Remembering the roots of our rights

Dear ,

For many, feminism is a history lesson, settled business, a done deal. And we can now go about the business of leading productive - and equal - lives. Sadly, that is not the case - not here in the US and certainly not for our sisters around the world.

This fall, I have had an exceptional opportunity to be reminded of the roots of our rights and our inherent belief that women everywhere are entitled to the same opportunities for self-sufficiency that we enjoy. I visited the birthplace of the modern feminist movement in Seneca, NY, during a tour of Northeast chapters, and had the pleasure of spending an evening with Gloria Steinem, an icon of feminism.

Our battles - here and globally - are far from settled business and it’s an honor to see this organization striding forward into the fray. Read the full blog post

Marsha

Support our efforts through 13th Month

Once a year, we ask you to turn your attention inward. All year, the efforts you make possible help women build better futures. But to continue these efforts, we must have a vibrant 13th Month campaign with 100 percent participation from our members.

Won’t you join us. If you have already made a gift, we thank you. If not, we hope you’ll take a minute to click on this big blue button ...

... and make a donation. You can increase the impact of your gift by finding out if your employer has a matching contribution program.

Support DFW through the 13th Month campaign
ASSET in Uganda: November’s featured program
Three things you need to know about ASSET
Rubia: The November sustained program
Girl Rising screening top ticket for Ohio fundraiser
Founder of Maasai Girls Education Fund remembered
Volunteer opportunities
View our Day of the Girl presentation on demand

Barbara Lee Shaw
1943-2013

The passing of Barbara Shaw, founder of the Maasai Girls Education Fund, is very sad for Dining for Women. Marsha Wallace recalls her introduction to MGEF during a 2010 trip to Kenya. “I was absolutely captivated by the program and by Barbara’s passion.” Following the trip, the relationship deepened and Barbara brought a Maasai student to the US for a visit. During her stay they
It's a big goal and we have a ways to go to reach it. But we know you will give us a hand up - as you do for our programs around the world every month. Watch for our series of posters - like this one - we'll be rolling out through the remainder of the year to remind all of us of the impact of our efforts.

“My parents are subsistence farmers and I could only dream about attending university... I am so grateful for all the support ASSET has given me, including the mentorship and leadership training. I know that one day I will become someone very important in economics, so that one day I’ll also be able to support someone else out there.”

- Monica, ASSET scholarship recipient

In Uganda, women face disproportionately higher levels of poverty and illiteracy, resulting in fewer opportunities for economic advancement than men. While Uganda has a universal free education system for primary through secondary school, university enrollment levels remain low, especially for women. This is partly because of widespread poverty but even when resources exist within a family, males are often given the chance for an education while women work at home.

ASSET's Women in Higher Education program recruits and supports young Ugandan women to attend universities. It partners with communities and universities to select, enroll, and support promising women to complete higher education. Students are selected because they have supportive parents and have shown educational and leadership promise.

Dining for Women’s $45,000 two-year grant will provide scholarships, leadership training and mentoring for 20 promising young women.

Three things
(you need to know about ASSET)

ASSET's results are
Program has a double
Delicacy or Disgusting?

Visited Greenville and stayed with Marsha for the weekend.

Many of our members - like Marsha - have been personally touched by Barbara; others in the Dining for Women community have been touched by the program she founded. Just a few weeks ago, MGEF joined us in a special presentation celebrating International Day of the Girl.

DFW is broken hearted at this sad news which is not just a loss for Barbara’s family but a loss for the world. She was a remarkable person who leaves a lasting legacy.

Volunteers Needed

A lot of good publicity, visible impact and word of mouth is helping bring more and more new members and chapters to DFW.

That’s exciting, but it also means we need mentors! We have mentor needs in most states to help these chapters get up and running as quickly as possible. Please visit our new Volunteers page and see if there’s an opportunity you want to apply for. Learn More

Day of the Girl Hangout online

International Day of the Girl: What Works in Girls’ Education

If you missed our first Google Hangout, no worries. It’s available on-demand on YouTube. We had an extremely informative program with our guests the Maasai Girls Education Fund, Starfish One by One and the Nepal Youth Foundation. We thank them all for participating. Look for us to be doing a lot more of this kind of thing in 2014!
Although the program is new and the numbers small, the evidence shows the program is off to a great start.

Among the 18 students who have attended, 15 of them have an attendance rate of 98 percent and no one has dropped to less than 95 percent. The students have all maintained a GPA over 3.2 and among 15 graduates, 12 have found positions and three are working in internships.

So far, ASSET has supported its goal of sending young women to college by selling Ugandan jewelry. This has created a positive spinoff from the program by identifying and cultivating a community of artisans who created beaded jewelry from recycled paper. The Bead 2 Read program provides another positive impact program for Ugandan women helping them generate income, develop their skills and support their families.

OK, admittedly, this is a bit off the beaten path for the western palette. But fried and salted grasshoppers are a delicacy and good source of protein in Uganda. In fact, the word for the month of November is “Nsenene,” which means grasshopper, because this is the time of year when you can find grasshoppers aplenty.

Who’s in Times Sq?

Joyce Strach, a Chicaguan and member of the Davenport, IA, said she wouldn’t be offended if we didn’t use this photo of her in Times Square with our PSA on the CBS Superscreen. But why wouldn’t we? We know it’s hard to shoot a good photo in the dark, with a cacaphony of neon around and try to focus on a 10-second ad and a bright screen. Whew. It’s impressive her husband got both her and the ad in the photo. Thank you, Joyce.

Who else is in NYC this holiday season? Send those photos! Hint from Joyce: go in the daytime.

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Ohio hosts Girl Rising screening and raises $2.5K

It's fundraiser time and we can all benefit from what is working in other locations. And this recent event - a screening of Girl Rising in Maumee, OH - certainly worked. Tickets to see the groundbreaking film were sold at $10 and 322 people attended - a terrific showing. The event was organized by Maumee Chapter Leader Kim Whetstone, chapter member Beth Smotherman and Central Region Leader Mary Toneff.

They started working on it in July after seeing Girl Rising at our 10th anniversary conference. "The 11 chapters in the Toledo area were all part of the promotion process, inviting lots of friends and family. And the nearby Northville, MI, chapter, led by Linda McLean, came down to support us as well," says Mary.
The evening included fair trade shopping with Bead for Life and a local shop, a DFW table set up with information about the organization and an upcoming fundraiser the region is planning and a place for interested potential members to sign up. Following the screening, guests were given a handout of next steps (support 10X10, support DFW, be an advocate, support fair trade vendors). Want to plan a similar event? Get tips from Mary and visit the Girl Rising website for information on hosting your own screening.

**About November's dish...**

This month's dish photo is is an Indian Chicken dish made by Manjula Mehta, a member of the Springfield-1 chapter in Illinois. The dish was made for the October meeting when the featured program was The Unforgotten in India. Thank you to Anne Capestrain, chapter leader, for sending this.

Remember: We invite you to send us a photo (make sure it fits pretty much these same dimensions) of a dish from one of your meetings - preference given to those of you who cook food from the countries our programs are in. We'll pick one each month and credit your chapter. Please use the link provided above!

**Endnote**

In a few weeks, as we gather around tables, abundant with food and surrounded by the warmth of friends and family, many of us will take time to reflect. We will give thanks for the blessings we enjoy.

We are lucky. We have so many opportunities. And on this uniquely American holiday, we celebrate our good fortune. But for Dining for Women our thankfulness is a continuum of coming together to celebrate opportunities yet to be provided. We gather every month at feasts of food, prepared by friends and open our hearts to provide opportunities to women we do not know and will likely never meet.

In India, Kenya, Uganda, Central America and Vietnam, they do not celebrate Thanksgiving. But women in those countries are thankful for the opportunities they have because of your efforts.

When we reach across the table, link hands and say our silent words of thanks, we will be reaching out to the invisible hands of women around the world as well. Thank you all for making this possible. Happy Thanksgiving.

**Jamye Cooper**
Executive Director

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**Our Mission**

Dining for Women’s mission is to empower women and girls living in extreme poverty by funding programs that foster good health, education, and economic self-sufficiency and to cultivate educational giving circles that inspire individuals to make a positive difference through the power of collective giving.

**Our Vision**

Our vision is to create a new paradigm for giving - collective giving on an immense scale while maintaining the intimacy of small groups with a focus on education and engaged giving.

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