

## **WORKING WOMEN IN FILM**

**Coordinator:** Sheila O'Connell

Do movies always depict women's roles as being tied to who they are to others? Working women have been film characters since the 1930's, from Barbara Stanwyck to Meryl Streep. Has there been any progress in recognizing women who have stories not dependent on being wives, mothers, or single women in need of masculine rescue? If there are such women, are they all unfeminine and unhappy? This study group reviews and examines working women in films, both characters and creators with commentary on television's vision of women as well. Has the presentation of working women by the mass media changed since the 30's? Come and find out.

**Readings and other Required Materials:** Netflix access

**Sheila O'Connell** spent her working life in corporate finance. Her leisure time was spent at the movies.

### **\*\*\*\*\*Syllabus\*\*\*\*\***

**Proposed Syllabus or Outline:** Study group members will be provided with a listing of film/programs to be viewed for each week's class. The material will be readily available via Netflix or on line. Candidates will include:

Baby Face - 1933

His Girl Friday - 1940

Mildred Pierce - 1945

Broadcast News - 1967

Norma Rae - 1979 or Silkwood - 1983

Tootsie - 1982

The River Wild - 1994

GI Jane - 1997

Erin Brockovich - 2000

Legally Blonde - 2001

The Devil Wears Prada - 2006

Up in the Air - 2009

The group will also survey some television shows with emphasis on current examples as well as a few older shows like *Murphy Brown*. There will also be sessions on women action heroes in film and on women behind the scenes as producers, directors and writers.