HELP FOR THE DISPLACED HOMEMAKER

Project Worth in Salinas

Self-Reliant Education is a community development project based at De Anza College in Sunnyvale. Its purpose is to assess the needs of six Northern California communities and to develop programs to meet those needs. One such community is Salinas.

In October of 1979, Donna Elder, a field representative for Self-Reliant Education, organized a town hall meeting in Salinas to prioritize the specific needs of that community and to decide what services were lacking.

From this meeting the Community Site Council was formed with the job of focusing on one specific area and designing a program to meet that need.

The area they chose was women in transition, especially the needs of displaced homemakers.

In February of 1980, a pilot program was started which laid the foundation for Project Worth. The program was run by CETA-eligible displaced homemakers. Elder explained, “We had a strong commitment to reach out to these women where they were, in their homes or at neighborhood centers. Remember, as a target group, women who have been out of the job market tend to feel isolated and need more personal support in this period of transition. I think we were very successful in this.”

Another objective for this pilot program was to secure additional funding so that Project Worth could be set up as a Monterey County project.

Through funding from the Mott Foundation, the Valley Guild, CETA Title 2-B, and individual donations, Project Worth began October 1.

Project Worth (Winning Opportunities for Retraining the Homemaker) seeks to provide a bridge of information, emotional and limited financial support to displaced homemakers.

Rosalie Howlett, project coordinator for Project Worth, describes a displaced homemaker as “a woman who must become the primary earner in the family because of a loss of income from public assistance or from a person who had supported her. This is a huge transition to make. We want to help her make it by offering counseling and support.”

Project Worth is an affiliate of CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) and in order to be enrolled in the project, one must also be enrolled in the CETA program. This applies only where financial aid is concerned.

According to Donna Elder, “Project Worth is the only program under CETA that focuses on women. This is extremely important when you con-
Fighting the 59¢ Wage Gap

Equal Pay for Comparable Jobs

This case “... is pregnant with the possibility of disrupting the entire economic system of the United States of America. I’m not going to restructure the entire economy of the U.S.” With that statement a U.S. District Court judge threw out a suit recently brought by nurses in Denver who were being paid less than tree trimmers and painters employed by the city.

The issue surrounding this defensive posture is that of comparable worth.

Twenty-five years ago women earned an average of 62 cents for every dollar a man earned. Since then the Equal Pay Act, guaranteeing equal pay for equal work, was passed in 1963. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act followed a year later making it illegal for employers of 15 or more people to discriminate on the basis of race or sex in hiring and promoting.

Yet, despite what the news media would like us to believe about women in the work force, this legislation has had little positive effect on women’s earnings. According to the most Department of Labor statistics, women today earn 59 cents for every dollar a man earns.

The main reason that women’s earnings have not improved in the 18 years since the passage of the Equal Pay Act is occupational segregation. Equal pay for equal work doesn’t affect the wages of the majority of women in the paid labor force when most are in “pink collar” jobs. Establishing a policy of equal pay for work requiring comparable skills and responsibility would help to eliminate the wage gap because wages could be compared across occupations.

By keeping women in the occupationally segregated jobs of the “pink ghetto” equal pay for equal work will remain ineffective.

Determining comparable worth means evaluating objectively each job classification to determine the level of skill required. Paying equal for jobs of comparable worth would cut across jobs occupationally segregated by sex to reduce the wage gap between women and men.

Standards for setting wages, hiring and firing in the pink collar ghetto are set in a labor market separate from traditional male occupations. As an example, when shortages have developed in fields of engineering or computer science, businesses have raised the wages to attract more people, primarily men, into the field. Despite chronic shortages of secretaries, businesses have stepped up promotional campaigns to direct more women into the field rather than raise wages. A more recent development is changing office technology to make secretaries obsolete and replace them with operators of word processing machines who can be trained in less than a day and monitored constantly.

Organizers around the country are studying comparable worth for its potential impact in reducing economic discrimination that results from occupational segregation. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 101 in San Jose is now bargaining with the city to get the city to pay employees equal pay for work of comparable value. The trustees of California’s university system have commissioned a comparable worth study of job evaluation and pay of university employees.

Higher education or more specialized training for women will not reduce the wage gap significantly as long as businesses can find ways to segregate women in the labor force in order to pay them less. Comparable worth is a way of making occupational segregation unprofitable and hence less useful for management.

The Comparable Worth Project, a legal, educational and organizing project in Oakland, publishes a monthly newsletter and is available for more information. They may be reached at 488 41st St., No. 5, Oakland, CA 94609, (415) 658-1808.

Lois Van Beers

Graphic by Gerrica Connolly

New Subscribers

Thanks and welcome to our new subscribers:

Viola Bernardo
Frances Gorman
Patricia Earhart
Sherrie Tucker
Beerman-Bodine
Donna Ziel

Molly Lynch
Carolyne West
Marilyn Doyle
Paule Simonnet
Betty Harley

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.
**Community News and Events**

**Bicycle Trip**
An overnight bicycle trip is being planned for February 14 and 15 to Sunset Beach State Park, where bikers will camp (fee 50 cents). Distance to the park is about 25 miles. There will be a bike repair and tune-up seminar on Saturday, Feb. 7, 1-4 p.m. Call for location or more information: Nancy, 649-3024 or Diana, 372-6054.

**Cabrillo Women's Week**
Women's Week, "Survival in the '80s," will be held March 2-5 and is currently being planned at Cabrillo College. Women interested in participating or making a presentation can call the Cabrillo Women's Center between 10 a.m. and noon, 425-6249.

**Lesbian Couples Workshop**
A two-day workshop for lesbian couples will be facilitated by Meryl McNew and Jacqueline Somma in Santa Cruz on Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, March 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The workshop will focus on learning to balance intimacy with autonomy by improving communication, developing fair-fighting skills and nurturing. Limit six couples. Advance registration required, sliding scale fee. Call James McNew and Jacqueline Somma in San Francisco, Sunday, March 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Rape Crisis**
The Rape Crisis Center will train advocates for the crisis line beginning February 24. Training is completed in five sessions, totaling 18 hours. Both day and evening sessions are available. For further information, call the center at 373-3955 or 373-3655.

**NWPC**
The National Women's Political Caucus will hold its general meeting Thursday, February 19 at 7:30 p.m. Call 373-5193 for more information.

**Planned Parenthood**
Planned Parenthood continues its weekly contraceptive clinics. Call for an appointment in Salinas, Monterey or Soledad. No appointment is needed for pregnancy testing. Call for hours.

**Cafe Balthazar**
Drawings by Kate Elvin continue on display through February 16. The Cafe Balthazar, a women-owned business, is located at 170 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove.

**League of Women Voters**

**YWCA**

**Notes From Demeter**

- **Our recent benefit performance by the Allegre String Trio was a success. The music was beautiful, the setting lovely, and we raised enough money to pay our landlord, phone bill and printer this month. Thanks to everyone who supported us and especially to the musicians.**

- **Oops! Last month we printed an article on Women Against Domestic Violence and Personal Advocacy. We goofed and credited the wrong author. That article, and a fine one it is, was written by Ronna Zinn Elliott. Please accept our apologies and submit more articles!**

- **Next fund raising event is a women's dance scheduled for Valentine's Day, February 14 at Jack's Peak. Admission is $3, to benefit Demeter. BYOB, refreshments will be served. Maps are available at the Y and at the Women's Center.**

- **The Demeter office is in need of a large bulletin board. If you have one to donate, give us a call at 375-5629.**

- **Several subscribers have complained recently about not getting their copies in the mail. Because of our third class postage rate, the Post Office will not forward Demeter. Please keep us informed of your current address.**

- **On February 15 at the Pacific Center in Berkeley, there will be an all-day workshop on antisemitism for Jewish lesbians only. Fees are on a sliding scale. For further information about this or future events relevant to Jewish women, call Suzanne Judith at 649-6065.**

- **A community education program entitled "Marvin vs. Marvin: Legal Planning for Unmarried Couples" will be offered by the Monterey Law Center on Tuesday, February 10, 7 p.m. at the Monterey Public Library. Legal aspects of living together will be discussed, including joint and separate property, cohabitation contracts, and inheritance rights. The program is open to the public at no charge. For information or to reserve a place, call 373-3301.**

- **Women's Exercise Group — six-week series geared toward mid-life, out-of-shape women. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon at the New Monterey Neighborhood Center, 280 Dickman. Fee: $6. Led by Suzanne Judith.**

- **Basketball practice is held every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. in the small gym at Monterey High School. Membership in the Y is required for all of the above programs. Non-members add $10 to fee to cover membership in the Y for one year. For more information, call 649-0834.**
Community News and Events

Family Service Agency
The Family Service Agency offers several ongoing workshops:
- Couples, Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.
- What Will I Do Now?, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.
- Making Singleness Work, Mondays, 7-9 p.m.
- Letting Go Of Your Adolescent, Tuesdays starting Feb. 3, 7-9 p.m.
- For Women Only, designed for women over 60, Thursdays, Feb. 5-26, 2-3:30 p.m.
- Mixed Therapy, Tuesdays starting Feb. 10, 5-7 p.m.

There will be a weekend marathon for individuals and couples interested in doing intensive group work in a setting away from home, Friday, Feb. 20 at 5 p.m. through Sunday, Feb. 22 at 1 p.m., at Pajaro Dunes. Fee is $200 which includes food and lodging.
Call 373-4421 for more information on any of the above.

Dance
There will be a women's dance February 14 at 8:30 p.m. at Jack's Peak. The dance will be a benefit for Demeter. Admission is $3. BYOB, refreshments will be served. Maps are available at the Demeter office and at the YWCA.

Concert
KAZU, listener supported radio, will present Reilly and Maloney in concert at the Mission Ranch in Carmel on Sunday, February 22 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at The Open Book in Pacific Grove, Do Re Mi in Carmel, and at KAZU.

Softball
On Thursday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m., there will be an organizational meeting for anyone wishing to play socko or fast pitch softball for the Demeter team. The meeting will be held in our office, 229 17th St., Pacific Grove. Everyone is welcome to come regardless of previous experience.

Any Woman Can...
The fourth annual "Any Woman Can..." political workshop will be held all day Saturday, March 7 at MPC. The workshop is sponsored by the National Women's Political Caucus of Monterey County, the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women, the Monterey Peninsula YWCA and Salinas branches of the League of Women Voters and the YWCA of the Monterey Peninsula.
This year's program is entitled "Any Woman Can... Have Political Impact." For more information, call 373-5193.

Child Abuse Council
Karen Camp, therapist with the child sexual abuse treatment program, will offer a group for women who were molested as children. The group will meet at the Family Resource Center, 500 Hilby, Seaside, on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Call Karen, 394-2100, for starting date. For child care reservations, call 394-4622.

Woody Simmons In Concert Feb. 7

On Saturday, February 7 at 8 p.m. Women's Works will present Woody Simmons in concert at Kresge Town Hall on the UC Santa Cruz campus. This is a rare opportunity to see a warm and special performer.
Woody has released two albums on her label, Deep River Records. The first, Oregon Mountains, showed off her skills as a banjo and guitar player, especially on "Suite for the Wings" and "Banjo Raga." It is a delightful album which speaks to the heartfelt and simple pleasures of life.

With her second release, appropriately titled Woody Simmons, she expands her talents not only as a musician, composer and singer, but adds to them the skills of engineer, producer and arranger. This album is a much more complex work. There is more instrumentation enhanced by a variety of backup musicians and vocalists.

The style of music on Woody Simmons ranges from upbeat funk to love ballads ending with a guitar and banjo piece called "Trolley Car" that is perfect for a square dance stomp.

My favorite song, "Who'll Save the Animals," vividly depicts the horrors that animals go through in our science laboratories, circuses and zoos. The lyrics along with the haunting melody wrench the heart.

Woody Simmons is a versatile and talented woman and her albums are true delights.

Tickets for the Santa Cruz concert are priced on a sliding scale of $5, $6 or $7 and are on sale at The Open Book in Pacific Grove and The Wizard of Aud in Santa Cruz.

For more information and to make child care reservations, call 462-2363.

-JT Mason
Local and National News Briefs

Compiled from Her Say

Human Life Amendment Around the Corner?

A human life amendment to the Constitution now stands a much better chance than the Equal Rights Amendment of being passed.

Mother Jones magazine reports that out of 34 states needed to call a constitutional convention, 19 have already passed resolutions to convene a convention on the human life amendment.

That amendment would declare a fetus a legal person and could make women who have abortions murderers.

To amend the US Constitution, either two-thirds majority of both houses of Congress must pass the amendment, which would then have to be ratified by the states, as is the case with the ERA, or three-fourths of the state legislatures can call for a constitutional convention, at which time the amendment would be introduced and likely passed.

Although no constitutional convention has been held since 1787, Mother Jones says if conservative forces in the US continue to push out more liberal and moderate legislators in the 1982 Congressional elections, the human life amendment stands a good chance of becoming law through a constitutional convention by 1983.

The magazine says, in effect, that the ERA, with the election of Ronald Reagan to the presidency, is dead. Three more states are needed to ratify the ERA by 1982 for the amendment to become law — a prospect which now seems unlikely.

Trend That Never Was

Reports that young women are becoming more conservative about their roles in life are actually part of a "trend that never was."

That's according to Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman.

Goodman explains that such reports were spawned by a New York Times article, which claimed that 77 percent of 3,000 college women surveyed said either that mothers should not work outside the home at all, or only work part-time until their children were five years old.

Goodman points out, however, that the statistics were gathered back in the period from 1976-78. Furthermore, she says, the statistics actually show a mixed reaction that can be read in several ways. The results could also be interpreted to show, Goodman says, that 66 percent of the students feel women should not be at home full-time, or that 50 percent thought part-time jobs were the best solution.

"But in no way," says Goodman, "can you read this statistic as a trend backwards."

Will NCAA 'Dominate' Women's Sports?

Members of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women say they are concerned that the National Collegiate Athletic Association will now dominate women's sports.

The NCAA, long the leading governing body of men's intercollegiate sports, voted last week to adopt legislation to integrate women into the NCAA structure.

The NCAA is proposing introducing college women's championships in its Division I — the big football and basketball schools.

Donna Lopiano, president of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, says, "The handwriting's on the wall. The NCAA has committed itself to running women's athletics."

Lopiano says the NCAA could now control women's athletics and, in effect, wipe out the women's sports organization.

Legal Update

The California Supreme Court, in an unprecedented decision, has ruled that a father has no automatic right to give his child his last name. The ruling over-turns hundreds of years of common law going back to King Henry VIII of England. The five-to-two decision reversed a trial court ruling that Patricia C. Herdman had no right to give her child her birth name after she was divorced.

Male Children May Prevent Divorces

Do male children prevent divorce? That's what some researchers are claiming.

Paul C. Glick, senior demographer for the US Census Bureau, says, "If a woman has at least some boys, the marriage is more likely to stay together. The biggest plus seems to be two boys; the biggest minus, two girls."

Glick bases his theory on national statistics gathered between 1975 and 1978. His ideas are supported by Mavis Heatherington, a researcher who chairs the psychology department at the University of Virginia.

Heatherington theorizes that fathers have greater emotional investments in their sons than in their daughters, and are more reluctant to leave their male offspring.

She admits, however, "We really don't have hard evidence" to support such a theory.

Women in the Symphony

A woman's place is in the symphony — in St. Louis, at least.

Thirty-two of the St. Louis Symphony's 80 musicians are female. That's the highest proportion of female performers in any of the country's 12 major orchestras.

This may have something to do with the orchestra's hiring practices. Music Director Leonard Slatkin says his organization works hard to make sure musicians are hired for their ability, and not their sex.

Slatkin says musicians audition for the orchestra by playing their instruments behind a screen. He says the screen is set in a carpeted area, so that "You can't tell whether the job candidate is wearing high heels or sneakers."

"As far as women players are concerned, it's their musical measurements we're interested in, not the usual ones."
Peninsula Loses Notable Women

Last month three noteworthy women, each one unique in achievement and style, died on the Monterey Peninsula. It seems fitting to present highlights from recent news stories about them as an acknowledgement of their contributions and in tribute to their lives.

Dorothy Detzer Denny

Renowned pacifist Dorothy Detzer Denny was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1893. Her childhood idol was Alice Hamilton, daughter of a neighboring family, who was working at Hull House in Chicago with Jane Addams while attending college, and who would later become a pioneer in industrial medicine and the first woman faculty member at Harvard Medical School.

It was as the guest of Alice Hamilton that the 11-year-old Dorothy first visited Hull House and resolved to return there and work on behalf of the dispossessed immigrants nearby whose dreams had led them to America only to be trapped in grinding poverty and the exploitation of sweat shops and stock yards.

While still a teenager she entered Hull House and served with the Chicago Juvenile Protection Association. After World War I, recommended by Jane Addams to the Quakers’ overseas relief organization, she went to Vienna where she was responsible for feeding thousands of starving mothers and children.

Later in the Siberian section of the newly-formed Soviet Union, she and associate relief workers for the American Friends Service Committee struggled to alleviate devastating famine and deprivation.

In 1923 she became American Secretary of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, and for the next 25 years traveled, lectured, and lobbied for peace. During this time she mobilized women for legislative action, inspired a Congressional investigation of the munitions industry, and was instrumental in getting a woman appointed to the U.S. delegation at the 1932 Geneva Disarmament Conference.

Following her retirement she married Ludwell Denny, foreign editor of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain, and in 1969 they moved to the Monterey Peninsula. In 1976 she was honored at the American Historical Association’s annual meeting, the first woman to be so honored. Her later years were spent assisting researchers with documentation of the events in which she had played a part and to which she had brought a rare blend of wit, elegance, and dramatic flair.

Dr. Betty Schuck Davis

Another gallant worker, this time in the field of science and conservation, was Dr. Betty Schuck Davis. A specialist in parasitology and protozoology, she and her husband joined the staff of the Hastings Natural History Reservation in upper Carmel Valley in 1953.

There she held an appointment as research fellow from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of UC-Berkeley and for several years was also an assistant research parasitologist for the Hooper Foundation of the UC-SF School of Medicine.

The recipient of many academic honors and author of numerous scientific papers, she gave generously of herself as an environmental advisor to local and regional districts on issues of wildlife protection, water quality, and land use. In addition, she served as executive secretary for friends of the Sea Otter and as chairperson of various task forces for the Sierra Club.

Active in opposing the PG & E tanker port expansion at Moss Landing, she led the successful campaign against the Army’s proposed use of pesticide 1080 at Hunter Liggett and Camp Roberts.

Her death at age 59 evoked tributes to her “tireless efforts to correct environmental wrongs,” and the statement that “every move she made was based on a philosophy and on meticulous scientific study.” Her philosophy reflected on her personal belief that “change is needed in human attitudes and values concerning wildlife. We must stop competing with nature and consider ourselves part of it before it is too late.”

Elmarie Hurlbert Dyke

Someone who moved in an entirely different milieu was Elmarie Hurlbert Dyke of Pacific Grove. While to many people she eventually came to personify the conventional American clubwoman, devoted to civic uplift, in the course of her 84 years she had blazed many a trail.

An early instance of her independence came in 1915, long before student strikes were part of the scene, when she led most of the students in her high school in a “walk-out” in protest against an administrative decision.

In those years she had been described as someone who “could sing an aria, dribble a basketball or fashion a table leg — probably all at once if she set her mind to it.”

Her first teaching job was in Sutter Creek where she shocked some inhabitants by riding in an open cockpit plane and hiking down into a mine shaft later the same day. When she returned to the Peninsula, she taught in Monterey rather than in Pacific Grove because authorities there objected to her bobbed hair.

In 1929 she began a thirty-year career with the county schools as a consultant in elementary education and kindergarten curriculum. She later...
Notable Women —

(Continued from Page 6)

served as state vice president of the California School Supervisors Association.

The first woman member of the Pacific Grove city council, she and her husband, druggist Clyde Dyke, founded the Monterey County Concert Association. She was a founder of the PG Chamber of Commerce, and an active member — often in a leadership capacity — of an incredible number of social, cultural, and philanthropic organizations at the local, state, and national level. During much of this time she was also running a business, directing a church choir, and taking on side projects like helping to redesign the state flag.

Asked about the source of her indomitable energy and exuberant good-will, she once told a Herald interviewer: "I find work exhilarating . . . I love life and believe that the greatest things are accomplished by people working in cooperation with each other."

The accomplishments and the spirit of these remarkable women is part of the legacy of us all.

—Polly Parker

Displaced Homemakers —

(Continued from Page 1)

tremely important when you consider the large number of women involved in the CETA program. Many of these women distrust the 'system' and need support in exploring all their options."

One way in which Project Worth offers women support is through its counselor, Alicia Vila-Chaponot. "When a woman comes to us, usually through CETA, I sit down with her and talk about her situation, her previous income, and her feelings about the recent changes in her life. Having assessed where she is we figure out the things she needs and where to get them.

"For instance, if she needs AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children), I help set up an appointment and give her a list of things she'll need such as birth certificate, social security number and driver's license. In some cases we offer financial aid for things like uniforms for work. We give encouragement and information and support while they go through this transition. The main idea of Project Worth is to help women so that they don't fall through the cracks in the system."

Project Worth sponsors two support groups. On Mondays from 11:30 to 12:30 there is an informal bring-your-own-lunch meeting at the Salinas office. On Wednesday, January 28, a five-series discussion group began. This group meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Fremont Room of the Salinas Community Center. Both groups are open to all women free of charge. Both allow women to share common concerns and problems with (re)entering the job market. Together they'll research options, clarify needs and interests and set goals.

"be able to expand our services to women before they are faced with an emergency. Many women do not have the experience or the training to enter the job market so that they are forced to rely on something or someone outside of themselves for simple survival. When that support suddenly ends that woman is faced with a crisis and Project Worth is there to help her. Ideally, I would like our services to be more readily available prior to that crisis."

Project Worth's main office is located at 984 Lupin Drive, No. 2 in Salinas, 758-1883. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is also an office at 1760 Fremont, E-1, in Seaside, 899-3774. Office hours at this location are Monday 1 through 5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

There is no accurate "profile" of a displaced homemaker. One thing is known — displaced homemakers comprise a large section of the population.

They don't belong to any particular age or ethnic group. Statistics show that 47 percent of women 35 and over are either divorced or widowed, and that by 1990 more than 95 percent of all women will be in the job market. Women can no longer afford to accept the myth that "if they play their cards right they'll be taken care of."

As the economy worsens, entering the job market, especially as a displaced homemaker, will become more difficult. Project Worth is there to make that transition easier. Whether you need a supportive listener, assistance in writing a resume, or someone to help you figure out the "system," Project Worth can help you.

—JT Mason
What does one do when one is 33 and unable or unwilling to take care of oneself?

Most people think that certainly by the age of 30 you should have it together at least enough to take care of yourself. But what if you don’t! Sandy McWilliams solved that problem with a .25 caliber automatic pistol. It worked. She does not have to take care of herself anymore (as far as I know).

It seems extreme, Sandy, to have gotten a gun and killed yourself — even if you did announce it beforehand. I wanted you to try harder! I wanted you to want to live; a couple of times I even thought you wanted to too. I can’t say “you had so much to live for.” What I saw in July after your last attempted suicide was pain, frustration, and rage turned inward.

When I met you, you wanted to fly — medically you couldn’t. You wanted to draw but seemed unable to work to support yourself while going to school. Damn it, why couldn’t you try harder woman? I miss you — even though I didn’t know how to relate to you. You affected my life . . . and still do.

Try now and find your peace.
—Carol Silverstone

Discipline starts with a “D.” So does Death.

Stop a few minutes and remember your mortality. Not a morbid submission to something unmentionable — Death. It’s really absurd to try and be profound about death. But I know that I met, and watched, and listened to (tried to talk to) a woman that I saw die; right before me. I didn’t actually see her cut her life-line. But I saw her and I HEARD HER.

At first — as one of us. Secondly — in Garden Pavillion. I heard her. I heard her go all the way down. And I know there are others of us who heard her.

To those of us who have pretty much (silently) shared Sandy’s very loud cry before she left I want to say I’m glad that we got to hear. Sandy McWilliams shared more than most of us ever have.

It’s not profound — just fact.
—Penny Van Gundy

For Sandy

Someone found your body the other day and now someone has identified, declared who you were, decided the .25 caliber pistol provided the means for suicide — all so statistical, mystery resolved, obsequies pending.

Not the whole story nor even a significant comment — nothing of the Sandy you were, wanted to be, might have been:

You changed your life deliberately several times these last years, made new beginnings, repudiated old mistakes, sought new friends, said you were ready to trust your romanticism to the reality of another’s life (at least briefly) yet disappointment was inevitable as fog.

When you drew hilarious cartoons on balloons, we photographed them: something surviving the debris of a thwarted journey to self-knowledge when you took a shortcut through a cypress grove near your old home six months ago.

—Suzy Sullens

Graphic by Gerrica Connolly
Spring Classes

The following classes of interest to women will be offered in the coming school session:

At MPC

"Women in Search" will be led by June Schwartz four consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning February 17, and on Saturday, March 7, 10-4 p.m. at MPC. Another section of this popular class will begin in March, on Monday evenings.

MPC is offering a new series of courses in its Women's Studies program. "Self-Image and Career Decision," beginning February 3, will explore the interplay of self-image and career decisions, with emphasis on freedom from sex-role limitations, enhancement of self-esteem, and increased options.

"Going Back to Work or School," the second class in the series, begins March 17. "Dealing With Stress" begins May 5 and continues until June 9.

Each class in this series meets 11:10 to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and can be taken separately for one credit or three credits for the series. Classes will be taught by Diana Case.

For further information or registration, refer to the MPC spring schedule or call 646-4000.

UFM

UFM, Monterey's Free University, will offer several classes and workshops of special interest to women. These include:

"Mothers Living Separate From Their Children," a one-day workshop, will be led by Diana Case on Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ms. Case is a counselor and non-custodial mother.

"Being Single — A New Look at Options," will be held Sunday, February 8 from 4 to 6 p.m.

"Being Your Own Guru" will be led by Diane Schleckman on Tuesdays, February 17 and 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

"Divorce Under California Law" will be led by Mark Starr on Wednesday, February 18 and 25, 7-9 p.m.

"Job Interviewing" will be led by Alicia O'Neill on Mondays, Feb. 23 and March 2, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

"Non-Traditional College Degree Programs" will be led by Jacqueline Somma on Friday evening, Feb. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

For more information on any of the UFM classes, call 373-2641.

Aspects of Feminist Astrology

Feminist astrology is directly linked with a matriarchal concept of time. Patriarchal society establishes and lives by a rigid externalized structure of invented time while a matriarchal system is lunar and cyclical. Rhythms of life celebrate our matriarchal heritage and the zodiac represents the heavenly cycles manifested on earth.

At this point in our culture we live in enforced and unnatural divisions of time imposed over our lives. Woman's time and man's time are two very different ways of life.

A lunar calendar is natural and female oriented. Living cyclically we tune in and know ourselves, empowering us to take responsibility for our bodies, necks and timing in the world. We become freed from a rigid artificial structure imposed from the outside and are able to pay attention to our own female needs and connectedness.

Other cultures have had and still experience very different notions of time: the Greeks had no week, and the Polynesians name their days by the position and shape of the moon. They have no concept of past or future — all time is now.

Moon goddess/priestess worship is an alternative form of reverence to all patriarchal religions which set men, to the exclusion of women (other than the Virgin Mary) as models of wisdom and peace. Male religion encourages and justifies dominance and conversion through violence. We are long overdue to reclaim our Divine Ancestresses' heritage and power.

Mawu is the African goddess of creation, the gentle omnipotent mother of all life. She rules the month of February, sign of Aquarius. The Aquarian woman absorbs some of this creative quality, the emphasis on expressing and discovering the truth of all experience. She is the fixed equinox sign through which power is released. Here exists extraordinary breadth of vision without superstition and the willingness to abandon favorite theories in order to pass on basic information to the whole of humanity. The major concern is: What is the truth of the matter?, and secondarily, what is the use of it?

This ceaseless attempt to find core answers stems directly from the core question, "Why should the soul be locked up and bound by blind social conventions?"

Because Aquarius carries the symbol of Truth/Water Bearer, personal relat-
Resurrection is the story of Edna Mae MacCauley (Ellen Burstyn), who, after a brush with death, comes back to life with the gift of healing. While on "the other side," Edna hears chimes and feels herself pulled down a dark tunnel to an exquisite kaleidoscopic light. She's helped along the way by her husband, who died in the car accident that crippled her. This scene of beautiful serenity recedes abruptly when she opens her eyes to find herself in a drab hospital room.

The contrast to "the other side" continues when Edna's father takes her back to their farm in Kansas to care for her. Their kin are cynical, taciturn folks. Certainly, no one can fathom how Edna stops her hemophiliac cousin's nosebleed at a family picnic. And only Grandma (Eva La Gallienne) recognizes Edna's description of "the other side," and her subsequent healing power. She suggests that Edna might be able to heal her crippled legs, which, after weeks of concentration, Edna does.

When Edna heals Earl (Sam Shepard), who's been cut in a bar fight, he falls in love with her. However, raised in a fundamentalist environment, he's skeptical of "tent shows," and believes that Edna is merely using the power of suggestion. As Edna's reputation grows, Earl becomes threatened. He cracks when Edna heals a paraplegic before an audience of scientists.

"It's too much power, it's not normal," he says, insisting that she "announce Christ's power." Edna never denies Christianity, but she feels that her power is simply love. In a conversation with her father, Edna briefly refers to a youthful pregnancy which she had aborted by a rural veterinarian who so botched the job that she can never have children. All the love that her father won't accept and that she can't give to her own children seems to be transferred to the people she heals. Earl reverts to his childhood religion and, convinced that he must eradicate this agent of the devil, shoots Edna in the shoulder at one of her healing gatherings.

Leaving the home that never held any love for her is another resurrection for Edna. An effective montage shows the passing seasons aging and ultimately toppling the house.

In the final scene of the film, we see Edna as a middle-aged woman running a gas station near Needles. She's a gar­rulous eccentric who's chosen to live an isolated existence rather than deal publicly with her healing gift. But when a family whose son is dying of cancer stops in, Edna secretly gives the boy a long, healing hug.

Resurrection is an important film for women who are seeking a spiritual life, but not finding it within the context of traditional, patriarchal religion. The film suggests that Christians don't have a monopoly on love.

Interestingly, both Edna and Grandma accept Edna's gift matter-of-factly; Edna's father and Earl are resistant. Women's loving, healing power was seen as threatening (hence, evil) in the days of witch burnings. Apparently, nothing's changed.—Paula Butterfield

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Movie Review

Resurrection: A True Healer

Thank you for the favorable comments about launching "The Woman's Bookshelf" as a regular feature in Demeter. Please remember that your recommendations and reviews will be warmly welcomed.

Several people have asked for suggestions about what they term "a gentle introduction" to feminism... the kind of book to give one's mother or a friend who is just becoming interested in the women's movement. Something to explain feminist motivation and maybe inspire a shared commitment. Any ideas?

A title frequently cited as having influenced many women's thinking is Adrienne Rich's Of Woman Born. Dealing with motherhood as experience and as institution, it brilliantly depicts the pain, the guilt, the ambivalence, the opportunities for both destructiveness and nurturing, so often found in this fundamental relationship. Since Rich always seems able to link the deeply personal with the universal, and since she sees so clearly the political issues underlying individual situations, the reader becomes aware of how social arrangements can lock us into life-denying structures, alienating human beings from each other and from the sources of mutual strength, affirmation, and joy.

Nominated as an historical landmark for "The Woman's Bookshelf" is The Feminine Mystique by Betty Friedan. What blessed relief it brought to vast numbers of women who had come to think of themselves as abnormal, unnatural, neurotic travesties of true womanhood because submersion in suburban values and consumerism left them feeling estranged and unfulfilled! Much that was revolutionary and incredibly daring in 1963 may sound matter-of-fact now, but that in itself is a tribute to the power and effectiveness of Friedan's statement. Reading it today is a valuable reminder of the restrictive pressures operating on an entire generation of American women, from which some have still not recovered.

What are your candidates for inclusion on our imaginary bookshelf?

—Polly Parker
"Viewmasters: Portable Realities for a Perfect Vacation" is the title of an exhibit of photographs by Bonnie Hawthorne on display at the Pacific Grove Art Center through February. An opening reception will be held Friday, February 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. The center is located at 568 Lighthouse Ave. Black and white infrared photographs as well as some recent color work will be shown. Everyone is invited.

I was recently given a wonderful present. It’s Arlene Blum’s account of the 1978 woman’s mountain climbing expedition on Annapurna in Nepal. From the moment I opened it, I found myself engrossed in a breathtakingly beautiful adventure story which had multiple layers of meaning for me as a woman.

I saw vivid examples of self-motivated women whose strong self-images allowed them to make difficult, life and death decisions with clarity and grace. And I saw women who struggled to overcome fears, limitations and personal tragedy in order to face the mountain within themselves as they climbed the beautiful, treacherous, avalanche-ridden 26,504 ft. Himalayan peak.

This is a story of determination, physical courage, and an unwavering commitment by a group of women to the ideal of female excellence overcoming physical and psychological barriers as well as sexist prejudice.

It’s also the story of a successful attempt to bring feminist ideals and group process to a situation which has been defined traditionally in terms of hierarchy and competition between men for glory.

The book itself gives a sense of the physical splendor of the mountains. The photographs are spectacular and evoke a strong feeling of rock, ice and snow. And, the pictures of the women are really special; their faces are familiar. These are women like us and our friends.

Arlene Blum, the author and the leader of the expedition, is a biochemist who teaches and lives in Berkeley. Some of the other members are: Vera Watson, a computer scientist; Irene Miller, a physicist; Annie Whitehouse, a student; Vera Komarkova, an ecologist; Piro Kramar, an ophthalmologist; Alison Chadwick, an artist; Joan Firey, an artist and physical therapist. Annie was the youngest at 21; Joan celebrated her 50th birthday on the mountain.

All of the women shared a commitment to feminist process. They not only wanted to climb the mountain, they wanted to do it in a new way. Arlene is painfully honest as she describes struggling with her fears of being inadequate and with her determination to lead without being authoritarian.

This attention to process was essential, as many women worked together raising money, planning administrative details, and fighting the male bias which attempted to keep them off the mountain. In addition, the women climbers had a strong sense of female history and a respect for those women who had gone before them. The group also confronted their own racism and American privilege in their interactions with the male Sherpas. These Nepalese tribesmen, who risked their lives climbing mountains in order to eke out a living, had definite ideas about male superiority.

I was fascinated by the battles for individual growth. In order to accomplish their goal, each woman had to focus on her own priorities and trust her own intuitions. Arlene found that the constant, unpredictable avalanches told her that she shouldn’t attempt the summit.

At the last moment, Piro unhesitatingly gave up her dream rather than risk damaging a finger which was essential to her as a surgeon. Annie decided when it was not safe for her to continue, and would not be moved by pressure. Decisions like these were made without regret; they came from each woman’s center.

Over and over, the theme emerges. Here are women transcending their own limitations, both physical and psychological. The two-woman camera crew had never climbed before; yet they reached 19,000 feet, filming all the way. So, they were able to record the summit success. The women did not climb blindly. Each was aware of her personal willingness to risk death. And, the exhilaration felt by all when the summit appears within reach is mixed with the stark grief for Vera Watson and Alison Chadwick who fell and died.

Arlene sums up their feelings: “But we had gained something more than the summit. The years of planning and the months of climbing together had changed and strengthened us. We had survived the hardest physical and psychological stresses and found that as a team we could do great things. Each woman had contributed her abilities and effort in full measure, and each was rewarded with the knowledge that her contribution had helped us attain the goal. In addition, we had gained the friendship and warmth that now united us.”

As I finished their story I felt that warmth and I also felt a fierce pride in these women and in their way of being in the world.

—Kate Miller
I guess the impetus for this article came from an evening I spent watching an episode of the TV show *Alice*. It's about three waitresses who work in a greasy spoon for lousy pay and lousy tips.

In itself that episode may not have presented any big news about women's issues, but it did start me thinking about what a fine job most waitresses do for such poor remuneration. The following evening I dined with some friends at an elegant French restaurant in Carmel. The bill came to over $100. And you may be sure the tip was quite substantial. The recipient of this generous gratuity, of course, was a man. In fact, it was a very distinguished looking man, dressed in suit and tie.

For expensive establishments such as this have a policy of hiring only males to serve their fine food. Therefore, men alone can reap any substantial monetary benefits from this occupation. (Of course, I know that these same exclusive restaurants may employ women to serve the cocktails in the next room, but that is only because they don't want a woman to join them in the dining room.)

Worse yet, the end of the service.

I wonder what is behind restaurant owners' policy of allowing only men to wait on tables. Could it be that in high class environments such as theirs, the presence of such "low class domestics" as women would clearly weaken the image they want to project?

Or perhaps they don't believe women can handle such demanding work as is required in these types of establishments. Such thinking is infuriating. It is just as difficult to juggle four $2.95 chicken salad platters (while repeatedly refilling coffee cups and bringing additional a la carte delights) as it is to set down a tray and hand a patron a $15 entree.

I certainly can figure out why we find only women at coffee shops and diners. Men as a rule don’t accept positions which offer less than minimum wage plus a couple of quarters and some pennies thrown under the plate at the end of the service.

As far as solutions, I am not sure I have any. I don't think a women's group boycott of expensive restaurants would affect the situation one iota. But perhaps if every time we dined out, we asked the manager to consider employing females to wait on tables, someone might accept our suggestion — and the concept might spread to other restaurants. All things considered, it might be worth a shot.
Psychologists To Meet in Boston

The Association for Women in Psychology will hold its eighth annual National Conference on Feminist Psychology: "Theory, Research, Practice and Celebration" in Boston at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel March 5-8.

The conference is designed to bring together feminists working with women and women's issues related to psychology, so that women may share accomplishments and differences.

Some of the presentations and workshops will cover: racism, sexism, marital rape, domestic violence, feminist therapy, feminist organizations, sex-role research, non-sexist child rearing, and homophobia.

Registration fee varies between $5 and $30, depending on membership and financial situation.

For more information, contact A.W.P. Program Committee, c/o Psychology Department, Boston University, Boston, MA 02215, or locally, Diana Case, 375-6142.

Jewish Women’s Culture Emerges

On January 11, the Women’s Forum on Anti-Semitism was held in the San Francisco Women’s Building, open to all women. Approximately 300 women attended, three from Pacific Grove: Suzanne Judith, Judy Roth and Lambert van Buuren.

Each speaker-moderator on the four-member panel talked on a particular aspect of Jewish herstory, followed by discussion from the floor.

It was a profound consciousness-raising experience as Jewish women shared their newly emerging sense of cultural identity with each other and with the group at large. Some, inspired to explore further, signed up as participants in future groups and meetings.

On February 15 at the Pacific Center in Berkeley there will be an all-day workshop on anti-Semitism for Jewish lesbians. For further information about this or future events relevant to Jewish women, call Suzanne Judith at 649-6065.

Pictorial Sexism

Women and Male Physicians

The sexism implicit in the medical profession’s approach to women has been documented often. An interesting study of the ads in medical journals found them predominantly presenting women as dependent, passive, and in need of the tranquilizing effects of drugs and soothing explanations.

A mind-boggling example of another form of sexism, this time in medical education, has just come to my attention. On the cover of Novak’s Textbook of Gynecology, published by the Williams and Wilkins Company of Baltimore in 1970, is a writhing stricken female figure.

This, according to a printed note in the book, is Eve, taken from a 15th century fresco in Florence, which "vividly portrays her anguish and sudden awareness of shame and despair."

I mean REALLY! A gynecology text, introducing medical students to a basic and vital aspect of women’s health, reaches back more than 500 years to select an image linked with "shame and despair." Is this subliminally suggesting that we loathsome creatures suffer disorders related to our reproductive systems because of Eve’s supposed "transgression" — and thus deserve any misery they inflict?

Healthy, happy women sometimes need a gynecologist too, but apparently they don’t rate notice. Besides, in belated defense of Eve, modern Biblical scholars point out that it was she who introduced knowledge — and a questing spirit — to humanity...

and has been bearing a “bum rap” ever since.

While a textbook cover may seem relatively trivial, it reflects attitudes, and may be perpetuating subtle conditioning, of which we should be aware.

—Polly Parker

Women Speak Out

And the woman deep in me
Is a river inside my soul
And it’s bright as the moon
And deep as the sea
And strong and soft and whole
—Kay Gardner