

# Congressman Jim Moran

## 2012 Women's Issues Conference Biographies

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### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

#### Kathleen Matthews

*Chief Communications and Public Affairs Officer for Marriott International*



Kathleen Matthews is the chief communications and public affairs officer for Marriott International, the leading global hotel company based in Bethesda, Maryland. She is responsible for the company's external and internal communications including global brand and corporate public relations, corporate social responsibility and government affairs. She co-chairs Marriott's Executive Green Council and serves on the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board to the Secretary of Commerce, as well as the boards of the U.S. Travel Association, the International Tourism Partnership, and the Economic Club of Washington. She is also currently active in the World Economic Forum Policy Councils.

Matthews is a 1975 graduate of Stanford University, and was a 2004 Fellow at the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She has honorary degrees from the University of South Carolina and Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. Since 1980, she has been married to Chris Matthews, host of MSNBC's *Hardball* and *The Chris Matthews Show*. They live in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and have three children. Matthews is active in her community, and has served on the boards of Catholic Charities, the Black Student Fund, *Suited for Change*, *Ford's Theatre*, *Shakespeare Theatre Company*, *Nantucket Film Festival* and *Dreamland Theater*.

Prior to her career at Marriott, she was an award winning news anchor at the ABC-TV affiliate in Washington, D.C., for 25 years, and hosted the nationally syndicated "Working Woman" television show. She has been named *Washingtonian of the Year* by *Washingtonian Magazine*, and a "Woman Who Means Business" by the *Washington Business Journal*. She has also been awarded nine local Emmys and other top honors during her journalism career.

# HEALTH AND FITNESS DEMONSTRATIONS

## *Chef Cynthia Anderson*

Celebrity Chef Cynthia Anderson spent 10 years perfecting her culinary arts craft. Her dream was realized in 2005 when she became Owner/Personal Chef of *Intimate Sentiments*. Her signature dishes include *Maine Lobster Macaroni & Cheese with White Truffle Oil*.

Her clientele consists of professional athletes, noted politicians, nationally known entertainers, moms, single parents and senior citizens (loves them) throughout the DMV area. Cynthia's passion spans beyond just cooking. She also believes in the importance of education. In addition to being chef extraordinaire, Cynthia dedicates her time to imparting her clients with knowledge about the need for healthy eating habits as a daily part of our lives. She uses cooking as a tool to empower her elderly and health impaired clients by providing cooking classes focused on healthy meal preparation in 30 minutes or less.

## *Lizeth Magana*

Lizeth Magana was raised in the California Bay area. Growing up with a musician father and a mother who loved to run every morning and was always working out with friends at home; she had a love of fitness, sports and music. From playing soccer in college, to getting certifications as a group fitness instructor and taking body toning and nutrition classes, the love of a healthy life has always been a part of her life thanks to wonderful parents who were always active and lived healthy lives. She loves soccer, dance, healthy foods, and motivating people into a healthy life style. Lizeth is happily married with three children ages 5, 6 and 7 who enjoy taking Mom's dance fitness class.

# SEMINARS

## **Living My Ideal Life: Balancing Family, Career, and Personal Needs**

### *Deborah Kahn, PhD*

Searching for herself and a career, Deborah Kahn interspersed jobs with education and life. After college, (University of Michigan) she taught junior high math, evaluated social studies curricula, and then became a free-lance computer programmer while getting her Masters in counseling at Boston University.

She then moved to work and supervise in Virginia's adult system of Probation and Parole. Soon, she began a doctoral program in Human Development at George Washington University and tried consulting work focused on the criminal justice system and drug abuse programs.

After her first child was born she stepped out of the work force to care for the family, engaged in school and community activities, and dabbled on her dissertation about drug treatment programs in prison. While co-chairing a school's Fun Fair and she noted the professional work of the other

mostly at-home mothers, and had an epiphany; she found her passion: why, if given the choice, would one mother choose to continue employment and another choose to stay at-home. What was the difference?

She became Dr. Kahn in 1995 when she completed her dissertation: *Employed and At-home Mothers: A Comparison of Gender-Related Character Traits and Psychological Rewards Derived From Work*. In 2008 she conducted a follow up study asking the mothers about their experiences, feelings, and changes regarding their work status. She is currently writing a book on her findings.

### ***Dagny Evans***

In December of 2011, Dagny wrapped up responsibilities as VP, Billing for PGI. Since then she has been actively consulting on a part-time basis, volunteering with Women in Technology, networking, and spending time with her family.

While at PGI, Dagny was responsible for global backoffice billing. This included all processes and systems beginning when customers first interact with PGI, through to delivering those records into the invoicing system. Dagny also had full responsibility for technology and billing operations for PGI's legal division, Soundpath, which was acquired by PGI in 2008. In order to accomplish her goals, she had a team of 9 software developers in Colorado, India, Ohio and Virginia, working with stakeholders in the US, Ireland, Australia, and Hong Kong. Some notable accomplishments during this time include: managing the complete software development lifecycle for expanding the Soundpath customer care and billing system and customer portal to support global expansion; involvement in the design and implementation of billing for PGI's new iMeet and GlobalMeet products; and developing a plan for billing infrastructure improvements and garnering organizational support and approval.

At Soundpath, Dagny was responsible for technology and billing operations for a fast growth business services organization targeting law firms. During this time, her team of developers in the US and India developed the Soundpath customer care and billing system and Soundpath Online, the customer portal. Soundpath Online was designed based purely on customer feedback and resulted in 100% customer retention. Dagny was instrumental in the IT due diligence for the financial audit, which led to the acquisition by PGI. She was chosen by PGI's CTO of Conferencing, during the acquisition process, to take on responsibility of PGI's backoffice billing team. Dagny was the only member of the management team to transition to PGI, and was responsible for compiling the comparative system information to determine how the acquisition should be handled from a system's perspective. As a result of this analysis, it was determined that Soundpath's systems provided unique benefits to its customers and should be maintained separately.

Dagny has previously contracted as VP, Information Technology for OfficeDesktop, a Software-as-a-Service company that provides online, on-demand, productivity software for small to medium sized businesses; received her MBA from The Kogod School of Business at American University; and held several roles including Product Manager, Project Manager, Database Administrator and Senior Technical Operations Managers at Enews, an online retailer of magazines, during the height of the dotcom boom.

### ***Kiersten Todt Coon***

Kiersten Todt Coon is President and CEO of Liberty Group Ventures (LGV). She develops and executes risk management strategies – including the creation and facilitation of tabletop exercises – for Fortune 500 companies, state and local governments, quasi-public entities (i.e., sports stadiums), and institutions (i.e., multi-campus universities, hospitals). She also conducts cyber security gap analyses for public, private, and non-profit entities and develops relevant solutions.

Prior to LGV, Ms. Coon was a partner at Good Harbor Consulting and was responsible for the company's North America crisis management practice. Contracts included states and quasi-public institutions, maritime entities, small and large businesses, and college and university systems. Prior to Good Harbor, she worked for Business Executives for National Security (BENS) and was responsible for integrating the private sector into state and local emergency management capabilities; she also developed and executed federal and regional port and cyber security projects. Before BENS, she was a consultant for Sandia National Laboratories and worked with the California Governor's Office and Bay Area Economic Forum to develop the homeland security preparedness plan for the Bay Area. Ms. Coon was also an adjunct lecturer at Stanford University.

Ms. Coon served as a Professional Staff Member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs (now the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs); she worked for the Committee Chairman, Senator Joseph Lieberman, and was responsible for drafting the infrastructure protection, emergency preparedness, and science and technology directorates of the legislation that created the Department of Homeland Security. She also served as Senator Lieberman's Appropriations Director and managed his drug policy portfolio.

Before working in the Senate, Ms. Coon served in Vice President Gore's domestic policy office and was responsible for coordinating federal resources with locally-defined needs, specifically focusing on energy challenges in California and housing issues. She was also the senior advisor on demand-reduction issues to Director Barry. R. McCaffrey at the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

Ms. Coon graduated from Princeton University, with a degree in Public Policy from The Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. She holds a master's degree in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and was selected to be a Presidential Management Fellow in 1999. She earned the Outstanding Service Award at ONDCP and is currently a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She resides in Arlington, Virginia and is a mother of two children, ages 6 and 8.

### ***Jennifer Vasquez***

Jennifer Vasquez is an international relations, integrated marketing communications strategist, diversity and inclusion advisor, and community advocate. She is currently Managing Partner of a small consulting firm focusing on providing diversity and inclusion strategies, market research, and communication solutions to government and businesses. Ms. Vasquez has more than 12 years of experience serving public and private entities in a variety of industries; most recently,

she led all global relations and strategic planning for an international development organization headquartered in Washington D.C.

Jennifer, a native Arlingtonian, sits on a number of boards and committees including the Arlington County Commission on the Status of Women, the DMV Diversity Council, Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Florida International University D.C. Alumni Chapter, Arlington County Latino Roundtable, and the Arlington Young Democrats Latino Caucus. Jennifer received a B.A. in International Politics and a B.A. in Government at George Mason University and completed a dual Masters in International Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Florida International University. She was a part of the inaugural class and completed the Executive Business Program for Non-Profit Management at the University of Miami.

## **Living Healthy, Living Happy, Living Longer**

### ***Lisa R. Pawloski, Ph.D.***

Dr. Pawloski is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies at George Mason University. She is an expert in childhood obesity and biocultural aspects of health and nutrition among children, adolescents, and young adults. As a Fulbright Scholar in 1997, she examined the nutritional status of adolescent girls from the Segou Region in Mali, West Africa to explore factors impacting malnutrition in that region. Her current interests involve exploring the biocultural, geographic, and social determinants of obesity in transitional countries. Dr. Pawloski has most recently worked and conducted research in Nicaragua, Thailand, Chile, Iraq, and Costa Rica.

### ***Costanza Cocilovo, MD, FACS, FASCRS***

Dr. Cocilovo is a board-certified, fellowship trained breast surgeon. She comes to the Inova Breast Care Center from Georgetown University Hospital where she practiced for several years. She served as Associate Director of Breast Surgery and an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Georgetown before becoming the new medical director of the Inova Breast Care Center.

Dr. Cocilovo has numerous publications in national journals and surgical textbooks and has presented nationally on topics in breast surgery. She has been involved in numerous research projects including prophylactic mastectomy for BRCA gene mutation carriers; the use of nipple sparing mastectomy; screening the high-risk patient; evaluating the delivery of genetic counseling; and the use of MRI in breast cancer staging. She looks forward to continuing her involvement in both research and clinical practice at Inova. She lives in Northern Virginia with her husband and 3 boys.

### ***Sara Bloom Bruce, MD***

Dr. Bruce joined the Inova Breast Care Center after the completion of her Breast Surgical Oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Previously, she trained in General Surgery at Georgetown University Hospital, and she is happy to be returning to the DC/Northern Virginia area. Growing up in nearby Westminster, Maryland, Dr. Bruce was always involved in a multitude of art projects. She feels lucky to now have a career

that allows her to combine the fine motor skills of her artistic side with her interest in biologic science. In her spare time, Dr. Bruce enjoys spending time with her husband, son, and dog, and she tries to make time for painting, drawing, and other artistic projects.

### ***Peter Schoebel***

Peter worked in Silicon Valley for 10 years for a Defense Contractor that manufactured magnetic tape recording devices, mostly for NAVSEA, NAVAIR, and various intelligence branches of the government. He also worked in various positions, finally as a Program Manager for NAVSEA contracts.

He followed his passion to work with food and was the manager of a small pizza chain for a few years, and purchased a gourmet pizza restaurant, Pacific Gourmet Pizza, which he owned for almost 5 years, in Foster City, CA.

Then to further his knowledge and career, he attended the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. Peter graduated in October 1997 at the top of his class with the Academic Achievement Award. After graduating, Peter moved to the Phoenix area and worked at various resorts and restaurants for four years, including the Boulder Resort, Fog City Diner and Bistro America.

After a short term, he was given the opportunity to transfer to Northern Virginia as Executive Chef at the Capital One Headquarters in McLean, VA. After a few years, he transferred as Executive Chef to the Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters in Langley, VA. Peter then worked for Aramark for 1 ½ years at the Janelia Farm Research Campus in Ashburn, VA, and since 2008 he has worked for Sodexo at George Mason University as Campus Executive Chef.

## **Human/Sex Trafficking: The Global and Local Impact on Women**

### ***Heather Heiman***

Heather Heiman is a graduate of DePaul University College of Law, where she received a JD and Certificate in International and Comparative Law. Heather joined the Tahirih Justice Center's Washington, DC area office in 2009 and is the Senior Public Policy Attorney. Heather works in close collaboration with the Director of Public Policy on all aspects of Tahirih's policy initiatives, and leads Tahirih's Virginia-based advocacy efforts. She also provides direct legal services to select clients, acting as the liaison between Tahirih's Policy and Legal Departments.

Heather has authored or co-authored publications including Precarious Protection: How Unsettled Policy and Current Laws Harm Women and Girls Fleeing Persecution (PDF), a report on challenges facing women asylum-seekers in the United States; "USCIS Issues Vital Fact Sheet to Protect Foreign Brides From Abuse," an article published in the February/March 2011 edition of the Civic Research Institute's Domestic Violence Report; and Forced Marriage in Immigrant Communities in the United States, a report on the results of a groundbreaking national

survey that Tahirih conducted in the summer of 2011.

Prior to joining Tahirih, Heather was a professional volunteer with Life Span Center for Legal Services and Advocacy in Chicago, Illinois, where she provided legal assistance to immigrant survivors of domestic violence. As a law student, Heather represented clients at DePaul College of Law's Immigration Clinic and was a research associate for Prof. N. Morrison Torrey, a leading advocate for women's rights. Prior to law school, Heather worked with AmeriCorps Project YES!, where she created and led a Girls' Empowerment Project, along with other educational and volunteer programs, for teenagers in Chicago's Mexican and Puerto Rican communities.

## **Communicating Success, Networking Your Future**

### ***Rose Harper***

Rose is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, lecturer, adjunct professor, contributing writer to golf publications, passionate golfer, a born leader, and the foremost global golf subject matter expert and related events executive. She is the recipient of countless awards for her lifetime achievements in business, community service, development, and in the field of sports, especially golf. She has established herself as a golf advisor and trainer to U.S. presidents, royalty, celebrities, ambassadors, Fortune 500 CEOs and for the underprivileged all over the US. The key to her success is her sincere yet savvy networking ability, skills that she has embedded in her multilevel *Art of the Deal: Golf* business workshop/seminars.

Rose's legendary contributions to the Golf Industry include the founding of the PGA Tour Wives Association, initiating the Golf Digest Minority Golf Summit, and the reformatting of the PGA player credentials. She established a minority joint venture golf course design team (Rose Harper, Gary Player & Arnold Palmer) to provide a golf feasibility study for the Nations Capital. She coordinated and implemented a broad range of projects in the public and private sectors. She was the first person of color to operate and manage a professional 18-hole golf complex through the U.S. Department of the Interior. Rose has served on the Board of Directors for the Bing Crosby Golf Tournament. Rose was certified by the PGA of America as a Player Manager. She organized the first multi-racial sporting event in the history of South Africa; she was a U.S. Delegate to the Seoul Olympics. Her college course on the Business of the Olympics is now taught at George Washington University. She was honored in 2006 by the PGA of America as a founding member of the PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship, in 2009 she was inducted into the DC Hall of Fame receiving their Sports Legacy Award, and in 2011 she was inducted into the National Black Golf Hall of Fame.

One of the most important visionary women in the world of golf, Rose Harper has parlayed 30 years of exposure and experience in the sports management and special events industry, and has provided leadership training to build a successful business that adds value to other professionals. Additionally, she served on the D.C. Baseball Commission and developed a documentary on the History of African Americans in Golf. She has served on many boards and commissions and has chaired the \$2.5 billion dollar D.C. Retirement Board.

Ms. Harper founded the Grass Ceiling, Inc. in 1995, as a business empowerment firm that specializes in using the game of golf as a platform to help level the playing-field for women and

minorities with their counterparts in the business and academic worlds. The game of golf provides a neutral zone to promote effective communication and positive bonding between professionals.

### ***Theresa Caldwell***

Theresa Caldwell is a public speaker, communication/oral presentation trainer, freelance writer and life transition coach whose eclectic mix of media, government and artistic experience informs her work. Theresa is also the producer and substitute host of *The Audrey Chapman Show*, Washington, D.C.'s top-rated relationship/self-help talk show. The program airs on WHUR-FM and SiriusXM Channel 141. She is a Certified Listening Professional, a distinction awarded by the International Listening Association, and an award-winning member of Toastmasters International.

Theresa was a member of Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.'s staff for more than a decade, serving in various capacities including chief of staff and deputy communications director. In 2007, she managed Chicago 7th Ward Alderman Sandi Jackson's first winning campaign. Theresa also worked as the director of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission's Lincoln Legacy National Town Hall program. Her experiences also include: serving as Rev. Jesse Jackson's press secretary, on-site publicist's assistant for the legendary Newport (RI) Jazz Festival, and performing with Massachusetts-based African dance companies.

### ***Annette Harris***

Annette Harris is the President and founder of Harris ImageWorks. With more than 15 years of leadership and professional experience, a flare for fashion, and a passion for professional presence, it seemed only natural for her to create Harris ImageWorks. Having received positive feedback on her speaking skills, professionalism, and appearance over the years, Ms. Harris decided to develop a platform for sharing best practices for achieving great first and lasting impressions!

Ms. Harris has worked for large companies such as Bell Atlantic Inc., ManTech International, MCI WorldCom, and most recently, one of the big-four professional services firms. She has served in marketing and communications, proposal management, business development, and project management related positions – roles that require a high level of professionalism and business communication skills. Moreover, having worked primarily with senior-level managers and executives and often leading large diverse project teams over the last 10 years, she knows how to gain people's attention, how to maintain a professional presence, and how to communicate effectively so that goals and objectives are met.

In addition to her corporate experience, Ms. Harris has also spent time in the retail industry working for Nordstrom as a sales associate where she consistently exceeded sales goals, received excellent customer feedback, and maintained repeat customers. Her work at Nordstrom has afforded her with first-hand customer service experience, personal shopping skills, and added knowledge of style and fashion.

Ms. Harris is a member of the Association of Image Consultants International (AICI), Toastmasters International, and Women in Technology (WIT), a D.C.-based professional

organization. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in Marketing with a minor in Fashion Merchandising from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. She also earned her Master's of Business Administration in Marketing from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Ms. Harris was trained and certified as an image consultant under Lynn Marks, AICI, CIM and Dominique Isbecque, AICI CIM, of the Image Resource Center of New York.

## **Making Your Voice Heard: Advocating for Your Family and Community**

### ***Delegate Charniele Herring***

Delegate Charniele Herring is currently serving her third term as the representative of the 46th District. She also serves as the Virginia House Minority Whip and as Chair of the Legislative Reproductive Health Caucus. Herring serves on the Courts of Justice Committee and the Science and Technology Committee.

Charniele's lifelong commitment to public service began at age 13, when she testified before a committee serving President Ronald Reagan's White House about the need for continued health care coverage for military children. As an adult, she has combined this advocacy with a thriving career in business, building bipartisan coalitions seeking solutions for issues such as the homelessness of children. Delegate Herring has lived in Northern Virginia area for almost 30 years, 22 of them in the West End of Alexandria. She is a Past President of the West End Business Association (WEBA), serves on the Board of Directors for the Hopkins House and is a member of the Greater Washington Board of Trade (BOT) Policy and Outreach Committee.

Prior to her election, Delegate Herring was very active in issues affecting the homeless and children, an issue that has touched her personally after experiencing homelessness as a child. As a participant with Social Action Linking Together (S.A.L.T.) she received the Monsignor Geno Baroni Award for Social Justice for her work to get full funding for the Homeless Intervention Act. She founded and co-chaired the Virginia Privileged Communication Task Force which was comprised of counselors and advocates around the state. She worked with a bi-partisan delegation to get a bill sponsored to protect communications between victims and advocates. Governor Tim Kaine twice appointed her to the Council on the Status of Women. Delegate Herring earned a B.A. in Economics from George Mason University and a J.D. from the Catholic University Columbus School of Law.

## **Car Care 101**

### ***Roy Krebs***

Roy Krebs started on car repair in 1969, part time and full time to pay for college. His first dealer work was in 1972 at a Datsun dealer in Germany, and he continued with Volvo & Saab. He worked for his first Toyota dealer in 1985. Roy has been an ASE Master Diagnostic Technician for over 15 years, a Toyota Master Diagnostic Technician for over 15 years and certified as a Motorcycle technician for over 20 years. Roy has worked at Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota for over 20 years and is currently the Shop Foreman.