A Celebration of Women's Art

'The Dinner Party'

The Dinner Party is an amazing collection of artwork portraying women's lives, their achievements and contributions throughout history.

Thirty-nine plates with table settings represent individual women, mythological and real, and their historical periods. The names of 999 women are inscribed on the tiles of the Heritage Floor which constitutes the foundation of the presentation.

The plates are ceramic, beginning with the Primordial Goddess in a one-dimensional state. Progressively, using a butterfly motif which symbolizes women's liberation and resurrection, the surfaces of the plates rise up showing us women's struggle throughout history for equality. Finally, the last plate, representing artist Georgia O'Keefe, is completely three-dimensional.

A golden cup and silverware complete each of the place settings, which are chronologically arranged 13 to a side around an open-centered triangular table, 50 feet on each side. The triangle is an ancient symbol for female.

The idea was conceived by Judy Chicago, with the intention of challenging societal values towards women, and carried out by over 400 volunteers and artists . . .

In the tiles of the Heritage Floor beneath each setting are the names of other women who correspond historically to the woman of the place setting. These 999 women, each chosen for her contributions to society and womankind, were selected by the project researchers in an effort to make people today more aware of women's heritage.

I, personally, was amazed and inspired by the collective energies devoted to creating The Dinner Party. The project began five years ago bringing together many people dedicated to making this visual feminist statement a reality. This show is a powerful example of what women together can do to influence social attitudes.

The Dinner Party is on exhibit at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Van Ness and McAllister, until June 17.

Chicago receives no proceeds from the show. Through the Flower Corporation is in need of donations to establish a permanent home for the Party so that everyone may view it.

For information, or to make contributions, write to: Through the Flower Corporation, P.O. Box 1876, Santa Monica, CA 90406.

-C. Sumner

Demeter Steps Forward

Our New Image

Demeter has changed her format from the typewritten and stapled to the typeset and folded. We can now print more copies and use more graphics. This change is greatly due to our two new staff members, Debi Busman and Joan Weiner. Thanks to their talent, enthusiasm and skill, Demeter has taken a large step toward more professional journalism, and being a better resource for women. Welcome Debi and Joan and many thanks.
On May 21 Dan White was convicted of two counts of voluntary manslaughter for the killings of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk in San Francisco's City Hall last November 27.

There is no doubt that Dan White was the man who murdered Moscone and Milk. The question is, did he do it with malice?

Malice, according to the penal code is either:
- express, when "there is manifested a deliberate intention unlawfully to take away the life of a fellow creature," or
- implied, when "no considerable provocation appears, or when the circumstances attending the killing show an abandoned and malignant heart."

Voluntary manslaughter is defined as "the unlawful killing of a human being, without malice, upon a sudden quarrel or heat of passion." The prison sentence is a maximum of seven years and eight months.

The jury refused to believe that White had either express or implied malice — even though he took a gun from his house, entered through the basement, confronted Moscone then Milk, and pulled the trigger repeatedly.

The verdict was called a tragedy by District Attorney Joseph Freitas. "It's a wrong decision. There were two charges of first degree murder and the evidence was there to support that verdict," he said.

As Herb Caen pointed out, Dan White "believed in the death penalty. He believed in paying the price for your sins and mistakes. He would have been appalled at the sentence handed down by what the Dan Whites like to think of as a soft-hearted judge and a soft-hearted jury."

The verdict set off a violent reaction by over 5,000 people in San Francisco. If you are to believe the media it was composed totally of intoxicated homosexuals wanting to avenge the death of Harvey Milk.

If you watch television, you'll see the same film over and over again of a man breaking the glass doors of City Hall. No pictures were taken of the line of people, both gay and straight, linked arm in arm trying to stop the violent protest.

Very little is said about Sally Gearhart, a gay community leader, making a plea to stop the violence. Of Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver asking for peace in San Francisco. Instead, headlines read, "Gay Protest Gets Out of Hand" and that same man is being shown breaking the same doors.

Not much is being publicized about the policemen who later went to Castro Street dressed in riot gear wildly swinging billy clubs. Instead you read of "a small minority" as Mayor Feinstein said, out to avenge the death of Harvey Milk — the "avowed homosexual."

I hope that of all the accomplishments that Supervisor Milk made that his epitaph will not be that he was an "avowed homosexual." Maybe I missed it but were Moscone or Feinstein referred to as "avowed heterosexuals?"

The loss of George Moscone and Harvey Milk is hard to bear. The violent demonstrations were shocking. I don't condone them, but, as Mayor Diane Feinstein said, "The verdict is hard to swallow."

—JT Mason

Letter to the Editor

Editor:

Any time a woman cannot work at a certain job because a male entrepreneur will not hire women, it is not only illegal but grossly unfair. It happens, though, more often than you would think. After many years of apprenticeship working as a deck hand on party boats — a weekend job that I need because the pay scale for women is so low here — Frank's Fishing Trips has refused to hire me on a permanent, part-time basis. The owner has said publicly that he discriminates against women.

On account of this blatant economic and career discrimination, I am asking for your support. Please boycott Frank's Fishing Trips on Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey. Make it known to your friends, male and female, that they discriminate and encourage people to do business elsewhere.

Let's also encourage other women who have suffered job discrimination to call for action. Let members of women's groups know about any unfair treatment in the job market so that discriminatory firms may be boycotted.

Connie Long

Monterey

New Subscribers

Thanks and welcome to our new subscribers:
League of Women Voters
Sue Applewood
Dawn Sare
Jim Coontz
Susan Blomstrom
Carolyn B. Becker
Joan Weiner
Vern Beck
Family Resource Center
Maureen McEvoy
Jill Cohen
Volunteers for Women's Center
The YWCA is expanding its programming with the goal of becoming the Women's Center for the Monterey Peninsula. During the next few months, volunteers will be needed to help with the many phases of organization. If you feel you have any time and energy to contribute to this project, contact the YWCA at 649-0834.

WADV General Meeting
Women Against Domestic Violence will hold its general meeting on Wednesday, June 13, at 5:30 p.m. at the YWCA, 276 El Dorado, Monterey. The meeting is open to the public.

Santa Cruz Train Trip
The YWCA women's group is organizing a trip to Santa Cruz on Saturday, June 9, where they will take the train trip through the mountains to Felton. For details, contact the YWCA at 649-0834.

Soledad Mission Fiesta
The Soledad Mission Fiesta will begin in the morning on Sunday, June 23, with a running race, followed by a barbecue ($3.50), music, dancing, etc. The YWCA women's group is organizing several carloads to go down. For further information, call the YWCA at 649-0834.

A Spring Forum
Monterey County Mental Health Service is conducting a series of workshops entitled "A Spring Forum." Two of these workshops are scheduled for June. "Surviving a Crisis" will be held on Tuesday, June 5, from 7-9 p.m. "Coping with Retirement" will be held on Tuesday, June 12, from 7-9 p.m. Both workshops will be held at the conference room of the Health Department, 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey. Attendance is free. If you are interested in attending call 373-6188 or 373-0111. Group size is limited.

National Women's Political Caucus
The National Women's Political Caucus monthly meeting will be held Thursday, June 21, 7:30. Format will deal with techniques in being interviewed. Call Shirley Chapman at 373-5193 for information about location.

Planned Parenthood
Planned Parenthood will start a new training season on June 5 for volunteers as clinic aides, educators and pregnancy counselors. The training sessions will be held every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:30 to 8:30 for three weeks.

Jane Williams will be conducting the training sessions and may be reached at 373-1691 for more information.

NOW
The National Organization for Women had not scheduled its June meeting at press time. Call Sandra McKee at 375-7794 for date, time and place.

Demeter's Crossword Puzzle
Welcome to The Dinner Party. The crossword puzzle is composed of 36 names from the plates of Judy Chicago's The Dinner Party. My apologies to Hrosvitha, the fertile goddess, and Hypatia for not being able to fit them in. Thanks to Cyndi Sumner for this idea. Good luck.

Across
1. New Mexican artist
2. A fierce and cruel Indian goddess
3. British composer "The March of Woman"
4. Founded the first convent "Little Church of the Household"
5. Mighty pharaoh of the XvIII Dynasty
6. Guide and interpreter for Lewis and Clark
9. Novelist who wrote The Vindication of the Rights of Women
10. Famous astronomer and scientist in 18th century
11. Reformation artist from Holland (initials)
12. An abbess and leading medical woman in medieval Europe (initials)
13. My apologies to Hrosvitha, the fertile goddess, and Hypatia for not being able to fit them in.
14. A powerful woman in the Middle Ages, fought in the Crusades (initials)
15. Isabella d', a Renaissance woman artist collector
16. A fervent goddess (initials)
17. Queen of England 1559-1604, daughter of Henry VIII (initials)
18. Society of warrior women
19. Best known suffragist (initials)
20. Gynecologist in 11th century, wrote Disease of Women
21. Warrior queen in 1st century AD
22. English novelist, critic and essayist (initials)
23. Early American theologian, banished from Massachusetts as a heretic
24. Founded first birth control clinic in 1918
25. Italian woman, one of the few women admitted to Academy of Design in Florence
26. de Meath, one of first women burned as a witch
27. English novelist, critic and essayist (initials)
28. Founded first convent in Ireland important to Irish Renaissance (initials)
29. Writer, aphorist and lesbian feminist
30. Great Goddess, giver and taker of life
31. Diderot, French philosopher of the 18th century
32. Founded first convent in Ireland important to Irish Renaissance (initials)
33. First woman to become a doctor in the U.S.
34. Famed Byzantine empress
35. First woman burned as a witch
36. An abstract symbol in which female power is transformed to pure spiritual dimension
37. Dickinson, Victorian poet
40. First plate on table symbolizes the original feminine (initials)

Down
1. Greek poet whose poems expressed her love for women
2. My apologies to Hrosvitha, the fertile goddess, and Hypatia for not being able to fit them in.
3. Famous astronomer and scientist in 18th century
4. Founded the first convent "Little Church of the Household"
5. Mighty pharaoh of the XvIII Dynasty
6. Guide and interpreter for Lewis and Clark
7. First female professional author in France, wrote Les Ci des Dames
8. Abolitionist, made "Ain't I a Woman" speech
10. Founded first convent in Ireland important to Irish Renaissance (initials)
12. An abbess and leading medical woman in medieval Europe (initials)
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>&quot;Surviving A Crisis&quot; workshop, 7:9 p.m., Health Dept.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Planned Parenthood training session starts</td>
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<td>My Sister's House, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12:30-3, interview about Mothers March</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>S.U.N.N.Y., meeting 7:30, Home Savings, Salinas</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>YWCA women's support group train trip, Mothers March Against Nuclear Power, 11:30</td>
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<td>My Sister's House, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12:30-3</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Homosexuality and Homophobia Conference, SF</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Deadline for Demeter</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Pacific Grove City Council meeting on Kate Elvin's mural project, 7:30, City Hall, PG</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>My Sister's House, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12:30-3</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>NWPC meeting, 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Anti-Nuclear Rally in San Luis Obispo</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>YWCA women's group carpool to Soledad Mission Fiesta, Gay Day Parade, SF</td>
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- KAZU 90.3 FM: Women's Music, 12-3
- YWCA: Women's Support Group Train Trip
- My Sister's House: Interviews about Mothers March
- Pacific Grove Architectural Review Board: Public Hearing on Kate Elvin's Mural Project
- WADV General Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at YWCA
- Northwestern Women's Political Caucus (NWPC): Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Feminist In-fighting

I recently re-read an article in Ms. magazine from 1976. I dug it out because its argument addresses a problem which I have been observing and thinking about. The article is entitled Trashing: The Dark Side of Sisterhood, and is written by Joreen. The topic seems very relevant to me at this writing.

Over the past few months some exciting events and movements have emerged from our local women's community.

We've seen the expansion both of Demeter's staff and distribution range, an enthusiastic turnout for Kate Elvin's mural project (which is already being compared to Judy Chicago's women-based collective art project), strong turnout for local women's artistic and political events, and, finally, a working group focused around founding a woman's house.

It seems to me that these differences, while enriching our knowledge and resources, tend also, at times, to collide, leading to this phenomenon called "trashing."

Trashing is a term coined by women at the height of the women's movement during the late 60's. Joreen, in writing of her experience being trashed says, "It is not disagreement; it is not conflict; it is not opposition. These are perfectly ordinary phenomena which, when engaged in mutually, honestly, and not excessively, are necessary to keep an organism or organization healthy and active. Trashing is a particularly vicious form of character assassination which amounts to psychological rape. It is manipulative, dishonest, and excessive. It is occasionally disguised by the rhetoric of honest conflict, or covered up by denying that any disapproval exists at all. But it is not done to expose disagreements or resolve differences. It is done to disparage and destroy..."

"The trasher may give you false reports of what (horrible things) others think of you; tell your friends false stories of what you think of them; interpret whatever you say or do in the most negative light; project unrealistic expectations on you so that when you fail to meet them, you become a 'legitimate' target for anger; deny your perceptions of reality; or pretend you don't exist at all." (Joreen, Ms., April 1976)

Trashing women that we work with seems to be contradictory to the goals of the feminist movement.

As Joreen points out in her article, "The movement's emphasis on 'the personal is political' has made it easier for trashing to flourish. We began by drawing some of our political ideas from our analysis of our personal lives. This legitimized for many the idea that the movement could teach us what kind of people we ought to be, and, by extension, what kind of personalities we ought to have... Many groups have sought to remold the lives and minds of their members, and some have harassed those who resisted."

It would be easy to continue to undermine our own fledgling women's community using these tactics, while to work together, despite differences, would require cooperation and the desire to work for a common vision of "liberation."

The potential for a cohesive, focused women's community on the Monterey Peninsula is strong. Let's examine our own interaction with different women and seek to build a supportive women's network rather than avoid groups of varying political scope and strategy.

-Vicki Smith

Crossword Answers

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<td>9. Poten</td>
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Caribbean Hotel Mural Project

Artist Kate Elvin Seeks to Enhance Pagrovia

Pacific Grove artist Kate Elvin is well on her way to “reclaiming” a piece of Lovers Point landscape by painting a mural on the entire southern wall of the Caribbean Hotel, a 27.5 feet by 30-feet block of white space.

Well known for her murals at the Granary and the Rogue Restaurant, Kate says her latest mural will “make the hotel disappear,” by depicting the ocean, sky, horizon, and Santa Cruz mountains as seen from Lovers Point. The foreground will be Monterey pines.

The Pacific Grove Art Center is sponsoring the project. Kate has established project headquarters in Room 12 of the Art Center, 568 Lighthouse, PG.

"I want this to be a real grass roots effort," Kate said, adding that the mural project will be a good way to involve the community in "an intimate experience with art."

It will also provide an opportunity for those interested to learn public mural painting through a class to be held in conjunction with the project.

In February, PG’s Architectural Review Board enthusiastically approved in concept the plans for the mural. On April 20, 75 people gathered for a public meeting in which Kate shared her visions for the project.

Fund-raising efforts have started. A grant writing workshop is planned to teach people how to apply for government and private foundation grants. Workshop participants will then use their newly acquired skills to write grant applications for the mural project.

Legal matters have been resolved. Bank accounts have been established. Painting is scheduled to begin late this summer.

This is a chance for us to support a local woman artist. Community participation is essential in the mural project. Kate wants to involve people with the processes of art.

It's not too late to help. Sign-up sheets are available in the Art Center or you can call Kate for more information.

She's "listed in the Yellow Pages, under Murals."

-Joan Weiner

Trish Nugent to Perform

Trish Nugent, a feminist recording artist, will be performing in Monterey early in July. She is best known for writing and performing the music from Word is Out, a movie about gay lifestyles.

Ms. Nugent also has a wonderful album called Foxglove Woman, distributed by Olivia Records. It is a versatile album talking to and about the many sides of being a woman.

Woody Simmons, Nancy Vogl, Carol Vendrillo and Christine Bagley add music, vocals and support on the album.

One of the songs from Foxglove Woman is entitled Happy Birthday to Me:

"I started out by being lonely
I started out by being set free
I started out by growing older
I started out just by being me
Now that I'm on my way I tell you
it's fine
To know I can tow my own line
To listen to my own reason and rhyme."

The concert is scheduled for Saturday, July 7. Tickets will go on sale in mid-June.

Trish Nugent is the first feminist recording artist to come to Monterey. If you’re tired of driving to Santa Cruz and San Francisco to hear good women’s music, come to this concert and show that Monterey will support feminist talent. It’s certain to be a special evening.

For more information contact JT Mason at 659-3752.

All Things —

Continued from page 6

exhausting first day at an exciting new job. Instead of her female friend asking so much as a single question about the new job, she exclaims something like, “How do you manage to keep your toilet so clean after such a hard day’s work?”

It is important to keep writing to companies whose advertising policies are unacceptable to us. In this way we can assume some responsibility for changing women’s roles in advertising and eliminating some of the undesirable stereotypes.
A Feminist Perspective
The Nuclear Question

The contributors to Demeter have expressed concern over nuclear power as an issue of utmost importance to women. We want to address the following reasons why we, as women, feel it necessary to give coverage to the anti-nuclear movement, encompassing local, national and international events.

The proliferation of nuclear power is antithetical to the goals of feminism, which we believe call for developing a non-hierarchical social process in which people care about and determine the quality of their lives.

Nuclear technology is currently centralized in the hands of a few multi-national corporations. It is extremely profitable in nature and will be produced at the expense and safety of millions of consumers. Further, the economic sovereignty exercised by the nuclear industry spells out the exclusion of peoples' participation in any decision making about the possibilities for alternative energy sources.

Both men and women suffer from deforming and sometimes deadly effects of low-level radiation, but women feel a double burden in that they face the biological responsibility for bearing children.

Pregnant women experience grave danger to their unborn children when exposed to radiation. Young children are also extremely vulnerable to radiation in their developing years. Thus, the first people to be systematically evacuated from the Three Mile Island incident were pregnant women and children. We feel responsible for providing a healthy genetic heritage for future generations.

Finally, we see nuclear energy and its perpetuation as transcending all issues concerning contemporary liberation movements. We feel that all groups striving toward socio-economic, political freedom and equality share responsibility for ensuring that we have a safe world to live in.

Unfortunately, the proliferation of nuclear power has the potential for leaving us with a legacy of irrevocably contaminated air and land, with millions of lives lost.

"We've got to wake up to the common cause
If the bombs begin to fall all over the world
Your particular oppression will be lost in the swirl."
Sweet Honey in the Rock
—Sandra McKee
—Vicki Smith

Mothers March

"Mothers and Future Mothers Against Radiation," a group of local women who have been working with S.U.N.N.Y., will sponsor a march and picnic on Saturday, June 9 to protest the proliferation of nuclear power.

They will meet at 11:30 at Simoneau Playa (across from Safeway in Monterey), walk down to the Conference Center, and then over to the Lake El Estero picnic area. There will be a speaker and musical presentations. Bring a sack lunch, your walking shoes, and your kids.

For further information call Vicki at 372-3230 (before 9 p.m.) or 649-6272 and leave a message, or Sandra at 375-7794.

At MPC
Women's Studies

The spring semester is almost over at Monterey Peninsula College and I near the end of my first Women's Studies course. I've been taking Women in History, an examination of women's roles in Western societies from ancient times to present day. The class is taught by Karin Strausser-Kaufman.

My own attitudes about women's "place" and proper position have changed right along with the ages we've studied. Never have I felt so aware of my own heritage, or of the historical explanations for women's current oppression. For too long a time women have been left out of our studies and now, more than ever, is the time for rediscovery.

There is a fair selection of Women's Studies offered this fall at MPC. Non Traditional Careers for Women will be taught by Dr. Cuca Hepburn, and a course in connecting women's body and mind is being presented by June Sharwtz. A look at women in other cultures, self defense, assertiveness training and more are proposed

Pre-registration is stressed to assure these classes go. Schedules are now available at the Monterey Peninsula College Student Services office where registration is currently being taken.
—C. Sumner

Women Speak Out

History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realize that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches. —Emma Goldman