

CHOICE

SPRING 2005

Planned Parenthood and Social Change

by Scott Heyman, President/CEO

Each year Planned Parenthood makes a serious investment in organizing for sexual rights and reproductive choice. In our world today, effective legislative advocacy is not an option—it is essential to our ability to provide services.

But our commitment to social change is in no way limited to marching on Washington and educating our representatives in Albany. We have a vision for society that we strive to make real for all who seek our services:

- Every time we give a teenager sexual health care in an environment that is supportive rather than shaming, we affirm that teens are sexual beings who have the ability to make healthy choices when given the resources they need.
- Every time a woman leaves our counseling office clear that she has choices, we show that we trust women to make their own moral decisions about pregnancy.
- Every time we don a “masturbation is not a crime” tee shirt we are teasing you! – and saying *let's accept sexual pleasure as a positive good.*
- Every time we coach a parent on how to talk to their kids about sex, we're challenging the silence and secrecy that shroud human sexuality information and conversation.
- Every time we provide a forum for men to discuss violence, we trust men to help end the culture of violence.

Exceptional Services.
Honest Education.
Fearless Advocacy.

- Every time we provide health care that is relevant, respectful and comfortable no matter what a person's identity may be, we reflect our belief that all people deserve health care that fits their individual needs.

We believe our values are widely shared, but they are not reflected in society's public commitments. Do we want a society whose government promotes sex strictly within the context of marriage, yet denies gay and lesbian couples the right to marry? Are we satisfied with a society that publicly recoils at masturbation but privately supports a multi-billion dollar porn industry? Should a society that refuses to provide for its citizens' health care ever be held up as a model of compassion?

PPSFL is now engaged in a thoughtful strategic planning process. As part of a movement that recognizes sexual rights as fundamental human rights, we are examining our role as a leader for social change. Together with our supporters, we will achieve our vision for society by putting our values into action—by, as Gandhi said, *being the change we wish to see in the world.*



The cast of the Elmira College performance of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* stands for a photo before the start of the show. The cast inspired an audience of over 100 with the serious, quirky and laugh-out-loud monologues.

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Sex Ed for Grown-Ups!

When staff in the sexuality education department first read *The Big Bang: Nerve's Guide to the New Sexual Universe* we knew we had found a very radical and exciting sex ed book. As sexuality educators we constantly scour the world of books, videos and pamphlets to find the very best resources that tell the truth about sex. We found just that in *The Big Bang!* Not only does this encyclopedic sex guide tell the truth, it gives frank and detailed sex advice guided by the powerful goal of improving the sex life and sexual literacy of its readers.

Then we discovered that the authors, Emma Taylor and Lorelei Sharkey (or Em & Lo, as their loyal Nerve.com readers know them) offer "Sex Ed for Grown-Ups" workshops—perfect for National Condom Week! This week-long celebration is filled with fun, education and preparation for a safe and healthy Valentine's Day. With the help of the student group VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood, we brought Em & Lo to Elmira College for a fabulous event filled with information, education, myth-busting, free safer sex supplies and a great time for all.



Writers and performers Emma Taylor and Lorelei Sharkey (front row, center) join PPSFL staff at "Sex Ed for Grown-Ups"!

Legislative Action!

Help us further our legislative agenda for sexual health! For more information on how to contact your representatives, call our Public Affairs staff at 273-1526, ext. 129 or 796-0220, ext. 301.

NEW YORK STATE UPDATE

(Learn more at *Family Planning Advocates' website*, www.fpaofnys.org.)

HEALTHY TEENS ACT

(A. 6619, no Senate number yet.)

Co-sponsored by Assemblymember Barbara Lifton (Tompkins).

Help young people finally get the sex education they deserve! This bill establishes a grant program to allow schools and community-based organizations to provide comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education. Currently there is no dedicated funding stream for comprehensive sex ed. Ask your representatives in the Assembly and Senate to support this bill! See www.GetTheFactsNY.org for more information and to take action.

UNINTENDED PREGNANCY

PREVENTION ACT (A. 116, S. 1576).

This bill passed the Assembly with the support of Barbara Lifton (Tompkins) and Jim

Bacalles (Steuben and Yates). Tom O'Mara (Chemung, Schuyler, Tioga) voted against this bill. It has not yet been taken up in the Senate.

Access! Access! Access! This bill would ensure that women who need Emergency Contraception (EC)—a safe, effective and extremely time-sensitive method for preventing pregnancies—do not have to wait for a physician to write a prescription. The bill would allow a pharmacist or registered nurse to dispense EC through a non-patient specific order, making it possible to obtain EC at pharmacies when medical offices are closed. This legislation is necessary because the FDA has refused to make EC available over the counter, despite overwhelming scientific evidence in support of over-the-counter status.

FEDERAL UPDATE

PREVENTION FIRST ACT

Co-sponsored by Senators Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer.

This omnibus family planning bill would increase access to reproductive health care and teen pregnancy prevention programs, reducing the need for abortion.

MEDICAID SUPPORTERS WIN ONE ROUND!

Clinton and Schumer voted to restore Medicaid funding.

The Senate voted against President Bush's plan to cut Medicaid, the federal-state health care program for the poor and disabled, by \$15 billion in the next five years. Planned Parenthood fought these cuts and we were pleased with the critical 52-48 victory in the Senate. However, the House version of the budget cuts \$20 billion from Medicaid, and the issue will have to be resolved in conference: this fight is not over yet!

You can help push the agenda forward!

- Contact your representatives by phone, fax or email.
- Write a letter to the editor in support of sexual health, sex ed, and reproductive choice!
- Join Planned Parenthood's Action Network for email alerts and other important information. See www.SaveRoe.org.



PPSFL staff and volunteers attending Family Planning Advocates' Conference and Lobby Day in Albany meet with George Winner (center), our newly elected pro-choice state Senator.

2004 Annual Campaign Results

And NOW (drum roll, please)...the results of our 2004 Annual Campaign! In 2004, 1,345 individual donors gave a total of \$393,179 to PPSFL, including bequests. Grants and foundations contributed an additional \$202,543, bringing the total for the campaign to \$595,722 (136% of our goal)!

Donors gave generous additional gifts to underwrite buses for the March for Women's Lives, enabling us to offer affordable transportation to the mass demonstration in Washington. Student volunteers at local college campuses dedicated themselves to this fundraising effort and were responsible for much of the total raised for the March. Our Global Partners project, including the film *Crossing Borders*, was again supported through the gifts of individual donors, and the project is continuing in a second phase thanks to a large grant from PPFA.

Support for Rape Crisis of the Southern Tier (RCST) was strong, as donors responded to a special appeal on behalf of the program. Much-needed computers were purchased for RCST through a New York State legislative item supported by then-Senator Randy Kuhl. The laptops improve our efficiency and flexibility, enabling our counselors to work at ERs and in courtrooms, and to meet clients wherever they feel most safe.

Understanding the need to make *all* of our services available on a sliding fee scale, donors contributed to the Joan Bechhofer Fund for abortion services and the Marty Lisberger Memorial



Longtime supporters and volunteers Mary Baker, Jean Gortzig, Daryl Bem and Elizabeth Bixler (L-R) confer at last year's Annual Campaign Kick-Off.

Fund for colposcopy services in Tompkins County, and the Dort Schutrum Abortion and Colposcopy Funds in the Southern Tier. We are especially grateful to Jane McCarthy, whose two-year gift to support the Marty Lisberger Fund was matched by the Park Foundation. These funds are enormously supportive of women who would not otherwise be able to afford these services.

General operating funds are essential, but are notoriously difficult to raise. In addition to the many individual donors who freely gave unrestricted gifts, the Alice Tully and Windhover Foundations each made generous grants toward our operating funds.

For all of these gifts we are profoundly grateful. Your commitment to women's health and safety, reproductive choice, and sexual literacy in our communities makes a measurable – *and immeasurable* – difference.

Celebrating Our Annual Campaign Volunteers!

What is the secret of a successful fundraising campaign? Volunteers with passion for the mission and a willingness to share that passion with others. At PPSFL we are blessed with volunteers who work with us year after year. Some bring deep expertise in fundraising, some are trying out new skills, and all have a rock solid commitment to Planned Parenthood.

Personal solicitors are volunteers who are matched with PPSFL donors to make a personal request for that donor's annual gift. Many of us are uncomfortable asking for money, but personal solicitors understand that this isn't only about money—it is a conversation about what Planned Parenthood means to our community and what it takes for us to continue to make a difference.

Personal solicitors make sure that the supporters with whom they are matched have their questions about PPSFL answered, and above all they share their own commitment to PPSFL.

Approximately 40 volunteers contact 400 donors each year throughout our region. The process gives each of these donors access to updated information about PPSFL through individual contact with a trained volunteer. This network of supportive relationships would not be possible without the commitment of our stellar volunteer solicitor team.

Phonathon volunteers also help us make a personal connection with our donors. In two spring and two fall phonathons each year volunteers raise a significant percentage of our annual gifts. Phoners call our supporters, clerical volunteers process pledges and cheerleaders keep us motivated! Each season about 30 volunteers and staff get in the spirit for our lively phonathons.

To all of our fabulous volunteers, we are so grateful for your time, skills and commitment. Because you reach out to others who share our vision, we can reach out to those who need us.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

IN HONOR OF:

Joan & David Brumberg
Faye Dudden & Marshall Blake

Connie Cook
Judith & Mark Ashton

Rev. Evans
Ellen Biesdorf

Jane Fajans
Allison Turner

Maralyn Fleming
Charlotte A. Shull

Pat Flery, Joan Adler, & Joan Bechhofer
Wendy Heine

Nicole Germain
Pat Flery

Jean Gortzig
Sylvia & Lee Miller

Becky Howe
Georgia Howe & Skip Hewitt

Maureen Kelly & the Education Dept.
Bill & Kathy Kelly

Roz Kenworthy
Susan Robinson & Candace Widmer

Vally Kovary
Anonymous
Marsha Ackermann
Joan Barnes
Elizabeth Bixler & Betsy East

Jean & Carl Gortzig
Ann Hoffman & Brian Heltsley

Ruth & Roger Hopkins
Kathleen Hunt
Louise B. Kahn

Ingrid Kovary
Frances & Dexter Kozen

Catheryn Obern-Robinson & Richard Robinson
Gary Peters
John & Shelley Semmler

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Sue Perlgut
Judith Van Allen

Kate Potteiger & Steve Goggin
Sue Robinson & Candace Widmer

Kate Potteiger
Patricia Haugen
Carol True-Palmer & Glen Palmer

Elizabeth Reed
Jan & Janice Nigro

Susan Robinson
Ken Robinson & Becky

Karen Schantz
Jane Schantz & Peter Chwazik

Paula Sidle
Anonymous
Elizabeth Bixler & Betsy East

Ann Hoffman & Brian Heltsley
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W. Blair Jennings

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Anonymous

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Judith Rothenberg
Alvin & Dorothy Sellers

Rollin G. Bauer
Merry Jo Bauer

Alice Becker
Lisken & Jim Cordes

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Allison Dunlop
David Dunlop & Rebecca Hoefler

Jennie Farley
Donald Farley

Annette Fuhr
Marilyn Vogel

Laura Holmberg
Daryl Bem
Gladys Clark
Edythe Fulton
Susan & John Herbert

Fran Herman
Anna Holmberg
David Holmberg & Kathryn March

Betty Kassman

Lois D. King
John & Pat Gaines

Robert Leshner
Mary Welles Smith

Toni McBride
Margaret Shepard

Charlie McGrady
Brooks & Penni
Eldredge-Martin

Nedra Morrison
Brooks & Penni
Eldredge-Martin
Fred Jensen & Cheryl Pruett

Hertha Rockwell
Louise Richardson

Alan Sagan
David & Flora Sagan

Erin Schlather
Theresa Alt
Penny Chick & Rory Rothman

Bertha Schrock
Jan Kather

Carol Stull
Jeanne Goddard

Caring for Teens at PPSFL

How do PPSFL health care professionals approach the care of teens? Young people who are sexually active need the same information and resources that adults need, but they may have additional or different vulnerabilities.

Whether the visit includes cervical or testicular cancer screening, breast checks or STD screening, a young person's early experiences of health care can be daunting. At Planned Parenthood, we offer a non-judgmental environment in which young people can build the confidence that comes from participating in their own health care. By giving care, information and reassurance, we help to establish a foundation for future health care habits and choices.

The median age for first sexual intercourse in the U.S. is 17—half of us begin having sexual intercourse earlier and half later. For any of us, sex occurs on a continuum, from the love and pleasure we give each other freely, to power imbalances where consent is in question, to outright force. When the context is that of sexual experimentation or a stable relationship, sexual health care will prevent or mitigate some of the unwanted consequences of sex, putting us in greater control of our lives. When the context is exploitation, access to confidential sexual health care can

be a crucial first step to safety.

We always encourage minors who are sexually active to talk to their parents or to a trusted adult. When that presence is lacking in a young person's life, our staff are available to help sort out complex feelings and pressures and to provide the information we all need in order to make healthy decisions.

Young people learn that they can trust us. While we may sympathize with a parent who doesn't want her pregnant daughter to have a child, we will always support the decision of the teen, whether she chooses parenting, abortion or adoption. We are also here for the parents, helping them cope with their teen's pregnancy.

We are mandated reporters of child abuse, and we are also bound by New York State's strong confidentiality requirements. When teenagers walk through our doors, they are welcomed by an ethic of respect, acceptance and support, and cared for by professionals with the sensitivity and training to take effective action when abuse or exploitation is suspected. And when they walk out of our doors, they leave with a new sense of stewardship of their own body and spirit.

Stand Up For Choice!

We couldn't let President Bush's inauguration and the anniversary of Roe v. Wade pass without raising our voices! PPSFL joined Planned Parenthood's national Days of Action with two grassroots events in January. On Inauguration Day, volunteers dressed in hot pink "Stand Up for Choice" tee shirts, armed themselves with stickers and information about Bush's war on choice and cruised Ithaca's downtown bar scene with our pro-choice message. "I want to buy everyone in a pink shirt a drink!" was the favorite quote of the night.



Katie Van Benschoten (L) and Molly Bargar featured postcards against the global gag rule at their table in Moosewood Restaurant.

On the 32nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that recognized the right to choose, volunteers staffed information tables on four issues in four locations around Ithaca. Despite a blizzard, we stood up for CHOICE, stood up for SEX ED, stood up for MARRIAGE EQUALITY and stood up for INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING at Autumn Leaves, Greenstar, Borders and Moosewood. All venues made us feel welcome, but Borders was especially wonderful—announcing "Borders welcomes Planned Parenthood" with a sign a week in advance, and giving us a vase of flowers for the table! Our thanks to all of our fabulous volunteers and to these terrific businesses!



Freezing in the doorway at Greenstar Cooperative Market, Maren Olson (L) and Natasha Keller collected dozens of signatures in support of sex ed legislation.



At Borders Books in Ithaca, Cat Tague (L) and Kate Hollander asked visitors to sign a petition supporting the right of all Americans, including lesbian and gay couples, to marry.

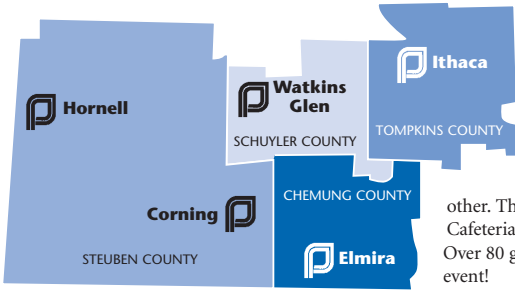


Linda Hoffmann (L) and JoAnne Miner staffed our Roe v. Wade table at Autumn Leaves Book Store.

Regional Updates

Steuben

We have extended hours in our Corning Health Center! Meeting the needs of our patients is always top priority for our staff, and to accommodate those needs PPSFL has new hours of operation in Corning. Monday we are open from 8 am to 7 pm; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 am to 6 pm, and Wednesday 12 noon to 7 pm.



Tompkins

PPSFL joined a coalition led by the AAUW to host a powerful day-long event for middle and high school girls in Ithaca. Each year, Sister2Sister brings girls together to learn, socialize and support one another. This year's theme was Crossing the Cafeteria: Fitting in and Being Yourself. Over 80 girls participated in the fabulous event!

Schuyler

Our sexuality educator for the Southern Tier has been busy facilitating programs on sexual and reproductive health in Watkins Glen and Odessa Montour High Schools. Students are sure to get honest and medically accurate answers from the education staff of PPSFL!

Chemung

We now offer extended hours in our Elmira Health Center! Patient numbers are soaring, so to meet demand the Elmira clinic now opens at 8 am every morning and stays open Monday and Wednesday until 7 pm. Wednesday will now offer a walk-in clinic for ALL patients, no longer just for teens.

Showing Support for RCST!

On February 25th, Rape Crisis of the Southern Tier (RCST) hosted its annual fundraiser, including a silent auction and performance of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*. The event was held at Fat Cats Jazz Club in Corning—and the atmosphere couldn't have been more electric! We raised over \$4,000, more than doubling our profits from last year.

The actors, many of whom came to us by way of a PPSFL action alert, were phenomenal! On stage were staff and volunteers raising their voices for our cause. We are also grateful to our steadfast RCST volunteers who solicited items from local businesses and family members for the very successful silent auction.

This was definitely the hot ticket for the night—the people just kept coming! We sold out, even adding 40 extra chairs. Rumor has it that people were leaving other events in order to come to ours. Our thanks go to the actors, volunteers and the generous and enthusiastic crowd!

Gorgeous "I ♥ My Vagina" tee shirts are available for \$15. If you'd like to purchase your very own, or get involved with next year's event, contact Jen at 796-0220, ext. 310. For more information on *The Vagina Monologues* visit www.vday.org.



PPSFL educator Linda Dentry and her daughter Emily performed "Because He Liked to Look at it" and "My Short Skirt" in *The Vagina Monologues* at Fat Cats Jazz Club.



PPSFL Board Co-Chairs Katie Thompson and Ian Harrop join former Congressman Amory Houghton and Scott Heyman, President/CEO following the Corning premiere of *Crossing Borders* in February. Screened at 171 Cedar Arts Center with over 70 community members in attendance, the documentary highlights sexual health and rights in Namibia through the lens of PPSFL's global partners exchange visit. At the event Congressman Houghton was honored for his global vision and his consistent and courageous support for international family planning. An Ithaca premiere in March drew close to 100 people.

How to contact us...

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Sexuality Education and Training

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(607) 216-0021

Horseheads
(607) 796-0220

Rape Crisis of the Southern Tier

Hotline
(888) 810-0093

Health Centers

Corning
(607) 962-4686

Elmira
(607) 734-3313

Hornell
(607) 324-1124

Ithaca
(607) 273-1513

Watkins Glen
(607) 734-3313



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JENNIFER BAUMGARDNER and AMY RICHARDS, co-authors of *Grassroots: A Field Guide to Feminist Activism*, are the keynote speakers at both of PPSFL's Annual Celebrations on May 10th!

Two Celebrations ONE GREAT DAY!

The time for PPSFL's Annual Celebrations has nearly arrived and planning is in full swing for our Luncheon in Corning and Signature Dessert Buffet in Ithaca.

Both events will feature third wave feminists and hard-working activists **Jennifer Baumgardner** and **Amy Richards**. Jen and Amy are co-authors of *Manifesta* and the newly-released *Grassroots: A Field Guide to Feminist Activism*. Their presentation will explore what it means to be pro-choice today: from the controversy over the "I Had An Abortion" tee shirts to emerging issues of reproductive technology, from Democrats courting anti-choice voters to Republican women mobilizing for abortion rights. At each event Jen and Amy will sign copies of *Grassroots*, which will be available for purchase.

These celebrations also provide a special time to honor two extraordinary people with the presentation of the Constance E. Cook and Sanger-Hepburn Awards for outstanding commitment to sexual and reproductive health. This year's "Connie" goes to **Joan Bechhofer**—a woman very dear to our hearts. Joan has

ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS!

May 10, 2005

Southern Tier Luncheon
Corning Museum of Glass, 11:45 AM
Admission \$30. Tickets required.

Tompkins County Signature Dessert Buffet
Cornell University Lab of Ornithology, 7:00 PM
Admission \$10. Reservations Requested.

For tickets or information contact Sara Shaut at
(607) 796-0220, ext. 301 or sara.shaut@ppfa.org.

been connected to Planned Parenthood for over 30 years, and as one colleague put it in her nomination letter, "...has *Planned Parenthood and the reproductive rights movement at the center of her soul.*" PPSFL is proud to honor Joan with this well-deserved award, which will be presented at the Ithaca evening event.

The honoree of the Sanger-Hepburn

award is just as inspiring – but according to our Southern Tier tradition will remain a secret until the name is revealed at the Corning luncheon!

Please mark your calendars for **May 10th**. Two great events will be held on the same day – one in Corning and one in Ithaca. Choose the event that best fits your schedule.



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