

The National Women's History dinner with Meryl Streep

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Meryl Streep and Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.)



Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine)

The National Women's History Museum (NWHM) held its first annual Washington, D.C. dinner on Tuesday night at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Oscar-winner **Meryl Streep** was the guest of honor, and she gave a stirring speech to the 150 guests.

Also honored were **Duane Burnham**, former chairman of the evening's Millennium Sponsor, Abbott laboratories, and **Virginia Hayes Williams**, mother of former Washington, D.C. mayor Anthony Williams.

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) spoke before dinner, and explained to the mostly female dinner guests how legislation to allow the museum to begin construction on a spot on the National Mall has stalled in Congress for the past seven years.

Despite the setbacks, Collins used the example of her own career as an example of how far women have come, and how much can change in a short time, both in Congress and in American culture.

— *Report and photographs by Christina Wilkie*





Duane Burnham, recipient of the 2010 Henry Blackwell Award



Guests, including Streep, in white, rise when Burnham announces a \$1 million challenge grant



NWJM CEO Joan Wages, right, presents an award to Duane Burnham



Actress Kate Campbell Stevenson's one woman show



Elaine Leavenworth introduces Meryl Streep



Meryl Streep, looking appropriately historical