To honor the struggles and contributions of women, Cabrillo College Women's Programs will hold a two-day Celebration of Women, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 8 and 9. This year the celebration has been expanded to include the entire Santa Cruz County women's community. It will give women an opportunity to gather together, celebrate women's growth and express unity and mutual support.

The celebration will include a crafts fair of women artists, all-day performances of music, dance and theater, films and slide presentations, workshops, children's activities, presentations by women's service groups and an evening poetry festival. All daytime events are free, and child care will be provided.

Programs giving details and a map will be available at Cabrillo Women's Center, Room 902, prior to the event. For more information, call the Women's Center at 425-6249.

A poetry festival will be held Saturday evening, March 8 at the Fireside Lounge, Cabrillo College, 7-11 p.m. The readings will feature poets from the Santa Cruz area. Suggested donation is $2.50, $1.50 for low income. Proceeds will go to the Cabrillo Women's Center.

The event will include women from every possible walk of life, demonstrating the diversity of women. Community groups which serve women in many capacities will distribute their information and provide staff members to communicate with the public.

Continued on page 7
On Boycotting Anti-Gay/Lesbian Films

Around the country feminist and gay and lesbian organizations are protesting against two films, Cruising and Windows, both recently released by United Artists and distributed by TransAmerica.

Directed by William Friedkin, Cruising — a violent murder story which is viciously anti-gay — is about a man who stabs his victims to death while having sex with them. Windows, both homophobic and misogynistic, portrays lesbian love in a psychotic and violent way.

These films are dangerous. Cruising presents a blame-the-victim message that gay men who have casual sex are asking to be killed. Windows seems to say that women are to be blamed for rape. It says, lesbians, not men, threaten the security of women. Both films justify and encourage violence. Both will make harder the struggle of lesbians and gay men for equality and dignity.

Protesters contend that positive aspects of the gay lifestyle have always been neglected in films. For example, in Friedkin’s earlier film, Boys in the Band, gay men are portrayed as hating themselves. And lesbians are usually shown in an equally unrealistic manner. Contrasting images of gays do not exist in Hollywood films.

Boycotting is the best response to these films. Because producers apparently understand only the bottom line, by refusing to patronize them we can send the message that we will not tolerate such homophobic, distorted images. We must guarantee that these films are financial disasters. That way Hollywood will learn that these images are too costly to repeat.

Another effective protest is to send letters of opposition to the producers and distributors of the films and to theater owners who book them. The film Cruising is currently being shown at the Cinema 70 in the Del Monte Shopping Center, Monterey.

Feminists have an obvious stake in protesting all movies of this nature. We must work together to end this form of discrimination.

—Joan Weiner

LOOK OUT!

Women’s Talent Show Auditions March 16

Auditions will be held Sunday, March 16 for Monterey’s second Women’s Variety Talent Show, sponsored by Demeter Productions. Auditions will be held at the Pacific Grove Community Center, 515 Junipero, from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m.

The Talent Show, to be held in mid-April, will benefit Demeter which will, in turn, donate half the proceeds to the Pacific Grove Art Center’s Community Mural Project. The project, coordinated by artist Kathleen Elvin, will transform the huge blank wall of the Caribbean Motor Hotel into a mural depicting the Santa Cruz mountains — what you would see if the hotel weren’t there.

Talent is sought in drama, dance, music, mime, etc. As the first talent show demonstrated, there are many talented women in this area who lack a place to perform. Through the show, Demeter hopes to give women that place.

The first show, held last September, drew an enthusiastic audience of 250 and showed everyone what a wealth of talent exists among us.

Come out and share your talents as a performer or member of the stage crew. Call 372-4466, 659-3752 or 373-6987 for more information.

GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER!
(The Talent Show’s coming)

New Subscribers

Thanks and welcome to our new subscribers:

Linda Garcia
Cindy Gayler
Marlene Tise
Jean Phan
Edie Broeckelman
Ruth Menmuir
Rosie Michaels
Janet Wilson
Elaine R. Giampietro
Margaret McHugh
Sheri Perlman
Mary A. Baran
DiAnna
Paula Tielsch
Frank Brunings
Judith Tatelbaum
Shaaron Kaplan
Laurie Horstman
Kim Fellner
Amo Etlin
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Phyllis Turner

Editors: JT Mason
Debi Busman
Production: Joan Weiner
Maureen McEvoy
Graphics: Barbara Bastien
Cyndi Surner
Reporters: Janie Forrest
Diana Skiles
Polly Parker
Carol Hellander
Sandra McKee

Demeter is a feminist publication designed to keep women informed of pertinent issues. Contributions of articles, graphics and money are welcome. Subscriptions are $3.00 for six months or $6.00 for one year. Mail checks or money order to Demeter, 591 Lighthouse, No. 7, Pacific Grove CA 93950.
Positive Messages of Kramer vs. Kramer

Editor:

Regarding your reviews of Kramer vs. Kramer in the February issue:

"Never," as in "Men have always left their families and their wives' difficulties were never glorified in film," is not quite accurate.

I remember Barbara Stanwyk and Joan Crawford (she of the broad shoulders) coping through several sagas of desertion, single parenting and bread winning.

Those of us who grew up in the depression years were, or had as friends, children with one parent trying to fill both roles. It's true that that one parent was most often a woman. The difference, I think, between then and now is that, for a woman, it used to be seen as pathetic, if not shameful, to be a single female parent, trying to cope. It was further assumed that, for women, homemaking was an easy, natural gift - earning a living was not.

Today, if a woman is living alone, with or without a child, it often is the result of her decision. She, like many men, may be just more comfortable in her work environment than homemaking.

Surely all of us would agree that it is less complicated if there are two caring adults sharing the responsibilities of parenting, bread winning and homemaking.

It seems to me that Kramer vs. Kramer delivered several messages, all positive, to several sets of persons:

1. It offered validation for women who are carrying only two (or two and a half) of the three responsibilities that doing those things well should be a source of pride and entitle them to a feeling of value and worth;
2. It increased the awareness of men who have not been involved on a continuing basis with parenting and homemaking;
3. It provided a role model for men who are or may be assuming, single handed, the three sets of responsibilities;
4. It gave all of us a chance to see a film depicting two persons who, during the course of the story, grew in perception, capabilities and sensitivity as different sorts of challenges and demands and choices presented themselves.

Gloria Busman
Woodland Hills

Update From WADV

Editor:

The Women Against Domestic Violence (WADV) office has moved from the kitchen at the YWCA (where we cooked up $19,500 worth of successful grants!) to the former Rape Crisis Center office (last door on the left in the YWCA, 276 Eldorado, Monterey), Mayrnie McDonald, hard working student and mother of five, has been added to our staff.

The recent Advocate Training trained 10 new advocates to serve on the Crisis Line. We will be offering another training in early May.

Crisis calls have more than doubled in the last three months and there is no sign that they will decrease. We believe more women have our number due to our community education efforts. Physical violence is the most overt, graphic form of the oppression of women that most of us feel in more subtle ways.

Advocates can give a woman a clear message. Nobody deserves to be hit. Starting from there, we help her find internal and community resources that can release her from the bondage of violence and terror.

Our general meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the YWCA. We invite everyone in the community to attend.

WADV
Monterey

A Special Thank You to
Emily Armstrong
For her Carpentry Skills
and
Edie Broeckelman
For Accounting Skills
Local and National News Briefs

'Ve Are Everywhere!'  
Last year a time capsule that had been sealed in 1879 was opened in San Francisco. Among the books and papers was a guide to the geysers of California. Inside the cover, the author of the pamphlet, Laura DeForce Gordon, had written the following inscription: "If this little book should see the light of day after its 100 year entombment, I should like the readers to know that the author was a lover of her own sex, and devoted the best years of her life in striving for the political equality and social and moral elevation of women."  
—Lesbian Connection

'Night Walking Law' Harrases Boston Women  
The city of Boston has a statute commonly called the "Night Walking Law." It states that women walking alone at night unaccompanied by a male can be considered to be soliciting for sex and can be charged with prostitution. Perhaps men alone should be considered rapists?  
—Amazon

Catholic Anti-Women Attitudes Challenged  
The New Testament "points toward the admission of women to priestly ministry," a task force of Roman Catholic biblical scholars has concluded. The seven-member team's conclusions directly challenge the Catholic church's traditional arguments for excluding women from the priesthood. Claim the scholars, "The claim that the intention and the example of Jesus and the example of the Apostles provided a norm excluding women from priestly ministry cannot be sustained on either logical or historical grounds." Citing Scripture, the report says women founded churches, held leadership positions, functioned in public worship, and were among those acclaimed in Romans 16:7 as "outstanding apostles."  
—National NOW Times

More Women Choosing Childfree Marriages  
Childfree marriages are on the upswing. Newsweek magazine reports that growing numbers of women are opting not to have children, prompting researchers to study the psychological causes and effects of rejecting parenthood. The magazine says that a two-year study by Harvard psychologist Judith Teichloz compared married women who planned to have children with those who did not. Teichloz found that women who chose not to have children generally made their decisions based on feelings that their careers, marriages and lifestyles would be disrupted by children. Teichloz says she found nothing abnormal or incomplete about the childless women she interviewed. Says the researcher, "Not wanting to have a child does not mean there's something wrong with a woman."  
—Her Say

Not Until It's Legal . . .  
Hollywood Producer Wants Molly Bolt Married  
Iris Productions is trying to raise $800,000 to produce the film version of Rita Mae Brown's Rubyfruit Jungle. Attempts to hook up with Hollywood producers have met with reluctance because it is felt the movie's subject matter will prevent it from being a money-maker. Arnie Reisman, screenwriter for the project, reported that one producer showed some interest if the script could be changed so that Molly Bolt, who is a proud lesbian, would get married in the end.  
—Sojourner

Black Women's History At Washington Museum  
The National Council of Negro Women has opened the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., the first repository in the U.S. devoted entirely to documenting black women's history.  
—National NOW Times

This Show Rated 'Sexist'  
The more television drama most people watch, the more sexist they become, according to a "Women and Minorities in Television Drama" report recently released. The now-famous Annenberg Report, released by Pennsylvania's Annenberg School of Communications, finds a positive correlation for white viewers between TV watching and the following beliefs:  
—women should stay home;  
—women should not work if their husbands can support them;  
—men are better suited emotionally for politics;  
—voters should not elect a woman president.  
—National NOW Times

Carter Selects Feminist For Federal Appeals Court  
Ruth Ginsburg, a leading advocate of women's rights, has been chosen by President Carter for a seat on the prestigious federal appeals court in the District of Columbia. Ginsberg, 46, a professor at Columbia Law School, has strongly supported ERA and is known for her work on many successful constitutional law cases involving sex discrimination claims.  
—Sojourner

'Barratry' Law Used Against Battered Women  
Battered women have been handed a setback in Pennsylvania where an ancient law against "barratry" was used for the first time in almost 100 years to convict Marilyn Lewis, who had sued her ex-husband for wife-beating. "Barratry" is defined as "harassment of another person by unjust and vexatious lawsuits." Speaking on the subject, two judges in the state addressed a men's group and suggested the barratry law is "now the best tool men have to put women in their place and keep them there."  
—Big Mama Rag
**Community News and Events**

**Rape Crisis Center**
A self-defense class for women, taught by Dawn Callan at her new school in Carmel Valley, will begin Tuesday, March 11 and continue for eight Tuesday nights from 6:30 p.m. through April 29. The fee for the class is $40. Call the Rape Crisis Center office at 373-3955 for information on registration and carpools.

**Santa Cruz**
Cabrillo College will sponsor a weekend crafts fair of women artists, called Celebration of Women, which will include all-day performances of music, dance, theater, films and workshops to express the diversity of women, March 8 and 9. For more information, call the Women’s Center at 425-6249.

A poetry festival will be held in conjunction with the Celebration of Women, Saturday evening, March 8 from 6-11 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. The readings will feature poets from Santa Cruz and the Bay Area.

**Women’s Coffeehouse**
A new women’s coffeehouse is open every first and third Friday at 8 p.m. at the Santa Cruz YWCA. Readings of women-identified poetry, women’s theater, and music start at 9 p.m. There is a $1 cover charge, and coffee, teas, hot cider and healthy desserts are available. No alcohol is served, and the coffee house is for women only. For more information, call 427-0637.

**WADV**
General meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month. This month’s meeting is March 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the YWCA.

**ERA Action Team – Salinas**
ERA Action Team meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30 at the home of Dian Kiser, 1310 109 Primavera, Salinas (Los Olivos condominiums). Anyone who wants to help is invited to come join in the effort to get the ERA ratified. For directions, call 758-2170 or 649-0276.

**Women’s Rap Group**
The Women’s Rap Group continues to meet Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Each meeting provides an opportunity to exchange specific information about events in the community, socialize, and discuss personal needs. All women are welcome. For information on meeting location call Signe at 624-2133.

**Linda Waterfall in Concert**
Public radio KAZU presents Linda Waterfall in concert on Friday, March 7 at 8 p.m. in the MPC Music Hall. Linda Waterfall has an impressive background in classical, folk-jazz and country music and will be performing mostly original material.

Tickets are $3.50 advance at Recycled Records, Monterey, Do Re Mi Music in the Barnyard and KAZU. They will be $4 at the door. For more information call 375-3082 or 373-5057.

**NWPC**
The National Women’s Political Caucus will meet Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. Call the Caucus for location of the meeting.

**Demeter Productions**
Auditions for Monterey’s second Women's Variety Talent Show, sponsored by Demeter Productions, will be held Sunday, March 16, 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Community Center, 515 Junipero. The talent show will benefit Demeter, which will, in turn, donate half the proceeds to the PG Art Center’s Community Mural Project. The first talent show, held last September, was a big success and this one promises to be even better. If you can sing, dance, juggle, act, play an instrument, tell jokes, mime, or work backstage, we’d like to see you. Call 372-4466, 373-6987 or 659-3752 for more information.

**Antioch Workshops for Women**
Antioch University Monterey continues its series of workshops for women. In March, Friday night workshops include: March 14, "Publishing Your Own Book," with Judy Tatelbaum; March 21, "Women as Health Care Consumers" with Joann Farnsworth; and March 28, “Feminist Political Theory” with Bettina Aptheker. On March 7 there will be an International Women’s Day Eve party and potluck. For more information, call Antioch at 649-4949.

**MPC**
Monterey Peninsula College will co-sponsor a symposium on child sexual abuse, March 7 and 8 on the MPC campus. Registration fee is $5, which includes lunch on March 8. Registration must be completed by March 3. Call 394-2100 or 649-1150, ext. 451 for more information or to register. Workshops will include sexual abuse and the law; the doctor’s perspective; effects on adults, as parents, and as children who were abused; family dynamics leading to child sexual abuse; treatment; and prevention.

**Women for Women**
WFW meets Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Joy Brennan, 26 Villa St., Salinas. Everyone is invited.
Community Events—Continued from page 5

**Bodywork, Healing Workshop**
On April 19-20 Claire Parrish and Amadea Morningstar will be offering a weekend workshop entitled, "Healing Ourselves... Bodywork for Women," a two-day intensive workshop on massage, nutrition and herbs for women. Cost is $50. A limited number of scholarships will be available. For more information and to make a reservation call 375-6484 or 625-0757.

**Demeter Office Hours**
Demeter’s office is now open at 591 Lighthouse, No. 7. Please feel free to stop by with ideas, suggestions, offers of help, to have a cup of coffee, or simply meet the anonymous women of the staff in person. Our hours are 12-3 Monday through Saturday.

**RIVER IN SANTA CRUZ CONCERT—**The much loved women's band from Santa Cruz, River, will be performing in concert Saturday, March 22, at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center on Cedar Street at 8 p.m. Sandra Faulkner will provide sign language interpretation. River, consisting of musicians Jerilyn Munyon, Beth Marlis, Vickie Blevins and Cackie Gates, sold out the MPC Music Hall in their December concert in Monterey. For more information, call JT Mason at 659-3752.

**Cafe Balthazar**
Photography by Thea Myers will be on display at the Cafe Balthazar, a women-owned business located at 172 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, beginning March 12.

As part of the Balthazar's Thursday evening entertainment series, Laurie Meagher will perform Thursday evening, March 12, starting at 7 p.m.

**Salinas NOW**
Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 at Northern California Savings and Loan, corner of Maine and John streets, Salinas. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 11. For more information, call 484-1321 or 758-2170.

**Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women**
The Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women will meet on the first Wednesday of the month, March 5th, at the city hall in King City at 7:30 p.m.

**Planned Parenthood**
Planned Parenthood has opened a new birth control clinic in Salinas. Services provided by the clinic include annual pap tests and pregnancy tests. Women may also receive the birth control method of their choice. All Planned Parenthood services are confidential and at low or no cost. Call 758-8261 for more information regarding the new Salinas clinic.
HOLLY NEAR is a riveting performer with an amazing voice — she has a rare ability to move people with her music. She began performing at seven; was a film and television actress in the 60s; was a female lead in 'Hair' on Broadway; was the featured performer with Jane Fonda's notorious 'Free the Army' show.

ADRIENNE TORF is accompanying Holly for the first time on this tour. She is a strong and versatile pianist from Boston. Ady has played with "Liberty Standing," a women's dance band from Northampton, Mass. and in dinner clubs, and is a recent Stanford graduate.

ROBIN FLOWER is a versatile, creative, and respected musician living, performing, and teaching in the Bay Area. She has deep roots in both traditional and women's music. She has played electric lead guitar with BeBe K'Roche and Baba Yaga, and has recently released her debut solo album More Than Friends.

LAURIE LEWIS is the best-known woman bluegrass musician west of the Rockies. She placed first in the California champion old-time fiddler contest in 74 and 77 in the women's division, and third in the open division in 76. She now performs with "The Grant St. String Band.

NANCY VOGL has been interested in music and politics since the fourth grade. That relationship culminated in her helping form the Berkeley Women's Music Collective, one of the first woman-identified bands whose priority was the writing and performing of music which focused on the integrity of women.

Holly Near will appear in concert Sunday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the PG Middle School Auditorium, 835 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove. She will be accompanied by Adrienne Torf on piano, and joined by Robin Flower, Nancy Vogl and special guest Laurie Lewis. The auditorium is wheelchair accessible (bathrooms are not) and sign language interpretation will be provided by Sandra Faulkner. Free child care is provided. Pictured above: (background) Nancy Vogl, Adrienne Torf and Laurie Lewis; in front are Holly Near and Robin Flower. For more information call 659-3752, 373-6987.

Continued from page 1

Our history affects us personally. Isolation from other oppressed groups intensifies the isolation we feel as a minority. Anti-Semitism unconsciously limits our lifestyles. Real pride in being Jewish allows us to fully identify with our culture, history, music, art and traditions. Affirming ourselves as Jews will dispel the stereotypes that perpetuate anti-Semitism.

Jewish women confront two struggles — anti-Semitism and sexism. Jewish women have historically been the strength holding the family together, ensuring our survival as a people; we are mothers working with the best intentions for our children and we are leaders on all liberation fronts. Nonetheless, we must fight sexism within our religion and culture.

In the interest of reclaiming and sharing our heritage as Jews, a Community Passover has been planned. Tickets are $2 (children under 10 free) and available at the YWCA, 276 El Dorado, Monterey. For further information, call 375-7851.

—Judy Roth
We need calendar news. Send information to Demeter, P.O. Box 1661, Monterey.

Holly Near with Robin Flower and band in concert, 7:30 p.m. PG Middle School, 835 Forest.

Women’s music, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12-3

Cabrillo College Women’s Fair
Women’s music, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12-3

Women in Search of Self class starts at MPC, 7 p.m.

Salinas Valley NOW meeting, 7:30 p.m. Call 489-1221 for location.

As far as we know, NOTHING IS HAPPENING TODAY! Is that possible? Let us know. Send information to Demeter, P.O. Box 1661, Monterey.

Women’s Talent Show auditions, PG Community Center, 515 Junipero, 1-3 and 5-7 p.m.

St. Patrick’s Day

We need calendar news. Send information to Demeter, P.O. Box 1661, Monterey.

Demeter deadline for copy.

Laurie Meagher sings at Cafe Balthazar, 7 p.m.

Child Sexual Abuse Symposium, MPC
International Women’s Day
Cabrillo College Women’s Fair
Poetry festival, Fireside Lounge, Santa Cruz, 6-11 p.m.
5th annual Day in the Park for Women’s Rights, featuring Robin Tyler and Belva Davis, San Francisco.

Saints’ Day

MPC Music Hall.

Linda Waterfall in concert, 8 p.m.

My Sister’s House, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12:30-3

"Communicating Feminism with a Sense of Humor" workshop, MPC, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., sponsored by YWCA’s Women’s Center.

"Women as Health Care Consumers," workshop by JoAnn Farnsworth, Antioch University, 690 Pine, PG, 7:30 p.m.

"Women as Health Care Consumers," workshop by JoAnn Farnsworth, Antioch University, 690 Pine, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Women’s Rap Group, 7:30 p.m., 26 Villa St., Salinas
Woman’s Rap Group, 7:30. Call Signe, 624-2133.

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Workshop on feminism and political theory by Bettina Aptheker, Antioch University, 690 Pine, PG, 7:30 p.m.

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My Sister’s House, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12:30-3

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Women’s Health Task Force meeting, YWCA, noon.

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One woman's confrontation with sexism in the advertising world is having an expanded impact. First written about by Alex Hulanicki in the paper put out by The Newspaper Guild's San Jose local, the story has been picked up by an influential national magazine, Editor & Publisher and will be featured in a forthcoming issue.

It seems that Laura Sansom, an advertising salesperson at the Monterey Peninsula Herald, reacted adversely to the cover of an advertising plan book distributed to newspapers all over the country by the Newspaper Advertising Bureau of New York.

The offending cover of the book she and her colleagues were told to hand out to their clients depicted a faceless female figure striding across a circle of consumer items. She complained to her supervisor that it was absurd, repulsive, and sexist.

"The electrified lady, wearing an out-of-date miniskirt, tight sweater and glass slippers, looked like a picture out of a '50s Esquire magazine - a dumb blonde secretary appealing to men," she explained to her supervisor who considered the artwork attractive.

Besides, he pointed out it was "just a cover" and "didn't matter."

When Sansom flatly refused to give the book to her customers he suggested she rip it off the cover. This she did and in its place pasted a photograph of Michelangelo's famous statue, David, as her statement of beauty.

"Repulsive," commented the supervisor. "Pornographic," said another man in the department. The advertising manager who favored the original cover referred the matter to the general manager of the paper. He liked David and proposed that she have copies made for distribution to her accounts.

Where does the matter stand now? She may simply create a "nondescript" cover by putting designed contact paper on the book. She may give clients a choice between that and David. She still feels the matter is important, that it is bad for womankind and for mankind to be exploited by images that way. And it's possible with the attention this has received that next year the advertising plan book itself will have a different kind of cover.

-Polly Parker

Barbara Bastian Show

January 28 marked the opening of an exhibit of acrylic paintings by Barbara Bastian at the Cafe Balthazar. The evening was a wonderful blend of strong, vibrant paintings, beautiful chamber music, wine and hors d'oeuvres, and an enthusiastic community turnout.

Bastian described her paintings as each one being an exploration of self. "The feeling moves me. I don't preconceive the structure of the painting before I start. I pick the colors and the feelings and I go."

When asked about her reaction to the positive response from the community, Bastian was enthusiastic. "Everybody brought such wonderful energy. The music created such an atmosphere for us; it reverberated through the air, through the floorboards."

The women who made up the string quartet were Jill Cohen, Leslie Gould, Pam Otsuka, and Carmen Martin.

Bastian's plans for future works include studies in sketching and drawing. A self-taught painter, she explained that she has taken her art work as far as she can with her present knowledge. Her goals also include working with clay sculpture. She intends to combine art with practicality in her sculpting, making it far more accessible for people. As Bastian puts it, she wants to build "creatures with a purpose."

"Paintings by Barbara Bastian" will continue to be on exhibit through March 9. The Cafe Balthazar, a women-owned business located at 170 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 5-10 p.m., and Sundays 5-10 p.m.

-Sandra McKee

Chicago's Dinner Party

On Display in Houston

Artist Judy Chicago takes The Dinner Party to Houston this month. The show is scheduled for display in Houston from March through May. The Dinner Party was first exhibited last year at San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art. It was scheduled to travel to Chicago after San Francisco, but museum directors cancelled its showing.
Getting Women Appointed and Elected

Approximately 100 women participated in a political workshop held on the MPC campus, Saturday, Feb. 2. The program, entitled "Any Woman Can... be prepared for political appointment," opened with talks by Congressperson Leon Panetta and Dr. Carlotta Mellon, appointments assistant to Governor Brown.

A revolution has been occurring in American politics, according to Panetta, one aspect of which is the increasing role of women and minorities. When he was a legislative assistant 15 years ago, most women in government were clerical workers and it was very rare to deal with women in high level positions.

Now his top three staff members are women and the same is true in many other legislative offices. The change is even more striking in the executive branch where the number of women in civil service has doubled and with 22 percent of the current administration's appointments, up to and including cabinet posts, going to women.

It would be nice if such changes had come about because of universal recognition of their "righteousness," but the truth is that women are playing a greater role in influencing elections. "You have to get hold of the system and shake it," he said, pointing out that officials need to feel that their political life is at stake if they don't appoint women and minority group members to significant posts.

There are still barriers, however, for women seeking office. Sex discrimination is still very real and political institutions are still dominated by males. For example, those "17 women in Congress have to deal with 400 men and it can be very difficult to get males to be sensitive to issues of particular importance to women." Even women cabinet members, appearing before committees, find legislators antagonistic to them simply because they are women.

It is important for women in politics to develop a special kind of assertiveness. Those trained as attorneys have an advantage in that they have had the experience of going into court to confront an adversary, engage in debate, even express anger in argument — and then shaking hands and going on to the next case. In our society women's upbringing has usually not prepared them to challenge someone, or to be challenged, without taking it personally or sometimes finding it more difficult to deal with the issue or the person later on.

"It would also be very helpful to women in politics if they had wives," Panetta commented. The role model which our society has fostered in which all the responsibility for home and children is placed on women doesn't give them much room to develop identities of their own or to go out and really participate on issues. Some fundamental social and attitudinal changes must come about with husbands willing to act as full partners if this is to be solved.

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Organized group pressure and lobbying are necessary if women are to have influence on appointments and issues. Unless they are knocking on doors, sending telegrams, writing letters, their interests may be overlooked. Panetta also emphasized that, contrary to what opponents claim, affirmative action does not mean less qualified people in jobs, but rather that administrators must reach out and look at a broader gauge of applicants. In so doing, you actually find more qualified candidates, he asserted.

Dr. Mellon, who taught history and women's studies at Pomona College before joining the governor's staff, briefly traced changes in women's roles in our society, pointing out that 100 years ago women could not vote, own property, or keep wages they earned. While there is still discrimination, opportunities are expanding and more than 1200 women hold top level elected and appointed positions in California. By their participation they are demonstrating that women can be both effective and sensitive in positions of authority.

Government is power, she stated. It affects our lives directly and indirectly. If people are to control their own lives, they must have impact on social and political issues. It is important to share your talent and abilities with others, she said, in order to have a more caring, human, and effective society.

"Badger us," she said, after outlining the procedure for seeking appointment to the more than 300 state boards and commissions on which vacancies occur. "Join together in networks" of organizations to put pressure for appointments on county boards of supervisors and city councils as well as at the state level. Mellon urged members of the audience to seek positions since, as more and more women do, it opens the doors wider for others. Even if you don't get the appointment you will have helped a lot of women in the process, served as a needed role model, and shown that there are large numbers of "damn able" women who are "not going to fall apart emotionally" in a political encounter.

The remainder of the program consisted of smaller sessions in which members of local city councils, school boards, community agencies, and the county board of supervisors talked about appointment procedures in their jurisdictions.

The workshop was sponsored by the National Women's Political Caucus of Monterey County, the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women, the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas branches of the League of Women Voters, and the YWCA of the Monterey Peninsula.

-Polly Parker
A Reckoning


Laura Spelman is 60 and she is dying. Her reaction to the news is one of strange excitement. It will be a journey into the unknown during which she will come to terms with her life as well as the fact of her death.

Her responses to beauty in nature and music are heightened to an almost ecstatic level. All defenses are down; feelings and memories flood her being, intertwining past and present, illuminating relationships with new insights.

She resolves to focus only on essentials, to die in her own way and to do it well, concentrating on what she terms "the real connections." These, she realizes, have been with the women in her life.

Some, to this reader anyway, work better in the head than in the heart. Laura's ambivalent preoccupation with her controlling, dramatically beautiful mother; the lifelong antagonism from her daughter; her conferences with a young lesbian author whose autobiographical novel thematically into the book but do not convey the emotional intensity which their presence implies.

However, in the overall flow of May Sarton's moving book such a criticism is minor. The tide which carries Laura and her increasingly fragile body through the last few weeks of life is almost symphonic in its sustained lyrical effect. And there are flashes of life and love and grief and awe and pity, breathtaking in their power.

Networks of light and shadow pervade this honest, sensitive woman's perceptions, manifested in the lacy patterns of leaves and branches against the sky she will never see again, and in the intricate web of relationships which both entangle and nourish human beings.

Although her marriage was good and her children are dear to her, it is the family ties which encumber her as she moves toward death. And the most important relationship in her life, the deepest and most nourishing, turns out to have been with a woman friend whom she has known since her teens.

While they were not lovers, theirs was a passionate friendship in which "that largely undiscovered territory," the experience of being a woman, could be shared. "Women have been locked away from each other in a man's world," Laura states. In the process of dying, she explains to her son, she has come to "an entirely new understanding about what women can mean for one another and men for one another."

So much tenderness has been held back, so much communion denied; fear and taboos have separated and deprived us, but Laura sees the world opening up and, "Now at last we are beginning to understand the blessing."

The novel itself is part of the opening up and the blessing.

-Polly Parker

Defining Power

Power is a word many women feel uncomfortable about. We usually relegate it into the same category as terms like "greed" or "materialism" - certainly not something you actively pursue!

Jane Trahey defines power this way: "Power is prominence. Power is the capability of activating and producing an effect. Power is a position of ascendance with the ability to compel compliance. Power is influence. Power is big money. Power is self-determination."

Self-determination was the one that appealed to me. It seems odd that while we all want to grow into autonomous adults, with the ability to make independent decisions and take responsibility, most of us remain "children" in our professional lives. Too often we fail to see that we can (and should) "grow up" to become the presidents of corporations, colleges and banks, influential politicians, or members of the Board of Directors.

A healthy 75 percent of all working women are employed in low-paying, service occupations where we have little, if any, power.

One reason women lose out when it comes to genuine positions of power, is that we are misled by the trappings of power. The new title (from Secretary to Administrative Assistant), a small boost in salary, a new desk or IBM typewriter all distract us from the fact that these additions merely gild our cage.

Women work on budgets, but don't set them. We work on schedules, research, surveys - papers and more papers. These jobs are valuable, but almost without exception women performing these functions answer to a male who makes the final decision.

If you decide to make the climb up, society will begin to throw as many obstacles in your way as possible. You'll be told it is "unfeminine" to want power - or "you're doing a great job where you are, why not be satisfied?" They'll say your salary is good (for a woman). They'll tell you you're materialistic. Let them. If you want to see women actively making decisions and influential contributions, we have to function from positions of power. Without it, our hands are tied.

Jane Trahey said, "If I have a message for women who want power, it's this: achieving power (especially when you start with nothing but your mother's warning that you are destined to be a great failure) is a combination of timing, luck, and hard work. Plus one other ingredient women overlook a lot. That's wanting power."

-Carol Hellander

Graphic by Cyndi Sumner
Part Two of a Series

New Laws on Quality of Life Issues

New Rape Law
For centuries, it has not been a crime for a husband to rape his wife. It has also not been a crime for a person to rape a man. This year, California joins a growing number of states which have redefined rape to include the rape of a spouse. The definition of rape has also been made gender-neutral, so that the rape of a man is a crime also, regardless of the sex of the perpetrator. In the case of spousal rape, there can be no arrest or prosecution, however, unless the rape is reported to the police or the district attorney within 30 days.

Alimony
Getting by on inadequate alimony (now called spousal support) is an ever-present problem for many divorced women. The advent of the women's movement seemed to give many judges incentive to give extremely low spousal support awards, or to cut off support altogether after a very short time, on the rationale that divorcing women should get out and support themselves. The women most affected by this trend were the so-called "displaced homemakers," who had typically spent most if not all of the marriage working in the home, had no marketable skills or recent work experience, and in short, were unable to find employment even at a subsistence level.

About two years ago, the California Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Chief Justice Rose Bird, ruled that spousal support may not be cut off after a "lengthy" marriage (in that case the marriage had lasted 11 years) unless it is clear that the supported spouse can support herself. While this ruling was some help, it did not take care of the problem of spousal support which is simply too low.

Because each situation is different from every other, there is no fixed schedule which judges must use in deciding on the amount of spousal support. There are, however, guidelines which must be followed, and this year the legislature has added a new one which hopefully will alleviate some of the problems of the "displaced homemaker." In making an award of spousal support in a legal separation or dissolution (divorce), the judges now take into account the degree to which the supported spouse's present and future earning ability is handicapped by periods of time devoted to domestic duties rather than employment outside the home.

Disability Benefits for Pregnant Women
Up until now, disability insurance benefits for normal pregnancy benefits were limited to a six-week period (usually the three weeks before and after childbirth). Now, any disabilities from normal pregnancy are treated as any other disability, without any special time limitations.

Vehicle Insurance for the Physically Handicapped
Disabled people are now included among those who are specifically protected from discrimination by insurance companies in processing applications for vehicle liability insurance.

Patient Rights
There are some new laws in this area. One deals with confidential medical records, which generally may not be released to outside sources without the patient's consent. This law also prohibits hospitals from releasing a patient's name and general condition if the patient requests that this information not be released.

Another law makes it illegal for a health care facility to detain a patient who has not paid the bill. A patient who has been detained for this reason may sue for damages and attorneys fees.

Nuclear Plants—Hazardous Waste
The Three Mile Island incident has prompted the legislature to require local and state authorities to revise and upgrade the emergency procedures to be used in the event of nuclear accidents. The utility companies operating nuclear plants are required to pay the costs of the revision effort.

In another bill, the legislature has attempted to regulate the transportation of hazardous wastes by setting up specific standards for the inspection and certification of vehicles and containers and the registration of waste transporter.

How many Three Mile Islands will it take before we get more than band-aid legislation?
—Katherine Stoner

Courses, Workshops for Local Women

Women In Search of Self
Instructor June Schwartz, M.A., will lead a small discussion group which will deal with concerns of the participants, focusing on transition. There will be two separate classes: 1) Mondays (March 3, 10, 17, 24), 7-10 p.m., and Saturday, March 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and 2) Tuesdays (April 22, 29, May 6, 13), 7-10 p.m. and Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact June Schwartz, 624-2457.

UFM Child Custody Support Group
UFM, Monterey's Free University, is offering a one-day workshop entitled, "Forfeiting Child Custody, A Women's Support Group." The group will be led by Diana Case, M.A.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at MPC, H-203. The fee is $3. Pre-registration is requested. For more information call 373-2641 or 375-6142.

Survival Skills for Women
MPC will offer a class on "Survival Skills of Interest to Women," March 7 to May 9, on Fridays from 9 a.m.-noon at the Marina City Park building off Vista Del Sur.

The nine-week course is designed to help women decide — and get — what they want and need for their lives. Instructor is Cuca Hepburn. There is no charge and no books to buy. For more information call 649-6065.
There are those of us who are the ocean's children, drawn by the call of the empty horizon. Drawn by the endless search for the perfect watered wall to ride ... surfing. Only a moment, perhaps, to a given ride, but that moment frees your body to fly. Basic earth energy forces — the force of gravity, pulling you down ... the uplifting force of the water as it runs up the surface of the wave ... and the force of the wave itself, always changing, growing.

It is definitely harsh, cold, wet, but the water is like crystal liquid glass and the scattered sun makes for incredible sensory impact as you paddle back out for one more ride because after every good one the adrenalin rush gives you the energy for another, until finally you're surfed out ... your body perhaps limp with exhaustion but your mind filled with the wonder of it all.

And the wonder of it expands and you long to explore the vastness of the ocean. And so, a natural progression ... you sail. Three quarters of the planet is water and the wind can take you where you have the desire to go.

Sailing ... phosphorescence in your wake, a thousand stars above you ... at the helm on the midnight to sunrise watch. Dolphins, whales ... water brothers. Sea birds wheeling effortlessly in the sky, undisturbed by your silent, unobtrusive passage. Watching the wind and the sea, the sunrise and the sky ... the weather and your small ship your main concern for days at a time. Having the time and space to reflect, learn and understand a law you didn't know when you were caught up in society's games — TV, politics, traffic, noise, 9-5, electric conveniences, motor mania, and ... confusion.

Water time — a time of intense beauty and solitude ... a time of learning respect and gratitude. Sometimes pain, sometimes fear, but always feeling alive and thankful ... full of love for the gift of life on this ocean planet. A life to share with the seals and others, as all is one and the closest feeling to pure freedom that I have yet found.
All Things Considered

By Janie Forrest

If you haven't heard much out of Phyllis Schlafly lately, it may be because she's spending a lot of time these days sitting around the house with egg on her face. She and her anti-ERA cohorts have been so busy ranting for years about the impending doom of a women's military draft, that they completely overlooked the factual errors in their argument. For, in reality, Congress has always had the Constitutional power to draft women, regardless of ERA passage.

Nevertheless, the proposal to register women for the draft certainly seems to be stirring up widespread debates on the general issue of sexual equality. In some sectors, virtue and patriotism now depend on a willingness to put women into the trenches. Some would serve equality by putting women behind typewriters at headquarters; others are aghast that all the male typists would then be sent to the front.

Such discussions are of course premature. The president has not proposed a draft, merely registration for it. Furthermore, recent statements by the Carter Administration acknowledge that a female draft would likely be unnecessary to fill the ranks of the armed forces even in an all-out mobilization. In fact, the administration submitted a report to Congress this week declaring that they contemplate drafting far fewer women than men, and possibly no women at all, if volunteers fill quotas for women set by the services.

But the debate over sexual equality for the draft seems to be beside the point. Of course women should be required to register for the draft — men are. If women are equal before the law, the law should impose equal obligations on them. And if one day there is a military call-up, women should be drafted along with men and trained for any jobs that they are able to fill. That, too, is the meaning of equality.

My only objection concerns the inequality of women being conscripted into military service without the benefit of Constitutional protection of their full and equal rights as citizens of the United States. When American colonists dumped British tea into Boston Harbor 200 years ago, it was not because they objected to the British tax. What they objected to was being forced to pay taxes to a government in which their political rights had not been confirmed.

Well, a clear parallel to Colonial times can be drawn here as well. It is not that I object to registering women for the draft, but I do feel that if we are to be compelled to serve in the armed forces, then at the very least we should be granted our full equal rights in the Constitution. All things considered, this doesn't seem to be too much to ask.

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Help!
A Continuing Series

Feminism — A Personal Perspective

It took me a long time to realize that something was wrong with the way my mother tried to live her life. She never used her brains, her abilities. There seemed to be a discrepancy between the reality of her life and the image to which she was trying to conform.

This came to me in the mid-Sixties as an undergraduate, along with the realization that women have value — more value than we are afforded in this society. Lots of words were being written then about the “women’s problem.” But it seemed to me that those words were meant to take the place of the action that might change society, and weren’t really dealing with the “problem.”

For me, the public sharing of women’s experience in the early Seventies led to a new understanding that my problems were more than personal; they were political. And this new consciousness led to action.

My definition of feminism is simply that women are people, in the fullest sense of the word, who must be free to move in society with all the privileges and opportunities and responsibilities that are our human right.

More important than how I became a feminist is the way it has affected my life, and the lives of women around me. For the last five years I have worked for newspapers. A view of those papers — front page, sports page, financial page, want ads — shows our entrance into actions and professions from which we were once barred; changes in the political, economic and cultural programs; and the changes of the “women’s page” into “lifestyle.”

My “liberation” means embracing all that I am: body, mind, spirit. I refuse to deny my personhood. I will not, as my mother had done, define myself as a husband’s wife, a child’s mother, but in terms of my own actions in society.

This has changed the way I see myself and the way others see me. It poses new problems, creates new patterns. And brings the promise of sisterhood — women affirming and working with one another, opening new avenues for us all. But, I want us to gain equality without men being enemies.

I am not dependent on a man — for economic support or my identity or status. I move on my own, and worlds are open to me on my own. I am myself. I like myself. I like myself and other women better now, and I find I like men better, too.

Feminism has made me realize that we are living in a misogynist culture where women must daily confront a range of male-approved assaults on our senses of self worth. By the end of the Sixties a lot of women had gotten fed up and they created a new movement, and in the 70’s that movement grew into the biggest and most revolutionary and most wonderful social movement in history. And it threatened the very foundations of power; it exposed the lies of history; it, as Betty Friedan has said, announced that the emperor had no clothes. And, the emperor was scared.

I want to participate in the actions and decisions of humanity. The women’s movement emerged as the major movement for basic social changes in the Seventies and may be the most far-reaching revolution of all time. It affects our daily personal lives immediately, women, men, children; pervades all our institutions; confronts the economy, politics, religion, sexuality, in new ways.

From the beginning the women’s movement for me has involved looking into myself, coming up empty-handed sometimes; trying to find help from books or “authorities,” then going back into myself, trusting my judgments of what is missing, what is needed.

We must work to promote the positive, supportive spirit that stimulates the shared discovery and the risk-taking that leads us to move into new areas.

We must be critical of every action we take, there must be constant evaluation so that we can be more effective and more sensitive.

We ordinary women have changed history by finding the will and power to change our own lives. Together we have the potential to change and improve human experience. We must not accept the excuse that I’ve heard so often from women that, “We have met the enemy and she is us.” And we must not forget the joy, the satisfaction, the strength and the pride we feel when we are successful.

—Joan Weiner

Women Speak Out

I really believe I shall explode if somebody of you young women don’t wake up and raise your voices in protest . . .
I wonder if when I’m under the sod or cremated and floating in the air — I shall have to stir you and others up?
How can you not be all fired up?

—Susan B. Anthony