

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

## October Is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

BY LINDA MAHONEY

In 1995, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence convened several national domestic violence organizations - the Family Violence Prevention Fund, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the National Domestic Violence Hotline and later the National Network to End Domestic Violence - to launch a new effort to support domestic violence programs awareness and education efforts. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is observed annually in October as part of the Domestic Violence Awareness Project. Today, the DVAP is a diverse partnership of local, tribal, state and national domestic violence organizations and networks. Check it out at: <http://dvam.vawnet.org>.

The National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women has many publications, which are available at: [www.vawnet.org](http://www.vawnet.org).

If you, or someone you know, are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or dating violence, help is available.

If you, or someone you know, are a victim of domestic violence, please call:

### Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

6911 Laurel-Bowie Road, Suite 309

Bowie, MD 20715

Phone: 301-352-4574

Toll-Free: 1-800-634-3577

Fax: 301-809-0422

Email: [info@mndadv.org](mailto:info@mndadv.org)

or

### National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

In addition, the Department of Justice webpage has a link to domestic violence resources at [www.ovv.usdoj.gov/hotnum.htm](http://www.ovv.usdoj.gov/hotnum.htm).

If you, or someone you know, are a victim of sexual assault, please call 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) to be connected to the rape crisis center nearest to you.

If you, or someone you know, are a victim of stalking:

1-800-394-2255

1-800-211-7996 (TTY)

(see Domestic Violence, page 3)

## Abused Persons Program of Montgomery County

BY NANCY NYLAND

Eugene Morris, director of the Abused Persons Program (APP) of Montgomery County, spoke to the Montgomery County Chapter at the meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The APP provides a 24-hour crisis line, shelter, legal assistance, information and advocacy for victims, and counseling for victims and abusers. Mr. Morris reminded us that one fourth of all women experience some kind of abuse from a domestic partner. The percentage is one third if sexual assaults are included.

There were six deaths in Montgomery County in the last year, a county of 950,000 people, and 70 deaths in the State of Maryland. There were 1453 incidents reported to the police in the County, and approximately 1900 victims helped by the Abused Persons Program. The APP assisted more than 200 clients with temporary shelter, an unusually high number.

Even after years of study, no one has a comprehensive explanation of what "causes" domestic abuse. Although alcoholism or some brain dysfunction have been put forward as partial explanations, it is a myth that all abusers are alcoholic or mentally ill. Most batterers are functional at work and behave normally in other social situations. It is also a myth that domestic violence happens only among the poor, the poorly educated, or in dysfunctional families.

(see Abused Persons, page 3)

### MCNOW Chapter Meeting

## What's New for Women's Healthcare in Montgomery County?

Monday, October 5, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Wheaton Library

11701 Georgia Ave, Wheaton, MD

Large downstairs conference room

Join us for a panel on women's healthcare in Montgomery County. **Panelists are:**

- Councilwoman Nancy Floreen
- Holy Cross CEO Kevin Sexton
- MDNARAL President Jenny Blasdell
- Leslie J. Calman, Executive Director, The National Lesbian Health Organization

Other guests present for the discussion will be from Planned Parenthood, the Women's Justice Center, and other county, state, and national groups. Please join us.

**Montgomery County NOW**  
**P.O. Box 2301**  
**Rockville, MD 20847-2301**

**NEW PHONE:** (301) 368-1917

**EMAIL:** info@mcmdnow.org

**WEB SITE:** www.mcmdnow.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

Vanessa E. Ali  
vanessaali@aol.com

**Executive Vice President**

Linda Mahoney  
Linda.Mahoney@ey.com

**Action Vice President**

Lara Wibeto  
lwibeto@verizon.net

**Recording Secretary**

Susan Martin  
sem5511@verizon.net

**Corresponding Secretary**

Fran Porter  
Franporter@verizon.net

**Treasurer**

Edith Miller  
myrockyroad@aol.com

**Membership Chair**

Jeannette Feldner  
Lj.feldner@verizon.net

**Newsletter Editors**

Nancy M. Nyland  
nancy.nyland@verizon.net  
Liz Callihan  
Ecallihan@pubcomm.com

**Chair, Community Relations**

Holly Joseph  
joseph.holly@gmail.com

**Immediate Past President**

Carole Rayburn  
valentinecarole@copper.net

**MC NOW PAC**

Holly Joseph, Chair  
Jeannette Feldner, Treasurer

**MD NOW COUNCIL REPS**

L. Jeannette Feldner  
Holly Taggart Joseph

**TASK FORCE CHAIRS**

**Sexualization of Girls**

Mary Bailey  
bravenewworld@starpower.net

**Reproductive Rights**

Jeannette Feldner  
Lj.feldner@verizon.net

**Women's Spirituality**

Carole Rayburn  
valentinecarole@copper.net

## MC NOW President's Message

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – FOLLOWING “THE BURNING BED”



Vanessa Ali  
President, Montgomery  
County Chapter, National  
Organization for Women

October marks an amazing milestone for women as we acknowledge Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It makes us reflect on the profound progress we have made as women and as a country over the last 100 years. We have already ushered in a new era with the inauguration of our country's first African-American president, and we are reminded of the struggles and the triumphs of women over the past century. Domestic violence impacts 74% of all Americans personally or through someone they know. We hear much less about domestic violence because it is not as profitable as breast cancer. Estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend per year to three million women who are physically abused by their husband or boyfriend per year.

In 1977, Francine Hughes set her abusive husband's bed on fire with him asleep in it, and was subsequently found not guilty by reason of insanity. Her story as told in the book

and movie *The Burning Bed*, where she was played by actress Farrah Fawcett, was considered shocking at the time. If people of my parent's generation thought pronouncing Francine Hughes not guilty by reason of insanity all those years ago, not guilty of setting the bedroom in which her husband was sleeping on fire, would somehow put a halt to domestic abuse, they were clearly mistaken. Unfortunately, domestic violence did not go away.

I say *unfortunately* because, wouldn't it be nice to live in a world where women (and while men get battered, too, the overwhelming majority of victims are female) didn't have to worry about getting the crap beat out of them? Here are some sobering statistics:

- 61 percent of female homicide victims were murdered by their spouse or male partner.
- In a worldwide study, 69 percent of women reported being **physically injured by their spouse or domestic partner**. Keep in mind that the overwhelming majority of abused women don't report it, which means the real figure is much higher.
- Female victims of violence are **three times more likely to contract HIV** than those who have not experienced abuse.
- One in four women reports **having been sexually assaulted**.
- Over one million women are **stalked each year**.
- 12% of the 378 women whose death was reported to the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths had **voluntarily reported domestic violence to a healthcare professional during their pregnancy**.

Maybe you think that this does not apply to you because it has never happened to you, but **one in three women in the U.S. has not been so lucky**. Chances are you know someone who has been on the receiving end of a fist. These statistics are the reason to discuss violence in relationships with your daughter, sister, mother, or spouse. You can prevent or uncover violence in relationships. Everyone is hurt by domestic violence. Specifically, males raised in violent homes are more likely to behave violently in their future intimate relationships. Teens need to be made aware of the signs of domestic violence. If they feel they are a victim, they need to be told where to receive help. Verbal abuse, threats to harm, jealousy of friends and family, shoving, kicking, and destroying personal belongings are more reasons to take notice. One in five teens in a serious relationship reports having been hit, slapped or pushed by a partner. One in three female teens in a dating relationship reports having feared for her safety. Control plays a key role in domestic violence, oftentimes before physical violence starts. Controlling behavior is demonstrated as stated by the national average: 30% of teens in

## President's Message (continued from page 2)

a dating relationship have been text-messaged 10, 20, or 30 times an hour by a partner finding out where they are, what they are doing or who they are with.

The road to rehabilitation takes more than "I am sorry" lip service from the abuser. It takes more than a sense of "I can change someone" from the victim. In most cases violence is not an isolated incidence and will continue after promises that it will never happen again. If you uncover violence in your relationship(s) or know of someone who is in an abusive relationship, the Montgomery County Abused Persons Program is one of several County services that can help.

I encourage you to talk openly with your "gal pals" about domestic violence.

"Pass It On, Act & Learn."

---

## Domestic Violence (continued from page 1)

If you, or someone you know, are a victim of dating violence:

1-866-331-9474

1-866-331-8453 (TTY)

You can also chat live on-line with a trained Peer Advocate from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. (CST) daily.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice has links on its webpage to resources on sexual assault, dating violence and stalking: [www.ovw.usdoj.gov](http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov).

---

*The sexual assault advocacy community and the Office on Violence Against Women lost a valuable ally and friend on September 5, 2009 with the passing of Ms. Gail Burns-Smith. Gail was the Executive Director of Connecticut Sexual Assault Center of Crisis Services from 1982 to her retirement in 2004, ultimately growing the program to a staff of 23. Gail also co-founded the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, a leading national organization which advocated for the Violence Against Women Act. Her contributions to the field of sexual assault advocacy are extensive, and her absence will be greatly felt.*

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE ABUSED PERSONS PROGRAM OF M.C.**

The Abused Persons Program of Montgomery County is recruiting volunteers to work with victims of domestic violence in a variety of capacities. Volunteers are needed for evenings and weekends as well as weekdays. There is a special need for bilingual individuals. Training sessions are scheduled for this fall. For more information, please call Cathy Wolf at 240-777-4215 or Vivian Levi at 240-777-4896.

## Abused Persons (continued from page 1)

Domestic violence happens in all communities, among all professions, races, religions, and income levels.

More likely explanations for why domestic abuse happens are: the way men are raised; the way women are raised; the way men and women think about relationships; media messages about people's bodies; and societal messages about people's value. But until the causes can be identified and remedied, the APP will continue to be asked to do crisis intervention, provide shelter, and assist victims in some kind of recovery from the violence that they have experienced. Often it is not just the person who was the physical target of the abuser who needs help in recovery, but also children or other family members who witnessed or were affected by family violence.

As part of crisis intervention, the APP assists victims in court in getting protective orders, and provides cell phones so that abused persons have a method to call 911 in an emergency. If a case ends up in the courts, Montgomery County has a Family Justice Center to provide legal services in one location.

If you know someone who may need their services, their 24-hour crisis line is (240) 777-4673. Their non-emergency number is (240) 777-4195. The emergency line for the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program is (240) 777-HELP (4357), and the non-emergency number is (240) 777-1355.

Mr. Morris is also the President of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV), a statewide coalition of groups working to end domestic violence. MNADV is sponsoring a statewide conference in October and a Montgomery County conference in November. More details about the MNADV conferences are listed in the Calendar on the back page of this newsletter.

### **MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR WOMEN FALL CONFERENCE**

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) will hold its annual fall conference on Saturday, October 17, 2009, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Montgomery County Education Association, 12 Taft Court, Rockville. Lead groups and legislators will present legislative proposals at the conference that will be considered for inclusion in the 2010 MLAW Legislative agenda. The legislation that is presented will be voted on by MLAW members, and the bills selected will become MLAW's priority issues for the 2010 Maryland General Assembly session.

MLAW is a statewide, nonpartisan coalition of women's groups and individuals which promotes financial independence, personal safety, civil rights, and access to quality health care and education for the women and families of our state.

MLAW has supported the passage of dozens of bills that improved the quality of life for women and families in Maryland.

For more information, contact Jessica Morgan at MLAW, (443) 519-1005, [admin@mdlegagenda4women.org](mailto:admin@mdlegagenda4women.org)

# Through the Feminist Lens

BY NANCY NYLAND

As we approach the month of October, we don't need Domestic Violence Awareness Month to remind us that women are suffering and dying every day at the hands of violent men. Yes, the genders can sometimes be reversed, but overwhelmingly it is women and children who are beaten, sexually abused, bought and sold, and murdered by men. The sad case of Annie Le, the Yale graduate student who was allegedly killed by a co-worker in her lab, reminds us that women are subject to violence and murder, not only in the family, but also in the workplace, as well as in the street. A 2001 article in *The Baltimore Sun* reported that the leading cause of death among pregnant women in Baltimore is not complications from pregnancy, but homicide.

But the real mystery is: why? In the Annie Le case, a co-worker seems to have suddenly snapped. Similarly, there seems to be no explanation in cases such as the infamous Scott Peterson case in California in 2004. A man with no previous criminal record suddenly murders his wife, Laci Peterson, who was eight months pregnant with their son. Annie Le was about to be married. Laci Peterson was about to give birth to her first child. Their families were expecting happy events and happy lives for their daughters with husbands and children and happy families. Instead, entire families were deprived of their daughters, sisters, nieces, and future grandchildren, senselessly and for no apparent reason.

Researchers have been studying domestic violence for decades, and still don't seem to be able to come up with an explanation for the inexplicable. Perhaps the explanation is the simplest one: men abuse women because they can. Often they are bigger and stronger than their wives and girlfriends. Sometimes the abusive husbands are the sole support of the family, and hold the purse strings. The abused wife or girlfriend has nowhere to go, and no money to pay for her own room and board for herself or her children without her husband's income.

But what gives men the idea that it's okay, or even that it *might* be okay, to consider trying to control their wives or girlfriends with physical violence? Somehow, some men are still being led to believe that they must be in charge or in control of their relationship or their family. Some women, somehow, are made to mistakenly feel that if they would only behave differently, the abuse would stop. Media images of women and women's bodies give some men the idea that, somehow, women are not wholly human in the same way as men. Women are not always seen as valuable, multi-dimensional, full human beings with a contribution to make above and beyond their appearance, their bodies, and their childbearing capacity.

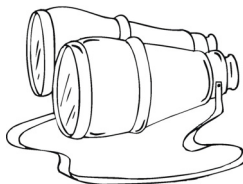
If a man has these mistaken ideas, it is unlikely that he will change his mind simply because his wife or girlfriend tries to tell him that he is wrong. The multiple solutions to domestic violence include educating women to absolutely and unequivocally reject any relationship that involves any attempt at physical control; empowering women to earn

more than 75 cents on the dollar that men earn so that women can have equal financial power in a relationship; and to form partnerships with men who are willing to stand up for equality, and put one of my favorite bumper stickers on their car, that says:

“Men Against Violence Against Women.”

## As I See It

BY HOLLY JOSEPH (joseph.holly@gmail.com)



Reading Nassim Taleb's *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable* inspires me to share with you its fascinating premise: in a world where we seek order and rationality, there are many occurrences in life that are not predictable

and so are unavoidable – thus, out of our control. By their nature, Black Swans are happenings for which we are unprepared. I am not sure that you can compare the incidence of predictable events from unpredictable ones, but I'd hazard the observation that we probably lead our life as though most things are predictable. Wouldn't we go crazy if we didn't?

I think one's security would rest on how much of one's life she or he believes is under her or his control. We come together to advance women's issues in large part because we want equality of women which would make certain that women are treated fairly – and reliably so.

I want to share some thoughts of Frederick Douglass, an early and true friend of women. He wrote, “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.” He was one of those demanding suffrage for women from the early days of that movement. It may a bit strange that he took up the cause of women's suffrage when the cause of abolition might have taken all his energy. Nonetheless, he explains it this way:

“When I ran away from slavery, it was for myself; when I advocated emancipation, it was for my people; but when I stood up for the rights of women, self was out of the question, and I found a little nobility in the act.”

As with so many of the suffragists, he didn't live to see the results of his great efforts, dying some 30 years before the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

### Submissions to Newsletter Welcome

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE: OCT 10, 2009

*From NOW On* reserves the right to edit submissions. Ads are accepted for nominal fees.

Call 301-236-0069 or Email Nancy Nyland:

nancy.nyland@verizon.net

Write P.O. Box 2301, Rockville, MD 20847-2301

# Trailblazers in Healthcare

Test your knowledge of women who made a difference in medicine and healthcare issues. Answers are boxed on page 7 of the newsletter. You can learn more about these women pioneers below.

BY LINDA MAHONEY

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Susan Smith McKinney Steward | ___ a. Founded the birth control movement                      |
| 2. Nellie Bly                   | ___ b. First licensed native American woman doctor             |
| 3. Susan LaFlesche Picotte      | ___ c. Investigated environmental causes of workers' illnesses |
| 4. Mary Eliza Mahoney           | ___ d. First woman to graduate from a medical school           |
| 5. Clara Barton                 | ___ e. Responsible for reform of treatment of the mentally ill |
| 6. Alice Hamilton               | ___ f. First licensed African American woman physician         |
| 7. Elizabeth Blackwell          | ___ g. Founder of the American Red Cross                       |
| 8. Margaret Sanger              | ___ h. First African American professional nurse               |

**Clarissa Harlowe (Clara) Barton** (1821-1912) founded the American Red Cross in 1881 and led it for the next 23 years. Among the first women to gain employment in the federal government, she was working as a clerk in the U.S. Patent Office, when U.S. soldiers, wounded and lacking supplies, flooded into the Washington, DC area during the Civil War, where Clara organized volunteers and solicited donations of food, clothing and medicines. She then risked her life driving supply wagons and nursing soldiers in the field, frequently arriving ahead of army surgeons. She worked with the International Red Cross in the Franco-Prussian War. The American Red Cross pioneered disaster relief, aiding U.S. victims of forest fires, floods and hurricanes, and even sending supplies overseas in response to foreign needs. Several countries honored Barton with decorations, including the German Iron Cross for her relief work in the Franco-Prussian War and the Silver Cross of Imperial Russia for the supplies provided during the famine of 1892. Barton was instrumental in expanding the work of the International Red Cross to emulate her disaster relief efforts. Clara Barton National Historic Site at Glen Echo Park in Maryland was the first National Historic Site dedicated to the accomplishments of an American woman. Clara Barton's home served as national headquarters and warehouse for the American Red Cross, a dormitory for Red Cross staff and a warehouse for relief supplies.

[www.redcross.org/museum/history/claraBarton.asp](http://www.redcross.org/museum/history/claraBarton.asp)

[www.biography.com/articles/Clara-Barton-9200960](http://www.biography.com/articles/Clara-Barton-9200960)

[www.nps.gov/clba/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/clba/index.htm)

Born in England, **Elizabeth Blackwell** (1821-1910) was the first woman to graduate from a medical school and was a pioneer in educating women in medicine. After being rejected by numerous schools due to her gender, Elizabeth was finally accepted to the Geneva (NY) Medical School, where she graduated first in her class in 1849, becoming the first woman doctor in the modern era. The first woman on the British Medical Registry, following further studies in Europe plus writing and lecturing, she founded a hospital in New York City, where she later founded the Women's

Medical College in 1868. After moving to England, she helped organize the National Health Society and founded the London School of Medicine for Women. She remained in England as a professor of gynecology for 32 years at the London School of Medicine for Children. Blackwell's educational standards were higher than the all-male medical schools. Her courses emphasized the importance of proper sanitation and hygiene to prevent diseases.

<http://greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=20>  
[womenshistory.about.com/od/blackwellelizabeth/a/eliz\\_blackwell.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/blackwellelizabeth/a/eliz_blackwell.htm)

**Nellie Bly**, born Elizabeth Jane Cochran (1864-1922). Her stories about mental institutions led to reforms in treatment and increased public funding for care of mental illness patients. In the 1880s and 1890s, as a reporter for Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World*, she was a pioneer in investigative reporting. Before the "muckrakers" of the early 20th century publicized corruption and long before today's investigative reporting, Bly was one of the first to "go behind the scenes" to expose the ills of society. At considerable personal risk, she had herself committed to a mental institution so she could study first-hand how the mentally ill were treated. As a result of her exposé, the care of the mentally ill was reformed. *The New York Journal* recognized her as the "best reporter in America." Beginning in 1889, in an attempt to beat the fictional record in Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days*, she circled the globe in about 72 days, 6 hours.

[www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=23](http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=23)

U.S. State Department website: [www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2008/April/20080427131539eafas0.3595806.html](http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2008/April/20080427131539eafas0.3595806.html)

[www.biography.com/articles/Nellie-Bly-9216680](http://www.biography.com/articles/Nellie-Bly-9216680)

**Alice Hamilton** (1869-1970) pioneered the study of environmental causes of work-related ailments. Her first job was teaching pathology at Northwestern University. Jane Addams and other reformers encouraged her to apply her scientific knowledge to social problems, so

Dr. Hamilton began conducting pioneering surveys of industrial disease, touring mines and factories, smelters and forges. She became a special investigator for the United States Bureau of Labor in 1911. In 1919 Dr. Hamilton was appointed assistant professor of industrial medicine, and later its first professor of public health at the Harvard University Medical School, the first and for many years the only woman on the Harvard faculty. Her research continued to help promote safety in the American workplace. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health presents awards in her name to scientists and engineers who excel in that field.

[www.biography.com/articles/Alice-Hamilton-9326498](http://www.biography.com/articles/Alice-Hamilton-9326498)

<http://greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=73>

Born on the Omaha reservation in Nebraska **Susan La Flesche Picotte** (1865-1915) was the first female Native American to become a licensed doctor. La Flesche left the reservation to go to school in the East, earning her medical degree at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1889, graduating at the top of her class. She spent her internship at the Woman's Hospital in Philadelphia. Returning to the reservation, she worked for the tribe as a physician, working for the federal Office of Indian Affairs and serving as "medical missionary" for her tribe, so designated by the Women's National Indian Association. After her marriage to Henry Picotte in 1894, the couple moved, but with the founding of the town of Walthill in the Omaha reservation, Dr. La Flesche Picotte became so active in community and child affairs, that she was effectively the leader of the Omahas. Throughout the remainder of her life, she worked for improved health conditions of the Omaha tribe. The hospital she founded in 1913 was named after her upon her death in 1915.

National Library of Medicine website (NIH):

[www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/if\\_you\\_knew/if\\_you\\_knew\\_12.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/if_you_knew/if_you_knew_12.html)

[www.biography.com/articles/Susan-La-Flesche-Picotte-9440355](http://www.biography.com/articles/Susan-La-Flesche-Picotte-9440355)

America's first African-American professional nurse, **Mary Eliza Mahoney** (1845-1926) is known not only for her outstanding personal career, but also for her exemplary contributions to local and national professional organizations. She graduated from the New England Hospital for Women and Children Training School for Nurses in 1879, one of only three persons in her class of 40 to complete the rigorous 16-month program. In 1909, Mahoney was a leader in the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN) and gave the welcome address at their first conference. In recognition of her outstanding example to nurses of all races, NACGN established an award in her name in 1936. When NACGN merged with the American Nurses Association in 1951, the award was continued. Today, the ANA bestows the Mary Mahoney Award for significant contributions in interracial relationships.

American Nurses Association website:

[www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/AboutANA/WhereWeComeFrom\\_1/HallofFame/19761982/mahome5552.aspx](http://www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/AboutANA/WhereWeComeFrom_1/HallofFame/19761982/mahome5552.aspx)

University of Michigan website:

[www.nursing.umich.edu/oma/mahoney.html](http://www.nursing.umich.edu/oma/mahoney.html)

**Margaret Higgins Sanger** (1879-1966) led the birth control movement. Born in Corning, New York, Margaret Higgins married William Sanger, an architect. After three children and ten years in an affluent Westchester suburb, the Sangers moved to New York City, where Margaret worked as a visiting nurse on the Lower East Side. She always said that a poor woman named Sadie Sachs, dying after a botched abortion, made her determined to take up the fight. In fact, she was probably affected from an early age, having witnessed her mother's slow death, worn out after 18 pregnancies and 11 live births. Margaret published a newspaper advocating birth control, was indicted for sending "obscene" materials through the mails, and fled to Europe. In 1916 she opened a clinic in Brooklyn, was arrested, and served thirty days for distributing information about contraceptives. From then on Sanger assumed leadership of the struggle for access to birth control. Her many arrests and prosecutions, and the resulting outcries, helped lead to changes in laws giving doctors the right to give birth control advice (and later, birth control devices) to patients. She continued to push legal and social boundaries by initiating sex counseling, founding the American Birth Control League (which became, in 1942, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America) and organizing the first international population conference. Sanger was past 80 when she saw the first marketing of a contraceptive pill, which she had helped develop. But legal change was slow. It took until 1965, a year before her death, for the Supreme Court to strike down a Connecticut law that prohibited the use of contraception, even by married couples. Extended to unmarried couples only in 1972, this constitutionally guaranteed right to privacy would become as important to women's equality as the vote. In 1973 the right to privacy was extended to the abortion decision of a woman and her physician (by the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision), thus making abortion a safe and legal alternative — unlike the \$5 illegal butcheries of Sanger's day. Her arguments reflected a range of societal issues, including propagation and oppression of the poor labor force. But throughout her 50-year career of national and international battles, Margaret Sanger saw family planning as a woman's issue, and she was prepared to take on the medical establishment, the churches, the legislatures, and the courts.

[www.time.com/time/time100/leaders/profile/sanger4.html](http://www.time.com/time/time100/leaders/profile/sanger4.html)

[womenshistory.about.com/od/sangermargaret/p/margaret\\_sanger.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/sangermargaret/p/margaret_sanger.htm)

<http://greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=20>

**Susan Smith McKinney Steward** (1846-1918), graduate of New York Medical College and Hospital for Women, was the third African American woman to graduate from a U.S. medical school and the first certified as a physician, in 1873. Susan Smith studied homeopathic medicine and was class valedictorian in 1870. She established a successful medical practice in Brooklyn treating a wide range of patients, distinguishing herself particularly in pediatric care. In July 1871, Dr. Smith married William G. McKinney, an itinerant preacher. She was active in Brooklyn Women's

Homeopathic Hospital and Dispensary, the Brooklyn Home for Aged Colored People, the Bridge Street's missionary, and was president of the Brooklyn Women's Christian Temperance Union. She founded the Women's Hospital and Dispensary, the Women's Local Union of New York, and the Equal Suffrage League of Brooklyn. After her husband died, she married Theophilus Gould Steward, chaplain of the 25th U.S. Colored Infantry, known as the Buffalo Soldiers. The doctor traveled west with her husband and was licensed in Wyoming and Montana. She was subsequently hired by Wilberforce University in Ohio as a resident physician and faculty member to teach health and nutrition. She was an accomplished public speaker and in 1911 addressed the first Universal Race Congress at the University of London. She died at age 71, and W.E.B. DuBois delivered the eulogy at her funeral. The Susan Smith McKinney Hospital in Brooklyn is named for her.

[www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/369/afamtimeline.pdf](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/369/afamtimeline.pdf)  
[www.blackpast.org/?q=aah/steward-susan-smith-mckinney-1847-1918](http://www.blackpast.org/?q=aah/steward-susan-smith-mckinney-1847-1918)

**It's a fact:** Howard University Medical School was the first open to all races and to females.

[www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/369/afamtimeline.pdf](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/369/afamtimeline.pdf)

Answers: 1f, 2e, 3b, 4h, 5g, 6c, 7d, 8a.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO WORK WITH CRIME VICTIMS AND SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

Individuals interested in assisting **crime victims** and their families are needed to serve as volunteers with the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Volunteers are needed to work in the Rockville and Silver Spring District Court locations to assist crime victims seeking legal remedies for protection. There is a critical need for Spanish-speaking volunteers at the Silver Spring District Court. Volunteers are needed to work Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30-4:00p.m.

All potential volunteers must attend a training program and will have the opportunity to shadow professional victim assistants in the courts. Volunteers are asked to make a commitment to serve for one year, for a minimum of one morning or afternoon per week.

Individuals interested in assisting **sexual assault victims**, reach down inside yourself—and then reach out and become an Outreach Volunteer. Sexual assault is a potentially life-shattering trauma that touches families – your neighbors – every day. But there are things you can do to reduce the pain for victims. After intensive training, volunteers make a commitment to serve for one year, for a minimum of two 6-hour on-call shifts per week, to provide information and support to sexual assault victims.

To receive more information or to arrange an interview, call the Montgomery County Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program at 240-777-1355 or go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vasap](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vasap) and click on the link for [volunteering/donating](#).

## MCNOW NEW OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Yes**, sign me up for \_\_\_\_\_ years of NOW membership @ \$35/1 yr, \$65/2 yrs, \$95/3 yrs

I am a New Member

I am a Renewing Member

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please fill in if you know your number. If not, MCNOW Membership Chair can find and fill in.)*

**Yes**, I would like to join/renew, but have limited resources. I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15-\$34/year sliding scale: what you can afford)

**Yes**, I would like to affiliate with MCNOW (chapter # MD0200)

I am enclosing an additional contribution to MCNOW in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* By giving us your email address, you will receive a periodic MCNOW Feminist Calendar, keeping you up to date on local news and events of interest to women.

Please make your check payable to **Montgomery County NOW** and mail along with this application to: **MCNOW**, P.O. Box 2301, Rockville, MD 20847-2301 (To renew online with credit card, visit [www.mcmdnow.org](http://www.mcmdnow.org))



## Montgomery County Chapter of the National Organization for Women

MCNOW (Chapter #MD0200)  
P.O. Box 2301  
Rockville, MD 20847-2301  
301-236-0069  
info@mcmdnow

Visit us at  
[www.mcmdnow.org](http://www.mcmdnow.org)

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ROCKVILLE, MD  
PERMIT #2032

## MC NOW Calendar of Events

**Chapter Meetings generally take place on the first or second Monday of each month. All members are welcome.**

### OCTOBER 2009

- 4 (Sun) 2-4 pm. Hillraiser Event, featuring speaker Terry O'Neill, President, NOW. Council Hearing Room, 100 Maryland Avenue, 3rd Floor, Rockville. For more information or to RSVP, contact Robbie at [robbiestev@aol.com](mailto:robbiestev@aol.com) (put Hillraiser in the subject box).
- 4 (Sun) 5-7 pm. Planned Parenthood of Maryland, Inc. 40th Anniversary Celebration. Quiet Waters Park Blue Heron Center. For more information, visit [www.plannedparenthoodmd.org](http://www.plannedparenthoodmd.org).
- 4 & 5 (Sun-Mon)  
Feminist Majority's WOMEN, MONEY, POWER SUMMIT. Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Ave, NW, DC. Keynote speakers: Dolores Huerta and Gloria Steinem. For more information, visit [www.feministmajority.com](http://www.feministmajority.com).
- 6 (Tue) Feminist Majority's Congressional Visit Day. For more information, visit [www.feministmajority.com](http://www.feministmajority.com).
- 5 (Mon) 11:45 am-1:30 pm. League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. Fall Luncheon at Normandie Farm. 10710 Falls Road, Potomac,. Speaker: David O. Stewart, Author of *The Summer of 1787 – The Men Who Invented the Constitution* and a former columnist for the *ABA Journal* on the Supreme Court. Topic: The Supreme Court and the Independence of the Judiciary. Members \$35 per person / Non-Members \$37 per person. For more information, visit [www.lwvmd.org/mont](http://www.lwvmd.org/mont) or e-mail [lwvmc@erols.com](mailto:lwvmc@erols.com).
- 5 (Mon) 7-9 pm. MCNOW Chapter Meeting. See details page 1.
- 17 (Sat) 9:30 am–1 pm. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women Fall Agenda Conference. Montgomery County Education Assoc., 12 Taft Ct., Rockville. For more information, contact Jessica Morgan at MLAW, (443) 519-1005 or [admin@mdlegagenda4women.org](mailto:admin@mdlegagenda4women.org).
- 19 (Mon) 7:00 pm–Networking and Refreshments; 7:30 pm–Program. Montgomery Women Meeting: Health Care: Spotlight on Low-Income Women and Children. 5th Flr. Conf. Rm., County Council Offices, 100 Maryland Ave. For more information, contact Lynn Olson [atrynnolson@verizon.net](mailto:atrynnolson@verizon.net) or (301) 648-2644 or visit [www.montgomerywomen.org/index.php](http://www.montgomerywomen.org/index.php).
- 24 (Sat) 8pm NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland's 20th Anniversary Evening of Chocolate Gala. Keynote Speaker: Linda Greenhouse. Visit [www.prochoicemd.com](http://www.prochoicemd.com).
- 27 (Tue) 9:30 am–4:00 pm, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) Statewide Conference on Teen Dating Abuse, Healthy Relationships, and the Effects of Domestic Violence on Children. Visit the conference Web page at [www.mnadv.org/conference.html](http://www.mnadv.org/conference.html).
- 27 (Tue) 12–2 pm, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, DC, Champions of Choice Annual Awards Luncheon. For more information, visit [www.championsofchoice.com](http://www.championsofchoice.com).