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Newly Elected Commission Board President Susan Fogel Promises Bold Initiatives, New Direction

The New Year always ushers in opportunity and challenges, and this year is no exception. In these economically challenging times, the mission of the Commission is more important than ever.

The status of women is critically linked to the status of their children and families, their communities, and our city at large. By focusing specifically on the needs of women, including young women, the Commission strengthens our communities and the City of Los Angeles by helping to make city government more responsive, by encouraging civic participation, and by listening and engaging with all of you.

When women are free from violence, entire communities become more peaceful; when worksites are free from discrimination, all workers can be more

productive and prosper; when women participate in our fire and



President Susan Fogel

police departments, public safety is more effective and community violence decreases; when women have access to health information and resources, their families are healthier; and when adolescent girls have educational opportunities, they are less likely to join gangs, and less likely to get preg-

nant.

The Commission has recently been bringing its meetings into the community, and it has been wonderful to see the response of community members attending the meetings, telling us about their concerns and their recommendations.

As we move forward in this new year, we have an exiting group of new commissioners from the diverse communities with tremendous energy and expertise. We are all looking forward to the opportunity to work closely with the Mayor, City Council and most importantly, the community.

We invite you to join with us – come to Commission meetings, bring us your ideas and your expertise, and together we will improve the status of women and the vibrancy of our City.

Planned Parenthood Commemorates Landmark Decision in Women's Health and Reproductive Justice

Planned Parenthood Los Angeles commemorated 35 years of safe, legal health care for women and families during a rally outside of the Federal Building on January 22, 2008, which marked the 35th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade*.

"The 35th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* is a powerful reminder that deciding when and whether to

become a parent is one of the most personal and important choices we make," said Planned Parenthood Los Angeles President and CEO Mary-Jane Waglé.

"Thirty-five years after *Roe*, the struggle to protect women's health continues," added Waglé. "Planned Parenthood is calling on all concerned citizens and community leaders to work with us to expand access to reproductive



Rally participants

Visit www.plannedparenthood.org/

health care and much-needed sex education for young people."

Healthy Relationships Conference To Be Held for YWAR Students



For more information about YWAR visit <http://www.lacity.org/csw> and select the YWAR logo shown above.

On February 21, 2008, the Young Women: from Adversity to Resiliency (YWAR) program will hold its 4th Annual Healthy Relationships Conference at the California Science Center in downtown Los Angeles. The conference will focus on enriching the YWAR curriculum by empowering participants to make positive choices in their relationships with others.

The event will bring together over 250 young women

throughout Los Angeles to learn more about topics such as unhealthy relationships, substance abuse, communication and family, teen pregnancy, self-esteem, body-image, preventing gang violence and much more. Some of our partners in this effort are the Violence Intervention Program, Break the Cycle, Planned Parenthood, LAUSD Homeless/Teen Parent Program, Girls in Gangs, and many others.

In addition to a series of workshops, panel discussions and live performances, there will be various resource tables. This new component will give students the opportunity to speak to representatives from community-based organizations and obtain useful information for their daily lives.

YWAR is a school-based prevention and intervention program for female youth created by the Commission on the Status of Women.

Commissioner Profile



Commissioner
Francille Rusan Wilson

Francille Rusan Wilson was appointed to the LACCSW Board in January 2008 and is our newest commissioner. She is an Associate Professor of African American Studies and Affiliate Associate Professor of American Studies and Women's Studies at the University of Maryland. She is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Wilson is an intellectual and labor historian whose current research examines the intersections between black labor movements, black social

scientists, and black women's history during the Jim Crow era. Her book, *The Segregated Scholars: Black Social Scientists and the Creation of Black Labor Studies, 1890-1950* is a collective biography of the world and works of 15 scholar-activists over three generations. Her book was awarded the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Prize for the best book in African American Women's history by the Association of Black Women Historians.

Dr. Wilson is a member of the Executive Council of the

Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and serves on the Board of the Labor and Working Class History Association. Dr. Wilson is a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians.

Dr. Wilson earned a B.A. in Political Science from Wellesley College and earned a M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the University of Pennsylvania.

She has won numerous awards and written many publications. Visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/csw/>

Community Corner - Events and Resources

African American Heritage Month Events. Many events will be held during the month of February to celebrate the contributions of African Americans. Visit the Authors Study Club website for a list of events at <http://aahm.lacity.org>. **Sisters Staying Healthy.** Free health education workshops for women

40+ who want to take charge of their health. The workshops are held the third Thursday of each month until June at the Olympia Medical Center (formerly Midway Hospital) located at 5900 W. Olympic Blvd. in Los Angeles. They begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. Dinner is provided. Cost: Free. Call Life Long at (213) 814-9168. **Save-the-**

Date: March 12, 2008, **Ending Violence Against Women Policy Summit.** One-day seminar will be held at the California Endowment, 1000 Alameda Street, Los Angeles from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you want to be a part of this call to action to eliminate violence against women, visit <http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org/> for more information.

If you have a story idea or an event you'd like to submit, email us at csw@webmaster.org or call us at (213) 978-0300

Community Spotlight: National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles



Hillary Selvin
Executive Director

In 1909, fifteen revolutionary Jewish women defied convention to form the **National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles Section (NCJW/LA)**. Rachel Kauffman assembled a group of

women who immediately set out to advance social action in their world. They saw to it that underprivileged children received nutritious school lunches. In 1924, the first NCJW/LA Council Thrift Store was founded to generate funding for their programs and provide clothes for those in need. They now have eight Council Thrift Stores.

Issues have never been easy but **NCJW/LA** has worked for: individual rights; domestic violence; reproductive rights; race and gender equality; homelessness; at-risk children; health care for everyone; juvenile justice; child care; single-parents; rights for disabled; envi-

ronmental threats; welfare reform; and more.

NCJW/LA offers community services for individuals, women and their families including Free Counseling Talkline, Individual and Family Counseling, Support Groups, At-Risk Youth Counseling, Annual Free Clothing Giveaway, Emergency Survival Fund and Free Clothing Vouchers. Their volunteers provide programs serving over 5,000 children and youth at 15 sites across Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley with their Art & Literacy Programs at under-funded public elementary schools, providing story-time, art through culture and other services.

For more information about the National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles visit: www.ncjwla.org or call 323-651-2930.

Just The Facts - Teen Dating Violence

- ◆ One in five teenagers will experience abuse in a teen dating relationship.
- ◆ Teen dating violence occurs in all types of relationships; it crosses race, gender, and socioeconomic lines.
- ◆ Patterns of dating violence start early and carry through into adult relationships.
- ◆ In California, 9% of dating 9th graders and 13% of dating 11th graders, reported abuse in a dating relationship in the previous 12 months.
- ◆ Nearly 1.5 million high school students report physical dating violence each year.
- ◆ Young women between the ages of 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of non-fatal intimate partner violence.
- ◆ 33 % of teens will experience abuse in a dating relationship.

- ◆ Studies show that nearly half of teen dating violence victim experience some dating abuse on school campus.
- ◆ 81% of parents either believe that teen dating violence is not an issue or admit that they do not know if it is an issue.

Look for the Attorney General's "A Guide to Addressing Teen Dating and Sexual Violence in a School Setting" recommendations to be released February 4-8, 2008.



1 in 5 high school students experiences teen dating violence

LACCSW Intern Tracey Katz Finds Real World Experience Valuable

The Commission's purpose is to assist in assuring that women have the opportunity for full and equal participation in the affairs of government. One of the ways we accomplish this is by providing internship opportunities to students interested in public policy and leadership. LACCSW intern Tracey Katz shares her experiences working with the Commission.

My time at the Commission on the Status of Women has been a

valuable experience.

Never having worked in policy and having only learned about it in class as a Master of Public Policy student at USC, I wasn't sure what to expect from my internship.

I came on my first day eager to learn about the process of evaluating a program, and I have not been disappointed. I have been going through data from YWAR, and will learn how to compile it into an

evaluation report.

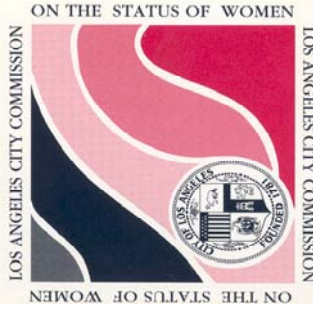
My classes aim to teach students how to do this, and I have found it valuable to have experience doing so. I have also gone to City Council meetings and have seen how city government works, something that is important to me given that I may eventually work in city government.

I hope to continue learning from my internship at CSW as I have in my first three weeks.



Tracey Katz
LACCSW Intern

LA Woman



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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

February 1, 2008 City Hall Room 1010

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

March 6, 2008 NJCW/LA, 543 Fairfax Avenue, LA

90036, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

April 4, 2008 City Hall Room 1010

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women was established by ordinance by the City Council and Mayor in 1975. In 1980, the Commission was made a permanent department of City government.

The Commission assists in assuring to all women the opportunity for full and equal participation in the affairs of City government and promotes the general welfare of women in the Los Angeles community. The Commission is authorized to:

INFORM AND ADVISE the Mayor and City Council of the needs and problems of women in the City of Los Angeles, with special emphasis given to women in City government

INVESTIGATE problems and conditions affecting women adversely, and

RECOMMEND programs which offer to women in the City of Los Angeles, a greater opportunity and ability to pursue life choices without discrimination

PROPOSE methods of alleviating inequities in pay and job opportunities between men and women

PROMOTE awareness of changing life patterns, opportunities and responsibilities of women

MAINTAIN an active liaison with citizen groups concerned about identifying and removing obstacles to the development of a woman's full potential.

Commission Participates in National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness Press Conference

"Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress supports the goals and ideals of observing the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on January 11 of each year and all other efforts to raise awareness of and opposition to human trafficking."

A concurrent resolution was passed by the Senate and Congress last year marking January 11, 2008 as the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness.

The first National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness was observed last month by governmental agencies, community based organizations, and human rights advocates across the nation.

In Los Angeles, the Commission on the Status of Woman participated in

a press conference marking the observance at the National Council of Jewish Women. The press conference was organized by the LA Unity Coalition, a group of prominent civic and faith-based leaders working together to combat modern day slavery in the Los Angeles area.

"The face of human trafficking is as diverse as all those seated in this room," said Veronica Hendrix, Public Affairs Officer for the Commission on the Status of Women, to a multicultural audience. "That is why it is important to make every community aware of this most egregious crime against humanity during this national day of observance."

The LA Unity Coalition also announced a list of county-wide events that took place that day. LA Unity

Coalition members also distributed purple remembrance ribbons and awareness cards on how to identify trafficking victims. For more information about human trafficking visit www.rescueandrestore.org.



Members of the LA Unity Coalition, civic and faith-based leaders working to combat human trafficking