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FEMALE TITANS OF BUSINESS, SPORTS, AND ENTERTAINMENT SPOKE TODAY AT THE PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

Nearly 9,000 Women Joined the Event Focused on the “Power in Unity”

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PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 7, 2024—Nearly 9,000 women attended the 21st Pennsylvania Conference for Women, held today under the theme of “Power in Unity.”

Sheryl Lee Ralph, Emmy Award-winning actress and star of Philadelphia’s own *Abbot Elementary*, said, “One of the great things about being a woman is being able to rise and lift at the same time.”

“None of us are alone,” she added. “If you think you’re having or have had a bad day, somebody else has had it worse. But look at us at a time like this—all coming together, bringing our best selves, and being with sisters and friends with open hearts and minds who might not look like us. Never give up on yourself.”

Ralph also sang “I am an endangered species, but I sing no victim’s song” from excerpt from Dianne Reeves’ song “Endangered Species:”

The Pennsylvania Conference for Women is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that provides professional and personal development to women. This year’s 21st annual event was held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

While observing that the presidential election is on many people's minds, Pennsylvania Conference for Women board president **Leslie Stiles** said that, as a nonpartisan nonprofit organization, the Conference does not take political positions.

"This is a Conference for all women to come together and be inspired," she said. "Indeed, for 21 years, the Pennsylvania Conference for Women has worked to create a growing community of women who feel strongly that there is 'Power in Unity.'"

Martha Stewart, founder of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, best-selling author, and Emmy Award-winning host, observed that the Conference hosted the largest audience she ever spoke to in person.

Asked about her famed capacity for resilience and evolution, Stewart said: "I try to get across to people that you must be able to change, you must be able to learn, you must be able to create, and you must be authentic while you're doing all of that. And believe in what you're doing. I've always kept that in mind. It's good for you to feel that way, not in an obnoxious way but being sure of yourself."

Another famously resilient woman, Diana Nyad, the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida, reminded the gathering of her motto: Never give up. "If we just don't give up, we're going to make it to the other shore," she said.

Other speakers included Philadelphia native **Dawn Staley**, who led the University of South Carolina's women's basketball team to its third national championship this year, Philadelphia **Mayor Chelle Parker**, and **Barbara Corcoran**, entrepreneur, author, investor, and Shark on ABC's four-time Emmy Award-winning show *Shark Tank*.

In observance of November as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, Corcoran shared a story of caring for her mother and urged attendees with family members suffering from the disease to become more educated about it, including the lesser-known dynamic of agitation, and to seek help sooner than later.

The Pennsylvania Conference for Women, presented by Merck, is part of the Conferences for Women, the nation's largest network of women's conferences. The network's conferences in Pennsylvania, California, Massachusetts, and Texas attract more than 55,000 people annually.

The Conferences for Women will also host a nationwide virtual gathering on March 5, 2025. Learn more [here](#).

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