

2011 Highlights

US Women & Cuba Collaboration

1. Organized the Norma Vasallo US Speaking Tour during which Dra. Vasallo, the Chair of Women Studies at the University of Havana, made presentations about advancing women's rights and gender equity in Cuba, and had scholarly exchanges in Baltimore-Matanzas Sister City Association and Maryland-Cuba Friendship Coalition; University of Maryland in Baltimore County; Goucher University; First Unitarian Church of Baltimore; Indiana University and its Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), CUBAmistad and Rachael's Café in Bloomington, Indiana; Hola Bloomington Radio; Edinboro University; West Virginia University; and Towson University. (March/April 2011)
2. Facilitated the US Film Premiere and Speaking Tour by Cuban scholar Dra. Norma Guillard and US filmmaker, Catherine Murphy, as they screened and discussed *Maestra (Teacher)*, Catherine Murphy's film about the 1961 Cuban Literacy Campaign which featured Dra Norma Guillard reflecting on her experiences as a brigadista during the Campaign. The tour traveled to Washington, D.C., Jackson, Mississippi, Bozeman, Montana, Seattle, Washington, San Francisco and Berkeley, California. An additional fall tour took *Maestra* to Washington, DC, and North Carolina. (March/April 2011 and Nov 2011)
3. Coordinated a Women's Research Delegation to Cuba, "*Advancing Women's Human Rights, Racial Justice and Social Welfare*," organized by Marazul Charters, Inc. in consultation with the Collaboration. Fundraising enabled support to include filmmakers as members of the delegation who are producing an educational film for the Collaboration. Delegates participated in the 2011 VII International Conference at the University of Havana, "Women in the 21st Century," presented by Dra. Norma Vasallo and co-sponsored by the Federation of Cuban Women. Their workshop was called "*Organizing a US Women's Movement for Cuba, a Workshop to Move an Agenda Forward!*" (May 14-25, 2011)
4. Invited to participate in the Cuba Consultation 2011, sponsored by Latin America Working Group (LAWG). Organizations from around the US who have expertise and experience with issues related to Cuban travel and the US travel ban gathered to discuss strategic planning for 2012. (June 2011)
5. Presented workshop at NOW National Conference in Tampa, FL: *Creating a Global Feminist Future for Women's Health, Reproductive Rights and Justice*. Also organized and passed unanimously a NOW Resolution to deepen NOW's commitment to global feminist issues and strategies; and organized Dinner with NOW members to discuss US policy toward Cuba. (June 24, 2011)

6. Attended the 6th Continental Encounter, an International Solidarity with Cuba Conference held in Mexico City. (Oct 6-9, 2011)
7. Sent a Collaboration delegation to present a workshop at the Vancouver International Che Guevara Conference. (November 2011)
8. Co-sponsored and promoted Cuban artists Alexander Carillo and Pedro Pulido's AFROIMAGIN -ACTION Tour, exploring the legacy of African culture in Cuba through the art of mask making. Baltimore and Chicago. (December 2011)
9. Collaboration networking included: Signing on to letters of support for campaigns by allied organizations (CEDAW—Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and LAWG—Latin America Working Group); participating in national calls with NNOC (National Network on Cuba); planning and coordination for Cuban visitors, with Barbara Lee's Office, with the Cuban Interests Section; meeting at Mexico City Cuba Solidarity Conference with SME, the union of Mexican Electrical Workers and International Tribunal; and various contacts made at conferences attended, including the Vancouver-Cuba Solidarity Organization, NOW Global Feminist Issues and Strategies Committee, and International Women's Conference in Havana.

10. Local Organizing

- DC: Meeting of DC National Advisory Board members and Patricia Pego, 1st Secretary, Cuban Interests Section (September 2011)
- Montana: Monthly academic and informational presentations at MSU and in the Bozeman community, Delegation report-backs and House-party fundraisers in Bozeman, Montana Artists Refuge in Basin, Belgrade and Helena; co-sponsored Montana's International Women's Day celebration and organizing at state capital with Montana Women Vote; presentation for Bozeman Business & Professional Women; presented "Girls Giving Back" workshop at Montana Girls for a Change Conference.
- Seattle: Reading and Study group, Seattle planning retreat for Collaboration Leadership, Garage Sale fundraiser, Seattle IWD
- Oakland: Meeting and Delegation report-back with members of National Advisory Board and women's writing group, Oakland, CA.

11. Communications: Facebook, YouTube, 2011 Calls to Action, Postcard distribution

12. Fundraising: Christopher Reynolds Grant, Audience events on Maestra tour, WILPF grant