



VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA

"To document and record our history"

*"to pass
the torch"*

Spring, 2005

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Connecticut Pioneers Reunite - April 16th

Intergenerational Dialogue to Discuss "Feminism and Its Values"

by Sheila Tobias

Approximately 40 Connecticut Pioneer Feminists who led the Second Wave in the 1970s are being invited back for a day-long intergenerational dialogue and awards dinner on April 16. The event is called "Feminism and its Values," representing an effort to take back the high ground in the moral values debate.

"Feminism is grounded in values," says Yolande Spears, director of Education and outreach at Hartford's Bushness Auditorium, a featured speaker at the event – "values like fairness, equity, individuality, and racial equality."

Planning for the VFA-CT event has been going on since November and has revealed how often Connecticut feminists led the nation in the range and diversity of its women's movement. Following

An Inter-generational Dialogue

Feminism and its Values



Conference and Awards Dinner

the Supreme Court's decision in the Griswold case brought by Yale Law Professor, Thomas Emerson in 1965 guaranteeing married couple's right to privacy in their use of contraceptives, Connecticut Catherine Roraback (one of the honorees), led a group of plaintiffs to challenge the state's anti-abortion law (Women v.

Connecticut in 1972-73). A Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (permanent indeed since it is still in operation) was established by state law in 1973.

Connecticut's three then male-only universities went co-ed in the first years of the decade bringing a whole new population of women students,

women administrators, and women faculty into the state—many of whom will be present at the awards dinner. Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF), too, was unique in the region, modeling itself at the time on the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The reason Connecticut was out in front, say the planners, has much to do with the state's history of dissent, going all the way back to pre-revolutionary war days, its anti-slavery activism and of course, the many high-achieving women of all political persuasions who lived in the state (including Alice Paul) now honored in the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. Connecticut also boasts the first woman governor elected in her own right – not as a widow and not as a placeholder – when in 1974 Ella

(See *Pioneers Reunite*, page 2)

4ERA Mourns the Death of Shirley Chisholm

Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress and the first woman to run for President, died at her home in Florida on January 1. She was 80 years old.

Idella Moore, founder of 4ERA, an Equal Rights Amendment advocacy organization, issued this statement: Shirley Chisholm's devotion to equal rights for women and her eloquent speeches on behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment will not be forgotten. For those who worked for ratification of the ERA in

the 1970s and 80s and for those of us who continue to pursue its inclusion in the US Constitution, she is an enduring icon of all that a women's rights activist and politician should embody. Her plainspoken and calm delivery of profound ideas, her unwillingness to compromise her fundamental beliefs and her refusal to "play the game" of male-dominated politics, set her far above other politicians.

Sadly, the words she spoke in
(See *Chisholm*, page 2)



Pioneers Reunite

(Continued from page 1)

Grasso became governor.

The inter-generational dialogue will feature Liza Featherstone, author of the book "Selling Women Short: The Landmark Battle for Women's Rights at Wal-Mart." That panel, entitled, "Feminism and Work: Paid, Unpaid, and Underpaid," will also bring back Mary McDaniel, the Middletown (CT) teacher who challenged the School Board's rule that pregnant teachers had to resign their position and give up their medical and other benefits in their sixth month of pregnancy.

Yolande Spears will be speaking on "The Arts" in a panel entitled, "Women's Roles and Images: Sports, Popular Culture, and the Arts."

The third panel has to do with "Reproductive Rights and Politics" and features Catherine Roraback, who worked on both Griswold and Women v. Connecticut, along with representatives of Connecticut's Planned Parenthood and of the Yale School of Medicine's Medical Students for Choice.

In addition to the honorees, their guests, and other interested persons, young women from area women's centers and women's studies programs are being invited to participate in the afternoon panels and discussion.

The following morning Muriel Fox will chair VFA's first board meeting of 2005. VFA members are invited to sit in if they wish.

To reserve space, fill in application, etc. on page 4. For more information, log on to www.connecticut.vetfems.org

Connecticut Conference Planning Committee



(l to r) Front row: Tricia Lin, Helen Z. Pearl (co-chair), Amy Wolfson, Amy Kesselman
Back row: Meg Dubois, Leslie Bretty, Kate Swift, Jennine Gorman, Carol Virostek, Sheila Tobias (co-chair), Cindy Pope

Meg Dubois, Conn. Women's Education and Legal Fund; **Stephanie Gilmore**, Managing Editor, *Journal of Women's History*; **Jennine Gorman**, Teacher, Masuk High School, Connecticut NOW; **Susan Hoover**, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women; **Joyce Jacobsen**, Economist and Women's Studies Professor, Wesleyan University; **Amy Kesselman**, Historian of Feminism and Professor of Women's Studies, SUNY New Paltz; **Barbara Lifton**, Feminist Lawyer, Feminist Activist; **Yi-Chun Tricia Lin**, Director, Women's Studies, SCSU; **Helen Z. Pearl**, Lawyer, Feminist Activist, Co-chair; **Kate Swift**, Author, Feminist Activist; **Sheila Tobias**, Author, Feminist Activist, Former Women's Advocate, Wesleyan University, Co-chair; **Carol Virostek**, American Association of University Women (AAUW), University of Connecticut, Education Consultant; **Elga Wasserman**, Employment Discrimination Lawyer, Former Women's Advocate, Yale University; **Amy Wolfson**, Associate Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies, College of the Holy Cross

Chisholm (Continued from page 1)

1970 regarding the need for a constitutional guarantee of legal equality for women, are still appropriate 35 years later: "[The ERA] provides a legal basis for attack on the most subtle, most pervasive, and most institutionalized form of prejudice that exists. Discrimination against women, solely on the basis of their sex, is so widespread that it seems to many persons normal, natural and right."

4ERA, whose mission and goals are a tribute to Ms. Chisholm's beliefs of equality, inclusion and the resilience of ideals which are fair and right, will continue to strive to accomplish her dream of first class citizenship for American women."

For more information on how to become involved in the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, please visit the 4ERA web site: www.4ERA.org.

THE PIONEER FEMINISTS PROJECT – LATEST REPORT

Barbara Love, producer/chief editor, etc. of the PIONEER FEMINIST PROJECT, reports that there are now 2,000 bios of early second wave feminists (active 1963-1975). This historic reference work has been five years in the making, involving the dedicated work of some 20 volunteer Project Editors from around the country and is among the most important projects ever undertaken by VFA. The book that will result will be a lasting tribute to pioneer feminists and the most authoritative source on their lives.

The book is expected to be published later in 2005, with back up materials on each biographer (original materials and sources) at the Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northampton, MA, accessible to scholars, authors, historians, journalists and the public.

An extensive index by name is planned. Even people mentioned within someone else's biography will appear in the index, prepared by a professional indexer, Diane Brenner.

Barbara gives thanks to and lauds her **CURRENT PROJECT EDITORS**: June Csida, Sarah Diore, Valerie Harms, Jessica Langley, Carol Levine, Linda Miklowitz, Betty Newcomb, Zoe Nicholson, Sonya Penn, Yvette Scharf, Maggie Schlich, Jessica Smeyser and Ann Wallace.

Grace Welch and Virginia Watkins have taken on different and important roles as the project changes, and are steadfast partners. Valuable assistance has been forthcoming from Judith Meuli, who is making very sure the West Coast is well represented; Heather Booth, David Densmore of The Feminist Majority; Elle Douglass on the PFP website, and Jan Cleary on the VFA website. Needless to say, Muriel Fox and Jacqui Ceballos from VFA and Sherrill Redmon from The Sophia Smith Collection have been fabulous partners on everything to do with the project.

Betty Lane is generously donating fantastic early Second Wave photos.

MIDWEST CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO HELD AUG. 27 - 29

Feminist Revival? Well, it appeared so at this wonderful conference, where women we'd not seen for years seemingly appeared from out of the woodwork. There were over 230 guests, some I'd not seen in ages. To name a few: Judy Goldsmith, former president of NOW, who led us in song and dance at the closing party. Mary Ann Lupa, who is on VFA's 2005 board. Sara Evans, author of "How Women Changed America." Estelle Carol, who did the wonderful Conference webpage

(www.vfamidwest.org); Mary Jean Collins, former Chicago NOW president, today VP of People for the American Way in D.C.; new VFA member Jacquie Steingold of Detroit was there; and so was former NOW Legal VP Judith Lonquist, who came all the way from Washington state!

Every Midwest state was represented, as well as AZ, CA, FL, GA, LA, MA, NM, NY, PA and TX---it was like a national conference! But most guests, though pioneer feminists, had not even heard of VFA! Let's see what we can do about that!

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, who spoke on the panel, Where Do We Go From Here? told it like it was and will be, and made us laugh in the process. There were many young women of college age. And young mothers, who agreed with Ann Crittenden, author of "THE PRICE OF MOTHERHOOD" on the panel discussing Work/Family Conflict and Feminist Solutions.

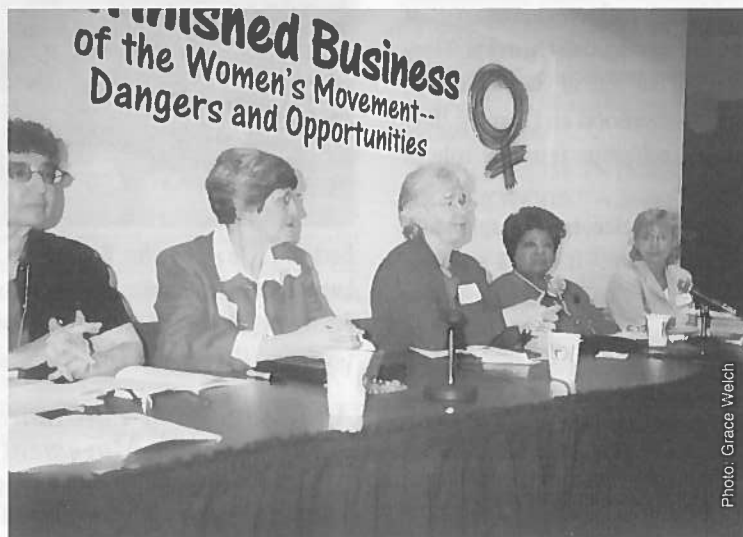
At the Honors Dinner, guest speakers were truly inspiring, especially Addie Wyatt, who revved us up from her wheelchair. Former Senator and presidential candidate, Carol Moseley Braun gave a brilliant summary of the challenges facing women today; and Willie T. Barrow, originally from my home state of Louisiana and once co-chair of the Rainbow/Push Coalition, made me proud of my "lil ole state," behind in so many areas, but way up front in women in leadership. (Our governor is Kathleen Blanco, Kim Gandy is from Shreveport, and the legendary Sylvia Roberts is from Baton Rouge. And then of course there's your president--that's me--from Lafayette!).

VFA honors those who attend the events and our deceased heroes. To acknowledge every old soldier would take a week, and we all know the clock is ticking. As it was, there were over 50 on the roster and they were called up to the podium in groups by state.

Gene Boyer---who had left orders to not only honor our Midwestern feminist heroes but to

get with it and acknowledge that they had indeed given the movement most of its leaders but had been short-changed in the credit department---must have been pleased as punch in her heavenly home! And as Mary Ann Lupa read off the names of our departed heroes---Kay Clarenbach, Dorothy Haener, Catherine Conroy, Millie Jeffrey, Gene Boyer---I could feel Gene's presence, ecstatic and fulfilled, grateful to VFA, which she helped found, and the fabulous women who planned this conference.

— Jacqui Ceballos



l to r: Judith Kagen Gardner, Mary Lynn Myers, Sara Evans, Rev. Addie Wyatt, and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky

A GENERATION OF TROUBLEMAKERS - VETERAN FEMINISTS CELEBRATE AT UIC

BY JOANNE KANTROWITZ,
CO-CHAIR OF THE
MIDWEST EVENT

Forty years ago--yes, 40-- Betty Friedan wrote *The Feminine Mystique*, the book that shook the rafters of American society. Soon, in 1966, a few women meeting in Washington as part of the Status

of Women Commission formed The National Organization FOR Women. Then the fights broke out, touching major areas of American life and attacking the sentimentalized version of woman so parodied in *The Stepford Wives*.

Ten years ago, those pioneers created yet another organization: The Veteran Feminists of America. At its beginning, they gathered those who were activists before 1978. Their membership included every star, starting with Betty Friedan; -- Bella Abzug, Flo Kennedy, and Gloria Steinem, as well as the women who made the changes happen. These are the women who changed the credit laws, lobbied for Title VII and Title IX, eliminated the segregation of job ads to male and female categories, sued the banks, the corporations, the universities for discriminating against women, sat in at men's clubs and bars, dressed up as witches and "hexed" leading male chauvinists, formed support groups for abortion clinics, lobbied for maternity leave, child care, attacked Supreme Court candidates, and ran women's campaigns for local and national political office. These are the women who produced too many "actions" to list in one paragraph and who made it possible for women now under 50 to reach for the opportunities that were denied their elders. These are the women who came to the University of Chicago on August 27 and 28 to celebrate the founding feminists of the Midwest.

Although the national media tends to focus on the east coast, feminist activity was and is intense and effective in the Midwest -



Rev. Addie Wyatt

(See Chicago page 4)

Steinem grew up in Toledo, Friedan came from Peoria. Some others born in Midwest are Karen DeCrow, Ellie Smeal, and Kate Millett. (We produce hearty women here in the heartland).

At this first VFA celebration in Chicago, 88 women received medals honoring their contributions to the women's movement during the years before 1975, among them UIC professors Alice Dan and Judith Kagan Gardiner.

In a joyous reunion of veterans and sisters, the women remembered the past and planned for the "unfinished business" still remaining. They created an archive of oral interviews, part of their ongoing focus on gathering and preserving their history. They planned voter registration drives to get out the vote of young women, they examined feminist solutions for motherhood and family, they looked at the far right and asserted the religious feminist role in their movement.

They came together to celebrate, to criticize, to plan again and again to exercise their influence in the future. It was a glorious season, a glorious tribute to the anniversary of women's right to vote on August 26. That amendment produced by the "radicals" of the First Wave is now enshrined in American history. So, too, the radicals, the "troublemakers" of the 1960's and 1970's are now approaching their own places in the history of women's assertion of equal partnership in the American landscape.

As VFA co-chairperson of the reunion, I salute my colleague and co-chair, Professor Judith Gardiner and the Center for Research on Women and Gender who provided so much of the organization and expertise that made our "Unfinished Business of the Women's Movement: Dangers and Opportunities" a sell-out success. It's wonderful how women work together! The Veteran Feminists of America joyfully acknowledge their partnership with the women's center at the University of Illinois in Chicago and thank them for their kind and gracious hospitality. May we live to celebrate together again!

If you missed this event you can find some enlightenment in our website <www.vfa.us.org>.

— Joanne Spencer Kantrowitz, Ph.D. (U. of Chicago, 1967)



NOW co-founders, Muriel Fox (r) and Sister Austin Doherty at 1967 NOW board meeting in Madison, WI.

MidWest VFA "Unfinished Business" Planning Group



**Back row (l to r): Heather Booth, Jean Peterman, Wilma Stevens, Mary-Ann Lupa, Joanne Kantrowitz, Sheila Tobias, and Alice Dan;
Front row (l to r): Kathy Rand, Mary Lynn Myers, Estelle Carol, and Judith Gardiner. Not pictured: Laurel Lambert Schmidt**

A message from Co-Chairs, "Unfinished Business of the Women's Movement"

Our wonderful conference on "Unfinished Business of the Women's Movement" is a thing of the past, but we continue to hear how inspiring it was and how much everyone who attended enjoyed it. Special praise went to all our speakers and moderators and we also want to thank again you and all our other hard-working planners for making this event so successful and so memorable.

Besides connecting with old friends, making new ones, and reinvigorating ourselves to continue the struggles for women's rights and social justice, our event made a modest financial contribution to VFA, which we hope will help to sponsor more such events and to chronicle all the women and men who make up the history of the second wave Women's Movement. We were also happy to host VFA members here at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where the new Director of the Center for Research on Women and Gender is veteran feminist health activist, Stacie Geller.

Again with thanks and all best wishes,

Judith Kegan Gardiner and Joanne Kantrowitz

The conference was stupendous... It was one of the most inspiring we've had to date... We've had incredible events... especially the one honoring Feminists in the Arts... but of the events zeroing in on the Movement, reuniting pioneer feminists, this took the cake!... It brought together women, and a few men, who'd not seen one another for 30 or more years. Most guests had not been VFAMembers until this memorable conference! The steering committee, co chaired by Judith Kegan Gardiner and Joanne Kantrowitz with a powerful group, including Mary Ann Lupa and Kathy Rand did a fantastic job with PR, The Chicago Trib had a long article... She was interviewed on TV... and CBS and ABC were there and gave us a bit of publicity... The speakers made us laugh and cry... If the midwest gets active again in (in VFA, ERA, NOW, etc)... we'll start another grass roots movement..

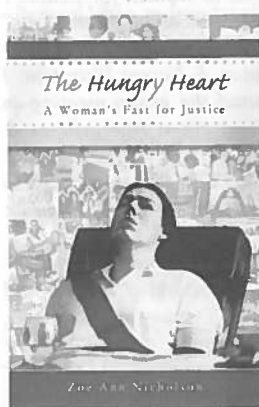
LAURA PRUSSING spoke about ERA... but so did several other speakers... with audience participation... *It is all on video tape... To buy a copy... [www: midwest.org](http://www.midwest.org)*

BOOK SHELF

THE GREATEST EXPERIMENT EVER PERFORMED ON WOMEN: EXPLODING THE ESTROGEN MYTH (Hyperion, 2003), by **Barbara Seaman**, "the first lady of women's health", This book recently came out in softcover, and was selected by The New York Times Book Review as a "new and notable paperback." Barnes & Noble named it one of the year's "best". It was the only women's health book chosen by both the American Library Association and the Library Journal as "one of the best" for 2003. The Nation magazine cited Seaman's work as "a major triumph for the women's health movement" by debunking drug-industry hype over hormone replacement therapy and exposing it instead as a factor that can increase a woman's risk of cancer and heart disease. Available at books stores and online at Amazon, hard cover and paperback editions.

Himilce Novas' 'PRINCESS PAPAYA' – gets rave review! Popiana Popescu in San Diego writes, "Sometimes a novel is so delicious that it reads like a cookbook graced with a plot and characters. Himilce Novas's "Princess Papaya" is not about food in any proper sense, but it relates a mystery where grief, belief, betrayal, cultural and gender identity, and the redemptive power of forgiveness, are all seeped in the salves and spices of Jewish and Cuban cuisines. Novas' recipe goes something like this: Take one scheming obstetrician and mix with a Cuban curandera, or healer, with pendulous papaya breasts, to get a deaf-mute boy with milk-chocolate skin. In a separate bowl, mix a vanilla-sweet widower and an olive-skinned Sept. 11 widow who met on the Internet, to get a pungent romance. Add a bitter missing brother or two and a dash of revenge. Serve cold. This is the story of three Lobo siblings; Jewish-Cuban exiles born in New York whose lives are disturbed by a series of disappearances and discoveries. Roberto, a doctor who supports his Trump Tower lifestyle by proffering late-term abortions and illegal pharmaceuticals, gets threatening phone calls – and then vanishes." Novas spins moments such as this with exquisite grace, and she has produced a novel that is as succulent as it is biting. Arte Publico Press, \$12.95

A Book on the ERA



Zoe Ann Nicholson's **THE HUNGRY HEART - A Woman's Fast for Justice**

This is a personal diary from May & June of 1982, when Zoe was working in Springfield, Illinois for the ERA, and, with several others, went on a fast for the ERA. With 50 pictures, it gives a private and poignant inside view of her experience. Zoe says she was compelled to write this book after receiving so many calls and emails about the film, *Iron Jawed Angels*, from people who had never heard of Alice Paul. They were so happy to learn that Paul was such a successful young advocate. None knew that Paul had written the ERA and

died without seeing it passed. I hope "The Hungry Heart" will make clear to everyone what women have been working for over 80 years for, AND STILL ARE NOT INCLUDED IN OUR CONSTITUTION! Lune Soleil Press. **The Hungry Heart** can be bought on line at AMAZON.COM

DEVELOPING POWER – HOW WOMEN TRANSFORMED INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - edited by Arvonne Fraser and Irene Tinker

After the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing a few women with over two decades of experience in the international Women in Development (WID) Movement decided to document what had been accomplished and how the movement had affected their lives. This book is a series of memoirs describing how the WID idea was put into practice. A must read, especially for those who are interested in the

international scene. Published by The Feminist Press at the City University of New York www.feministpress.org.

ALMOST TOUCHING THE SKIES- Women's Coming of Age Stories: Edited by Florence Howe and Jean Casella, with an intro by Marilyn French. These are beautiful, moving short stories by women writers, some known, like, Toni Cade, Jane Gould, Alice Walker and Kate Chopin; others you may not have heard of. Published by The Feminist Press at City U of New York www.feministpress.org.

A Balcony in Nepal: Glimpses of a Himalayan Village -- Sally Wendkos Olds, Art by Margaret Roche -The story of two American women who visited a remote mountain village in the Himalayas, first as strangers, but after many trips living with local families, they became part of the village and were called the "grandmothers" - They helped the Nepalese and learned from them, and their lives were forever changed. A beautiful book told in words and art.

Amazon.com

ARTICLES OF INTEREST – "THE POETICS OF HOUSEWORK" – Joyce Nower

In her Alsop Review column, "Intersections," Joyce Nower, co-founder of the San Diego State U's Women's Studies Program, has published an article entitled "The Poetics of Housework." The article, a review of poems, which use various aspects of housework as a central image, is based on the influential 1970's document by Pat Mainardi, "The Politics of Housework". Does Mainardi's observation that men might possibly be right, that "housework stinks," persists in poetry? Find out by looking up this article, as well as the one of Nower's preceding articles that looks at food and food preparation, at alsopreview.com

DELL WILLIAMS' book about her life and **EVE'S GARDEN**, the shop she founded to meet the needs of the sexually awakening woman. **EVE'S GARDEN** will be published this spring. Dell, a founder of VFA, organized the first NOW Women's Sexuality Conference in 1972.

Alice Denham writes, "With ten readings in New York and San Miguel, Mexico, I successfully flogged **MY DARLING FROM THE LIONS**, my republished first novel. On my sell-sell tour, I sold it to my high school reunion, all my MDs, the woman archivist who now owns our Washington DC house, and a motel clerk when I assured her it would not take her away from Jesus."



CORRECTION: The publisher of Sonia Pressman Fuentes' book, **Eat First -- You Don't Know What They'll Give You**, is **XLIBRIS** (not ExLibris). Correct phone number is 1-888-795-4274. Also, please note that we listed Sonia Fuentes old email address in last newsletter. The new mail address is spfuentes@comcast.net.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT REINTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15

Karen Mulhauser, VFA's DC representative for the NCWORG (National Council of Women's Organizations) reports that the mood was high, though weather was lousy. She attended the NCWO meeting and book event about the ERA beforehand. Sources say that prospects for getting it up for a vote are not promising. But our ERA activists will not let the ERA be buried.

If you feel this way, join them! Contact: <http://4era.org/>

Forget them not...

SO MANY PIONEER FEMINISTS LEAVING US

We often don't hear of the deaths of our members. Please, leave instructions to your children to advise VFA about your death. And again, we urge you to remember VFA and other feminist organizations in your will.

DIANA GARTNER (1934 -2005) died at her home in Towson, MD of cancer, Feb 5. A graduate of Radcliffe, she was a vice president of BB&O Advertising when she joined New York NOW in 1967 and was active on the Image Committee. She worked within BB&O to change the image of women in advertisements. In 1969 she took part in a demonstration against Colgate Palmolive on behalf of a woman employee who was being discriminated against. At that time, a market research manager at Lever Brothers, she was nonetheless spat upon and pushed into the gutter "by the same type of men, dressed in three-piece business suits, that I worked with-who now saw us legitimate targets for hostility." Diane left NOW around 1970 to concentrate on her career, married and moved to North Carolina where she started her marketing firm. She returned east in the '90's to live near her son in Towson, MD. VFA members were often her guests during DC area events, Diane leaves her son John, 4 grandchildren, a sister, Linda Berkowitz, and a brother.



CLAIRE FRIEDLAND (1915- 2005) died February 9 of a brain tumor in New York. Born Claire Edelstein in New York, she was the daughter of the Yiddish theater actress, Annie Thomashevsky, and Isidor Edelstein, owner of the theater. The legendary Paul Muni performed there, and she later worked with Mr. Muni in Los Angeles. In her early twenties, she returned to New York and attended Hunter College and Queens College.



A member of NYNOW since 1971, she worked on the Marriage and Divorce Committee. At the time, she also began a career in the male-dominated field of book production. At Meredith Corporation she was production manager, and later, a publishing consultant to Basic Books, Book-of-the-Month Club, New Press, and Crouch International.

In 1975, she represented the Women's National Book Association before the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations and was a delegate to the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City. She helped prepare the UN International Year of the Child, was the UN representative of the National Council of Women, and its president in 1990. In 1987 she initiated the awards to "70 Book Women Who Made a Difference" and was named Woman of the Year in 1988. VFA honored her in 1998 for her contributions to feminism.

Claire leaves two sons: Peter and Michael; two grandsons and a brother, Sidney Ellis.

MIM KELBER (1922-2004) Journalist, co founder of the Women's Environment and Development Organization, (WEDO); close friend and associate of Bella Abzug, Mim died at her home Aug. 13, 2004 in Brooklyn Heights of heart failure. Born in Philadelphia, she attended Hunter College and was editor of the Hunter Bulletin. From 1943 to 1955, she was national news editor and Washington Bureau Chief of Federated Press. She covered the founding meeting of the United Nations in San Francisco, and the labor movement, Congress and the White House; was an editor/writer for Science and Medicine from 1958 to 1970, and executive assistant and chief speechwriter for Congresswoman Abzug from 1971 to 1978. She co-edited Bella's Congressional newsletter and was her adviser on everything. In 1974, she chaired the Media Committee of the National Women's Political Caucus and directed a national campaign, Win With Women. She was a consultant/writer for President Carter's Advisory Committee for Women and co-authored the report of the committee's Houston conference. She co-authored "Gender Gap: Bella Abzug's Guide to Political Power for American Women." She edited the WEDO newsletter until her retirement in 1999. Her awards include the Wonder Women's Award for



Peace; Clarion Award, Women in Communications; Hunter College Hall of Fame; Feminist Majority Foundation Award, and the Veteran Feminist Award. She is survived by her husband, Harry Kelber; daughters, Karli and Laura; and five grandchildren.

MIDGE KOVAKS (1926-2004) Ad executive, organizer and mentor to young feminists, Midge died October 15 in New York City. After the March/Strike of August 26, 1970, Midge joined New York NOW, chaired the Image Committee and launched a campaign to change the image of women in the media, started consciousness raising sessions for AD executives, and helped launch the national public service campaign with NOW's Legal Defense and Education Fund "Woman Power: It's Much Too Good To Waste". She wrote a column for Advertising Age and had her own agency, Ads Unlimited, NYC, for 25 years.



WITH EVERY LEMON GIVEN HER, SHE MADE LEMONADE

In the 80s, Midge was a victim of Spasmodic Dysphonia, a vocal chord dysfunction, which severely limited her ability to speak; and promptly organized a national support group for the National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association. She was a board member and speaker for the Association, founded, and wrote their journal, "Our Voice." She later suffered a stroke and, from her wheelchair led another campaign for better access for wheelchair citizens in NYC. Somewhere during this time, she had cancer, then a recurrence of cancer, which led to her death.

She had studied the stock market, became something of an expert, and often advised friends in their investments. In 2002 to 2004, she organized and helped produce a cabaret group. Two shows were performed in her apartment complex. Her survivors, sister, Ester Ray, and nieces Linda and Diane, and their families were together with VFA members in Carole De Saram's Tribeca loft last December to celebrate her life. Donations may be given to VFA to the MIDGE KOVAKS FUND.

RUTH SURGAL (1937-2004) died August 29th in Chicago, the Monday following the VFA Mid West conference. Ruth was the founder of JANE, the first underground abortion service in the country. This is what she wrote for the Pioneer Directory: *Born 9/14/37 in Chicago, Education: MA in Social Work Retired from Social Work and Art (I was a potter for 23 years). I started going to meetings in Hyde Park as the second wave of feminism was organized in Chicago. I belonged to women for peace. I remember when two women came to a meeting to tell us about "Feminism" My reaction was they are not happy in their marriages. A few weeks later I heard a Studs Terkel Program with Jo Freeman & Naomi Weisstein. I immediately understood about feminism & found the group meeting in Hyde Park. I was a social worker; I understood about emergencies & joined the abortion counseling service. I was a member of the abortion counseling service in Chicago, JANE from 1969-1972. I was married to Joel Surgal until September of 2004 and have three children, Jennifer, Rebecca and Joshua.*

FRANK WELCH (1919-2004) NOW activist, husband of VFA board member, Grace Ripa Welch died October 10th. A native of Anderson, South Carolina, Frank worked for the Ford Instrument Company in New York prior to World War II and served in the U.S. Navy as Ships Company Photographer until wars end, when he started his own commercial photography studio. He later joined Brookhaven National Laboratories as a Photo-Technician.

Frank and Grace convened the South Shore Chapter of NOW in 1973. He co-chaired the Masculine Mystique Committee and facilitated the Island's first Co-Ed Consciousness Raising groups, served as treasurer, and assisted in the production of the newsletter.

Frank often had to dodge the resentment of newly awakened feminists, who directed their anger against men to him —remember those days? He took it with patience and good humor, and was much loved by NOW members.

In 1993, Frank suffered a stroke, but never lost his power of speech or his sense of humor, and continued accompanying Grace to conventions in his motorized wheelchair. Besides Grace, Frank is survived by their children, Michael Ripa Welch, Jean Welch Tobin and Lisa Welch Hair, and two granddaughters. You may give any donations in his honor to VFA c/o the Frank Welch Fund.

Registration Form – VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA HONORS CONNECTICUT PIONEER FEMINISTS**SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2005****Radisson Hotel and Conference Center**

100 Berlin Rd, Cromwell CT

(Intersection 1-91 (exit 21) & Rte 372)

Co-Sponsors: Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

National Organization for Women (NOW)

Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame

Women's Centers and Women's Studies Programs of Area Colleges

1:00 – 5:00 P.M. — AFTERNOON PANELS & DISCUSSION

1:00 – Welcome and Opening Remarks

1:15-2:30 – Reproductive Rights and Politics

2:45-3:30 – Feminism and Work: Paid, Unpaid, and Underpaid

3:15-5:00 – Roles and Images of Women: Sports, Popular Culture, and the Arts

5:00-6:30 – Memorial Minute for Deceased Pioneers

Reception for all and Cash Bar

6:30-9:30 – AWARDS DINNER HONORING CT PIONEER FEMINISTS*(Dinner Tickets Required)* (Space is Limited so Register Early)**DIALOGUE LED BY SHEILA TOBIAS**, author, "Overcoming Math Anxiety," "Faces of Feminism" and Exec VP of Veteran Feminists of America**CO-CHAIR** – Helen Kessler, attorney, New Britain, former ERA activist

Amy Kesselman, Professor at New Paltz; historian of the women's movement, working on a book about New Haven Women's Liberation

Carol Virosek, AAUW, Conn • Meg Dubois, Representing CWEALF

Susan Hoover from PCSW • Jennine Gorman, young teacher and member of NOW

Joyce Jacobsen, economist, from Wesleyan's Women's Studies Program

Kate Swift, co-author of "Women and Words"

Trish Lin, Women's Studies Southern Conn. State U.

Stephanie Gilmore, Central; Historian; MgrEd of Journal of Women's History

Elga Wasserman, former women's advocate at Yale, ret. employment discrim. lawyer

Barbara Lifton, co-founder of Conn. Women's Political Caucus; now ret. lawyer in NYC

Amy Wolfson, teaches Women's Studies at Holy Cross

Name _____ Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone/Day _____ Eve _____

Email address _____

In which groups/activities were/are you active? _____

Will you bring memorabilia to display? _____

Registration Fee (Afternoon & Reception)

Regular # _____ @ \$15 = \$ _____

Student/Special Needs # _____ @ \$5 = \$ _____

Awards Dinner # _____ @ \$50 = \$ _____

Choices: # _____ Steak Al Forno # _____ Chicken Montpelier # _____ Vegetarian

Contribution to defray event expenses \$ _____

Optional one-year VFA annual membership \$35 per member \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make check payable to: Veteran Feminists of America**Mail to:** VFA-Connecticut

Helen Z. Pearl, Co-Chair

24 Cedar St.

New Britain, CT 06052

*For further details, directions, additional registration forms,**log on to www.connecticut.vetfems.org**For overnight reservations,**call the Radisson Hotel 860-635-2000***A REMINDER – VFA DUES ARE DUE, AND WE THANK YOU!****DEAR MEMBERS:***We've already sent out dues notices for this year — and thanks to everyone who has responded! Here is a reminder to those who haven't responded, and an application for new members.**VFA is supported by our members. It is a non profit organization 501-c-3, so dues and donations are tax deductible and are on a sliding scale. Regular - \$35, Special - \$ 50. Other \$____ You decide what you will send. No one is ever taken off VFA mailing lists, for, as you well know, you've earned your dues! You may pay in honor of someone – family, friend and/or feminist hero.*

I enclose dues of \$ _____

And a contribution of \$ _____.

In honor of : _____
(name of your hero)

YOUR NAME _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ EMAIL (please print clearly) _____

MAIL YOUR CHECK TO OUR TREASURER: AMY HACKETT 473 Westminster Rd Brooklyn, NY 11218



VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA
P.O. Box 60112
Lafayette, LA 70596

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2005

Connecticut Reunion — April 16, in Cromwell, CT
Honoring CT pioneer feminists. Theme — Feminism and its Values, an Intergenerational Dialogue. See lead article and insert page for more info.

Women's Rights Park in Seneca Fall has been postponed, according to Nan Johnson. So has VFA's plan to have a reunion there. More later.

BACK BURNERS:

Northwest Reunion — Elaine LaTourelle is working on a reunion for Seattle.

Photo Show of Bettye Lane's photography. Planned for NYC - no date yet.

Celebration of Women in Music — for California. This will be fabulous!

Intergenerational. Intercultural, International. A future must, says Chair of these committees, Gracia Molina Pick

VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA

honors

CONNECTICUT PIONEER FEMINISTS

PIONEER FEMINISTS OF NOW AND NEW HAVEN WOMEN'S LIBERATION,
AND OTHERS WHO WORKED ALONE OR WITH AN ORGANIZATION



SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2005

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
100 Berlin Rd , Cromwell CT
Intersection 1-91 (exit 21& Rte 372)

***FEMINISM AND ITS VALUES AN
INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE***

"What young feminist-minded people lack is a coherent declaration that can connect (their) lives to the larger history of our movement. We were born into feminist history. What we need is a Third Wave feminist manifesta." Jennifer Baumgardner & Amy Richards, MANIFESTA

*See page 4 for more information or
visit www.connecticut.vetfems.org*