



Caucus Update

Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus

March 2006

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Why MLWPC and why now...

The political landscape that facilitated the birth of the Caucus over thirty years ago sounds eerily like today's news.

Can it be true that women today have to justify reproductive choices even with a prescription from a physician for birth control pills? Can it be true that a woman who was raped or had unprotected sex cannot get the "morning after" pill filled at any pharmacy? Can it be true that a Governor in South Dakota signed a bill outlawing abortion in any circumstance even to save the life of the woman?

This is 2006, isn't?



Anne Braden

Ms. Friedan wrote a little book, "The Feminine Mystique", in 1963 credited with launching the women's movement in the 1960's. It sold more than 3 million copies by 2000.

In Louisville too, we mourn the passing of icons Anne Braden and Minx Auerbach. Each woman, made immeasurable contributions to our community, and interestingly were both present as conveners at the first women's conference in Louisville when the Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus was formed in 1972.

Over the years it was my pleasure to get to know Anne and Minx individually through my political endeavors. Each was a staunch supporter of women and their place at the power and decision making table. They carried very different styles but each woman exemplified courage, strength, tenacity and unyielding will in what they knew to be true. They will be missed.

We cannot allow the gains these women, Coretta Scott King, Betty Friedan, Anne Braden and Minx Auerbach, fought so hard for to dissipate. It is our task to see that the torch stayed lit and is passed on. The MLWPC is committed to that goal. Join us.

Virginia L. Woodward

MLWPC Membership

If that isn't enough to send you into overdrive, how about Justice Alito taking his place on the U.S. Supreme Court?

The loss in recent weeks of national icons Coretta Scott King and Betty Friedan, should remind us all how fragile and precious the freedoms we enjoy are and how they can be taken away.

Ms. King was not detoured when she picked up the mantle of her husband's battle becoming a leader herself for equality and civil rights just a few short weeks after his assassination.



Minx Auerbach

The Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus works to increase women's participation in the political process and to identify, recruit, train and support feminist women for election and appointment to public office.

MLWPC Principles

- To strive for equality for all women
- To ensure reproductive freedom
- To achieve quality dependent care
- To eradicate sexism, racism, anti-Semitism, ageism, ableism, violence, poverty and discrimination on the basis of religion or sexual orientation

MLWPC Goals

- Encourage women to be active and effective in all aspects of the political process
- Support the efforts of KWPC-endorsed women who run for or are appointed to office
- Organize women around the state for political action on women's issues
- Initiate, lobby and monitor legislation which guarantees women equal protection under the law and for programs and measures which benefit women



The Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus uses the Greek symbol for women to form five circles, representing the five races, intertwined to symbolize unity of purpose and that together we can achieve anything.

Powerful Examples

In response to our last issue of Powerful Examples, member Mary Mose Greenbaum has referred our members to an upcoming Kentucky Author Forum event. Author Sue Monk Kidd's books were recommended readings. Please make plans to attend the event and meet this accomplished author.

University of Louisville Kentucky Author Forum, co-sponsored by Brown-Forman & The Humana Foundation presents

Sue Monk Kidd
author of *The Secret Life of Bees*
and *The Mermaid Chair*,

interviewed by Jean Shinoda Bolen, Jungian analyst and author of *The Tao of Psychology* and *Goddesses in Everywoman*

Thursday, April 6
The Kentucky Center



photo by Sigrid Estrada

Carmichael's Book Sale and wine and cheese provided by Brown-Forman starts at 5 p.m., interview begins at 6 p.m., followed by questions and answers and a book signing on stage at 7 p.m. A \$17 ticket includes the three events. A \$100 package ticket includes the three events plus dinner in honor of Sue Monk Kidd at 8:15 p.m. For tickets call 584-7777 or visit www.kentuckycenter.org.

Sue Monk Kidd's debut novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*, is a powerful coming of age story, set in the south of the 1960's, and it quickly became a Book Club favorite across the country. Her newest novel, *The Mermaid Chair*, centers on a middle-aged woman, struggling with her own passions, spirituality and coming-of-age dilemmas.

Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D., is an internationally known speaker and writer who draws on spiritual, feminist, Jungian, medical and personal experience in her works. Her most recent book is *Urgent Message from Mother: Gather the women, Save the World*.

The Kentucky Author Forum series is produced by Mary Moss Greenebaum and sponsored by the University of Louisville, Brown-Forman and The Humana Foundation. Additional donors include Bittners, Carmichael's Bookstore, The Courier-Journal, KET, Office Furniture USA, WFPL, The Spoken Word and The Kentucky Center.

Powerful Examples is a regular column of Caucus Update. We invite others to contribute book, television and movie recommendations that exemplify powerful women and changes in our political culture. To submit a review, contact Nicole V. Candler at nicole.candler@insightbb.com.

Welcome Back

Welcome KWPC past president Carolyn O'Daniel back to Louisville.

2006 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at the Holiday Inn at Second Street and Broadway from 5:30 to 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. *Meetings are FREE and open to all members, public and guests.* Dinner is optional. Please make reservations by contacting Nicole V. Candler at (502) 550-0252 or nicole.candler@insightbb.com. *No meetings in June, July, August and November.*

Please note: The date of the March program was incorrect in the last issue of The Caucus. The correct date should be Thursday, March 23.

March 23 **Women, Treason and the Right to Speak Out - Treason or Not**
Author and historian, Dr. Judi Jennings

April 27 **Legislative Update**
A panel of legislators discuss the 2006 General Assembly

May 25 **What is Louisville Doing About Women and Homelessness?**
Cathe Dukystra, Executive Director of Project Women

September 28 **Candidates' Forum**

October 26 **Annual meeting and election of officers**

December **Installation of officers and reception**

Women of Wisdom

Project Women presents Women of Wisdom: Wise Women of Myth, Legend and History, an exhibition and sale of art by women artists with connections to the Kentuckiana region. Member Mary Craik will be one of the exhibitors on display through April 15 at the Bernheim Gallery, Louisville Free Public Library, Main Branch. Half of the event proceeds will benefit Project Women.

Women Vote 2006: Debate for the 3rd U.S. Congressional Seat

A debate featuring the primary candidates for the 3rd Congressional seat will be held Thursday, April 6 from 7 to 8 p.m. at Masterson's. The educational event is free and open to the public. Candidates Burrell Charles Farnsley, Andrew Horne, James W. Moore and John Yarmuth will participate in the discussion moderated by Francene Cucinello of 84 WHAS Radio. MLWPC is a sponsor of the event.

Thank you

Thank you to author Charlene Hampton-Hollaway who's books sales at our last monthly meeting yielded a \$25 donation to the MLWPC. Thank you to those who purchased her book *Whitman's Compositions*.

Community Calendar

April 12, noon
BPW River City
Jefferson Club
Contact Mary Lewis at 499-4420 or lewism@msdlouky.org for reservations and details. Meetings are held monthly on the second Wednesday. Lunch is \$20.

April 13, 6:30 p.m.
Jefferson County NOW
First Unitarian Church, Fourth St. & York
Contact 499-4419 or info@jefferson-countynow.org for details. Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday.

March 9 - April 15
Women of Wisdom
Louisville Free Public Library, Main Branch
Event supporting Project Women.

April 6, 7 p.m.
Women Vote 2006
Congressional Debate
Mastersons
Free candidate debate.

April 28
Democratic Women's Network (TWN-PAC) present journalist Helen Thomas.
Lexington
Individual tickets are \$100. Contact Virginia Woodward at virginiawoodward04@yahoo.com for information.

Aug. 26, 9 a.m - 3 p.m.
KWPC, Campaign School
Lexington
Details to be announced.

Send us your announcements

The Caucus Update can help promote programming and announcements for other organizations. MLWPC is a bipartisan group, all organizations are welcome to submit event information. Please send event notices to nicole.candler@insightbb.com

2006 Membership Renewal

Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail _____

Help us save on expenses by providing your e-mail address. Newsletter and meeting announcements will soon be sent to our membership via e-mail.

Party Affiliation _____ Occupation _____

___ Benefactor Member, \$125

___ Governing Member plus KWPC and NWPC membership, \$80

___ Governing Member plus KWPC membership, \$40

___ Limited-income or Student Member, \$25

Please make checks payable to MLWPC. Send to 1906 Hillcircle Road, Louisville, KY 40214

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