



The

# Advisory Advance

A newsletter created by  
the Women's Advisors of New York City  
for the benefit of women municipal employees.

## Newsletter

www.ci.nyc.ny.us/women

Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor

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### Women's Advisors of New York City

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The Women's Advisors Program was established by Executive Memorandum No. 4, August 4, 1975 to promote equal rights for women, and to combat sexual stereotyping and systematic barriers to advancement. The advisors strive to achieve these goals through advocacy, skill development workshops and information dissemination. The Women's Advisors Program is unique in its representation of women in city government.

## Celebrating Women's History Month

by Meryl M. Jones

This year marks the eighteenth anniversary of the nationwide commemoration of Women's History Month (WHM)—and the designated theme for 1999 is "Women Putting their Stamp on America."

Celebrating women's accomplishments dates back to March 8, 1911, the first International Women's Day. In 1977, several women who would later found the National Women's History Project, an important national resource based in Windsor, California, began commemorating Women's History Week on an annual basis. In 1981, a Joint Congressional Resolution proclaimed the week of March 8th to be National Women's History Week. By 1986, the celebration was expanded to include the entire month of March.

In order to increase awareness throughout the general public and the school population about the contributions women have made to the shaping of local and national history, the New York City Commission on the Status of Women develops programs for Women's History Month.

In its role as publicist and coordinator for WHM, the Commission has encouraged women's organizations, cultural, professional and educational institutions, libraries and civic groups to sponsor programs to heighten public awareness of the diversity of women's contributions.

The Commission compiles, publishes and distributes a calendar of Women's History Month events free of charge to interested individuals. Listed are a variety of programs including lectures, exhibits, films, conferences, plays and readings.

In cooperation with the five Borough Presidents and the Board of Education, the Commission sponsors a Women's History Month poetry,

essay and poster contest in the City's public and private schools for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Student winners are recognized at a ceremony in each of the five boroughs. At the end of March, twenty students from each borough who are designated citywide winners, are honored at a ceremony at City Hall. They are presented with specially designed Olympic-style medallions underwritten by the Association for a Better New York.

The National Women's History Project (NWHP) has available a free 40-page catalog for those interested in learning about women's accomplishments, both past and present. The catalog features women's history celebration supplies, classroom materials, multicultural books, posters, videos and gifts. The address is NWHP, 7738 Bell Rd., Windsor, CA, 95492-8518; 707-838-6000.

To receive a free copy of the Women's History Month Calendar, or more information about other Commission activities throughout the year, please contact the office at 100 Gold Street, Second Floor, New York, NY 10038; 212-788-2738, (fax) 212-788-3298; website: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/women>; e-mail: [csw@mayorlan.nycnet.ci.nyc.ny.us](mailto:csw@mayorlan.nycnet.ci.nyc.ny.us)

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## Citywide Women's Advisors Accomplishments in 1998



by Dorothy Suter

The 1998 Seventeenth Annual Awards Ceremony capped off a productive year for the Citywide Women's Advisors Program, which sponsored numerous activities and saw changes in key personnel.

The Women's Advisors began the year with activities for Women's History Month, including a series of lunchtime seminars featuring women in City government who have had books published outside of their mainstream careers. Speakers included Linda Fairstein of the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and Rosa Gil of the Office of Health Services.

The Women's Advisors participated, as they do each year, in "Take Our Daughters to Work", sponsoring various activities in the different agencies and organizing fun and exciting events for the daughters of City Employees.

Rosemary A. Millus was named the new Executive Director of the Commission on the Status of Women last spring, and she immediately began participating actively with the Women's Advisors. In addition, the Women's Advisors held elections for new officers in late spring, bringing in a new co-Chair and a new Secretary.

After the new officers were placed, they went about increasing Agency representation in the Women's Advisors. Letters were mailed to Agency heads and Commissioners who did not have representatives to the Advisors, asking them to appoint a Women's Advisor for the Agency. This mailing proved successful, as a result, several new members joined the Advisors at our first meeting in the fall.

In October, the Women's Advisors marched in "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. This fund-raising event has been growing in magnitude and effectiveness each year. Agencies are proud to have their workers participating.

The Women's Advisors fund-raising Book Fair was held in October, allowing shoppers the opportunity to purchase an interesting assortment of books, games and other gifts for their loved ones before the holiday rush.

The veteran Women's Advisors then put together an informative Orientation Program for new Advisors. These women discussed the history of the Commission on the Status of Women, the roles of the Women's Advisors, and the available activities within Agencies and Citywide. They were encouraged to ask questions and read the By-Laws; all new Advisors were given a detailed Orientation packet.

Finally, the Awards Ceremony proved a satisfying ending to this successful year full of accomplishments. The ceremony was held on December 1<sup>st</sup> to honor the accomplishments of women and men within City government. In addition, the Women's Advisors awarded two educational scholarships to City employees working their way through school.

Here's wishing that 1999 proves even more fruitful and exciting for everyone!

## Women's Advisors' Executive Cabinet

by Cyd LeGrain-Clarke

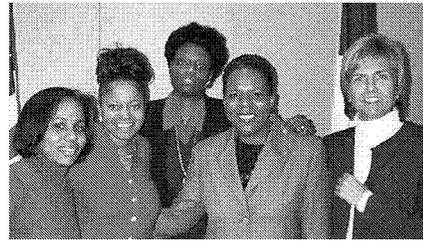


Image from left to right, Meryl Jones, Commission on the Status of Women, Letricia Dockery, Cyd LeGrain-Clarke, former co-Chair, Mary Sweeting and Dorothy Suter.

The Women's Advisors Executive Cabinet is comprised of women who represent the diversity of City Government. The executive cabinet has two co-chairs, a secretary, treasurer and appointed at large members.

Our current co-Chairs are both veteran City employees. Mary J. Sweeting, is a manager with NYC Off Tracking Betting Corporation, with over twenty years of service. Mary has worked her way through the ranks of NYC Off Tracking Betting Corporation and has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues and peers.

As co-Chair, Mary brings to the advisors her keen sense of politics and a strong working knowledge of City government. Under Mary's leadership OTB Women's committee have sponsored, "Making Strides Walks", "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" events, a book signing event and two successful Citywide "Night at the Races." Mary has a wide range of resources and a strong commitment to mentor women in city government.

Dorothy Suter is employed with the Human Resources Administration where she is the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Welfare-to-Work Programs. As co-Chair, Dorothy brings to the advisors her strong organizational skills. As the Advisor for HRA, she has organized several forums featuring high ranking women executives in City politics, an annual HRA awards ceremony, the Making Strides Walk, the "Daffodil Project", and several women's history month programs.

The Women's Advisor's Secretary, Letricia Dockery, is from the Manhattan Borough President's Office where she is a Special Assistant in the Executive Office. As Secretary to the Women's Advisors, Letricia is responsible for all correspondence, meeting announcements, and the organization roster which consists of 55 to 60 agencies citywide.

Willie Mae Parris, Treasurer, is serving her second elected term in office. Willie's responsibility is to ensure that all funds and expenses are accounted for. She is our liaison between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Advisors and serves on every committee as financial secretary. Willie works for the Department of Finance's MIS Division/Production Control Unit. At Finance, Willie is responsible for collecting, organizing, reconciling, analyzing, testing, and reporting on data for the agency's revenue generating mailing program.

The diversity of these four young energetic women and the combined years of service will push the advisors program forward into the new millennium. One aggressive step is the Women's Advisors' web page. With the help of Diane Witek, Production Manager for NYC LINK, the Official New York City Web Site and Women's Advisor for DoITT, the Advisors are now on the Internet. This enables women in City government to share information and expand our communications network. Under the leadership of these four women the Women's Advisors will certainly be on the City's Top ten list of City organizations to watch in the year 2000.

## Women's Advisors' Orientation

by Irene Fanos



On November 5, 1998, several Women Advisors gathered to learn about their role and responsibilities as an Advisor. The morning began with Rosemary A. Millus, Director of the NYC Commission on the Status of Women welcoming the women and sharing some inspirational comments.

The co-chairs Mary Sweeting and Dorothy Suter, described the role of the Women's Advisor. Each Women's Advisor has three requirements to accomplish each year, including:

1. Attend at least six of the ten yearly city-wide meetings;
2. Contribute to at least one Women's Advisors Committee; and
3. Convene a women's concerns committee in their agency.

In addition, they discussed how to establish a successful relationship with their commissioners.

Past co-chair, Cyd LeGrair-Clark, described the annual events including the newsletter and the types of articles needed and the schedule for these contributions.

Marcia Belgorod, from the Department of Finance, discussed how to be an effective Women's Advisor in a large agency- delegate and organize.

Valerie Levy, from the Department for the Aging, outlined the procedures to follow for EEO and Sexual Harassment complaints.

Lastly, Meryl M. Jones, of the Commission on the Status of Women, reviewed the relationship between the Commission and the Women's Advisors.

## "Take Our Daughters to Work Day"



On April 22<sup>nd</sup> you can change a young girl's life through your participation in the program. Ask your agency's Women's Advisor for more details. Or call the Foundation for Women 1-800-676-7780 or visit their website at <http://www.ms.foundation.org>.

## The Gift of Hope

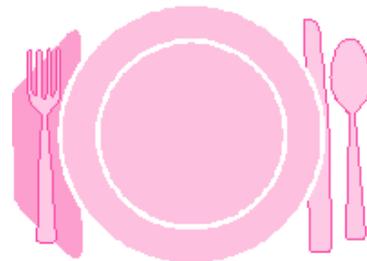
Let's celebrate spring and "Give the Gift of Hope." Each year the American Cancer Society and volunteers throughout New York City participate in the Daffodils Campaign. Daffodils are available for purchase and delivered directly to your agency. Proceeds from the program go to the "Look Good Feel Better Program." This program provides assistance to women after surgery and chemotherapy. The campaign ends after the first week in March. Contact your agency's Women's Advisor for more details.

## Send Us Your Thoughts

Do you have a contribution for our Newsletter? Your work day may seem routine to you, but chances are it's not to thousands of New York City employees.

Is there a story in your agency or department that you would like to share. Or maybe you just have good news or tips on improving the quality of life for women throughout the City. If so, contact Diane Witek at (718) 403-8320, fax 718-403-8340, or via the internet at [webwind@ppmail.appliedtheory.com](mailto:webwind@ppmail.appliedtheory.com). We'd love to hear from you!

## Women's History Month Awards Breakfast Honoring Women of Achievement



On Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999, the NYC Commission on the Status of Women will host a fund-raising breakfast in celebration of Women's History Month. It will be held at the Women's National Republican Club, Three West 51<sup>st</sup> Street in Manhattan, 8:00 - 10:00 AM.

Honorees include: Rev. Dr. Suzan D. Johnson Cook, Chaplain, New York Police Department; Rose Dobrof, DSW, Professor of Gerontology, Linda Fairstein, Chief, Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit, Gail Sheehy Author/Journalist, Muriel Siebert, President and Chairwomen, Muriel Siebert & Co., Inc. and Maria Girone, National Executive Director, Puerto Rican Family Institute, Inc. Carmel Carrington Marr, Former Commissioner NYS Public Service Commission, Constance Del Vecchio Maltese, Age of Discovery Artist, Friedhilde Milburn, Executive Director, James Lenox House and others. The mistress of ceremonies is Kathleen Shepherd, Vice President, Production and Public Affairs, WB 11. Tickets are \$45 (\$30 is tax deductible). For more information contact the Commission at 212-788-2738.

## The Role of Women in the 2000 Census

by Meryl M. Jones



As we move into the next century, we find that the role of women in society has changed drastically over the last 100 years. Women are working outside the home in unprecedented numbers, and in fields that were previously open only to men. They are starting their own businesses in record numbers and the women's vote is often the deciding factor in elections.

As we approach the year 2000, it is also important to remember to participate in the upcoming Census. Women, children and families have a special stake in the accuracy of the 2000 Census. When large segments of the population are missed, states and localities receive less than their fair share of Federal program funds that are allocated based on Census numbers, and must use their own funds to compensate for the undercount.

Census information is:

- Needed for **Violence Against Women Formula Grants** that are awarded to states and territories to develop and strengthen the criminal justice system's response to violence against women - including domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Every year, each state and territory receives a minimum of \$500,000 plus additional funds based on population;
- Used under the **Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant** program to improve and increase services available to women and children in rural areas by encouraging community involvement in preventing domestic violence and child abuse;
- Used as a basis for **Head Start** funding that provides a wide range of services to primarily low-income children, ages 0 to 5, and their families. These services include language development, medical, dental, mental health, nutritional and social services.

Because the Census plays such an integral role in the planning and funding of programs benefiting women and children such as these, it is essential that an accurate count of women and children is attained in the 2000 Census. The Census Bureau also needs your help to recruit 2.8 million candidates for census taker positions in every neighborhood and community across the nation. Interested job applicants should call 1-888-325-7733.

## Women's History Month Calendar

The Women's History Month Calendar is now available. To get your copy contact the Commission on the Status of Women at (212) 788-2738 or on the internet at [www.ci.nyc.ny.us/women](http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/women).

## Making Strides Against Breast Cancer



Last October, Roxanne Dodds, Women's Advisor for Probation launched an agency-wide campaign against cancer. She recruited her commissioner, deputy commissioner and the chief of personnel to support her effort. As a result, sixty-five people from the Department of Probation walked to help raise awareness and raised funds to help fight breast cancer. In total, they raised \$3,456 for their first agency-wide event.

The Department of Finance is known for its fund-raising efforts. Last October, Finance employees, their friends and families joined 14,000 walkers for the fifth anniversary of the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. The unofficial report stated that the Department of Finance raised over \$6,600!

Last October, the Board of Education, walked in memory of a beloved co-worker who was stricken with breast cancer and died shortly before the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event.

Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of death among women. Be sure to participate in the Making Strides Against Cancer Walk next year!

"Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" is sponsored by the American Cancer Society, 1-888-ACS-8899.

### The Advisory Advance is published by:

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