

Film Screening and Discussion Questions

Heather Booth: Changing the World

Films can offer a good basis for discussion and further understanding of important subjects. A program that includes a film screening, facilitated discussion, and perhaps even a speaker, can be an excellent way for NCJW members and supporters to learn more about an issue and ultimately take action for social change.

Heather Booth: Changing the World

Directed by Lilly Rivlin

Heather Booth, a renowned organizer and activist (and good friend of NCJW!), began her remarkable career at the height of the Civil Rights movement. Looking at Heather's life, work, and personal relationships with respected leaders such as Julian Bond and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), the film explores some pivotal moments in progressive movements over the last fifty years. The film beautifully details Heather's contribution to the field of community organizing and her impact on so many — training and empowering individuals and communities past, present, and future — and provides a keen understanding of Heather's legacy in progressive politics.

Preparing for the Film Screening:

- Purchase the film at the nonprofit rate of \$89 plus shipping [here](#).
 - Add Heather Booth by zoom or Skype to your film screening! Contact Colleen O'Shea (coshea@WMM.com) for more information.
- Confirm the location and decide who is bringing snacks and beverages.
- Invite NCJW members and coalition partners.
- Ensure a facilitator is prepared to ask questions and handle the discussion.
- Remind participants to be prepared to discuss how the film relates to NCJW's mission.

After the Film:

- Facilitate a post-film discussion. See questions below for guidance.
- Following the post-film discussion, ask if participants are interested in organizing around a particular issue. If so, plan a follow-up meeting to discuss an action plan.
 - See [NCJW's Social Change Action Plan Worksheet](#) for helpful tips!
- Provide a quick "take action" component that participants can do on the spot, such as joining the NCJW advocacy committee, signing up to register voters, or announcing upcoming NCJW events and trainings.

- Make sure participants are signed up for the NCJW Action Center to receive updates and action opportunities. Direct them to ncjw.org/signup.
- Collect names and contact information from all participants, and follow-up with a thank-you message that includes future ways to get involved with NCJW.

Community Organizing: The process of building power through involving a people with a shared self-interest in identifying mutual problems and the desired solutions to those problems.

Discussion Questions to Consider:

- What lessons can we learn from Heather Booth's experiences and approach to community organizing?
- What are some key aspects of community organizing that the documentary identifies?
- A core component of organizing is relationship building, how did you see relationship building being used in the film?
- Where in the film did you see people building power so that they could influence a decision maker? What tactics did they use?
- How did Heather use stories to motivate people in the film or viewers to take action?
- What did the film teach you about strategizing to develop a winnable campaign?
- Heather took on the delicate challenge of balancing community organizing with personal obligations, how can we make sure to bring the same intentionality to our own lives? What are your strategies for staying resilient in our social justice work?
- Do you or your section currently use community organizing tactics? If so, how? If not, what support would you need to get started? What issue might you/the section want to utilize to engage individuals using community organizing skills?

Resources for Community Organizing:

- Heather Booth's [Strategy Chart](#)
- Organizing training
 - [Midwest Academy](#)
 - [Training for Change](#)
 - [JOIN for Justice](#)
- NCJW [Action Plan Worksheet](#)
- Reach out to local organizing groups in your area

For questions or more information please contact Ari Conrad at aconrad@ncjw.org.