



MADISON SOS

THE YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

empowering teen girls through community leadership and activism

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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COMMUNITY FORUM TO HIGHLIGHT COURAGEOUS LOCAL WOMEN IN POLITICS

MADISON—As Sen. Hillary Clinton's presidential bid sparks national discussion on women in political leadership, Madison SOS aims to turn a local spotlight on women leaders in grassroots politics and community leadership. On **Thursday, November 15**, Madison SOS will hold a community forum on local women in politics. Called "**Voices of Courage**," the event will be held at the **Monona Terrace**.

Community initiative **Madison SOS (*Speak Out, Sister!*)** was founded this spring by West High junior Natalia Thompson to connect Madison high school young women of different backgrounds through activism on issues of common concern. Thompson says of Voices of Courage, "Despite recent increases in coverage of high-profile female politicians, the contributions made by thousands of courageous women at the grassroots level often remain unheralded. Voices of Courage will provide young women with powerful role models—women with decades of experience in speaking out and working to affect change on the issues they believe in—while facilitating local discussion of the role of gender in American politics."

In an effort to engage a diverse group of community members in a dialogue on gender and politics, Voices of Courage will be **FREE and open to the public**. Free **transportation is also available** by contacting the Program Coordinator at madisonsos@yahoo.com.

Voices of Courage will feature a **keynote by former Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager** and **dynamic spoken word poetry** by First Wave poet-activists Kelsey Van Ert and Cecilia León. The event will focus on a panel of extraordinary local women leaders, moderated by political columnist Jenny Price of *Madison Magazine*. The panelists include:

- **Ruth Conniff**: Conniff is the Political Editor of *The Progressive*, a monthly magazine of politics and culture founded in 1909 by Wisconsin Senator "Fighting Bob" La Follette. She has worked for the magazine since graduating from Yale University in 1990. She lives in Madison and commutes to Washington on a regular basis.
- **Prof. Christina Ewig**: An Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and Political Science at UW-Madison, Prof. Ewig focuses on the intersection of gender, race, and social policy. Her comparative research on gender and Latin American politics was funded by a Fulbright New Century Scholars Fellowship.

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- **Linda Honold:** Now Executive Director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin, Honold has also served as Chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. She was a member of the Democratic National Committee Executive Committee from 2001-2005. Honold holds a Ph.D. in Human and Organizational Systems from Fielding Graduate University.
- **Renee Moe:** As Vice President of Resource Development and Marketing for United Way of Dane County, Moe has guided resource development in communicating the community's Agenda for Change. A dedicated community leader, she participates in organizations such as the Wisconsin Women of Color Network, Dane County Public Affairs Council, Grassroots Leadership College, and the UW Madison Policy and Human Ecology schools, where she is a guest lecturer.
- **Kate Moen:** A Development Associate for NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin, Moen is a recent UW-Milwaukee graduate with extensive experience in electoral politics. She is also Program Director for Emerge Wisconsin, a political leadership training program for Democratic women in Wisconsin. During the fall 2006 election, she was the Milwaukee and Southeastern Wisconsin Finance Assistant for Fair Wisconsin. Moen was the Milwaukee student organizer for the Kerry/Edwards campaign in 2004 and for the Doyle/Lawton campaign in 2002. She has also worked as a grassroots organizer in Ireland.
- **Lucía Nuñez:** Now Director of the City of Madison Department of Civil Rights, Nuñez has over twenty years of experience in community leadership and public service. From 1999-2003, she was the Executive Director of Centro Hispano of Dane County. Before moving to Madison, she worked at Stanford University's Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education. She has also been a teacher, a trainer, and a Peace Corps Volunteer.
- **Rep. Sondy Pope-Roberts:** Elected to represent Wisconsin's 79th Assembly District in 2002, Rep. Pope-Roberts is a Madison native. She is the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Corrections and the Courts, and is also an active member of a wide range of local organizations, including the Black Hawk Council of Girl Scouts Inc., ACLU, League of Women Voters, Planned Parenthood, and Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

For more information, visit Madison SOS' community webpage at www.madison.com/communities/SOS.

Madison SOS is sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Black Hawk Council, YWCA of Madison, Girl Neighborhood Power, the Wisconsin Women's Network, ACLU of Wisconsin, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin, DoSomething.org, and generous community support.

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