

Gifts of Speech News

Premier Issue - April 2006

March 31, 2006

Featured Product

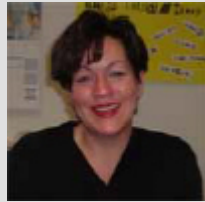


[Tote Bag](#)
\$12.99

In This Issue:

1. What's new at GoS?
2. Woman to Watch
3. April Site of the Month

1. What's new at GoS?



March was an exciting month here at Sweet Briar College. We had a wonderful speaker on campus to celebrate Women's History Month. Susan Scanlan, a professional advocate for women, came to share details of her life as a lobbyist on women's issues in Washington, D.C. Susan is Chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations and President of Women's Research and Education Institute. She was a fascinating speaker. Also in March, I was interviewed by Voice of America radio for their Our World segment. They selected **Gifts of Speech** as their Site of the Week to celebrate Women's History Month.

For the **Gifts of Speech** project I'm always on the lookout for women in leadership positions to contact to add speeches to the site. This is a constant background activity. The foreground focus of my energy right now, however, is in getting each speech attributed to a source.

In the early days of the project (it will be ten years old this October!) I was so eager to get the speeches up, that I didn't take the time to list the sources for each speech. But I've always been aware of the importance of this information and I am slowly revising each of the 500 speeches on the site to include the sources.

If there is a feature you would like to see added to Gifts of Speech, I'd like to hear about it. Please share your ideas by sending them to:

lizkentgos at gmail dot com

Link: <http://www.wrei.org/>

2. Woman to Watch



Marina Mahathir, chairman of the Malaysian Aids Foundation and eldest daughter of former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir bin Mohamad, recently raised the hackles of male political and religious leaders in her country when she described Muslim women as "second-class citizens." Writing in her regular newspaper column, Mahathir compared the legal status of women in Malaysia to that of black South Africans under apartheid.

According to the BBC, "Her outburst appears to have been prompted by the recent changes to Malaysia's Islamic family law that make it easier for Muslim men to take multiple wives, to divorce them and to take a share of their property." The laws do not apply to non-Muslim women.

Because the women's ministry encouraged female lawmakers to pass the measures, saying they could be amended later, Mahathir sarcastically suggested that the women's ministry should be split in two - one to help non-Muslim women fight discrimination, the other to keep Muslim women "bound and gagged."

Despite the woman unfriendly laws that were recently passed in Malaysia, when compared to other Muslim countries, Malaysian women are very visible and active in business and in public life.

Link: <http://malaysianaidsfoundation.org.my/index.htm>

3. April Site of the Month

MADRE is an international women's human rights organization that works in partnership with community-based women's groups worldwide. Their programs reflect a human-rights-based and people-centered approach to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals, which aim to: eradicate

extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development.

Link: <http://www.madre.org/index.html>

Thank you for subscribing to the Gifts of Speech Newsletter. Please remember to support GoS by visiting our Cafe Press shop. Until next month, remember, **Women's Voices Change the World!**

This email has been sent to you by a CafePress.com Shopkeeper, because you opted into the shopkeeper's newsletter service when visiting their store on CafePress.com. If you find the content of this newsletter objectionable, please forward this newsletter to newsletterabuse@cafepress.com.

[Unsubscribe from this newsletter and remove your name from our mailing lists.](#)

CafePress.com / 1515 Aurora Drive / San Leandro, CA 94577
1-877-809-1659

At CafePress.com, we value your privacy. Please feel free to review our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).