

Lyceum 129- January 15, 2026 – a forum to Think, Discuss, Share, and Learn from one another. Your input is welcomed - Iron sharpens iron.

Neighborhood “The 1826, in Connecticut, a farmer named Josiah Holbrook started a school for ‘the general diffusion of knowledge and raising the moral and intellectual taste’ of Americans. In those days, the opportunities for higher education were limited to those venerable old universities that had long served the upper crust. Holbrook’s vision was to make learning – practical, liberal, and humane – available to working people of all kinds. He named his school the Lyceum, after the garden where Aristotle once taught his students philosophy.... We need to go deeper than the superficial fights that characterize public life. We need to return to the first principles and meet each other there as human beings.”– Nathan Beacom, Plough Magazine, Autumn 2023, p. 9.

There is a Hasidic story that a woman was not taken from the head of a man to be told what to do or from the feet of a man to be walked upon, but from the side of a man. They stand side by side, equal, looking into the future together as time melts away.

The following thoughtful quotations are selected from the wellspring of women’s wisdom. –Roger J. Vanden Busch

1. Abigail Adams – “If particular care attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment and a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.”
2. Anna Quindlen – “It is important to remember that feminism is no longer a group or organizations or leaders. It is the expectations that parents have for their daughters, and their sons, too. It is the way we talk about and treat one another. It is who makes the money and who makes the compromises and who makes the dinner. It is a state of mind. It is the way we live now.”
3. Mary Wollstonecraft – “Women are systematically degraded by receiving the trivial attentions which men think it manly to pay to the sex, when, in fact, men are insultingly supporting their own superiority.”

4. **Michelle Le Doeuff – “A feminist is a woman who does not allow anyone to think in her place.”**
5. **Nancy Astor – “No one sex can govern alone. I believe that one of the reasons why civilization has failed so lamentably is that it had one-sided government.”**
6. **Faith Whittlesey – “Remember, Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but she did it backwards and in high heels.”**
7. **Maureen Reagan: “I will feel equality has arrived when we can elect to office women who are as incompetent as some of the men who are already there.”**
8. **"Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead."**
—Louisa May Alcott
9. **"Cautious, careful people always cast about to preserve their reputation or social standards never can bring about reform. Those who are really in earnest are willing to be anything or nothing in the world's estimation, and publicly and privately, in season and out, avow their sympathies with despised ideas and their advocates, and bear the consequences."**
—Susan B. Anthony
10. **"The day will come when men recognize woman as his peer, not only at the fireside, but in councils of the nation. Then, and not until then, there will be the perfect comradeship, the ideal union between the sexes that shall result in the highest development of the race."**
—Susan B. Anthony
11. **"We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all the civil and political rights that belong to citizens of the United States, be guaranteed to us and our daughters forever." —Susan B. Anthony, Declaration of Rights for Women, July 1876**

12. **"There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers."**
—Susan B. Anthony
13. **"In passing, also, I would like to say that the first time Adam had a chance he laid the blame on a woman."**
—Nancy Astor (British Politician)
14. **"For what is done or learned by one class of women becomes, by virtue of their common womanhood, the property of all women."**
—Elizabeth Blackwell (The first woman in the U.S. to become a physician)
15. **"We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been travelling on is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road, the one "less traveled by"—offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth."**
— Rachel Carson
16. **"The family unit plays a critical role in our society and in the training of the generation to come."**
—Sandra Day O'Connor – former Supreme Court Justice.
17. **"We've chosen the path to equality, don't let them turn us around."**
—Geraldine Ferraro (The first woman to be nominated as Vice President of the United States)
18. **"You can do one of two things; just shut up, which is something I don't find easy, or learn an awful lot very fast, which is what I tried to do." —Jane Fonda**

19. **"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it." -Margaret Fuller.**
20. **"My address is like my shoes. It travels with me. I abide from where there is a fight against wrong." —Mother Jones.**
21. **"Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got." —Janis Joplin.**
22. **"Many people have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose." —Helen Keller.**
23. **"If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse gift will find a fitting place."
"Margaret Mead.**
24. **"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." —Margaret Mead.**
25. **"I can honestly say that I was never affected by the question of the success of an undertaking. If I felt it was the right thing to do, I was for it regardless of the possible outcome." —Golda Meir.**
26. **"Something which we think is impossible now is not impossible in another decade." — Constance Baker Motley.
(First Black Woman in the U.S. to become a Federal Judge).**
27. **"I think the key is for women not to set any limits."— Martina Navratilova'**

28. **"People think at the end of the day that a man is the only answer [to fulfillment]. Actually, a job is better for me." —Princess Diana.**
29. **"Remember no one can make you feel inferior without your consent." —Eleanor Roosevelt.**
30. **"I think it's very important for everyone in America to realize right now the state of our country, not just on this issue but on a lot of issues, that it is time to get active again. People have just sat back and just said, oh, let somebody else do it for a long time, and we are seeing what is happening to the country, even freedom of speech. It is not going well. So, I think this is a real opportunity for people to see, yes, if you do get out and you do get active, there are other people there. You just must seek them out. "Mary Steenburgen.**
31. **"The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn." —Gloria Steinem.**
32. **"I am also very proud to be a liberal. Why is that so terrible these days? The liberals were liberators—they fought slavery, fought for women to have the right to vote, fought against Hitler, Stalin, fought to end segregation, fought to end apartheid. Liberals put an end to child labor, and they gave us the five-day work week! "What's to be ashamed of?"—Barbra Streisand.**
33. **"We still live in a world in which a significant fraction of people, including women, believe that a woman belongs and wants to belong exclusively in the home." —Rosalyn Sussman (Nobel Prize-winning medical physicist).**
34. **"You can tell how high society is by how much of its garbage is recycled." —Dhyani Ywahoo. (Native American).**

35. "It's so clear that you have to cherish everyone. I think that's what I get from these older Black women, that every soul is to be cherished, that every flower is to bloom." —Alice Walker.
36. "I've learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not on our circumstances." —Martha Washington.
37. "As a woman I have no country. As a woman my country is the whole world." —Virginia Woolf.
38. "Not until I said Goddess did I realize that I had never felt fully included in the fullness of my being as woman in masculine or neutered imagery for divinity." — Carol Christ.
39. "I found God in myself and I loved her fiercely." — Ntosake Shange.
40. "The association of the Masculine with what is above and the Feminine with what is below serves to maintain a dominator mentality by unconsciously reinforcing the idea that the rule of men and masculinity over women and femininity is simply 'the way it is.'" —Riane Eisler.
41. "Like Jacob with the angel...women struggle with God, and at the end of the night, both women and God will emerge with new names and the power of new being. At dawn women may hear a still, small voice speaking to them saying, 'God is woman like yourself, she, too, has suffered and ceased to exist through the long year of patriarchal history.' With that sister God, and the sister earth she once represented, women will make a new covenant; promising to liberate her and the earth as they liberate themselves." Carol Christ.

42. **“Our whole culture – with its endless violence, homeless people on the streets, colossal nuclear arsenals, and global pollution – is sick. It is sick because it is out of harmony with itself; it suffers from what the Hopi Indians call “Koyaanisqatsi,” which is rendered in English, “crazy life, life in turmoil, life out of balance.” What is missing is the feminine dimension in our spiritual and psychological lives; that deep mystical sense of the earth and her cycles and of the very cosmos as a living mystery. We have lost our inner connection to that monumental power that used to be called the Great Mother of us all.” – Jennifer Woolger.**

-May the blessings of Health, Happiness, and Holiness” be with you and your loved ones.”