

CWI PROGRAM SUMMARY – November 26, 2013, Trailblazing Women Past & Present

On November 26th, the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues hosted a pre-Thanksgiving potluck lunch celebration, bringing together feminist leaders (and their delicious home cooked dishes) for an entertaining and enlightening presentation on **"Trailblazing Women Past and Present"**.

While the food and great company were compelling enough reasons to gather, **Kate Campbell Stevenson**, actress, singer, educator, and feminist activist showed how people of all ages can learn about and become empowered by our history of accomplishments. She shared her intriguing path to creating *Women Back to the Future*, an original one woman musical designed to educate children and adults about important women who have shaped American history and treated the audience to several performance numbers from her repertoire.

Kate described her own journey to becoming a feminist actress, which was wrought with condescending male producers, shallow audiences, and realizing her own children's school curriculum was painfully silent on important women in American history. After discovering that her mother herself had endured the sexist culture of the 1950's while still managing to lead a productive and successful life, Kate decided that she wanted to create a realistic experience of both the struggles and successes of important women in American history for her viewers.

In *Women Back to the Future* Kate employs various artistic mediums, including theatre, music, and poetry, to bring important women's stories to life. She has performed her original material for the past seventeen years to young and old audiences alike. She continues to innovate and search for intriguing women's stories yet to be told. In finding them she has created performances to highlight the accomplishments of women leaders in STEM as well as electoral politics. Please check out her web page www.katecampbellstevenson.com to see photos of Kate performing in costume and learn about how you can arrange for her to come and educate and entertain your special young or adult audiences not only during Women's history month, but year round.



Kate is also sharing the following resources that she found helpful in preparing her portrayals. Resources such as these can also help folks follow up and do their own part in learning about and building on our feminist legacy:

- Maryland Women's Heritage Center www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org
- The National Women History Museum www.nwhm.org (has a great web-site while waiting for approvals for a physical building in Washington, DC.)
- The National Women's History Project www.nwhp.org has resources for all ages. For example see **Amelia to Zora**, 32 pages, Grades 1-3. Discover women who have made a difference in people's lives ranging from adventurer Amelia Earhart, to computer pioneer Grace Hopper, to Novelist Zora Neale Hurston. <<http://shop.nwhp.org/amelia-to-zora-p4674.aspx>> Paperback, \$7.95 #0884
- Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media <http://www.seejane.org>