Demeter Productions will present Meg Christian in concert Friday, November 28 at 8 p.m. in the John Steinbeck Forum, Monterey Conference Center.

Meg Christian is a bold and joyous pioneer of women’s music as a singer, songwriter and guitarist. Her style encompasses classical, folk, country, mountain and contemporary elements.

She has written and collected a large and varied repertoire of women’s music; music that creates an atmosphere that helps women feel positive about themselves and that provides support for their choices, their changes, their growth. As Meg puts it, “The world does so much to try to isolate us — I want to use my music to help us support each other’s process and celebrate our mutual strength.”

Meg is an incredible guitarist and lyricist. She has been featured in Guitar Player Magazine, and excerpts of her songs have been published in Rolling Stone, Paid My Dues, Southern Exposure, Frontiers, Gyn/Ecology by Mary Daly, and innumerable songbooks.

Meg Christian is a co-founder of Olivia Records. With Olivia she co-produced and arranged her first two albums, I Know You Know, 1975, and Face the Music, 1977. She has also performed as guitarist and/or vocalist on many Olivia albums with such artists as Cris Williamson, Teresa Trull, Kay Gardner, Linda Tillery, Margie Adam, and Holly Near. In 1981, Olivia will release Meg’s third album, tentatively titled Turning It Over.

Joining Meg will be special guests River, the all-women’s band from Santa Cruz. River, consisting of Cackie Gates, Vicky Blevins, Jerilyn Munyon, and Beth Marlis, has played to enthusiastic audiences in Monterey and Santa Cruz, selling out each performance. Their music is a beautiful blend of folk, country and jazz. They will release their first album in the spring of 1981 on the Rising Records label.

Sandra Faulkner will provide American Sign Language interpretation for the concert. Sandra teaches sign language interpretation at Monterey Peninsula College and has interpreted concerts for Holly Near, Joan Baez, Cris Williamson, River, and Robin Flower and Band.

Free child care will be provided with advance reservations. The hall is wheelchair accessible. Because of production expenses, ticket prices will be on a sliding scale of $5, $6, and $7 for general seating. Tickets are available at The Open Book in Pacific Grove; Do Re Mi Records in the Barnyard, Carmel; Women’s Center/YWCA, Monterey; and Cymbaline Records in Santa Cruz.

This will be Meg Christian’s last Northern California appearance this year before she heads east on her nationwide tour. Meg is a warm and inspiring performer. As one woman commented after a concert, “She made us feel as if we could have done anything, as if no barrier could ever withstand the united strength of all of our voices... She has a gift, an ability to stand beside us when she sings and plays instead of in front of us... I have never been so moved, so touched, energized, loved, lifted or gifted by any one performer in my life...”

For more information on the concert or for child care reservations, please call 375-5629 or 659-3752.
An Editorial

The Politics of Child Care

The First Annual West Coast Women's Music and Cultural Festival held recently in Yosemite has served to remind us once more how strong women's culture is and how far we have come in actualizing what once were dreams shared around coffee tables. It also reminded us of the amount of work we still have to do, specifically in our politics around child care.

Co-producers Torie Osborn and Robin Tyler did an incredible job organizing the festival and setting up a volunteer work-shift system whereby all 3,000 women shared in the basic mechanics — security, health care, kitchen, child care, and clean-up crews — that turned the festival site into a complete “women's city” for four days.

The main complaint expressed about this “women's city” was that child care issues were not being properly addressed. There were practical complaints — that the child care facilities were inadequate and understaffed — that were quickly resolved. The child care area was completely reorganized and more volunteer workers were recruited for child care shifts. This alleviated the immediate problem but did little to ease the underlying question of why child care was the least well organized aspect of the concert.

The festival also brought up the issue of women-only space and how that concept applies to the male children of women in attendance. The producers of this festival chose to set a cut-off age of 10 years and younger for male children. However, one performer, Alix Dobkin, a staunch feminist/separatist, asked that during her performance all male children leave the main stage area. This action added to a growing resentment by women who came to the festival with the expectation of a loving, supportive environment — a break from the traditional lack of concern of the “outside world.”

It's easy to get stuck, either as individuals or as a movement, between the visions and ideals we strive for, and the reality of the prevailing social system. There are few things more difficult than trying to actualize dreams of freedom or humanistic equality while living in a repressive society. The balance involved in working on our personal and group politics, unlearning social programming, and simultaneously working to effect change in the dominant, repressive structure is delicate and complex.

The need for women-only spaces and events is evident. One woman stated after the festival that the four days not only were the first time in her life she could remember walking around without fear of rape or assault, but that until then she had not even been conscious of how ever-present that fear was. Although some women may differ about whether women-only spaces are the means to an end or the end itself, there is the same celebration of ourselves as strong, loving and powerful beings experienced at such events.

Coming together and feeling our strength and connection as women is important experientially, but it is also vital for us to carry that knowledge back into our daily lives. And it's just as important for our children, sons and daughters, to see us in these situations and for them to carry back into their daily lives the same visions and knowledge of women-strength.

Women not actively involved in raising children may not be aware that the same social conditioning we are now seeking to unlearn is being dished out daily to children via TV, schools, books and general social consensus. With very few exceptions, school textbooks continue to be largely sexist and racist, as do movies, TV shows, commercials, etc. Acceptable role models are still limited.

And it is difficult to counteract that conditioning, even as a conscientious parent. How many of us grew up believing that men were the workers and women the homemakers, even as our mothers set out daily for outside jobs?

As overwhelming as it sometimes seems just to raise ourselves in this world, we as feminists, mothers and non-mothers alike, have to take a strong and active stand in the raising of children. It would be more than absurd if, while we are involved in personal CR and movement work, a generation of children is being passively raised under the same social system from which we are ourselves seeking to break free.

We have to break through and discover new ways, new systems and alternatives, for ourselves while simultaneously providing as many of these alternatives as possible for our children. The very things we learn from women-only events, our daughters and sons need to learn. The lessons are endless at such events: from the shared labor and cooperative as opposed to hierarchical strength, to the many images of women as performers, sound technicians, health care workers, lovers, sisters, and trash collectors. If we don't show our sons these parts of ourselves, where else are they going to see them?

If we don't pay attention to our politics around child care, we not only discriminate against women with children, but we perpetuate the very system we seek to change.

Debi Busman

New Subscribers

Thanks and welcome to our new subscribers:

Corby Wright
Nancy Hendryx
Jeanie Vaughn
Annhe White
Dr. Viera Ivanovna-Pablant
Toni Shaw
Sandy Kaplan

Deb Busman
Maureen McEvoy
Polly Parker
Sandra McKee

Editors: JT Mason
Production: Joan Weiner
Graphics: Barbara Bastian
Reporters: Janie Forrest
Diana Skiles

Demeter is a feminist publication designed to keep women informed of pertinent issues. Contributions of articles, graphics and money are welcome. Subscriptions are $3 for six months or $6 for one year. Mail check or money order to Demeter, P.O. Box 1661, Monterey, CA 93940. Editorial office is located at 229 Seventeenth St., Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Phone number is (408) 375-5629.

Women and Alcohol

Editor:

I read with great interest your October 1980 editorial on “Women, Sexism and Drug Abuse.” As the Program Director of the CAREUNIT at Eskaton Monterey Hospital, I am deeply aware of the alcohol and drug abuse and addiction in our society and the compounded problems women have in our society with alcoholism and drug dependency.

As another option for your readers, may I offer the CAREUNIT’s expertise in the field of alcoholism and drug abuse by providing your readers with information. Please feel free to call our professional staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week about any chemicals (drugs and alcohol) or any problems you may be encountering as a result of the use of these chemicals.

This is another area where physicians may not be meeting the health needs of women in this country. Alcolholism is the third major killer in the U.S. and the number one most treatable disease if it is diagnosed correctly.

Patrick Driskel
Program Director
CAREUNIT
Eskaton Monterey Hospital

All Things Considered — Cheers to Janie Forrest!

Editor:

It’s on your back page, but I want to say horray and bravo to Janie Forrest, the lady who wrote it. She recognized how daily we are told if we aren’t totally ready every instant for the arrival of Valentino on his pure white Parcheron (how about beautiful black Joe?), we are less than women.

And the only way we can achieve that delectable state (minus wrinkles, minus hair here and there, plus capped teeth and dozens of gold chains) is to buy _____. You fill in whatever it is your income can stretch to cover this week. And cover your guilt. Did any of those awful things fit YOU?

Well, more power to ‘em. Now we know the face of the enemy. Cheers to Janie Forrest for putting it on paper.

Mary Jo Bello
Monterey

Ready For Sports!

Editor:

First of all, warm congratulations on the successful June Millington concert. I’m new to the area, a MIHS grad student, and would like to become involved in women’s work while I’m here. So please send me your newsletter as it comes out. And if I can help out, give me a call.

Enclosed are a few pieces of my poetry — I also have talents in editing, Spanish, musical skills and energy! (By the way, when do sports begin?)

Nancy Hendryx
Monterey

(Welcome to the community, Nancy. If you liked the June Millington concert, you’ll love the Meg Christian concert scheduled for Nov. 28. As for your offer of help, see story on page 5 about the Demeter workshop. Basketball registration has already begun. Call our office to join the team.)

Notes From Demeter

Demeter Productions will hold several production meetings in preparation for the Nov. 28 Meg Christian concert. Meetings will be held in the Women’s Professional Building at 229 17th St. and are open to anyone interested in working on the concert. The next Demeter Productions meeting will be 7:30 p.m., November 12.

Basketball season is just around the corner. Demeter will once more sponsor a women’s team in the Monterey Parks and Recreation League. An entry-level team is our first priority. If enough interest is expressed, we will sponsor an intermediate team as well. Registration is presently underway for the winter season. For more information, please call the Demeter office, 375-5629.

A special thanks to Jeannie Adams for her generous assistance and perseverance in donating and setting up a phone answering machine for our office.

We have moved into our new office in the Seventeenth Street Women’s Professional Building. Office hours are Monday-Wednesday, noon to 3 p.m. We’d like to be open longer hours, but don’t have the staff to cover increased hours as of this writing. We have a training session for new volunteers scheduled for Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. (see story on page 5). If you’d like to help in any way, please attend that meeting.

Moved recently? If you have a change of address, please notify us at P.O. Box 1661, Monterey, 93940. The post office will not forward Demeter.

If you have some free time around the end of the month, we could put it to use. Each month we must collate Demeter by hand. Four separate pages have to be put together for each of our 500 copies, plus envelopes stuffed for the 250 that go out in the mail. It’s a big job and a tedious one. If you’d like to help, even for an hour, your efforts will be appreciated.
Hartnell Women's Center

The Hartnell Women's Center will hold a grand opening celebration Friday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. Goodies and entertainment will be provided. The office is located in the student center, near the cafeteria. Hartnell is located at 156 Homestead Ave., Salinas.

November Concerts

Demeter Productions will present Meg Christian Friday, Nov. 28 at the Steinbeck Forum of the Monterey Conference Center. Tickets are $5, $6 or $7 sliding scale and are available at The Open Book, PG; Do Re Mi, Carmel; Cymbaline Records, Santa Cruz; and the Women's Center. Monterey. Sandra Faulkner will interpret for the deaf. The auditorium is wheelchair accessible. Child care will be available by reservation. Call 659-3752 or 375-5629 for more information.

YWCA

In celebration of Y-World Mutual Week, the Monterey YWCA will sponsor an International Night, Friday, Nov. 14, 6-9 p.m. at the PG Community Center, 515 Junipero. International food, music and entertainment will be presented. Admission is $7.50 for adults, $3.50 for children. Tickets are available at the Y and at the door.

Women's Center

Women's Evening, Friday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Y, 276 Eldorado, Monterey.

The new Women's Center director, Gwen Marie, would like to remind women that the center is open weekdays 9-12 and 1-4. Please stop by and use the library, which includes books on health, child care, herstory, racial and cultural studies, and self-awareness.

The Women's Center will sponsor a women's basketball team for entry level players in the Monterey Parks and Rec league. To join, call the Y.

WADV

Advocate training continues at the Y on Wednesday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. If you are interested in training to staff the crisis line, call the Y. WADV also has a domestic violence library for the use of all women.

Volunteers to work with the Women's Center and WADV are always needed and appreciated. Call 649-0834.

Lesbian Rap Group

A lesbian rap group meets Fridays at 7:30. For location or more information, call 372-6242.
Community News and Events

**NWPC**
The National Women's Political Caucus will hold its monthly meeting Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. Topics include: election of new officers and a review of efforts from the Nov. 4 general election. Call 373-5193 for information on meeting location.

**YWCA Santa Cruz**
The YWCA of Santa Cruz offers a workshop entitled *Writing About Our Lives* with author Ellen Bass, editor of the poetry anthology, *No More Masks*. It will be held Nov. 8 and 9 at the Y. Fee is $75. For more information, call 426-3062.

**Childbirth Education League**
The Childbirth Education League of the Monterey Peninsula offers a variety of classes and workshops on Caesarian birth, mothering skills, nutrition, prepared childbirth, grief support group, etc. For information on any of these activities, contact the League at P.O. Box 6628, Carmel, 93921 or call 375-5737.

**Monterey Museum of Art**
Paintings by Joan Savo and graphics by Elizabeth Tracy are on display Nov. 8-30 at the museum, located at 559 Pacific Street, Monterey.

**Demeter Sets Workshop for Volunteers**
Questions on how Demeter got started, what a production company does, how the magazine is put out every month or what a non-profit corporation entails will be answered on Monday, November 10, 7:30 p.m. at our first question/answer workshop to be held in our office, 229 17th Street, Pacific Grove.

Members from all aspects of Demeter Resources will be present to answer anything you want to know about us.

One of our hopes for this workshop is that people attending will get a feel for the excitement and togetherness that working on Demeter and her projects can bring. There are several volunteer positions open that staff members are willing to train interested people in doing, including working on concerts, the newsmagazine or staffing the office.

Demeter has brought a great deal of information to the women of the Monterey Bay area and will continue to do so as long as there's a need and a desire from the community. Come support this workshop and Demeter by bringing your questions and enthusiasm Monday night, November 10.

**Hartnell Women's Center Open House**
The Hartnell College Women's Program has a new location. After six years of existing without permanent offices, the program is now located in Room 10 of the College Center, adjacent to the cafeteria. Expanded programs and services are now available.

Alison Paul and Cindy Obenchain are the co-directors, and Linda Winter is the peer counselor and newsletter editor.

Services offered include: counseling, women's newsletter, information pertaining to school and community services, women's scholarship information, and Hassle Free Guide to Child Care.

An open house to warm the new office will be held Friday, November 7, noon to 2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. Everyone is invited.

The women's newsletter contains book reviews, poetry, news of interest to women, information on services available in the community and a regular feature on women's health. To be put on the mailing list, write: Hartnell College, 156 Homestead Ave., Salinas, CA 93901, or call 758-8211, ext. 324.

**Kauffman Named Woman of the Year By Local Caucus**
In recognition of the breadth and depth of her leadership as a political person, the Monterey County chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus has voted Karin Strasser Kauffman its "Woman of the Year."

As founder of the local Caucus, its first president, and its current Political Action Coordinator, she has translated her political commitment into action on behalf of women candidates and women's issues. As former director of the Board of the Infant Care Center and as vice-chair of the special County Committee on Energy, she has acted on her belief in community involvement.

Through her Women's Studies courses at Monterey Peninsula College, her speeches to community organizations, her activities for the Caucus, and her personal contacts, she awakens, she educates and she inspires others to an active role in politics.

Karin Strasser Kauffman is testimony to the possibilities and realities of women in politics.
Local and National News Briefs

Women's Wire Service To Be Formed Worldwide

Women journalists from around the world will gather in New York this month to discuss the formation of a worldwide women's wire service.

The meeting is the result of discussions at the Copenhagen international women's conference earlier this year. Women attending the New York meeting will be discussing an offer by Inter Press Service, the Third World news agency, to fund a coordinator who would make IPS wires available to carry women's news.

—Her Say

All Women's U.S. Open

The Women's Tennis Association may break with the United States Tennis Association and run its own tournament, a separate, strictly women's U.S. Open.

The Women's Tennis Association, founded by Billie Jean King and other tennis stars, is the governing body for professional women tennis players in the U.S.

Now, a group called Capitol Sports has offered to put up $500,000 in prize money for a women's U.S. Open in 1981. The firm, in addition, has promised the women tennis pros 10 hours of television air time for the separate tournament.

If members of the Women's Tennis Association approve the offer, the women's tournament would run in New York, just one week before the U.S. Open, which would become an all-male event.

—Her Say

Dinner Party in Brooklyn

Judy Chicago's massive work, The Dinner Party, is being set up at the Brooklyn Museum for a showing, but the artist is not there. She's back in California, at work on her next project.

The Dinner Party celebrated women's history in the form of a banquet table set with plates commemorating famous and forgotten women. Chicago's new venture, called The Birth Project, will celebrate women giving birth.

Chicago says there are no paintings showing women giving birth, despite the enormous importance of this event for human life. She aims to change that, by issuing an invitation to women needleworkers across the country to participate in a collective celebration of women giving birth.

Three hundred women assisted Chicago in the production of The Dinner Party. The Birth Project could turn out even bigger, however. Chicago estimates there are "Thirty million women in the United States who are needleworkers and who have been shut out of the artmaking process." The artist says, "I'd like to make it accessible to them."

—Her Say

Dirty Money

A bill that would provide $4 million a year to fund rape crisis centers by levying a two percent tax on pornography has been introduced to the California legislature by Assembly member Maxine Walters. The bill would also create special prosecution units in district attorney offices to prosecute rape cases.

—Plexus

'Big Mama Rag' Vs. IRS

In what could be a landmark decision for feminist groups, a federal appeals court in Washington has directed authorities to take another look at an application by publication Big Mama Rag for tax-exempt status.

Big Mama Rag, a feminist monthly, was denied its third appeal for tax exemption last year, in spite of the fact that the paper is operated by volunteers and gives away most of its copies. The judge in the case ruled that the paper was "doctorinaire" because it reserved the right to reject material which did not further the "struggle" of women.

The Internal Revenue Service requires that non-profit groups give "full and fair" factual accounts if they are to obtain tax-exempt status as educational organizations. The appeals court found, however, that the "full and fair" educational requirement is so "unconstitutionally vague" that it limits free speech.

As a result of the Washington appeals court decision, Big Mama Rag will get a new hearing on its tax-exemption application. A breakthrough in the case could mean easier access to favorable tax status for feminist and alternative publications across the country.

—Her Say

San Francisco Women's Building Attacked Again

The San Francisco Women's Center Women's Building was pipe-bombed Oct. 8 in what appeared to be largely a symbolic act.

The Women's Building houses 13 women-directed, pro-feminist community organizations, and is believed to be the largest women-owned women's center in the U.S.

The pipe bomb blew a hole in the front door and shattered windows in a home across the street. No one was injured, but damage to the building was estimated at about $3,000.

The bombing was the third instance of an attack on the Women's Building this year. Last Valentine's Day, an arson fire caused $60,000 in damage to the four-story structure, and last September the building was evacuated after a bomb threat was phoned in to police.

Various women's groups housed in the targeted building have been conducting business as usual, but not without some apprehension. Said Women's Building spokesperson Nan Schlosburg, "The building is a political building and certainly a target." Added another woman who works in the building, "Every woman in this city is terrified."

—Her Say

Scaling New Heights

An all women expedition left in September for Nepal to climb Mt. Dhaulagiri in the Himalayas, which at 26,795 feet is only 2,000 feet below Mt. Everest.

Vera Komarkova, who successfully climbed to the summit of Annapurna (26,493 feet), leads the American Women's Expedition.

Other adventurous women are scaling around the world and across the Atlantic, while another plans a run of the 2,000-mile Great Wall of China.

Kathy Meyer is looking for women to join a Yangtse River whitewater raft expedition in China, Jeanie Talley of California is seeking other members of a sailing crew for a circumnavigation of the globe, and other expeditions are looking for photographers, journalists, and volunteers. If interested, write Expedition Research, Inc., P.O. Box 467W, Cathedral & Franklin Sts., Annapolis, MD 21404.

—Sojourner
Feminist Author/Therapist  
An Interview With Judy Tatelbaum

Judy Tatelbaum of Carmel Valley, M.S.W., Gestalt therapist, has accomplished what many authors consider a life-long dream. She has written a book which has been accepted by a major publisher and which is earning high praise from such luminaries as Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, Og Mandino, Normal Vincent Peale, and Lee Salk. The Courage to Grieve, released this month by Harper & Row, offers not only comfort but practical help for anyone who has undergone bereavement.

How did she happen to write it?  
According to Judy, she had no intention of writing a book about grief. "I was planning to do a self-help book — then a friend's daughter died. Being with her was so moving, and I was so impressed with how well she was coping with her loss, that I began to think a great deal about grief and how people handled it. The book just seemed to pour out."

Her view of grief differs significantly from that found in the professional literature.  
"Most therapists talk about grief as if it were a disease," she points out, "with a lot of judgment in their approach. As a result, readers or patients might conclude that if only they were stronger they wouldn't be going through all the emotional turmoil which accompanies death or sorrow. Normal reactions are often treated as 'hallucinations,' and the whole process is made to sound pathological."

In contrast, The Courage to Grieve suggests that unexpressed grief can itself be the source of pathology for many people, being manifested in physical symptoms and psychological problems. Thus, learning to experience one's grief fully can lead not only to growth but to actual recovery.

That kind of goal is not a new one for Judy. When she moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 1972 she attracted instant publicity with her outspoken emphasis on women's issues in therapy.

"When most patients are women and most therapists are men . . . when the plight of large numbers of women includes being diagnosed as psychotic or chronically depressed and being dosed with drugs . . . those factors were among the reasons why I saw women as victims of their social situation."

Therefore, in addition to her private practice, Judy was active in NOW, taught assertiveness training in the newly-formed women's studies program at MPC, and led special workshops the goal of which was "to provide space for women to be open with one another."

What now? What changes in her life will publication of her book bring?  
For one thing she will be traveling a great deal more in response to invitations to conduct seminars on working with grief. There are heartening new developments across the country to counteract the isolation which grief has imposed on many men and women: the emergence of special grief counselors in places like Berkeley, and the creation of networks of caring persons in various communities who reach out and offer support to recently widowed people.

How would she sum up the message she most wants The Courage to Grieve to convey?  
"We all grieve, and we can get through it. Most of us don't have the necessary information about grief and we tend not to believe that we can recover. But we can . . . and in the process we can actually find a higher level of aliveness."

—Polly Parker

NWPC  
A Salute To Political Women

"Women constitute 51% of the population, 51% of the registered voters; we go to the polls in more significant numbers. We are the only majority constituency in the country. If women are organized no one can do anything without coming to them and meeting their demands."

That was the message of Iris Mitgang, national chair of the National Women's Political Caucus, speaking in Monterey at "A Salute to Political Women," held by the Monterey County NWPC.

At present women hold fewer than 10% of the elected offices in the United States and only 2.1% of the positions in federal government. Even so, they make a difference, claimed Mitgang, citing the impact of various women members of Congress on reforming aspects of the Civil Service and Social Security systems which discriminate against women's interests and which affect quality of life issues. They are also highly significant as role models, she said.

Describing NWPC as a nationwide network of political women, she pointed out that it is the only organization which focuses on the political process: they target seats, analyze issues, select candidates, groom them, and support them with money and campaign workers.

What does NWPC look for in candidates? Support of ERA and of public funding for abortion and child care, State and local caucuses may add other criteria pertaining to their specific situations.

This is a very difficult year. "There is an insanity afoot and it's coming to haunt us. Multimillionaire preachers who mesmerize people and empty their pockets are telling them of the evils of many things. Feminism is one of these things and it is opposed in the name of the 'family.' " (continued on page 11)
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<td>Listen to Women's Music for Everybody, KAZU, 1-4, then renew your subscription to Demeter.</td>
<td>Demeter workshop for volunteers, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Public Library</td>
<td>Veterans Day</td>
<td>Demeter Productions meeting, 7:30 p.m., southeast Monterey Cady Stanton born 1815</td>
<td>Reilly &amp; M5nroy concert, 8 p.m., New Mission Ranch</td>
<td>Monterey County Courthouse, Women's music, KAZU, 12:30-3</td>
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<td>Listen to women's music on KAZU, 1-4, then buy a ticket to the Meg Christian concert</td>
<td>Demeter deadline for &lt;$00, Deadline for basketball registration for Demeter teams</td>
<td>&quot;How to Use Small Claims Court,&quot; 7-10 p.m., Multifamily Housing</td>
<td>Mary Anita Furie, author and painter, born 1842</td>
<td>NWPCA meeting, 7:30 p.m, Mothering Skills class, 10 a.m., Family Resource Center</td>
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<td>Women's music, KAZU, 1-4</td>
<td>Call your mother</td>
<td>Carrie Nation, temperance leader, born 1846</td>
<td>Sarah Grimke, abolitionist, born 1837</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Meg Christian concert, Steinbeck Forum, Mry. Conference Center, 8 p.m</td>
<td>Demeter t-shirts make great Christmas gifts!</td>
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<td>Women's music, KAZU, 1-4</td>
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**November 2023**

- **Monday, November 6**: Anita McGee, founder of Army Nursing Corps, born 1864.
- **Tuesday, November 7**: Veterans Day, Abigail Adams born 1744.
- **Wednesday, November 8**: Preparatory Childbirth film, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Public Library.
- **Thursday, November 9**: Achi Childbirth class, 7-10 p.m., UFM.
- **Friday, November 10**: Hartnell Women's Center opening, 11:2-4 p.m, Monterey Conference Center.
- **Saturday, November 11**: Demeter workshop for volunteers, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Public Library.
- **Sunday, November 12**: Women's Music for Everybody, KAZU, 1-4.
Photos By
Carolyn Dunn
The White Album — Two Views


The White Album by Joan Didion is a collection of essays written about America in the 1960s with a cast of characters ranging from Doris Lessing and Georgia O’Keeffe to Huey Newton and Eldridge Cleaver.

Her intention, I believe, was to write witty insights into the ironies and events of the 1960s. Instead, what we have here is a book full of cliches and shallow analysis. Didion is a detached observer with little compassion for the turmoil of the ’60s or the people who had to survive them. To her, Huey Newton was simply “an autodidact for whom all things specific and personal present themselves as minefields to be avoided even at the cost of coherence.”

Each person and event, though done cleverly, is too harshly criticized and summed up in pat little phrases.

The most offensive chapter is one called “The Women’s Movement,” nine pages in all. My book’s margins are scribbled with a heated, running debate to each paragraph in this chapter.

Didion devotes a page to sarcastic exaggerations of some of the injustices to women: “she (a woman) was persecuted by even her gynecologist . . . raped on every date . . . enslaved by TV commercials . . . paid 3-10 times less than always an unqualified man and was embarrassed to appear in public with a man not her husband.” She then goes on to ask, “Why didn’t she get another gynecologist, another job, and why didn’t she just get out of bed and turn off the television. Nobody forces women to buy the package.”

And in this summation, Didion has bought the worst part of the package: the denial of herself as a woman and the alienation from her sisters. In this chapter she refers to women only as “she,” “they,” or “them” — never as “I,” “we,” or “us.” She is always the outsider, the smug know-it-all who is never a part of anything.

Didion’s style is self-indulgent. Her realizations are more unburdenings than enlightenments. She rarely looks below the surface, never gains the insights into real human emotions which make life interesting. As Didion says of herself, “You are getting a woman who for some time has felt radically separated from most of the ideas that seem to interest other people, a woman who misplaced whatever slight faith she had in the whole grand pattern of human endeavor.”

The White Album is neither a realistic view nor a nostalgic glimpse into America in the 1960s. It is more of a whitewash and a book to be missed.

—JT Mason

She is taking her own pulse in these pages, not just observing American styles and states of mind as she did in her first collection, Slouching Towards Bethlehem. In that book she looked at Americans, mostly Californians, and their 1960s “lifestyles.” She caught some imaginative truths about living at that time and in those places in America. For many of us who came of age during the ’60s, reading Joan Didion — for the insights of the essays, for the spirit of anomie in the novels — was part of surviving the decade. But The White Album is mellower than Slouching Towards Bethlehem. Didion ranges more widely.

Didion writes in an intense and agitated style. She gets inside her subjects, connects with them, with herself, with the reader. This collection of essays is not mainly about society, the ’60s or the California style, but it forces us to go back and look again, look hard, not just at the ’60s, not just at California, but at everything around us. All of the essays manifest not only her intelligence, but an instinct for details that continue to emit pulsations in the reader’s memory and a style that is sparse and exact. Add to these her highly vulnerable sense of herself and the result is a voice like no other in contemporary journalism. (I must admit, though, to some doubts about her vulnerability. Is it an affectation and a part of her strategy as a writer?)

She is an alert and subtle observer, giving us bizarre details. In these pieces the players of the late ’60s and early ’70s come back in vivid craziness: Hell’s Angels, Jim Morrison of the Doors, Huey Newton, Bishop Pike, Charles Manson.

For me, newly arrived here, no one, not even Evelyn Waugh, has written better about the state of mind that is California. I like Didion for her precision and for a talent she isn’t usually credited with: she’s funny, a deadpan comedian.

On the rare occasions when she allows herself to enter into the limelight, vanity ruffles her style — as when she complains of the indignities she endures as a literary star or when she describes her migraine headaches as if their pain and the aura that precedes them might mark her as one of a visionary elect — but this is a small flaw in an elegant collection.

—Joan Weiner

Salute to Political Women —
(continued from page 7)

Mitgang, a lawyer in private practice in Oakland and the mother of three teenagers (“having three adolescents in the house at one time may be the best training for dealing with the political system,” she commented), summarized the experience of NWPC and NOW in working together at the Democratic National Convention.

It proved, she said, that to get results “you have to be willing to take risks, you have to be hard-nosed and not worry if people are going to like you.” Many women have been taught that “if you’re not nice, nothing will be given to you,” and “if you are nice, you don’t have to do anything.”

Neither is true. “No one is going to give us equality. We’re looking at real power and it’s a matter of taking charge of our lives.”

Honored at the reception were 12 women currently holding elected office in Monterey County including various city councilors, school boards, the airport and water management boards, the county board of supervisors, and the mayor of Soledad.

—Polly Parker

(continued from page 7)
West Coast Women’s Music Festival

The First Annual West Coast Women’s Music and Cultural Festival — what a mouthful to say. This herstory-making occasion brought women’s culture on a grand scale to many hungry for such an event. It was a celebration for an estimated 3,000 women.

The festival, held Sept. 26-28 at Mather Camp, a few miles outside of Yosemite, was filled with good weather, a beautiful location and lots of warm energy. During the day, women basked in the sun as workshops and concerts were going on. By night, there was a forest of women and trees, a golden moon, a star filled sky and the sound of music in the air. It was a very romantic setting.

The room and board was more than satisfying. Cabins had plenty of room and there was an abundance of tent space. The vegetarian meals prepared by women from Moonrise Cafe in Santa Rosa and volunteers were wholesome but not altogether appealing to those not used to such a diet.

Upon arrival, registration was handled and women were asked to volunteer for two-hour-a-day workshops. Constant requests for volunteers in the kitchen, childcare and security were being made from main stage. Because of the dedication of a relatively small group of women, things did appear to run smoothly.

The festival did not lack negative energy. There were some problems with the sound as well as political conflicts. Issues were childcare, the presence of male children, women of color and the physically challenged.

Of main focus was the controversy over male children being present. The first concert set was stated as being women-only space and male children playing in the area were asked to leave. This brought on dissension from audience members. Robin Tyler and Torie Osborn, co-producers of the festival, in respect to differing feelings, opened up the main stage microphone to allow women to voice their opinions.

Alix Dobkin, the first performer and strong advocate of women-only space, had already stated her opinion. One by one, women approached the stage and related their feelings: a mother felt the need to leave since her son was not wanted; a 12-year-old girl was disappointed that her younger brother is often excluded because he’s male; many spoke to the need of including males so that they may learn from women; a member of Izquierda Ensemble, also a mother, explained that she leaves her son lovingly and having women-only space gives her strength to return to the society she lives in and at the same time teaches her son to respect her space.

The issue of women of color was not as blatant as that of male children. Many Bay Area women of color did not attend for various reasons: fee was out of their budget; unable to carpool; unable to afford being away for three days and because of racist remarks made by one of the festival producers prior to the festival. Women of color were but a handful when J Casselberry asked all sisters of color to stand during her set.

There was lots of activity to partake of. Scheduled workshops covered a variety of subjects. Margaret Sloan, black lesbian feminist, led two excellent workshops — Sex and Dykes, a sharing of fears, fantasies and frustrations, and Racism, ways for white women to examine and deal with their racism.

Z Budapest, witch and feminist author, leading a workshop in which participants were to perform an ancient meeting dance, was disappointing as she spoke in generalizations with a humor that was reminiscent of a standup comic and evangelist combined.

Other workshop leaders included Charlotte Bunch, Feminism in the '80s; Dorothy Healy, Surviving as a Radical for 50 Years and Beyond; Emily Culpepper, Menstruation; Karlene Faith, Escape Artists; Breaking Out of Prison — Developing a Feminist Ethic, plus many more.

For many, entertainment was the main attraction to the festival. Feminist films were available for viewing each night. Open mike performances, set amid a grove of trees, offered continuous music daily til midnight, except during scheduled main stage concerts.

The main stage, set in a natural coliseum of trees, hosted the more nationally known performers. They included Casselberry-Dupree, a duo out of San Francisco, a favorite with their dynamic style; Terry Garwhaithe, our hot rocker; Izquierda Ensemble, a blend of harmonious voices with a jazz, rock and Latin rhythm; Woody Simmons, love her music with her down home style; Andrea Floyd, a wonderful folk singer; Teresa Trull and Julie Homie, a rocking singer with a fine pianist; Jill Rose and band; Dovida Ishatova (Goodwoman); Silvia Kohan; Gwen Avery; Sally Gearhart; Alix Dobkin; Nicholas, Glover & Wray; Pat Parker and Alive — they are so . . . Alive, as they weave through the final concert audience with the rhythm of their percussion.

The festival was joyous for some and wonderful for others. There was a sharing of energy as well as names and addresses. The feelings can be best felt by the words of a woman present:

— Aly Kim

Women
All these women
Walking free
Chests in the sun
We gather
The tribes
To gain our strength
To show ourselves
To share
We break bread
Swim the cool lake
Listen to angel's voices
Echo through the many trees
We raise our voices
In song
In discussion
We raise our voices
To the trickster
To maya
And with the universal om
We bring blessings
To the food that nourishes us all

Sisters 3000 strong
Rejoice and celebrate
Our different ways
Until we scatter once more
Beneath the jeweled night sky
Carrying with us
A piece of the new land

— bb
UN Conference for Women

Copenhagen: Two Conferences—Two Worlds

(Editors Note: Rosemary Matson of Carmel Valley attended the United Nations World Conference for Women as an observer for The International Association for Religious Freedom and co-led workshops on Women and Religion at the parallel NGO Forum. This is the first of two articles giving her impressions of the Copenhagen experience.)

"The condition of women has improved slightly in a few areas, and while the issue of women's rights has gained recognition internationally, little actual change has occurred in women's lives."

This assessment of the status of women by Secretary-General Lucille Mair was brought to delegates of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in Copenhagen in July. Two thousand delegates had been appointed by their governments in 145 countries and four liberation movements.

They were to assess what progress had been made in improving the situation of women during the first half of the decade and determine what obstacles were still hindering the implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted at the 1975 Mexico City Conference.

Added to the conference agenda were two special situations of women in crisis, i.e., women under apartheid in South Africa and the plight of Palestinian women refugees. Delegates had 18 days in which to hammer out a Program of Action.

A shuttle bus linked the official conference at the brand-new airy Bella Center with the less formal, lively grass-roots non-governmental forum at Copenhagen University. We also registered at this parallel conference, along with 8,022 women and some men from 187 countries: 3,347-Denmark; 2,097-Europe (excluding Denmark); 952-North America; 836-Asia and the Pacific; 357-Latin America; 245-Africa; 147-Middle East; and 41-Caribbean.

Each day we chose to attend either the official proceedings at Bella Center or to take in some of the 200 events offered at the Forum. At the Forum we found workshops, panels, demonstrations, briefings, rallies, marches and walk-outs. Wall-to-wall exhibits in the halls proclaimed messages on every issue related to women around the world.

Workshops and panels dealt with the myriad aspects of existence that touch half the earth's population: rural women in underdeveloped countries, women and water, women as refugees, as political prisoners, sexual slavery, genital mutilation, women under apartheid, violence in the family, abuse of elders, wages for housework, peace, health, the right to choose, population planning, the family, illiteracy, hunger, legal rights, poverty, employment, etc.

We joined women exchanging information and experiences, exploring new ideas, sometimes creating fresh solutions to old problems and constantly encountering different perspectives.

Most valuable was the opportunity we had to meet women from other lands and cultures and begin to shed our own stereotypes and prejudices. We made new friends and exchanged addresses. Networking was in full swing.

Periodically, we dutifully took the shuttle bus to Bella Center to "observe" the progress of the official conference. As the first week passed, it became obvious that the official delegates did not represent "women" but rather represented their male-dominated governments and their policies regarding women.

It was called "show and tell time" as delegates from various countries told of the good things their governments were doing for women. These reports were contradicted by women delegates themselves in off-the-record comments and by women at the forum who described experiences of quite a different nature. This included us, as we were keenly aware that women in the United States have yet to achieve constitutional equality and the female poor are still discriminated against. We were embarrassed to admit that some of the UN Human Rights conventions (i.e., genocide, racial discrimination, political and civil rights, and economic, social, and cultural rights) have never been ratified by the U.S.

We discovered these documents have been gathering dust over the years in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. There is now a new UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. How will we ever get this global ERA ratified by our country?

The U.S. delegation of 34 women and five men appointed by President Carter was headed by Sarah Weddington, Special Assistant to the President, and UN Ambassador Donald McHenry.

The held daily briefings for U.S. NGOs, reporting on how they felt the (continued on page 15)
The Cactus and the Sea Anenome

For years I lay hidden behind a shield of cactus spines
Alone in a vapid desert, arid, where no liquids flowed.
Dormant, no life, no lust, untouchable, untouched.
A porous shell of fibres lubricated by the stingiest of juices.
Stiff, unbending extremities parched and crustlike
Flaking off into the dustbowl of my soul.

But now at forty-three what is left of me
Has found the me in me, the sea anenome.
I have known a woman's love and my niche is now complete.
My once crustlike extremities have come alive
And now wave and caress the liquids of love.
Seeking, feeling, flowing, throbbing in the depths.

Every nerve ending so tender to the touch
At once responds and wraps itself around life.
I feed upon the waters. I take them in and give them back.
I am a creature of a thousand tingling tongues
Darting to and fro with electric-like shocks
Of pleasure, swirling softly in waves of unending inundation.

—eja

Venus in Scorpio

How many times have I left
knowing your smile
would re-enter my life?
Lunar rhythms whisper of our faithless existence
a heart opens slowly
allowing only short silent sighs:
I fight against this loving you,
moment by moment
Passion streams through my blood
stalking slow secret destruction.
Only midnight moonlight falls
across your waiting mouth
expecting the inevitable return.

How often have we lain this way
lost in sheets white as drifting clouds?
Beneath the tears my lips linger
to caress our heartbeats
Fated to become a quiet memory.

Laurel Hepburn

Soul Space

Over here is an empty space
It's big, round, red, rough on the edges
Edges which form tentacles
And reach in, searching, searching
For what will fill this empty place
But they can't reach 3,000 miles.
And the space is a vacuum
(And the vacuum implodes.)

Over here is a tight space,
behind my heart, in my soul.

—Nancy Hendryx

(bicycling)

flying, flying high, two feet above the ground
Cruising, sailing rhythmically
An easy pace, legs and feet
forgotten
ears mercifully numbed
for awhile
But eyes, with time take in
what they wish
And nose, ready for whatever
scents, odors, stenches and aromas
rise up to tickle or prick its nostrils.

All fly four feet above the ground.

—Nancy Hendryx
When Shakespeare wrote his immortal lines about the unimportance of a name ("that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet"), he no doubt was not concerning himself with the title (and corresponding stigma) that precedes a person's name.

I recently perused 70 application forms, subscription stubs, and membership lists for various organizations. I found the most common format for title selection to include the following options: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms. What idiocy.

I remember how pleased I was when the title Ms. was first developed. It seemed the natural and intelligent solution to all inequities regarding titles. At least, women were no longer compelled to reveal their marital status simply by virtue of announcing their names.

So what happened? Where did it go wrong? Instead of simplifying the issue, we have added yet another label for categorizing women. Thus there are now three options; each equipped with corresponding definitions: Mrs. (a married woman), Miss (an unmarried woman, usually middle-aged and conservative, who accepts this status gracefully), Ms. (an unmarried feminist).

But the classifying system I despise most is the one that is the second most prevalent form used today. This is the one that limits women's titles to a choice between Mrs. and Ms. The reason I loathe this form so much is because the labeling assumptions reach their ultimate prejudicial height. Mrs. stands for a married woman, and Ms. means a single or divorced woman who does not want this fact to be generally known.

I don't need to be told that there are some married women who prefer to be referred to as Mrs. rather than Ms. Many of them regard the word Mrs. as a symbol of achieving a goal. They are proud of the fact that they have "earned" such a title.

The question then arises as to whether they have a right to use the word Mrs. rather than Ms. Well, to this I say that there are probably many men out there who are equally proud of their marital status, but they do not assume such classifications in their correspondence. They are simply Mr. (definition: a man).

Thus, in the interest of equality, I feel that a woman's marital status has no place in her title. If she wants to privately mention her marital status in offhand conversations with friends in her spare time, that is just fine, and she should certainly be entitled to do so.

There are other reasons for eliminating titles reflecting marital status. There are widowed and divorced women for whom use of the word Mrs. is inaccurate. There are also married women who are continuing to use their birth name. What should their title be?

The solution, then, is to allow the undesirable titles to become obsolete through disuse. It is extremely important for all of us to refer to ourselves as Ms. at all times. Furthermore, if we receive correspondence with a different label, it is important to notify the person or company responsible, and request that it be changed. If the Miss and Mrs. titles become sufficiently unpopular, they no doubt will be discontinued. Then at last the title Ms. will be moved into its deserved place of importance instead of simply being used as a synonym for "single." All things considered, it's about time.

UN Conference—
(continued from page 13)

The conference was going and listening to our concerns. They also explained our State Department's position on certain issues and justified how they intended to vote.

The conference ended with the United States voting against the final Program of Action. The United States, Israel, Canada and Australia opposed two of the 218 points of the program. One equated Zionism with racism and sexism and another stated that UN funds to help Palestinian women should be allocated "in consultation and cooperation" with the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

These last two amendments culminated efforts of a few countries to politicize the conference and pull it away from its original purpose of concern for women's issues.

(Next month, Part 2: The Global Era; Challenging Patriarchal Vision; Bella Abzug: "Women in Politics"; Betty Friedan: "Feminism: Stage II")

—Rosemary Matson
We Need Money!

Nobody likes to ask for money, but due to expenses incurred in our recent move, we are in immediate need of cash contributions to pay our printing bill this month in order to keep our fine magazine circulating, the women's music coming and our rent paid. If anyone wishes to make a donation of any amount, our address is 229 17th St., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

A Continuing Series

Feminism — A Personal Perspective

‘A Message From Mom’

The following letter was received by one of our readers

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Women Speak Out

Humanity has been held to a limited and distorted view of itself — from its interpretation of the most intimate of personal emotions to its grandest vision of human possibilities — precisely by virtue of its subordination of women.

— Jean Baker Miller

Arriving at a feminist perspective is a profoundly personal experience. The process forces one to re-examine many unquestioned customs and relationships. Feminism helps women realize they have a right to make many more choices than society commonly permits. Through Demeter we hope in some way to reach every woman. Each month a woman will be writing a chronicle of the process she went through in becoming a feminist. We encourage others to send in their own accounts of their emergence as feminists.

Hello Darling, Aug. 19, 1980

I surely hope that you are okay. Your brother is keeping busy. Looks like he may have to become once again active in the union. I would love to hear from you. A lot of things are happening. I have never really needed a good book in my life but most of them are chicken s, which is bad news. I recently met a woman on a flight, it seems as though we have a relationship. I went out with her last night to a restricted women's bar. There was another woman there, somewhat "taken back" by the presence of another woman. She seems to be very honest, etc. — Love You,

Message from Mom

Jean Baker Miller

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