



SPRING  
2012

GET **connected**

IMPORTANT  
**DATES &  
EVENTS**

**March 26, 2012**  
*Celebrate Women*  
Newburgh, NY

**April 20, 2012**  
*Spring Soirée*  
Beacon, NY

**May 19, 2012**  
*A Night in Provence*  
Warwick, NY

For more information  
about upcoming events,  
please visit  
[www.ppmhv.org/events](http://www.ppmhv.org/events)

## Women's History Month

Every March we take time to recognize and celebrate women, past and present, who have made significant contributions to our world. This year's theme of Women's Education-Women's Empowerment couldn't come at a more appropriate time.

With the attacks we have seen on Planned Parenthood and women's health care over the past 16 months it is more important than ever to recognize, lift up and tell the story of women. Our supporters have made their voices heard LOUD and PROUD already this year, with amazing results. We thank you and hope that you will continue to stand with us as we anticipate more attacks will threaten the rights of the women, men and teens we serve every day.

## Religion Doesn't Belong in Health Care Reform

By now you have probably heard about the recently convened panel to discuss the ruling by President Obama that ensures women have access to birth control with

no co-pays, regardless of where they work. Not a single woman was allowed to speak in support of the new birth control benefit during that hearing. As a man and a religious leader I am outraged.

Providing access to birth control for those who want and need it with no co-pays is a great achievement for women's health. It saves lives, helps prevent unintended pregnancies, improves outcomes for children and reduces abortion.

As a member of the clergy, I respect the right of the individual to make decisions about their sexuality and reproductive health without governmental interference or legal restrictions. I value our nation's commitment to church-state separation and that is why religious doctrine does not belong in health care reform.

For many the balance between religious organizations and basic health care isn't good enough. Opponents want to reverse the ruling and at the same time convince the American public that this decision is about something it isn't. Politicians are using women's health as a political football and have every intention of keeping that ball in play.

Benefits shouldn't depend on who your employer is and what their beliefs are. Women may or may not subscribe to the religious tenets of the institution that employs them. What is under attack is the God-given Constitutionally-protected right for every woman to examine her own conscience, make reference and consult with her own faith (if they happen to be a person of faith) and make her own decisions. That right is at risk of being denied to millions of women.

This is simply a commonsense policy that increases access to affordable birth control, no matter where a person works. This benefit doesn't require anyone to dispense or use birth control. It's just not right for any employer to dictate whether its employees can or can't have access to affordable birth control, especially when it's basic health care. The bottom line is that this ruling is the right decision for women in this country.



Rev. Wm. Blake Rider  
Board Chair

*The Rev. William Blake Rider is the board chair of Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley and the rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie.*

# Reaching Out in the Latino Community

Through generous funding from The Patrino Foundation and The Ralph E. Ogden Foundation, Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley will collaborate with Latinos Unidos and Somos la Llave del Futuro to improve the health and welfare of underserved women and families in our growing Latino communities, primarily Newburgh, Monticello, Liberty and South Fallsburg.

This effort will create a better understanding of resources and options around sexuality and the importance of accessing reproductive health care services, provide support for Latino parents and caregivers to educate their children, and empower Latina women and girls to make healthy, informed decisions.



The National **Get Yourself Tested (GYT)** awareness campaign kicks off in April and encourages everyone to “know” their status. Planned Parenthood, MTV, The Kaiser Family Foundation and the CDC all partner on this annual campaign because as many as **1 in 2 people under the age of 25 will get a sexually transmitted infection and most won't know it.** Recent reports from the Department of Health indicate that chlamydia and gonorrhea rates are up more than 8% in New York. Planned Parenthood offers **low-cost testing** at all of our health centers and holds **free off-site HIV testing days** throughout our region. Get more information at [www.ppmhv.org](http://www.ppmhv.org) or [www.itsyoursexlife.org](http://www.itsyoursexlife.org).

## Protect Access to Reproductive Health Care for Future Generations

You can make a crucial difference in the ability of Planned Parenthood to provide reproductive health care in the mid-Hudson Valley. Remembering Planned Parenthood in your will, a trust, or through an annuity is one of the most meaningful gifts you can give future generations. **For more information, please contact Tricia O'Malley at [tricia.omalley@ppmhv.org](mailto:tricia.omalley@ppmhv.org) or call (845) 838-1200, ext 116.**



The Spring Soirée, formerly known as the Annual Gala, is set for **Friday, April 20, 2012** at Dutchess Manor in Beacon. This year we will **honor Congressman Maurice Hinchey** for more than 20 years of unwavering support of reproductive rights and accessible health care for all in our region. Special thanks to Michael Dupree and Michael Fleischer for their generosity and commitment as Underwriters of this event.

**For more information or to purchase tickets or sponsor the event, visit [www.ppmhv.org/events](http://www.ppmhv.org/events) or email [development@ppmhv.org](mailto:development@ppmhv.org).**

## Connect With Us in the Community!

April 4 Free HIV Testing, OCCC Newburgh  
April 4 Information Tabling, OCCC Middletown  
April 10 Free HIV Testing, UCCC  
April 10 Wellness Fair, SCCC  
April 11 Free HIV Testing, DCC & SCCC  
April 11 LGBTQ Circles Support Group, Kingston  
April 12 GYT Peer Street Outreach, Middletown  
April 17 LGBTQ Circles Support Group, Poughkeepsie

April 19 Women's Health Expo, Anthony's Pier 9  
April 27 LGBTQ Circles Prom  
May 1 Free HIV Testing, OCCC Newburgh  
May 2 Free HIV Testing, OCCC Middletown  
May 9 Free HIV Testing, DCC & SCCC  
May 9 LGBTQ Circles Support Group, Kingston  
May 15 LGBTQ Circles Support Group, Poughkeepsie  
May 19 Women's Health & Fitness Expo, Kingston

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