

VETERAN FEMINISTS OF AMERICA

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Spring 1999

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SPRING REUNION MAY 6 IN WASHINGTON

We're meeting at the historic Sewall Belmont house, home of the National Woman's party, who are co-hosting with us. The reception buffet starts at 4, and program begins around 5. We'll pay tribute to Donna Allen, Caroline Bird, June Chewing, Mary Dent Crisp, Vera Glaser, Tina Hobson, Marian Norby, Bunnie Sandler, Ruth Shinn and Carmen Delgado Votow, all living in or around Washington; Arvonne Fraser of Minneapolis, Minnette Doderer of Iowa, Allie Hixson of Kentucky, Dorothy Haegele, of Illinois, Dusty Roads of California, Louise Raggio of Dallas, and Elizabeth Boyer and Mariwyn Heath of Ohio. We'll also honor "Crater's Raiders," who lobbied for the Equal Rights Amendment. Our host emcee will be Sheila Tobias, the educator, author, lecturer and a member of VFA's Honorary Board.

Luncheon and Tour of the Women's Art Museum

On Friday, at the Mezzanine Cafe at the beautiful Women's Art Museum, we'll lunch. Muriel Fox will chair a brief meeting to approve bylaws and officers. (All this information was in April 1998 newsletter and in a separate mailing.) Then, we'll tour the museum. Check inside pages for further information and the invitation. If you need hotel space, take care of it ASAP.

We hope you can join us to pay tribute to these feminists who helped make the great strides for equality and freedom for women that every woman enjoys today. Yes, there is much to be done still, but celebrating our heroes is a way to acknowledge their efforts and very important, of documenting our history, which we hope, will inspire young people to continue the fight. Liberation is a constant work in progress, often with two steps backward for every step forward -- you know the story. If future generations are to build from the past, they must know the past.

BIG THINGS HAPPENING IN WOMEN'S HISTORY THE FABULOUS WOMEN'S MUSEUM IN DALLAS

YES! We have a museum of our own. This may be laughable a thousand years from now, but today this museum and all that is happening in the area of women's history may very well relegate textbooks written before the year 2000 to history.

The brochure of the Women's Museum reads: *A place to educate, enrich and inspire visitors by celebrating the multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-generational history of American women. This is the latest undertaking of the Texas Foundation for Women's Resources, which aims to celebrate, educate and connect women of diverse gifts and extend their strengths to a broader public.*

The museum, the first in the world, held it's National Groundbreaking ceremony, March 8. Virginia Whitehill, our woman in Dallas, a member of the Museum's Advisory Board, was there. *Listen, she says, this is really BIG! We should have a reunion here when the building is officially open to the public.* More than three and one-half million people are expected to visit the museum in October 2000.

The historic building is part of the world's largest collection of art deco structures. It's only 15 minutes from downtown Dallas. And, get this --the first \$10 million was given by a woman, Ronya Kozmetsky. Kozmetsky was a teacher in Los Angeles, married a doctor, went into business and wrote *Women in Business*, and *Making It Together: A Survival for the Executive Family*. She's lived in Dallas many years, where she's cherished as one of it's jewels -- a wealthy woman who has spent her life working for the community and for women, and for promoting and encouraging young people to reach their highest potential. In her honor the museum is called the Ronya Kozmetsky Institute for the Future.

Besides Virginia, VFA members on the Advisory Board are Catalina Garcia, Ruth Morgan, Louise Raggio and Theresa Canales Judd, all of Dallas, and Aileen Hernandez (NOW's second president) of San Francisco. For info on becoming a sponsor and voting for **THE 100 MOST UNFORGETTABLE WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY**, see their website- www.thewomensmuseum.org, or write P.O. Box 15031, Dallas, TX 75315, 1-800-337-1167, email: fwraus1@onr.com.

KATE'S TURN

Our New York reunion last November at the old Armory on Park Avenue honored Kate Millett, artist- writer- teacher-activist- farmer. It was a glorious event! Everyone was in a joyous mood. After circulating and just groovin' on being together in the lounge, we filed into the great mess hall with its mile high ceilings and moose heads and old generals looking down on us. Kate and pals from the Art Colony cum Tree Farm sat at center table. Betty Friedan sat with New Yorker Muriel Fox and Patricia Burnett from Detroit. With Patricia were her daughter, daughter-in-law and granddaughter, all from New York. Anselma Dell'Olio, who had come from Rome sat with Gloria Steinem. Elsewhere were Mary Eastwood of Wisconsin, Laura X from Berkeley, Suzanne Benton from Connecticut, Sheila Tobias from Tucson, Nan Johnson from Rochester, The Lammis Bookstore women from Washington, DC.. There's no space to print all the transcripts. Here are a few excerpted talks.

GLORIA asked a show of hands of those attending a VFA event for the first time. The number is greater so Gloria explains: *As the golden oldies know, and I should explain to the new folks --- this an evening of communally assisted memory, -an evening to disprove all the old jokes about...*

Continued on page 2

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Graphic Designer: Darla Aguillard

If you look around the room you'll see the women who are the real reason why all the people voted in last Tuesday support safe and legal abortion, that Florida and Iowa passed the Equal Rights Amendment, that Michigan and Oregon defeated bans on late-term abortion, and that Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin is the first open lesbian to win a seat in Congress, besides lots of other good news that came from the gender and race gap - even if we have a long way to go. I want to introduce a feminist from Detroit who would be a renaissance woman if it weren't the case that the middle ages were better for women, which is how the renaissance got to be better.

She's a founder of Detroit NOW an artist of world renown. She's painted most of the women leaders of the second half of the 20th century, Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi, Margaret Thatcher, Betty Friedan, (here Gloria, reading the notes, hesitates)...and me...I guess that means me." She's here to pay tribute to Kate with her own surprise.-- Patricia Burnett.

PATRICIA BURNETT -- *Well, about twenty years ago it occurred to me that men who were famous always seemed to get painted, so I started on a project to paint the great feminists and the great women of America. The Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe gave me a one-woman show three years ago, and they were so taken by the portraits of Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem that they are now hanging in the library. She and granddaughter, Leonora Burnett unveil the portrait of Kate, resplendent in a red, black and white outfit, the very one she wears this evening. Kate's sister, Peg Millett, sang (acappella) a prayerful song, *Testimony*. Her sweet voice carried in the vast acoustic--dull hall. We stood and toasted Kate. Dorothy Senerchia, VFA cofounder, had worked magic with Linda, owner of the Mess Hall, and dinner was quite good. During dessert and coffee Kate's friends and admirers who played lead roles in her life kept us enthralled at their stories of Kate.*

GLORIA *The vibrations Kate left in Minnesota were great. Even the wrestler who won for governor is pro-choice.*

Kate was born in 1934, to Helen Feeley who supported her three daughters. Kate read voraciously and learned of tea in little china cups from her beloved female relatives and the joys of the life of the mind, first at the University of Minnesota and then at St. Tilden's College in Oxford and came to NY in the late 50's as a triple threat, teacher, sculptor, painter. Here to take us into the 60's into this "This is your life" drama is Eleanor Pam, head of the Domestic Violence Center at John Jay College.

ELEANOR PAM *I first met Kate forty years ago when she lived on the Bowery, and given who she was in those days I wasn't real optimistic that she'd ever get herself out of the Bowery and into more respectable digs, and guess what, she still lives on the Bowery. But between then and now there was a hurricane of achievement that caused the New York Times to list her this year as "one of the ten most influential people of the century." I could never have imagined it way back then --she would never have been my candidate for most likely to succeed, and certainly not at such dizzying heights.*

So who was that young woman and what was she like way back then? An intense woman in her early twenties with long black hair and milk white skin, who laughed easily; very pale, shy, scholarly, obviously brilliant and very, very broke. She was freshly arrived from England having won a Master's degree in English Literature from Oxford University, with first honors no less. We connected immediately and through those early days nattered on about philosophy, literature, art, life and the agonies of love. We talked a lot of nonsense, laughed at ourselves and at each other and hung out at the Cedar Bar, an artist's hangout, and were so amused by the world, but smitten also by heavy doses of belsmelart smertz and angst. I was always a little worried about Kate who seemed not to be worried about herself, although her material existence was so marginal. She was from out-of-town, from Minnesota living her artist's dream in NYC in dilapidated rooms which she saw as a charming hovel, a perception which also alarmed me. Every wall was covered by bookcases. There was very little food in the fridge and an ancient pot-bellied stove sat on the floor which looked like it could easily collapse at any time. I was earning what we both thought was a fortune --\$4000 a year as a junior high school teacher. As often as I could I'd fetch her in a bright red convertible and snatch her away from all the grime and dust, which she didn't seem to mind, rescuing her I thought from the homeless winos -which she also didn't seem to mind, and we'd speed off to a good meal, usually Chinese, her favorite. But she dragged me off to places also, always a beat ahead of me in her "belten suan" her world view. She took me to meetings and caused me to join organizations I never heard of and fight for causes I barely understood. I, supposedly the grounded one, went with her, because I trusted Kate, because she was just so interesting and larger than life. She was a Rabelaisian who, even then, hated and fought bullies, social injustice, and institutional cruelty.

Kate's Turn (continued from page 1.)

HOW MANY FEMINISTS DOES IT TAKE TO SCREW IN A LIGHT BULB?

One to do it, three to write about it, one to insist she screwed in the first light bulb, one to claim we're now post-electricity, and one more to insist that only "victim" feminists burn out light bulbs in the first place.

Then she got a job as a kindergarten teacher in Harlem -- a real job with the allure of a paycheck, security, benefits. I'd been indirectly lobbying for some kind of leap into stability (the way she lived always made me so nervous) and was relieved when she told me she had gotten regular employment. It was such an offbeat choice, but it was typical Kate.

Her class was the noisiest in the school. Sounds spilled out into the halls and annoyed the other teachers who continuously complained to the principal. But Kate liked the gig and talked about how lovely it was to draw so companionably with the children. She admired their work, they admired hers. But then came disaster and she was fired! Heresy of heresies! She had taught the kindergartners to read! Only second grader teachers had the right to teach the children to read! Didn't she understand the curriculum? Kate was sorry to lose that job, but she went on and managed somehow, as she always did. And she continued to make art.

Then one day she went to Japan and came back with a man, a splendid man named Fumio. Soon afterwards she married him, but kept her own name, adding his underneath hers in neat print over the downstairs bell. No woman did that in those days and it shocked me. It was another one of Kate's firsts. But this marriage is another story for another time.

Kate Millett is in the history books now. But she is an original, a cultural outlaw. Some would say, an intellectual gangster. My pal is an icon (and I still find that hilarious). She's become that most ponderous thing--a foremother of the women's movement, having given us through her groundbreaking first book, "Sexual Politics" an ideological and literary architecture of feminism. Best of all she is my beloved friend.

ANSELMA DELL'OLIO -founder of the New Feminist Theatre in 1968, now of Rome came especially to honor Kate. Anselma recalls the David Susskind television show in '68, called "Four Angry Women" with her, Kate, Ros Baxandall and Jacqui Ceballos. Susskind opened the show, "Why would good looking girls like you be feminists?" Two hours later, clobbered by the women, he still didn't get it, and signed off with a sneer, "Who would want you ugly women?"

MURIEL FOX shares stories of Kate in early NYNOW, and pays tribute to her for her earth-shaking expose of women's colleges. She introduces Betty Friedan.

BETTY FRIEDAN: It's such a great evening. I'm so moved just being with all of you. We've shared so much. We made history --it was

SHEILA TOBIAS PLANS VFA EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

Things are just falling into our laps! First Barbara Love volunteers to do the Directory, Mary Jean Tully and Muriel Fox whip out a fund letter and then Sheila Tobias emails she'll take on a conference to reunite all feminist educators who contributed to developing curriculum and programs on Women's Studies in colleges and universities. And Sheila knows how to plan a conference! She did one of the very first, at Cornell in 1969.

If you are an educator, and/or want to help in any way, get in touch with Sheila at 724 N Campbell Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719, Phone 520-628-1105; Fax 520-882-1105; Email: 102531.1746@compuserve.com.

important, it was glorious, it transformed society, and it was also such fun! It was the most exciting part of our lives, probably. We thought our real lives were our lives with the home and the children, the men, and the job and all that, but this that we did together -- the women's movement --this was such luck that our lives coincided with history and enabled us to do it. And Kate played a very, very important part.

I remember those days not so proudly for myself. I was very square. I came from Peoria, Illinois, and I was like a Mother Hen about the movement....some were pressuring Kate to "come out"... I still don't think anyone should come out unless they want to--and I must say in retrospect, while it was probably quite painful for Kate at the time, it not only strengthened her, but it strengthened our movement.

When I look back on it --in the light of history -- all we did to improve the economic side of life was important, but this (sexual politics) was also important -- though it made me uneasy at the time. Kate's brilliant, brilliant book --- and her personal courage was a continuation of the authenticity of what the women's movement was all about -- the personhood of women.

It was very important that we broke out of those masks that women used to wear. Jackie Kennedy with all her brains had to have a little whispery voice, "twitter twitter."

The affirmation that there are many ways of loving has been one of the great contributions of the movement, and we're still evolving in that direction. We think of all the political things that we've accomplished, but the personal is political, and the political is personal. You see the young women of today start out being who they are, not having to wear such masks, being authentically strong,

expecting to be masters of their own fates-- or mistressess -whatever you want to call it. There is such a difference here, and we helped to make this happen. And Kate is certainly one of the main ones who helped make this happen. I toast her, I honor her, and I give her my love.

there's more!!!

Stunning talk by Sheila Tobias. And Ros Baxandall, Susan Brownmiller, Jo Freeman, Alix Kates Shulman, Charlotte Bunch, Dolores Alexander, Sidney Abbott.

Peg Millett, Joan Casamo sing sweetly. And the farm folk, Linda Clarke, Sophie Keir, Ann Keating.

Experience it all. This fantastic video is legacy to leave to local library when you depart this mortal coil.

FOR THE VIDEO SEND \$30.00

Check made to: VFA

Send to: 220 Doucet Road

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Kate with Eleanor Pam, with Patricia Burnett, with Betty Friedan

(Photos by Jo Freeman)

MORE WOMEN'S HISTORY

COMMISSION ON THE CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY established in July 1998, "to broaden and deepen our understanding of the Nation's history in order to represent the contributions and experiences of all women." The Commission will submit their recommendations to the President this month.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE HISTORY OF WOMEN June 3 to 6, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. Sheila Tobias reports that the shift has gone from social to more political. Registration should be in before May 3, and you must register in order to attend. The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians lists VFA member Barbara Winslow as Secretary-Treasurer. Another VFA member, Nancy Johnson, is director of the Susan B. Anthony University Center at Rochester, U. Check their website - <http://www.berks.aas.duke.edu> or write.

WRITE YOUR HISTORY FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

David Dismore of Equality '48 is sponsoring a project for the years 2020 and 2048. He is collecting archives of all who took part in the feminist movement. David says that "considering the colorful personalities involved we'd have a wonderfully vivid, unrepentantly opinionated and historically unique gold mine of material detailing the evolution of feminism and the lives of its participants." The project began July 19, 1998 and ends July 18, 1999. Write your video letter and send to David at Equality48@aol.com. For more info - email David at Equality48@aol.com.

A FEMINIST WALL?

Will the history of the modern feminist movement be included in all these museums in the importance it deserves? These wonderful places, like Seneca Falls and the Women's Hall of Fame honor one or two of the best known feminists, and ignore the majority of feminist activists. Most of their honorees are women who have contributed to society in many ways, but hardly as feminists. Perhaps we veterans should have a wall somewhere, with names of the feminists, the "crazy radicals" as many called us, who worked so hard for all this to happen, and who may well be forgotten.

and our own history project...

THE PIONEER FEMINISTS DIRECTORY

Barbara Love, who we announced last year will compile and edit a directory of pioneer feminists, is mailing a questionnaire to all veteran feminists, and is calling a meeting of the volunteers to help organize the work. She reports there are many volunteers, and more coming in every day. You may recall that Barbara gave up her job as an editor and will devote most of her time to this big project. Barbara's address: 43 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10003, Phone-212-627- 2146.

STUNNING POSTCARDS by Marilyn Cohen "Teach Me the Songs My Mother Sang -- a Celebration of American Women." They were made from Marilyn's paintings of great American women and include Susan B. Anthony and Eleanor Roosevelt. You'll particularly like the one of our late hero, CATHERINE EAST as the Sphinx. Cost for ten with envelopes - \$10.00. A pack of 18 (one of each of the paintings) with 18 envelopes is \$15.00. Send your order to Marilyn at 141 Ruston Rd, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.



Four Angry Women - 30 years later: Kate, Jacqui, Anselma, Ros



The Millett sisters, Peg and Kate



Kate and Flo Kennedy



Pauline Garriss, Leslie Garriss, Sheila Tobias and Kate Swift

(Photos by Jo Freeman)

We Get Letters..



Your newly designed website is great. One thought, however, and that refers to content more than format -- there's too much "pat ourselves on the back" stuff that relates to the big names of the movement. In actual fact, NOW's successes in the early 70's came about not just because of those individuals but because of the myriad of lesser knowns who planned and carried out local and national actions.

Every time I get close to VFA, either in the NY meetings, in print, or in cyberspace, I am put off by the star-stuff. Just getting my name in lights wouldn't help. Personal recognition is not the answer. We need to get off the names and talk about the actions and the results. L.H.

I didn't attend the April ('98) event, as more "stars" were being honored. Why do we honor stars only? When are you going to honor me?" B.U.

On Honoring "Stars"

How do we measure a star? Someone known outside the movement? Of these we have two or three. Our writers? They are more widely known than you and me, but most feminist writers have also done more than their share of activism. Are they stars who spent every waking moment organizing, running meetings, demonstrating, lobbying, writing press releases, stuffing envelopes?

Most of us acted out of commitment, not the promise of celebrity. Some of us worked harder, accomplished more than others. The fact is that the work of early activists is mostly ignored or forgotten, by families, friends, communities, and often by sister veterans. Some states have honored local feminists. But are they known outside the state? Louise Raggio of Dallas, who we're honoring this May, has even received the President's Medal of Honor! But have you heard about her?

VFA comes along thirty years later to honor every early activist, alive or dead! We've honored over 500 already and though we may not get to each one personally, their bios will be included in our pioneer directory. JC

For list of names of those honored since 1993, send a stamped, addressed envelope to VFA..

RE: April "stars:" Oh come on...

Gerda Lerner is a renowned historian and author, so perhaps she is a star. Lawrence Lader, pro-abortion pioneer, Millie Jeffrey, twice president of the National Women's Political Caucus, are well known in their particular areas. Are they stars? The late Betty Harragan may have been considered a star, as she wrote a best-seller, "Games Your Mother Never Taught You".

All other honorees had their "fifteen minutes", but do you know of them? Have you heard of Elizabeth Chittick, a past president of the National Woman's Party, Midge Kovacs, early NYC NOW Image Committee dynamo, Claire Friedland of publishing industry, Paula Kassell, publisher of now defunct New Directions for Women, Allie Latimer, Daisy Fields and Florence Perman, founders of FEW (Fed Employed Women)? Flora Crater, (ERA), Claire Fulcher an NCGO at the United Nations and Virginia Whitehill a feminist "wheel" in Dallas are still in the arena, but again, are they stars?

RE: When are you going to honor me?

You've never sent your bio. We know that you were part of a consciousness-raising group and changed your life because of the movement, but what else did you do? If you were not a major force, but took part in demonstrations, etc, you'll be remembered with your group.

Recent mail posed questions about honoring stars, dwelling on the past, etc. We hope these responses clear things up. Let us know what you think.

First, members questions and comments:

Why do we honor stars only? Celebrating the past is important, but why dwell on it? A.S.

What about being active today? Though we are a non-profit organization, we can work on education and other non-political issues. A.S.

Everyone still able to get around is active today -- perhaps at a less intense and with a more personal focus. Read more of Mailbox for activities of veteran feminists. jc

There is too much influence by NOW women and not enough by radical veterans. P. B., L.A.

I was a NOW activist, so perhaps because I know most NOW veterans, perhaps because they are good at organizing, they have been very interested and helpful to VFA . But several radical feminists were supportive and/or active from the first. To name a few: Ros Baxandall, Susan Brownmiller, Heather Booth, Naomi Weissstein, Charlotte Bunch, Donna Allen, Diana Alstad, Shulamith Firestone, Barbara Seaman, Barbara Rubin, Alix Kates Shulman, Anne Koedt, Jo Freeman, Phyllis Chesler, Ti-Grace Atkinson.

Among VFA founders are three independents and three who belonged to NOW and women's liberation groups -- six out of fifteen --not bad! Members from AAUW, BPW, etc. would help if called upon, I feel sure. Many NOW founders came from these groups to begin with . Most older organizations had worked on feminist issues long before NOW and WLM, and became bolder afterwards. Black, Indian and Hispanic women were also part of the overall movement. Because of this surge of activity by almost every woman's group in the USA, old and new, no matter what degree of radicalism, we made great gains in a relatively short time. And the cooperation of all these groups must go on today, as the job is far from over. J.C.



Charlotte Bunch, Nan Johnson, Peggy Kerry

(Photo by Jo Freeman)

RESPONSES TO A RECENT EMAIL QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT FUTURE REUNIONS

Any ideas for our annual New York event? Several events are in the works for the future, but nothing for this fall. JC suggested several themes. Here are some responses:

You should go with whatever you will get help for. I'm not in a position to do too much, though maybe you can farm some pieces out and then many of us, me included, might take on an assignment.

– Heather Booth

I'm interested in helping with an event on feminist writers and Children of feminist activists..

– Letty C Pogrebin

How about honoring those who wrote those ground breaking pamphlets.

– Susan Brownmiller

It's time we honor Betty Friedan ! All of us who have not been honored can wait! We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Betty.

– Bettye Lane.

Why don't we honor Betty? Mary Eastwood. It's Betty's turn.

– Muriel Fox

My vote is for Betty Friedan. Yes, we honored her in Washington in '94 (with 15 others) She is a New Yorker and deserves a special event here.

– Noreen Connell

Betty Friedan is without question the leading feminist in the world at the moment and it is surely time that she be honored.

– Kate Millett

My book being out this month, why not honor Betty? – Judith Hennessee . . (BETTY FRIEDAN: HER LIFE is now in bookstores).

A WRITER'S, SOCIOLOGIST'S AND A HISTORIAN'S TAKE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HONORING OUR LEADERS and WRITING OUR HISTORY

Feminism is regularly erased by male historians, but we women also erase our own history by refusing to give honor and credit to our leaders and visionaries—in the old feminine fear that if we do, there won't be enough honor and credit to go around.

Betty Friedan is now 78. If she were a man—and if we were men—there would be parades and commemorative editions, buildings named, and coins issued in her honor. Instead, we have relative silence. But if we know what's good for us—that is, learning from history what works so we can take it to the next stage—we would do well to pay tribute to the subject of a new biography by Judith Hennessee, Betty Friedan: Her Life (Random House).

Naomi Wolf in *BRINGING UP BETTY* - March issue of "GEORGE"

It is curious that The Feminist Memoir Project is not more upbeat — even triumphant. But, on balance, it is not. (Just like women! They can't seem to take credit for their accomplishments.) - Wini Breines's review in Three Rivers Press .

Excerpted from Gerda Lerner's *THE CREATION OF A FEMINIST CONSCIOUSNESS*: . Men created history and benefited from the transmittal of knowledge from one generation to the other, so that each thinker could stand "on the shoulders of giants," advancing thought over that of previous generations with maximum efficiency. Women were denied knowledge of their history, and each woman had to argue as though no woman before her had ever thought or written. Women had to reinvent the wheel, over and over again, generation after generation. Men argued with the giants that preceded them; women argued against oppressive weight of millennia of patriarchal thought, and they had to argue with the "great men" of the past, deprived of the empowerment, strength and knowledge women of the past could have offered them.

Speaking at VFA event , April, '97: *We have regained our history, and by transmitting it to the next generation we will create a basis where women will no longer have to recreate the wheel. Future generations of women will be able to stand on the shoulders of the women who came before them.*

BETTYE LANE -PHOTO OF WOMEN'S MARCH CHOSEN FOR COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

New stamps representing important news of the 20th century will be out in 2000. President Clinton signed legislation authorizing a coin representing the feminist movement. A nine-member committee chose the design and Bettye Lane's photo of an August 26, 1977 march in NYC was selected. Bettye was sent to photograph a demonstration for her newspaper in 1970, and found she was "one of them." She has invaluable photos of early events.

One of Betty's photos graces the cover of Judith Hennessee's biography of Betty Friedan. Another will be used for Susan Brownmiller's book, out this fall. Time/Life has her listed on their webpage as a source for the Women's Movement. And, her photos are included in an exhibition on the American Women's Movement in Barcelona.

CHECK OUT VFA WEBPAGE <http://members.aol.com/jcvfa> Jan Cleary, our webdesigner is constantly updating our webpage. Check it out for latest news, letters and comments from members, future events, etc. If you have trouble finding the page email jancleary@aol.com for help. Let Jan know how you like the page.

MORE MAIL.....

I gave a lecture to high school women on the early days of the movement and they looked at me as though I was from another planet. The Golda Meir poster, "But Can She Type" did not even merit a chuckle, and then I realized they had no clue who SHE was. And as for typing as a job qualification—???? I mean it's only been 20 years! — Jurate Kazickas

Jurate covered the movement as a journalist. She is author, with Lynn Sherr of the *Women's Calender*, and *Susan B. Anthony Slept Here..*

Just got your newsletter, and sure wish I'd found out about this before! I'm stunned at all the names, and the incredible amount of feminist history that is represented in VFA. Expect my membership next week.

— David Dismore - Los Angeles. - Author of "Equality Project" for 2020.

I heard about VFA from Patricia Burnett. It sounds just wonderful. I filed the first suits against Harvard and the Ford Foundation. Bella Abzug put my congressional testimony before the Ways and Means Committee into the Congressional Record—but, as a result I never got a teaching position except at the Block University in Roxbury. (MA).

— Fran Hoskin

Since 1975 Fran has published and edited WIN NEWS (Women's International Network) which has worldwide circulation. She invites you to send news and participate, Send \$35.00 for 4 Issues to: WIN NEWS 18 Grant St, Lexington, MA 02173

Thanks for sending the March 1998 newsletter with the report of the women's liberation 30th anniversary ...At this time in our lives, reunions, like memoir writing, are giving us perspective as well as being nurturing.

— Chude Pamela Allen - San Francisco - chude@itsa.ucsf.edu

HOW TO LEAVE MONEY FOR FEMINIST ORGANIZATIONS

"GIFTS OF MEMORY"—or "IN HONOR OF" (individuals) are welcome. Send something in honor of your favorite feminists. VFA will send a note to them, or to their families acknowledging the gift in their name, and list you as an special member and "life" contributor.

CRUT — CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNIFIED TRUST is a new organization or foundation to enable anyone to set up a trust to benefit those we wish to leave money to when we die. It can be arranged (with a lawyer, of course) that you set up a feminist organization (VFA , we hope) as a recipient of trust money. You have the use of your money until your death. The organization that would inherit the money would get 5% a year interest on it until your death, then the bulk goes to the inheritor. It is untaxable. It is not publicized, because one can't make money from it. Check it out with your lawyer.

BETTY FRIEDAN**KATE MILLETT****GLORIA STEINEM**

Last Fall members received a letter from Betty, Kate and Gloria asking for donations to keep VFA going. Your responses prove (besides that these three are much esteemed by you all) is that you *really* do want it to continue. Mary Jean, the initiator, and Jacqui wish they could thank you in person:

Dear Sister Veterans,

When we decided to do the fundraising letter I was pretty sure it would be a success. I was wrong. It was a HUGE success. Not just in dollars, but in numbers of responses. 176 members sent checks for a total of almost \$ 18,000. Way above my expectations. And what a joy it was to put together. Muriel, will you write the letter? Gloria, will you sign and ask Kate to sign? Betty, will you sign? Yes, YES YES! (Lickety split, in one hour it was done. . . It was late August and everyone was home.) Of course after that Jacqui did the hard work and got it out, with hand addressed envelopes yet!

So blessings on all of you who proved that you do believe in Veteran Feminists of America and support Jacqui who has made it live and thrive.

Mary Jean Tully

Dear Sisters,

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support. Your checks and notes show your appreciation and validate VFA . Because of your contributions, we can take care of administrative expenses for a year. Thanks for believing in VFA and enabling me to do what I love doing!

Jacqui Ceballos

THE FOLLOWING contributed to VFA's FUND as of March 16. (If you contributed or paid dues in '98 and your name is not included here, please let us know so we can include it in the next newsletter.

DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS PLACE MEMBERS IN THESE CATEGORIES:

Activist Angel - \$ 1000 and over. **Big-Time Benefactor** - \$500 and over. **Super-Supporter** - \$250 and over. **Devoted Donor** - \$100 and more. **Committed Contributor** - \$50 and up; **Feminist Funders** - \$30 and up. **Heartfelt Helper** - \$5 and up.

ACTIVIST ANGEL - Ruth Mclean Bowers, Anselma Dell'Olio, Carole DeSaram, Margo House, Helen Hunt,

Elizabeth Sheppard, Marrio Thomas

BIG TIME BENEFACTOR - Dr. Ida Davidoff, Diana Welsh.

SUPER-SUPPORTER - Patricia Burnett, Carl Degler, Nan Johnson, Letty Cottin Pogrebin, Ruth Rosen, Anne Mullegen Smith, Elizabeth Spalding, Aleta Styers, Judy Sullivan, Sheila Tobias, Virginia Whitehill, Judith Younger.

DEVOTED DONOR - Karen Coolman Amlong, Ros Baxandall, Shirley Bernard, Betty Berry, Caroline Bird, Suzanne Butler, Roxanne Conlin, Virginia Conway, Connie Cook, Mary Eastwood, Janet Elsea, Daisy Fields, Jo Freeman, Marilyn French, Sonia P Fuentes, Catelina Garcia ,Diana Gartner, Jan Goodman, Dorothy Haener, Evelyn Harrison, Trudy Hays, Anne Hazlewood-Brady, Dorothy Haener, Eunice Holland, Merle Hoffman, Eunice Holland, Joan Hull, Grace Jackson, Jurate Kazikas, Charlotte Klein, Sarah Kovner, Isabella Lee, Priscilla Leith, Grace Jackson, Catherine MacKennon, Jane Mansbridge, Maura McNeil, Tanya Melich, Betty Michot, Mary Lynn Myers, Susan Oreskes, Ann O'Shea, Eleanor Pam, Jane Pollock, Arlene Raven, Alice Rossi, Betty Schlein, Dorothy Senerchia, Ann Snitow, Kappi Spencer, Kate Swift, Kathleen Taggart, Mary Jean Tully, Bede Urich, Jean Witter, Laura x,

COMMITTED CONTRIBUTORS - Dolores Alexander, Rose Atamian, Nancy Azara, Pauline Bart, Suzanne Benton,-Irene Blatnik, Heather Booth, Pat Bradley, Charlotte Bunch, Mary Camper-Titsingh, Elizabeth Chittick, Jean Christie, Harriet Cohen, Noreen Connell, Ellen Cooperson, Flora Crater, Evelyn Cunningham, Alice Denham, Roxanne Dunbar, Betsy Dunn, Riane Eisler, Shirley Fahey, Florence Falk-Dickler, Eleanor Foa Dienstag, Muriel Fox, Harriet Fraad, Claire Friedland, Claire Fulcher, Richard Graham, Nancy Greep, Barbara Hackman Franklin, Nadine Henneman, Lois Herr, Allie Hixson, Iris Hoffert, Ariel Hollinshead, Jean Howard, Ann Jawin, Beverly Jones, Mim Kelber, Jean Ledwith King, Ruth Kirsch, Midge Kovaks, Lillian Kozak, Linda Lamel, Janice LaRouche, Gerda Lerner, Harriet Lyons, Robbi Madden, Millie Margiotta, Leah Margolies, Linda Marks, Ruth Morgan, Kathy Morrison, Karen Mulhauser, Marian Knight, Marian Norby, Ruth Ogelsby, Christie Pattee, Florence Perman, Clarice Pollock, Louise Raggio, Sherrill Redmon, Lilly Rivlin, Marlene Sanders, Arlie Scott, Laya Firestone, Deborah Shaffer, Alix Kates Shulman, Elayne Snyder, Sydney Stern, Karlene Tierney, Vicki Vidal, Winnie Wackwitz, Sandy Warsaw, Naomi Weinstein, Grace Welch, Kay Wight, Harriet Zellner.

FEMINIST FUNDER - Cathryn Adamsky, Shep Aronson, Margo Ashley Farrand, Donnette Attiyah, Avriil Babson, Sydelle Beiner, Elizabeth Boyer, Gene Boyer, Donna Burnell, Wes Cady, Riva Calesky, Kay Canales-Judd, Inez Casiano, Gypsy Al Coolidge, Elizabeth Cox, Rebecca Merrillee Dolan, Jane Case Einbender, Bonnie Eisenberg, Jane Elisoeff, Cynthia Epstein, Sara Evans, Francis Farenthold, Nancy Gordon, Dorothy Grady, Kathy Grady, Mary L. Greenberg, Amy Hackett, Heide Hartmann, Judith Hennessee, Mary Heriot, Cindy Judd-Hill, Fran Hoskin, Ruth Householder, Karla Jay, Kathryn Johnson, Beatric Kachuck, Lee Kefauver, Pauline Klein, Roz Kramer, Lawrence Lader, Bettye Lane, Linda Lane-Weber, Judith Lorber, Barbara Love, Jennifer Macleod, Catherine MacKinnon, Barbara Martin, Joyce Miller, Ruth Minka, Gracia Molina-Pick, Maureen Nappi, Joan Neuwirth, Betty Newcomb, Zelda Norlinger, Joyce Nower, Judith O'Neil, Mary Albert O'Neill, Gloria Orenstein, Mary Orován, Jan Peterson, ron Pinheiro, Susan Porter-Smith, Judith Pullman, Barbara Rubin, Regina Ryan, Martha Smith, Susan Smith, Jane Sorenson, Mavra Stark, Charlene Suneson, Amy Swerdlow, Myra Terry, Leonore Tiefer, Pat Trainor, Joan Uebelhoeer, Mary Vasiliades, Sally Roesch-Wagner, Bonnie Wheeler, Ruth Whitney, Dell Williams, Janet Wolfe,

HEARTFELT HELPER - Adele Aldridge, Chude Allen, Donna Allen, Ivy Bottini, Theresa Conant, Carole DeSaram, Betty Dodson, Betty Cook-Rottman, Nancy Erickson, Luba Fineson, Ann Florant, Ann Forfreedom, Elaine Gordon, Cris Hildebrand, Elizabeth Jaffe, Mildred Jeffrey, Felicia Kahn, Paula Kassell, Ann Kessler-Harris, Barbara Kevles, Nancy Lang, Jean Ledbeth King, Marjory Levin, Barbara Levine, Inez Martinez, Shirley Marvin, Charlotte Matmiller, Agate Nesaule, Irma Newmark, Naomi Penner,, Justine Postal, Elizabeth Raintree, Ruby Rohrlisch, Lorraine Rothman, Rochelle Ruthchild, Kathy Sarachild, Laurie Scharf, Nancy Schaumburger, Charlotte Schwab, Marie Shear, Susan Sznjderman, Joan Tobin, Marj Wyngaarden, Sandy Zwerling.

OTHER GIFTS: Computer - Elayne Snyder, Monitor-Leah Margolies,Office/Rm for Jacqui -Joan Michel , posters Judy Chicago

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



WE'LL STRIKE THE "CHORD OF CELEBRITY" FOR BETTY FRIEDAN IN NOVEMBER -

In a recent phone/email poll members were asked for ideas for future events. The majority said "It's time to honor Betty." (see some responses on page 6) Must be Betty's year. Two biographies are out (one by VFA member Judith Hennessee), and a powerful tribute was paid to her by Naomi Wolf - "Bringing Up Betty," in March issue of *GEORGE*. To quote final paragraph: *-That feminism itself so often repudiates its most effective spokeswomen and most potent strategies is still the Achilles' heel of the movement. Now's the time to strike the celebrity chord. Betty Friedan, that irritable icon, changed the American Century.*

VFA plans something for November 12 or thereabouts. Check our website for news.

MIDWEST ACADEMY HONORS FOUNDER HEATHER BOOTH

Celebrating it's 25th anniversary the famous MIDWEST ACADEMY honored Heather Booth in March. Julian Bond, Reverend Jesse Jackson, the Honorable Janice D Schakewsky, John J Sweeney, Margery Tabankin and a host of others were among those who paid tribute to "her great vision and leadership in the founding of the Midwest Academy." Heather has been an activist in the civil rights and women's liberation movement since the 1960's.

The Academy, a nationally known training center, has trained more than 30,000 since 1973, who go on to become community leaders, directors of organizations, and elected public officials. It is now training such organizations as AARP, United States Student Association and Stand for Children. The board and membership of MIDWEST stated that "she has left an indelible mark on many progressive grassroots initiatives across the country."

Heather, who was a founder of Chicago Women's Liberation, started the Academy originally to train women organizers. It provided training to early leadership of NOW and to many early women's liberation groups, and helped design the working women's groups.

THE ACADEMY ANNOUNCES TRAINING SESSION in Northern California - May 17 - 21..

For further info : Jackie Kendall, Director, Midwest Academy 28 East Jackson, Chicago, IL 60604. 312-645-6010 - mwacademy1@aol.com www.mindspring.com/midwestacademy

ROXCY BOLTON, the legendary feminist who, among other things, stopped the naming of hurricanes after women only, had a massive heart attack last year. Reports are that though she is weak, she is getting around. 124 Cadema Ave. Coral Gables, FL 33134

MOLLY YARD - the feisty NOW president of the 1970's has moved to Pittsburgh, where she lives in the Fair Oaks Retirement Center, 2200 West Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

OPERA LOVERS ALERT — If you were listening to Texaco's live broadcast of *Electra* from the Metropolitan Opera House - a few weeks ago, during the intermission you heard the host, Lou Santacroce interview **PHYLLIS CHESLER** author of *Women and Madness* about her take on *Electra*'s "madness." Phyllis was brilliant, her voice clear and pure. In a conversation with Phyllis later I learned that she's been signed on as a "regular". She'll do Tosca, Lucia, Susanna; and for the Chicago Lyric Opera, another *Electra*. Phyllis once considered studying to be an opera singer, ("It seemed far nobler than "housewifery"). When Santacroce first called to ask her to participate, he was pleasantly surprised to hear she is an opera lover. Phyllis, who used to write while listening to opera, goes to the opera as often as she can. For more on opera by Phyllis, *Maria Callas and the Opera* in *On The Issues*, Winter 1998.

SO, WHAT ABOUT BEING ACTIVE NOW? Correspondence from veterans 55 to 95...

I'm so busy... I lobby the Florida legislature and those Right Wingers have us jumping through hoops. They've attacked the "air-quality" of clinics, forcing doctors who perform abortions in their offices during first trimester to register as abortion clinics and go through the entire inspection process and be listed as an abortion clinic on a public list.

I also lobby for AAUW — fighting school vouchers for private and religious schools, where education tax dollars will be tapped to pay to teach children who's parents want them to get a better education than through public schools, which is against the U.S. and Florida constitutions. We are also fighting to care for women and children caught in domestic violence situations. Of course, since I am now 71, I am working on making sure women are taken care of in the Social security struggle to make it viable for the next generation, without taking from this one.

— Nikki Beare Havana, Florida

At 80 I'm still passionate over language use, for to be overlooked translates into being undervalued. I'm organizing a forum on "What Power Do Women Have" for the Unitarian Men's group. For fun and exercise I golf 9 holes every day possible.

— Elizabeth Shepard Bonita Springs, FL

Betty, one of our Activist Angels was a member of Nassau NOW. She produced and hosted a weekly PBS radio show for five years, was the first laywoman to address the Nassau Medical Society on female sexuality and lobbied in Washington. An artist, she makes wall hangings depicting feminist themes.

Alice Denham of New York and Mexico is publishing her two latest books, *Shabby Gentle-A southern Girlhood* and *A Three Generational Family Memoir*. She's active in New York's Pen's Literary Workshop, the Carmine Gym Senior Swim and the Playboy/Playmate Alumni. *Mamm* magazine recently profiled her as a cancer survivor. See BOOKSHELF.

I write and talk about older women's health, particularly about the dangers of HRT and warn that healthy women do not and should not take these laboratory-manufactured steroids. Women are dying because of it. There is a law suit pending in England against drug companies making HRT.

— Lorraine Rothman - Fullerton, CA erothman@fullerton.edu

FLO KENNEDY was celebrated on her 83rd birthday in February by New York feminists in her East 48th Street apartment. Dell Williams reports "The place was overflowing. It was so good to be with the sisters at Flo's apartment as we were in the past. Kate Millett, Ti Grace Atkinson and Susan Maurer were there, among many others." Flo is not as feisty as she was, but she's hanging in there and loves to see and hear from us. Her address: 8 East 48 St. NYNY 10017

COMMUNAL RESIDENCE FOR VETERAN FEMINISTS AND OTHER REMARKABLE AGING SMART WOMEN... Charlotte Schwab invites anyone interested in purchasing a communal residence to call her. 212-717-5234.

INTERESTED IN COMPILING WOMEN'S EMAIL ADDRESSES ? *We sometimes feel isolated, especially those of us who once lived in New York area. We need to connect with one another.* Lorraine Rothman, Fullerton, CA. If you'd like to compile an address list, contact jcvfa@aol.com

FOUND: THREE LOST FEMINISTS:

BETH ROCKE, who as co-chair of NYNOW's Employments Committee in '72 led a campaign against Employment Agencies to stop sex and age discrimination practices that went all the way to the Attorney General. A little sleuthing, and Beth was found right here where she always lived! She hadn't heard of VFA! Beth now studies Philosophy at Columbia, goes bike-riding in Riverside Park, and enjoys her retirement immensely.

CHUDE ALLEN — Women's Liberationist, we couldn't find her for the WLM reunion in '97. Chude found us. 717 Lakeview Ave, San Francisco, CA 94112-2203 415-587-8219 chude@itsa.ucsf.edu

LEE WALKER, Young dynamo of NYNOW in '70's. Last we heard she was in Santa Monica, CA..

FOUNDER OF NASSAU NOW HELPS MEN'S LIBERATION GROUP

Naomi Penner

In 1980 a local newspaper ran an article about two men who wanted to start a chapter of a men's liberation group, called "Free Men, Their Goals." Curious, I attended the meeting with two women friends and learned their goals were "not to stir up the Battle of the Sexes, but to end it. For every female issue, there was a male issue," they said. Many of the men were suspicious of a woman's motives for wanting to be part of the organization. It took time and effort and I rallied hard against instances of male chauvinism.

Some feminists later accused me of "selling out." "I'm not on this planet to ban men and categorize all men as bullies and oppressors," I told them. Men are fathers, sons, brothers, and husbands. We must learn to work together if we're ever to have decent relationships and healthy families.

The 18-year-old organization addresses men's needs in general. It is not easy for men to admit they need help. When they do, they want a problem fixed instantly. As a result, most don't stay long in the organization.

The NCFM has sponsored four national conferences, publishes a newsletter, "Transitions", which focuses on educating men as to who they are and how they can improve their lives. It also exposes sexism. It has a website, hotline and referral service. Men needing help are referred to a support group, books, another organization, lawyers, therapists, etc.

Men often don't recognize they need help until it is too late. The Marlboro man consults doctors much less than women and dies much sooner. He commits suicide four times as often. (Women try more often, but don't succeed). Deaths of men from 18 to 24 usually involve violence, suicide, homicide or accidents. Less is spent on prostate cancer research than on breast cancer, yet more men die of it than women die from breast cancer.

I am hopeful that in the 21st century women and men will see each other not as enemies, -but as equal, whole partners so that we begin to walk side by side to the benefit of all society.

Naomi Penner -516-482-6378, 466-8438.

Naomi Penner was brought up (in Kansas) to be equal with men, but life experience was sobering. In the late '60's, living in New York, she heard of NOW on a David Susskind TV show, joined and formed a Long Island chapter. She marched down Fifth Avenue in '70 and attended the rally, where she met a few men marchers and invited them to the NOW party afterward, where the sign, MEN - \$5, WOMEN - \$3., at a meeting for equality appalled her. *If entry is based on what people earn, she told the women, then let's ask each one what she can afford. But don't base it on whether they have a penis or a vagina!* The price was lowered.

DOWN WITH AGEISM!

This column is dedicated to 95 year young Dr. Ida Davidoff, who we honored in 1994. Says Dr. Davidoff, We do not grow old, we become old by not growing. She wrote on her birthday last August, *This (being 95) is awesome to me, since my practice is busier than ever.* Ida, a marriage counselor, urges everyone to "stay active and involved into the 90's and beyond."

Reach her at 73 Marshall Ridge Rd, New Caanan, Ct. 06840.

DANCING AS A FUN/FITNESS THING: Several VFA members, from 50's to 90 plus, are dancers. Merrilllee Dolan of Albuquerque is an accomplished flamenco dancer, Evelyn Cunningham, one of the busiest women in NYC unwinds by tap dancing, Cindy Judd of Pittsburgh has been signed by a theatrical agent and travels around dancing, singing and slipping in a feminist message, Elizabeth Chittick of Palm Beach, former president of the National Woman's Party, has been winning prizes in ballroom dancing for several years.

FROM A NURSING HOME IN WASHINGTON STATE COMES THIS NOTE:

Dear Jacqui and all you beautiful Veteran Feminists of America:

I was thrilled to read your wonderful newsletter, and am mailing my check for membership. In 1916, I marched with my mom in a suffrage parade. A big cop knocked us down and took us in a paddy wagon to jail, where we were kept overnight with a bunch of drunks. That's when I vowed to help all women. I send this newsletter "Womanpower" (enclosed) to thousands around the world. I've received responses from Queen Sylvia of Sweden when I wrote cheering her for her efforts to make laws to stop child porno.: God bless you all!

Gypsy Al Coolidge 1305 Alexander St Centralia, WA 98531.

Gypsy heard about us somewhere, and sent this sweet note and her newsletter with \$30.00. She is 95 years old and runs "Womanpower" from a nursing home.

A phone call from a nonogenerian to VFA, who must be anonymous.:

Anon: "Jacqui, please don't tell anyone my age. My dates don't know how old I am"

J -- Anon, You have dates?

Anon "Yes, my dear...and they think I'm 65, maybe 70."



Diana Gartner, Lucy Horwitz, Katherine Turok

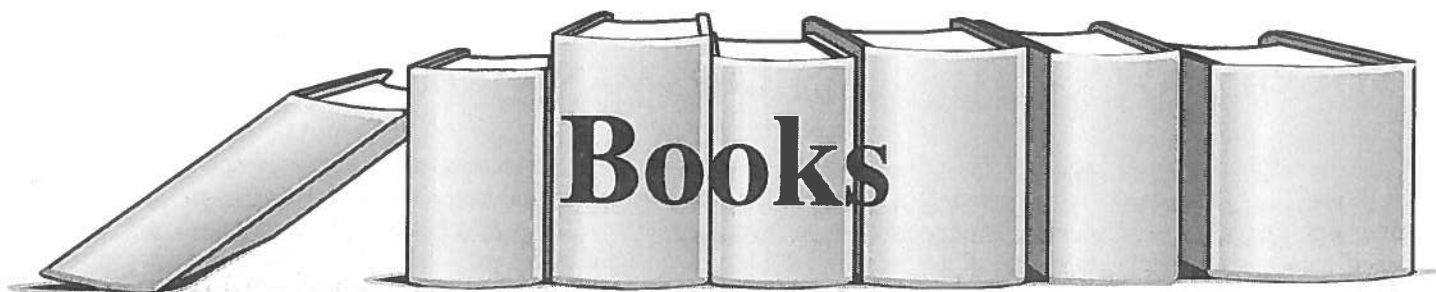


Nancy Baor, Cary Fuentes



Yolanda Bako, Dell Williams, Naomi Penner

(Photos by Jo Freeman)



TWO NEW BOOKS ON BETTY

BETTY FRIEDAN: HER LIFE.

Judith Hennessee. Random House. 330 pages. This unauthorized biography covers Betty's childhood, journalist career, marriage, *The Feminine Mystique*, the founding of NOW to the present. The book was six years in the writing and includes four long interviews with Betty and talks with many of the founders and early members.

BETTY FRIEDAN AND THE MAKING OF THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE

By Daniel Horowitz. University of Massachusetts Press - 336 pp. The Smith professor of American Studies focuses on Betty's early years and challenges the belief that her experience as a suburban housewife led to the writing of *The Feminine Mystique*, positing instead that it was her involvement in labor politics.

A GOOD ENOUGH DAUGHTER: A MEMOIR

By Alix Kates Shulman. Dani Shapiro says, "Anyone who has ever struggled with feelings of love and ambivalence for their own parents will be swept up by this gorgeous book." Alix, a member of New York Radical Feminists is author of the best seller, "Memoirs of an Ex Prom Queen."

AIRLESS SPACES

Shulamith Firestone - Semiotext(e), 160 pages. \$8.00. By the author of the classic, *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution* (1970). A collection of short tales about losers in and out of (mostly mental) hospitals. It is Shulie's first book of fiction. For copies: Contact Semiotext(e) PO Box 568, Brooklyn, NY 11211 Ph/Fax - 718 963 2603 or email-semiotexte@aol.com.

PERSUASIVE BUSINESS SPEAKING

By Elayne Snyder, speech coach, corporate consultant seminar leader, assistant professor of communications at NYU, poet, president of NYNOW in '73 and a founder of VFA. The book offers pungent advice for business speakers. \$17.95 -- Send to Elayne Snyder Speech Consultants, 333 E 49th St, NNY 10017.

THE FEMINIST MEMOIR PROJECT: Voices From Women's Liberation

Edited by Rachel Blau DuPlessis and Ann Snitow

Reviewed by *Sheila Tobias

This is a "must read" for anyone who lived through the beginnings of the Second Wave, or wishes she had. Rachel Blau duPlessis, a historian at Temple U, and writer Ann Snitow have edited remembrances of the women's liberation movement from 32 feminists into a collective memoir. We experience again the spirit of those times, their "excitement and engagement" from those who were there.

The contributors offer highs and lows and a range of remembered and current political agendas. I was struck with how much I did not know (or had forgotten) -- that Carol Hanisch initiated the Miss America action, that *No More Fun and Games* was an 80-page manifesto, that Valerie Solanas (author of *The S.C.U.M. Manifesto*) died in a bag lady in San Francisco in 1978. But most of all the book reminds us how much feminism meant to us and how much it transformed our lives.

A book like this inevitably provides perspectives on the same events. The first gatherings of exiles from SDS and other male-dominated movements in Maryland and Illinois are remembered variously -- as in the 1970 Congress to Unite Women. Also of importance was the first wave of writings: Jo Freeman's *Voices of Women's Liberation*, Naomi Weisstein's *Psychology Constructs the Female*, Juliet Mitchell's *Women: The Longest Revolution*, and the *S.C.U.M. Manifesto* itself.

The editors carefully respect their contributors' point of view. Barbara Emerson didn't even mention feminism in her recollections of the origins of her radicalism because for her the movement began with civil rights. Historian Barbara Epstein admits her ambivalence about feminism even as she joined the movement. Intra-feminist wars are frankly chronicled. As early as 1970, Anselma Dell'Olio presented a paper on divisiveness. Roxanne Dunbar recalls being "chewed out by Betty Friedan for wearing army surplus on television." Particularly powerful are the recollections of African-American women. One might have expected nostalgia. But it is clear from all the writers, even from their brief excerpts, that they are still and active and their involvement with feminism lives on. The book concludes with a detailed chronology from 1960 to 1991, and short biographies.

To order: Send check of \$15.00 TO VFA with return address. Book will arrive within two weeks.

* Sheila Tobias a historian of the feminist movement, is a former math professor and author of several books, including "Math Anxiety" and "Faces of Feminism."

THE GURU PAPERS : MASKS OF AUTHORITARIAN POWER

Diana Alstad and Joel Kramer (Frog Ltd). This consciousness-expanding new take on the patriarchy will make your hair stand on end. Don't be deceived by the title. Patriarchy uses the "sacred" to get people to sacrifice to it, and defines being "good" as sacrificing to whatever it decrees a "higher" priority. (Gurus are the ultimate patriarchs). Since women get the biggest dose of this, we have more guilt putting ourselves first.

The authors are into something BIG. The book steps on the toes of nearly every sacred cow, sparing no idols in unmasking the mind control patriarchy uses to keep its power. It shows how mental authoritarianism is like a virus deeply rooted in the human psyche and at the core of civilization, hidden in our values, culture, daily life-- in the very morality we try to live by. The good news is that exposing the virus helps disempower it, so just reading the book helps free people. Learn how your inner authoritarian controls you and others, sabotages love and causes addiction--and new ways for handling addiction and problems with intimacy. *The Guru Papers* is a new vision for the millennium! (\$15.00 Order from North Atlantic Books - 800-337-2665, or at bookstores.)

Diana Alstad, a founding member of New Haven Women's Liberation and of the New Haven Radical Feminist Collective, taught one of the first Women's Studies Courses and co-founded Women's Alliances at both Yale and Duke. A Woodrow Wilson Fellow, she received her Ph.D from Yale in 1971. She and Joel Kramer have led seminars on relationships, yoga and Eastern thought at Esalen and other growth centers.

more books...

BUYING THE RANCH - by Virtue Hathaway, aka Shirley Boccaccio. Paperback, 340 pages. A semi-autobiographical novel by the artist of the infamous "FUCK HOUSEWORK" poster. The story is of a young woman who liberated herself and helped liberate other women from the slavery of unpaid domestic labor in the early 1970's. Virtue takes lovers, has three children sans marriage, pilots a plane to Mexico and eventually buys a ranch in Jalisco. Send \$12.00 to: Apdo. Post 20, Mascota, Jalisco 46900 Mexico

TWO BY CAROL HANISCH
FRANKLY FEMINIST: A Collection of Writings--First published in *Hudson Valley Woman*, '91 to '95. The book opens with "The 1848 Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention Revisited." Carol gives her opinions on current topics and people from Giraldo Rivera to Hilary Clinton. She writes about capitalism, racism, health, love, and wonders "Did I Blow My Life?" She ends urging feminists to organize into effective organizations and to "Fight on Sisters!" Send \$14.00 for book and postage to Truth Tellers, P.O. Box 1270, Port Ewan, NY 12466 NY residents add 7 3/4% sales tax.

PROMISE AND BETRAYAL: Voices From the Struggle for Women's Emancipation - 1776 to 1920 -- A dramatic reading (with music) for performance, but wonderful reading. It ends with Hanisch's song "Fight On Sisters" and a chronology of feminist events from 1775 to 1965. Send \$7.00 (postage covered) to the above address) Carol, a founding member of New York Radical Women and a member of Redstockings instigated the Miss America Pageant Protest in '68. Her writings introduced concepts that have become part of our language --the "pro-woman line," "the personal is political" and the message on the 40' banner which New York NOW draped on the Statue of Liberty in the 1970 takeover, "Women of the World Unite."

TREE EATERS By Jane Sorenson Loh

Thirty-five articles on trees and other plants like "Tree Eaters", "Potions and Lotions", "An Herb Is Not A Drug". Jane, a Master Forest Owner and Certified Tree Farmer is also a private consultant of Occupational Therapy and Naturopathic Medicine. In 1971 she was head of NYNOW's Political Committee and a founder of the National and New York State Women's Political Caucus. Send \$14.95 to SLS Co., Box 70, Westbrookville, NY 12785.

NOVELS BY ALICE DENHAM, a Southern transplant in NYC, a Phi Beta Kappa, Playboy centerfold and founding member of NYNOW.

AMO - A feminist centerfold from outer space. The New York Times called it "a cult novel ripe for resurrection."

MY DARLING FROM THE LIONS -- Independence vs. obsessive love. (N.Y. PEN Women's Library Workshops says it kept them up all night reading.)

Soon to be published: **Shabby Genteel: A Southern Girlhood** and **A Three Generational Family Memoir**. Pick them up at libraries or bookstores.

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS - A History of Metro East Illinois Feminism and the Fight for the ERA. Bea Stegeman. For copies: Bea Stegeman, 306 Dana St., Collinsville, IL 62234

The Technology of Orgasm: Hysteria, the Vibrator and Women's Sexual Satisfaction - Rachel P Maines - John Hopkins Press.

Vibrators were once prescribed by doctors in Victorian times for "the relief of emotional and sexual tension through external, pelvic massage, culminating in orgasm!" "For doctors, says the author, this was a routine with about as much erotic content as a Kenneth Starr document. Most did it because they felt it was their duty." Dr. Maines, head of Maines & Associates, a firm that offers research services to museums, stumbled on her subject while researching a history of needlework!

Comment : I wondered, did Betty Dodson know about this? So I called her.

Betty -- *Yes, I have the book. That it is getting serious attention is great, but it's sad the author didn't know about my work. Using the vibrator in Victorian times wasn't widely used, but it was available.*

Betty, a Ph.D in Sexology, pioneered the sexual revolution. She was the first to introduce vibrators and speak of them publicly, when she ran a sex workshop at New York NOW's conference in 1973. In a 1970 exhibit of her erotic art, vibrators were included in some of the drawings. Today Dr. Dodson meets monthly with professional sex educators, and has a private practice where she teaches women how to have orgasm. Dr. Betty Dodson - 121 Madison Ave NYNY 10016.

TICKET SNIP AND MAIL

MAY 6, 1999, Sewall-Belmont House, Washington. D.C.

Reception - \$50.00 Members their guests — \$60.00 Others

Video of event - \$30.00

I enclose \$_____ for _____ members and guests.

I enclose \$_____ for _____ videos. (To be mailed)

Total (reception, videos) \$_____

Ticket at door. Cancelled check is your receipt.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make check to VFA and mail to: 220 Doucet Rd 225-D Lafayette, LA 70503
After April 30, mail to VFA Sewall-Belmont House, 144 Constitution Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002

Reservations Holiday Inn on the Hill and Quality Suites (-both hotels within walking distance of SB House). Call 800-376-9249. Ask for Nikki Beare or Sue Johnson. For low airfares - Silver Beare Travel - 850-539-1199, Fax 850-539-020



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at VFA's

Spring Reunion

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1999

Sewall-Belmont House • 144 Constitution Avenue NE • Washington, DC

Reception - Buffet 4 • Program 5

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Veteran Feminists of America
220 Doucet Road, Suite 225-D
Lafayette, LA 70503



The Veteran Feminists of America is a nonprofit organization for pioneers of the feminist movement to 1975. Goals are to enjoy the sisterhood forged during those years of intense commitment, to document our history, to honor ourselves and our heroes and to rekindle the spark and spirit of the feminist revolution.

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