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## Women on the Front Lines and the Back Lines

I had the honor of being part of the Women's Funding Network Worldwide Conference where women from Serbia, Mexico, Australia, Scotland, Nigeria, Canada, and every place in between, descended upon Brooklyn, New York for three days of convening and learning. We spent time together skills sharing, relationship building, and listening to impassioned speeches from some of the world's most dynamic female thought leaders.

One of the panel discussions was hosted by filmmaker, scholar and founder of the [Daphne Foundation](#), Abigail Disney. Abby spoke about the ways in which the feminine perspective has been erased from the media coverage of war across the world. Her documentary [Pray the Devil Back to Hell](#) and her four part series called [Women, War and Peace](#), which documents war through the eyes of women in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Columbia and the Congo, shows women's contributions to war efforts on both the front lines and [back lines](#).

## "If I can't dance, I Don't Want to be Part of the Revolution"

Seriously, how fun is it to celebrate and dance and how often do we do either of these things? I love Emma Goldman's statement – "If I can't dance I don't want to be part of the revolution." At a recent [Women Moving Millions](#) session we heard from the co-chairs, donors and leaders – all who danced as they came on stage to share their stories and ideas.

Feel free to take some time to look at an [exercise](#) that I created that examines – "What is it that allows me to give time, talent or treasure with joy and ease? And how can we move [towards this](#)?"

## Donor Activism

During a recent gathering of 600 dynamic women working for social and economic justice ([2011 Women's Funding Network Annual Conference](#)), I facilitated a discussion with my friend and frequent co-pilot, Ellen Landis, founder of

## In This Issue

[Power Unused is Power Useless - The Case for Gender Len Investing](#)

[Roots to Resistance - 12 Women Activists Changing the World](#)

[March Madness All Year Round](#)

[10 Reasons to Focus on Women's History for a Month and Longer](#)

[Leadership Pledge](#)

[The Rise of Women Owned Businesses \(Infographic\)](#)

## Also in this Issue

### UN Women Puts Gender Equality in the International Spotlight

Over 50 years since the founding of United Nations and nearly 100 since women won the right to vote in the U.S., the international agency has put women in the spotlight this week with the official launch of [UN Women](#) which coincided with the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The agency's mission is to provide powerful financial and diplomatic support for women, to push for equality and broader roles in policymaking around [the world](#).

### 2010 Bank of America Merrill Lynch Study of High Net

**Sharevision.** The discussion was on donor activism (which later turned into a great conversation on power!) with the goal to create a safe space for women to vocalize their engagement and feel more confident and empowered to be the social change leaders they are. As well, we had an intentional sharing of donor activism work from a mind, body, and spirit focus which helps people enter the “activist” conversation from **different perspectives**.

### **Vote with your Voice**

I recently got five ballots to vote for Board members for companies that I own stock in. Normally they would go in the trash but why not take action? I know that Linda Tarr Whalen in her book has spoken about the 30% rule of needing at least 3 out of 10 underrepresented individuals in a decision making body to make an impact. I found this **sample letter** that seems easy enough to produce for each company and as soon as my executive assistant gets hired, she and I will **tackle this!**

### **Worth Philanthropy**

Charitable giving by high net worth households to nonprofit organizations accounts for about two-thirds of all individual giving and about half of all charitable giving in the U.S.

Through an ongoing research partnership with the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, which began in 2006, the **2010 Bank of America Merrill Lynch Study of High Net Worth Philanthropy** reveals significant shifts as well as consistent trends in the attitudes and giving behaviors of **wealthy donors...**

### **Americans More Optimistic about Giving in 2011, Survey Finds**

According to a survey conducted during the first full week of the year, for the first time in four years Americans say they are likely to increase their charitable giving in 2011.

Conducted January 6-10, the annual Dunham+Company **New Year's Philanthropy Survey** (38 pages, PDF) found that the number of households which say they plan to boost their giving increased 29 percent, while the number of households which said they are likely to reduce giving fell **48 percent**.