

# Portland Women's Community Newsletter

[Jan/Feb 1981] 50  
issue #4

## WHO ARE WE???



We are a group of women who have come together to find a place of belonging, support, action and fun. Because the personal is political, we wish to create personal space with each other that reflects the values and ethics of feminist politics. These include cooperation, validation for our female perspectives and experiences, support for each other in our diversity and creativity, shared power, honesty and joy.

This community is open to women of all colors, ages, classes religions and sexual perspectives. We work to provide child care and physical accessibility.

Our current task forces which are open to all interested women include:

1. Fun, bonding and culture
2. Internal Process
3. Feminist Ethics
4. Economic Selfsufficiency
5. Newsletter

con't on pg. 6

## Maria Theresa proposes...

Andrea Kelly

"Women never think about money. Women think about service. You should think about money before you think about anything else." This is the advice of Maria Theresa, feminist, professional proposal writer and consultant. Maria taught an all-day workshop on proposal writing and fundraising, thanks to the organizational efforts of Marlane Spillinger, On December 6th in Sheepscot. It was attended by Community members Betsy Whitman, who is interested in funding a feminist theatre, Laurie Michie who is interested in storing away the information for future use, and me---I am seeking funding for COPE, the organization that sets up support groups for new mothers and surrogate mothers for pregnant teenagers.

Maria started out--and nearly finished--her education thinking she wanted to be a feminist therapist. Her doctorate is in psychology. But along the road to a PhD she began writing proposals, and they were often successful. As her talents in the area of

con't. on pg. 2



## MARIA THERESA con't.

fundraising became evident, she was hired to review proposals. And finally, after writing a successful proposal for Phyllis Chesler to fund a women-and-creativity project, she decided that this was what she should do for a living. Her firm, Maria Theresa and Associates, is nine months old and from all indications, brilliantly successful. She is currently working on a multi-million dollar grant to fund a toxic waste management training program in her home town, Santa Cruz, Cal.

Maria is a goldmine of fundraising information, and in 5 hours she did her level best to pass on a huge volume of her expertise to us. Ten women sat frantically trying to write down every word as she set out, step-by-step, the process of getting money for our projects. She passed around books and copies of articles, but they were hurriedly passed on, or left to age on the floor, as we struggled not to miss a word. She rigorously limited breaks. By the end of the day, we were all exhausted, but inspired. Money is out there, and with much determination and hard work it can be gotten.

As the gathering began to disperse, Betsy, Laurie and I began to share the history of our women's community and other women's organizations in Portland. It was then that Maria's commitment to women's organizing became clear. We should have a women's resource center, she said. We should Not be paying for the printing of our own newsletter; local businesses have a mandate from the federal government to help with community development, we should go to them to do it. We should work toward producing a product through which we can become self-sufficient financially; the Philadelphia Women's Resources sells a very successful calendar, for example. We should, in fact, have her back to Maine to help us out. After ten minutes of discussion, she was ready to set a date. She would like to spend two days with us, one instructing in basic fundraising techniques and one doing some actual planning and proposal writing with us, working together so as not to duplicate ideas or services.

A tentative date of April 4-5 or April 11-12 for her return has been set and Leslie Ferber is working on contacting Maria Theresa. We thought a women's dance might cap off nicely the first day of work. Put it on your calendar, and spread the word. It is important that as many active women as possible participate, so that we can draw on plenty of energy for this crucial and difficult task, and to avoid that great drainer of resources, duplication of effort.



**The  
Open Book  
& Arts Forum**

114-1W Commercial Street / Portland, Maine 04111





## ANI-YUN WIYA *cherokee womyn*



*In the process of writing a paper a couple of years ago on the Cherokee Tribe of the Southwest, I discovered a number of interesting facts about their society that I would like to share with other women as I am a decendent of this tribe and their beliefs are of value to me.*

*At the time of the first contact with the white man, (1540) the Cherokee was a matriarchal society. Extraordinary respect was paid to their women, which at this time was the supreme tribal law. The women had a voice in the daily council and voted with the men in selecting their chiefs. It was a true democratic society. The women of each clan selected their own leaders, and these constituted the Women's Council. This council would challenge the authority of the male chiefs when it was thought that the welfare of the tribe was at stake. The head of the Women's Council was the "Beloved Woman" of the town whose voice was considered to be that of the "Great Spirit" who spoke through her. If a cheif died or otherwise was unable to appear in Council, his wife took his place. Women became influential counselors, noted warriors and even military commanders. Such women were invested with the title Gighau which possessed the combined connotations of War Woman, Beautiful Woman and Beloved Woman. The equality of Cherokee women in rank and privileges probably contributed to the sustained vigor with which the Cherokee for centuries maintained their independence in their mountain homeland. They had in a sense doubled the power of the Cherokee state. can't fig. 4*

# JANUARY

## FEEL FREE JAN. 25

We've rented the Williston-West Church for our monthly meeting again and hope to entice all you veteran meeting-goers plus many new friends to join us for good talk, good food, fun and dancing. We'll begin at 2 P.M. promptly to introduce ourselves, hear what's been going on in all the task forces, and plan for new activities. There's also something special in the offing, but we won't spill the beans yet. The potluck supper will start at 5 P. M. There's a kitchen to reheat any delectible concoctions you want to share. Salads, soups, breads or cakes - it's all welcome. Dancing will commence at 8 P.M. If you'd rather

just sit and talk, don't worry - there's enough room so you won't have to scream to be heard over the record player.

To pay for rent and childcare, we're asking for a much-needed donation of \$2.50 (more or less) per person. The church is wheelchair accessible and is set up for childcare. Child care will be available from 2 to 5 P.M. So, come for talk or food or music or all of the above, if that's your fancy. "Feel free" anyway; that's our motto.



Loie Hayes



Marriage was governed by the complicated rules and regulations on in-laws. A member of one clan could not be tribal law marry a member of her own clan even though they were not a blood relative. If a Wolf clan member married a member of the Deer Clan, she was obligated to treat all members of this clan with respect. When a man married, he took up the residence with the clan of his wife. His children belonged to the mother and therefore were classed as a member of her clan. The house and its contents always belonged to the wife. She was in effect the head of the household.

Divorce was an easy matter. When a Cherokee man wanted to get rid of a wife, he merely left her house, leaving her the property, including the children, the cabin, and the garden plot. If a woman wanted a divorce she simply put his personal belongings outside and told him to leave.

The training of the young was left up to the women. The young were all taught in the same ways until they were adolescents. The young men were then trained to be braves or shamans by the other men.

Sometimes a young girl became an apprentice or wise woman, therefore becoming a sacred person. In order to achieve this high honor, she had to do a heroic deed. After a deed had been performed, she was recognized as a sacred woman and had many privileges. She sat in the men's council as an equal. Such women usually decided whether prisoners were to be killed or taken in to the tribe. In spite of her high office, she bore children and made clothing, she also provided for her household by gardening, and if she had no husband she also hunted.

The women of the Cherokee tribe were raised to be truly independent women, and in many cases still are today, although they are no longer a matriarchal society and have not been since the appearance of the white man.

## MINUTES

The meeting began with the Task Force reports. The Newsletter Task Force reported that it was in need of new articles, more humor, poetry, graphics, creative writing, cartoons, and short fiction. We presently have 95 subscribers. To subscribe, one must pay \$5 (more if you can, less if you can't) per year payable to "The Community" in care of Diane Elze, 15 Deering Ave., Portland. Anyone may send articles to Nicole d'Entremont at 71 Walnut St., Portland.

Deborah Cole read a rough draft of a statement from the Feminist Ethics and Internal Process Task Forces, to be printed in the newsletter, telling who and what we are as a group. The meeting responded favorably to the draft and

agreed to wait for a more finished version for further discussion.

Andrea Kelly reported on the financial base of the Community. Andrea participated in a workshop on Dec. 6 on grantwriting and fundraising. She reported that the workshop had been excellent and suggested that our finances be a top priority for the group. It would cost only \$15 plus travel expenses from New York to have Maria Theresa, the facilitator of the Dec. 6 workshop, conduct a workshop for us. Leslie Ferber will organize a Fundraising Task Force to pursue this idea; contact her at 766-3301.

The Fun and Bonding Task Force announced the Jan. 3 party/dance in Hallowell,

cont pg. 7. 4.



# PRESS HERALD " »

Daily Edition  
20 C

## Peking mourns swan's slaying

PEKING (UPI) — The people of Peking forgot the winter cold and political intrigues Saturday to mourn the slaying of a wild swan and the feared demise of its mate that wailed with grief the night of the killing.

Four white swans caught the imagination of the citizenry of the Chinese capital earlier this month when they circled over a city park and gently alighted on a pond kept ice free by a running river.

Swans symbolize love and purity to the Chinese and they seldom winter in cities. When they do, "it's a rare and happy event," the Peking Daily said.

But the idyllic rendezvous was shattered by a single shot fired at dusk a few days before Christmas.

## The Omen

Even in China the swans are shot.  
We grow used to it here.  
Blood buckles the pages of the paper,  
comes off on our hands like newsprint.  
But, China!  
They said you could sleep on the subways,  
they were so safe.  
Leave your hotel room unlocked.  
There were no more opium dens, or landlords or  
boundfeet.  
No need for execution in the market place  
for stealing rice.

Now Jiang Qing stands accused of treason.  
She dares the court to sentence her  
to death.  
We hear the news and wonder, while  
Coca Cola checks out the Orient and  
Levi Strauss pats her thighs and  
business men get visas, strapping  
their brief cases shut with leather  
straps, dreaming of jade, wind chimes  
on scented air, old  
Humphry Bogart movies of intrigue.

The seduction has begun.  
And even in China the swans are shot.

Nicole d'Entremont

## Flirting, with Affection

"Lover to lover, no kiss  
no touch, but forever and ever this."  
-- H.D.

Gaming you tease and like a fool I fall  
caught your dance your  
rules no confession I blush  
freely and would love  
you will not  
Oh my will wishes to  
forget my heart still hopes you'll

remember  
Once  
not thinking you almost  
kissed  
me and shy I  
turned my mouth  
away

Caught delicious  
your public debauchery blatant  
sex I sweat virgin  
heat your greedy thigh  
We sway  
so indulgence smiles around us Sweet-

heart you are too  
beautiful these kisses too  
free and easy This drunk  
excuse gives false  
licence I will not take  
you  
now

Hungover laughing you say  
you were drunk  
I say laughing  
I wasn't

Laughing again  
I bring you innocence  
pink and blooming You  
want a kiss Sugar I say  
too many kisses in too few days"  
and leave love  
smiling

Loie Hayes



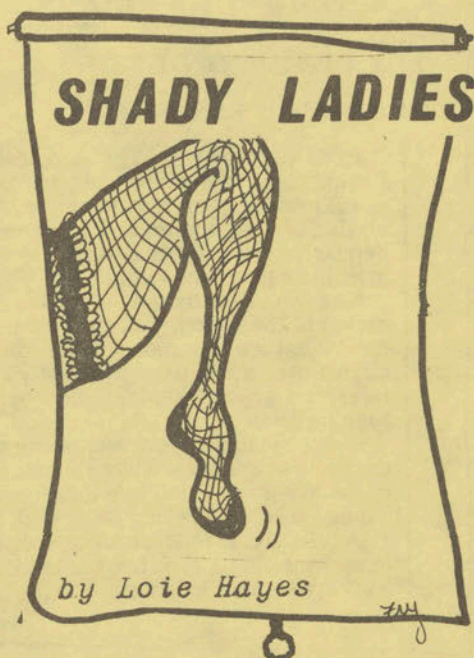
Two winters ago Debbie Ocko decided that insulating window shades might help reduce her heating costs. Her design, simply a sheet of heat reflective material covered with two layers of cloth and held close to the window's edges, succeeds in cutting heat loss through a single pane window by 75%. The shade rolls up conveniently to allow in the heat of the sun through southern windows and comes down at night to keep that heat from leaving as easily as it entered. Northern windows bring in no solar heat and if an insulating shade were left down both night and day, approximately \$20 can be saved each winter. At \$35 for a 4 by 5 ft. window, the shade pays for itself in less than 2 years.

Debbie's idea first begun with women friends in Brunswick under the name of Shady Ventures and moved to Portland this year. With organizing help from Suzanne Hunt, a VISTA worker in Portland West, and financial help from the Good Day Foundation, five women; Ocko, Debbie Griffin, Pat and Kelly Hathaway and Barbara Smith, now own and work for the Insulating Window Shade Company. Described as a Women's Work Collective, the five share all decision-making powers, work responsibilities and profits. Tasks include cutting and sewing the fabrics, constructing the framework which holds the shade to the window, marketing, installation and bookkeeping. The collective is still in its infancy and could use legal advise, accounting skills and sewing machines. They can be reached at 772-0982.

Whether we heat with wood, gas, oil or electricity, we all know how much of our resources, time and money it takes to keep warm in winter. Here is a group of women working collectively to give us the tools to save those resources. Here's hoping we can reward their efforts.

con't. from pg. 1 **Who we are**  
Monthly general meetings, which include business and socializing are organized by rotating committees formed at the meetings. In addition, task forces present workshops, discussion groups, outings, quiet gatherings and rowdy times.

**\*Proposed statement of identity for the Portland Women's Community** drafted by the Internal Process and Feminist Ethics task forces (Deborah Cole, Liz Cinnamon, Joyce Rowe.) Bring your comments, suggestions and additions to the next general meeting at which time the statement will be discussed.





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too...



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## Minutes...

and Bunny invited all to a potluck dinner at her house on Christmas Day. This Task Force needs "new blood" also.

New Business was discussed. The idea of having a "New Items Workshop" was suggested, in which different topics would be prepared for discussion at each meeting. Loie Hayes suggested that we should spend more time on plans for political action. Loie also suggested a "Readers' Time" which would include our own writings or those of others to share at meetings.

Julie Silverman discussed a problem she recently had with Guy Gannett Publishing Company regarding discrimination. The Guy Gannett Publishing Co. has set a new standard for advertisements for roommates. The new rule is that one must state their sex. For a woman, this could lead to a great deal of harrassment. It was decided that Julie would write a letter to the State Representative and everyone would sign it at the next meeting.

Julie and Bunny facilitated a small workshop on feelings between "straight" and Lesbian women and how these feelings affect us as a group. Many stereotypes, concerns and ideas were shared. It was decided that we all need each other's energy and ideas and we will do our best to help each new member to feel as comfortable as possible. We will either be having small groups of people "getting to know each other" before the general meeting, or a special New Members meeting before the general meeting. Bunny volunteered to facilitate it.

More discussion will follow at the next meeting on outreach and the issue of helping others to feel comfortable.

The meeting was adjourned to a gift exchange, supper and socializing.

Sincerely,

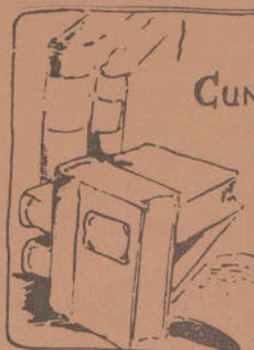
Julie Silverman

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*"The accomplice to the crime of corruption is frequently our own indifference." ...Bess Myerson*

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THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MAINE LESBIAN AND GAY MEN'S SYMPOSIUM will be held May 8-10 in Portland. At the next planning meeting, January 24, 1 P.M. in the Student Union at the University of Maine, Augusta, the keynote speakers will be chosen. Everyone is welcome. Topics for workshops and specific workshop facilitators are also needed. Please contact Pam B., 57 Hill St., Orono 04473 or Michael Leonard, 9 Spruce St., Augusta, 04330.



**CUNNINGHAM USED BOOKS**  
762 Congress Street  
across from the Roma Cafe.  
Hours  
Wed-Fri 2-8  
Sat & Sun 12-8  
BROWERS WELCOME!

## Stumper

WHO WAS THIS FAMOUS WOMAN?

When she was 10, she wanted to take a scissors and cut out of her father's books "all the laws that made the women cry." When she grew up, she did everything she could to abolish those laws with Susan B. Anthony as her political comrade in the mid-1800's.

answer to issue #3's stumper: Calamity Jane.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT!!! The Take Back the Night Coalition is still in action, looking for new (and old) members to gather together at Ann Houser's, 224 Ocean Avenue, Portland, 774-7166 on Thursday, February 12 at 6 P.M. Meeting followed by a potluck. Future plans will be discussed - follow-up, education, outreach, etc. Please come!

All interested in gathering regularly to discuss Mary Daly's Gyn-Ecology (and related topics), PLEASE CONTACT Joyce, 799-2089 or Suzann, 775-0643.

SKI-TREE!!! We would like to start a skitree for people who are up for cross country skiing as a group (days or weekends). If interested, call Nancy Bodwell at 774-1819 or Laurie Mitchie at 772-0266.

ROOMMATE WANTED...I am looking for a person who is non-smoking and easy-going to share my small two bedroom attic aptment (with storage space). I am a relatively neat, cooperative person, willing to share my space while respecting yours. Rent is approximately \$140/month including heat, gas, lights. Sherman/State St. area. Call 772-0004 evenings; 774-0626 days - Ellen.

MASSAGE EXCHANGE WANTED: I am an amateur masseuse interested in practicing the skills and getting regular massages on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Loie Hayes, 772-1597.

PAJAMA PARTY!!!PAJAMA PARTY!!! - The Fun and Bonding Task Force is sponsoring a pajama party - just like when we were young. Bring your pajamas and sleeping bag for a good time to 821 Ocean Avenue, Portland, 8 P.M. Call 774-1819, Bunny or Rose. Jan. 24

HOLLY NEAR IN CONCERT!! HOLLY NEAR IN CONCERT!! February 8, Brunswick Women's Association, 24 College St., Brunswick 04011. Write for details. Concert to be held at Bowdoin College.

WOMEN'S WEEK!!! A Women's Week is being planned to promote a strong and effective women's movement. Issues such as health-care, violence, economic oppression, human rights, women's rights, women's history/culture will be focused on. For more information and to share input come to the Open Book, 114-1W Commercial St., Portland, at 3 P.M. on January 17th. Call Beth Brown, 324-1630.

The first Saturday of every month has been designated as "women only" at the Eastside (alias Flo's) on Rte. 3 in Augusta. This will continue indefinitely as long as enough women support it. See you all there!!! If you need directions call Bunny at 774-1819.

cor't pg. 7

### NEWSLETTER GANG

Nicole d'Entremont, Diane Elze, Sparky, Barbara Cleveland, Loie Hayes, Bunny, Fry. JOIN US!



## announcements con't.)

REGISTRATION FOR THE FOLLOWING GROUPS WILL BEGIN JANUARY 10, 1981. CALL 773-3564

BEING OF SOUND MIND: An experiential course in the use of sound for physical healing and psychotherapy based on ancient metaphysics, as well as modern techniques in music therapy. Sundays, 7:30-9:30 P.M. at Metanoia Books, 31-1/2 Exchange St., starting January 25, 6 weeks (with option to continue as an open or closed group). \$36. No prior musical knowledge necessary.

WOMEN AFFECTED BY ANOTHER'S DRINKING - An ongoing open group that will focus on peer counseling techniques, alcoholism education, and sharing of experiences with full confidentiality. Reading materials included. \$1 to \$3 per meeting. Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 P.M., 120 Spring St. (corner of High) starting January 28.

PLAYING WITH CLAY - A sharing of herstories in combination with "hands-in" experience with clay and other media. We'll discuss the effect of family, school, and society's approval on our own artistic development and creativity anxiety, as well as exploring other women's issues nonverbally through the medium. Massage, guide affected imagery, Jungian and Gestalt art therapy techniques are utilized toward the unveiling of our womanselves. Firing not included, but can be made available individually or as a group through a local potter. All materials included. Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 P.M., 10 weeks, \$60 (\$36 paid before first class), starting January 29 at 120 Spring Street.

A few partial scholarships are available and barter arrangements are possible for up to 1/2 fee. All groups facilitated by M. Fry Wolhandler, M.S.Ed., Expressive Therapies, and former alcoholism counselor at Cambridge City Hospital with the Women's Alcoholism Program, Cambridge, Mass.

Also available for private counseling and astrological services.  
Call 773-3564 for information.

*Anyone interested in helping out in the committee to plan for the Proposal Writing and Fundraising workshop in April, please contact Leslie Ferber at 766-3301.*



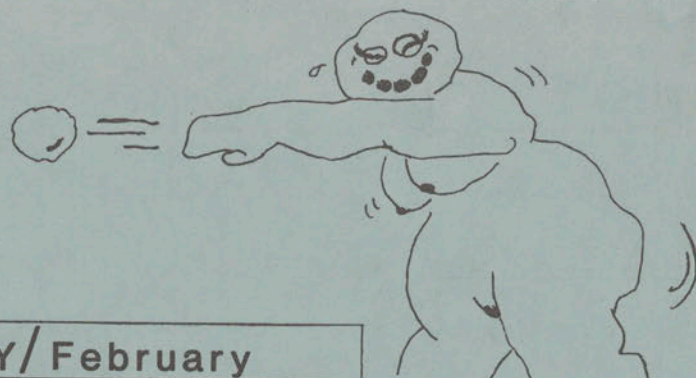
from the ♀ reading group



*Having just finished immersing ourselves in the works of May Sarton, we will begin discussing on Jan. 12th, Women in the Shadows by Ann Cornelisen. This work portrays the lives and struggles of women in southern Italy. And then we will read The Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln - A German Jewish widow born in 1640.*

*In February we will explore the realm of Science Fiction with Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Herland and Woman on the Edge of Time by Marge Piercy. The first Monday of each month we meet at one of our houses. On Feb. 2nd we will meet and share a potluck at 167 Coyle at 5:30. Other Mondays we meet at the Women's Room at the YWCA at 5:30. In a supportive atmosphere we share impressions/thoughts/criticisms of our readings - and many times these conversations include comparisons to our daily lives. We always welcome visitors and new input to our discussions.*





## JANUARY/February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Flash</i></p> <p>chickie LaChet wins 1st monopoly tournament</p>						<p>Women's Week planning session</p> <p>Open Book Commercial St. Port.</p>
18	<p>♀ reading group 19</p> <p>5:30 ywca see pg. 9</p> <p>Spiritual Community 7 p.m. state st</p>	20	21	<p>♀ Room 22</p> <p>ywca Roller Skating at Happy 2.75 wheels</p>	23	<p>P.J. 24</p> <p>Party Fun + Bonding see pg. 8</p> <p>Planning for GAY Symposium 1 p.m. U of Me/Augusta</p>
<p>Women's 25</p> <p>Community Meeting &amp; Potluck 2 P.M. Williston-West see pg. 3</p>	<p>♀ reading 26</p> <p>group 5:30 ywca</p> <p>Spiritual Community 7 p.m. State St. Church</p>	27	28	<p>♀ Room 29</p> <p>ywca Women's Music Slide Show</p>	30	31
February 1	<p>♀ reading 2</p> <p>group 5:30/Coyle Potluck</p> <p>Spiritual Community 7 p.m. State St. Church</p>	3	4	5	6	<p>Women 7</p> <p>Only Nite at the Eastside Augusta</p>
<p>Holly Near 8</p> <p>in Concert</p> <p>Bowdoin College see pg. 8</p>	<p>♀ reading 9</p> <p>group 5:30 ywca</p> <p>Spiritual Community 7 p.m. State St. Church</p>	10	11	<p>TAKE BACK 12</p> <p>the Night Ann Houser's 224 OCEAN AVE. 6 P.M. meeting POTLUCK ♀ Room / slide Presentation Debbie HIBBARD re. her trip USS E</p>	<p>Film-USM 13</p> <p>+ Harton County Feb 12 at Luther Bonney Aud. Free 7:30 13th Jorham - Bailey Hall</p>	<p>14</p> <p>we love you</p>
15	<p>♀ reading 16</p> <p>group 5:30 ywca</p> <p>Spiritual Community 7 p.m. State St. Church</p>	17	18	19	20	21





Remove this page, fill in and post . . . . . Good luck!



We love doing this newsletter, but WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!!!!! The newsletter Task Force needs more womynenergy in the form of articles (news, features, interviews, reviews, etc.), graphics, letters to Hetty (or to the Task Force), calendar events, even your favorite recipe!!! Please if you can, type your article with a maximum 7" width and a dark typewriter ribbon. This would save us much time. The deadline for the next issue is February 2. Submit your writings to: Nicole d'Entremont, 71 Walnut St., Portland, 04101.

WE NOW HAVE 95 SUBSCRIPTIONS!!! Subscriptions are \$5 (more if you can, less if you can't) for 12 monthly issues. Please return to: D. Elze, 15 Deering Ave, Portland, 04101.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Checks can be made out to "The Community")

