



# SPRING 2017

# GETconnected

## SAVE THE DATE

### Woodstock Benefit 2017

Sunday, June 4, 2017, 2:00pm  
Katie Goodman's Broad Comedy  
Bearsville Theatre, Woodstock, NY

### Millbrook Summer Benefit

Saturday, July 8, 2017  
Millbrook, NY

### RHINEBECK Benefit

Saturday, September 16, 2017  
Rhinebeck, NY

### Orange County Garden Party

Sunday, September 17, 2017  
Stagecoach Inn, Goshen, NY

Information for all our events is available at [ppmhv.org](http://ppmhv.org) (scroll down and click "special events"), or contact [Nicole.Royster@ppmhv.org](mailto:Nicole.Royster@ppmhv.org) or (845) 867-3365.

## Spring GALA



On Saturday April 29, over 200 supporters and friends joined President and CEO Ruth-Ellen Blodgett at our annual Spring Gala. Held at The Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home, this event is the kickoff to our 2017 fundraising efforts. We honored Steve White, former Co-President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley, and posthumously, Diana Gurieva, former CEO of Dyson Foundation, with the Lucy Cohan Humanitarian Awards for their dedication to and support of the advancement and protection of women's reproductive health and rights. Jada Harden was presented with the Lucille Pattison Young Leaders Award. An exemplary volunteer leader, Jada shares Lucille's passion for helping the most vulnerable populations and serving her community. For another year, the Gala was a sell-out, raising over \$396,000 to support our mission and programs.



Rob Dyson and Ruth-Ellen Blodgett



Joan Sherman and Health Center Escorts



Trish Prunty, Dick Strain, Phebe Banta, Ruth-Ellen Blodgett

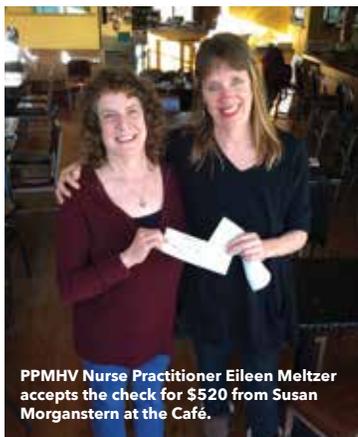
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Parenthood**  
Care. No matter what.

Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley

## Events and Gifts that Support PPMHV



PPMHV Nurse Practitioner Eileen Meltzer accepts the check for \$520 from Susan Morganstern at the Café.

Since the November 2016 election, supporters have organized numerous events that support PPMHV. Examples include benefit concerts at local colleges and local bars, an innovative coloring event at a local record store and donations from local businesses; even the Hudson Valley Broad's Regional Arm Wrestling League (BRAWL) got in on the fundraising! There have been more than 25 such events that have raised over

\$20,000! We are grateful for our community organizers and friends who choose to support our services and mission! Thank you!

The owners of the Rosendale Café donated half of their revenue earned on March 8, International Women's Day, to Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley. The Café is a small business, owned and mainly operated by women, and known for fundraisers and other events that benefit and support gender, racial, and economic equality. Discrimination is not on the menu!



Kenny Hauptman and his band performed in New Paltz and raised over \$500 for PPMHV. He presented the money to Amy Saehloff, Kingston Health Center manager.

## A Bequest For the Ages

Faith Haskell Tompkins, a longstanding member of the Millbrook community, passed away in 2016 in what was her 100th year. That year was also the 100th anniversary of Planned Parenthood. Among the many thoughtful and charitable things she did in her lifetime was to leave a meaningful gift to PPMHV.



Faith circa 1973. Always ahead of her time.

Granddaughter Quincey Imhoff states "Call it coincidence or providence that Faith's life matched the first century of such an important organization, an organization that supports women's rights for reproductive freedom and provides critical healthcare services on the local level to those who need it the most."

Quincey is determined to ensure that Faith's optimism, cheerfulness, independence and purpose be remembered and honored. As the 100th day of the current administration approached this past April, she rallied her friends and family to continue to support Faith's adventurous spirit, as well as the organization Faith supported, asking for donations in Faith's memory and to consider just what '100 years' means. This made Faith's gift, and those made in her memory, even more special!

## Kingston Health Center Patient Roundtable and the American HealthCare Act

We were thrilled to welcome Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, who attended a roundtable discussion intended to counter local congressional opposition to women's reproductive healthcare. Joined by President and CEO Ruth-Ellen Blodgett, three patients and our own Eileen Meltzer, a nurse practitioner, the personal stories of each were heard by the invited guests.

Provisions in the American Health Care Act – a Republican bill designed to supplant the Affordable Care Act, which is also known as Obamacare – attempt to defund Planned Parenthood, a move that Planned Parenthood supporters said could defund reproductive healthcare for 100,000 New Yorkers. Republican supporters of the American Health Care Act, including U.S. Rep. John Faso, R-Kinderhook, maintain a majority, posing a continued threat to reproductive rights.

"I am here, and really so excited, to get to hear first-hand, from our patients and our healthcare providers, and from you, Ruth-Ellen, about the important care we provide in New York State," Richards said. "Planned

Parenthood isn't the problem. Actually, Planned Parenthood is the solution."

In April, Congressional leaders garnered enough votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act and replace it with the American Health Care Act. Included is a provision to bar Planned Parenthood from billing Medicaid for the patients it serves. This is disastrous, as 60% of the patients served by PPMHV are covered by Medicaid. This bill now moves on to the Senate, where a 13 man panel (no women!) will review and revise it.

But that's just part of the fight we are facing. The president said on May 2nd in a Fox News interview that he will complete the defunding of Planned Parenthood at an "appropriate time." His comments came as a response to conservative concerns that the nearly \$1 trillion budget agreement recently passed continues to provide money for non-abortion-related services, such as cervical cancer screening, clinical breast exams and birth control offered by Planned Parenthood until September. After that, the very core of what we provide – prevention of unplanned pregnancies – will be threatened by lack of access to federal family planning programs.



## Congratulations to Lana Williams-Scott, Diversity Initiatives Manager

On April 19th 2017, Lana Williams-Scott, Diversity Initiatives Manager, received the Orange County Human Rights Award. In the absence of fellow Commissioner Christine Sadowski, Executive Director of YWCA Orange County, Pat Claiborne, OC Human Rights Commissioner and PPMHV Board Member, eloquently introduced Lana and told of her amazing work in Newburgh. Pat and fellow Commissioner Fred Cook, former PPMHV Board Chair/Member, spoke highly of Lana and the work of Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley in the communities we serve, to much applause.

According to Christine, "Lana credits her parents for instilling in her a value for community service. Growing up with them in Grenada, they involved her in their many volunteer projects and Lana knows this is how she developed her passion to give back and make a difference. And make a difference, she has – although Lana had an interesting entry into her current work. When her corporate travel job was being relocated and she decided she didn't want the longer commute, Lana had some divine intervention when Mother Deborah Dresser from St. George's in Newburgh referred her to Planned Parenthood. And despite her lack of direct experience in nonprofit or public health work, her nominator, Fran Fox-Pizzonia, realized Lana would be perfect for case management work and hired her to work with at-risk teen girls.



Pat Claiborne, Lana Williams-Scott, and Fred Cook

And that was obviously a great decision because Lana just wrote a recommendation for one of her very first clients to enter an MSW program at Adelphi University. Clearly, Lana is giving back and making a difference! And it's critically important to have people as dedicated as Lana making a difference at Planned Parenthood right now. Planned Parenthood is the FIRST and primary place that young women in lower socio-economic circumstances go for basic, necessary healthcare. We all hear the most about the service that is least provided at Planned Parenthood and it's easy to lose sight of the fact that they provide many, many critical health services to thousands of women every day. Thank goodness, they have women such as Lana to do that vital work! Fran Fox-Pizzonia said 'Lana is an exceptional role model to her colleagues, staff and community partners.' "

Of course, Lana, in her own elegant and direct manner, took her moment in the spotlight to bring attention to the critical work of Planned Parenthood and charged the attendees to **Stand with Planned Parenthood** now more than ever.

Lana, we are very proud of you and for all you do!



## Day of Action in Albany, NY

Over 150 PPMHV staff and supporters headed to Albany on Monday, January 30th to meet with legislators to secure #ReproRights at this critical time in our nation's history. Over 1,000 activists from across our state convened to hear Governor Andrew Cuomo, PPFA President Cecile Richards and local legislators stand up for and champion women's reproductive rights. It was amazing to see so many pink-scarved supporters in the halls of our state capitol building, visiting with legislators and speaking with other supporters. What an inspiring and exciting day!

## Dedication of Poughkeepsie Health Center Waiting Room

Bernice Regunberg was the very first executive director of Planned Parenthood Dutchess and Ulster Counties, the precursor to Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley. She was instrumental in setting up the Poughkeepsie Health Center, creating a warm, safe and inviting environment for women to receive quality reproductive healthcare. On June 9, we will dedicate the waiting room of the Poughkeepsie Health Center to Bernice to recognize her pioneering spirit and dedication to reproductive rights.

## Patients STAND WITH PPMHV

Don't take away our healthcare! Our patients are vocal and passionate about helping keep our doors open so quality, reproductive healthcare is available to those who need it in the mid-Hudson Valley. One grateful patient wrote:

*"Please accept the enclosed donation in honor of Vice President Mike Pence and send him an acknowledgement of my contribution. I want to add my voice to the millions of women who will not be silenced or made to sit on the back of the bus! Sincerely yours, A"*

## House Gatherings Raise Awareness and Money



Ruth-Ellen Blodgett at Carla & Julius Gude's House Gathering

In an attempt to share the most updated information with supporters, and to provide that information with new advocates after the election, we set up intimate house gatherings throughout our four counties. With Ruth-Ellen Blodgett sharing insider information to groups of 10 - 20 interested supporters and their friends, families and colleagues, these events have brought to PPMHV new donors, activists and funds. It's been wonderful to speak with over 300 concerned supporters.

## We Stand Together

PPMHV staff, friends and supporters took on Washington, New York City and the Hudson Valley at the Women's Marches, held on January 21. Along with millions of others around the world, our message was loud and clear: These Doors Stay Open!



## connect with us in the community!

- May 31** Poughkeepsie Healthy Black and Latino "Know Your Rights" Forum, POUGHKEEPSIE
- June 3** Newburgh Illuminated, NEWBURGH
- June 3** Springfield Baptist Church Health Fair, BEACON
- June 3** Stomp Out the Stigma Awareness Walk, Walkway over the Hudson, POUGHKEEPSIE

For further details: 845.838.1200 x103  
or [annette.marzan@ppmhv.org](mailto:annette.marzan@ppmhv.org)

- June 3** MVP Community Baby Shower, YMCA, KINGSTON
- June 4** Hudson Valley Pride Festival & March, NEW PALTZ
- June 17** Mid-town Make a Difference Day, KINGSTON
- June 27** National HIV Testing Day, NEWBURGH & POUGHKEEPSIE
- August 6** La Guelaguetza Festival, POUGHKEEPSIE