



CFW CONNECTIONS



First Federal employees CT Doig and Debbie Mullins admire purses.

ANOTHER CROWD PLEASING PURSE AUCTION!



Stephanie Terry, Suzanne Kempel and Merideth Garrigan enjoy the beautiful evening overlooking Pineapple Fountain at Waterfront Park.



We couldn't do it without our bevy of dedicated volunteers! Left to Right: Holly Fisher, Cathleen Heim, May Wahab, Mary Mallette (staff) and Tina Newton.

We can hardly believe it, but our 8th Annual "It's in the Bag" Silent Purse Auction and Reception was held on Thursday, April 30th. Each year our biggest fundraiser of the year just keeps getting better and better. Artists and other local talent created one hundred gorgeous, cute and clever one-of-a-kind purses for auction.

Jennet Robinson Alterman, Executive Director, remarked, "We are very gratified that during this difficult economic year, the Center for Women was able to raise substantially the same amount of money as last year to continue the work we do for women in this community. Gift certificates from local businesses - all valued at \$100 or more - came with every winning purse bid. This certainly helped the overall bidding and made it easier for women to justify their fabulous purchases!"

Our sponsors who gave so generously to make our 2009 Purse Auction a success were: First Federal, Lucey Mortgage, Mass Mutual, Skirt! Magazine, Fork Fine Gourmet Catering and Events, Event Dynamics, Tiger Lily, SC Thrift & Resale and Ashley Hall.

Our "Purse Patrol" and other volunteers who kept all the action moving were: Vicki Pittman, Erin Scheffer, Sloan Woods, Kira Perdue, Kate Clarkson, Karen Izzi, Caroline Boinest, Tanis Jackson, Holly Fisher, Angel Taylor, Lucia Wattrick, MaryEllen Mackinnon, Jill Galmarini, Cathleen Heim, Sara Dwyer, Zelda Grant, Domonique Green, Cathryn Cato, Charlene Harris. Edi Rose, Lesa Underwood, Anna Lassiter, Wanda Wright, May Wahab, Nandini McCauley, Katie McCravy, Virginia Lee, Peg Clarkson, and Ally Janssen.

Photography this page by Olsen Imagery.

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Center for Women staff at the 2009 "It's in the Bag" Purse Auction in front of The City Gallery at Waterfront Park. Left to Right: Mary Mallette, Ginger Rosenberg, Amanda Bunting Comen, Leigh Ann Garrett, and Jennet Robinson Alterman.

A NOTE FROM JENNET

"The connections between and among women are the most feared, the most problematic, and the most potentially transforming force on the planet."
Adrienne Rich

Welcome to our first online newsletter. This marks an important milestone in our organizational development as we continue our commitment to providing timely information in a cost effective and environmentally sensitive format. Expect to see a new "CFW Connections" every other month.

Your Center for Women has had a busy 2009 as you can see from the articles. In spite of (or really because of) the economic downturn, we have expanded our programming to offer sessions on everything from making career transitions to finding health insurance after a layoff to individual job counseling. We will continue to offer programs to help the women in our community who have lost jobs, been downsized and/or are getting back into the job market.

This is where the power of connection comes into play. Connecting people is what we do well and that is what sets us apart. Participating in our programs has brought many women the opportunity to find resources and support. Helping women succeed every day is what our mission promises and we deliver on that promise every day.

Our membership is at all time high and the demand for our services is as well. When you become a member of the Center for Women you not only help others but you personally benefit. If you aren't a member, consider joining. It is a modest investment in a powerful network.

Have a great summer!

Jennet

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Jennet Robinson Alterman, Executive Director, delivers the wrap-up message on March 20th at The Women's Resource Project 3rd Annual Women's History Month luncheon featuring keynote speaker, Political Strategist Donna Brazille.



The Entrepreneurial Woman Series offers practical seminars and networking opportunities for women starting or running their own business.

Tuesdays 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Advance Registration Requested:
\$20 CFW Members/\$40 Non-Members

Web Content and Interactive Marketing

Learn to create a clear online message and implement interactive marketing strategies to grow your company.

*Celeste Fortier & Jo Ann M. Stadtmueller,
Epic Vu
Michelle Salater, Sumer
Tuesday, June 23*

Solving Your Five Biggest Business Challenges

*Sheila Underwood, SunTrust
Karen Ross, First Federal
Tuesday, July 21*

NEW RESOURCE! Check out our new Lowcountry Women Entrepreneurs Blog! Dr. Dorothy P. Moore, an internationally recognized expert on women entrepreneurs and the author of *CareerPreneurs: Lessons from Leading Women Entrepreneurs on Building a Career Without Boundaries* will help you stay on top of creative ways to start or grow a business.

Go To:

<http://lwentrepreneurs.blogspot.com/>



Brown Bag Lunch Series

Information and engaging topics on your emotional, physical and financial health. For women of all ages.

Thursdays at Noon. FREE.

Maintaining Health Insurance After a Layoff

*Reese McFaddin, Workplace Benefits
Barbara A. Scott, CLU*

Thursday, June 11

The Next Phase of Life: Retirement Reconfigured

Catherine Anne Walsh, PhD.

Thursday, June 25

Top Ten Things You Should Know Before Divorce

*Crystal G.H. Lowery and
Lynn Murphy, Attorneys at Law*

Thursday, July 9

Post Divorce: Living Well is the Best Revenge

Martie Adams, LISW

Thursday, July 23



*Mary Helen Condon Moore, CFM
Lynn Anne Gillen, CIMA*



*the little black book
for every busy woman*



Unique opportunities to learn something new and empowering.

Saturdays 10:00am - Noon

Advance Registration Requested:
\$20 CFW Members/\$40 Non-Members

Memoirs Done Write

The hottest section in bookstores today are memoirs. Even ordinary people have extraordinary tales to tell. Learn a simple yet effective way to organize your writing and learn about yourself in the process.

Archie Burkel, The Hat Ladies

Saturday, June 20 10am to Noon

Organizing for the Busy Woman

*Stacey Crew,
Clear Vision Organization*

*Hillary Hutchinson,
Hillary Hutchinson & Associates*

Saturday, August 15 10am to Noon



All programs take place at 129 Cannon Street unless noted.

Daytime parking can be found on the street or in the MUSC G Lot on President St. You must pay to use the MUSC G Lot.

Free parking is available nights and weekends at a gated lot at 30 Bee Street. From 30 Bee St., walk to the back of the parking lot and enter our property through the gate. We provide you with the exit code.

*Become a member of the Center for Women and join a network of dynamic, talented and caring women!
Personal memberships start at only \$35.00 a year.*

Legal Mediation Clinics

No charge. Please call to reserve a seat.

Employer/Employee Issues

In SC, 83% of civil lawsuits are resolved by mediation. We invite you to learn about the benefits of mediation whether your dispute is headed to litigation or causing a disruption in the workplace.

Tuesday, June 30
5:30 - 7:00pm

Empowerment Groups

Registration required:
\$35 CFW members; \$70 non-members

Career Transitions

Facilitated by Erin Scheffer

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Mondays, July 27 through Sept 14
6:00pm to 7:30pm

Imagine That!

Facilitated by Dolores Paque, M.P.S.

What does the image of your best life look like? What are your hopes and dreams? Deep down every person is challenged to grow and dream. Imagination is what fuels the process.

Join us for a 7-week workshop designed to actualize your imaginative spirit and lead you to wholeness.

Wednesdays, July 22 through
September 2
5:30pm to 7:00pm

East Cooper Events



Location & Sponsor:

Family Circle Tennis Center
(next to the stadium)
161 Seven Farms Drive, Daniel Island,
Conference Room 2nd floor

Advance Registration Requested:
\$20 CFW Members/\$40 Non-Members

10 Ways to Grow Your Business

Pam Hartley, Momentum Marketing

Monday, August 10
5:30 - 7pm

To learn more details about any program we offer or to register for an event, go to the Calendar Section of our website www.c4women.org.

Light refreshments will be served courtesy of Dish & Design Catering & Events



SPONSORED BY:
AllCare Living Services



"By attending one of the Center for Women events, I was able to establish a connection with a prominent businesswoman in the Charleston area. Just a few months later, she hired me full-time! I would like to thank the Center for Women for their outstanding programs and the limitless opportunities they offer."

Counseling

Are you experiencing a difficult time?
Do you need help facing a life situation?
Our counselors meet with you individually to develop problem solving strategies.

Fees are based on a sliding scale and range from \$15 to \$65.

Call to schedule an appointment.

Job Coaching

Do you need help getting started with a job search?
Do you need advice on your resume?

Our experienced volunteer job coaches are available on Wednesdays to help.

Call for an appointment.
Only \$10.00 per session.

Summerville Events



Location & Sponsor:

Greater Summerville Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center,
402 North Main Street

Advance Registration Requested:
\$20 CFW members; \$40 Non-members

Women in the Business of Art

Margaret Hoybach, Artist

Thursday, August 20
11:30am - 1pm

Women Writers Forum

All about the art and business of writing.

Saturdays 10:00am to Noon.

Advance Registration Requested:
\$25 CFW Members/\$50 Non-Members

Getting Published in a Magazine

Executives from two of Charleston's most successful magazines will teach you how to write and pitch stories for magazines.

Darcy Shankland, Charleston Magazine

Nikki Hardin, Skirt! Magazine

Saturday, June 6
10:00am to Noon

You Too Can Be An Author

*Kelly Love Johnson, Author of
"Skirt! Rules for the Workplace"*

*Suzette Latsko & Dianne Shaver, Authors
of "Bride's Advisor Charleston"*

Saturday, July 11
10:00am to Noon

This program is funded by a generous grant from the James O. and Harriet P. Rigney Endowment of the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina

In partnership with the Lowcountry Initiative for the Literary Arts



Jennet Robinson Alterman with Chris MacFarlane, owner of South Carolina Thrift & Resale, at Family Circle Cup.



If the shoe fits, wear it!

SPECIAL EVENT

Saturday, July 18
9am to 4pm

Education Center
College of Charleston Campus
25 St. Phillip Street

Women in Political Office Workshop

This is a unique full-day workshop for women wanting to run for elected office or planning to be part of a campaign. You will learn from women who are part of the political establishment and those who have successfully run for office. South Carolina needs more women in political office! This is your chance to explore the process and learn from women who have campaigned.

Workshops Include:

- Fundamentals of Running a Campaign (including fundraising)
- Pathways to Politics: Judgeships, Boards & Commissions
- Working with Your Political Party
- Using the Internet and Technology to Your Political Advantage
- Speaking from Experience: Hear How Four Women Ran and Won!

Sponsored by:

Center for Partnerships to Improve Education, College of Charleston
Center for Women
Junior League of Charleston
League of Women Voters of the Charleston Area
SC Women's Connection/Clemson Extension Service

Registration required:

\$50 for members of a sponsoring organization; \$85 all others
For more details or to register, visit www.c4women.org or call (843) 763-7333.

The long hot days of summer can be a great time to clean out your closets and get rid of those clothes you no longer wear! Bring your gently used clothes and household goods to Mt. Pleasant's South Carolina Thrift & Resale. South Carolina Thrift & Resale donates 10% of all their sales to the Center for Women to help us bring meaningful programs to women in the lowcountry.

South Carolina Thrift & Resale

1670 Highway 17 North at Mathis Ferry Road
Mt. Pleasant, SC
(843) 530 - 5569

www.scthriftandresale.com



The Women in Business Conference Sells Out!

Sold out! March's 4th annual Women in Business Conference sold out both in registration and exhibit space. Over 300 women came to *Power up; get connected, get charged and get informed!* The ever-popular speed networking session provided attendees with the chance to meet new resources whether looking for a job or expanding an existing business.

The Women in Business Conference is a joint partnership between the Center for Women and the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce. It has quickly become one of the area's best-known meetings for serious, genuine networking opportunities for both attendees and exhibitors.



WIB photos by
Naomi Doddington
Couture Photography



The Center for Women received two wonderful awards this year. PAR - People Against Rape - awarded us their *"Outstanding Victim Service Program"* for our referral services and community co-operation to assure that abused women receive the proper care and treatment they need.

The Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce selected us for their prestigious *"1773 Award"* in the Public/Non-profit category for an organization that exemplifies the Chamber's core values of leadership, relevance, integrity, diversity and innovation. We are proud of the contributions we have made to the community and are pleased to be recognized by the Chamber for our leadership on women's issues.



Comfortable couches, a beautiful sunny day and watching world class tennis from a sky suite. Life doesn't get any sweeter than this! If you look hard, you can see Venus Williams (in purple) serving.

Member Day Luncheon at Family Circle Cup a Winner

For the fourth straight year in a row, the Center for Women was selected as Family Circle Cup's "Charity of Choice". The objectives of both organizations are to encourage and promote women's excellence and success. CFW volunteers and staff spent nine very busy days at the April tennis tournament on Daniel Island selling programs and participating in other events to raise money for our programs and services.

Every year, Family Circle Cup has invited us to use their sky suite for a Member Day Luncheon. This is a rare treat and the only way anyone can buy an individual ticket to a sky suite event!



Members and guests were treated to a drop in visit by French tennis player and 6th seed, Marion Bartoli (far right).



CFW intern, Ally Janssen, and volunteer, Vicki Pittman, encourage passer-bys to purchase tournament programs to raise money for the CFW.