

## Press Release

For Immediate Release  
Media Contacts:

Fran Medaglia (Women on the Job)  
(616) 396-9857, ext. 9 [wojtfl@optonline.net](mailto:wojtfl@optonline.net)  
Stephanie Koithan (C.W. Post)  
516-299-2793 [stephanie.koithan@liu.edu](mailto:stephanie.koithan@liu.edu)

### **Women's Voices from the Workplace Presented at C.W. Post, National Equal Pay Day, April 20**

Brookville, N.Y.— Mariel Burns is an educated immigrant from Argentina who came to America to be a writer, but found herself cleaning the homes of the wealthy instead. Joyce Collier is a widowed mother of four who struggles to make ends meet as a journeywoman plumber. Natalie Byfield blazed a trail as a female African-American reporter at the Daily News covering the story of the Central Park Jogger.

These women, joined by several more, will be reading from their memoirs at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University on National Equal Pay Day 2010. The event is co-sponsored by C.W. Post's Continuing Education and Long Island Women's Institute, as well as Women on the Job and the Herstory Writers Workshop. This event will bring the stories of Long Island working women to life, showcasing dramatic readings which were crafted using the Herstory model of memoir writing.

"Herstory: Tales of Workplace Discrimination and Stereotypes" will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, at 5 p.m. in the Hillwood Commons Cinema on the C.W. Post Campus, followed by a question-and-answer session with the speakers. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served at a reception before the event in Hillwood Commons Lobby.

National Equal Pay Day was originated in 1996 by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages. The day symbolizes how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year. A report released in September 2009 by the Institute for Women's Policy Research indicates that the ratio of the annual averages of women's and men's median annual earnings for the year 2008 was at 77.1 percent for full-time, year-round female workers, down from 77.8 in 2007.

"Our vision is a world of justice and opportunity for women and girls, where we are paid equitably for work, live in homes and communities without fear of violence, have equal voices in the political process and serve as the primary decision makers about issues that affect us," said Laurel Parker West, Executive Director of Long Island Fund for Women and Girls. "We hope this event is an important step in that direction."

The Long Island Women's Institute ([www.liu.edu/cwpost/women](http://www.liu.edu/cwpost/women)) organizes events and augments academic programs within C.W. Post's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, encouraging interaction among academics, researchers, practitioners and students in order to further the understanding of women's issues. Women on the Job is a project of the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls ([www.lifwg.org](http://www.lifwg.org)) and has been educating and advocating for women's workplace rights and equality for over 29 years. Herstory Writer's Workshop ([www.herstorywriters.org](http://www.herstorywriters.org)) is a community memoir-writing workshop for women with the goal of empowering them to find their voice through written expression. The stories of the featured speakers and other women have been published in books by Herstory, which will be sold at the event.

To reserve a seat for this event, please RSVP to Fran Medaglia by Monday, April 12 by calling (616) 396-9857 Ext. 9 or e-mailing [wojtfl@optonline.net](mailto:wojtfl@optonline.net). The C.W. Post Campus is located at 720 Northern Boulevard (Route 25A) in Brookville.