

[Dec 1982]

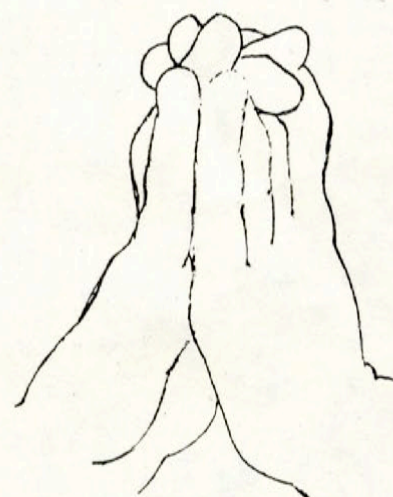
No-Name-Yet NEWSLETTER

ROOTS

ISSUE #26



THE PARTY



Art and history. Big subjects, very important. Saved for dinner-parties around the table. And the table, it's art and history, too. Filled the room, scrolled flowers carved around the edge, deep oak grain with lots of years of dirt. No one knew where it came from, where it was made. Very artistic, very historical, very grand, very mysterious. So romantic.

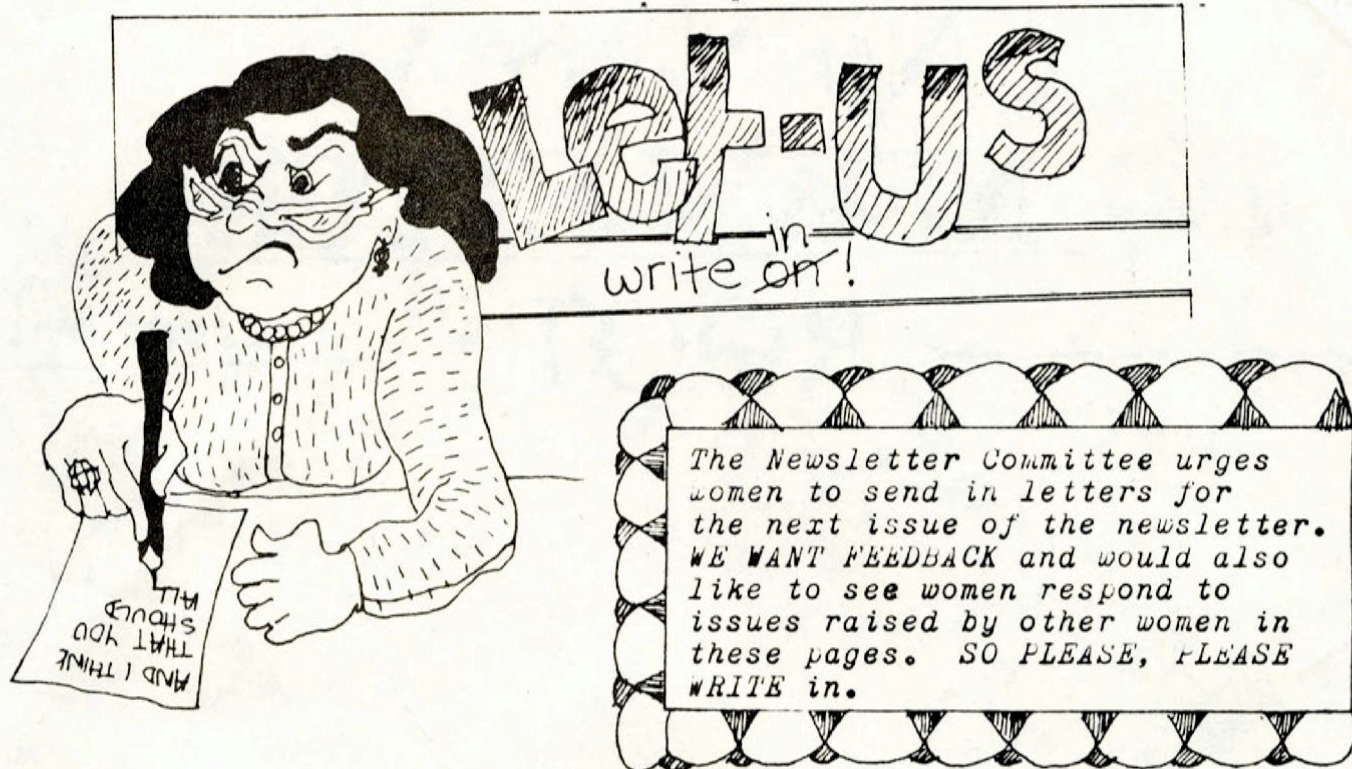
Arty dinner-parties. My Ma cooks all day, the most bohemian. Braciolo: Italian, French - certainly not American/Jewish. Guests come to this oasis in working-class Brooklyn. Art, socialism, wood-grain, earth colors, Mexican pottery, oasis of richness and texture in tacky Brooklyn. Women with long hair, little make-up, Spanish jewelry, no Polyester! Men with beards. Ohmygod men with Beards in Brooklyn 1960. Grown men! Guests all come from Manhattan - land of real artists and real socialists! "Shirley's dishes... these dishes, hmm, they're so bourgeois."

The nights disintegrated. Spilled gunky food, wine splotches, the men doing the "I'm-more-bohemian-than-you," louder and louder. Art is This, Socialism is That, History shows - What?? Pounding the table, louder as Brooklyn got quieter at night.

Shirley sees it though, all the wives do. Bohemian veneer covers crabby shetl rabbis; terribly long eras of powerless men. In the world of men-with-power and women with none, these guys have been screwed. Their mothers were strong. Their fathers cowered before Polish peasants, Coassacks. Scrawny Jews with beards. No muscle, no money, no fight. Such a thin cover-up, all this ranting and drinking.

They left me confusion: power that was bravado. Romance I could taste, lip-smacking and juicy adventure...always out of reach. Always, I'm afraid. I must have heard, under the noise, their fear.

by Martha Cohen



Dear Elze,

I recently received my first copy of Portland Women's Community Newsletter. I imagine I got on your mailing list either through the good efforts of Jolene McGowan (who was with me at the Wallflower Order dance workshop in August in Cambridge) or Nicole d'Entremont (who I rode on the plane with on my way to Cambridge and her way to Maine) since they are both active in the women's community in Maine. Please say "hi" to them for me!

I'm writing because of your newsletter statement of policy. I like that you say you will only use "material not deemed racist, sexist, classist, heterosexist, ablebodied, or ageist." Quite an impressive list of "isms"! But I have one more to add - speciesism (sometimes also spelled "specieism" without the second "s"). In his seminal book Animal Liberation: A New Ethics for our Treatment of Animals, Peter Singer defines speciesism as "a prejudice or attitude of bias toward the interests of members of one's own species and against those of members of other species." This doesn't mean that he thinks human animals have the same needs and rights in all ways as non-human animals. For example, a

pig doesn't have a need or right to vote but does have a need and right to, among other things, contact with her own kind in a comfortable environment (rather than life in a tiny stall as a cog in a factory farm for pigs.)

I've enclosed a copy of a letter I wrote to the local paper about animal rights. Also I've enclosed a description of Reweaving the Web of Life, which the center already has probably. A chapter by Connie Salomone talks about women and animal rights.

I've kept this short and left lots of gaps in my thinking but I'd be happy to explain further or write an article about speciesism and animal rights (and connect it with feminism) for your newsletter.

In any case I hope you'll seriously consider adding to you policy a repudiation of speciesism.

Hope to hear from you soon.
Linda DeStefano

letters cont. on pg. 8.

WOMEN OF COURAGE

In conjunction with Spectra II, I installed a sculpture of Sonia Johnson surrounded by a wall. I asked the viewers of the sculpture to write stories of the courage of women in their lives on the wall. These are the results.

Gina Kelley

Mother Mary Jones 1832-1932. Went to a Union meeting at age forty. Organized every day for the rest of her life.

Serafina Gigante 1910-1979, was the greatest inspiration of my life. I miss her-her daughter, Veronica Gigante Abbott.

A special tribute to those courageous women willing to testify against a rapist.

There is so much I want to share with my mother. I want her to know what her being in a room full of women means to me and how it feels to be a part of so much positive energy. I want her to go to women's concerts and read women's literature. I want her to help herself and not her husband. Mostly I want her to know how I feel about women and the way I do and to love my lover as she loves me.

My beloved girlfriend gave up our love to find herself.

Grammy Freida Millikin. She loved and fought for her life and she died fighting. I miss her.

My mother raised twelve kids with the little she had and with basically few rights....

My grandmother scrubbed floors and washed other peoples' clothes to feed her four children and used a knitting needle for self abortion so she could go on feeding them. Support reproductive freedom for the sake of mothers and children. P.S. I'm 7½ months pregnant as I write this.

The greatest love of all is the love shared by women whether just as friends or as lovers.

For Kitzi who fought a hard disease which never loses and died a winner.

My Aunt Mary's life was robbed in a violent way even though she was a gentle beautiful winner.

My Mom raised five kids by herself, got all five through high school and maintained a job as a lab technician. Well, thanks Mom.

It takes courage to be a lesbian. It takes courage to be a woman, just plain, just plain.....

Marie loved Ann and her mother threw her out of the house.

1920's grandmother, delivered a baby before breakfast, still cleaned house and made lunch for the rest of the family that day.

We need more women like my sister, Deb.

My mother raised three non-sexist boys and survived.

Alice and Betty took the nuclear freeze petition into their community and it was voted on.

We lasted! Sisterhood is powerful!

Approximately nine women stand on the Blue Hill town lawn for 6 mos. for the Maine Nuclear Referendum, for a nuclear free future.

Ashley Flynn age 6. I love myself.

Evelyn Edith. You gave me birth and in my breathing you live, dead yet you are. We still struggle to make our lives work. P.S. You have a beautiful granddaughter.

Is martyrdom courage or just an old fashioned way women react?

A strong woman is one woman with courage and all women together...my ancestors and my descendants

[EIGHT] [NICOLE, PAMELA & SALLY]
Seven women in Portland--Alice, Martha, Diane, Betsy, Nellie, Carrie lowered the court house flag to half mast in mourning for the ERA and were arrested.

Joseph was born, Sept. '82. (a baby picture and straw flower were taped to the wall.)

My Grandmother was sexually abused by the local squire and felt guilty about it until she died at ninety eight.

My sister Edie had the courage to have an abortion that she wanted but nobody else in the family did.

My dear younger sister lost her first child this week through miscarriage... a sadness that I too have known as has our mother three times before us.

Rosa Parks, a black woman refused to give up her seat to a white man on the bus.

To any and all courageous unselfish women.

My Mom, 5'11" 250 lbs. of hard work and caring. She taught me I was special and I could make it under any circumstances and I have.

My mother grew up, married, raised three kids, not her own, built her own house, grew her own garden and then decided to finish school, which she almost has done. Right On. We fought in the Sixth Day War.

Continued on pg. 14

An Invitation to Portland Feminist Women

We are all wonderful, powerful, and creative women. Unfortunately, in working together, all of us have experienced, at one time or another, hurt, rejection, anger, bitterness and frustration. We have not always received support from other women when we've needed support. We have not always given support to other women when they've been in need. We have, either knowingly or unknowingly, hurt each other. We have not always spoken what was in our hearts. We have not always been direct with those who have sparked our pain. Sometimes our needs have been met, other times not. All of us know these old ways are not the ways we wish to be with each other. But, we have learned them well.

As part of strengthening our feminist process with each other, we would like to gather in a circle of women. We wish the circle to be a step in healing our wounds - a time for each of us to share what we want from each other, what we wish to give each other, what we have experienced with each other, and to affirm ourselves and each other.

You may ask, "How is this different than other attempts at forming a unified community of feminists?" This circle is not for creating an organization. We may already belong to one or more feminist organizations, or we may not identify with any particular group. Rather, the circle is to regenerate some spirit, understanding, and unity among us.

Here is what we envision the circle to be. A woman will lead us in affirmations - statements affirming our coming together, our opening up to women with whom we don't always feel safe, and the courage we've shown in coming together. In the circle, we will then speak "I statements" - expressing our needs for support, our fears around giving and receiving support, our pain in needs not being met, our fears around being direct, our fears around other women not being direct with us, our feelings around experiences we've had working with each other, our feelings of alienation from each other, how we want to see our own selves relating, and how we want other women to relate to us.

We believe this circle will be difficult. The circle requires that we be vulnerable. We believe we can create, for each other, a safety within this circle that is unlike our old, barrier-building ways of being safe. "I-statements" help to create safety.

In preparation for this circle, let us spend some time alone and with other women reflecting on the joys and pains we've experienced working together. Let us approach the circle with hope, and may we emerge with more spirit, understanding and unity.

PLACE: Williston-West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland

TIME: 12 P.M. - 4 P.M.

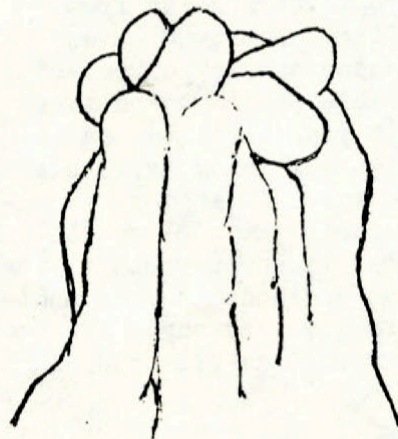
DATE: February 5, Saturday

For further information, call:

Anna 773-6398

Diane - 799-6905

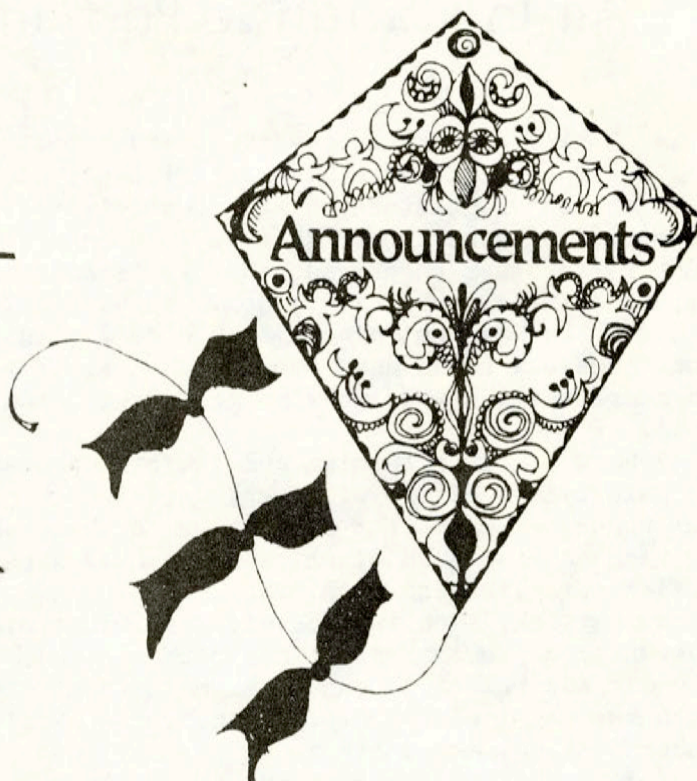
Fry - 799-2408



Senior Honors Thesis Anthropology candidate wishes to interview never-married women, raising children alone. Planned pregnancies and unplanned are of equal interest. Please write Ellen Weiss, Box 761, Bates College, Lewiston, ME 04240. All responses kept confidential. Thank You.

I am writing to join other lesbians in creating an affinity group. I would like to celebrate the cycles of the Earth, the moon, the sun, our bodies with other dykes doing direct action. So if you are a radical lesbian anarchist feminist witch I want to circle with you to dance the revolution. Anna 773-6398

The battered women's shelter needs the support of women in Portland. There is a need for a safe house system where women who have been staying at the shelter would be able to go when the shelter is overcrowded or when a woman has stayed the maximum time at the shelter and the red tape involved in beginning a new life is still all tangled and she needs a safe place to be for a short time. There is a need for child care for women who need to figure out what next and she has one or two or three or more children all wanting to be fed or entertained or nurtured or changed or their laundry done. It would be really helpful if for a day or a weekend a mother knew she would be allowed the time and space to think about her situation and to deal with it without having to deal with her children simultaneously. There is always a need for money, food, and clothes (especially underwear). The shelter receives funding from individual cities and towns. Every year the director has to go request funds and it is expected to be more difficult this year after tax indexing and the lack of money available for human services. It is our responsibility to enable the shelter to provide a safe place for women trying to emerge from violence. Anyone wanting or able to give any support please get in touch with Anna 773-6398.



USM Women's Studies Course starting in January at the Portland campus. Feminist Theories taught by Kathleen MacPherson. Mondays 4-6:30pm. For more info call Joanne Clarey 780-4289.

Anyone interested in helping to further research about sexual attitudes and behavior and is willing to be involved in testing, please call the Gay Peoples Alliance at 780-4083. A private research Council is looking for volunteers to be tested any time during the weekend of Jan. 14, 15, 16. Past research about gay people has been prejudiced. This research group is ready to make the changes necessary to do valid research, but cannot do this without the cooperation of people who are concerned about these issues. The old research stands unless people are willing to volunteer.

MOTHER TONGUE - an evening of poetry, art, music around the theme of ROOTS. Women will be presenting their own works. Join us for an evening of women's culture and creativity as we explore our heritage. January 29, 1983. 7:30pm, Williston-West Church.

Not Really A Book Review

by Diane Elze

Nice Jewish Girls: A Lesbian Anthology, ed. Evelyn Torton Beck
(Persephone Press), 1982.

"This entire anthology is an act of resistance. The very act of proudly affirming Jewish identity, individually and collectively, in a world that promotes Christian totalitarianism is resistance."

Gloria Z. Greenfield, "Shedding," in Nice Jewish Girls

Recently, I completed Nice Jewish Girls, an anthology of essays, poetry, and prose by Jewish lesbians. The writers represented in this anthology include Melanie Kaye, Pauline Bart, Adrienne Rich, Irena Klepfisz, Gloria Greenfield, Elana Dykewomon, and Dovidia Ishatova. The book is richness and complexity, as these women share their journeys of integrating and affirming their lesbian and Jewish identities, confronting anti-Semitism, and celebrating their lives, their culture, and their survival. As a non-Jew, I found reading this book to be joyous, enlightening, humbling, painful, and challenging - coming face-to-face with my gross ignorance of Jewish history/herstory and the degree to which I have internalized anti-Semitism since childhood. I emerged from the pages more conscious and sensitive to the existence and pervasiveness of anti-Semitism around me. I flashed on the "click" that went off in my head, many years ago, when I first came into feminism - the mind-body-spirit jolt at seeing and clearly naming omnipresent "woman-hating." As I absorbed Nice Jewish Girls, the "click" was named "Jew-hating."

Jew-hating. Strong words. I learned herstorical/historical facts I previously did not know. Systematic persecution and slaughter of Jews began centuries before the Nazis ever came to power, dating back to 1012 in Germany. In 1290, Jews were expelled from England; in 1306, from France; in 1492, from Spain. And the blood flowed. And property was confiscated. And religious practices were restricted. And civil rights were denied. And the blood continued to flow. Jew-hating; strong words naming a reality persisting over centuries.

"Jewish invisibility is a symptom of anti-Semitism as surely as lesbian invisibility is a symptom of homophobia."

Evelyn Torton Beck, "Why is This Book Different From All Other Books," in Nice Jewish Girls.

Nice Jewish Girls helped me make connections. Many of the issues woven in the writings rung with familiarity: the trivialization or denial of their oppression; the internalization of hatred; the distortion of their herstory/history; the stereotypes symptomatic of fear and hate; the "blaming the victim" phenomenon; the "Why-are-you-bringing-that-topic-up?" phenomenon; the invisibility of their experience as Jews in the feminist movement and in women's herstory; the invisibility of their experience as lesbians in Jewish history; the accusations of divisiveness upon challenging anti-Semitism; the "you-don't-look-like-a-Jew" phenomenon, with its underlying assumption of "non-Jewishness" and dictum to "pass." Insert "woman". Insert "lesbian". Insert "fag". Insert "people of color." And, they spoke of the need to know and celebrate one's roots, culture, herstory; to proudly affirm who we are as an act of resistance against those who'd prefer we not be; to know and affirm the diversity of our lives; to name and reclaim ourselves. Insert "woman". Insert "lesbian". Insert "fag". Insert "people of color."

Continued on pg. 15

Letters Continued...

To the P.W.C. Newsletter Staff and the Collective,

The change of the Portland Women's Community to the collective has caused a great deal of discussion among the women at the U.W.F.

We would like to share with you some of what has been talked about, and hope you will be able to clear up some of our confusion on the terms used in the newsletter statement of policy.

What do you mean by heterosexist and ablebodied? We are aware that you state "what we deem as".

In the name change from P.W.C. to Collective we notice that the P.W.C. newsletter title still remains the same. In past issues of the P.W.C. newsletter it was stated: (Issue #8) "The P.W.C. newsletter was created to reflect the spirit and diversity of the community as well as to express our various artistic and political feminist ideals", and issue #13, states "Thus this Newsletter has been and will continue to be predominately lesbian-identified unless something changes. We make no apologies for its flavor. In fact, we affirm it. But, we also believe the Newsletter can taste of other flavors as well." We do hope this still is valid.

It is not our intent to make judgements of what is printed in the P.W.C. We are concerned about the essay "We Know Who You Really Are" by Anna Kissed. It appeared to sound sexist to us, and as you stated in this issue's policy "what we deem sexist," would and does lead us to assume that this essay is not deemed by you as being sexist.

Sexism in any form done to anyone is unacceptable. When a women's newsletter provides a forum to be able to vent what ever her needs be, for a woman in her process, in the form of art, we are more than understanding of that, however we are unable to understand the fairness of this to others.

An organization such as Gay People's Alliance that has both men and women as members, both being able to read from the P.W.C. Newsletter, we wonder if a man were to respond would it be printed (re: Anna Kissed)?

We assume not, due to your policy. We would like to point out a possible word we felt might have been overlooked by you. Homosexist: meaning heterophobia

towards heterosexual people.

We spoke of accountability to our sisters at the forum and what we were accountable for and to whom.

It would be less than fair to the new Collective if we were to not share with you our concerns, and confusion of the past Newsletter.

When in good faith a person or group pays for the newsletter and a change happens that is somehow not known at the time, that a person or group does not agree with, would you refund the unpaid amount?

Changes affect everyone, be it indirectly or directly. We at the Forum have been affected by P.W.C. policy. For us it has been positive, enabling each of us to question her own value system and to be able to share with one another our points of view. We may not all agree most of the time. However, we have agreed that we must write and ask what we know very little about.

It is our hope that by doing so we are accountable to you for our point of view and it will help each of us to grow together rather than apart.

We wish you well, and hope you will find space to print our letter with a response.

In Sisterhood,
University Women's Forum
Jane Thurston
Constance Crafts
Janice Lowe
Georgia Humphry
Kris Parrish

Response

Dear Women of the University Women's Forum:

In the process of changing our identity from "the Portland Women's Community" to a collective, the policies of the Newsletter Task Force have not changed. We can understand the confusion generated from the November newsletter being called by its original name, "The Portland Women's Community Newsletter." We had not yet found a new name for the publication. However, our original vision for the newsletter still remains - that it "reflect the spirit and diversity" of women in the Greater Portland area and beyond. We remain committed to that goal, as well as to the "Newsletter Statement of Policy" appearing in the November issue and in previous issues.

Breaking Silences

Breaking Bonds

Old woman,
Will I never be free of you?
Hay-raking, strawberry-picking, lawn-mowing, character-showing
furrowed brown face
and you are ashamed of the wrinkles.

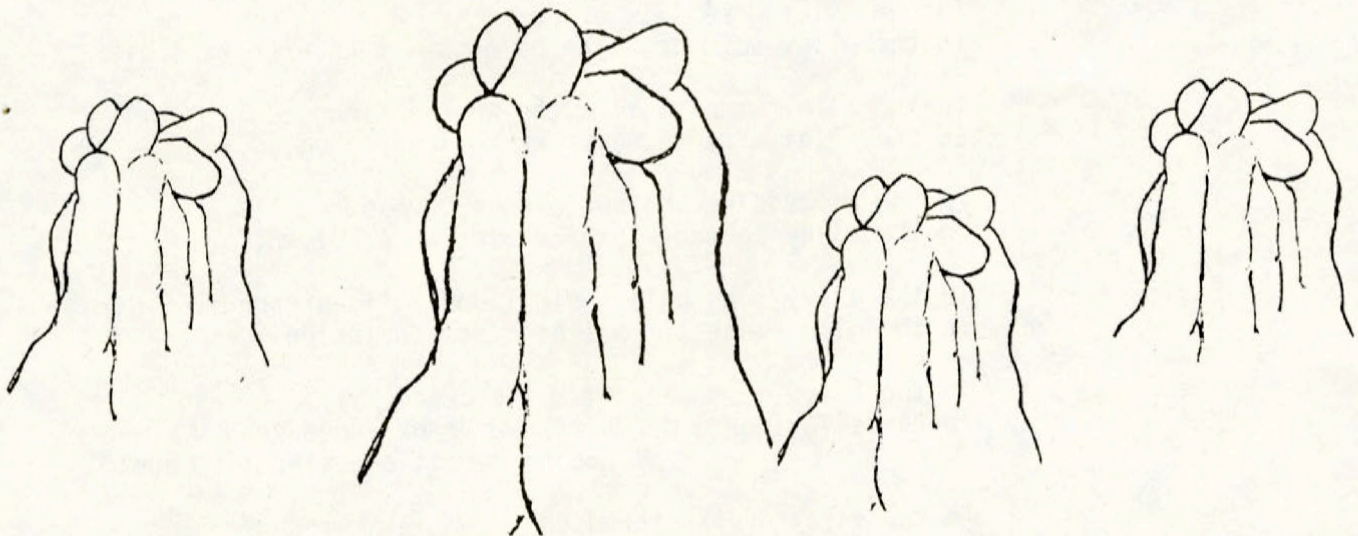
Every morning you do
breast-firming exercises.
Justifiably, Woman's Day, keeping-your husband, proud
of your beautiful sixty year-old body.
(The only exception your baby-weakened belly muscles.)

Your eyes get a sad deep blue,
when the sickness hits.
But its your mouth, always your mouth
that shows the anger and the sex hatred.
Maybe when you had your own teeth, it didn't do that-
get so rigid that each word
is a cold steel staple.

I have a mole on my back-in the same place you do,
but it's not the same kind.
I have a marriage just as you do,
but it's not the same kind.
I want to be friends, as you say that you do,
but I guess not the same kind.
If you remember it was your idea first-
that we be friends

but we never remember anything the same way.

Charlotte Spear



In the Beginning

Jackie Wurslin-Babb

In the beginning some says was long ago,
We peoples come from no-one know.

Some says we immigrants from India.
The Italians say Gitano "Mama Mia!".

With long hair,
Our heads we carry high into the air,
Long skirts we womens always wear,
Stealing an telling fortunes which the gadjo law say, "never you dare".

We mix on our migration with many races,
Now our peoples got all color of faces.

The Christian people say God made man an woman,
The Moslem say Allah made them.

Mother Earth make us,
An for all gadjo's money-things we don't lust,

For the Gypsy, we just move on because for
Thousands of years in our blood it was a must.

THE ALLEY

Jackie Wurslin-Babb

In the alley rubbish was thrown,
In the alley some weeds had grown.

In the alley was my playground,
In the alley the old woman with a broom chase us around.

In the alley my mother beat out her rugs,
In the alley we used dig for an squish bugs.

In the alley were lots of rats,
In the alley some drunk he be pass-out under a tore hat.

In the alley at nite time the weak was mugged,
In the alley after Sunday Church lovers hugged.

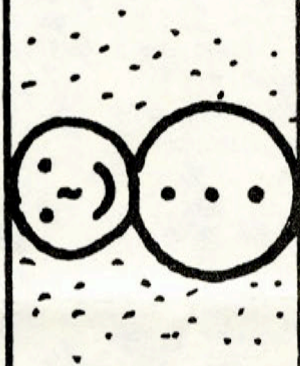
In the alley dirty bathwater was thrown,
In the alley so many soap bubbles I had blown.

In the alley long poles held laundry lines high from dirt,
In the alley many times I hid from an inside hurt.

In the alley we mourned for the dead,
In the alley for a new birth we drank and danced
hoping for it a easier life ahead.

In the alley drunks threw up,
In the alley I grew up.

JANUARY



NEW
YEAR'S
DAY

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Collective Mtg. 4:00 at Ann+Cheryl's 3327	YWCA Volleyball 7:30 Feminist (7:00) Spiritual Comm.					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	YWCA Volleyball 7:30 Feminist (7:00) Spiritual Comm.		YWCA Volleyball 7:30			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Collective mts. 4:00	YWCA Volleyball 7:30 Feminist (7:00) Spiritual Comm.		YWCA Volleyball 7:30			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Feminist Spiritual Comm. 7:30 YWCA Volleyball 7:30 Feminist (7:00) Spiritual Comm.	Grtn. Portland NOW - Public Safety Bldg. 7:00	YWCA Volleyball 7:30			Mother Tongue 7:30 Williston West Church (see ad)
30	31					

Response Continued...

The majority of Task Force members believe that anti-male feelings and opinions do not fall within the definition of "sexism". Such sentiments could be seen as biased, prejudicial, or even discriminatory, but, in our view, not sexist. Sexism, we believe, is a political, economic, social and ideological system which systematically supports the power and domination of one gender group over another (i.e., in our society, men over women, to a greater or lesser extent depending upon one's race and/or class). Sexism means the institutionalization of that power imbalance, as reflected in our legal, familial, political, religious, and economic institutions. By defining anti-male sentiments as "sexist," we distort the meaning and dilute the power of that word. We welcome further dialogue on this issue.

Thus, no change has occurred in our policy. However, simply because we have and believe in a particular policy does not preclude us from making errors for which we must be accountable. Letters from our readers are vitally important, in that they challenge us and, hopefully, stimulate ongoing debate and dialogue.

By "heterosexist" and "ablebodied" we mean ideas, behaviors and systems which assume everyone is heterosexual or able-bodied, and which oppress gay/Lesbian and disabled people. Such power imbalances are institutionalized, as well, in our society.

We appreciate you sharing your questions and concerns with us and we hope you will continue to do so, on these and other issues.

In Unity,

The Newsletter Task Force

General Practice-Family Law-Civil Rights

Erna Jean Koch

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Specializing in Womens Legal Affairs

PHONE
(207) 774-8273

22 DEERING STREET
PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

Letters continued...

To The Collective:

Because the purpose of this newsletter is "to provide women with a forum for our feminist voices," I assume it provides a forum for our rage as well. The article by Anna Kissed, "We Know Who You Really Are" is one expression of our rage.

In reading Anna's article, however, I have reminded myself of the importance of distinguishing between the social institutions which were created in part to oppress women, and the men (and women) living with us today who are conditioned by these institutions to perpetuate the oppression of women.

When feminists (or anyone else) do not make this distinction, their writing can appear to be saying that men of today are not only responsible for having made this culture fertile ground for the oppression of women, but also that they oppress women with conscious malice.

In a newsletter created for women by women it is my hope that we can remain aware of the distinction (if in fact we find it valid) while also letting ourselves feel the rage Anna is expressing.

Barbara LeClerc

Dear Women of the Portland Women's Community Newsletter:

I recently received and read your most recent issue. Thank you for sending it to me.

I am writing to point out what I perceive as a painful contradiction between the front cover copy ("Celebrate the Harvest") and the newspaper article reproduced on the last page ("US Seeks to Seize Indians' College").

In dealing with the oppression of Native Americans, it is not only governmental institutions that diminish the integrity of Indian peoples' reality and culture. Well-intentioned women,

continued on pg. 13

more letters continued...

like ourselves, often do not hear what we are being told by those we want to support and make coalitions with.

Thanksgiving is celebrated in large part at the expense of Native Americans with lip service being given to the role played by "good" Indians. Reclaiming the holiday as a matriarchal harvest festival ostensibly initiated by our Pilgrim foremothers erases the reality of the white invasion of the continent and destruction of the Indian way of life.

It is not a question of guilt. Rather there is an owning up to the responsibilities that we as committed feminists, predominantly white, must accept if we are to work as equals with those who also suffer under the patriarchy.

In addition, only some of us have "Pilgrim foremothers".

This letter is not specifically intended for publication, although you are free to print it (in its entirety) if you are so inclined.

I wish you good luck with your publication.

Sincerely,
Nancy K. Bereano, Editor
Feminist Series

Mrs. Copy

477 Congress St.
Village Green
Portland, Maine

Quick Printing
Photocopying
Typing
Typesetting
Invitations
Business Cards
& Stationery

773-8001



astrologer at large

Hey You Dikes !

Here it is... an astrological guide for lesbians. I'll take one sign per month and fill you in on how the universe affects us all.

Attention: Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio, and Pisces !

You are best suited for relating with: Capricorn 12/21 - 1/19: a feminine, earthy sign with ruling planet Saturn.

To all remaining signs: You'll just have to work at it.

She's: talented, industrious, courageous, deliberate, truthful, forceful, intuitive and original

She's: quick-tempered, painfully frank, prone to fault-finding, incurably orderly, headstrong and unyielding, passionate, cautious.

Her aloofness will yield as soon as she becomes sure of herself and of you.

She: loves compliments, loves to be loved.

She's: very persistent, not impulsive about sex, conservative, lusty but well under control, afraid to fall in love because she wants to be sure it's the real thing.

She: needs to feel secure and protected. Once committed to a lover, she isn't likely to withdraw her affections.

She's: an all or nothing woman, extremely loyal but must be loved and wanted in return.

Beware if you try to hurt her, she won't forget or forgive.

She's: a separate and independent person who insists on living her own life. She'll never settle for a mere lover as her lifelong mate - she wants someone to satisfy all her needs.

She won't make allowances for your short-comings.

She: likes to take the lead in love-making, doesn't like surprises, has sexual endurance and expects her lover to keep up.

Her erogenous zones are her navel and the back of her knees.

(continued at bottom of next page) 13.

Women of Courage Continued...

Polly, a courageous woman in all our minds. She does it all.

Women of righteous indignation, the courage we have to face each day in this world as dreamers, makers, dancers, singers, writers, gardeners, loving life as lesbians.

One of my sisters left her husband and she is in pain. Hundreds of my sisters are beaten every day in their homes, every day and they are in pain. One of my sisters watched her baby die and she almost died too.

My sisters who are Black, Chicana Hispanic are in pain because of their oppression. Their pain is my pain. They are all sisters. That pain is easier to bear because of you, Sister in my life.

My ex-sweetie is biking to Florida right now. She pedals and our love survives.

Karin dances in spite of...
Helena makes her home in spite of...
Deborah quit her job in spite of...
I muddled along in spite of...

A woman's place is in the house and in the senate.

Fay Golya Edna St. Vincent Millay Georgia O'Keefe Imogene Cunningham only to name a few....What courage....What thoughts of inspiration you all have given me to one day add my name to the bottom of that list, Helen Roger-Eaton.

Love is sometimes a hard word to say but not now because Mom raised seven kids and runs a business of her own and still is sane.

The power, strength and the glory to overcome shall be ours.
Shakespeare's Sister To Be.

Task Force Members

Nicole d'Entremont
Diane Elze
Jennifer Tarling
Bunny Mills
Ann Houser
Avis Loring

Capricorn Continued...

SHE BITES!

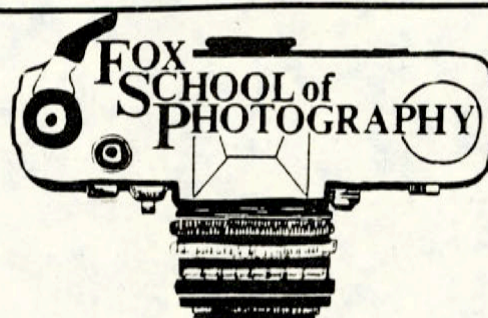
To get to know her: proceed slowly and

methodically, be cheerful and buoyant, be conservative in your views and expressions, and use humor - she's moody.

Once you're in, the ties are strong and hard to break and well worth keeping.

Next month, my honey, Aquarius!

14. • Zoota Quark: Lesbian Astrologer At Large

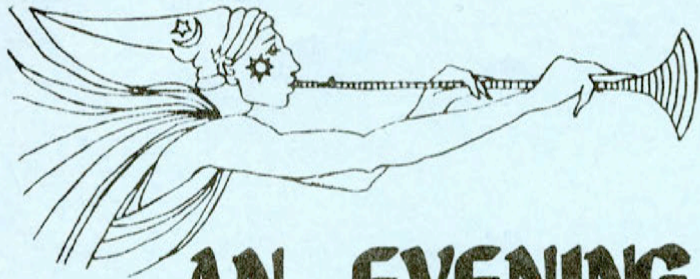


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MOTHER TONGUE



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CELEBRATION OF OUR DIVERSE
ETHNIC ROOTS.**

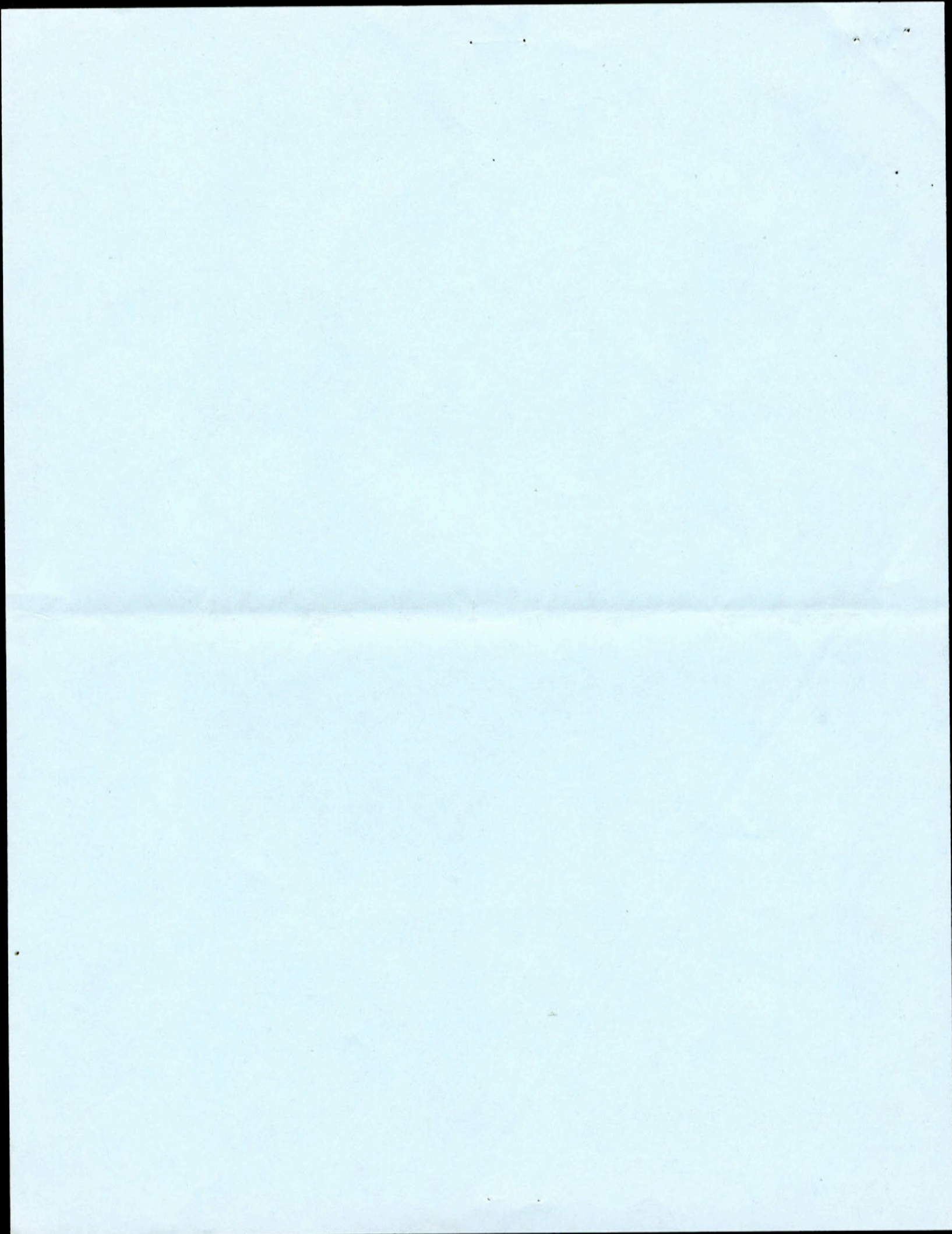
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**REFRESHMENTS SERVED FROM
AROUND THE WORLD**



As I read Melanie Kaye's words, honoring and mourning the Jewish women who fought inside the death camps, who resisted in the Warsaw Ghetto, who were deprived of the right to fight back, whose names survived, and those whose names did not - "I want a button that says Pushy Jew. Loud Pushy Jew. Loud Pushy Jew Dyke." - I cried and laughed in appreciation of these courageous and affirming words, knowing, at the same time, how dangerous they are in these Jew-hating times. And, I shudder. I shudder, remembering an article in Spare Rib, the British feminist journal, whose condemnation of the Israeli government's racist, sexist, classist and militaristic policies went far beyond an indictment of such policies, approaching too-closely the Jew-hating image I heard in childhood, "Jews are baby-killers." I shudder, reading anti-Semitic stereotypes in lesbian-feminist literature. I shudder, hearing dismissals of anti-Semitism by lesbian-feminist women. I shudder, at the rhetorical statement that "anti-racist work subsumes the fight against anti-Semitism," for I remember too well a similar argument being used by leftist men to ignore women, and by feminist women to ignore lesbians. I shudder, wondering who among us are allies of Jewish women.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."
Santayana

Before I can remember the past, I must learn of the past. Reading Nice Jewish Girls was only a beginning. And, while I learn more about Jewish herstory and oppression, and pay attention to the present, I must listen to my internal voices, fears and doubts. As I read about events, and discern anti-Semitic attitudes, behaviors and feelings around me, I find myself asking questions which raise red flags for me, signalling my own anti-Semitism. These questions include: "Can I discuss this with a Jewish friend?" "Can I ask a Jewish friend this particular question?" "Will I say the wrong thing?" "Will I make her angry or hurt her?" Such questions reflect a self-protective shield, the oppression of others by silence and a lack of risk-taking.

Nice Jewish Girls is a provocative book, essential reading for non-Jewish women if we are to begin to understand and acknowledge Jewish oppression.

PORTLAND
WOMEN, SUBSCRIBERS,
CONTRIBUTORS!

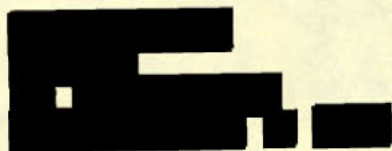
THE theme for the
next issue (big issue) of
the Newsletter is
WORK!

IS THERE A GREEN DOT ON THIS IS ISSUE OF YOUR NEWSLETTER? if so, then this is your last issue so resubscribe now !! Subscriptions are \$8 (more if you can, less if you can't).

We can always use more womanenergy to layout the newsletter. See calendar for time and date of editorial meetings. The Task Force is still looking for the use of an electric typewriter for 1-2 weeks around the layout dates.

KEEP US UP TO DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS. NEWSLETTERS ARE NOT FORWARDED.

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Diane Elze

