



E-News March 2015

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SAVE THE DATE:

Women of Leadership
and Vision Brunch
March 14, 2015
10 am
Nyack Center
Nyack, NY

Spring Valley
N.A.A.C.P. 35th Annual
Life Membership
Breakfast
March 28, 2015
Patriot Hills Golf Club
Stony Point, NY

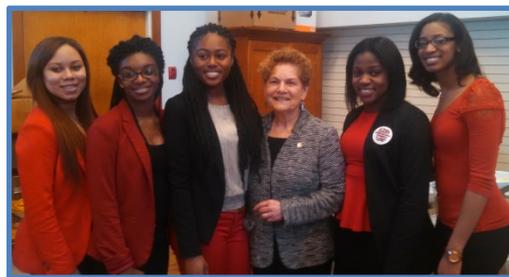
Dear Neighbors,

March is Women's History Month. 2015 is also the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Women's History Movement and the National Women's History Project (NWHF.) In 1980 NWHF founding mothers, Molly Murphy MacGregor, Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas, Paula Hammett and Bette Morgan, led a coalition that lobbied Congress to designate March as **National Women's History Month**. This year's theme, *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*, shines a light on the diversity of women's stories and the importance of weaving those narrative threads into the rich fabric of America's history.

I continue to work with my colleagues in the Assembly on significant pieces of legislation that will greatly improve the lives of women and children.

Warmest Regards,

- Ellen C. Jaffee



The Fight Goes On

I attended the 16th Annual Diversity Brunch at St. Charles A.M.E Zion Church, where I voiced my support for Raise the Age and Ban the Box legislation. The event was sponsored by the Rockland Chapter, AAUW and the Rockland Women's Political

Caucus. Donna Lieberman, Executive Director of the NY Civil Liberties Union, and Oliver Timmons, Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow, addressed this year's topic, Fighting for Civil Rights Today: Black Lives Matter and Ending The New Jim Crow. You can learn more by reading the groundbreaking book that rekindled this critical conversation across the country, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by the acclaimed civil rights lawyer and legal scholar, Michelle Alexander.

Standing Up for Strong Oversight

Members of the Rockland Clergy for Social Justice came to Albany to show their support for a bill (A.5355/S.3821) I sponsored along with my colleagues, Assemblymember Ken Zebrowski and Senator David Carlucci. Following the recommendations made by Fiscal Monitor, Hank Greenberg, to impose strong oversight in the troubled East Ramapo School District, this legislation would appoint a State Monitor and has the potential to bring together the community by working towards a long-term solution that will address the District's unique needs.



Contact Me:

<http://assembly.state.ny.us>
jaffee@assembly.state.ny.us

District Office:

One Blue Hill Plaza
Pearl River, NY 10965
845-624-4601

Albany:

Room 650
LOB
Albany NY, 10965
518-455-5118



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www.facebook.com/JaffeeNY



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Raising Awareness of Women’s Lung Health



The American Lung Association has launched LUNG FORCE, a new movement bringing women together to fight *against* lung cancer and *for* lung health. Although smoking rates have dropped significantly over the last two decades, lung disease in women has increased and is a serious threat to women’s health. Consider these eye-opening facts:

Lung cancer is the #1 cancer killer of women in New York State and in the nation. Every five minutes, a woman in the U.S. is told she has lung cancer. The lung cancer death rate in women has more than doubled over the past 35 years. Smoking increases the likelihood of getting lung cancer, but lung cancer can strike anyone. That is why I sponsored legislation that bans smoking on hospital and nursing home grounds, and train platforms. I will continue to focus on the effects of smoking on health. To learn more and join the movement visit lungforce.org

Early Intervention Makes A Difference

Research consistently shows that early childhood intervention services help children with developmental disabilities at a young age when they are most able to reap the benefits that will last a lifetime. As a former special education teacher and an outspoken advocate for our most vulnerable children, I will continue to fight for adequate funding for (Section 4410) preschools in the 2015-2016 budget, so that infants and toddlers and their families get the services they need at the time when those services can have the greatest impact. It makes good financial sense to invest fewer dollars now instead of paying for far more intensive services later. And it’s the right thing to do. As Chair of the Committee on Oversight, Analysis and Investigation, I will be holding roundtable discussions to look at the impact of the new regulations regarding early intervention administration.



Did You Know?

According to the most recent figures from the National Center for Education Statistics, about 76% of public school teachers were women, 44% were under age 40, and 52% had a master’s or higher degree. In New York State women teachers are particularly well educated. In 2011-2012, New York had the highest percentage of teachers with advanced degrees of *any* state, 84.2% with Master's degrees compared to 47.7% nationally. An additional 8.6% had a degree beyond the masters. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the U.S. and other nations.

<http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=28>