

2013 Highlights

US Women & Cuba Collaboration

March 5

UN NGO/CSW Forum: "Cuba after 1959: The Most Successful Literacy Campaign in Modern Day History." A Parallel Event at CSW 57 held at the Church Center at the UN. The forum featured the documentary *Maestra (Teacher)* and producer/director Catherine Murphy. Panel also included representatives from the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC). Cosponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and U.S. Women & Cuba Collaboration.

March 6

Co-sponsored *Mujeres de Arena/Women of Sand*, presented in Seattle by Latino Theatre Projects. *Mujeres de Arena* is a powerful testimonial play that exposes the on-going kidnapping, rape, mutilation, and murder of women in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico. It has been performed in 20 countries and in 15 languages.

March 10

Houseparty to Build Bridges with Women in Cuba and the U.S.

House Party fundraiser, hosted by Collaboration National Advisory Board Member Zenaida Menendez in New York, also brought together friends of Cuba and the Collaboration and generated interest in our November Women's Research Delegation to Cuba. Norma Guillard of Cuba, whose US visit was hosted by the Collaboration, was a featured guest and speaker.

March 12

Program and Film Premiere Reception, Center for Cuban Studies

"Feminists Organizing in Cuba and the US to Advance Women's Human Rights and End all Forms of Violence." U.S. film premiere of *Principles of the Heart* (Delia Cruz, 2012). Guest speaker Norma Guillard, Cuban social psychologist. Federation of Cuban Women's External Relations North American representative Maritzel Gonzales-Quevedo; and Union of Cuban Jurists Attorney Yamila Gonzalez-Ferrer plus dignitaries from the Cuban Mission in NY attended. Discussion followed about the work of the CSW 57 with Zenaida Mendez of NOW-NY, and Jan Strout, co-chair of the Collaboration. CCS Director Sandra Levinson paid tribute to President Chavez, great friend of Cuba, whose death came earlier in the week. In addition to the Collaboration, event co-sponsors featured the Center for Cuban Studies, National Dominican Women's Caucus, National Organization for Women and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

March 15, 16

Norma Guillard spoke at Hunter College and attended the Cuban Women Filmmakers' Series; she showed "Maestra" at the Conference of Radical Educators at Julia Richmond High School Complex as part of a Venceremos Brigade Workshop.

March 30

Seattle Collaboration members met to watch and discuss Gloria Rolando's 2 part film, *Breaking the Silence* (1912)

April 21

Seattle Collaboration members met to screen and discuss Delia Cruz' *Principles of the Heart* (2012).

May 2

Seattle meeting of Collaboration leadership with visiting staff from Resist

June 4

La Noche Cubana: An Evening of Cuban Travel and Culture!

Bozeman Public Library Community Room, Bozeman MT

Experienced travelers to Cuba explored eco-tourism, music, arts and photography, citizen diplomacy, literacy, health care, women's human rights and prospects for learning and cultural exchanges. Story tellers include Lissa Barber, Susan Nichols Roughton, Adele Pittendrigh, Jan Strout, Ann Tappan and Doug Wales along with Cuban jazz music and photographic images.

July 1-7

NATIONAL NOW CONFERENCE & CUBA COMMUNITY EVENTS

Norma Guillard, Cuban Social Psychologist and former brigadista with the 1961 Cuban Literacy Campaign, in Chicago with the US Women and Cuba Collaboration and The Literacy Project for community events and to participate in the National Organization for Women Conference, July 5-7.

July 1

Screening of *Maestra* Featured Speaker: Norma Guillard

Introductory remarks by co-sponsors from U.S. Women & Cuba Collaboration and Chicago Committee to Free the Cuban 5. Other sponsors included Loyola University Department of Sociology and The Literacy Project.

July 2

"Education, Gender and Independence, A Talk With Norma Guillard and Jan Strout,"

Consulate General of Venezuela in Chicago

July 5

NATIONAL NOW CONFERENCE: Women of the World Unite to End Violence Against Women & Girls!

Workshop Presentation with Jan Strout, National NOW Board, US Women and Cuba Collaboration; Zenaida Mendez, President, New York State NOW and National Dominican Women's Caucus; Mona Lisa Wallace, National NOW Board; Jerilyn Stapleton, National NOW Board; and Stephanie Ortoleva, Women Enabled (participating via Handout)

July 5

Feminist Flicks @ 2013 NOW Conference! *Maestra/Teacher* will be introduced by Norma Guillard of Cuba, one of the original teachers from the Campaign featured in the film who was 15 years old when she and her sister joined the Literacy Campaign.

July 6

NATIONAL NOW CONFERENCE Keynote Plenary with Norma Guillard, Cuban Social Psychologist and Collaboration Member

July

Collaboration signs on to An Open Letter to the Women of the U.S. House of Representatives asking that they “take action to pass an immigration reform bill that will be fair to women and families, and that will reflect the values of freedom and opportunity that we hold dear in this country.”

Summer

Collaboration co-sponsored Norma Guillard’s summer tour including speaking opportunities in Knoxville, Washington DC, New York, San Diego, Los Angeles, Oakland and Milwaukee.

Summer and Fall

Ongoing work with the Isabelas of Santiago de Cuba, a lesbian activist group that the Collaboration met with during the 2012 delegation. This work resulted in a collaborative panel at the November University of Havana Conference, Women in the 21st Century (information below). It also resulted in talks about the future possibility of cooperation with CENESEX for a symposium on anti-homophobia strategies in Santa Clara, Cuba.

September 22

Showing of *Cuba, the Accidental Eden*, El Cine Cubano Film Series, Bozeman Public Library Large Community Room. The Collaboration and the Gallatin Valley Friends of Cuba cosponsor a free monthly film series that explores Cuba’s culture, music, ecology, history, people, and relationships with the US and globally. In Bozeman MT.

October 6

Seattle houseparty screening sponsored by the Collaboration of Marilyn Solaya’s *In the Wrong Body*. The film is the story of Mavi Susel, who underwent the first gender reassignment operation in Cuba in 1988. It explores such timely issues as the meaning of femininity in the macho and patriarchal society in Cuba where many stereotypes and prejudices still exist. Mariela Castro, Director of the Cuban National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX) was a primary consultant on the film. Filmmaker Solaya participated in a Q&A with Cuba activists from the Collaboration, and others from Seattle and Vancouver, BC.

October 20

Showing of *The Buena Vista Social Club*, El Cine Cubano Film Series, Bozeman Public Library Large Community Room. Co-sponsor Gallatin Valley Friends of Cuba. In Bozeman MT.

October

Work and plans for speaking tour for Tatiana Rodriguez Vergara, Havana, did not materialize because she was not granted a US visa for travel to the US.

October 30

“Women of the World Unite to End Violence Against Women and Girls!” Women’s Center Sack Lunch Seminar sponsored by the Montana State University Women’s Center. Jan Strout, Lindsay Murdock and others shared strategies and solutions from the 2013 UN Commission on the Status of Women that prioritized ending violence, the Paycheck Fairness Act, and Eve Ensler’s One Billion Rising Campaign. In Bozeman MT at MSU.

November 22-December 1

2013 WOMEN'S RESEARCH DELEGATION TO CUBA & INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN HAVANA

“Women Advancing Gender Equality, Racial Justice and Sustainable Development” Delegates presented and participated in the University of Havana Gender Studies Conference (information below), and they had meetings with a variety of Cuban organizations and toured sites in Havana, Vuelta Abajo, Soroa, Las Terrazas, Matanzas, and Varadero.

November 25-28

“Women in the 21st Century IXth International Conference”

Presented by University of Havana Women’s Studies Program and the Cuban Federation of Women Collaboration members and delegates from 2005 Research Delegation made several panel presentations:

- EL AMOR ENTRE MUJERES: PAPEL DE LOS MOVIMIENTOS
Moon Vázquez, Zenaida Méndez, Isel Calzadilla, Teresa de Jesús Fernández, Norma Guillard
- ADELANTE! BUILDING A US WOMEN'S MOVEMENT FOR CUBA
Workshop to Move an Action Agenda Forward!
Jan Strout, Cindy Domingo, Zenaida Mendez, Susan Nichols Roughton, Pamela Taylor
- WOMEN AND THE CUBAN REVOLUTION IN THE 1950S, *Principles of the Heart* screened
Jean Weisman
- MUJERES DETRÁS DEL LENTE: REESCRITURAS AL CÁNON CINEMATOGRAFICO CUBANO
Catherine Murphy
- REFLEXIONES SOBRE GÉNERO, RAZA, CLASE SOCIAL Y ETNIA EN LA FORMACIÓN ACADÉMICA
COMO LATINAS EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS
Caridad Morales Nussa, Elizabeth Iglesias
- EDUCACIÓN Y LA MUJER NEGRA CUBANA
Tatiana P. Rodríguez Vergara, Caridad Morales Nussa, Catherine Murphy
- LOCALIZING THE GLOBAL: USING INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS TO ENHANCE CIVIL SOCIETY
CAPACITY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
Kristin Alder

November 30-December 12

DELEGATION OF COLLABORATION LEADERSHIP AND FILIPINO ACTIVISTS IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA

“Cuba: A Model of Human and Sustainable Development Research Program”

Delegates toured and had meetings across the island in Havana, Playa Girón, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Sancti Spiritus, Camaguey, Bayamo, Manzanillo, Santa Domingo, Santiago.

December

Seattle meeting of Cuba Solidarity group leadership from the Pacific Northwest to discuss common goals: US Women & Cuba Collaboration, US-Cuba Friendship Committee, Cuba 5 Committee, and Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC).

December

Planning groundwork for Norma Vasallo spring 2014 speaking tour.