2011-2012 Our Year of the Woman

WHAT'S UP WITH...
2011-2012 Living Room Chats

FWC Year of the Woman:
Women as Portrayed in the Media/Enlightened Sexism

The November 8 Living Room Chat about Women as they are portrayed in the media was one of our most popular yet. So many members responded that we changed the location to accommodate them. And almost 50 members attended—we usually limit these chats to 30. Those who attended might have been surprised by our speaker Susan Douglas's claims that the glass ceiling has not yet been
completely shattered.

Referring to her newest highly acclaimed book, *Enlightened Sexism*, Professor Douglas explained that her research shows that many people think that young women today are enlightened finally as is reflected in all the strong women in lead roles on TV—Harry's Law and The Good Wife, to name two of many. And the male roles are often written for very weak men. But what the millennial generation (20 to 30 somethings) and others are watching are disappointing shows—like College Girls Gone Wild. Professor Douglas, communications department chair, warned us to be observant and do what we can to really enlighten our daughters and granddaughters.

Professor Douglas was most generous with her time and her talents, and carefully and fully answered each member during the Q and A.

Our thank you gift to her reflected her interest in early radio. She wrote another highly acclaimed book-- praised by many including Ken Burns-- titled *Listening In* -- about the influence of early radio on our culture and politics. So we gave her two collector’s magazines published in the early twenties. Both had women on the covers. One had a woman short wave operator heralding a future occupation for women, with the large-print note that this is an entirely wireless issue! We also included 4 DVD s that included 1404 digitally remastered early radio programs, including The Guiding Light and The Green Hornet. She also received the wonderful picture book of our campus by
Anne Duderstadt and the second to the last copy of our first FWC cook book.

Professor Douglas was so pleased with our program that she suggested she come back to discuss ageism. Something we'll take her up on!

Many thanks to Renu Malhotra, who once again with her very large space—and at the last minute—agreed to host our chat, and to the many attendees who brought such great treats for the reception that followed. And thanks to Yoshiko Mishina for her terrific photos and videos.

This was the first chat in our 2011-12 What's Up With... Living Room Chats celebrating our FWC Year of the Woman and our 90th anniversary.