joyful.”

*Interview by Deborah L. Perry.
Photo courtesy of Butke.*

“For democracy to truly work, we need a symphony of voices representing our constituencies.”

Once upon a time in America . . .

The Woman Suffrage Amendment passed.

The Civil Rights Act passed.

The Voting Rights Act passed.

The end? Not hardly!

**Women
Holding
Office**

eliminating racism
empowering women **ywca**

YWCA is committed to supporting women who hold office, women planning to run for office or becoming involved in campaigns, and encouraging women to become more included in the electoral process.

www.ywcanri.org