

SWAN NEWSLETTER

SWAN Featured Workshop: NOW National Conference



Amidst Independence Day celebrations, SWAN's policy team traveled north to Boston for the annual conference of the National Organization for Women (NOW). There, they

presented SWAN's new Military Sexual Trauma (MST) policy program to their membership. What was scheduled to be a 90 minute presentation became a 3 hour long interactive roundtable on the scope and impact of SWAN's MST policy work on the daily lives of military women. Our team also discussed in detail the changing roles of women in combat, the challenges women veterans have accessing VA health care and benefits, and the disproportionate impact of the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy on women and people of color. The members of NOW left with a better understanding of the issues service women face and what they can do to make a positive change for service women both nationally and in their local communities.

Petra Fellowship

SWAN's Executive Director, Anuradha Bhagwati, was one of four selected as a PETRA FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP FELLOW for 2011. The Petra Foundation "seeks out and champions unsung leaders who are making distinctive contributions to the rights, autonomy and dignity of millions who are marginalized in America." With



Anu's outstanding leadership, SWAN has, in the span of 16 months, grown into a viable and sustainable non-profit, a dynamic and effective policy, advocacy and direct service organization, and the recognized national authority on the issues facing service women and women veterans. She has had an immeasurable impact on the lives of service women.

Congratulations, Anu! For more information on The Petra Foundation see their website <http://www.petrafoundation.org>.



SWAN NEEDS YOUR HELP

SWAN is a 501(c)3 organization that urgently needs your tax-deductible financial support to continue its efforts. Please consider giving in support of our work. Your contribution will go directly to serving the needs of women servicemembers and veterans

Donate Now

SWAN in the News

This month, look for SWAN interviews in [TIME MAGAZINE](#), [YOGA JOURNAL](#) and online at [THE NEW YORK TIMES](#), [MASHABLE](#), Ms. Foundation's [IGNITING CHANGE BLOG](#) and [COLORLINES BLOG](#). Visit our [Facebook page](#) to see more and be sure to become one of SWAN's fans.

Community Programs

Summer is here and SWAN's [COMMUNITY PROGRAMS](#) are in full swing. With veterans' input, we have developed a series of activities that offers opportunities for healing, family fun, and adventure. Please ask veterans that you know to visit our website for more information on upcoming events. We encourage suggestions and welcome feedback. If you have ideas or questions, please contact kalima@servicewomen.org. For more information on our programs, click on the links below:

- [Community gardening](#) (next event is July 17th)
- [Meditation & Relaxation and Yoga For Vets](#) (every Monday and Thursday, respectively)
- [Row NY and SWAN rowing event](#) (July 21st)
- [Creative Writing Workshop](#) (August 4th)

SWAN Staff Profile:

Marlisa Grogan, Veterans' Caseworker

Marlisa staffs SWAN's [PEER SUPPORT HELPLINE](#) for women veterans. Prior to coming to SWAN, Marlisa worked as a union organizer and has recently graduated with a Master's degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work, with a focus on veterans' issues. Originally from Wayne, NJ, Marlisa served as a Marine Corps officer from 2002-2006.



As an Adjutant, she deployed with her unit in 2005 to Al Asad, Iraq, where she also served as a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Officer. "I value my job as a caseworker for SWAN's Peer Support Helpline especially because of the way I'm able to work with women veterans across the country.

They are able to teach me a lot about the changes that, if implemented, could improve women's experiences in the military and their lives as veterans." Marlisa was recently selected as a [2010 Presidential Management Fellow](#). Congratulations, Marlisa!

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