

# Women's Center News

Spring 2005

Check out the Women's Center at: [www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr](http://www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr)

Volume 12, Issue 3



## Nafisi to Give Minx Auerbach Lecture

The U of L Department of Women's and Gender Studies is pleased to bring Azar Nafisi to campus to give the Eighth Annual Minx Auerbach Lecture. Best known for her book, *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* (2003), Azar Nafisi is a Visiting Fellow and professorial lecturer at the Foreign Policy Institute of the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC, where she teaches courses on the relation between culture and politics.

Before coming to the United States, Dr. Nafisi taught at Oxford University, the University of Tehran, the Free Islamic University, and Allameh Tabataba'ii in her field of study— aesthetics, culture, and literature. For the past twenty years, she has lectured and written extensively on the political implications of literature and culture as well as on the human rights of Iranian women and girls. Her work in this area includes chapters in *Muslim Women and Politics of Participation* (1997), *Eye of the Storm: Women in Post-Revolutionary Iran* (1992), *Religious Fundamentalisms and the Human Rights of Women*, (1999), as well as op-eds and articles published in several prominent American newspapers and periodicals. Among her articles, perhaps the most influential is "The Veiled Threat: The Iranian Revolution's Woman Problem," published in *The New Republic* (February 22, 1999) and reprinted in several languages.

Azar Nafisi will give the Minx Auerbach Lecture in Women's and Gender Studies on "Reading *Lolita* in Tehran," on Monday, April 18, at 5:30, in the auditorium of the Speed Museum, followed by a reception. There will be a book sale and signing for short periods before and after the lecture. This event is free and open to the public, and it is made possible by the Minx Auerbach Lecture endowment (thanks to the generosity of Dr. Sy Auerbach). It is also co-sponsored by University Provost, Shirley Willihnganz; Dr. Blaine Hudson, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society; the Women and Global Issues Committee of U of L's Commission on the Status of Women; the U of L English Department; and the U of L Liberal Studies Program.

Dr. Nafisi will participate in two other events while in Louisville for the Minx Auerbach Lecture. The U of L campus community is invited to a dialogue with Dr. Nafisi on Tuesday, April 19, 10:00-11:30, in Ekstrom Library Auditorium, moderated by English Department Chairperson, Susan Griffin. Tuesday evening, Dr. Nafisi will also appear at the Kentucky Author Forum.

For further information on the Minx Auerbach Lecture and Tuesday morning dialogue, call 852-8160 or e-mail [nancyt@louisville.edu](mailto:nancyt@louisville.edu). For information on the Kentucky Author Forum, call 589-2884 or e-mail [kyforum@aol.com](mailto:kyforum@aol.com).

Nancy M. Theriot, Department of Women's and Gender Studies

## Events Celebrate Women's Accomplishments

The University of Louisville and other local organizations will again this year share information about their respective events held in March as part of **International Women's Day, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Women's History Month.**

According to the United Nations, "**International Women's Day** is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men." The first recorded IWD celebration in the United States occurred in 1909. Two years later, on March 25, 1911, the tragic Triangle Fire in New York City, when more than 140 young women died, had a profound

impact on annual International Women's Day observances by incorporating demands for safe and fair working conditions for women into the annual event.

International Women's Day (March 8) continues to be marked by women's groups around the world. A listing of last year's events held around the world is available from the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, online at [www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2004/](http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2004/). A listing of this year's events is available through the Feminist Peace Network, [www.feministpeacenet.org/](http://www.feministpeacenet.org/).

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## A Message from Women's Center Director Mary Karen Powers



**March 2005 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Women's History Project (NWHP).** NWHP traces its roots to the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the

Status of Women, which initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978.

This week of events was designed to address the concern that, in the 1970's, "Women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness." In the past 25 years, the NWHP has succeeded in creating a vibrant movement, whose current efforts include a working coalition to preserve national historic sites related to women's history. Among these are the Women's Rights National Historic Park in Seneca Falls, NY, where "the First Women's Rights Convention in American history" was held in 1848, and the Alice Paul Institute in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey.

This year also marks the 16th annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), which Kentucky observes during the month of March. SAAM was created during a 1989 meeting of the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault in order to provide national coordination for efforts "to educate and promote understanding about sexual assault and its prevention." In supporting the need for SAAM, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta notes that **1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men report experiencing either a completed or attempted rape.** (NIJ; 2000). Thus, both NWHP and SAAM are examples of the 2005 WHM theme, "Women Change America."

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you are invited to meet women who are "changing the face of U of L." Laura Schweitzer is the first woman to serve as acting dean of the School of Medicine, and the Porter Parents are a support group for students who are also parents. The Women's History Month calendar highlights a wide variety of events celebrating women's history, and educating about sexual assault prevention.

### Local Events (continued from p. 1)

**National Sexual Assault Awareness Month** raises public awareness around issues of sexual assault. Through this effort, survivors of rape and sexual assault, and their friends and family members who care for them, can receive the information and support they need. The event encourages everyone in communities across the U.S. to do everything possible to end sexual assault.

Three local organizations can provide more information and help: **The University of Louisville PEACC Program**, phone 852-2633, [www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr/peacc/](http://www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr/peacc/); **The Center for Women and Families**, phone 502-581-7200; [www.thecenteronline.org](http://www.thecenteronline.org), and statewide, the **Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Program**: (502) 226-2704; [www.kasap.org](http://www.kasap.org).

**National Women's History Month** recognizes and celebrates women, their accomplishments, and their diversity. For nearly 30 years, The University of Louisville has celebrated Women's History Month, thanks to students, faculty and staff concerned that women's experiences have been and continue to be ignored. Every March, the University of Louisville Women's Center publishes a "Women's History Month" calendar of events in its newsletter to promote events sponsored by campus and community groups. The **National Women's History Project** offers a variety of Women's History Month information, programs and materials for schools and organizations. For more information, contact them at 707-636-2888 or [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org).

A complete listing of local events begins on page 3 of this newsletter.

Please add my name to your mailing list!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

UofL Dept. (or) Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail: to:

Women's Center, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292.

(Please add me to your email list:)

\_\_\_\_\_

**The Women's Center News Editorial Board:** Lucy Freibert, Kathy Kremer, Kathy Pendleton, and Diana Whitlock. Please send letters, questions, and comments to The Women's Center, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292. Call 502-852-8976 or e-mail [womenctr@louisville.edu](mailto:womenctr@louisville.edu).

An Interview with...

## Dr. Laura Schweitzer

Interim Dean, School of Medicine and Associate Vice President for Health Affairs

by Diana Whitlock

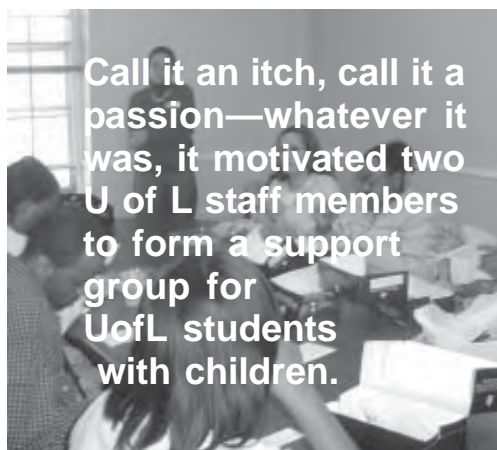
Dr. Laura Schweitzer has blazed new trails for women in her role as interim dean of the UofL School of Medicine. She has changed the face of leadership at the medical school by being not only the first female to serve as dean of the school, but also because her terminal degree is Ph.D. rather than M.D. In addition, she is the first Ph.D. woman ever to hold the lead position in any U.S. medical school. Not bad for a girl who started off working in her parents' hardware store in a rural area of New York.

Schweitzer earned a Ph.D. in Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Duke University, Department of Neurobiology, and was subsequently appointed to the Research Faculty at Duke. In 1988 Dr. Schweitzer joined the UofL School of Medicine, where she currently serves as Professor of Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology. She also holds an associate appointment in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1996 she was appointed Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and subsequently as Associate Vice President for Health Affairs in 1999. In December, 2003 she was named interim dean of medicine.

Dr. Schweitzer credits the support of her husband, Dr. Michael Gruenthal, chair of neurology, as a key to her career success. She and Gruenthal met while they were grad students at Washington University, and completed their Ph.D. programs together. They have two sons, ages 17 and 21. Her husband has been an incredible supporter of her career, and her closest friend. "I look forward to going home in the evening and having a friend to talk to about the issues of the day." Other keys to her success at UofL are strong women leaders like former Provost Carol Garrison, current Provost Shirley Willihnganz, Vice President for Research Nancy Martin and Deans Mary Mundt and Laura Rothstein. In addition, her male colleagues on the HSC campus, Don Kmetz, Joel Kaplan, David Weigman and Fred Roisen, have been very supportive and provided encouragement and opportunities. The transition from faculty colleague to dean of the school has been a smooth one, through Schweitzer's close relationship with the faculty and department chairs carried over from her previous role as faculty dean. Serving as dean of the school has been exciting because it gives her the opportunity to make positive changes that she would not have been able to bring about as faculty dean.

Schweitzer has advice to give to other women pursuing careers as administrators or corporate leaders. She believes that women must reach a level of balance in their lives, accept that they can't do everything perfectly all the time. "The house may not always be perfect, or sometimes we have to order takeout, and that's okay," she says. Schweitzer also suggests that women obtain several mentors, and not just female mentors. "It is important to get advice and learn from the experiences of a variety of people." She

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Call it an itch, call it a passion—whatever it was, it motivated two U of L staff members to form a support group for UofL students with children.

## Student Group Provides Support for Parents Attending U of L

In an earlier article published in the student newspaper, *The Louisville Cardinal*, Sheena Binford, social worker with UofL's Student Counseling Services explained why she and Sharonda Wathen, program coordinator for the Multicultural Academic Enrichment Program (MAEP), began Porter Parents: "I was a student parent, and parents need to know that they have support from other parents who are students. We kind of get ourselves thinking we are alone. Having that support from others and having them share their situations can be helpful." Student parents can feel that they are not part of UofL's mainstream, Binford said, and a support group can help them feel that they belong.


The group, affiliated with the Society of Porter Scholars, which provides academic and social support for the Woodford R. Porter, Sr. Scholars, is named in honor of Mr. Porter, who was the first African-American chair of the University of Louisville Board of Trustees. The group is very diverse, because any student parent at UofL is invited to attend.

From fifteen to twenty students attend the meetings. After a welcome and introduction, and an "ice breaker" to help the students feel more comfortable, a visiting guest presents a topic of interest to the students. A bank branch manager attended and discussed credit issues. UofL's ACCESS director Barb

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**The students occasionally bring their children to the meetings when childcare arrangements fall through. The University of Louisville currently does not have a child care center.**





# Women's History Month International Women's Day Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Unless noted, all events are free, open to the public, and take place on Uof L's Belknap Campus. For more information, contact the person listed with each event.

The calendar is also online at [www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr](http://www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr).

## February and March

**Exhibit: Sisters in Struggle: Women in the Louisville Civil Rights Movement; 1945-1975.**

An exhibit of historical photographs, clippings, memorabilia and biographical information depicting women's involvement in Louisville's Civil Rights Movement from 1945 to 1975. Lobby, Ekstrom Library. Regular library hours are 7:30 a.m.–midnight Monday–Thursday, 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday, noon–midnight Sunday. Hours will be modified March 13–18 for spring break. Admission is free. Jami Allen, 852-8747, [jemcco@gwise.louisville.edu](mailto:jemcco@gwise.louisville.edu), or David Horvath, 852-7589, [dghorv01@gwise.louisville.edu](mailto:dghorv01@gwise.louisville.edu).

## Sunday, February 27

**Film: *Whale Rider*.** "After sweeping audience awards at the Sundance, Toronto and Rotterdam film festivals, *Whale Rider* has become a worldwide phenomenon. All ages will connect with the contemporary story of love, rejection and triumph by a young girl (Oscar nominated Keisha Castle-Hughes) who dares to challenge the tradition-bound status quo in her coastal village and emerges a leader of her Maori tribe, the Polynesian people native to New Zealand." 4:00 p.m., Speed Art Museum, 2035 South Third Street. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Cathedral Heritage Foundation, The Speed Art Museum, and the University of Louisville Women and Global Issues Committee. Mary Ann Stenger, [masten01@louisville.edu](mailto:masten01@louisville.edu).

## Monday, February 28

**Lecture: "Still Unequal? Women and the Legal Profession."** Panel discussion of issues facing women in law school, in practice in the private sector, and in practice in the public sector. Panelists include Former Dean Barbara B. Lewis, Attorney Bonita Black, Attorney Jeanne Picht, and others. Sponsored by the Brandeis School of Law Diversity Committee and Women's Law Caucus. Noon, Cox Lounge, Brandeis School of Law, second floor. Robin Harris, 852-6083, [robin.harris@louisville.edu](mailto:robin.harris@louisville.edu).

**The Stars of the Future New Play Project.** Supper, 6:30p.m.; Readings, 7:30 p.m. Rudyard Kipling, 411 W. Oak Street. Sponsored by Pleiades Theatre Company, [pleiades@pleiadestheatreco.org](mailto:pleiades@pleiadestheatreco.org).

## March 1-April 10

**Exhibit: *Presence 8: Apocrypha, 2005*, by Valerie Sullivan Fuchs**

Valerie Sullivan Fuchs is a Louisville-based video artist whose work, *Apocrypha, 2005*, explores the discrepancies between subjective and collective understandings of history, particularly as these relate to the construction of a female identity. Combining blurred moving images with the sounds of overlapping recollections of four women by family and friends, Fuchs' work creates a shifting audio visual topography of memory that involves the viewer in the act of interpreting a history of individual women's lives. J.B. Speed Art Museum, 2035 South Third Street. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily, closed on Monday. Maiza Hixson, 589-6205.

## Tuesday, March 1

**The Virginia Allan National Young Careerist Program.** The program, begun in 1964, involves a competitive selection process within local organizations, districts/regions, and 53 state federations, resulting in the selection of a Young Careerist to represent each state federation at the BPW/USA annual conference. The winner of the national competition will serve as the National Representative for BPW/USA and may attend functions in her official capacity. 11:45 a.m., Holiday Inn Airport South, 2715 Fern Valley Road. Sponsored by Business and Professional Women Louisville. Angela Wilson, 636-0900 ext. 247, [AWilson@kyanags.org](mailto:AWilson@kyanags.org).

**Talk by UofL Professor Cate Fosl on the life of Anne Braden.** 7:00 p.m., Crescent Hill Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library, 2762 Frankfort Avenue. Cate Fosl, 852-8160, [catherine.fosl@louisville.edu](mailto:catherine.fosl@louisville.edu)

## Thursday, March 3

**Workshop: "Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Men Who Are Sexually Assaulted: Identifying the Harm and Facilitating the Healing."** Led by Rus Ervin Funk, MSW. This workshop will examine the issues faced by GBT men who are raped or sexually assaulted from the context of personal trauma issues and the broader socio-political issues that arise when men come out as GBT and rape survivors. Part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. 9:00 a.m.-noon, Center for Women and Families. Rus Funk, 581-7200, rus.funk@cwfempower.org.

**Performance/lecture: "Curatorial Investigations of the Mutant Sublime"** by Maiza Hixson. In conjunction with the Nathan Hayden exhibition, "A Spectacle of Synthetic Enchantment". 6:00 p.m., Hite Galleries, Schneider Hall. A reception for the artist and curator will follow. Contact John Begley, Gallery Director, (502) 852-4483, john.begley@louisville.edu

## Friday, March 4

**Lecture: "The Stories Bodies Tell."** Panel discussion at the University of Louisville featuring Dr. Karen Chandler, English Department; Dr. Susan Kelly, Sociology; and Dawn Heineken and Nancy Theriot, Women's and Gender Studies. 3:30 p.m., Room 300, Humanities Building, Belknap Campus. Part of the "The Year of the Story" series presented by U of L's Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society and co-sponsored with the Women's and Gender Studies Department. Nancy Theriot, 852-8160, nancyt@louisville.edu.

## Saturday, March 5

**Kentucky Pro ERA Alliance Annual Meeting.** 9:00a.m. - noon, Masterson's Restaurant, 1830 South Third Street, Louisville. Sponsored by Kentucky Pro-ERA Alliance. Bonny Manning, bonnyman@win.net.

## Sunday, March 6

**Lecture: "From Suffragist to Senator: Changing Role of Women in America" by Edith Mayo.** Edith Mayo retired after many years at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, where she curated the outstanding "From Parlor to Politics: Women & Reform in America, 1890-1926." More recently, she curated the traveling exhibit "Enterprising Women" for Harvard's Schlesinger Library. She has developed a traveling exhibition, "First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image." A speaker for the Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecture Series, she also lectures on such topics as "Images of Women in the Woman Suffrage Campaign," "Black Women Role Models at the Turn of the Century," "Textiles as Expressions of Women's Political Voice," and "History of the Women's Club Movement." Tickets: \$25.00 for adults; \$5.00 for students. 3:00

p.m., First Unitarian Church, 809 South Fourth Street. Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Louisville. Marsha Weinstein, 895-5218, MWeinst413@aol.com.

## Monday, March 7

**International Women's Day Commemoration.** Citywide event featuring speeches by Metro Louisville Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh; Johanna Bos, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; The Reverend Cindy Weber, Jefferson Street Baptist Church; and Karina Barillas and Rus Ervin Funk, The Center for Women and Families. Music by Yoruba Mason. Speakout and statements of support from other individuals and organizations. 5:00 p.m., place to be announced. Sponsored by International Women's Day Coalition representing University of Louisville's Women's Center, The Center for Women and Families, the Presbyterian Seminary Women's Center, the Women's Center at Jefferson Community College, Jefferson County National Organization for Women, the Feminist Peace Network, and Kentucky Jobs with Justice. Lucinda Marshall, moderator@feministpeacenet.org, or Kathy Kremer, 852-8976.

**Panel Discussion: "Voices of the Participants."** Featuring women participants Louisville's Civil Rights Movement from 1945 to 1975. The participants—including Anne Braden, Georgia Davis Powers, Benetha Ellis, and others—will discuss their first-hand experiences. Part of the exhibit, *Sisters in Struggle: Women in the Louisville Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975*. 3:00 p.m., Ekstrom Library Auditorium. Sponsored by the Design and Exhibits Team of U of L's University Libraries. Jami Allen, 852-8747, jemcco@gwise.louisville.edu, or David Horvath, 852-7589, dghorv01@gwise.louisville.edu

## Tuesday, March 8— International Women's Day

**International Women's Day Parade.** Noon, Women's Center/ Nelson Hall, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road. Johanna Bos, jbos@lpts.edu

**International Women's Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men.**

## Wednesday, March 9

**Workshop: "Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Men Who Are Sexually Assaulted: Identifying the Harm and Facilitating the Healing."** Led by Rus Ervin Funk, MSW. This workshop will examine the issues faced by GBT men who are raped or sexually assaulted from the context of personal trauma issues and the broader socio-political issues that arise when men come out as GBT and rape survivors. Part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Noon, Student Activities Center. Rus Funk, 581-7200, rus.funk@cwfempower.org.

**Play, *Sex Signals*.** "Catharsis Productions' program "**Sex Signals**" provides an insightful, educational, and provocative look into issues of sexual assault and date rape, focusing on the college experience. The play blends a unique combination of improvisation, humor, and audience participation as a means of engaging college audiences into an honest discussion about an otherwise difficult subject without becoming threatening or pedantic." 7:30 p.m., Strickler Hall, Room 101. Part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sponsored by U of L's PEACC Program (Prevention, Education, and Advocacy on Campus and in the Community) and GAMMA (Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol). Sharon LaRue, 852-2663, sharon.larue@louisville.edu.

## Thursday, March 10

**The 18th Annual Celebration of Service.** "Honors five 'Women of Distinction' who, with remarkable courage, steadfastness and grace, have made priceless contributions to our community. The evening includes a silent auction and cocktail hour, dinner and videos highlighting the lives of the evening's honorees. 5:30 p.m., cocktails and auction; 6:30 p.m. dinner and Women of Distinction Awards. Galt House East Grand Ballroom. 581-7200; www.thecenteronline.org.

**Philosophy Department Celebration of Women's History Month: Four Influential Women Philosophers.** Panel Presentation on Simone de Beauvoir, bell hooks, Edith Stein, and Martha Nussbaum. Panelists include Dr. Peg Zeglin Brand of Indiana University-Bloomington, and Drs. David Owen, Osborne Wiggins, and Avery Kolers, all U of L faculty members. Noon, Humanities 300. Eileen John, 852-0452, ejohn@louisville.edu.

**Women's History Classroom Reception.** To introduce the Women's History Classroom in U of L's Brandeis School of Law to the university community. Speakers include Dean Laura Rothstein and Professor Kathleen Bean. **Reservations required.** 3:30-5:00 p.m., Rooms 175 and 177, Brandeis School of Law. To RSVP or for more information, contact Robin Harris at 852-6083 or robin.harris@louisville.edu. Sponsored by the Brandeis School of Law Diversity Committee and Women's Law Caucus.

**Lecture: "Enhancing Artistic Presence through Contemplative Criticism."** Peg Brand, Indiana University Bloomington. What constitutes the best way to encounter and experience a work of art, or a series of works of art? From the myriad number of confusing and conflicting approaches available to art viewers and appreciators, which serve to enhance one's experience of artistic presence? Professor Brand's lecture examines both a traditional way of understanding works of art and the feminist critique and proposes a conceptual blending of the two into a "contemplative criticism." 6 p.m., Speed Art Museum Auditorium, 2035 S. Third Street, Louisville. Free. Sponsored by Adele and Leonard Leight and the Kentucky Foundation for Women. Nancy Renick, (502) 634-2724, NancyR@speedmuseum.org.

## Friday, March 11

**Murray Walls, Civil Rights Pioneer.** The public is welcome to attend the Girl Scouts and Kentucky Commission on Human Rights ceremony as they unveil a poster of civil rights activist Murray Atkins Walls. The poster is part of a series of the Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians designed to honor the accomplishments of Black civic leaders who helped move Kentucky forward. These heroes inspire young and old to follow their passion and work to turn dreams into reality. Walls, a former board member of the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana council, led the efforts to fully integrate Girl Scout Camp Shantituck by 1956 (eight years before Martin Luther King's historic march on Frankfort, Kentucky). She was the first black woman appointed to serve on the Kentucky state board of education. She demonstrated against the segregated public library system and fought for the rights of Blacks to be hired as department store clerks and to eat in any restaurant. Walls, a former teacher from Indianapolis, labored for decades for the rights of all to secure equal and fair housing in Louisville. Walls died in 1993. Posters and bookmarks in the series are free. To order, contact the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights at 502-595-4024 or visit <http://ky.gov/agencies2/kchr/>. 10:00 a.m., Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana Council, 1325 South Fourth Street, Louisville. Sponsored by Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana and the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. Sally LaBaugh, 636-0900, ext. 237, SlaBaugh@kyanags.org.

## Saturday, March 12

**2005 MLWPC Political Skills Campaign School.** This one-day conference provides training to run a campaign for political office. The conference is for those running, thinking about running, or working on a campaign. The speakers include The Honorable Crit Luallen, Auditor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Jennifer Moore, Attorney-at-Law, who will discuss the *Woodward v. Stephenson* case, and recently elected officials in Kentucky. Registration fee of \$45.00 includes breakfast and lunch. Scholarships and reduced

tuition available. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., The Inn at Jewish, 100 E. Jefferson St. Sponsored by Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus. For more information, contact Bobbi Jo essel Weber, 448-1625, bobbjo@wesselinsurance.com.

### Wednesday, March 16

**Lecture by Amelia Berry: "Bearing Witness: My Experience with Chinese Immigrant Survivors of Abuse."** Discussion of domestic violence in Chinese-American communities and how it impacts women. Presentation will include case histories and cultural considerations. 6:00 p.m., Crane House, 1244 S. Third St.. Please contact Katy Maloy or Debbie Thomas at Crane House, 635-2240 or cranehouse.adm@insightbb.com.

### Thursday, March 17

**Seminar: "The Status of Girls in Jefferson County."** Learn of needs of girls and improving their lives. Registration: \$30.00. 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., University Club, University of Louisville. Sponsored by The Alliance for Girls, League of Women Voters, and Kentuckiana Girl Scouts Council. Jill Adams, 502-213-2364, jill.adams@kctcs.edu.

### Wednesday, March 23

**Lecture and Discussion with Cass Irvin, author of *Home Bound: Growing Up with a Disability in America*.** "In her memoir, *Home Bound: Growing Up with a Disability in America*, Irvin chronicles her long and deeply personal journey to self-actualization as an independent woman and disability rights activist." (American Association of Colleges and Universities). 2:00-3:30 p.m., Ekstrom Library Auditorium. Sponsored by the Women's Center, Disability Resource Center, Women's and Gender Studies Department, and Brandeis School of Law Diversity Committee. Mary Karen Powers, 852-8976, womenctr@louisville.edu.

**Dialogue with Senator Georgia Davis Powers, author of *Celia's Land: A Historical Novel*.** "*Celia's Land* is the remarkable story of Celia Mudd, the great aunt of Kentucky's first African-American senator, Georgia Davis Powers. Celia Mudd was born in Nelson County, Kentucky in 1859. Upon receiving her freedom, she chose to remain with the Lancaster family, who had once owned her." Controversy erupted when the 840-acre farm was left to her. 7:00 p.m. First Unitarian Church, 809 South Fourth Street. A light buffet dinner available at 5:30; please call 585-5110 to reserve. Allie Corbin Hixson, 454-3912.

**Lecture: "Women's Social Activism in the Contemporary World"** by Professor Catherine Fosl. 3:30 p.m., Bingham Poetry Room, Ekstrom Library. John Cumbler, 502/852-6817, john.cumbler@louisville.edu.

### Thursday, March 24

**Lecture: "Disparate Treatment: Women's Health Issues."** Dr. Adewale Troutman, Director, Metro Louisville Health Department. Noon, University Club. Sponsored by NETWORK (New Energy to Work Out Racial Kinks). Linda Wilson, 502-852-6170, llwils01@louisville.edu.

### Friday, March 25

**Art exhibit: *Creative Circle*.** Featuring artists Sally LaBaugh and Erika Perry, whose painting reflects themes that have always been important to women: harmony, home, and tranquility. The exhibition continues through April 27. Dunbar/Bryant Art Studios, 2003 Frankfort Avenue. Gallery hours: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; Fridays, 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. or by appointment. Sally LaBaugh, SlaBaugh@kyanags.org.

### Tuesday, March 29

**Discussion: "Pornography: What's the Harm?"** Join the Center for Women and Families in this frank conversation about pornography and the harm it causes to the women and men used in its production, to women and men through men's use of pornography, to women in general, and to sexual, gender and racial justice. This discussion will include ways to combat pornography and to support the people who are harmed. Facilitated by Rus Ervin Funk, MSW, The Center for Women and Families. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Central Presbyterian Church, 3187 W. Kentucky Street.. Part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Co-sponsored by Jefferson County Chapter, National Organization for Women and the Women's Center for Growth and Leadership at Jefferson Community College.

### Monday, April 18

**Dialogue with Asar Nafisi, author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*.** Dialogue is oriented mainly toward U of L campus and community. Book sale and signing. 10:00-11:30 a.m., Ekstrom Library Auditorium. Sponsored by Women's & Gender Studies Department and Kentucky Author Forum. Lin Billingsley, 852-8160, lbbill01@louisville.edu.

**Annual Minx Auerbach Lecture in Women's and Gender Studies: Azar Nafisi, author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*.** Book sale/signing before and after lecture. Reception follows. Event is free and open to the public. 5:30 p.m., Speed Museum Auditorium. Nancy Theriot, 852-8160, nancyt@louisville.edu. Co-sponsored by UofL's Dr. Shirley Willinnganz, Provost; Dr. Blaine Hudson, Dean of Arts and Sciences; Commonwealth Center for Humanities and Society; English Department; Liberal Studies Program; Women and Global Issues Committee. (Dr. Nafisi will also appear at the Kentucky Author Forum on Tuesday, April 19. For Author Forum information, call 589-2884 or email kyforum@aol.com).





Women's History Month  
International Women's Day  
Sexual Assault Awareness Month

March 2005 Calendar of Events

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**Schweitzer**, continued from p. 3

indicates that one of her strengths is "that I have the ability to understand my limitations, and I'm not ashamed to ask for help and advice."

Lastly, she advises that women should never underestimate their potential: "If people work hard enough, they can be just about anything they want to be. People need to be willing to take opportunities when they are provided, and seek out opportunities when they are not always apparent. Who would have ever believed that little girl growing up in a hardware store in New York would end up as the first female Ph.D. medical school dean in U.S. history?"

*Diana Whitlock is assistant to Dr. Mordean Taylor-Archer, Vice Provost for Diversity and Equal Opportunity at the University of Louisville.*

**Porter Parents**, continued from p. 3

King described financial aid and other services for students that her program offers. A representative from the Cabinet for Families and Children gave the group information on financial assistance, housing, and other services.

During the meeting, parents have time to talk and share stories, advice, and support. "Sometimes, it's the small things" that help the students, according to Wathen. At one meeting, they helped one student who was trying to get her child to use a Sippy Cup. At another, they helped a parent who needed food for herself and her child. When some of the students were

looking for a Halloween party to take their children to, they decided to organize one themselves.

Shanta Stell, a senior majoring in psychology, credits the Porter Parents with helping her be a better parent and student. Shanta spotted a flyer announcing the meeting and began attending regularly at a time when she needed support. "I found Porter Parents when I was at a stressful point in my life," Shanta said. "Every meeting is truly a chance to get a grip on being a successful parent as well as a successful student. It gives us a chance to share, vent, and enjoy one another's company." She adds, "The support I received from Sharonda, Sheena, and the other parents was phenomenal. They probably don't realize the impact they have on the parents."

The students occasionally bring their children to the meetings when childcare arrangements fall through. The University of Louisville currently does not have a child care center. Binford and Wathen agree, however, that the university community has been supportive. Staff members with adult children attend and offer their advice as "seasoned" parents. The University responded generously when the group asked for donations for a local charity.

For more information about the Porter Parents contact Sheena Binford at 502/852-6585 or sheena.binford@louisville.edu, or Sharonda Wathen at 852-7267 or s0holm01@louisville.edu .

