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Dear Gloria,

Much as I hate to quote Ronald Reagan, it seems more than appropriate: "There you go again."

I'm referring to both right-wing politicians and women's advocacy groups who seem caught in a never-ending Kabuki drama.



I wrote [this post](#) on April 12, Equal Pay Day. Many of us had watched with a mixture of agony and astonishment as Congress and the president cut their budget deals last weekend, largely on the backs of women, children, and middle class workers. The devil will definitely be in the details as the final bill is negotiated this week. And then the battles over the debt ceiling and the next fiscal year's budget will begin. Heartburn. Frustration.

It would be easy to become depressed over the state of the country. But then my inbox fills up with e-mails like this one from a 15-year old named Shelby--I just had to share it with you:

Hi.

I was flipping through channels on the TV this morning and I came to booktv and decided to watch a minute, to see if anything interesting was there. And then I heard you [talking about women](#) and the need for us to step up in society, and get noticed, and get things done.

Your outlook on things, your Power Tools, it makes sense to me. Not to mention, it's relatable.

As a fifteen year old who is trying to write a novel, trying to get my opinion out there, and trying to show people that people shouldn't be oppressed just because they don't see things the same way, you've inspired me to keep trying.

As a person who sees the feminist movement as a positive thing, your

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Austin, TX
04/21 @ 7:00 pm
[Reading and book signing at Bookwoman Bookstore.](#)

Houston, TX
04/26 @ 7:00 pm
[Reading and book signing at Brazos Bookstore.](#)

Austin, TX
04/29 @ 8:00 am
Keynote address:
[2011 Women's Power Summit on Law & Leadership](#)

Phoenix, AZ
05/12 @ 6:00 pm
Keynote and book signing:
[AAUW Phoenix Chapter Beatitudes](#)

Washington, DC
06/19 @ 10:30 am
Keynote, panel, and book signing: [AAUW National Convention Renaissance Hotel](#)

opinion on this is another encouragement. Because I do fight for the equality, the "why can't we do all the things that men do" mentality. And I've been looking (inadequately, I admit) to find a person who might be a leader with this. So I thank you for doing that.

I really just wanted to thank you for giving me that inspiration at 7 o'clock on my Saturday morning. And I wanted to say I'm glad I've found your name, because I'm going to remember it. You also give me revamped belief that someday, someone, somewhere, will remember mine too.

So Thank You. :)

More Power to You: Know Your History--Create the Future

March was Women's History Month--a great opportunity to share stories of famous and infamous women who have had an impact on our lives today and from whom we can learn lessons for tomorrow. These two posts, ["What Do Academy Award Have to Do With Women's History Month?"](#) and ["Know Your History and You Can Create the Future of Your Choice,"](#) set the context.

A huge shout out to fabulous guest posters whose rich and inspiring posts on the [9 Ways](#) Blog made every day a banquet. Here's a small a sampling--be sure to check them all out if you missed them the first time around. And while you're there, add your comments to the history posts and the open thread conversations too.

Breaking Barriers-Kentucky's first female African American Senator Georgia Davis Powers

Political consultant and publisher of ElectWomen Magazine [Kathy Groob's](#) tribute to the first woman and first African American elected to the Kentucky state senate.

Best of International Women's Day: Be a Front Porch Lady Chief Hot Mama *Kathy Korman Frey profiles one of her heroes, Esther SilverParker, and urges women to support one another's aspirations.*

Octavia Butler, A Pioneer in Science Fiction *[Jezebel's](#) Anna North shares this engaging story of a MacArthur genius from humble beginnings who followed her passion.*

Lois Rabinowitz: Now You Can Wear Slacks *Executive coach [Bonnie Marcus](#) takes a candid look at how attitudes toward women's attire have often had serious consequences.*

Inspiration from Sin City *Emmily Bristol, who blogs at [The Sin City Siren](#) and [The Tired Feminist](#) highlights *The Westside Mothers of Las Vegas* and the power of women who organize.*

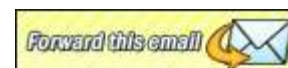
Violence Against Women: Not in MY Backyard-Er, subway car? *Everyone on the subway with author and co-founder of [SheWrites.com](#), [Deborah Siegel](#), will forever think twice before looking away from a violent act.*

Would You Expect a Circus Elephant to Work this Hard?

Santa Barbara, CA
06/30 @ 8pm
[Keynote: She Negotiates Spa Retreat. Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort](#)

(I just want to say this event is going to be AMAZING! Even if you can't attend the entire retreat from 6/30-7/2, I hope you'll come for the dinner on 6/30.)

Visit my [Events Page](#) for more information.



[Suzan St. Maur](#) thinks Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, aka Queen Elizabeth of England, is an inspiration to working women everywhere.

Indira Gandhi: World Leader or Witch?

[The Daily Femme](#) writer Sara Messelaar asks important questions about how women leaders-or any historical figures-should be judged.

Ma McDonough Was No Ordinary Woman

Liz O'Donnell a writer who blogs at [Hello Ladies](#) pays a touching tribute to her grandmother.

There is no Future in History

[Linda Brodsky M.D.](#) challenges us to question whether history is all it's cracked up to be and to look instead to the future.

Power to you!



Gloria



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