



Girls Inc. of Wayne County

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Girls Inc. hosts a talk to help parents and adults support girls

Girls Inc. of Wayne County is proud to invite the community to participate in a free public talk on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7pm as part of the Girls Inc. 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Mother, author, educator and girl expert Jean Kilbourne provides a talk aimed at helping parents and adults support girls. Her talk, titled "So Sexy So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood" is free to the public. The talk will be held in The Loose Lecture Hall in Landrum Bolling Center at Earlham College. A reception with book signing follows immediately.

Jean Kilbourne is internationally recognized for her pioneering work on alcohol and tobacco advertising and the image of women in advertising. Kilbourne specifically demonstrates how advertising, books, movies, video games, tv shows, and cartoons are bombarding our girls and young women with negative images of what it means to be female in our culture. As parents and children alike struggle with these mixed messages, Kilbourne offers refreshing, innovative and useful approaches on how to protect our children and help them navigate this new sexualized environment.

Girls Inc. of Wayne County Executive Director Beth Harrick expresses much enthusiasm for Kilbourne's visit. "I have followed Dr. Kilbourne's work for over 15 years. She dissects complicated media messages and exposes the underlying themes. Her most recent book is written to help families and those in youth-serving positions. In our community, families are constantly looking for new resources to better support adolescent girls. This talk provides tips, insights and skills. Parents and those who work with girls won't want to miss it."

Because the nature of the talk focuses on understanding and combating sexualized media messages, this presentation is intended for high school age and above. Support for this program is provided by AAUW.

More information on Dr. Kilbourne is available at www.JeanKilbourne.com

See attached sheet for a list of books and films, and a quotes on her recent book.

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With questions, phone or email Beth Harrick or Tai Walton at (765) 962-2362, bharrick@girlsincwayne.org or twalton@girlsincwayne.org

Books authored by Jean Kilbourne:

- Levin, D. and Kilbourne, J. (2008). *So Sexy So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood and What Parents Can Do About It*. New York: Ballantine Books.
- Kilbourne, Jean. (2006). *Can't Buy Me Love: How Advertising Changes the Way We Think and Feel*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Films by Jean Kilbourne:

- Killing Us Softly 3, 2001
- Slim Hopes: Advertising and The Obsession With Thinness, 1995
- Deadly Persuasion: The Advertising of Alcohol and Tobacco, 2003
- Spin The Bottle: Sex, Lies, and Alcohol, 2004
- The Killing Screens: Media and the Culture of Violence, 1997
- Pack of Lies: The Advertising of Tobacco, 1992

Praise for So Sexy So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood and What Parents Can Do About It:

“This book—by two of America’s leading experts on the effects of media on children—is powerful and profoundly useful. It is packed with great stories and poignant examples of the stress children face in our sex-soaked culture. Best of all, the authors offer sane and practical solution for all of us who want to make things better for children, parents, schools, and the culture at large.”---Mary Pipher, Ph.D., author of *Reviving Ophelia*

“If you want to make the world safe for both the boys and the girls you care about, you must read this book. Diane Levin and Jean Kilbourne really understand what we’re fighting against, and they also show us a way to transform the world for our children—and make us feel empowered in the process.” Rosalind Wiseman, author of *Queen Bees and Wannabess*

“*So Sexy So Soon* is a most timely and important book. For parents who are troubled and worried about what their children are seeing and hearing, it offers helpful guidance and support; it not only documents the trends but provides parents with many useful strategies to combat them.”—David Elkind, Ph.D., author of *The Hurried Child*

“Levin and Kilbourne, two of the nation’s most astute analysts of media and youth, have produced the definitive book on the equalization of childhood. Complete with sample conversations, guidelines, and practical advice, this book will teach you how to keep your child healthy as you navigate the minefields of popular culture. Essential reading for parents, educators, and health professionals.—Juliet Schor, professor of sociology, author of *Born to Buy*

“Every parent should read this eye-opening book. It is a rallying cry to take a stand against the commercial exploitation of children. I highly recommend it.”—Alvin F. Poussaint, M.D., professor of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, and director of the Media Center at Judge Baker Children’s Center

“Levin and Kilbourne show us how children, from their earliest years, learn about sex, sexuality, and relationships. Best of all, they give us concrete strategies to fight harmful influences and help us nurture children toward loving relationships now and throughout their lives.”—Nancy Carlsson-Paige, author of *Taking Back Childhood* and professor of education, Lesley University