

CHOICE Remarks

FALL 2018

JOIN US FOR OUR SIGNATURE EVENT

The WLC Luncheon will take place at Wolferts Roost on September 27, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 general admission, \$50 for WLC Members and people under 40. Go to uhpp.org for registration and information.



Dr. Willie J. Parker to Speak at Women's Leadership Circle Luncheon

We are thrilled to have Dr. Willie J. Parker as our keynote speaker for our Women's Leadership Circle (WLC) Luncheon. Dr. Parker is a strong advocate for reproductive choice. His most recent work focuses on violence against women, sexual assault, reproductive rights and justice. Growing up in Alabama, Dr. Parker now travels throughout Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Illinois as an abortion care provider.

Dr. Parker is a graduate of Berea College in Kentucky, as well as University of Iowa College of Medicine, Harvard School of Public Health, the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Michigan. He is board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology and trained in preventive medicine and epidemiology through the Centers for Disease Control.

Dr. Parker is the author of "Life's Work: A Moral Argument for Choice." In it, he shares his story - one that touches not only on his personal experience as a Christian who advocates for reproductive justice, but

also on the broader societal implications of his story - including the political and religious elements.

With recent challenges to women's health care and reproductive choice, we are fortunate to have someone like Dr. Parker share his experiences with us. He'll discuss his own story as an abortion care provider, the broader challenges we as reproductive justice advocates face when it comes to abortion access and health care, and how his work intersects with being a person of faith.

The Women's Leadership Circle Luncheon grew out of our Women's Leadership Circle - a group of women taking a public stand for Planned Parenthood's mission and services. Each member contributes a minimum \$500 (under 40) or \$1,000 (40+) annually to Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood.

In celebration of our Women's Leadership Circle Members, each year we print a full page ad in the Times Union. This serves as not only a small symbol of our gratitude, but as a reminder that we have a powerful role to play in ensuring that women for generations to come are empowered to shape their own lives.

"I refuse to participate in a system that would deny women the same agency and the same right to make decisions about their life that I have as a man."



DR. WILLIE J. PARKER

Join us for a free film screening of "Trapped," a documentary by Dawn Porter featuring our Women's Leadership Circle Luncheon keynote speaker Dr. Willie J. Parker on Tuesday, September 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Albany Health Center Conference room.



Rally in the Valley

UHPP Columbia County supporters are gearing up for the second annual **Rally in the Valley** on December 7 and 8 at Hudson Hall in Hudson, NY. Rally in the Valley, organized by a dedicated and engaged group of volunteers, is a weekend of performances, education, and activism. It aims to rally public support while raising funds for UHPP. There is a benefit concert planned for December 7 featuring *The National* and a full day of free workshops hosted by UHPP staff and local artists and activists on December 8. By bringing people together, the rally will send a strong message and build lasting community relationships.



For more information, head to rallyinthevalley.org.

Crisis Pregnancy Centers: What you need to know

Crisis pregnancy centers are organizations that were established to counsel pregnant women against having an abortion. They often purposely use deceptive language in their name or with advertising that mimic legitimate, licensed health care providers to confuse women. Crisis pregnancy centers are not required to be legitimate comprehensive medical facilities and are not required to provide accurate information about health care.

The newest tactic of these anti-choice groups is a mobile ultrasound van. For the past few months this van has been parked in cities across Upstate New York and is most often parked in the city of Troy near our Planned Parenthood Health Center on Broadway. The van attempts to lure women away from the Troy Planned Parenthood office by offering them free ultrasounds, gift cards and other incentives. UHPP trusts our patients. They deserve access to comprehensive, medically accurate information and health care without judgment.

UHPP is working with the city of Troy, the Troy police and our volunteers to educate the community on this dangerous practice. For more information on how UHPP is fighting back, including reinstating our Troy escort program, contact Brittini at 518.434.5678, ext. 137 or by email at brittini@uhpp.org.

Power of PINK

In July, six students from Planned Parenthood Generation at UAlbany attended the largest convening of Planned Parenthood with 2,000 advocates in Detroit, MI. Despite being targeted by the Trump/Pence administration, people of color, young people and women are leading an unprecedented mobilization to shift the leadership in government. Through grassroots action they are lifting up the importance of reproductive justice, and health care as a human right. Attendees of the conference learned how to organize their communities, run data-driven campaigns, and register people to vote. The training equipped participants with the tools needed to build strategies in state and federal elections to get voters to the polls.




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