

3-2009

## FemEnlist: March 2009

Women's Center at Brockport

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## The Clothesline Project

The Clothesline Project, an initiative aimed at giving voice to women and children who have survived or fallen victim to violence, is held across the country and globally each year to raise community consciousness about the reality of violence against women.

In light of the violent recent events in Rochester and the surrounding areas, the Clothesline Project is especially important this year.

The project displays t-shirts decorated by survivors and their loved ones. The colors of the shirts and the sounds played during the Clothesline Project represent women's different experiences with



violence, such as domestic abuse, rape, or being attacked because of one's sexual orientation.

The project has four purposes: to break the silence and bear witness to the issue; to help with the healing process for those who have lost loved ones or are survivors themselves; to educate, document, and raise

community awareness about violence; and to provide a nationwide network of support and encouragement.

The Clothesline Project will be held at Brockport, April 7-8 from 10am-7pm in room 119 of the Student Union. While witnessing the project is an emotional experience, attendance honors survivors and fosters healing and support.

The Women's Center is looking for volunteers to sign people in at the Clothesline Project. If interested, please send an email to [womenctr@brockport.edu](mailto:womenctr@brockport.edu) and include "volunteer" in the subject line.

## Rochester Celebrates Women's History Month

Several Rochester museums are hosting exhibits to celebrate women during the month of March.

The Memorial Art Gallery will be hosting a "Women in Art" tour to celebrate women's expressions and contributions to art. The tour will be held at 6:30pm on March 12. Tickets can be purchased at the front desk for \$6 for students,

\$10 general admission.

The George Eastman house's exhibit "TrueBeauty" pays tribute to major women photographers and their impact on the world and art of photography.

Monroe Community College's Mercer Gallery is showcasing women's paintings, sculptures, and mixed-media pieces in their free "Herstory" exhibit. The exhibit's aim

is to represent women's presence in contemporary culture.

Brockport is currently featuring a photo exhibit in the Tower Fine Arts Gallery entitled "Gameface: What Does a Female Athlete Look Like". The free exhibit celebrates women and girls in sports, and also features some of Brockport's current female athletes.

## Women's Center Semester Calendar

### Women's Week

March 23-27

### Clothesline Project

April 7, 8; 10am-7pm in the Union Ballroom

### Speaker: Ethel Long Scott

April 21; 7pm in Union 119

An up-to-date calendar can be accessed at:

[Brockport.edu/womensctr/](http://Brockport.edu/womensctr/)

### Brown Bag Luncheons

*The Women's Center hosts brown bag luncheons throughout the semester to discuss pertinent women's issues. Everyone is welcome; see the sandwich board outside of the Women's Center for days and times.*

**Look for new issues of this newsletter online each month at :**

**[Brockport.edu/womenctr](http://Brockport.edu/womenctr)**

**Email [sevan1@brockport.edu](mailto:sevan1@brockport.edu) to contribute an article.**

## Take a Walk in Someone Else's Shoes, Take the Rochester Reality Tour

The Social Welfare Action Alliance (SWAA) is holding a spring Reality Tour of Rochester, an initiative that strives to educate community members about the poverty and problems affecting poor people in Rochester.

Tour participants take a bus tour of Rochester, including stops at various social welfare buildings, the abandoned subway in which many homeless people reside in, homeless shelters, etc. Aside from revealing the obstacles that homeless and poverty-stricken people face, the reality tour takes participants to several organizations that serve the impoverished community and that tour participants can become involved with. Speakers such as organization leaders, former homeless residents of Rochester, and individuals struggling with poverty present

to the tour group at each stop to share their experiences and reveal how current social and political events are affecting their lives.

Ultimately, the tour strives to engage Rochester area residents in a way that allows them to become active in fighting poverty, an essential task considering that Rochester is ranked “the 11th highest city in the nation for the number of its children who live in poverty”, according to the Children’s Defense Fund.

This spring’s tour will be held on Saturday, March 28 at 11:45 AM. Tour participants will be meeting at 845 St. Paul Street to board the tour bus. Students and faculty who are interested in attending must RSVP by March 16th by emailing Wendy at [realitytour.wendy@gmail.com](mailto:realitytour.wendy@gmail.com). Registration consists of a \$20 dona-

tion, or \$10 for students and low-income.

For more details, visit SWAA’s website at [www.swaarochester.org](http://www.swaarochester.org). Join the Reality Tour to take a walk in someone else’s shoes. Discover how you can help the poverty crisis inflicting Rochester.



## Women’s Week Events

Ring in Women’s History Month by participating in the Women’s Studies Organization’s 2009 Women’s Week. The second week in March will be spent celebrating women with the following programming:

### *Monday, March 9th*

From 12:30- 2:00, self portrait painting with makeup will be available in the Fireside Lounge in the Union. Free T-shirts will be given out. (Also be aware of the makeup donation boxes throughout campus to provide materials for this event.)

### *Tuesday, March 10th*

A Brown Bag Lunch discussion, “Current Research in Women’s History”, will be held in the Women’s Center at 12:00pm. Lunch will be provided. The Women’s Center is also holding a Happy Sex/Healthy Sex sex toy party at 8:00pm.

### *Wednesday, March 11th*

VOX will be presenting a Brown Bag Lunch discussion, “Sexual Health”, at 2:30pm in the Women’s Center. Pizza and Soda will be provided. Addition-

ally, Marge Piercy will be presenting at 8:00pm in the Cooper New York room as part of the Writers Forum.

### *Thursday, March 12th:*

A Brown Bag Lunch discussion, “What is Women and Gender Studies”, will be presented at 12:00pm in the Women’s Center. Lunch will be provided. At 7:00pm, a movie night showing *Iron Jawed Angels* will be held in the Women’s Center. Food will also be provided.

# Why Women's History Month?

Lindsey Cain



“Didn’t women get the right to vote, like 100 years ago? What’s the big deal with women’s history month?” First off, women gained the right to vote in America in 1920, so we haven’t quite reached 100 years yet. Secondly, if there is one thing we all should agree on, it’s that suffrage did not cure everything.

For those questioning the necessity of women’s history month, consider the importance of black history month, and the

answer begins to take shape. Both groups have faced significant hardships and still struggle to obtain and maintain civil rights and social respect. Both understand the categorization of “different” and at times even “less than human”. Don’t be fooled. The election of our nation’s first African American president in no way equals the complete eradication of discrimination. Instead, take this time to acknowledge progress but also brave the work we have ahead of us.

Right now, we can wear pants or “dress as men” for reasons of comfort, gender and/or sexuality expression, or general preference. Not simply to leave the house or be afforded basic human rights. And, when’s the last time you found the need to chain yourself to anything?

It also doesn’t seem like a coincidence that “voice” and “choice” rhyme. We have

choices today over our lives, our clothes, our bodies, our sexuality, our self expression, because the generations of tough women before us decided it was our right to have such, and that their daughters deserved a more valued life than they lived.

Today, our souls are our bullhorns. There is less need to yell to be heard. Though our bodies may still be our battlegrounds, we have sole right and privilege over our physical selves- not our fathers, not our husbands.

As you stroll through the rest of this month, longing for spring and possibly cuter outfits, know that your access to this party central we call college as well as your right to strut your stuff came from somewhere. Celebrate being young. Have fun. But, respect yourself and cherish your freedoms. And, never forget your voice.

## Stand Up Guys

Violence against women isn’t just a women’s issue; it’s violence against our mothers, wives, sisters and friends. That’s why the group Stand Up Guys has taken on the initiative of involving men in ending violence against women.

Stand Up Guys, located in downtown Rochester, aims to “raise awareness about men’s violence against women and girls and to promote gender equality in our community”, as stated in their mission statement. Stand Up Guys educates the community about violence through commu-



nity events and awareness programs.

Currently, Stand Up Guys is striving to reach their goal of

10,000 men’s signatures by 2010 pledging to work towards a less violent and sexist community by taking steps such as having the courage to speak up about sexist values, practicing and teaching non-violent conflict resolution skills, etc. Signing the pledge creates a community of support and encouragement for the Stand Up Guys cause.

To learn more, sign the pledge, or become involved with Stand Up Guys, visit their website at [standupguys.org](http://standupguys.org).

## Free Conference For Student and Community Activists

The Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program is presenting the 23rd annual Free Conference for students and community activists at Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, April 3-5.

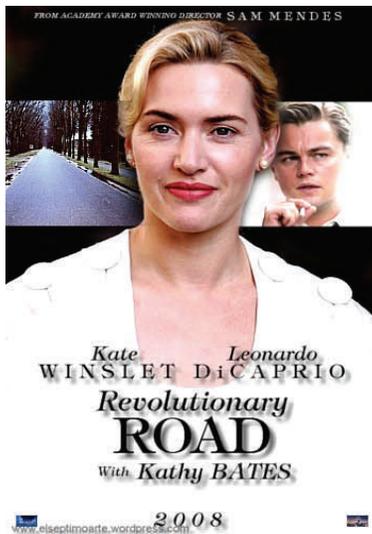
The conference works towards “building the movement for reproductive freedom” and features over 50 workshops on reproductive and social justice issues.

The conference also hosts an Abortion Speak Out, serving as a forum for women who have had abortions to share their experiences. Additionally, there will be exhibit tables on display, and networking opportunities will be available. Several performances are planned throughout the conference, as well as an open mic night.

If you are interested in attending

the Free Conference, please stop by the Women’s Center for more details and information. Or, email us at [womenctr@brockport.edu](mailto:womenctr@brockport.edu), and include “Free Conference” in the subject heading.

## Revolutionary Road



Although *Revolutionary Road* has been out in theaters for several months, Women’s History Month is an appropriate time to mention it.

The movie portrays marriage dynamics between men and women that can still apply today: professional and household gender roles, the stress of having children, keeping one’s individuality amidst a kind of monotony to suburban life.

Where the movie fits into women’s history, however, is Kate Winslet’s character’s experience with abortion. Set in the 1950’s before *Roe V. Wade*, Winslet’s character is forced to end her pregnancy herself, while being looked

upon as crazy and irresponsible by her husband. The outcome of her abortion attests to the importance of the *Roe V. Wade* decision, and the necessity for safe, legal, and accessible abortion services, including counseling and the right to information.

While *Revolutionary Road* reminds the audience of how fortunate we are to have the choice to exercise our right to safe abortion services and reminds us of those who fought for that right, it also hauntingly reminds us of the dangers we face if we don’t actively fight to keep that right.

### The College at Brockport Women’s Center

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Lower Level 124

Phone: 585-395-5584

E-mail: [womenctr@brockport.edu](mailto:womenctr@brockport.edu)



**Educate. Empower. Inform.**

*The Women’s Center advocates for political and social change, while providing a safe, welcoming and educational space for members of the College at Brockport community. The Women’s Center offers student programming and workshops that are open to all on campus, as well as a wealth of knowledge inside the Center itself. Stop inside to browse the Center’s extensive library on topics such as women’s history, relationships, careers and health. Internships and volunteer positions are also available at the Women’s Center.*

*For more information, or to get involved, visit the Women’s Center, located in the lower level of the Student Union, between 10am and 4pm, Monday through Friday.*

*Or, email the Center at [womenctr@brockport.edu](mailto:womenctr@brockport.edu)*