

# Gifts of Speech News

Vol. 4 #8-9 - Aug. - Sept.  
2009

September 8, 2009

## Featured Product



[Black T-Shirt](#)

**\$18.99**

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### 1. Calm Birth

Excerpt from a beautiful story of a tranquil, doula-assisted birth, without drugs:

No tears. No screams. And all I had was half a glass of Prosecco eight hours before my daughter, Francesca, showed off her pipes and I had her little naked body in my arms. My doctor told our doula (childbirth coach), "This is rare, isn't it? You don't see births like this." Cindy, who calls her practice Gentle Birth Doula Services, attempted to convince the doctor that she had seen births like this. The RN added, "Still, I bet you wish you had filmed it." Cindy, just shook her head, smiling. "If I had," she said. "No one would believe me that she wasn't on drugs!"

Read the whole blog post at the link below.

Link: <http://www.crucialminutiae.com/calm-birth>

### 2. Audra Shay: Ice Age of the Y. R.?

Michael Rowe of The Huffington Post posted an article on July 12 titled "Audra Shay and The New Ice Age of the Young Republicans." The article is

insightful and interesting speaking of how profoundly once-hidden racism has become inclined to reveal itself in American culture (and particularly in the Republican party) since the election of President Obama.

I just wish Michael Rowe had deleted one paragraph from his article:

"As the GOP "teabags" America, attempting to "rebrand" itself, with all the enthusiasm of a slovenly housewife in a failing marriage armed with a Jenny Craig membership and a gift certificate to Glamour Shots, no one is watching the door to the back alley."

Inspite of this backhand to housewives, or women in general - I'm not sure who he's aiming to insult here, the article is worth reading. Take a look at the link below.

Link: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-rowe/the-new-ice-age-of-the-yo\\_b\\_230125.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-rowe/the-new-ice-age-of-the-yo_b_230125.html)

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### **3. Women in Iraqi Kurdistan Free to Travel**

From the article:

After more than a year of intensive effort, female activists in the Kurdish region of Iraq have won a victory by securing for women the constitutionally-mandated freedom to travel.

On May 8, Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani of the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) declared that women over the age of 18 will be able to obtain passports without restriction.

Until then, a woman had to have the consent of her husband, or her male guardian if she was not married, to apply for an Iraqi passport. The previous policy was viewed widely as discriminatory and categorized by many as a direct violation of Article 44 of the Constitution of Iraq, which guarantees every citizen the right of free movement, travel and residence inside and outside Iraq.

Read the rest of the article at the link below.

Link: <http://www.ndi.org/node/15551>

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#### 4. Rebiya Kadeer

From the Wall Street Journal article by Hugo Restall:

Rebiya Kadeer is undergoing a Chinese version of George Orwell's "Two Minutes Hate." Separatist, extremist, terrorist—China's state-run media has pulled out the rhetorical big guns to put her beyond the pale of civilized society. By condemning her as the mastermind of last month's riots that killed 197 people in the northwest region of Xinjiang, Beijing has transformed an exiled businesswoman and dissident into public enemy No. 1 for 1.3 billion people.

Even Ms. Kadeer's family in China has joined the campaign—under duress, she says. After blaming her for the loss of innocent lives, several of her children and other relatives exhorted her in an open letter, "Don't destroy the stable and happy life in Xinjiang. Don't follow the provocation from some

people in other countries." In scenes reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution, the signatories have appeared on state television to publicly disavow Ms. Kadeer.

Read the rest of the article [here](#). For more information on Rebiya Kadeer, see [her entry](#) in Wikipedia.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/nove47>

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## 5. September Website of the Month

The **Allstate Foundation's Economics Against Abuse Program** is helping survivors of domestic violence by giving more than \$6 million in grants to domestic violence organizations across the country. In addition to funding, they also provide volunteerism, an anti-domestic violence media campaign and an annual Economic Empowerment Conference for advocates to share best practices, research and promote economic advocacy.

To learn more about the Allstate Economics Against Abuse program, read their PFD [here](#).

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

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--Liz Kent

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