



## A Tale of Three Amazing Women

Edith Varga passed away a few weeks ago. She was a remarkable woman. She lived in Dover most of her life and while barely out of her teens was a “Rosie the Riveter.” Early in World War II, Picatinny Arsenal became a critical post for creating and producing ammunition and weapons to support our troops in Europe and the Pacific. Edith worked with many other women helping in this “war effort.” For the rest of her life she showed her “can do” attitude. She married and raised a family, was involved in many community activities, and when CCM organized a recognition event for the Rosies, Edith volunteered and worked hard to make it a success.

Anne Cousineau also passed away recently. Anne was a feminist as soon as she knew what the word meant. She reinvented herself several times during her life. First, as a teacher in Puerto Rico (a totally foreign environment for this New Englander), then a wife and mother raising four boys with husband Ed. After her sons were grown she went back to school, earned a degree in photography, and worked for many years with Stella Hart, Inc., a public relations firm. Her volunteer work in the community was rewarded by her selection to carry the Olympic Torch in 1996. Anne supported the Women’s Center’s activities and women for over 25 years.

Lee Whildon was the first female mayor of Randolph Township. She is still breaking barriers and asking why women can’t do it. As Grand Marshal of the Fourth of July Parade this year she looked the picture of America in her bright red hat. Lee worked for the “war effort” as a Rosie in New England. Then she became a nurse. She raised a family and continued to be involved in the community in which she lives. Her attitude and positive outlook have inspired many. Her knowledge and courage have intimidated a few.

These three women walked through my life and I am richer for it. How many times do we come upon women who give us a “nudge” to be more than we are? They are often all around us. We too can be the inspiration for other women. I guess what I am learning is that many who grab the spotlight are often not worthy of it, and those who should be featured often are not. Why not look around you and see who can be your inspiration for today?

*By Elaine Muller, Former Director of the Women’s Center*

## You’ve Been Served . . . Now What?

The Court System can be a very scary place, especially for someone who doesn’t necessarily want to be there. Unfortunately, sometimes it can’t be helped. We’ve all heard about it happening to someone; the sheriff’s office comes to the house with a package, or they get a notice to pick up a certified package at the post office, what should they do? The first thing is they should not ignore it. The goal of this article is to give you an overview of what you should do, and what will take place, if you litigate your divorce.

If you or someone in your house signs to accept a Complaint, you still have not technically been served. You would need to also sign an “Acknowledgement of Service” and mail it back to your spouse’s attorney. Once you have been served with a Complaint, you have 35 days to respond, you can file an Appearance, and Answer, or a Counterclaim. If you file nothing, a default is entered against you, and the case proceeds without you. Don’t let this happen. Make sure you file something, anything.

Once both of you have filed papers, the court will schedule a short conference to determine what issues need to be resolved in your case. Is custody an issue? Is someone looking for alimony? Do any assets need to be valued? This conference is called a Case Management Conference and usually takes place around 60-90 days after the Complaint is filed.

After the Conference, each of you will have time to gather whatever information is needed based on what is agreed to at the Case Management Conference, this time is normally called “discovery.” If Custody is an issue, this will also be when you are sent to Parenting Mediation to try to resolve any parenting issue. It is a free service provided by the Courts. You will be given 2 to 3 months to complete this process.

At the conclusion of discovery, if you have not settled your case, you will appear before an Early Settlement Panel (ESP). This is a panel of 2 attorneys who have been selected by the court to attempt to help you settle your case. Each side will submit a written proposal to the ESP for consideration in advance. On the day of the ESP, you will appear and meet with the panel members in person and

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discuss possible resolutions. If you take the recommendation of the panel, you can be divorced that day. If you do not accept the recommendation, you proceed to the next phase of the litigation.

After the ESPI, if you do not settle, you will be sent to Economic Mediation. You will select a mediator from a list provided by the court and will meet with this person for two hours. If after meeting with the mediator you have resolved your issues, this will be reported to the court and you will be scheduled to come in to be divorced. You will normally be given 45 days to meet with the mediator.

If after meeting with the Mediator you still do not resolve your issues, you will be notified to appear for an Intensive Settlement Conference (ISC). This is an all-day conference at the courthouse in which the Judge assigned to your case will attempt to assist you in reaching an agreement. If you reach an agreement the day of your ISC, you can get divorced that day. If you don't reach an agreement, you will be provided with a trial date.

The trial date can be set for several months out from your ISC, depending on the court's schedule and can require multiple days to complete, which are not necessarily back to back. In some instances, trial dates can be weeks or even months apart. The good news is, only 2% of all divorces actually need to proceed to trial.

As I said at the outset, the Court System can be a scary place. Because of this, it is recommended that you have an attorney assist you in working your way through it. However, at least now, you will have an idea of what is involved.

By Holly M. Friedland, Esq., 55 Madison Avenue, Suite 400, Morristown, NJ, Additional information about Ms. Friedland and the content of this article can be found at [www.friedlandfamilylaw.com](http://www.friedlandfamilylaw.com)



### **Fall Support Group Starting**

Are you looking to get back into the workforce but are facing many other issues? Are you overwhelmed, confused, and lacking the confidence you need? Would you like to meet other women who are dealing with the same challenges? Come to The Women's Center support group where you will be encouraged, supported and understood in a positive environment. The next group begins on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in HH 110 and continues every Wednesday until November 14<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to sign up, please contact Susan O'Connor at [soconnor@ccm.edu](mailto:soconnor@ccm.edu).

### **WC Newsletter**

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The Women's Center at CCM  
SCC 115, Randolph, NJ 07869

**973-328-5025**

[womenscenter@ccm.edu](mailto:womenscenter@ccm.edu)  
[www.ccm.edu/womenscenter](http://www.ccm.edu/womenscenter)

**Mission Statement:**  
*To serve the varied needs of  
women in their quest for  
economic self-sufficiency.*

### **Staff**

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Admin. Assist.	Betty Squire

The Women's Center at CCM is a nonprofit organization serving displaced homemakers, single mothers, and other women. It is sponsored by the **County College of Morris**. The program is funded by the **NJ Division on Women** and the **United Way of Northern New Jersey**. The legal education services are funded by a grant from the **IOLTA Fund of the NJ Bar Foundation** and the **Morris County Bar Foundation**.

### **REMINDER**

### **FREE LEGAL CLINICS**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

**CALL 973-328-5025, OR EMAIL**

[womenscenter@ccm.edu](mailto:womenscenter@ccm.edu)

**FOR AN INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENT**

### **Scholarships Available**

Are you trying to further your education to enter the job market or advance your career? Are you in need of financial assistance to pay for these classes? There are many existing scholarships from various organizations that can assist you with the costs of tuition as well as books. Please come into The Women's Center or email us if you would like further information at [womenscenter@ccm.edu](mailto:womenscenter@ccm.edu). We are also available if you need any assistance completing the applications.

## **Q & A on Informational Interviewing**

### **“What is this job really like?”**

#### ***What is informational interviewing?***

It is an opportunity to gather information on a career and/or job of interest by speaking to an individual currently employed in that field. Gathering additional information on a career you are considering can often help you decide if this field is right for you. Reading about a career provides facts, but a visit to the worksite allows the individual to see the day-to-day reality of that career.

#### ***Is an informational interview a means to gain a job interview?***

No, and it would be considered inappropriate to arrange an informational interview with this in mind.

#### ***How can I prepare for an informational interview?***

It is important to first read about this career field. Books on many career fields can be found or requested at your local or county library. The *Occupational Outlook Handbook* is an excellent reference guide and is readily available in your local library or by going to [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco). After researching details about the career, prepare a list of questions that you will ask. Here are a few suggestions:

- . What type of education and/or training did you need to enter this field?
- . What do you find most gratifying about this work?
- . What are the major challenges in this career?
- . What is your typical day like?
- . Do you have advice for someone who may be considering this job field?

#### ***How do I locate an individual working in my field of interest?***

Through networking – ask friends, neighbors, your current or former co-workers, members of your community, volunteer organization contacts, etc. to suggest individuals to contact.

#### ***How do I set up the interview session?***

The request for an informational interview can be made through a phone call or a letter with a follow-up call.

#### ***How much time is needed for an informational interview?***

Usually about 30 minutes. It is a good idea to mention this period of time when you make the initial request for an appointment. Plan to arrive a few minutes before the scheduled appointment.

#### ***Is a thank-you note necessary immediately after the interview?***

Yes!

By Maureen Haggerty, Career Counselor

## **Upcoming Job Club Topics**

- 9/14 Take Advantage of the Encouraging Economic Outlook with Coach and Mentor Neil Cooper
- 9/21 Maximize your Positioning With Social Media w/Abby Kohut, Career Success Speaker and Author
- 9/28 Time Management with Certified Professional Organizer Katherine Trezise of Absolutely Organized
- 10/5 Managing Your Interview Nerves w/Jeanne Rohach, Trainer and Group Facilitator
- 10/19 Networking with Barbara Newman, HR Professional
- 11/2 Behind the Scenes! Insights, Tips, and Secrets to Better Job Search Success with HR Professional, Connie Mascioli
- 11/16 Job Hunting with Dress for Success
- 11 /30 Job Hunting on the Internet w/CCM Librarian, Lynee Richel
- 12/14 Navigating Through Transitions w/Life Coach, Betty Dangler

Job Club meets from 10 – 12:00 and is a great way to network and meet other women. All of this free help is available by calling 973-328-5025, or emailing [www.womenscenter@ccm.edu](mailto:www.womenscenter@ccm.edu) and reserving your place.

## **Divorce Workshop Offered**

Are you facing divorce? Once again the Women’s Center is sponsoring a FREE Legal Workshop to help you better understand the court system. This informative seven-part series covers a wide variety of topics associated with the divorce process and is conducted by family law attorneys from Morris County who volunteer their services to the Women’s Center. Topics to be covered include:

- Oct. 4 - Session 1:** An overview of the family law system and the divorce process.
- Oct. 11 - Session 2:** Case Information Statement – what it is and its significance, what information you need to complete it, and Q&A.
- Oct. 18 - Session 3:** Learn about the Collaborative Divorce process
- Oct. 25 - Session 4:** Mediation and Choosing an Attorney
- Nov. 1 - Session 5:** Child support, custody, enforcement, parenting schedules, geographic limits, etc.
- Nov. 8 - Session 6:** Post matrimonial relief – what to do if support does not come through or if circumstances change
- Nov. 15 -Session 7:** Financial aspects of divorce and a discussion on the preparation of wills.

Please call to register for this FREE workshop at 973-328-5025, or email us at [womenscenter@ccm.edu](mailto:womenscenter@ccm.edu)

**Women's Center at CCM**  
**Fall 2012 Calendar of Activities**

**September**

4,6,13,18 – Windows 7 Class  
 5,12,19 – Legal Clinic  
 12,19,26 – Fall Support Group  
 14,21,28 – Job Club  
 20 – Stress Management Workshop w/Jeanne Rohach  
 24,25 – PowerPoint Class (first half)  
 25,27 – Word 1 Class (first half)  
 All weekdays – Computer Lab  
 Tues-Fri – Career Counseling appointments

**October**

1,2 – PowerPoint Class (second half)  
 2,4 – Word 1 Class (second half)  
 3,10,17,24,31 – Fall Support Group  
 3,10,17 – Legal Clinic  
 4,11,18,25 – Fall Divorce Workshop series  
 5,19 – Job Club  
 9,11,16,18 – Word 2 Class  
 16,18,23,25 – QuickBooks Class  
 All weekdays – Computer Lab  
 Tues-Fri – Career Counseling appointments

**Thanks to Weichert for School Supplies**

Once again we are extending a special thank you to our friends at the Weichert Real Estate School in Morris Plains. Their annual collection of school supplies for the Women's Center clients has eased the financial burden for many of our families. Because of Weichert's generous donation so many youngsters are now prepared to get a good start to the new school year.



The Women's Center at CCM  
 County College of Morris  
 SCC 115  
 Randolph, NJ 07869

September 2012

**November**

1,8,15 – Fall Divorce Workshop series (cont'd)  
 2,16,30 – Job Club  
 7,14 – Fall Support Group  
 7,14,21 – Legal Clinic  
 9 – Menopause Workshop w/Liz Hoban  
 13,15,19,20 – Excel 1 Class  
 27,29 – Excel 2 Class (first half)  
 All weekdays – Computer Lab  
 Tues-Fri – Career Counseling appointments

**December**

4,6 – Excel 2 Class (second half)  
 5,12,19 – Legal Clinic  
 14 – Job Club  
 All Weekdays – Computer Lab  
 Tues-Fri – Career Counseling appointments

**Free Computer Tutorials Can Help You**

Are you interested in getting up to speed with your computer skills but have no time to attend classes, why not go to website [www.GCFLearnFree.org](http://www.GCFLearnFree.org) for free computer training. Whether you are a computer novice or need to refresh your skills, these tutorials may be just what you've been looking for to improve your technology skills.