



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**NOTE TO PRESS/MEDIA:** Interviews with participants should be scheduled for 1:30 PM. Please contact Branda Miller (518) 272-2390 or [milleb@rpi.edu](mailto:milleb@rpi.edu) to schedule your interview. For more info, check out: <http://www.mediasanctuary.org/node/579>

**CONFERENCE ON 'UPSTATE GIRLS' SLATED FOR APRIL 2ND**

*Inspired by Brenda Ann Kenneally's compelling photography,  
program looks at how teenage girls interface with  
legal, educational, health, and penal systems*

**ALBANY, NY** (March, 2009) – 'A Conversation about *UPSTATE GIRLS*,' slated for Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, will bring together teenage girls from throughout the Capital Region to share stories about the challenges in their lives. Joining with them are representatives of the institutions with which they are entwined as well as interested people from throughout the region. The free conference will take place from 12 Noon to 4 PM at the Sanctuary for Independent Media, 3361 6th Avenue,

*501(c)3 sponsor of*  
The Sanctuary for Independent Media  
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North Troy. To register, call (518) 272 - 2390 or email [milleb@rpi.edu](mailto:milleb@rpi.edu).

Inspired by Brenda Ann Kenneally's award-winning photography, currently on display at the Sanctuary, the program focuses on working-class girls from North Troy whose lives exemplify the nexus of social and political forces with the personal. Representatives from legal, educational, health and penal systems will also add their perspectives. The Kenneally exhibit is part of the New York Media Alliance's arts and education program, which strives to challenge viewers to look at the world anew.

Snacks for the program will be provided by Honest Weight Food Co-op. According to Karisa Centanni, Education Coordinator at Honest Weight, "The Co-op is glad to be able to provide healthy snack options for attendees of this important symposium. These snacks will be nutritious foods that promote healthy bodies and minds, are suitable for both adults and children and are affordable for those on a tight budget. Healthy snack foods like nuts, dried fruits and seeds from our bulk aisles provide optimum nutrition at a fraction of the cost of most packaged trail mixes or processed foods. We strive to help low income families make the best food choices and believe strongly that they can do so at the Honest Weight Food Co-op."

### **Sanctuary for Independent Media**

The Sanctuary for Independent Media, a project of the New York Media Alliance, is located in and serves a neighborhood with a predominantly low-income population, many of whom are people of color. A goal of the Sanctuary is to bolster this underserved population through creative activity, including media workshops for youth and adults in both the immediate area and surrounding

communities.

### **Honest Weight Food Co-Op**

Honest Weight Food Co-op, founded in 1976, is open to the public seven days a week. A member-owned and -operated organization, Honest Weight Food Co-op is committed to providing the community with affordable, high quality natural foods and products for healthy and ecologically sustainable living. The store offers a full line of brand-name grocery products, over 500 domestic and imported cheeses from rBGH-free dairies, an extensive selection of bulk foods, locally and sustainably raised meats, and the area's widest selection of locally produced food products. Honest Weight Food Co-op is centrally located at 484 Central Avenue, between Partridge and Manning, in Albany, NY.

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### **'A Conversation about *UPSTATE GIRLS*' Conference Schedule:**

APRIL 2nd SCHEDULE: "Upstate Girls' Conversation"

12:00- 12:30 Brenda Ann Kenneally and the Upstate Girls: Exhibition Tour

12:30 Dr. Netter

Holistic Doctor, Nutritional Consultant, Reiki Master Healer and Teacher, Certified Professional Life Coach, presentation: Nutrition, how to make easy healthy meals and home healing ideas.

12:50 Jenn Thompson

Non-traditional education at HVCC, Power and orgasm (SUNY Albany PHD)

1:10 Mari Shopsis, Education Director, Rensselaer County Historical Society:  
Historical Scrapbooks.

*\*The Upstate Girls Scrapbooks will be entered into the Historical Society archive!*

1:30 Stations and Informal Conversations

Smoothies and Trail Mix Stations: Karissa Centanni: Education Coordinator,

Honest Weight Food Coop: Nutrition and Low-budget Tips

Scrapbook Station: Dana Schubert Aftab and the Upstate Girls

Press interviews

2:10 Blue Carreker, VP of Public Affairs and Marketing, and Megan Carol, Sexual Health Educator, Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood: Reproductive health information

2:30 Q Diamond, Program Director  
Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council

2:50 Lisa Frisch, Executive Director, The Legal Project: Free and low cost legal services

3:10 Alysa Cole, Family Health Advocates: Advocacy  
Why Upstate Girls voices are important; how they can be heard

3:30 Wrap up conversation, Upstate Girls: Moving Forward