Anti-Violence efforts were the focus of Abby’s House educational programming during the month of February as we celebrated V-Day. V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls launched by Eve Ensler following the success of her play, The Vagina Monologues. According to Ensler, the “V” for V-Day stands for “victory,” “valentine,” and “vagina.” V-Day promotes events that increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations such as Abby’s House.

In conjunction with V-Day, the ambitious campaign One Billion Rising was started 15 years ago. This event has been the biggest mass action to end violence against women and girls in HUMAN HISTORY! Last year, One Billion Rising events took place in over 200 countries around the world, including right here on WOU’s campus. On Thursday, February 12th, advocates asked WOU community members to contribute to our community art project and “rise” for revolution. The culminating V-Day event was the 2015 production of The Vagina Monologues on February 27 & 28.

The cast of this year’s production of The Vagina Monologues.
WOU student Rebekah Ocker led an educational program about rape culture in collaboration with Abby’s House on Friday, February 13th. The program featured a panel of women discussing personal experiences that highlighted various larger cultural problems such as internalized sexism, the objectification of women, and sexual terrorism.

Abby’s House participated in the Werner University Center’s “Freebie Friday” series of events. On February 13th, Co-producers and Directors Jessica Fontaine and Hannah Towle facilitated a discussion about the provocative play, *The Vagina Monologues*. Symbolism, emotional expression, and social stigma related to women’s sexuality and bodies were some key points of discussion. Those that attended were entered into a drawing for free tickets to the production.

February was National Eating Disorder Awareness Month. Advocate Samantha Hughes partnered with the Student Health and Counseling Center to offer information tabling at the Werner University Center on Wednesday, February 25th. The tabling event included an activity where students could sign a “Body Peace Treaty” and on-campus resources were available for students or friends who may be experiencing any form of disordered eating.

Abby’s House participated in Human Rights Awareness Day Fair sponsored by WOU’s Anthropology Club. Our table featured a poster about the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women, known as CEDAW, which is an international bill of rights for women. The United States is in company with countries such as Iran, Sudan, and Somalia all of which have not ratified this convention with the UN.
Advocate Zumba!

The Health and Wellness Center offered our group of Advocates a free Zumba class at the end of winter term. In order to be a great advocate for others, we must take care of ourselves. This was a great way for us to participate in self-care as the busy term concluded. Thank you to Melissa Bergeland for the opportunity!

Students Advocating for Healthy Masculinity

Advocates are forming a new discussion group as part of our community outreach program! Join us for a movie night with FREE PIZZA to discuss issues of toxic masculinity in our culture and ways we grapple with these dominant ideas in our everyday life. All are welcome. People who identify as male are encouraged to attend!

Film: Fight Club
Date: Thursday, April 23rd
Time: 7pm
Location: Abby’s House

Community Outreach

A total of six outreach presentations were given during fall term. These presentations involved advocates explaining what resources are available to students at Abby’s House in addition to providing timely information about upcoming events and ways to get involved through SPEAK, our student club.

Seeking 2015-2016 Student Advocates!

Interested in advocacy, activism, and social justice? Come learn about volunteer opportunities and internships at Abby’s House for the 2015-16 year!

Applications are available online and at Abby’s House. Email or call with questions. 2015-2016 Advocate Applications are due by 5pm on Friday, May 15th.

Advocate Information Sessions:

May 12th, 2pm
May 14th, 11am

Location: Abby’s House

Advocate Zumba!

138 students were reached this term!
Woman of the Year Nominations

Abby’s House is accepting nominations for the 4th Annual Woman of the Year Award.

Abby’s House is honoring a faculty or staff woman in our community who exemplifies our mission at Abby’s House. Specifically, we are seeking to honor a woman whose work has contributed to equity and non-violence. Nominations forms will be available on our website or in person at Abby’s House.

Nomination forms are due Friday, April 24th by 5pm at Abby’s House, WUC 106. Forms are available on our website and at Abby’s House.

The Mission of Abby’s House is to provide the WOU community with educational programming, information, and referral services designed to promote equity and non-violence. We embrace a feminist model that empowers all people to actively stand against all forms of violence, harassment, verbal abuse, discrimination, and hatred.

Jeanne Deane Abby’s House Scholarship

⇒ The Abby’s House scholarship was established to assist an upper division student (completed 100 credit hours) continue their studies at Western Oregon University.
⇒ The scholarship award is $1000, equally divided over three terms. The scholarship recipient must be willing to volunteer at Abby’s House a minimum of 8 hours per week each quarter throughout the academic year.
⇒ The scholarship is awarded to one student each year. This scholarship is not automatically renewable, although the student may reapply for the scholarship the next year.

Eligibility Requirements:
♦ Applicants must be enrolled in undergraduate or graduate coursework at Western Oregon University
♦ Applicants must be a current or new student who has completed at least 100 credit hours
♦ Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in your major field of study

Application Requirements:
♦ Completed application form and required attachments (see application form)
♦ A copy of all college transcripts (unofficial copies acceptable)
♦ Two letters of recommendation submitted in sealed envelopes

⇒ Applications are due Friday, April 24th, 2015 by 5pm, for consideration for the 2015-2016 academic year.
⇒ Completed applications must be submitted in person to Abby’s House, WUC 106.
⇒ Application review and award selection will be conducted by the Abby’s House Board of Directors.
A student-led club partnered with Abby’s House.

**SPEAK**
(Students Promoting Equity Activism and Knowledge)
A student organization sponsored by Abby’s House and open to ALL students. SPEAK’s mission is to promote activism by providing educational programming that addresses a wide range or social issues, both current and longstanding. We aim to foster equality, tolerance and understanding by providing a safe environment where all people are free to gather and express their ideas.

**THINKING BEFORE DRINKING**
SPEAK held this event in the heritage ballroom on February 4th to understand personal limits to drinking, measuring consumption, and learn about myths related to alcohol. There was an alcohol impaired stimulation activities that made this event exciting and interactive. There were also free mocktails served by the Peer Mentors.

**WOMEN OF CULTURE DINNER**
SPEAK members attended the annual Women of Culture Dinner on March 4th. They loved the keynote speaker Sharon Lacey. Lacey is a comedian who uses her inspirational story to discuss current and long standing issues, with her humor and real life experiences.

If you want to get involved with Abby’s House or just meet new people, come to SPEAK meetings! We meet **Wednesdays at 5pm** in Abby’s House.

LIKE us on Facebook!
SPEAK at WOU
Upcoming Spring 2015 Events:

**S.H.C.C. Health Fair**
Wednesday, April 8, 12-5pm, HWC

**Equal Pay Day: Inequality Bake Sale & Rally**
Tuesday, April 14, 11-3pm, WUC Plaza

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month Events**

**Film Screening: The Hunting Ground**
Thursday, April 16, 6-8pm, Willamette Room, WUC

**Sexual Wellness Advocacy Team from the U of O**
Tuesday, April 21, 7-8:30pm, Columbia Room, WUC

**Students Advocating Healthy Masculinity: Movie Night**
Thursday, April 23, 7pm, Abby’s House, WUC 106

***Free Pizza***

**CounterACT Sexual Assault Myths Through Video**
Wednesday, April 29, 5-6pm, Columbia Room, WUC

**Resource and Gender Studies Library**
The Resource and Gender Studies Library at Abby’s House is a **FREE** resource available to students, faculty, and staff!

Come check out books on various topics including: Family Studies; Women and Violence; Women’s, Gender, and Masculinity Studies; Reproductive Health; Women’s History, and much more! Whether you need resources for a class assignment or for personal use, the Abby’s House Library can help!
Mission Statement:
To provide the WOU community with educational programming, information, and referral services designed to promote equity and non-violence. We embrace a feminist model that empowers all people to actively stand against all forms of violence, harassment, verbal abuse, discrimination, and hatred.

We can help you find resources for a variety of issues:
- Sexual Violence
- Relationship Violence
- Sexual Harassment
- Stalking
- Child Abuse
- Stress and Anxiety
- Depression
- Suicide
- Women’s Heath
- Breast Cancer
- Contraception
- STD Testing
- Substance Abuse
- Eating Disorders
- Gender Identity
- And Much More

Our Name:
The name Abby’s House was chosen in honor of Abigail Scott Duniway, who fought for women’s right to vote and own property predominantly in Oregon. She was the first woman to register to vote in Oregon.

On the web:
www.wou.edu/abbyhouse
facebook.com/wouabbyshouse
https://twitter.com/WOUAbbysHouse

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