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SENATOR LIBBY MITCHELL: *Tough Enough!*



On the heels of one of the March snowstorms, Karin Anderson and Libby Mitchell caught a quick lunch at the Maine Statehouse to talk about women's leadership. Libby served in the Maine House of Representatives from 1974 to 1984 and again from 1990 to 1998. In 1996, she became Maine's first woman Speaker of the House, holding (at that time) the highest statewide public office of any woman in Maine. She was elected to the Maine Senate in 2004 and chairs the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. Libby founded the successful "Women in Public Life" conference and is a mentor to many women interested in leading in the public and private sectors.

KA: You have played such an important role encouraging young women to step into "public life." What advice do you have for younger women who are interested in leading?

LM: I enjoy working with younger women because they provide an edge — fresh thinking. That is often helpful when we're trying to find solutions to difficult problems. I also appreciate younger women because they are so willing to learn and listen. My advice to future leaders is to never assume you have all the answers, because you never do! And, it's important to be respectful of other points of view.

KA: Do you think women lead differently than men?

LM: Yes — and one way is not necessarily better than the other, we're just different. Women are inclusive and more concerned about policy. Men are more likely to drive an agenda and take credit. Most women leaders are invisible. So, here's some more advice for women who are interested in politics: you have to start your political career thinking of leadership and be assertive in your desire to lead.

KA: How did you get started in politics?

LM: I was asked to run, and really didn't believe I was qualified!

KA: What has been your greatest leadership challenge?

LM: When I became Speaker, the Maine State government was heading for a shut-down, which I desperately wanted to avoid. Negotiating the budget was a tremendous challenge. I learned that differences can lead to better answers — it's a truth I carry with me to this day.

KA: Other thoughts?

LM: I remember when I was elected Speaker of the House, there were very few women across the country in similar positions. All of us were asked the same question: "Are you tough enough?"

Tough? You bet. And respectful, inclusive, and solution-oriented — a woman in leadership!

YOUNG WOMEN PHILANTHROPISTS MAKE FIRST GRANTS



The New Girls' Fund for Social Change was established within the Maine Women's Fund in 2003 by the New Girls' Network, a group of women philanthropists in their 20's and 30's. The New Girls' Fund for Social Change gave its first grants in January 2005, totaling \$17,500.

The grants went to: Zoey's Room, for Tek Trek, a technology project of Platform Shoes Forum; the Chewonki Canoe Expedition for Maine Girls; an abused women's advocacy project, Voices Changing Choices; a trip to The Gambia for girls, sponsored by the Women's Collective of Mt. Desert Island; and two projects — Positive Outlets, and Prevention, Action, Change — sponsored by Add Verb Productions Arts & Education.

The New Girls' Fund for Social Change also offers opportunity grants in amounts up to \$500 for eligible non-profit organizations. Opportunity grants are offered on a first come,

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BARBIE'S BID FOR PRESIDENT

An Interview by Jennifer Hutchins, University of Southern Maine's Muskie School, and Sarah Standiford, Maine Women's Policy Center

Sarah: Barbie, I didn't even realize you ran for President. Tell us about your campaign.

Barbie: Yes, I did run for President. And even though I had major corporate support from Mattel, and I have fabulous name recognition, it wasn't enough to get my message out to the masses. Still, I ran a good race and I hope inspired other women to run for public office at all levels of government.

Jennifer: The last time we hung out, you were having a picnic on the beach with Ken and Skipper, and you were working as a ballerina. When did you get involved in politics?

Barbie: Well I've always been very involved in my community, as a teacher, den mother, rock singer, fashion consultant — like many women, I wear a lot of hats. I have a great deal of experience to offer my community and my country, which is why I ran for President. I've seen generations of girls grow into women, and I have many good ideas about how to make our society more equitable. I'm more than a pretty face and low cut outfits, you know.

Jennifer: So.... you ran for office to talk about the issues and make changes? What sort of issues? What sort of changes would you like to see?

Barbie: One issue I'm very concerned about is how few women are deciding to run for local and state government seats. Women make up 51 percent of Maine's population, but only 24 percent of the 122nd legislature. You have fewer women



in your state legislature than you did 10 years ago. What's going on here in Maine?

Sarah: Looking at national data, it's clear that women's leadership abilities, campaign skills and rates of winning campaigns have not declined. What has declined is the number of women who consider running for office in the first place. For many women, serving in the legislature means sacrificing income and time away from families. How can we encourage more women to run in light of these challenges?

Barbie: We can do two things to make the road less steep for potential female lawmakers. First, continue to promote policies that address the needs of women and families in today's changing workplace. All Maine families benefit from statewide policies that more adequately enable workers to work and care for their families. When women have increased access to childcare and early childhood education, family leave time and time off for sickness or family care responsibilities, all Maine families and communities benefit.

One thing we can change immediately is increasing the amount of encouragement we give to women who would consider participating.

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Putting the Yin in Leadership

by Karin Anderson, Executive Director

According to all indicators, I should be a leader — my Myers-Briggs type (INTJ), my birth order (oldest), even my astrological sign (Capricorn). And, I'm tall — you'd be amazed how often people will literally follow me, even when I have no clue where I'm going! I've had the good fortune to lead the Maine Women's Fund as its executive director for 10 years, and I've held many volunteer leadership positions over the past two decades, chairing boards, committees, and task forces. Perhaps my most challenging leadership job was as a troop leader for 15 Brownies — six year-olds are not easily led.

Still, I periodically ask myself: am I a good leader? What does that look like?

A few weeks ago, I was interviewed by the 17 year-old daughter of a friend, whose assignment was to interview a "community leader." She asked a number of good questions that helped me describe the qualities of what I consider to be good leadership. I talked about orchestrating multiple resources to achieve a goal, drawing out the talents of others, motivating and inspiring colleagues and co-workers, and encouraging emerging young leaders. Vision, integrity, and transparency are words I associate with good leadership. And, personally, I am driven to lead by strong values and a passion to make a difference.

The issue of women's leadership is of great interest to me both personally and professionally. I was delighted when our board of directors accepted the invitation from The White House Project last year to participate in the "Vote, Run, Lead" initiative to encourage young women to participate fully in the political process not only

as voters, but also as leaders. I am even more pleased that the New Girls' Fund for Social Change provided an opportunity grant that allowed two emerging women leaders (and New Girls) to participate in the first National Young Women's Task Force meet-up earlier this year in Washington, DC. The purpose of this meet-up was to gather together young women from all around the country to identify and discuss what issues are important to young women today. The two young women from Maine who participated — Kate Quin-Easter and Brittney Wilburn — have returned from the meet-up with a burning desire to get more young women involved in their "relentless" efforts to get the media to notice and pay attention to young women's interests and concerns.

I believe that when women and men hold essentially equal stakes in leadership of all spheres of our lives, the better our communities, society, and world will be — not because women are better leaders, but because we need balance in our leadership — the yin to complement the yang, if you will. Recent studies have shown that women leaders excel at collaboration, coordination, and sharing information and power. These skills are needed in the workplace, the marketplace, and at every negotiating table, both domestic and international.

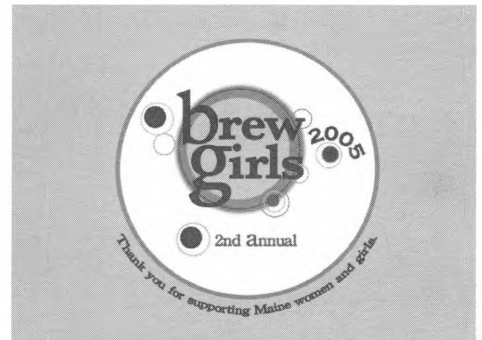
In this newsletter, we are highlighting the leadership of Maine women of all ages and backgrounds — even Barbie! I hope you enjoy reading about the many ways Maine women are leading us to a better quality of life for everyone. And, I hope you recognize your own leadership talents — within your family, your workplace,



your community — and exercise them rigorously!

With gratitude,

Many thanks to Rachel Margolis-Pineo for inspiring this article.



SECOND ANNUAL BREW GIRLS BENEFIT!

On Thursday, March 24, 2005, more than 250 people came to the second annual Brew Girls benefit concert at the Center for Cultural Exchange. Maine's own musicians, Darien Brahms, Dominique Lise, Santiago and Moshe with Jim Begley, and Rachel Griffin delighted the crowd with original and unique vocals and music.

The money raised at the Brew Girls event benefits the New Girls' Fund for Social Change, the newest fund within the Maine Women's Fund. This event is organized by New Girls from the Greater Portland area.

We would like to thank WCLZ, the Liberal Cup of Hallowell, Casco Bay Brewing Co., Allagash Brewery, Geary's, and Center for Cultural Exchange for making the event a success with their sponsorship and support. Additionally, thanks go to the dozens of New Girls who organized Brew Girls.

Special thanks to Shaye McGann Robbins for her work on and vision for this event. ■

GET CREATIVE AND GET INVOLVED

Supporters of the Maine Women's Fund are getting very creative in how they help us raise money and visibility. Here are just a few ways our friends are getting involved:

FLOWER POWER

Stephanie LeMieux, a New Girl and avid gardener, donated \$376 to the Maine Women's Fund last fall from her flower project. Over the summer, she grew, created, sold and delivered beautiful bouquets to her friends and family. Twelve women subscribed to the flower project and received four flower deliveries from Stephanie. Thanks, Stephanie, for lending the MWF a hand with your green thumb.

GET SOME REST

One of our favorite fundraising efforts this year is board member Sue Dubuque's Napathon. Upon turning 50, Sue rejected Katie Couric's claim that the 50's are the new 30's. Sue opted for a low-impact way to support the MWF by sending a letter to her friends and family, inviting them to sponsor her in taking naps throughout 2005. This effort gave birth to the Napathon, which offers different sponsorship levels for different naps — for example, a cat nap for \$10, or a nap at work for \$50-\$100. To entice her friends to participate, Sue offered to take a nap in a public place for a sponsor at the \$1,000 level! This summer look for her snoozing in the middle of Monument Square in Portland. Check our website for a date and time as the weather begins to warm up.

Sue is still accepting sponsorships and

will happily take naps to her sponsors' specifications this spring, summer and fall. Check our website to get involved with the Napathon at: www.mainewomensfund.org. ■



THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN MAINE THIS WEEK!

1. Send an email note and link, www.mainewomensfund.org, to your friends and family who believe in the power of women and the dreams of girls as a way of making our Maine communities more equitable.
2. This spring, USM student Ethan Baker volunteered to create a revenue source for the New Girls' Fund for Social Change by selling a wide variety of items on eBay. The MWF is now accepting donations, which Ethan then photographs and posts on eBay. He takes care of the logistics, including checking bids, communicating with the buyer and shipping the item. For more information, or to make a donation, visit our website at www.mainewomensfund.org.
3. Plan a gathering or house party to introduce perspective new donors to the Fund. Maine Women's Fund staff members are available to help. ■

AN INVITATION FOR WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS TO GET INVOLVED

Since 2003, women business owners have been supporting the work of the Maine Women's Fund through an initiative called *Women Standing Together*. This program offers women business owners an effective and affordable way to create a shared vision and common voice to improve the lives of women in Maine.

Here's how *Women Standing Together* works: each year we ask women business owners to join *Women Standing Together* by making an annual pledge of \$250 or more. All money raised through *Women Standing Together* goes back out into the community through the Maine Women's Fund grant program to qualified nonprofit organizations. The money raised from the *Women Standing Together* members specifically supports nonprofit projects that help women and girls develop financial literacy and economic security.

Twice a year, the Maine Women's Fund holds breakfast meetings for the *Women Standing Together* group. These meetings give members and potential members a chance to meet one another and share their knowledge, business goals and dreams with one another. If you are a woman business owner, we hope you will join your peers and the Maine Women's Fund for this exciting program. Visit our website, www.mainewomensfund.org, and complete the membership sign-up form. ■

MARY LOU MICHAEL, *Planning a Joint Legacy*

"I'm not sure I would have used the word 'strategic' to describe my own pattern of giving, but I know that I am selective, choosing organizations whose missions are consistent with my own values and which are operating effectively, paying attention to their own growth and sustainability."

This statement from Mary Lou Michael reflects her thoughtful and purposeful relationship with the Maine Women's Fund. In addition to being a loyal supporter, Mary Lou has worked with the Fund as a consultant and has advised and celebrated with MWF since 1990. Instilled with a strong sense of giving back to the community through service and charitable giving, Mary Lou learned from her parents the importance of connecting her values to her giving and volunteer service. "I saw them being selective, not automatically giving whenever asked but making choices," said Mary Lou of her mother and father.

Five years after making her first gift to the MWF, Mary Lou made an important choice — to make a planned gift to the MWF, through a bequest in her will. "When I revised my will in 1995, I named seven organizations; four were chosen in appreciation of my own educational opportunity (with the gifts earmarked to support scholarship programs), and three were chosen because they were nonprofits doing work in the world that was oriented to social justice and empowerment," she remarked. "Every five to seven years, I revise my will. Maine Women's Fund remains a constant."

Mary Lou's giving, her hopes for

women and girls and the mission of the MWF are all focused on the future. "When people include the Maine Women's Fund in their estate plans, it allows them to take care of their friends and family first, and then fund forward the work we started in 1990," stated Karin Anderson, Executive Director. "It's one way our supporters can carry forward their values and dreams for the future," said Anderson.

Indeed, having the power to honor the past and influence the future through the MWF appealed to Mary Lou. "Maine Women's Fund was a pioneer in becoming an annual source of grants to Maine women and girls, and I think a pioneer in thoughtful giving. More than money (which has been critical), MWF has given grantees the knowledge that other women believe in their ideas and ideals, and are partners with them in their endeavors," Mary Lou said.

"Part of its legacy in Maine is the number of Maine organizations dedicated to helping women and girls for which MWF was a first or early supporter. I also see MWF as an active member of a network of Maine organizations devoted to women's issues, and as an active member of a national organization of women's funds. In these ways, MWF is contributing to a larger vision for Maine women and girls and keeping Maine connected to a national movement. I believe in MWF's ability to maintain itself and to innovate, so part of its legacy is to continue to be there as a source of funding and inspiration to both its grantees and its donors," said Mary Lou. ■

FRIENDS FOR THE FUTURE

Planned gifts to the Maine Women's Fund such as bequests and charitable trusts, no matter how large or small, are an excellent way to ensure that women and girls will continue to benefit from a permanent source of capital for social change initiatives. Please consider naming the MWF in your will or trust. We would like the opportunity to thank you for your generosity and include you in our Friends for the Future group.

I have included MWF in my will or trust.

I have included MWF in my will or trust; however, I wish to remain anonymous.

I would like more information about how to include MWF in my will or trust.

I would like more information about charitable bequests.

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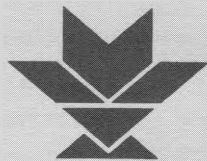
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SENATE PRESIDENT BETH EDMONDS: *Trusting Her Instincts*

Senator Beth Edmonds grew up in Keene Valley, New York, population 500. She says she never aspired to "significant"



leadership roles such as the one she assumed earlier this year – President of the Maine State Senate. On a warm February afternoon, Beth talked with Karin Anderson about her experiences as a leader in Maine.

KA: What has influenced you to take on leadership roles throughout your life?

BE: I grew up in the 60's, a time when the world was opening up – my world opened up tremendously after leaving the small town where I grew up. No one ever dissuaded me from leading, and at critical moments, I've had good mentors and supporters. The first time I ran for political office, I was asked to run – by a group of men. My husband and women friends encouraged me to run saying, "Why not?" In all my decisions to lead, I've asked myself, is there a better person for the job than me? If not, I go for it.

KA: Recent research indicates that the majority of women need to be asked to lead, while the majority of men assume they can and should lead. In your experience, is this true?

BE: Absolutely. Women need to recognize their abilities and trust them. They also need to combat the internalized sexism of our culture. We <women> hold back because we're socialized to stay in the background – the "woman behind the throne." We need to put ourselves first and refuse to settle.

KA: What has been your most challenging leadership job?

BE: My current job because of its

complexities. I'm leading colleagues, I'm leading with the House, and I'm leading with the Governor. What attracts me to this position is the opportunity to learn how to be a powerful woman leader – how to trust my instincts as I lead.

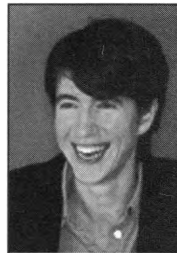
KA: How do you keep motivated?

BE: I regularly seek an impartial listener, someone who can hear me cry, hear me rage, and just listen. I also have fun with my friends!

KA: What advice do you have for emerging women leaders?

BE: What I wish most is that I could loan them my confidence. My advice? Trust your own thinking. Don't settle. Everyone can be a leader – it's natural. You just help create the world as you want it to be. And, leading is fun!

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM ELIZABETH TRICE



Last fall, Elizabeth Trice ran for the state legislature and lost. She took a few moments to meet with

Shannon Nichols at Coffee By Design and share some of her thoughts about her experience and how she plans to continue the work that was launched during her campaign.

SN: You got into the race late. What made you decide to run?

ET: I had run for the County Charter Commission the fall before and won, and since I was registered as a Green, someone approached me from the party and suggested I run. Being

asked made me feel responsible for making sure there was an alternative I felt good about on the ballot – whether or not it was me. I attended the Women in Public Life conference that year and heard real stories from real women. Even though the thought of being a state legislator was scary to me, I felt encouraged by the women at that conference. The more I thought about it, the more I was able to envision myself in the role as a legislator. Once I made the decision to run, the rest was easy. Well maybe not easy, there were definitely terrifying moments. But I did go for it.

SN: What were some of your terrifying moments?

ET: Once I realized what went into campaigning, I knew I needed a lot of volunteer help, and in the beginning, it was just me. By the end, we had a crew of 30 volunteers representing all parties, which I feel was a great accomplishment. My race wasn't all about me. It was about creating a network of people who were excited, involved and feeling empowered to make change, and inspiring hundreds of other people to believe change was possible in their own communities

SN: What are the results of your campaign?

ET: I do think it helped my community. I intentionally ran my campaign very focused on local issues, which helped us form the core of a neighborhood association. I feel good about that. For me, I know I gained experiences that I never would have had in other leadership training experiences. I tell high school students when I speak in their classes that they can run for office for the price and time that it would take to take a three-month road trip. It's much better than a road trip.

SN: What's next for you? Are you planning on running again for state legislature or any local seats?

ET: I don't have any specific plans right now to run for anything. But, if the opportunity presented itself, and the timing was right, I would do it again in a heartbeat.

SN: What was your greatest lesson learned throughout this process?

ET: Once I made my list of what I wanted to work on if I got elected, I realized that I could be working on 95% of these things even if I wasn't elected. Since I didn't get elected, I don't have to learn everything about the state all at once. I can focus on the issues that are important to me. If I hadn't run, I never would have gone through this thought process and become so proactive. I would encourage people to make their own "If I Were President, I Would..." list, and then work on it! ■

Barbie continued from page 2

Sarah: Just one more question, Barbie. I see you're still wearing stiletto heels. How did you manage to walk the campaign trail in those things?

Barbie: I guess my wardrobe consultants at Mattel need to hear from you and others about this issue. Apparently, they've never tried to run in stiletto heels. Maybe that's why I lost the race. Next time, I'm wearing sneakers!

Special thanks to Sarah Standiford and Jennifer Hutchins for letting the MWF borrow heavily from the content of their editorial printed in the Maine Sunday Telegram, on January 9, 2005 for this 'interview.' While the MWF does not pretend to be the official spokeswomen for Barbie, we thank her and Mattel for playing along and letting us have a little fun. ■

New Girls continued from page 1

first served basis and can be applied for through the website, www.mainewomensfund.org.

The creators of the New Girls' Fund for Social Change, women philanthropists under 40, envision a community of young donor-activists dedicated to supporting the visions of individuals, groups and organizations that work to improve the lives of young women and girls in Maine.

For more information, please contact: Shaye McGann Robbins, New Girls' Network Coordinator at the Maine Women's Fund 207-774-5513, or write to: shaye@mainewomensfund.org. ■

THANKS TO MWF VOLUNTEERS!

THANK YOU FROM
THE BOTTOM OF
OUR HEARTS, TO
THE DOZENS OF
VOLUNTEERS WHO
MAKE THE WORK OF
THE MAINE WOMEN'S
FUND POSSIBLE. YOU
ARE TRULY MAKING A
DIFFERENCE IN THE
LIVES OF GIRLS AND
WOMEN THROUGHOUT
MAINE. THANKS!

Graphic Design

margolis pineo concept copy & design

Printing

Dale Rand Printing

THE MWF GOES GLOBAL!

The Maine Women's Fund has been invited to participate in a project being organized by the Women's Funding Network, to engage U.S. women on issues affecting women internationally. The Women's Lens on Global Engagement project will educate constituents of women's funds in the U.S. about the impact of U.S. foreign policy on the situation of women in other countries. The project will focus on the issue of violence against women.

The Maine Women's Fund is one of ten Funds across the country that will be part of this project. The Fund was invited because of its work on public policy issues, its innovative spirit, and its capacity to communicate with constituents.

Beginning in late spring, the MWF will participate in a web-based education campaign that will engage women by participating in surveys, convenings, calls to action, and even shopping for social change! All communications will be electronic, so be sure we have your email address if you would like to be involved.

Send your name and email information to: thewomen@mainewomensfund.org.



SAME ADDRESS, WHOLE NEW LOOK

A new website awaits at our current address: www.mainewomensfund.org. We hope you will visit us soon and take a moment to browse our new site. Axon Marketing and Design, co-owned by CJ Johnson, ardent supporter of nonprofits in Maine and participant in the New Girls' class of 2004-05, has provided creative and technical services for this project.

We are especially excited about some of the site's new features. On the home page, friends of the MWF have allowed us to share their vision for women and girls in Maine, along with their photograph. We plan to continue to expand this part of the site. If you're interested in submitting your vision and photo, let us know by email at Shannon@mainewomensfund.org.

As always, information about grant applications, the MWF's background, our strategic plan and program information is available on the site. We have increased our capacity to accept online donations and improved the honorary and memorial gift making process based on feedback from our donors.

Along with our new website, we are launching e-newsletters for those who wish to receive short, action oriented emails from the MWF from time to time. If you are interested in joining our online community and receiving our e-newsletters, please send us an email at thewomen@mainewomensfund.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For an up-to-date listing of events, please refer to the Maine Women's Fund's new website, www.mainewomensfund.org. Here are just a few of the upcoming events for women and girls in Maine.

MAY 4

25th Annual USM Conference for Women, formerly the USM Women in Management Conference. This year's theme is Achieve your Personal Best. Silent auction at the conference benefits the MWF. Conference & Auction, May 4, 2005 at the Sheraton South Portland, 363 Maine Mall Road, South Portland. To donate an auction item, please contact shannon@mainewomensfund.org. More information can be found on the USM website, www.usm.maine.edu/cce.

MAY 8

Flatbread Company's Mother's Day Benefit—the Maine Women's Fund receives \$3.50 for every pizza sold at the Flatbread Company on Sunday, May 8, Mother's Day. 72 Commercial Street, Portland, ME, FMI call 207-774-5513.

SEPTEMBER 28

Grassroots fundraising workshop with Kim Klein! Bangor/Orono location TBA. FMI please contact Deanna@mabelwadsworth.org, or call 207-947-5337 x 104.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

Please help us identify a woman or girl we might honor at the 2005 Evening to Honor Maine Women and Girls event. If you know someone who should be recognized for eliminating gender barriers, please complete this form and return it to the Maine Women's Fund by May 1, 2005.

Name of Nominee: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Phone: _____

Your Email: _____

Please mail this form, or send an email with this information to: Maine Women's Fund, PO Box 5135 Portland, ME 04101, or e-mail to: shannon@mainewomensfund.org ■

MAINE WOMEN'S
FUND

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