

Women Moving Forward© Graduates Newsletter

MARCH 2006

Cynthia Fugate had some interesting responses to last month's article called Women Don't Give Up Your Power and to the March Newsletter article about The Contributions of Betty Frieden. I wanted to share them with you.

The last time you sent a note out it was in regard to how some women still believe they need a man in their life. Prior to reading your newsletter, I had been discussing the topic with a male friend that it is a desire and not a need. And, the importance of teaching our daughters about choices- differentiating wants from needs. He's a single father and didn't agree with my view. We agreed to disagree on the topic. However, when I realized this personally, I began to enjoy dating for the sake of dating; new people, places experience. Not having a man in my life on a continual basis is not a deficiency or weakness. And, I'm sure when I am certain I want a man in my life, it will be so.

When I read of Betty Friedan's death in February, I admit, I was not familiar with her or her work. When I read that it was only 40 years ago that she shook up the world by saying that women can have goals beyond marriage and children, it hit me. Women in the workforce striving for equality is still a very young movement.

This is a paradigm shift from the eighteen-year-old student who rolled her eyes during Organizational Development class in college when gender and politics in the workplace were discussed. Back then; I thought, "come on already, it's the 80's". I had watched my mother transform from stay-at-home Mom, to secretary, to purchasing manager, on up without a college degree. Little did I know back then...she and many women across America were blazing new trails and experiencing the good, the bad, and the ugly that goes with being a pioneer.

Perhaps, this clarity is just hitting me later in life or I'm finally allowing myself to acknowledge the trails I've successfully blazed in addition to showing myself compassion for the times I've been burned in the journey. The reality of it is, there are many women preparing to enter the work world or already in it, that may not realize that the journey is really just beginning. Have they ever heard of Betty or Gloria Steinam? Do they know we need to continue to ban together and be heard in order to progress? I propose most women don't.

This brings me full circle, perhaps what women need is other women, as mentors, friends, allies, listeners and role models. The need appears to be for women to recognize where we have been and the many challenges and injustices that still need to be addressed.

If you have comments to share, we want to hear them. Send them to us via E-mail, we welcome them!

Women Moving Forward® June 6-7, 2006

The June workshop is the only one left in 2006 so if you have referrals let me know. It is filling up quickly. If you plan to observe or review you will need to let us know as well.

Bringing Women Moving Forward® into your company is also an option. We will be doing several at companies this year. That means a company pays a fee and we do the workshop on site for women from that company. If you would like to talk with Susan about this option give her a call.

Advanced Men's Course©

This workshop is already half full. If you want to recommend or refer someone contact John at the office.

Productive Relationships© for Executives

John is planning a special Productive Relationships Course for Executives only. If you would like to be considered for this special course or to refer someone let John or Susan know. We have not yet scheduled it so you can still get in at the beginning of this program.

Women's Leadership Retreat©

The 2006 Retreat is full but we are opening registration for May 2007.

If you are interested in attending you must first be a graduate of Women Moving Forward® and have used that course in your life. The next step is to contact Susan at our office.

The work of the Retreat is significant to women in general and contributes greatly to our lives and our work.

Leading Projects Through Relationship, Commitment and Purpose©

The first of its kind this is a new workshop for us. The pilot course will be held in Racine Wisconsin at the Racine Marriott Hotel May 15-17,2006.

If you want to be one of the first to attend this workshop please contact us as soon as you can. The course is over half full and registration is limited.

If you are interested in bringing this workshop to your company let us know. We'd love to discuss it with you.