



NEWSLETTER | Spring 2011

SEATTLE CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

CALL-A-THON – SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD, 2011 SPEAK OUT ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN!

Jordan Palmer

3:00 to 5:00 PM at Victrola Coffee Roasters on Capitol Hill

Seattle NOW is hosting a Call-a-Thon event where we hope to see the women’s rights advocates in Seattle who are as outraged as we are about some of the recent bills currently circling through the House of Representatives, such as the ‘No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act’. We also hope to see activists who are as disappointed as we are in the fact that our country remains one of only seven in the world which has not ratified CEDAW: *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*.

This Cafe event will be a safe space for women’s rights advocates to get together and get to know one another, to make calls to Congress and our local representatives about such urgent issues as these, and to make a statement that we will not tolerate legislature that is conducive to violence being committed against women in this country—all while sipping on Victrola’s premier coffee in their cozy cafe. We hope to see you there!

VICTROLA COFFEE
310 EAST PIKE ST, SEATTLE 98122
SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD, 3-5 PM

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Board appointments can be made throughout the year, so if you are interested in becoming involved please contact:

Seattle NOW @ 206-632-8547
email: nowseattle@gmail.org
3720 Airport Way S.
Seattle, WA 98134-2217

Speak Out About Violence Against Women!
CALL-A-THON
Sunday • April 3 • 11
3:00-5:00 PM ☕
Victrola Coffee
310 East Pike St
Seattle 98122

Want CEDAW ratified? Mad about HR 3? Don't Agonize, Organize! Join us as we call our representatives and do some people lobbying!

info: call Jordan @ 425.281.2300
www.nowseattle.org

Seattle NOW’s “Don’t Agonize, Organize” t-shirt

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I Am FURIOUS female

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Call the Seattle NOW office
@ 206-632-8547 to place an order!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Amanda Murray, Legislative Coordinator

At the time of writing this article, the latest revenue update holds that the 2011-13 Budget is forecasted to drop another \$698 million. This, of course, is an overriding theme for legislators this session and bills are being considered against this backdrop. The following bills are those that NOW considers to be bills-of-interest in that they effect women and children in our state.

Foreclosure: **HB 1362** passed out of Senate Financial Institutions, Housing and Insurance and is now in Senate Rules.

Action: contact your Senator and ask them to support HB 1362.

Domestic Partnership: **HB 1649** is scheduled for executive action in Senate Government Operations and Tribal Affairs on Tuesday, March 22nd.

Action: contact your Senator on the committee and ask them to vote yes on HB 1649.

Universal Parenting Act and Surrogacy: **HB 1267** is scheduled for executive action in Senate Governmental Operations and Tribal Affairs on March 22nd.

Action: Contact your Senator on the committee and ask them to pass HB 1267 with NO weakening amendments.

TANF: **SB 5660** is still in play, amendments are under discussion regarding how much flexibility to allow the Governor while still giving the legislature primary budgeting authority.

Action: Contact your senator and ask them to pass SB 5660 and return primary budgeting authority for TANF and Working Connections Child Care to the legislature.

A CALL TO ACTION!

BE A PART OF THE SEATTLE NOW DELEGATION



The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, at 6:01 p.m. in Memphis, Tenn., where he was standing with sanitation workers demanding their dream of a better life. Today, the right to bargain collectively for a voice at work and a middle-class life are under attack as never before.

Join this National Call To Action on April 4th and stand with other civil and human rights activists, union members and supporters, environmental, student and women's groups and religious supporters against a political agenda that is attacking working families, their human rights and their dignity. This event is spearheaded by CWA [Communication Workers of America] and supported by MLKCLC [Martin Luther King County Labor Council] and other affiliated organizations, including Seattle NOW.

**Seattle Call To Action Rally
Monday, April 4th, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
MLK Memorial Park, 2200 MLK Way, Seattle**

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Seattle WA 98122
206.324.3982

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THE WAR ON WOMEN

IT'S ALL CONNECTED

Thalia Syracopoulos

There has been a lot of media attention paid to the events in Wisconsin, and all the other states hurtling along a similar path of union busting to solve budget deficits.

There has also been a lot media attention paid to Congress' efforts to come up with a budget that will cut the Federal Deficit.

Our own state is struggling with massive revenue losses too, and some of the decisions being considered are frightening to many of us.

The realization is that these "crises" are being manipulated, nay, in some instances even manufactured, to provide an opportunity to make great strides in the war on women.

There is significant data proving that tax cuts, tax advantages and tax loopholes are legitimate factors in creating state and national financial crises. The Center for American Progress did the math and concluded that the single year cost of extending the Bush Era tax cuts on the wealthy was \$42 Billion. This is, interestingly, BILLIONS more than the savings realized by Congress' cutting of Title X Family Planning, Community Health Centers, WIC, education, and Early Childhood programs, to say nothing of Planned Parenthood.

Cutting these, and many other programs important to women and children doesn't seem to be enough. The above proposed cuts are in addition to the expanded anti-abortion provisions in the new Health Care Law.

The "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act" (H.R. 3) extends the previous bans on federal funding for abortion into, of all things, the IRS Tax Code. H.R. 3 prohibits the use of tax benefits (like credits or deductions) to pay for abortions or for health insurance that covers abortions. If she were audited, a woman would have to provide documentation that her abortion fell under the rape/incest/life-of-the mother exception or prove that her health insurance did not cover her abortion. H.R. 3 will pass in the House. It may also pass in the Senate.

At this time 36 states have some restrictions on abortion. 34 of them require "counseling". In 21 of those states the counseling includes "mental health impacts"; in 10 it includes information on "fetal pain"; in 7 states it includes the erroneous information on the purported link between abortion and breast cancer. 29 states have waiting periods, almost all of which are for 24 hours; 9 states require an ultrasound be done. A law under consideration in South Dakota requires a 3 day waiting period and mandatory

counseling from a "Pregnancy Help Center". Senator Mark Christensen of Nebraska has introduced a bill in the Nebraska Senate (LB 232) allowing for the "justifiable homicide" defense for murdering an abortion provider. In LB 232 anybody committing such a murder can utilize that defense.

Sadly, the threat to our health and our reproductive freedom is only one battlefield in the war on women being waged these days. Cutting State budgets has already resulted in layoffs, furloughs and wage freezes among public sector employees across the nation, including in WA State. What is rarely talked about is that the majority of public-sector employees are women and across the nation women have already lost 320,000 public sector jobs. More losses are in the works. Despite all the rhetoric about the outrageous wages and benefits earned by unionized public employees, the truth is that college-educated public servants make 33% less than their private sector counterparts.

Governor Walker of Wisconsin is the poster boy for the demonization of public employees, but he is not alone as state after state has climbed on to the bandwagon.

In Wisconsin the legislature did pass a bill that eliminated collective bargaining rights for public employees, but not all public employees. Those who were targeted were predominantly women - teachers, state workers, nurses and home care workers. Police and firefighters were exempt. It is a tribute to all of the union members and their supporters that those unions he did not target have joined their sisters and brothers in being active and vocal about their opposition to Walker's program.

Two years ago many of us had the privilege of attending a presentation by Malalai Joya. Ms. Joya was one of the women elected to the Afghan Parliament after our invasion toppled (temporarily) the Taliban. In Parliament she publicly identified the drug dealers, arms dealers and rapists who were among her colleagues. She spoke adamantly about the need for Afghanistan to demand that the US leave. As a result, there is a price on her head, she has been nearly assassinated on more than one occasion. She lives in safe-houses, on the move all the time, thus far keeping some steps ahead of death.

When she spoke here she talked of Afghan culture, tradition and history. She spoke of the struggling democracy movement within Afghanistan and she spoke most vehemently about the impossibility of achieving democracy as long as the US occupied and waged war upon her country.

Ms. Joya is scheduled to speak in Seattle on April 4 as part of a book tour. - continued on page 4



SEATTLE PREMIERE OF MAESTRA

*“The 1961 Cuban Literacy campaign,
Transforming Cuban Women and Society”*

DISCUSSION FOLLOWING FILM
featuring Norma Guillard and
Catherine Murphy, Director

www.womenandcuba.org

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 3 PM - FILM SHOWING &
DISCUSSION, LOCAL 6, SEIU OFFICES, 3720
AIRPORT WAY SOUTH · SEATTLE**

**MONDAY, APRIL 4, 6 PM DINNER & 6:30 PM MOVIE
DINNER & FILM PRESENTATION, NEIGHBORHOOD
HOUSE HIGH POINT CENTER, 6400 SYLVAN WAY
SW, SEATTLE/SUGGESTED DONATION \$2 FOR
MOVIE & \$5 DINNER. RSVP, JENCALL@GMAIL.COM**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 7 PM - SEATTLE PUBLIC
LIBRARY, 1000 4TH AVE · SEATTLE**

**POSSIBLE SHOWING ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
PLEASE CHECK WWW.WOMENANDCUBA.ORG**

Info: 206.856.0324 | womenandcuba.org

Nat'l Sponsors: The Literacy Project – U.S. Women
and Cuba Collaboration – WILPF

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University Center for Service and Community Engagement, WA
State Labor Education & Research Center (partial list)

WAR ON WOMEN CONTINUED...

She continues to be an outspoken critic of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan as she pleads for peace and non-violent solutions to the crises that her country faces.

For her efforts, she has been denied a visa to come to this country. Seattle NOW, as a sponsor of her upcoming appearance, has participated in lobbying the State Department to provide Ms. Joya with a visa.

Another small skirmish in the war on women here. It takes people to speak out, stand up and counter the efforts of these destructive uses of power. It takes an organization such as Seattle NOW to connect the dots and realize that reproductive freedom, health, union busting, taxes and peace are all part of the same struggle without which equality will not be achieved.

UPDATE: The efforts made by Seattle NOW and numerous other organizations were successful. Malalai Joya’s visa was granted just as this NOWsletter was going to the printer.

MALALAI JOYA WILL BE SPEAKING IN SEATTLE
APRIL 4, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.
SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1111 HARVARD AVENUE (AT SENECA ST)

SAVE THE DATE

**CALL TO THE 2011
WASHINGTON STATE NOW CONFERENCE**

**FEMINIST STRATEGIES:
AWAKENING A FUTURE FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

Saturday, May 7, 2011, 8am - 4pm
IBEW Local 76 Union Hall
3049 S. 36th St., Suite 101, Tacoma, WA
Free parking available, Children are welcome



Keynote Speaker

NATIONAL NOW PRESIDENT, TERRY O'NEILL

an American feminist attorney, professor and activist for social justice. She was elected president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in at the National Conference in July, 2009. As such she is also president of the NOW Foundation and chair of the NOW Political Action Committees.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

-Lika Smith & Veronica Tiluwa

It's been a busy winter season for Seattle NOW. Our annual meeting in December was a fun-filled, fabulous evening with wonderful food and a show of solidarity with representatives from SEIU, UFCW 21, WA State NOW, and Senator Murray's office in attendance.

The spirited Georgie Kunkel drew laughs with her comedic talents and Marilyn Watkins, of Social Security Works, enlightened us on issues surrounding Social Security, helping to dispel the myths being marketed by those who would rather have us invest in the uncertainty of the stock market.

On March 8th, we celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) with the local women's community, honoring a wonderful group of Sistahs. We thank Dyke Community Activists for getting the process of organizing moving and for all their work to make IWD a wonderful night of celebration. Congratulations to all the honorees as you are truly deserving and many thanks to the fabulous presenters!!

As we launch into our 41st year, we're quite excited about our new board of directors and thank each of them for being a part of Seattle NOW. The enthusiasm, talent, and energy they bring to the board is thrilling to be a part of and we hope you'll join us too. With the numerous attacks being launched on women's rights, it's vital that feminist men and women stand up and be counted!

Please join us at our Call-a-Thon and at the "We are One" union rally this coming weekend, in a show of solidarity with all working families.

EMERGING LEADERS CONFERENCE

FRIDAY MAY 20TH – SUNDAY MAY 22ND, 2011

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 18TH

The Washington State Labor Education and Research Center invites you to join us at the Emerging Leaders Conference. The conference is an educational forum for union members, younger workers and those who have not previously played a leadership role to learn about the critical issues of our time and develop leadership skills.

COST (includes all meals & workshops):
\$150 General Registration | \$75 Student Registration
S. Seattle Community College – Georgetown Campus
6737 Corson Ave. S, Seattle, WA

Information contact Cheryl Coney at cconey@sccd.ctc.edu
or 206.764.5380. georgetown.southseattle.edu/LERC

RUN WOMEN RUN!

WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICES CONFERENCE REPORT

Alice Coil, Project Seattle 2012

Thank you, NOW Seattle, for supporting the Project 2012 and recruiting members to participate in a gathering at UW Women's Center on March 12. Unlike most standardized training sessions, this event promoted strategic discussion and action around mobilizing an unprecedented number of women to run for public offices.

According to data revealed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the United States ranks 72th in the world for the percentage of women in Congress. While women are about 51 percent of the U.S. population, they make up just 17 percent in the U.S. Congress. Project 2012 aims at empowering and increasing women's participation in public offices during the next election cycle and beyond.

At the March 12 gathering invited panelists such as Dr. Jill Wakefield, the first woman to serve as chancellor of Seattle Community Colleges; Renee Radcliff Sinclair, former State Representative; Carolyn McManus, Swedish Medical Center; and Sandra Romero Thurston County Commissioner shared their inside stories about pursuing public offices and engaging in the political process. One of the panelists suggested that women legislators tend to work collaboratively to solve problems while their male counterparts tend to debate over issues with a win or lose mentality. Participants benefited greatly from hearing first hand from these practitioners. The panelists inspired and empowered us to recognize our own abilities and strength to serve in public offices.

The second half of the event divided participants into two groups. Two women who have expressed interest to run for public offices in 2012 were featured as potential candidates and each group worked on building a campaign plan for the candidate. Group one was facilitated by Linda Mitchell, director of Washington State National Women's Political Caucus, working with a group of 8 participants to create a campaign plan for a potential candidate running for City Council position in Anacortes. Group two was facilitated by Noel Frame, director of Progressive Majority, working with a group of 7 participants to create a campaign plan for a potential candidate running for House Representative. With limited time to build a comprehensive plan, each group worked on a campaign check list that included key issues such as: (a) identifying campaign issues, (b) articulating priority issues; (c) building a base of constituencies; (d) developing fundraising strategies; (e) reaching out to voters; (f) managing volunteers; (g) dealing with public and private lives, (h) accessing resources, (i) fostering relationship and creating network, etc.

Participants commented on the group exercises as positive and productive. One participant cited in her evaluation saying, "I have never learned so much and covered such a great deal of important topics related to this process in one session. I say this having been intrinsically involved in the D-Party for the past 8 years as a PCO, board members and chair!"



Seattle Chapter
 National Organization for Women
 3720 Airport Way South
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Submission CD can be mailed to:

Seattle NOW, 3720 Airport Way South, Seattle, WA 98134-2217
 Or submissions can be emailed to: info@nowseattle.org

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