



VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA

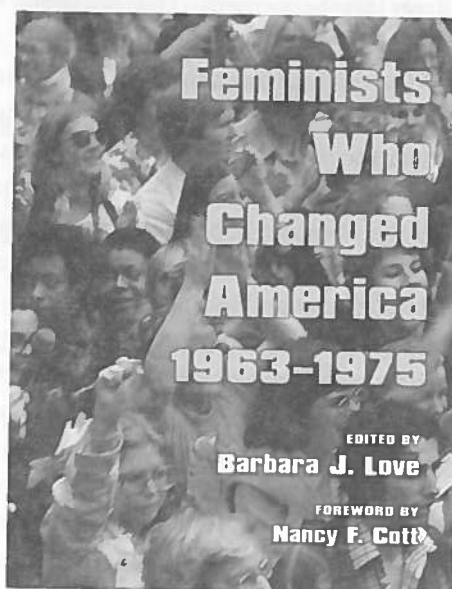
"To document and record our history"

*"to pass
the torch"*

Fall, 2006

VFA
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FEMINISTS WHO CHANGED AMERICA GALA BOOK KICKOFF



NOVEMBER 13 IN NYC

A gala four-event VFA celebration in New York City will mark the official November 13 publication date of *Feminists Who Changed America 1963-1975*. The day will culminate in a dinner honoring the book's biographies. Those attending will receive a frameable certificate and a chance to share one reminiscence of their activism.

VFA president Jacqui Ceballos advises: "Space is limited, so everyone should make their reservations

right away – checks will be returned after we reach 200 reservations."

The dinner will be held at Columbia University Faculty House at Morningside Drive north of 116th Street, as will be a noontime rap session for biographies

hosted by feminist author Sheila Tobias and a provocative afternoon symposium on the modern women's movement, titled "Past Victories and Mistakes, Future Challenges."

Barnard College president Judith S. Shapiro will host a reception that afternoon at Barnard's McIntosh Hall, entered through at Broadway & 117 St. As a special treat, famed singer-songwriter Margie Adam, who is one of the biographies, has agreed to sing. The reception will also feature an exhibit of photos by Bettye Lane,

many of whose historic pictures of our movement appear in the new book.

"The symposium will be mind-blowing," promises VFA board chair Muriel Fox, who organized the November 13 celebration and will moderate the panel. Renowned speakers include author Gloria Steinem;

Catharine Stimpson, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Science at New York University; organizer-consultant Heather Booth; educator Gracia Molina de Pick; and writer Marcia Ann Gillespie, former editor of *Ms Magazine*. The panel will be preceded by an eye-

(See Feminists Who, page 2)

OUR HISTORY IS PUBLISHED!

By Barbara Love, editor



Feminists Who Changed America, 1963-1975 is now available for researchers, librarians, journalists, ourselves and our families! The directory, which tells what 2,200 feminists – us! – did to make the world a

better place for women and girls, is getting great reviews (five stars on Amazon.com) and causing a real buzz in our community.

The book demonstrates that the women's movement, one of the most important social movements ever, empowered thousands of women to challenge every single patriarchal barrier they confronted. We were in fact many and diverse, passionate and determined, brilliant and brave.

It's been a long haul. I contacted 27 publishers to find the right one, the University of Illinois Press—which took the

(See Our History, page 3)

Honoring Betty.....

By Jacqui Ceballos

August 26th, 2006
and Bella, and Coretta Scott King



It was a special August 26 this year! Betty Friedan died on February 4th, her 85th birthday. Though we knew she hadn't been well, it was a shock. Messages of sadness poured in - and all emphasized that, despite her difficult personality, Betty was loved, admired and actually adored, especially by those of us who'd come

out of the woodwork to join her in the movement which changed our lives and the lives of all women in this country forever!

As you saw in our Spring newsletter, the seeds of the August 26 2006 celebration were sown on a three-hour trip Sidney Abbott and I took to Betty's burial in Sag Harbor. With the help of Joan Nixon, Merle Hoffman and Martha Baker, Sidney formed Women's Rights Are Human Rights and put on a wonderful event at the New York University Law School in Washington Square.

Over 200 women took part in four panel discussions, admired a Bettye Lane photo exhibit and Linda Stein's "Knights," experienced the art of the Granny Chicks and convened in the auditorium at noon to honor Bella, Betty and Coretta. The afternoon began with a welcome by NYU's women law students followed by Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer reading a Proclamation, which led into the long overdue homage to our great and beloved Bella Abzug.

Bella's good friend Harold Holzer eulogized her; her daughters, Liz and Eve, presented the Bella S. Abzug Sheer Chutzpah Award to the Dixie Chicks in absentia. Former City Council member Ronnie Eldridge gave a stirring homage to her lifelong friend, and Sandy Rapp paid a loving tribute when she sang and played her original songs, "Rose" and "When Bella Sings Marlene," - this last a memory of Bella's famous take off on Marlene Dietrich.

As emcee of the VFA-run HONORING BETTY segment, I told how Betty organized the August 26, 1970 event on chutzpa and a prayer. Kate Millett gave a stirring eulogy. Muriel Fox, a founder of NOW, talked movingly about the

importance of Betty's Legacy. Barbara Seaman, author and a founder of the women's health movement, introduced Barbara Ehrenreich, author of "*Nickel and Dimed*" and "*Bait and Switch*," who spoke about Betty's legacy for women in the workforce. Emily, Betty's daughter, "the doctor," presented Ehrenreich with the Betty Friedan Women and Work Award, and both gave beautiful eulogies. Emily introduced her brother Jonathan and several of Betty's grandchildren. We closed with Margie Adam beautiful singing as she accompanied herself on the piano. She had us all in tears.

In the Coretta Scott King segment, Helen Hooke's performance of "Ain't I A Woman?" and Jo Freeman's memories of her six months as Coretta's assistant were wonderful, as was the presentation of the Coretta Scott King Women of Courage Award to the Honorable Inez Dickens. City Councilwoman Inez Dickens was presented the award by Deputy Borough Pres. Rosemonde Pierre-Louis. Accepting for the Councilwoman was Lynette Velasco, Special Assistant to Councilwoman Dickens.

Stirring talks by Merle Hoffman and Marylou Greenberg covered the hottest issues of the movement: Repro Rights, ERA, Human Trafficking, Young Female Leadership and Immigration. The magnificent music of the Helen Hooke Rock band was a fitting end to a wonderful afternoon. The feeling expressed by many was, "We're still a movement! Let's do every year!" Well, maybe we will, if Sidney has recovered her strength for a 2007 august 26 event.

There is no way to thank Sidney and her crew, Joan Nixon, Merle Hoffman and Martha Baker, for their superhuman efforts, except to support them to help make Women's Rights Day a yearly celebration to celebrate all our foremothers forever.

Feminists Who (Continued from page 1)

opening talk on "Right Wing Enemies of Feminism" by David Brock, author of *Blinded By The Right*.

The events in Columbia University Faculty House will be enhanced by exhibitions of feminist works by artist Linda Stein and photographer Joan Roth.

A reservation form for the November 13 celebration, which costs \$100 for the entire day including dinner (sorry we can't subdivide it), can be found on the VFA website www.vfa.us. The form also includes a special Theater Party on Sunday evening, November 12.

Our History *(Continued from page 1)*

book on. (New York University Press was also interested, but UIP's offer was the best). Most publishers said -- they didn't publish reference books; feminism is no longer of interest; or, the book was not put together by a PhD. To this last dismissal, I have to say the book was put together by true authorities - ourselves!

One publisher said the book turns traditional reference work upside down. We wanted feminists to write their own bios --- and they did. Why go to secondary sources when we are still alive? The bios are compact, but they also tell fabulous stories of heroic women and men.

There are many wonderful testimonials, but one I especially like the one by historian Carl Degler points out, "These well-researched and written biographies should be a godsend to any student of American social history."

Over 40 people worked on Feminists Who Changed America, 1963 - 1975. It is truly a movement project, put together by editors, researchers, photographers and many others who volunteered time or gave generous donations at the end to see the seven-year project jump the final hurdle and get published.

It's impossible to credit everyone who helped, but I have to mention the enormous amount of work done by Muriel Fox, Virginia Watkins, Ann Wallace, Zoe Nicholson and Judith Meuli, and the great deal of guidance from Heather Booth, Sara Evans and Gloria Steinem, plus the photos given to us by Betty Lane.

We were fortunate that Nancy F. Cott, one of America's foremost historians, agreed to write an inspiring and informative Foreword for our book. Nancy is professor of American History at Harvard University, director of the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, and the author of numerous important books including "The Grounding of Modern Feminism."

If you are in the book, you are entitled to a 30 percent discount, which is quite generous. Therefore the book costs \$56 if you order through the University of Illinois Press (800-621-2736). Friends and family of deceased feminists in the book get the same discount.

I am happy that some of the royalties will go to Veteran Feminists of America, a fine partner in this long-term project. This is indeed a VFA effort of some magnitude, with most of the primary movers and shakers coming from the VFA board and membership. Without VFA, this book would never have happened.

Many feminists who were active in the movement were missed in our initial effort. If you or a family member are not included, don't despair. Send your feminist biography to the

Pioneer Feminists Project, 82 Deer Hill Ave., Danbury, CT. 06810. It will be included at the Sophia Smith Collection with the others, and possibly in another edition of the book; and/or included with biographies when they are made available electronically some day. In addition, VFA will definitely put the bios of feminists who missed the book on it's Web site.

If the November 13th event in New York City is sold out (see inside flyer), again, don't despair. We'll have events celebrating our contributions throughout the country. Keep tuned!

Veteran Feminists of America © Fall 2006

Editors - Jacqui Ceballos, Muriel Fox, Joan Michel

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VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA

presents

A THEATER EVENT NOVEMBER 12
THE EVENING BEFORE VFA'S NOVEMBER 13 CELEBRATION

"FIRST MOTHERS"
 an original play for 4 Actors
 by L.E. McCullough

7:30 pm - Pre-theatre Wine & Cheese • 8:00 pm - Curtain • 9:00 pm - Coffee & Cake
 SAGE THEATRE - 711 7TH Ave. NYC (between 47 & 48 Sts).
 ADMISSION - \$50 (until October 31st), \$65 after 10/31.
NO CASH OR CHECKS ACCEPTED AT DOOR.

Discussion with Playwright & Actors
Featuring:

Elizabeth Jackson * Sara Roosevelt * Mary Washington * Dorothy Ford
 * Sarah Lincoln * Nancy Lincoln * Martha Truman * Virginia Clinton
 * Nelle Reagan * Rebekah Johnson * Hannah Nixon * Lillian Carter

This is a VFA Fund Raiser to support its outreach activities.
 Join us for an inspiring and entertaining evening the night before the book launch of
FEMINISTS WHO CHANGED AMERICA 1963 - 1975, Barnard College, Morningside Hgts.

***Playwright's Note:** Despite the personal and political diversity of the men occupying the White House over the last two centuries, one common factor emerges - the essential ethical character and philosophical outlook of each were strongly shaped by his mother. Through compelling first-person dramatizations, FIRST MOTHERS presents crucial moments in the lives of twelve women who not only gave birth to Presidents but in so doing helped shape the destiny of the United States we know today.

SPECIAL NOTE: We regret that the theater is not handicapped - accessible. Be advised that there are 6 steps to the first landing and 14 steps to the second landing entrance to the theatre. Banister is on the left. Organized by Grace Welch -Grace@gracewelch.com

CLIP AND RETURN FORM \$100 - covers November 13 Dinner, Symposium, Reception, Rap Session, music, photo and art exhibits, Optional Rap Session Box Lunch \$15 extra, to be paid at door.

\$50 - price of admission to theater party November 12

FEMINISTS WHO CHANGED AMERICA at Barnard College and Columbia University

Gala all day event November 13 \$100.00

Theater event November 12 \$50.00

Enclosed: \$ ____ for ____ tickets for November 12 Theater - FIRST MOTHERS

\$ ____ for ____ tickets for November 13 - all - day VFA celebration

\$ ____ tax exempt donation to VFA \$ ____ TOTAL

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Guests Names: _____ Clip form and

mail with check to: VFA, 1942 NE 6TH CT E 203, FT LAUDERDALE, FL 33304.

AFTER NOVEMBER 1ST send to Amy Hackett - 473 Westminster Rd, Bklyn, NY 11218

KATE MILLETT'S EULOGY TO BETTY

August 26, 2006 -- Women's Equality Day at NYU



She was, supposedly, the mother of us all.

But she was not maternal, comforting, easy. She was an organizer. She organized us.

As she had organized her friends into communes of privileged eggheads living as happy-go-lucky intellectuals in oversized houses or little apartments designed for UN couples. There was always a great swirl of intellectual stimulation, first rate education, informal and first name participation by professors at Columbia – and plenty of drinking. When Betty came up against the Women's Movement she had already organized her life ... against the odds.

Against the horrors of loneliness and the boredom of housewifery, against the isolation of the suburbs. Where a second pregnancy had landed her in the egregious, if unnoticed, case of job discrimination. When United Electricians "let Betty Friedan go," she did. She went freelance, she organized her friends, her neighbors, then she headed for the hypocritical mystique of the women's magazines, all the alienation of the fifties, the sixties and the seventies. Every

lost cause and blighted opportunity – she knew them all. She had been in the rush of life at Smith. Then reality. A little job. Then further reality, unemployment. If she couldn't build a community and make it work, there was nothing.

Smith saved her. It gave her the Class of 1942, fifteen years later, this is the stuff of *The Feminist Mystique* – the questions she wrote for her classmates. What have you done with your lives?

It's not that they'd done nothing – but that compared with what they intended to do, dreamed of doing, were already for ... the illness without a name. All that energy to end in frustration, spoiled hopes.

Betty reached in and touched some secret ambition in us, some greed for life, something that would have washed away otherwise – been rinsed away by time – and saved us for ourselves.

Because Betty was organizing us. Explaining us, passionately arguing for us. She paid for us too. Misogynistic hatred polarized around her, she was the representative feminist in the USA. Even feminists resented her, felt bullied and bossed by her, those close to her in the movement frequently acted like rebellious daughters. Women at a distance recognized her. Up close, we were confused. We had the ambivalence of Intimacy. We also didn't know who we were dealing with – a woman of genius who had the right to our allegiance.

The two streams, women's liberation and women's rights, flowed together and created a torrent. They called for abortion and the ERA. They made a thousand changes in our lives, their very quality. It may be too late to undo these changes – but we are everyday in danger of losing abortion, the right to choose whether and when to have a child. Or to be invaded and bear children against our will. The ERA seems to be as far away as ever – when once it was so close.

America is in a different place now, easy in the way we live, men and women. Harder in the official structure, influenced by the religious right, fundamentalisms of all kinds. Conservatism is on the rise now, the traditional forms of life, the new male chauvinism of war, fear and Christian and Muslim, fascism, and hatred. As if the whole project of women's liberation has met a new setback, a new and more determined masculinity and oppression.

Think of all the work Betty put into women, into us; the meetings, the letters, the books. All to nurse a project, to breathe life into it – to keep its fires going. To burn steadily. That will be our job now. We have changed life but we must transform it utterly. Perhaps the hardest days are still ahead.

"I have led you into history. I leave you now – to make new history." These were Betty Friedan's words on leaving the presidency of NOW. Surely the hardest days are still ahead.

ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSES TO **FEMINISTS WHO CHANGED AMERICA** are pouring in. Here are a few:

FROM ZOE NICHOLSON of Newport Beach, CA., one of the editors:

Dear Barbara, The book arrived today. I tore open the package and held it in my arms with tears rolling down my cheeks and emotions roaring through my soul. It is grander than I had ever imagined, this little directory of pioneer women. I barely survived the storm of love I felt with each "Q" and now this hurricane of 2200 biographies has almost knocked me off my feet. It is the Torah of my religion. It is the Rosetta Stone of all that moves me. You did this Barbara. You created this fantastic holy book for all time - for all people to know that these wonderful women changed the world. I am grateful to you for trusting me to be a part of this magnificent timeless Book of "Feminists Who Changed America."

I got my copies of Barbara's glorious book today. What a list of fantastic women! Very moving to read these biographies! I bought an extra copy for daughter, Diane and for her daughter, Shasta (now 17 months!) to read when she is older. I inscribed it .. "To Sasha,. So that you can remember what came before." Grandma. Barbara Lifton. (Ct and NYC)

I am thrilled to be among the feminists featured in the upcoming book. I'm looking forward to the event in New York and will bring my niece, an ardent young feminist and my hope for the future. VFA gives me hope that the women's movement really DID happen. Thanks to you and all VFA officers for your devotion and continued hard work on behalf of the rest of us. Janet Stambolian, Burlington, VT.

This book is the most exciting project and the VFA a most important organization. It would take me more than this email to tell you how much this means to all us feminists in the trenches for so many years - to make us all history - that is incredible! stunning! My joy is boundless for us! Claire

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF NOW!

Many VFA members attended the NOW conference in Albany in July, during which founders and past presidents of NOW were honored. In celebrating NOW's 40th anniversary year we should make special mention of Dorothy Haener. She was a founder of NOW in 1966. Together with her UAW colleague Caroline Davis, who served as NOW's first Secretary - Treasurer, she managed all of NOW's finances, mailings, printing and member services during the organization's first year.

2007 DUES ARE DUE FOR 2007

Dear Veteran Feminist,

2006 was a very busy and memorable year! We said goodbye to Betty in February, honored Helen Reddy and West Coast pioneer feminists in Los Angeles on May 1, conducted workshops at the NOW conference in Albany in July, took part in the Memorial service to Betty, Bella and Coretta on August 26, and are celebrating our important new book **FEMINISTS WHO CHANGED AMERICA** at Barnard and Columbia University in New York on November 13th. Your dues made it possible to do all this and more. Thanks for supporting our efforts, and please continue to do so! Send your dues check with this form, which helps keep track of payments and changes of addresses, phone or email. We need your help to keep up this work.

Thanks again!

Amy Hackett - Treasurer

☐ Regular dues \$40* ☐ Devoted Donor \$100 ☐ Super Supporter \$250

☐ Big Time Benefactor \$500 ☐ Activist Angel \$1,000 ☐ Other \$ _____.

\$10 and up, if \$40 is difficult. Make check to VFA. Mail to **Amy Hackett 473 Westminister Rd, Brooklyn, NY 11218**

I enclose dues of \$ _____ for 2007.

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____ e-mail: _____

CONTINUE OUR LEGACY! PLEASE INCLUDE VFA IN YOUR WILL.

And please tell other pioneer feminists about VFA!

Our book, Feminists Who Changed America, includes 2200 brave feminists!

And We Mourn...



**June Bundy
(1923- 2006)**

JUNE BUNDY-CSIDA – writer, activist and co-author of *The Feminist Chronicles* (with the late Toni Carabillo and Judith Meuli) died in Los Angeles September 30 of lymphoma in her 83rd year. June became active

in L.A. NOW in 1970, when she coordinated a search for surviving pre-WWI suffragists to participate in the August 26th Strike for Equality celebration. She held various offices in the chapter, contributed and was a columnist for the National NOW Times. She got local radio and TV stations to create and air public service spots for NOW. She set up a public forum on RAPE, the Number One Crime Against Women. She and her husband, Joseph, also a NOW member wrote *Rape - How To Avoid It and What To Do About It If You Can't*. She authored several other books, including *Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the 19th Century Renaissance Woman* scripted and researched a syndicated radio series, *Show Ms!* - a tribute to women musical stars from the 1920s to the 1980s and, in 1986 wrote a tribute to male feminists that was delivered by Ed Asner at NOW's 20th anniversary show. She is survived by her stepchild Joseph, Jr., his wife and their three children, and her cousin, Lisa Malec



**Arlene Raven
(1944- 2006)**

Arlene Raven, arthistorian, critic and educator who with Judy Chicago, and Sheila Levrant de Bretteville founded the Woman's Building, an institution that was a magnet for women seeking to produce art on their own terms, died of

cancer Aug. 1 at her home in Brooklyn, N.Y.. She was

only 62 years old! With Chicago and de Bretteville Arlene also launched the Feminist Studio Workshop, a training program that sought to merge consciousness-raising with practical art education. She taught art history there and founded the Lesbian Art Project. Later the main art critic for the Village Voice, she was a passionate advocate of women's art. Since 2000 she was critic-in-residence at the Rinehart School of Sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art. She also cofounded and edited *Chrysalis*, an avant-garde feminist journal; wrote or edited nine books, including "Feminist Art Criticism" with Cassandra L. Langer and Joanna Frueh, and "Art in the Public Interest," and was the author of monographs on Wayne, Oka Doner, Betye Saar, and Nancy Grossman, her life partner since 1983. Arlene, who was honored by VFA with *Feminists in the Arts* in 2002, was much loved and will be greatly missed by the feminist community.



**Former Texas Governor
Ann Richards
Gone Too Soon!
(1933- 2006)**

A brilliant leader, great wit and beloved feminist, Ann Richards was the second woman to serve as governor of Texas. She paved the way as a leader and a role model for women. Elected governor

in 1990 she served for four years before losing to George W. Bush. She continued to be active, was a favorite guest on TV and helped the feminist movement to her end. Ann is survived by four children, Cecile, Daniel, Clark and Ellen Richards; their spouses; and eight grandchildren.

HELP PUBLICIZE FEMINISTS WHO CHANGED AMERICA

Send a release to local media. Tell them you and others in your state are in the book. Ask your library to order the book. Have a luncheon or dinner for friends to announce the publication of the book. Need a press release?

Email jcvfa@aol.com for our copy.



VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA
Gateway Terrace
1942 N E 6th Court E-203
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33304

New York City Gala Event Celebrating FEMINISTS WHO CHANGED AMERICA ~ 1963-1975

Monday, November 13, 2006

\$100 for entire event. Check made out to Veteran Feminists of America

CALL 954-805-1559 to see if there are any seats left

PLEASE NOTE - Price for the day, which we're billing at VFA's cost, is \$100 – *no matter which activities you attend. WE CANNOT SEPARATE THE COSTS!* As you know, we're a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. *VFA will try to plan a more affordable event later on. If you can help plan one in your state, please let us know.*

- 12:00 ~ 1:45 Rap Session with biographies (Box Lunch optional \$15) Led by Sheila Tobias
Columbia University Faculty House West side of Morningside Drive, north of 116th Street
- 2:00 ~ 4:15 Symposium - Past Victories & Mistakes, Future Challenges Moderated by Muriel Fox
Panel - Heather Booth, Marcia Ann Gillespie, Gracia Molina-Pick, Gloria Steinem, Catharine Stimpson,
Talk by David Brock on "Rightwing Enemies of Feminism." - Columbia University Faculty House,
West side of Morningside Drive, north of 116th Street
- 4:00 ~ 5:45 Reception hosted by Dr. Judith Shapiro, President of Barnard College
Special Treat: Singer-Songwriter Margie Adam
McIntosh Hall, enter thru Gate, Broadway & 117 St.
- 6:00 ~ 10:30 Dinner honoring biographies. Honorees will be given certificates & time to offer a word of reminiscence -
Columbia University Faculty House, West side of Morningside Drive, north of 116th Street

**Feminists Who Changed America ~ 1963 – 1975 is edited by Barbara J. Love of the Pioneer Feminists Project in partnership with
Veteran Feminists of America, a tax-exempt organization created to document feminist history, inspire
younger generations, and rekindle the spirit of the feminist revolution.*

(See inside page 4 for theater event, and mail in form)