

## Gifts of Speech News

Issue Eight - November  
2006

November 2, 2006

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### Featured Product



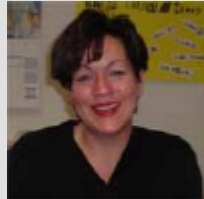
[Women's Raglan  
Hoodie](#)  
**\$26.99**

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#### 1. November News



Hello dear readers - I hope November finds you well and happily engaged in projects that promote the well-being and education of women!

I haven't asked in the past, but I would love to hear what kinds of projects or initiatives you are involved in at the local level, or beyond, to contribute to the welfare or well-being of women. Please send me the links to your web sites or just email me with the details of your efforts. I'd love to hear what you are doing.

Check out the links below and please share your interesting stories with me. My email is:

lizkentgos at gmail dot com

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#### 2. Running in High Heels (Documentary Film)

Film maker Maryann Breschard released her feature documentary last year titled Running in High Heels. The film explores politics and female empowerment by putting the responsibility for women's lack of political power directly on women's shoulders. A crucial pillar of Breschard's feminism is that women do not need to rise up so much as wake up and free themselves from stereotypes, but not their femininity.

Running in High Heels follows the last months of the campaign of political novice Emily Csendes as the 29 year-old runs for a State Senate seat in New York's 29th District. As a Republican running a small time local campaign in big city Democratic territory, Emily provides something for everyone to root for no matter what side of the political spectrum one may be on. Depending on your political persuasion, hers is a journey sometimes humorous and sometimes frustrating.

Interspersed with Emily's story are a Greek chorus of notable women from the left and right of the American political spectrum ranging from Phyllis Schlafly to Rosalind Wiseman (whose work on the psychological warfare and unwritten social rules that girls and women deal with is the basis for the movie "Mean Girls"). Through their dialogues they try to explain how women can be the majority of the population, at fifty-two percent, but run nothing.

For more information, visit the link below.

Link: <http://www.maryannbreschard.com/story.html>

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### 3. Winning the Vote (Book)

Robert Cooney Jr., founder of a California graphics company, researched the American women's battle for voting rights for 12 years to create his book titled Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement.

He compiled photographs of brave young suffragettes from hours of library research. One day, in the Huntington Library in California, a staff member watched him unfold a deteriorating poster. In a detailed red and gold illustration, a British suffragette blew a bugle to announce a meeting at London's Albert Hall in 1908. Behind her rose the sun, a symbol of enlightenment.

"This is gorgeous," Mr. Cooney exclaimed.

Read more at the link below.

Link: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/06296/732150-44.stm>

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### 4. Two Rape Stories

In late October, Australia's senior Muslim cleric, Sheik Taj Din al-Hilali, outraged Muslim women leaders by comparing "immodestly" dressed women to abandoned "meat" that attracts voracious animals. He said:

"If you take out uncovered meat and place it outside on the street, or in the garden or in the park, or in the backyard without a cover, and the cats come and eat it ... whose fault is it, the cats or the uncovered meat?  
The uncovered meat is the problem."

Sheik Hilali then went on to say that if women stayed locked up inside their homes

that no problem would occur.

Read more about the melee that resulted here:

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,20646437-601,00.html>

In another rape story, six out of seven Pitcairn Islanders accused of multiple rapes and sexual assaults against girls as young as 12 were convicted after a series of trials that have rocked the tiny, remote outpost of the old British Empire.

Among those found guilty was Mayor Steve Christian, 53. During the trial, prosecutors described him as "the leader of the pack" who believed he had a right to have sex with young girls. He and the other defendants had argued that under-age sex was a tradition dating back to 1790 when mutineers arrived on the island with their Tahitian women. Read more at the link below:

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/10/25/1098667697664.html?oneclick=true>

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#### 5. November Site of the Month

**Fearless Voices at the Huffington Post** - There is nothing on the site that explains exactly what **Fearless Voices** aims to be, but I take it that it's primary purpose is to promote Arianna Huffington's new book titled [On Becoming Fearless](#).

Whatever the purpose of the site is, what it does is offer links to inspiring projects, blogs and thoughts by women. I discover new books, films and websites every time the site's content is renewed. I enjoy stopping by **Fearless Voices** (linked below) to find out what "fearless" women everywhere are doing. I think you will too!

Link: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/becoming-fearless/>

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