



WOODHULL INSTITUTE LEADER

SPRING 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

News

by Cheryl Quintana Leader
Page 1

Letter from the Editor

Page 2

Snapshots

Woodhull Books

by Kimberlee Auerbach
Page 2

Seeds of Change

by Marilyn Rincon
Page 2

Faculty Tips

PAGE 3

Woodhull Transitions

PAGE 3

Emerging Local Leaders

Helen Wanjiku in Nairobi

by Sara Wolcott
PAGE 4

Practicing:

Tauheedah Jabaar

by Brooke Linville
PAGE 4

Mentor Connection

by Courtney E. Martin
PAGE 5

Calendar

PAGE 5

Aha! Moment

PAGE 6

Compassionate Leadership

New Profit, Inc.

by Sophia Rosa
PAGE 6

Celebrating our Achievements

PAGE 6

Column of Abundance

by Jennifer Gandin Le
PAGE 7

"Ms. President"

by Cheryl Quintana Leader
PAGE 7

Woodhull News

by Cheryl Quintana Leader

FOURTH ANNUAL SHINING STAR SHOWCASE

In notable support of our Alumnae Talent, Woodhull presented its Fourth Annual "Shining Star Showcase" on April 26th at Mo Pitkins, an eclectic club in the East Village of New York City. On stage, in the bright hot spotlights were singer Heather Brown (Woodhull 48), comic Karith Foster (Woodhull 46), opera singer Erin Tompkins (Woodhull 43), multi-disciplinary artist Melissa Ulto (Woodhull 17), actress Jessica Ryan (Woodhull 51), dancer Amisha Upadhyaya (Woodhull 54), and documentary filmmaker Liz Topp (Woodhull 43). The evening's emcee was comic Leighann Lord (Woodhull 53).

Once a year, Woodhull invites VIP & sponsorship ticket-holders to attend an opening reception to showcase our extensive and diverse Alumnae Talent. This opportunity affords most of the performers live exposure, press coverage, and the experience of performing in front of an encouraging audience.

An array of raffle prizes were given away for all enthusiastic attendees. Indeed, a spectacular time was had by all!

If you're interested in performing next year, or want to contact any of our talented

alumnae, please contact the Woodhull office.

Shining Stars Online:

Karith Foster:
www.karith.com

Melissa Ulto:
www.muldo.com

Leighann Lord:
www.VeryFunnyLady.com

Jessica Ryan:
www.musecube.com/JessicaRyan/

WOODHULL ENTERS THE BLOGSPHERE

The Outreach Committee is excited to announce the creation of a Woodhull Blog — an on-line, interactive community magazine featuring the input of alumnae, fellows, and board members. "It's an e-salon," says Executive Director Wende Jager-Hyman, "in the old sense of the French salon where people can go and engage in real intellectual conversation, where they can exchange ideas in an atmosphere of respect."

Melissa Ulto (Woodhull 17) has been instrumental in moving this project forward. "What we hope to do is basically host articles, updates, images, audio, and video pertaining to Woodhull," she says.

Once the blog is up and running, Woodhull alumnae will be given instructions on how to participate and contribute to this virtual community. "We seek to achieve a format to get information out to

other WI Alums and allow for chapters to maximize the alum's ability to communicate with each other. Think Huffington Post, only with a select design, more multimedia and true community interactivity," says Ulto.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in Woodhull's Blog, feel free to contact the Woodhull Office at wjagerhyman@woodhull.org.

COMING SOON... A WOODHULL CHAPTER NEAR YOU!

In bloom this spring are several Woodhull Alumnae Chapters offering diverse opportunities through personal and professional development seminars and social events. These networking, career building and mentoring chapters are sprouting up in major U.S. metropolitan cities such as Atlanta, Chicago, Miami, New York, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Woodhull's mission with these chapters is to enrich and serve alumnae in their continuing role as women leaders within their local communities, as well as further connecting them to the Woodhull Institute and its ongoing efforts to promote valued principles.

For more information, to become involved or plant one in your city, contact Suzanne Grossman at sgrossman@woodhull.org.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Appropriately enough, the theme of this June's issue is growth! In an exciting new move, Woodhull is establishing local chapters in several U.S. cities, like D.C and Atlanta. Details are still in the works, so watch the website and these pages for more information.

As our community expands, so does the Woodhull Institute Leader. This issue introduces a new column called "Emerging Local Leaders," where Woodhull writers profile local women to watch. This is where you'll meet future newsmakers to keep an eye on – no doubt they'll be national leaders before too long!

The Publications Committee itself has also grown. We welcome our three newest members: Brooke Linville, Sophie Rosa, and our new Layout Coordinator, Chaya Kornreich. We've also created a group of freelance writers whose bylines will appear in most issues. These new women, along with our talented established Woodhull writers, will help us bring you the best Woodhull news from across the country and the globe!

From the Publications Committee and myself, we wish you an invigorating summer!

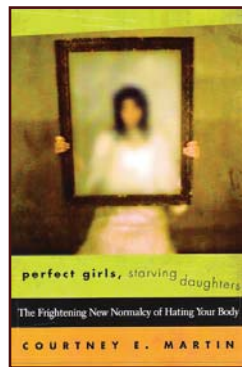
Warmly,
Jennifer Gandin Le, Editor
jgandin@woodhull.org



SNAPSHOTS:

Courtney E. Martin's (Woodhull 9) Book Party

by Kimberlee Auerbach



Wednesday,
April 18, 2007

I walked into Lolita Bar on the Lower East Side in New York City, holding a tray of artichoke dip for Courtney E. Martin's *Perfect Girls, Starving Daughters* book party. It was 7:15 p.m. and the bar was already packed, the Mac-n-Cheese half eaten. I placed my tray down, ordered a mojito and made my way to the back where Courtney was surrounded, in true rock star fashion, by a gaggle of fans and friends. I hugged her and told her she was glowing. She made a joke that Fox News, where she had been interviewed earlier that day, had "airbrushed her." When I congratulated her parents, they told me, "Courtney has always been her own person. We just got out of the way." I wanted to cry. If only more parents raised their children like that.



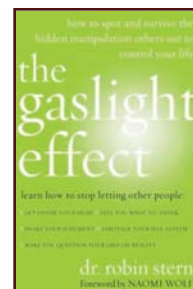
Around 8 p.m., after people had had their fill of cupcakes and cookies, Courtney jumped onto a ledge in the windowsill, dressed in a sweet, brown, floral dress and started to read from her book. I heard gasps, laughs. I saw hands on chests and tears in eyes. Her voice exploded with excitement when she came to her conclusion:

"A spindly little animal of a girl made entirely of bone and muscle

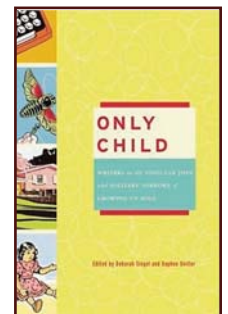
jumps off the picnic table with her arms splayed out from her sides in the shape of wings and shouts, 'In the future, there will be flying cars! In the future we will all be beautiful.'"

In that moment, I had hope. I had hope for women everywhere.

To buy Courtney's book and others by Woodhull Fellows, visit <http://www.woodhull.org/libraryReference.php>



Also out: *The Gaslight Effect* by Woodhull Board Member Dr. Robin Stern, and *Only Child* by Daphne Uviller



(Woodhull 31) and Woodhull Fellow Deborah Siegel. Congratulations to our wonderful new authors!

Seeds of Change

My fellow retreatants sat in silence as I nervously read each word loudly and clearly. We were sitting in a free-form circular shape in the main room at the Woodhull house. I had read the words aloud before, but I was still anxious. Occasionally, I would glance up and see that these women were listening alertly and respectfully. Afterward, one of the ladies said to me: "You're writing a novel!" This made me much more anxious than reading aloud, but excitement and enthusiasm surged through me as I realized that I was indeed writing a novel. Since then, I have written 200 pages.

— Marilyn Rincon (Woodhull 51)

WOODHULL TRANSITIONS

NEW PROGRAM STAFF

Suzanne Grossman (Woodhull 38) has joined the Woodhull staff as Director of Programs and Alumnae Relations. Suzanne comes to us after completing a two-year fellowship position for the Leadership Scholars Program at the Institute for Women's Leadership at Rutgers University. She is a Woodhull alum, a co-founder of the Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls, and a 2006 Real Hot 100 woman. With a BA in Psychology and a MA in Women's and Gender Studies, Suzanne offers a solid background to direct Woodhull's programs for women and mentor alumnae.



Suzanne Grossman, Julie Gomstyn, and Dragica Mikavica.

NEW INTERNS

This spring, Woodhull welcomed some fresh, new faces to the office. We would like to thank Ansley Davenport from Sarah Lawrence College and Julie Gomstyn from Tufts University. Ansley and Julie helped out this Spring with Woodhull's special events and retreat outreach. Also a big thank you goes out to Dragica Mikavica, a recent graduate of Cornell University. Dragica was previously interning at Woodhull and has since landed a job through a Woodhull alumna, Charlotte De Lucia, at the non-profit Project Renewal. Like a true member of our community, that doesn't keep her from still volunteering from time to time, and we are grateful for her commitment and her work.

Woodhull is building its internship program so if you know of a young woman looking to learn about the non-profit world, send them our way!

SPRING TIPS FROM WOODHULL FACULTY

Helping you remember the Woodhull way

No matter who is giving you advice, even those coming from the best of intentions, recognize it is only their subjective reality of your situation. Trust your voice. It is your truth. Your authentic self is the most well-informed!
CHERI ANISMAN (Woodhull Fellow; Retreat Facilitator)

Remember before you go into a salary negotiation to list all of the things that you have done to contribute to the bottom line of the company. Also outline your vision for how you can move forward to improve the results that you are achieving. Don't be modest!

WENDE JAGER-HYMAN (Executive Director, Negotiation Instructor)

Delay big decisions during periods of stress. You want to think clearly when faced with a decision that will seriously impact your life. Stress interferes with clear thinking. However, if the stress is ongoing, there may be something about your daily life like your relationship or your job that needs changing. Get away, even for a weekend, to clear some psychological space.

ROBIN STERN (Woodhull Fellow; Retreat Facilitator)

Are you missing the vitality that comes from eating high quality locally raised vegetables? One way to fill in the vitality gap is by learning to sprout seeds and grains. My favorites are lentil, green peas, red clover, al-

falfa, mung beans, aduki beans, and fenugreek. Soak them, drain and rinse, and keep them in a dark place. Rinse daily until fully spouted, green up in a sunny window, and enjoy home grown super foods. The daily task of remembering to rinse keeps us mindful and involved with "producing" our own healthy food. It's inexpensive, no cooking is needed, and it's very convenient. You can eat them as snacks, sprinkle on salads or on top of pasta dishes. As I used to say to my kids when I gave them a fresh pea or a bean from my garden, "Here, life to life." Enjoy!

KAREN KISSLINGER (Meditation Instructor)

EMERGING LOCAL LEADERS: HELEN WANJIKU: NAIROBI, KENYA

By: Sara Wolcott

Helen Wanjiku regularly shocks professionals in media and politics alike. The fashionable, suave 24-year-old is an accomplished actress, documentary film producer, and environmental activist. Her biggest claim to fame is her instrumental role in creating KOCH FM, the first-ever community radio station run by and for the young people of the Korogocho slums in Nairobi, Kenya – one of the few places in East Africa where young women and men have a voice.

“I’ve been interviewed so many times since I started the radio station, and people are always amazed that I, a young woman, could do something like this. People think that if you are a woman you can’t do anything and if you grow up in the slums you have to be poor. But that’s not true,” Wanjiku says.

Wanjiku attributes her success to sev-

eral things, including an aunt who stepped into her life when she was a teenager and paid for her school fees, allowing her to finish secondary school. Later, she played the lead role in *A Cry for Our Right* at the National Theater, which changed her perspective on her home.

“Before that play, I never wanted to go back to the slums. I hated it,” Wanjiku recalls. “But that play was about a woman who chose to go back to where she came from and really made a difference in her community. I realized I was running away from reality. I decided to go back. Now, I know that I want to empower the people in Korogocho.”

KOCH FM is doing just that. One of only two community radio stations in Kenya, it was created by six young people with almost no previous experience in radio. Their great love for their community led them to create the station as a way

to empower and transform its people.

Wanjiku currently hosts a show called “Strength of a Woman” which she loves because she can say “whatever I want – within governmental regulations!” She’s trying to find new ways to educate her community about environmental degradation and the importance of planting trees. She counts among her circle of friends Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Matthai and has recently returned from Norway, where she talked with the Norwegian Church about how climate change is already changing the face of Kenya.

There is little doubt that this dynamic young woman shall go far – and that she shall take her community with her.

When asked what she wanted to say to women in America, she paused, and then said, “If you are empowered, then educate others. Let us have a world where women can speak for themselves.”

EVOLVING INTO HER POWER

Spotlight on Tauheedah Jabaar, Woodhull Alumna
by Brooke Linville

“To be mindful of practicing honesty, compassion, and courage.”

Tauheedah Jabaar (Woodhull 43) knows what courage feels like. As a domestic violence survivor, she managed to successfully remove herself and her nine children from a household of abuse and move them to Peoria, Arizona, with 53 cents to her name. She and her children still reside there



today. Jabaar grew up on the north side of Chicago and had her first child at fourteen. With the support of her parents, she was able to graduate ahead of her class. In her early adult life, Jabaar endured many hardships, including verbal and physical abuse.

And, with the power of a Woodhull Woman, she has evolved into an advocate and now courageously speaks out against domestic violence to protect others from enduring the same hardships.

Her advocacy started as a poem based on her own experiences, written shortly after she moved to Arizona. It then became a song, “Don’t Hurt My Children,” which she performed this year at the Arizona State Capitol on Valentine’s Day as part of an annual event hosted by the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Her youngest daughter, a senior in high school, performed with her. At the event, she also learned that she had won the Courage of Conviction Award from the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence following a nomination by her son Omar. In his nomination letter, he spoke of the strength of his mother and how she had fought to keep her family of nine together.

She attributes some of her courage to Woodhull. According to Jabaar, attending the Dove-sponsored Woodhull



retreat in Phoenix allowed her to “say her name” with confidence and advocate for others. The most important lesson Jabaar has learned from Woodhull, and what she says is her biggest advice to others, is “don’t be afraid to ask for help.” She says that in her 30s and 40s she knew she deserved a better life, she just didn’t know how to get there.

Now, Jabaar is closer to that life. She sees a difference in how others receive her. “Before I thought that other people felt sorry for victims of domestic violence. But now I think that they see that we are fighting,” she says.

In addition to her advocacy against domestic violence, Jabaar also works as a teen coordinator at the Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, is a Mary Kay consultant, and is an in-home caregiver for a senior citizen.

Jabaar’s last name literally means “strong and powerful.” Before, it was just a name. But now, says Jabaar, “I have evolved into it.”

Mentor Connection: New Woodhull Retreat Addresses Post-College Transition

by Courtney E. Martin

You can probably remember the related feeling that you experienced as you walked across that stage, shook the hand of your college's president, and grabbed your long-anticipated diploma. But let's be honest, it is probably even easier to conjure up the panic and confusion afterwards—tuition debt, broker's fees, Monster.com, and taxes.

Thanks to Suzanne Grossman's ingenuity, Woodhull is swooping in to ease that transition. April 13-15 young women experienced the first "Oops, I Graduated! A Weekend Retreat for College Women and New Graduates To Prepare for What's Next" retreat—an experience designed to build on Woodhull's existing curriculum and offer customized advice on things like resume writing, interviewing, networking, and mentorship for those just entering the "real world."

Grossman had done similar projects as part of a women's leadership program at Rutgers and for the Association of American University Women, and thought the idea was symbiotic with Woodhull's mission. She also drew from her own past for inspiration: "I had my own personal experience of graduating from college being one of the most difficult times of my life. You're not really given support in the university system. Sure there is an office of career services, but there are a lot other challenges you encounter looking for a job."

Grossman, of course, is referring to the inevitable range of post-college hurdles—finding an apartment, negotiating a salary and benefits, paying off debt, finding a new community of friends and keep-

ing in touch with old ones, navigating romantic relationships, and dealing with the existential stumper: is this really what I want to be doing with my life? A long list of books on the "quarter-life crisis"—including *Generation What? I Was a World-Class Drug User and other Essays on the Quarter-Life Crisis* out on Speck Press this month—speak to these struggles as well.

Woodhull's own Dr. Robin Stern explains, "Sometimes there is so much disparity between what young women are told to expect and what actually happens that they get disillusioned."

Woodhull has battled this disillusion for the past few years through dedicated retreats for specific colleges, but this was the first time students from a range of institutions had an opportunity to be together. Participants, including three Woodhull interns, came from Oberlin,



Tufts, Sarah Lawrence, the University of Rhode Island, Barnard, Pace, SUNY New Paltz John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City College of New York, Cornell

University and the University of Maryland.

Grossman, aware of the financial constraints of the average college student (\$16,000 in debt, according to Money), worked with each participant to help them find funding.

All participants left not just with new skills and a built-in community with whom to weather the transition, but a piece of paper with the contact info of a mentor from the Woodhull community willing to give them an informational interview and some insight.

Grossman hopes that this pilot will be just the beginning, for both Woodhull's foray into transitional programming and for these brilliant, young women.

CALENDAR

Woodhull also continues its ongoing ethical leadership retreats and topical classes in New York and San Francisco. Please visit woodhull.org to view the current program calendar.

2007 YOUNG WOMEN'S ETHICAL LEADERSHIP RETREATS:

June 15-17,

Ancramdale, NY

(Intergenerational Retreat)

July 11-15, (5-day retreat)

Ancramdale, NY

October 19-21,

Ancramdale, NY

April 20-22,

San Francisco, CA

September 7-9,

San Francisco, CA

Women's Ethical Leadership Retreat

June 15-17,

Ancramdale, NY

(Intergenerational Retreat)

November 9-11,

Ancramdale, NY

Writers' Retreat

Raise Your Voices:

An Intensive Nonfiction Seminar for Women

May 18-20, Ancramdale, NY

(FULL, wait list only)

June 1-3, Ancramdale, NY

(FULL, wait list only)

Topical Seminars / Classes

Opinion Writing (How to Write to Change the World)

Instructor: Catherine Orenstein

June 10, One-day seminar, New York, NY

★ Celebrating Our Achievements ★

Edited by Tara Bracco

★ I attended my Woodhull retreat in the middle of a frustrating job search. I'm happy to report that I landed a job in December as a producer for original news and features content at yahoo.com.

JAMIE RUBIN (Woodhull San Diego)

★ On February 14, I was awarded the annual Courage of Conviction Award presented by the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence for my fight to advocate, lead, educate, and collaborate to end Domestic Violence in Arizona.

TAUHEDAH JABAAR (Woodhull Phoenix)

★ I am now the co-chair for the Community Advisory Board for the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies.

ALIX LUTNICK (Woodhull 37)

★ I gave birth to a baby girl, Zadie Mikaela Tassi on February 26th.

ALMA BUNE (Woodhull 52)

★ I was awarded the Set the Message Straight Award from ChoiceUSA.

COURTNEY E. MARTIN (Woodhull 9)

★ In October I was promoted to the newly created position of Executive Director of Business Technology at Ziff Davis Media.

BECKY KATZMAN (Woodhull 4)

★ I increased revenue for Francis Financial by more than 300% in 2006! We are up to even better things for 2007!

STACY FRANCIS (Woodhull 7)

★ My daughter, Felonica Grace, was born on November 24th, 2006, and is an amazing miracle. I got married in August and we are now a family. Felonica is a tribute to my Grandmother who passed away last year; the name is the town in Italy where she was born.

DR. KAREN KIRKHAM LORDI (Special Woodhull/Kristin Linklater Workshop)

★ Some friends and I started our own Winter Theater Company. Our first

show, which we wrote, was a hit and we made enough money to fund the next one.

JESSICA RYAN (Woodhull 51)

★ I am in the process of changing my career from Graphic Design to Jewelry Design. I just got a nice write up on Clothes-Pin

(<http://clothespin.blogspot.com/2007/02/uselessmachines.html>) and have work up at ninadinoff.etsy.com!

NINA DINOFF (Woodhull 33)

★ I am in a commercial for ESPN News, and I was invited to be a featured performer in the Winnipeg Comedy Festival!

LEIGHANN LORD (Woodhull 53)

★ I landed a great job! I'm now Senior Director, Planning and Operations with Girls Educational and Mentoring Services. I've also joined the blogosphere. Visit my new blog at <http://whatsgoodforgirls.blogspot.com/>

PATTI BINDER (Woodhull 53)

Compassionate Leadership:

Profiles of Ethical Corporations

Vanessa Kirsch,

President and Founder of New Profit Inc.

by Sophie Rosa

In an ongoing effort to bridge the gap between wealth and poverty in America, New Profit Inc., a national venture philanthropy fund, pairs social entrepreneurs with dedicated philanthropists to unite their efforts, maximize their impact, and create long-term social change. New Profit Inc. offers timely and practical services relevant to performance-based grant, coaching, strategic planning and management techniques, which are indispensable when tackling some of the most pressing social problems in America and worldwide.

Vanessa Kirsch founded New Profit Inc. after an enlightening trip around the world in 1995. She wanted to use her passion and skills to develop innovative solutions to social problems. Kirsch has been hailed by *Newsweek* and *U.S. News*



Photo by: Neil Fitzgerald

& *World Report* as a leader of her generation, by *Forbes* as one of fifteen innovators who will reinvent the future, and by *Harper's Bazaar* as one of 30 young women to be leaders in the 21st century. She was also selected as one of the World Economic Forum's Global Leaders for Tomorrow (GLT) for 2003.

Vanessa lives with her husband and daughter in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. A long-time activist and entrepreneur, Vanessa also founded and led Public Allies, a national youth service organization, and the Women's Information Network, which provided a political gateway to young women along with support and training. Through her work with New Profit Inc, Vanessa surrounds herself with devoted and visionary social change leaders striving to recognize and support the entrepreneurs and philanthropists most likely to change the world.

For more information, visit: <http://www.newprofit.com/>
Help Woodhull highlight the ethical corporations in the world! E-mail our editor with suggestions for future spotlights at jgandin@woodhull.org.

AHA! Moments

I found myself coaching a male friend, insisting he had to ask adequate compensation for his work. I explained to him the negotiation module I did at Woodhull. He was eventually convinced and asked the publisher for a fee worthy of his experience. Thanks to Woodhull, people outside our community are being empowered too!

Sushma Joshi (Woodhull 7)

Inspired by the line in Woodhull's credo: "to take the risk of communicating honestly," and a book called *Radical Honesty*, my friend and I decided to have a "radically honest friendship," being truthful with each other about what we did, felt, and thought—all the time. Honesty is now second nature to both of us, even when (especially when) it is hard.

Mari Christie (Woodhull 5)

Column of Abundance

edited by Jennifer Gandin Le

Thank you to **Wende** for your support with board development with Girls Write Now.

You said at the retreat to just pick up the phone if we needed something and you would help. I picked up the phone and you did! Thanks so much! - **Patti Binder** (Woodhull 53)

Thank you to **Jacquette Timmons** for savvy business advice and divine connecting.

- **Deborah Siegel** (Woodhull Fellow)

Thank you to **Mahima Joishy** for introducing me to Woodhull, sending me inspirational feminist advice and suggestions, and helping me to find a lawyer and a job when I needed it most. You've touched me

with your generosity and been a wonderful role model. - **Sushma Joshi** (Woodhull 7)

Thank you to **Allison Kimmich, Suzanne Grossman, Deborah Siegel, Kristen Pipes,** and **Ingrid Dahl** for their mentorship and support of my continuing job search.

- **Elizabeth M. Curtis** (Woodhull 51)

To be grateful for what others have done for you.

Thank you to **Wende Jager-Hyman** and **Beth Greenberg** for friendly encouragement and advice on networking in the professional Opera industry. - **Erin Tompkins** (Woodhull 43)

Thank you to **Kesha Clinkscale** for helping me land an interview with a nonprofit that has been ignoring my resume for years.

- **Mari Christie** (Woodhull 5)

Thank you to **Deborah Siegel** and **Daphne Uviller** for generously sharing your anthology expertise with us as we wrote our proposal. - **Jennifer Gandin Le** (Woodhull 18) and **Courtney E. Martin** (Woodhull 9)

Thank you to **Suzanne Grossman** for always connecting me with great resources, our brainstorming sessions, and for being all-around awesome. - **Patti Binder** (Woodhull 53)

Thank you to **Samarra Mbenga** for helping me remember how to dance to financial freedom. - **Heather Scheiwe** (Woodhull 46)

"MS." PRESIDENT?

Part I of a two-part series

by Cheryl Quintana Leader

With the 44th Presidential Election on the 2008 horizon, I sought to explore a brief "herstory" of our candidates of female lineage, in hopes of understanding why it is that America has never elected a woman as the leader of our free and democratic world.

In the course of 132 years (1872-2004), 21 women presented themselves as U.S. Presidential candidates. Of those, only 15 sought major party nominations. No matter how impressive, determined, or qualified they might have been, not one was ever considered a serious contender for a major party nomination, much less a winner of a national Presidential election.

Yet, even further in our "herstory," there had always been female rulers. Egyptian Queens are believed to have governed from 3000 BCE, the first being **Ku-baba**, who ruled the Mesopotamian City-State of Ur in 2500 BCE.

Not until after World War I did the first few women become members of governments that were not associated with direct birthrights or monarchies. **Nina Bang**, Danish Minister of Education (1924-26), was the world's first full female cabinet minister. Then, in 1960, **Sirivamo Bandaranaike** (Sri Lanka) became the world's first female elected Premier Minister. And, in 1974, **Isabel Perón** (Argentina) became the First Woman President.

Exponentially behind the times, the U.S. has yet to elect a female President. While Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** has announced her 2008 Presidential bid, she is only one of many before her who have thrown their hats in the ring – in that elusive

quest to become "the First."

The first two women who made active bids did so as feminists under a banner of equal rights, which sent a message still relevant a full century later. In 1872, our organization's namesake, **Victoria Claflin Woodhull**, was the first woman to run for



U.S. President. In the Equal Rights Party, she championed diverse causes such as women's suffrage, free love, and the Greenback movement. The Party also nominated Frederick Douglass as Vice President for the 1872 ticket; historical documents are unclear whether Douglass declined or simply did not acknowledge the nomination. This nomination could be a curious parallel should Clinton ask Obama to join her ticket. Undaunted by her loss, Woodhull ran again in 1892. In 1884 and 1888, **Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood** became the nominee of the same party, with Marietta Lizzie Bell Stowe as her Vice President.

Since then, many other key U.S. female Presidential candidates have stepped up: In 1964, **Margaret Chase Smith**, the first woman nominated by a major party, received 27 RNC votes.

Democratic Congresswoman **Shirley Chisholm** was the first American woman of African descent to be elected to Congress in 1968, and run for President in 1972.

Patsy Takemoto Mink (Democrat) was the first American woman of Asian descent to serve in Congress; she ran as an anti-war candidate in 1972's Oregon Primary.

Ellen McCormack (Democrat) ran in 1976 and 1980, becoming the first woman to qualify for federal campaign matching funds and Secret Service protection.

Sonia Johnson ran on the Citizen's Party ticket in 1984 winning over 70,000 votes.

In 1988, **Patricia Scott Schroeder** (Democrat) was an anti-Vietnam war protester who made headlines but could not raise enough funds to run. She later founded and co-chaired the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

American New Alliance Party candidate, **Dr. Lenora Branch Fulani**, ran as an Independent with Vice President Elizabeth Muñoz in 1988 and 1992. She was the first American of African descent to qualify for federal matching funds and to get on the ballot in all 50 states.

Elizabeth Hanford Dole (Republican) dropped out in her 2000 nomination to serve instead in the U.S. Senate as appointed Secretary of Labor.

Ambassador **Carol Moseley Braun** was among ten Democrats seeking the 2004 nomination, and is the first — and, so far, only — American of African descent to serve in the U.S. Senate.

In 2007, Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** (Democrat) has become the first First Lady to be a Presidential candidate, and the first First Lady to have been elected and re-elected to the U.S. Senate in 2000 and 2006.

Part II will further explore the reasons why the U.S. has not elected a President of female lineage and what other countries have fully supported and embraced high-ranking women leaders.

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Woodhull Institute Leader is a free publication of the Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership. For more information, contact us by phone: (646) 495-6060 or e-mail: info@woodhull.org. Jennifer Gandin Le (jgandin@woodhull.org) is the editor.

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