

VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA

March, 1998

Vol. 5 No. 1

220 Doucet Rd 225-D Lafayette, LA 70503 Ph/Fax 318-984-3599 E-Mail jcvia@bellsouth.net

APRIL 25

HONORING HEROES
from

NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS
NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY
AAUW BPW FEW NARAL NOW
and a RENOWNED HISTORIAN

Their names are on the invitation on the cover page. Do you know who they are? Some are known internationally; some, only in their community. But each has contributed greatly to the feminist cause. Their bios will be on the program. Here are short identifications.

Liz Carpenter of Austin, was Lady Bird's Press Secretary and a founder of the National Women's Political Caucus. **Elizabeth Chittick** was president of the National Woman's Party, **Flora Crater**, of Washington, D.C. publishes *The Woman Activist*, **Allie Latimer** is founder of Federally Employed Women, **June Chewning**, **Florence Perman**, **Tina Hobson** are co-founders, **Daisy Fields** was a F.E.W. activist and editor of *The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues*.

Millie Jeffrey, a founder and past president of the NWPC; **Claire Friedland**, one of the first women in book production management, created *Book Women Who Made A Difference*, **Midge Kovacs**, as head

WOMEN'S LIBERATION'S 30th

*Of all VFA events, this one
had the most feeling of community.*

On December 13, 1997 women from Maine to California came to New York to celebrate, to renew friendships and their commitment to radical feminism. **Ros Baxandall** welcomed her sisters. *We are here to celebrate our past that hasn't been as visible or as celebrated as we'd like. The women's liberation movement is the biggest social movement in history and this is the first national reunion. We are all veterans of the feminist wars. Some of us have been scarred and remain scarred, sick, unemployed or underemployed. Many of our ideals and dreams have become real; others have been co-opted, betrayed or mushed unrecognizably. I'd like this to be both a celebration of the past and a real means of carrying on into the future. Much remains to be done, and we can't do it as individuals. We need a movement more organized than the first to keep on carrying*

on. **Jo Freeman** took over, promising organization and efficiency, and a gong to stop the over-enthusiastic. **Heather Booth**, a founder of first women's liberation group (Chicago), gave an exciting speech and set the tone. One after the other the women came to the mike to remember the past and urge reorganization to revive their movement. **Jesse Lemesh** spoke for his wife

Naomi (Weisstein) sends her love to her sisters and congratulates you on the wisdom of meeting in an armory. **Carol Hanisch** read a message from **Kathy Sarachild**. **Vicki Gabriner**

APRIL 25.....

of the Image Committee of New York NOW created the *Hire Him He's Got Great Legs* media campaign for NOW LDEF; Betty Harrigan of NOW's Employment Committee, is author of *Games Mother Never Taught Me*. Psychotherapist Claire Fulcher of New York, has held leading roles in AAUW, BPW, YWCA, and is on the Executive Committee of the NY NGO (non-governmental organizations) Status of Women Commission at the United Nations; Paula Kassell of New Jersey published the first women's newspaper, *New Directions for Women*; Larry Lader, of New York is president of NARAL and author of eleven books, including a biography of Margaret Sanger; Gerda Lerner, of Wisconsin and New York is author of eight acclaimed books on women's history, including *The Creation of Feminist Consciousness*, Virginia Whitehill of Dallas is an activist/organizer, and a major force in the success of Roe v Wade.

NOVEMBER 7 - A DATE WITH

KATE MILLETT

At ye olde Armory, New York

WLM'S 30TH.....

remarked of the moose heads looking down on us, *Their antlers would make interesting menorahs*. Donna Allen acknowledged a very weak Flo Kennedy, in her wheelchair at Gloria's table. Ms editor, Marcia Gillespie, sat with 13 Mses, Phyllis Chesler's college-age son was there with friends, Ann Snitow came with several Yugoslav women, who were enthralled by it all.

Even the generals staring down at us in this vast macho preserve, seemed to approve. Everyone said thank you, thank you, for doing this. Laura X summed it up in a nut shell when she said,

I thought I'd died and gone to heaven.

VIDEO OF DECEMBER CELEBRATION

Captures the magic. Send \$30.00 to VFA

PLANS FOR 1999

We'll go to Washington to honor women of Women's Equity Action League, WEAL --Elizabeth Boyer, Bunnie Sandler, etc Aiming for Spring.

30TH ANNIVERSARY

SECOND NOW CONTINGENT - 1970/'75

The 1970 Strike brought a great new group of activists. We'll try to remember all of them, from around the country. Carole DeSaram, dynamo of NOW NYC, is roping in veterans who want to help plan a fantabulous reunion. Send names of these heroes to VFA. The year 2000 would be the 30th anniversary, but we'll try to celebrate next year. Some of us are getting up there!

CELEBRATE '98

It's been 150 years since the first women's rights convention was held in 1848. Seneca Falls, where the convention took place, celebrates from July 16 to 19. Write P.O. Box 601, Seneca Falls, NY 13148. Fax - 315-568-1848. Too free -1.888.732.1848. celebr98@flare.net.

FORUM '98

U. of Rockefeller will host a panel, to discuss progress made since 1848. Nan Johnson, director of the Susan B Anthony U. Center, has invited veteran feminists Sheila Tobias, Kathy Bonk, Charlotte Bunch, Kate Millet For info: Phone 716- 75-8799, Fax-242-5810..

E-mail:njoh@uhura.cc.rochester.edu.-

WEBSITE

We have one!. <http://www.fodreams.com/VFOA>. There are errors in the copy, and news is old, but this computer dunce hasn't yet learned how to make corrections.

VFA e-MAIL ADDRESS [jcvfa @ bellsouth.net](mailto:jcvfa@bellsouth.net).

GRANT OUTREACH: Nikki Beare has joined Amy Hackett in our search for grant money to help VFA publish a Who's Who of the early movement, among other things. Sometimes just a phone call to the right person by a friend will help. If you know anyone, please make that call.

E-MAIL ADDRESS DIRECTORY NEEDED.

Who wants to take this on? Collect addresses and sell the directory? Contact VFA.

jcvfa@bellsouth.net

I was very moved by many of the speeches, but most moved by Gloria Steinem and Flo Kennedy. Gloria every once in a while took Flo's hand and stroked it, clearly with love. Our movement has been one of turmoil and accomplishment, but also of love. Vicki Moss - 240 E 76 St, 2B, NYC 10021

Vicki was a member of the NY Association of Women Business Owners and led seminars on business for women returning to work.

It would be great if you could find Celestine Ware, whose early book on women's liberation was so important.

Gloria Steinem

What a wonderful event. It was really thrilling! I was happy to have the opportunity to speak, since I feel that often San Diego's movement activities have been inadvertently overlooked in the past. Yes, I'd like to join VFA. What you and others are doing is very important, so I've distributed several membership forms to friends.

Joyce Nower

It's heroic to be doing this (organizing reunions). It is very important to do.

Susan Brownmiller

Susan, of NYC, author of Against Our Will, is writing the history of the women's liberation movement.

With friends having open-heart surgery, cancer treatment, even dying young (Elaine Hedges), one is mindful of the shortness of this wonderful gift we call health. Therefore, I don't miss a reunion of feminists and other friends.

Sheila Tobias

Sheila's Faces of Feminism is now in paperback. She's engaged in a new project, Post Baccalaureate Alternatives and trying to midwife programs leading to new careers for "Science-Trained Professionals."

How many of you remember Betsy Hogan? She wrote and published The Womanpower Newsletter which chronicled employment discrimination. She died of cancer in March, 1984. She was a warrior all the way. I'd love to see her listed in some way.

Ruth Kirsch - Metairie, LA

801 Rue Bergundy, Metairie, LA 70005

Betsy is much remembered. We need a Wall or something to list the names of those who fell while still in action.

I never thought I'd be a person who cared passionately about having a yard with a mango tree or having pelicans and dolphins as neighbors, but there you go. ... We hope you'll all move down here and start the Old Feminists Home.

Lindsay Van Gelder

Lindsay and Pamela Robin Brandt, live at 4300 Post Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33140. E-mail lindsay@compuserve.com

I'm glad I ran into Barbara (Seaman) in order to get on the VFA mailing list. It was a delight to see her again, along with Alix Kates Shulman from New York Radical Feminists.

Ellen Dreher

610 West 110 St 2-E, NYNY 10025

Ellen is author of *The Little Prick*

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO?

Lynn Tabb. We were soul sisters - The Chicano Movement was important to us both.

Merrilee Dolan

1006 Washington, SE; Albuquerque, NM 87108

Try looking her up on the computer at public library.

TERRY ZIMMERMAN a dynamic feminist, was president of Queens NOW. Computer has over 20 TZ's all over the country.

MORE REUNIONS SPARKED by the WLM event.

New Haven Women's Liberation veterans met the afternoon of December 13. They plan a larger reunion. Get in touch with Diana Alstad - Box 363 Bolinas CA 94924 415-868-9209 email-joeldiana@usa.net

West Coast -WLM and other veteran feminists - sometime in '99- Diana Alstad and Laura X. -2325 Oak St, Berkeley, CA 94708

Italian Women's Liberation - Serena Castalda cofounder (with Anselma dell'Olio and Diana Alstad) in 1970, led the group for several years. plans a reunion for the year 2000.. P.O. Box 978 Bolinas, CA, 84924. 415-868-1018.

Calling all members of the NEW YORK and NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS - It is time for a reunion. Do you know the whereabouts of Ava Stern, who organized it and edited the newsletter /SZS? Get in touch with Vicki Moss 212-535-5453, or VFA.

MEN IN THE MOVEMENT: Shep Aronson, Jim Clapp, Carl Degler, Gerry Gardner, Richard Graham, Phineas Indritz, * Michael Kimmel, Jim Robson, Charles Smeal, Bill Welch.

MAIL BOX

Please add *Dr. Michael Kimmel to your "Men in the Movement" section. Dr. Kimmel is a sociologist who has been involved with the feminist movement as an activist and academic for 20 years. His works on men and masculinity, the politics of pornography and American social movements are all deeply informed by a feminist perspective. Kimmel's long history of feminist activism includes serious work with male perpetrators of domestic violence. Most recently, he served as the gender expert for the Justice Department in their sex discrimination cases against the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and The Citadel. VFA's might be interested in his book, *Against the Tide: Pro-Feminist Men in the United States* (Beacon Press). It is a documentary history of men who have supported feminist activism from the American Revolution to the present day.

Amy Aronson

School of Continuing Ed, New York University.

I'm working on a book on what downsizings have done to women who got their start in the '70's and are now in middle management, which I contend are the easiest jobs to cut. When a woman over 40 loses her job she has a harder time replacing her salary than a man does.

Caroline Bird

Author of *Born Female, The High Cost of Keeping Women Down*. Anyone have any telling anecdotes for Caroline? 1600 South Eads St, #1024S, Arlington, VA 22202. Fax 703-521-6712 .cbird@dracnet.com.

While I am proud of the label "feminist" and am old enough to qualify as a veteran, most of my activity for the cause has been in the area of identifying and preserving the records of the women's movement so historians can no longer claim that no evidence exists to correct and expand the record. I founded and managed a women's manuscripts collection in Kentucky before coming to Smith to administer the Sophia Smith Collection.

Sherrill Redmon Smith College

OOPS! A casualty of the WLM date change, from December 12 to 13th

What happened? I did make my way to the Armory, but was unable, after wandering among males engaged in semi-military activities, to find any veteran feminists. One of the many reasons I went was to try to find a feminist lawyer to act as executor of my (small) estate. I plan to leave most of it to feminist organizing, but can't find a lawyer. Please send names, phone numbers, of any Manhattan feminists.

Grace Jackson -

710 West End Ave, NYC 10025

Comments about WLM event

Absolutely glorious! What a wonderful spirit - such a feeling of community! Such an inspiration! VFA is truly the Keeper of the flame!

Joan Michel - New York

I have thought for a while that VFA is a wonderful ideal-way to draw veteran feminists back together deliberately without a political program so that all the secticles that parted company in such storms can meet again on neutral turf and remember how much they all loved one another before the fine points tore them apart.

Naomi Weisstein

890 West End Ave., NY, NY 10025

Naomi, who has been abed for 14 years, is best known for "Psychology Constructs the Female, a 1968 article that has been reprinted over 40 times and 4 languages, A recent FestScript in the British Journal, *Feminism and Psychology*, credits her as founding the field of women and psychology.

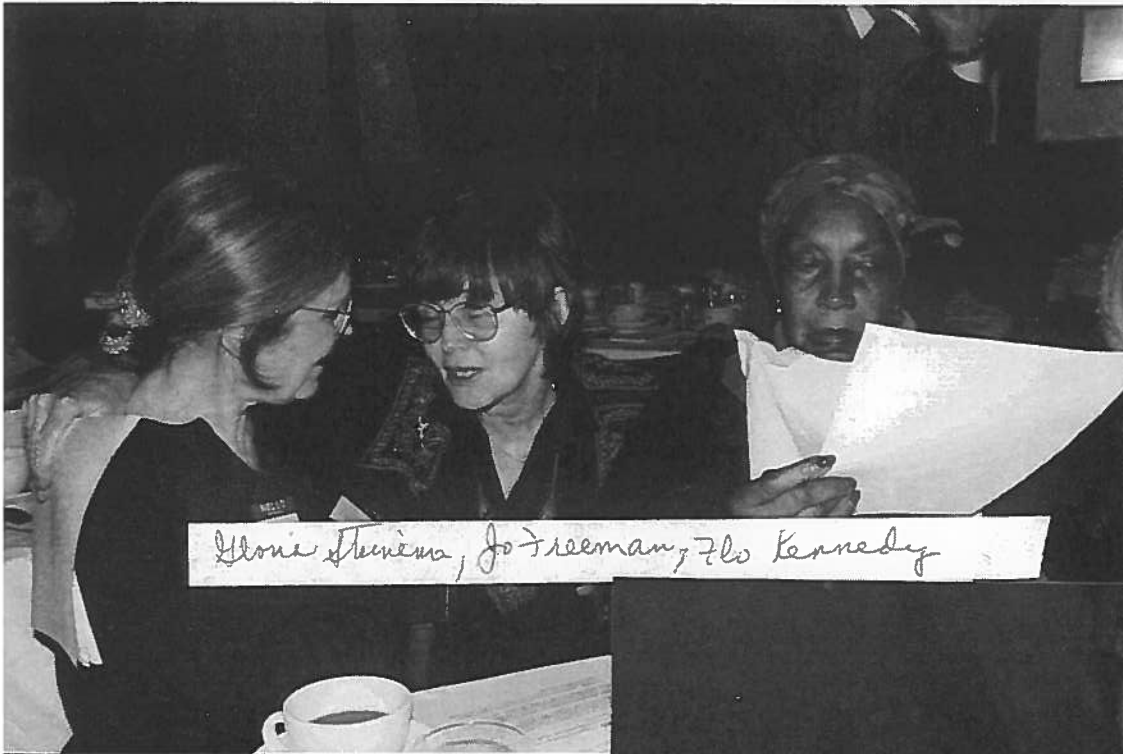
I became involved as a grad student at Yale in '69, as a result of participating in a class action suit against abortion laws..and switched from a Ph.D program to medical school. I am an endocrinologist, teach women's health at the U. of California Medical School; serve as medical director for the Women's Health Initiative, and perform bone densitometer and provide osteoporosis consultation at a private office. My sisters-in-law are Risa Jaraslow and Heather Booth.. Nancy Greep

5260 El Cedral, Long Beach, CA 90815

I am thrilled that you pulled it off, touched that I was included, and sad that I missed the event! -- the only reunion I really want. Please include me in future plans..

Peggy Dobbins

300 Peachtree St 11-D, Atlanta, GA 30308



Glenn Stevens, Jo Freeman, Flo Kennedy



Colette Price, Shirley Boccia



Jeanne Parrent



Susan Brown Miller



Ann Hachett, Shale Tobias, Dorothy Sanchez



Helen Aylen, Marda Hoffman, Louise Armstrong, Eleanor

BOOKSHELF

The Power of Feminist Art - Norma Brude G & Mary Garrard.

Ecofeminism and the Sacred - Carol Adams

The Reflowering of the Goddess - Gloria Orenstein

These books are essential reading for transforming the world. Shamanism's place in ecofeminism. Earth based spirituality.

Gloria Steinem - Her Passions, Politics and Mystique

Sydney Stern . Wonderful! Not only will you find Gloria more admirable than you imagined, but you'll understand some of the controversy that enveloped her and the movement back then. Susan Braudy says it beautifully: *For all of us who love Gloria and whose lives have been transformed by her, this highly researched, riveting book goes a long way towards explaining Steinem's inordinate altruism and heroism as well as her few fascinating, dare I say it, flaws.* P.S. -- The prologue is all about the VFA event for Gloria in '95.

The Girls Next Door: Into the Heart of Lesbian America - Lindsay Van Gelder and Pamela Brandt. Out this Spring.

By the Blue Light of The Morning Glory - a poetic journal by Susan Maurer. Re-tells the story of an illicit love-triangle whose members slowly morph into archetypal rescensions of the text itself: reader, writer, critic forming the tryst whose untangling will be the poem itself. Send \$7.95 to Susan at 210 E 15 St, NYC 10003.

PROGRAM of WLM event Dec. 13, '97 with 100 short bios of radical women honored. Vicki Gabriner took a collection to pay for program, but guests didn't take them. Send VFA \$1.00 a for a copy t.

A GIFT FROM A KING, Stephen, that is. The author of *Rose Madder*, a story of domestic violence, gave \$50,000 to open a shelter for abused women and children in Maine. Director of Family Services, . Veteran feminist, **LOIS RECKITT**, says the FCS women were overjoyed by the huge gift, which arrived when outlook for a shelter was bleak.

A section of *OUR BODIES OURSELVES* has been translated and is part of an instruction manual being used by women organizing miners in Russia.

VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA

C March 1998

Jacqueline Ceballos

Founder/director/temporary president

Mary Eastwood - Vice president

Beatrice Ulrich - Secretary

Joan Michel - VP, Public Relations

Shirley Bernard - VP, Membership

HONORARY BOARD

Bella Abzug Rosalyn Baxandall Nikki Beare

* Suzanne Benton * Roxie Bolton * Gene Boyer

Patricia Burnett Susan Brownmiller

Inez Casiano Phyllis Chesler * Noreen Connell

Flora Crater Evelyn Cunningham

Mary Eastwood JoAnn Evansgardner

Shirley Fahey Brenda Feigen

Shulamith Firestone Muriel Fox Jo Freeman

Betty Friedan Elaine Gordon Richard Graham

Martha Griffiths Sonia Pressman Fuentes

Dorothy Haener Aileen Hernandez

Paula Kassell Flo Kennedy * Janice LaRouche

Judith Menli * Joan Michel Kate Millett

Robin Morgan * Irma Newmark Sylvia Roberts

Alice Rossi Barbara Rubin Barbara Seaman

* Dorothy Senerchia * Elayne Snyder Gloria Steinem

* Mary Jean Tully Naomi Weisstein Virginia Whitehill

* Dell Williams

* = also co-founders

Readings from Shulamith Firestone's *Airless Spaces* by Phyllis Chesler, Alix Kates Shulman, Ellen Willis, Lynne Tillman and Bruce Benderson, March 19 at the Jack Tilton Gallery, 49 Greene St, NYC. The book is a collection of short tales about losers in and out of (mostly mental) hospitals and the small crises which trigger their awareness that they're in trouble. Shulie will read from the work at Beyond Words Bookstore, 186 Fifth Avenue, Park Slope, Brooklyn, on Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 P.M.



Mendith Tarp
Jacqui Ceballos
12-13-97

VFA MEETING

Saturday, April 25 NOON Barbizon Plaza Cafe
Lexington & 61st

To comply with incorporation laws, we must elect officers and a board. Up to now, we've had temporary officers. Our director, who works with no salary, wants to continue with those who have helped from the start, and others who want to help make VFA thrive. If you have been a member for a year and paid your dues please send your vote of confidence, or send in other nominations by April 15. Most on this board have been helpful all along, some are fervent new members. The makeup, in affiliation, geographic area and ethnic and economic background are representative of our membership.

President - Jacqui Ceballos - LA

1st VP - Mary Eastwood - WI

VP Public Relations - Joan Michel - NY

VP Membership - Shirley Bernard - CA

Secretary Bede Urich - VT

Treasurer - Bonnie Howard - MA

Board - Muriel Fox - Chair - NY

Diana Alstad-CA, Rosalyn Baxandall -NY

Nikki Beare - FL, Heather Booth - D.C.

Gene Boyer - WI/FLI, Connie Comer - NY,

Jo Freeman-NY, Judith Meuli -CA,

Gracia Molina-Pick - CA,

Dorothy Senerchia-NY, Sheila Tobias AZ,

Virginia Whitehill TX, Laura X - CA..

The line-up - 8 NOW, 6 WLM, 4 Independents; 10 from the northeast, 5 from the west and 3 from the south. This may not be the percentage of the movement membership, but it fairly represents VFA membership as of today. The board will meet twice a year, in person or by phone, fax or e-mail to handle VFA affairs, and will give advice and support when needed.

HONORARY BOARD of leaders who made a difference. See names on editorial page. In a sense, we all belong to the honorary board, but some made a powerful difference and are recognized in and outside the movement. They are our headlights. We need them as much as they need us.

If you plan to attend luncheon meeting, call VFA in Louisiana or, after April 15, call 212-721-1285. If you can't be there, but want to nominate or vote, please mail, fax or e-mail your vote and nomination.



Lara Evans, Heather Booth



Diana Alstad



Charlotte Bunch

IN MEMORIAM

TONI CARABILLO

When Toni died last October 28, the movement lost a leader. She was 71 and had been ill for several years. Tony hailed from Jackson Heights, Queens, graduated in American Literature from Middlebury College and earned a master's degree at Columbia University. Later, in Los Angeles working as a writer and graphic designer, her feminist buttons were pushed. Her job ended after she participated in a survey of women employees showing discrimination in salaries and advancement in her company. Toni joined NOW, and soon was a pillar of the organization. She was president of the L.A. chapter, PR VP of national, co-edited the national newspaper, and was a major fund raiser and organizer for the ERA. With Ellie Smeal, Peg Yorkin and Katherine Spiller and Judith Meulil, she created the Feminist Majority and was vice president. With her lifetime partner, Judith Meuli, and June Czida, she wrote "The Feminist Cronicles", a textbook for women's studies courses. Toni and Judy owned a graphic arts company since 1970. In '88 they co-authored the book, *The Feminization of Power*. To remember her send a contribution to the Feminist Majority Foundation., 8105 W 3rd St, Los Angeles.

ESTHER PETERSON

Age 91. VFA member, she died before we could honor her. Peterson was key in establishing the first Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. She was a labor organizer and worked to improve working conditions, particularly for women.



PHINEAS INDRITZ

Phineas died October 15 at age 81, of cancer. A civil rights lawyer and feminist activist, he gave legal help to NOW and other groups. Among his last achievements was getting the National Counsel of the American Veterans Committee (AVC) to join the amicus curiae brief in the New York Supreme Court case of Long Island Gynecological Services v 1103 Stewart Ave Association, which ruled that a landlord may not evict a reproductive health clinic. Phineas wrote in October of '96 regretting that he was ill and couldn't join us to celebrate NOW's 30th.. *Please give my warm regards to the VFA members and others(at the NOW celebratio), including Betty Friedan, Gene Boyer, Mary Eastwood, Sonia Fuentes, Muriel Fox, Richard Graham, Dorothy Haener, Aileen Hernandez, Sylvia Roberts, Ellie Smeal, Molly Yard, and all the other great heroic advocates for achieving the elimination of gender discrimination in the country. VFA honored Phineas in '94 in Washington. (Too few men like you, Phineas!).*

SEY CHESSLER

Sey was editor of Redbook magazine, a dedicated supporter of women's rights, and a member of VFA.

SARA AMATNIEK

The Sara of the well known feminist, Kathy Sarachild. Sara Amatniek was prominent in her own right. She was an artist, a civil rights and feminist activist. She worked with Westchester NOW was an early Redstockings member, and active in the National Association of Women Artists. Her work was exhibited widely, to much acclaim. She died in December '96 and is survived by her husband and her children, including Redstockings founder, Kathy Sarachild..

BEATRICE BARON

Bea died by her own hand, in Spring of last year. She was a member of New York NOW since 1967. Bea was dearly loved and we wish we had known she needed help. *Dell Williams*



Jo Freeman, Laura X, Donna Allen

Joyce Nower

12/13/97



Ally
Shulman
Barbara
Winslow
Roz Bayandall
Jesse Brommelle
Pat Mainardi

Suzanne
Benton
Phyllis Chaler
Harriet Lyons
Shirley Litzky



Ms.'s

Marci
Gibbie

Jennifer
Walter

Jean Frankson

Karen Strauss



APRIL 25 EVENT

TO SAVE ON POSTAGE, INVITATIONS
WILL BE SENT TO NORTHEASTERN VETERAN
FEMINISTS ONLY. If you are not from this area
and want to attend, please send check to VFA
and this form to VFA 220 Doucet Rd, 225-D,
Lafayette, LA 70503

After 4 25, c/o Joan Michel 180 West End Av. 12-S NYC 10023

\$35.00 members and their guests. \$50.00 non-members

I enclose \$ _____ for (how many) _____ members.

\$ _____ for _____ non-members and a tax exempt

contribution of \$ _____ TOTAL _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHI _____ FAX _____

Cancelled check is your receipt. Ticket at door.



Leah Margolis



*Margyn Webb
Heather Booth
Amy Kesselman
Jo Freeman
Noeen Connell*

*Louise Bernikow
Olga Kater Shulman
Barbara Winslow
Mimi Abramowitz*



*WLM event
12-13-97
New York*

CELEBRATING!

<i>Liz Carpenter</i>	<i>June Chewning</i>	<i>Elizabeth Chittick</i>
<i>Flora Crater</i>	<i>Daisy Fields</i>	<i>Claire Friedland</i>
<i>Claire Fulcher</i>	<i>Betty Harragan</i>	<i>Tina Hobson</i>
<i>Mildred Jeffrey</i>	<i>Paula Kassell</i>	<i>Midge Kovacs</i>
<i>Lawrence Lader</i>	<i>Allie Latimer</i>	<i>Gerda Lerner</i>
<i>Florence Perman</i>	<i>Virginia Whitehill</i>	

Seventh Regiment Armory

Park at 67 Street

Cash Bar - 5

Dinner - 7

Members \$35.00

Non-Members - \$50.00

Veteran Feminists of America

220 Doucet Rd 225-D
Lafayette, LA 70503

The Veteran Feminists of America is an organization for those who actively participated in the feminist movement until 1975. Goals are to enjoy the sisterhood forged during those years of intense commitment, to document our history, to honor ourselves and our heroes, to rekindle the spark and spirit of the feminist revolution, to act as keeper of the flame so that the original commitment to the ideals of feminism continues to reverberate and influence others.