

Chicago Women in Philanthropy

Winter/Spring 2006 Newsletter

CHICAGO
WOMEN
IN PHILANTHROPY

One Founder's Profile – Iris Krieg

by Elizabeth Liwazer

For women of my generation whose main concern is which executive position catches our fancy, we have pioneers like Iris Krieg to thank. While the revered feminists Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem brought national attention to improving and reshaping women's lives, others with vision and commitment worked locally to maintain that focus.

Iris Krieg is among the strategic thinkers and social activists in Chicago who have made a lasting difference.

"You have to understand...the world was so different in the early 1980s," Krieg remarked, on a recent, frigid winter day. "There were fewer women who were in positions of power in the corporate world, and almost no women who were heads of foundations at that time. Women's issues weren't being taken seriously. It wasn't like it is today. We had very few shelters for abused women, or rape crisis centers. There was a sense of being on the outside...we felt isolated. People hired men. You would have to be blind not to see it. When we looked around us, we wondered where we fit in."

Not one to sit back, Krieg began reaching out to other women to assess the landscape and develop solutions.

In 1980, Krieg became one of the co-founders of Chicago Women in Philanthropy. Quick to share the credit with other like-minded women she knew, Krieg explains, "Joy Beaton and I worked together at the Chicago Community Trust and we had similar experiences. We began having brown bag lunch meetings with 12 or 15 other women and asked ourselves what we could do.

"We saw a two-fold problem: organizations weren't presenting themselves in a way that would get funding. At the time, the word "empowerment" was too radical a term to use so these groups were not getting their message across clearly. We asked: how can we help? What are the strategies we could use that would present a stronger case for these organizations? Then we began holding workshops.

Continued on Page 2

If you would like to contribute to the CWIP newsletter, please contact Alexandra Altman at 312/222-3328 or AAltman@McCormickTribune.org.



Iris Krieg, a CWIP co-founder

Chicago Women in Philanthropy is a membership organization for philanthropic and nonprofit leaders.

Influencing the Future of Women and Girls

We are advocates, promoting programs and influencing issues facing women and girls. We create public dialogue through relationship-building, education, and research and are committed to increasing funding to organizations serving women and girls.

Iris Krieg Profile

Continued from Page 1

"We felt less alone. The act of being together gave us support. We didn't anticipate that Chicago Women in Philanthropy would be a formal organization. Other nonprofits sprang up, such as Mujeres Latina en Acción, the Midwest Women's Center and Women Employed. We certainly hadn't foreseen the explosion in the field. Rape Victim Advocates struggled through enormous challenges and it's extraordinary they survived. The struggle continues. We don't feel like we've done enough, although we are at a place of less desperation."

It is precisely because there is more work to be done that Krieg made the decision this year to return to the CWIP Board of Directors at this time.

"I have always been a member—after it was well functioning, I stepped away. That is the apex of success, for other people to get involved and let them make it their own. More recently, CWIP changed itself over the years and is now at a crossroads. I believe there is a rebirth here . . . a way to take our values and apply them in a new way. Now it is up to the next generation. We can't define ourselves based on the past. We must define ourselves based on the future."

This year, as CWIP celebrates its 25th Anniversary we are honored to have Iris serve as the Honorary Chair of the Annual Fall Luncheon.

What early influences shaped Krieg's sense of responsibility toward activism? Krieg shared her experience as a post-World War II baby boomer, witnessing segregation in Miami, where she grew up. "How do you reconcile that?" she asks more than once.

"I have always been a member—after it was well functioning, I stepped away. That is the apex of success, for other people to get involved and let them make it their own."

Those images of racial injustice—separate restrooms and water fountains—made her consider the individual's task and ability to affect positive change.

In addition to her role as president of Iris Krieg & Associates, Inc., (IKA) a consulting and management firm providing services to foundations, donors and non-profit organizations, Krieg is also co-founder of the Chicago Foundation for Women. Active in philanthropic organizations throughout her career, Krieg also serves on the boards of Open Lands and Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, of which she is president. She is a member of the Visiting Committee for the School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago, and the Leadership Council of the Chicago Public Education Fund. Krieg has made numerous presentations, received several awards and written articles on philanthropy.

Krieg holds masters degrees from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, and the School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago. A resident of Evanston with her husband, James Hardy, Krieg is the mother/step mother of ten children and the proud grandmother/step grandmother of nineteen grandchildren.

Thank you, Iris, for all that you have done and continue to do for CWIP.

CWIP Hosts Membership Tea

by Carol White

On January 24, 2006, CWIP kicked off the year in style with a members' event hosted at The Arts Club in Chicago. Members enjoyed the peaceful ambience of The Salon, with a fire in the fireplace, and a nice assortment of tea and refreshments, topped off with a special cake celebrating CWIP's 25th anniversary.

Pamela Stauffer, CWIP Board Chair, welcomed the crowd and introduced Board Members. Then, CWIP founder and returning Board Member, Iris Krieg, inspired the group with her comments about "the power of women working together." She noted that she is proud to be part of CWIP's past, present, and future, as the full membership works together to continue to adapt CWIP to meet ever-changing needs.

Continued on Page 3

CWIP Annual Meeting

by Alexandra Altman

This year's Chicago Women in Philanthropy annual luncheon was held on October 31, 2005 in an elegant room at the Standard Club.

Donna Lopiano, executive director of the Women's Sports Foundation, delivered an inspiring keynote address to CWIP members. She is a powerful and engaging speaker, with lots of humor to punctuate her delivery of important facts and research.



Even though there has been an 849 percent increase in participation since Title IX was passed in 1972, in all levels of sports, from scholarships to coaching, girls still do not have the same opportunities as their male counterparts.

Lopiano suggests that we should not focus solely on improving opportunities in competitive sports, but diverse levels of team sports as well. Intervention at an early age can provide young women with the guidance they need to pursue something they did not think was possible. Lopiano reminds us that these messages should be ones of encouragement and support. CWIP members, we should not keep this knowledge to ourselves...it is our duty, as Lopiano said, to "pay it forward" and give back to mentor and support young women. Your participation in CWIP is one step toward this involvement. Make a connection with a young woman or direct service organization today and take the next.

Visit www.gogirlgo.com to find out about the Women's Sports Foundation and its partnerships with Chicago-area organizations. GoGirlGo! Open House Week in Chicago is scheduled for May 28-June 3, 2006.

Unfortunately, there wasn't much to laugh about when Donna revealed the following alarming statistics about young women:

- 1 in 6 girls are obese or overweight
- more than 50 percent of young women watch 3+ hours of TV per school day
- 78 percent of 17-year-old girls are unhappy with their bodies

Founded by Billie Jean King, the Women's Sports Foundation seeks to empower girls through physical activity, not only with a goal of better health, but to help young women develop self esteem and confidence to apply to every area of their lives.

The CWIP Committees need you! Watch for an email soon with more details...

If you would like to lend your time and expertise to a committee, please contact one of the following chair persons:

<u>Communications</u> - Carol White & Cynthia Schmidt Email: Carol@CBWhite.com	<u>Technical Assistance</u> - Gayle Nelson-Blomquist & Jeanne Becker Email: gaylenb@earthlink.net
<u>Membership</u> - Trisha Gossard & Nancy Ward Email: TGossard@McCormickTribune.org	<u>Fund Development</u> - Rebecca Alvin & Cynthia Schmidt Email: beca.p@sbcglobal.net
<u>Program</u> - Claudia Baier & Lisa Montez Email: cbvnac@aol.com	<u>Governance</u> - Kim Riordan Van Horn Email: KRiordan@fieldfoundation.org
<u>MAP</u> - Rebecca Stanfield Email: rstanfield@illinoispirg.org	

Membership Tea

Continued from Page 2

Following Iris' comments, four Committee Chairs spoke briefly about their current activities, needs, and upcoming meetings and events. Finally, Lauren Bergquist shared preliminary results from the member survey currently available online. A report on the survey results will soon be available to all members, and a summary will be shared via the newsletter.

Special thanks to the event organizer, Lauren Bergquist, from the Membership Committee, as well as to Irene Phelps for the space, and lastly to those that attended for making it a delightful evening despite the cold weather.

Judgment Day

by Gayle Nelson-Blomquist and Jenny Ellis Richards

Chicago Women in Philanthropy

216 W. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 625
Chicago, IL 60606
312/409-4005
CWIPorg@aol.com
www.cwiponline.com

CWIP Officers

Board Chair Pamela Stauffer 1SYNC	Board Chair Elect Trisha Gossard McCormick Tribune Foundation
--	--

Vice President Cynthia Schmidt Association House of Chicago	Secretary Kim Riordan Van Horn Field Foundation of Illinois
---	--

Treasurer Esther Grimm The Three Arts Club of Chicago	Administrator Susan Gidley Gidley Management Group
---	---

CWIP Directors

Claudia Baier VNA Foundation	Gayle Nelson-Blomquist Development Consultant
--	---

Tracy Baim Windy City Media Group	Rebecca Alvin Hispanic Scholarship Fund
---	---

Iris Krieg Iris Krieg & Assoc.	Rebecca Stanfield Illinois Public Interest Research Group
--	--

Mary Morten Morten Group	Carol White Carol B. White & Assoc.
------------------------------------	---

CWIP Newsletter Staff

Communications Co-Chair: Carol White
Editor/Design Layout: Alexandra Altman

Chicago Women in Philanthropy's Technical Assistance Committee held Judgment Day on the morning of October 6, 2005. The Committee welcomed nineteen senior foundation executives and over thirty staff from local nonprofits. Through the event, participants forged and expanded relationships leading to new opportunities to communicate and build a stronger philanthropic community for organizations serving women and girls.

Judgment Day offers staff of local nonprofit organizations a behind-the-scenes look at the foundation decision-making. The event began with a continental breakfast and networking, followed by a roundtable discussion titled *Understanding the Proposal Review Process* moderated by past CWIP Board Member Alison Janus. The Roundtable speakers were Matt Blakely, manager of the Motorola Foundation, formerly program officer at the McCormick Tribune Foundation, Jason Heeney, executive director of the Mayer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation, Mae Hong, program officer at the Field Foundation of Illinois, and Ann Billingsley, an independent consultant. The speakers gave practical advice to nonprofit leaders on how to develop winning grant proposals. Suggestions included:

- Nonprofit staff should not hesitate to contact foundation officers and ask questions clarifying foundation guidelines and organizational fit.
- Program Officers are potential grantee's advocate to foundation boards who are the final decision maker, therefore it is important for nonprofit staff to clearly articulate the organization's work and how it compares to others in the field.
- Nonprofit staff should not be afraid to point out the real challenges they are facing within the organization – be upfront about any organizational or financial problems.
- Expressly discuss how the organization's mission fits within the foundation's mission.

The second part of the morning provided an opportunity for nonprofit staff to meet individually with program officers from local foundations and receive feedback on their specific grant proposals.

Overall, event participants rated Judgment Day highly. Foundation executives reported that nonprofit staff was open to their suggestions, and that they were able to provide honest feedback. Nonprofit staff said that the sessions were very helpful for them. One participant, in particular, highlighted that "the feedback was thoughtful and will absolutely help with future proposals."