



# OREGON COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

DECEMBER 2009

## WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BRUNCH

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards Celebration A Rousing Success!

Over 230 people gathered in Portland on October 4th for a sumptuous brunch in an elegant ballroom at The Nines Hotel. Revelers joined to honor Gert Boyle and Arlene Schnitzer – this year’s recipients of the Women of Achievement Awards.

Emcee Renee Mitchell presided over the festivities, which included an insightful historical perspective on Women’s Commissions from keynote speaker Justice Betty Roberts. *Poetry Out Loud* award winner and Oregon School for the Deaf student Tiffany Hill signed Archibald MacLeish’s “Ars Poetica.” Champagne and Bloody Mary’s flowed as guests bid on their favorite Silent Auction goodies thanks to Commissioner Karen Shimada.

Gert Boyle kept the crowd laughing after Secretary of State Kate Brown revealed Gert’s secret to getting a loan. While Arlene Schnitzer was sorely missed, Harold Schnitzer was the perfect stand-in, entertaining guests with rare personal anecdotes about his extraordinary wife. To view a photo slideshow of the brunch, use this link: <http://tinyurl.com/Awards-brunch-photos>

*We’d like to thank our very generous sponsors and table hosts who made the Silver Anniversary brunch possible!*

### WELLS FARGO

#### Girl Scouts

AARP  
Emerge Oregon  
Women in Intel Foundation

#### Lewis & Clark College

Megan Jacqout  
Portland Association of Teachers  
OR Women’s Health & Wellness Alliance

#### Portland State University

University of Oregon  
JFR Foundation  
Willamette Women Democrats

### WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT 2010

Let’s work to make the 2010 Women of Achievement Awards bigger and better than ever! To do this, we’ll need your help. Volunteers for the Host and Silent Auction committees are always welcome and requests for nominations for next year’s honorees will be going out in March. Start thinking of those incredible women you know who deserve to be recognized for their dedication and commitment to make Oregon a better place to live!

*(A complete list of Silent Auction donors and volunteers can be found on page three.)*



Back row: Megan Jacqout, Susan Castner, Mary Volm and S. Renee Mitchell. Front row: Karen Shimada, Secretary of State Kate Brown, Gert Boyle, Harold Schnitzer, Justice Betty Roberts, and Donna Harris.  
Photo by Otto Schell

SHE FLIES  
WITH HER  
OWN  
WINGS

## **WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL, VA WOMEN'S CENTER, WOMEN AND THE LAW HOW DO WE GET THERE FROM HERE?**

The Oregon Commission for Women will be working overtime to meet the aggressive agenda set at the annual strategic planning meeting in July. At the top of the list is implementing a website that works with news and resources you can use. We are also looking for a few good women to partner with and have started the ball rolling with presentations from the future home of the VA Women's Center here in Oregon and the Oregon Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration.

### **CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS' HEALTH**

A record 4,959 female patients were treated by the Veterans Administration in 2009 in Portland. That number represents a 15.3% increase since 2008. Many of these women are now on their second or third deployment to the Middle East. According to Nancy Sloan, the Project Manager, the new Veterans Administration Women's Center, scheduled to open in July of 2010, will offer comprehensive primary care for women veterans. The Oregon Commission for Women will be working with the VA on exciting opportunities to address care for women veterans, specifically how we can help provide a peaceful, welcoming atmosphere at the Center for patients and children who may accompany them.

### **OREGON WOMEN SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL**

In 1912, women in Oregon won the right to vote. In 2012, all Oregonians will be celebrating! The Oregon Commission for Women is proud to partner with the Oregon Woman Suffrage Centennial Committee for the statewide, yearlong celebration. Local historian Jan Dilg will be directing the project that already boasts a Who's Who of Oregon's accomplished women leading the way. Former Secretary of State Norma Paulus and former Governor Barbara Roberts will be Co-Chairs for the Advisory Committee. Justice Betty Roberts will also be playing a prominent role in the festivities along with the Oregon Historical Society. Thanks to Esther Pohl Lovejoy, you will never drive down that street again and without thinking about what she did for the women of Oregon. For more details and updates on events and activities, please go to their website: <http://www.oregonsuffrage.org/>

### **OREGON WOMEN AND THE LAW**

Ever had a question on real estate, unemployment, juvenile law, or housing and how it these issues apply to a woman's legal rights? Commissioners Nena Cook and Megan Jacquot have taken on the Herculean task of updating the Oregon Women and the Law report. All 283 pages of it! The finished version will be posted on the Oregon Commission for Women website in June of 2010 and we are hoping that hard copies will be available as well. If you are a lawyer, a law student, or someone with the interest and time to help Oregon women survive the complicated waters of the legal system, please let us know. This book will not be a substitute for legal representation nor will it solve all your legal problems. But it WILL point you in the right direction.

### **WEB RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGER TIPS**

Other projects underway at the OCFW include a revamped, updated, user-friendly website complete with an information page containing county-by-county resources for victims of domestic violence. Commissioner Donna Harris will be working exclusively on workplace violence and will have a comprehensive resource list on the website in early March, 2010. In addition, Commissioner Karen Shimada, Executive Director of Life By Design NW, will be pulling together a resource page with tips on life-enriching programs for elders, housing, long term care, and community engagement for seniors. Karen's expertise in older adult education and gerontology makes her a natural to provide a wealth of information on these critical concerns. If you have additional ideas or areas of concern to be covered, please let us know.

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## **THE OREGON COMMISSION FOR WOMEN ~ WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO**

In 1964, Governor Mark Hatfield established the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women to advise him of the needs and concerns of Oregon women. In 1983, Governor Victor Atiyeh gave the commission independent agency status. The Oregon Commission for Women was legislatively established in 1983 to work for women's equality. The commission does this by advocating for women in the community, providing information on women to the governor and state legislature, serving as a link for women to state agencies, and providing services to individual women in Oregon. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to serve the people of Oregon.

Susan B. Castner ~ Chair

Nena Cook ~ Vice-Chair

Donna Harris

Megan Jacquot

Karen Shimada

Senator Martha Schrader

Representative Betty Komp

Joy Howard, Executive Assistant ~ Oregon Advocacy Commission Office

## OREGON WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS ALLIANCE A MUST FOR ALL WOMEN!

You can't turn on a television set or radio without hearing about health care or the lack thereof. For women in Oregon, we are fortunate to have the Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance. This amazing bi-partisan group, headed up by Representative Carolyn Tomei and Senator Diane Rosenbaum in the last legislative session, is dedicated to ensuring the health, safety, and economic well being of women. The OWHWA has introduced bills since the 1993 session; bills critical to women's health. Their success is directly attributable to the fact that **knowledge is power**. The OWHWA lets women know what they should be watching and why. As the support and momentum grows, so do their unprecedented successes. And best of all – membership is FREE! We invite you to take a look at the OWHWA via their website: <http://www.owhwa.org/> The next meeting is January 13<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm in room H - 278 at the Capitol. See for yourself.

### THE FRIENDS OF THE OREGON COMMISSION FOR WOMEN ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Friends of the Oregon Commission for Women elected new officers at its December meeting. The Friends, the non-profit organization established to assist the OCFW in its mission, welcomed Chair Paul Homan, and Treasurer Kimberly Goddard and Secretary Sue Castner (ex-officio). The first meeting of 2010 will be on January 12. Call 503-378-2139 or check the OCFW website for details after the first of the year - <http://www.oregon.gov/Women/calendar.shtml>

*WOA Awards Brunch cont'd from page 1*

Every successful event takes an incredible team working together and the brunch was no exception.

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The Cottage on the Pond

Sue Castner  
Leslie Green  
Mama Mia Trattoria  
Portland Opera  
Urban Arts Dance Company  
Barbara Welty

Along with fellow Commissioners, we had a stalwart crew of dedicated volunteers to help set up, check in, run the Silent Auction, and manage traffic.

Kimberly Goddard

Paul Homan  
Marina Shimada

Laura Rost  
Heidi Woods

Stevie Saleem

And we need to extend a huge thanks to Joy Howard, OACO's Executive Assistant Extraordinaire, and Helen Hoang, our former OACO Administrator who kept us all in line and sane most of the time.

**NEXT UP**...Join us for the next Public Meeting of the Oregon Commission for Women, January 22, 2010, in downtown Portland. Time and place are posted on our website: <http://www.oregon.gov/Women/calendar.shtml>

*Hope to see you there!*

**IN THE MEAN TIME, WE WISH YOU THE VERY BEST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON  
AND MAY 2010 BRING YOU THAT MUCH CLOSER TO YOUR DREAMS!**