



## Many Cultures, One Great Cocktail Party

Wed., March 21: LUPEC and Frick Art & Historical Center will co-sponsor an evening with Pittsburgh women from around the world sharing their unique stories. "A Foot in Two Worlds: Exploring Cultural Identity" will include light hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. 7 p.m. The Frick Art Museum, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze. Members, teachers, students, \$8; nonmembers and guests, \$10. Registration recommended. For info: Greg Langel, 412/371-0600, ext. 524.; info about other LUPEC events: [lupec.org](http://lupec.org). — E.V.

# Raise Your Glass to Women's History Month

**Learning about history has never been quite so intoxicating.** *By Elaine Vitone*

**T**his March, toast your foremothers with Pittsburgh's own Ladies United for the Preservation of Endangered Cocktails (LUPEC), the founding chapter of a national family of feminists who are "chipping away at the patriarchy, one drink at a time." Since the group began in 2001, LUPEC's unique, celebratory approach to women's-history awareness has won national press, has inspired similar groups across the country and has attracted as many as 10,000 Web hits a week worldwide. As two of the founding members, Jennie "Black Monday" Benford and Jennifer "Whiskey Daisy" Gottschalk, explain, this growing women's-libation movement began modestly enough.

**PITTSBURGH magazine:** What was the genesis of LUPEC?

**Jennie "Black Monday" Benford:** We were all either in our 30s or circling that particular airport, and it was getting harder to make plans with friends.

**Jennifer "Whiskey Daisy" Gottschalk:** We still wanted to have fun together, but we'd kind of outgrown that whole early-20s, let's-go-drink-at-the-bar thing.

**JB:** We started taking turns hosting a monthly party with a women's-history theme. Then, about three years ago, we decided our priority should be public events focusing on women's history—particularly on the groundbreaking women that people don't think about as much, such as Jennie Ferguson, the first licensed female mortician in Allegheny County. I mean, God bless Sojourner Truth, but let's get past Women's History 101.

**PM:** How do you sneak women's history lessons into your events?

**JB:** One way is by passing out drink-recipe cards, which we fondly refer to as our propaganda. Each one has a story that's connected to the drink and the theme of the event—the Rosy cocktail and Rosie the Riveter, for example.

**PM:** Regarding "Sex and The City": Help or hindrance to endangered cocktails?

**JB:** It's a help in that it lures people into our web.

**JG:** It's a hindrance in that all the sudden everybody's making Cosmopolitans, but they aren't made right. They're not really that pink or that sweet.

**JB:** We're purists, but we're not proud. People can come expecting a mojito out of a Slurpee machine and leave with the recipe for Madame, Can You Walk?—we're OK with that.

