



WOMEN AND GIRLS
FOUNDATION

WILL WORK FOR EQUALITY

RISING TIDE

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMEN AND GIRLS FOUNDATION

April 2007

Volume 1, Issue 3

In This Issue:

- Letter from Heather
- Catapult
- Equal Pay Day Rally
- Grant Workshops
- Announcements
- Upcoming Events

Give: make a tax deductible contribution to WGF in honor of someone you love and admire. With your help we can give every woman in the region the gift she really wants... equality!

Contact Us

425 Sixth Avenue
Suite 1860
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-434-4883
Fax: 412-227-0417

Email: info@wgfpa.org

<http://www.wgfpa.org>

LETTER FROM HEATHER

April is such an exciting month celebrating jubilation and renewal. Depending on your family's traditions, you may find yourself celebrating Passover or Easter this month (or both). In our household, we have the honor of celebrating both of these holidays. I look forward to the rituals of cooking and baking family recipes and attending traditional holiday meals as ways to connect to my ancestors and the generations of women who have come before me. At Passover, families celebrate the exodus from Egypt, from slavery into a time of liberation. As I prepare for our Passover celebration, I find myself reminded of the many social injustices that still plague our world and am reminded that everyday we must each in our own way recommit to fighting injustice. I am also reminded of the vibrant women at the heart of the Passover story – Moses' mother and sister who protected his life by casting him in a basket on the Nile, Pharaoh's daughter who saved him by pulling him from the river and raising him as her own. All of these women defied status quo laws – created by men – to do what they knew was right and just. This story – of women from different cultures joining forces to save a child – reminds me each year of the power of women to unite and to change the world. As my husband then leads us into the Easter traditions of his family, I am reminded of the women who took care of Jesus' tomb after his death and of their strong faith and belief in their beloved teacher and in his commitment to social equity in the world.

As you celebrate the holidays this year, I encourage you to reflect on the power of the women who have come before us, the women we will celebrate with song this month, and of the power that you embody. I want to invite you to join all of us at the Women and Girls Foundation for an Equal Pay Day Rally downtown at lunchtime on April 24th where we will join our voices in a strong chorus demanding social justice for the women of Southwestern PA. As you know, friends, we are still suffering from second class citizenship in this region. We lack equal representation in our board rooms and in our halls of government and we still are paid unfairly in the workplace. During WWII women in the factories made 60 cents on the dollar compared with their male counterparts. Sixty-one years later we are only making 69 cents on the dollar. Isn't it time we made an equal buck? Please join us on April 24th at the Equal Pay Day Rally at Market Square Downtown. Together, like centuries of women before us, we can transform our world into a more just place for all of us to live and thrive!

In sisterhood,
Heather Arnet
Executive Director

CATAPULT

WGF, in partnership with Dr. Linda Babcock and the [PROGRESS Center at CMU](#), will provide affordable salary negotiation coaching – over the phone – to women all over Southwest Pennsylvania, but first we need to train an army of salary negotiation coaches – and that is where you come in. This program is focused on decreasing our regional wage gap one woman at a time!

A limited number of spaces are still available for our next Catapult session which will take place on **Saturday, April 14th at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort from 9 am - 5:15 pm**. The fee for the training is \$40 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Please check our [website](#) for more details or email regan@wgfpa.org.

In addition, ABC News is planning to be there to tape the session so please join us so we can show the nation through a strong attendance that women in Southwestern PA are working to close the wage gap!

EQUAL PAY DAY RALLY

Spring has arrived! Join WGF at the **Equal Pay Day Rally on Tuesday, April 24, 2007**. The rally will take place in **Downtown Pittsburgh's Market Square from Noon – 1 pm**.

At the rally, we will pass out "Will Work For Equality" signs, have inspiring and strategic speakers present us with tangible examples of what we can all do everyday to work to eliminate the wage gap, and we will demonstrate to the world that the women and men of Pittsburgh are not only ready for change, we are going to bring it on! For more details or questions about the Equal Pay Day Rally, please [visit our website](#), call us at 412-434-4883, or contact us via email at stephanie@wgfpa.org or lisa@wgfpa.org!



CONFERENCE CALL GRANT WORKSHOPS

Our first conference call grant workshop, that took place on March 23, 2007, was a great success! The workshop provided an opportunity for local nonprofits and community members to learn more about WGF grantmaking, have their questions answered, and network with each other. We hope that you will join us in our next conference call grant workshop which will take place at **11 am on Friday, April 27, 2007**.

To register for the conference call workshop, send an e-mail to one of the WGF Program Officers, Adriana Dobrzycka (adriana@wgfpa.org) or Kakenya Ntaiya (kakenya@wgfpa.org), indicating your name, your

organization's name, and the date of the conference call workshop you are interested in. Please send your registration e-mails no later than the Wednesday before the conference call workshop is held. You will receive a confirmation e-mail with the conference call details.

We recently updated the content of the grantmaking section on the WGF website. Please consult [our website](#) for the latest news and grant opportunities!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pennsylvania House Resolution 108 passed on March 13, 2007. The Speaker's Commission on Legislative Reform made the State House Rules gender-neutral. Previously the House Rules used masculine pronouns such as "he", "his", and "chairman". Those pronouns conveniently assumed that all lawmakers were men. These references in the new House Rules will be gender-neutral. The State House still has fewer women than do most legislatures, but a change like this is long overdue. It was a major package of rules reforms that will change the legislative process and the way the House operates for years to come. The changes contemplate women serving as committee chairs. The pronoun changes were certainly not the primary purpose of the bill, but it is still good to see it happen. To see the bill, as amended, please click [here](#).

ATTENTION: PITTSBURGH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Public Allies Pittsburgh invites you to increase your organization's capacity, to better serve your communities, and to look at leadership in a different way. Public Allies advances diverse young leaders to strengthen communities, nonprofits, and civic participation through a 10-month apprenticeship and leadership training program.

Pittsburgh's most promising young leaders are selected to serve as Allies. Allies work 4 days a week at local nonprofits and are responsible for projects that have a direct & measurable impact on their host organizations.

Currently, 25 Allies are serving 16 organizations across the city, including the Women & Girls Foundation.

Applications from organizations to host a 2007-2008 Public Ally are currently being accepted. For more information, contact Lindsey Anderson at landerson@coro.org or 412-258-3022. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2007.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Please join the Women and Girls Foundation and
Executive Women's Council
on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 for
*A Conversation with Mayor Luke Ravenstahl.***

The Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, Luke Ravenstahl, will present his vision for Pittsburgh, with a special emphasis on issues of significance to women in the region. The program will include an opportunity for questions and answers. This program is co-sponsored by WGF and EWC.

Location: **Rivers Club**

Registration & Networking: **11 am**
Luncheon & Speaker: **11:30 am**
Pre-registration price: **\$35**
Registration at the Door: **\$40***

*If space is available, walk-ins will be accepted

Click [here](#) to register online or register by email to EWCPgh@aol.com.
Please make your check payable to Executive Women's Council and mail to:

Roberta Rollings
241 Patterson Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Women's Rights Seminar Series



Evan Wolfson, Founder
of *Freedom to Marry*
"One of the 100 most influential
people in the world." — *Time Magazine*



The Women's Law Project and Persad Center

present

An Evening with Evan Wolfson,

author of

Why Marriage Matters:

America, Equality, and Gay People's Right to Marry

Thursday, April 19, 2007

6:30 pm Wine & Hors d'oeuvres Reception

7:00 pm Presentation and Q&A

Kelly-Strayhorn Theater

5941 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP

412-227-0301

treyolds@womenslawproject.org

CLE credit available

Sponsored by

Women's
Law Project

412-227-0301

www.womenslawproject.org



PERSAD

412-441-9786

www.persadcenter.org

Cosponsors (partial list):

ACLU Greater Pittsburgh
Democracy for Pittsburgh
Equality Advocates Pennsylvania
Feminist Law Forum, University of
Pittsburgh School of Law
Marriage Equality USA, Southwest PA
New Voices Pittsburgh: Women of
Color for Reproductive Justice
PFLAG Pittsburgh
PA League of Young Voters
Steel City Stonewall Democrats
Value All Families Coalition
Women & Girls Foundation of
Southwestern PA

Women's Health & the Environment Conference



A FREE Conference Sponsored by Teresa Heinz, The Heinz Endowments, & Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2007 • David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Join women – and men who care about the women in their lives – from around the region and beyond for *Women's Health & the Environment: New Science, New Solutions*, a **free** day-long conference being held on Friday, April 20, 2007, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

The conference features nationally renowned scientists, environmentalists, and activists who will inform women – and men who care about women's health – about environmental health risks and the protective steps they can take as they make everyday decisions about their health and lifestyles.

Hundreds have already registered, and space will fill quickly so [register today!](#)

2007 NONPROFIT SUMMIT

Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania's
2007 Nonprofit Summit

NONPROFITS IN ACTION!
...As Leaders, Innovators and Partners

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN AT:
www.pittsburghnonprofitsummit.org



Please join us on Thursday May 10th at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center for the 8th Annual Nonprofit Summit to gain new skills, network with colleagues, and give yourself a day to renew & reflect.

Questions? Please call 412.471.6488 x5 or email summit@gwpa.org.

Will Work For Equality

If you would like to share your thoughts, volunteer, or make a donation,
please contact: info@wafpa.org.

For questions or comments regarding this newsletter,
please email: rachel@wafpa.org.

If you no longer wish to receive e-mail from us, please click [here](#).