



UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

WOMEN'S CENTER



Corner of Idaho and Line Streets

885-6616

Director: Betsy Thomas
Asst. Director: Leslie Smallwood
Secretary: Caroline Kuehne
Workstudy: Jenifer Marshall
Marigay Larson

The Women's Center Newsletter is published six times during the academic year. It includes announcements and information about the many services and programs offered by the Center to the University and Moscow communities, as well as items of general interest about women's issues. If you have announcements or information you would like included in subsequent issues, please let us know. Suggestions for changes, improvements, or additional items are welcome.

Women's Center Hours
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

"To be aware of domestic violence is to be a vigilante. To be a vigilante is to be a sentry. To be a sentry is to be a guard. To be a guard is to insure security. To be a guard at the post is to see to it that no woman or child will have to be left alone to defend themselves when someone violates their bodies and spirits. That is a sacred task." Thelma Burgonio-Watson

Women's Center programs educate, enrich and entertain. Bring your lunch and join us! Programs begin at 12:30 in the Women's Center lounge and are open to the public. If you have any suggestions for future programs, please call or stop by.

MARCH PROGRAMS 1992 MARCH IS NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

This year our theme for Women's History Month is "Women's History, A Patchwork of Many Lives.". We hope you will join us for some or all of these programs. They sound exciting to us and hope you will stop by, learn and enjoy.

March 2

Monday CIVIL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN IN INDIA: Because of Indira Gandhi's prominence as president of her nation, many of us think of India as a country of democratic ideals and equality. The reality for most women in India is that of "second class" citizens. Domestic violence and "kitchen accidents" (women killed by husbands or in-laws) are disturbingly frequent occurrences. SUNANDA GANDHI will discuss women in India and their struggle for civil rights. Co-sponsored by the Women's Center and UI International Programs. This program will be held in UCC 306.

March 4

Wednesday "SUSAN B. ANTHONY AND THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT: A VOICE FROM THE PAST WITH INSPIRATION FOR TODAY": The local National Organization for Women (NOW) Reader's Theatre presents readings from the life and times of Abigail Adams, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and other women active in the early Women's Rights Movement. Please join Lela Ames, Betsy Thomas and Kay Keskinen for an interesting and inspiring program.

March 10

Tuesday "THE HISTORY OF CHEERLEADING AND THE HERSTORY OF YOUR CREATIVITY: NANCY KEIFER, Coordinator of WSU Women's Resource Center and local artist, will discuss ways to access creativity in everyday life and will share slides of her own work.

March 11

Wednesday WOMEN WRITERS OF THE WEST: UI English professor BARBARA MELDRUM will discuss women writers of the west and their relation to the literary canon. Historically, western writers have been men and "successful" women writers of the west have often had to move to the eastern U.S. Dr. Meldrum will present comparisons of contemporary western women writers with writers such as Willa Cather, and discuss the "Loosening of the Canon."

March 24

Tuesday NO SMALL LIVES: THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL HISTORIES: Co-authors of Tales From Dead Cow Gulch, SUSAN BAUMGARTNER and CLAUDIA McGEHEE will share personal histories through short stories, journal entries and visual images. Included in this entertaining program will be a discussion of the value of giving voice to personal experiences and shaping experience into history.

March 31

Tuesday FEMINIST THEORY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: UI Assistant Professor of Philosophy JANICE CAPEL ANDERSON presents an overview of the evolution and development of feminist theory.

April 1

Wednesday SPRING EQUINOX CELEBRATION: KIM BOUCHARD, UI Theatre Arts Graduate student returns for a engaging and energetic hour of dramatic readings and poetry celebrating the changing season. It's time to throw off winter and continue the traditions of celebrating the birth of spring!

To Be Announced

MAMIE OLIVER, former Palouse and Boise resident, now on faculty at Rhode Island College, returns to North Idaho in March for Women's History Month. Dr. Oliver is writing a history of African-American women in Idaho and will share with us her research when she visits the Women's Center in March. Those of you who remember Dr. Oliver as our Martin Luther King Jr. keynoter will recall what an exhilarating speaker Dr. Oliver is. Watch for fliers announcing this Women's Center program!

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT: At the time of the founding of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC), there were so many women from Wisconsin involved with both endeavors that they were nicknamed the "Wisconsin Mafia." In fact, one-third of the membership at the founding NOW convention came from the Midwest.

For that reason in particular, Gerda Lerner, Robinson-Edwards Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has decided to trace the origins of the modern women's movement. In doing so she is challenging the notion that it was primarily a white, middle-class movement generated by women from the East and West coasts.

Says Lerner, "If you ask almost anyone, 'How did the modern women's movement start?' They will say, 'Betty Friedan' or 'Gloria Steinem,' and they might mention a few others. They will say it was started by college-age, white, middle-class women. All of these beliefs are being challenged by what we're doing here."

Lerner, an early advocate of the study of women's history, has undertaken an extensive oral history project, "Documenting the Midwestern Origins of the Twentieth Century Women's Movement." According to Lerner, the project will show that many women of color, working-class women, older women, women who were married and had children, women in business, and women in religious vocations -- especially those from the Midwest -- made enormous contributions to the movement and have been neglected by the media and by history textbooks. She is interviewing approximately twenty-five leaders -- many of whom are now in their sixties and seventies -- who were present at the founding convention of NOW and who, by all accounts, were essential to the movement. Among those she has already interviewed are:

*Kathryn Clarenbach, co-founder of NOW, whose skill at organizing women's disparate interests and building grass roots networks made her, according to many women who are part of the project, one of the most important figures in launching a national organization for women.

*Mildred Jeffrey, first director of the United Auto Workers' (UAW) Women's Bureau and co-founder/president of the National Women's Political Caucus.

*Dorothy Haener, education director of the UAW Women's Bureau, a member of the Michigan State Commission on the Status of Women, and chair of the Michigan Human Rights Commission.

The project, Lerner hopes, will document these women leaders' views about how the modern women's movement started; it will also "give weight to these women's lives for posterity" so that they will serve as role models for women who follow them. She says, "They're the most impressive group of women that you'd ever meet."

Most importantly, Lerner comments, people need to know that the women's movement was built by more than just "one or two celebrities that the media picks out." Through the project she hopes people will realize that there were other kinds of women who made equal -- though not as widely publicized -- contributions and that the national movement begun in the early 1960's actually drew its base

from already existing grassroots organizations. When NOW was formed, according to Lerner, it relied on women working locally in labor unions, for political and civil rights, for peace organizations -- women who were experienced organizers -- to get off the ground. She says the purpose of the oral history project is, quite simply, "to correct the record for future generations."

Another goal of the project, Lerner says, is to revise the widely held notion that women only have been seriously active on political and social issues around 1920 and since the 1960's. Lerner says, "What you're taught in courses, what the media thinks, is that after 1920 when women got the right to vote, they gave up on women's issues until out of the blue this group of young women gave us the modern women's movement. Nothing could be further from the truth. There was a continuity of women's activity all over the nation."

Women were active in the labor unions, working for maternity leave clauses and for equal pay, Lerner says. After World War II, many women were pushed out of their jobs and developed an understanding of the obstacles women encountered as a result of sex discrimination; these women, she says, were working locally for women's rights almost ten years before the contemporary national women's movement sprang to life.

The continuity of women's work on their own behalf is an important issue that Lerner feels history has neglected. In addition to the oral history project, she currently is writing a book that documents the existence of feminist consciousness throughout history.

Lerner is working to let people know how important women's history is to both women and men. She believes history itself has great significance for humanity because without it, "We have no reason to project anything into the future." Lerner says that unless we know what those in the past have accomplished, particularly the women in our past, we don't know what we ourselves can accomplish. ("On Campus With Women" Vol. 21, No. 2 Fall 1991)

HELP PROFESSOR ANITA HILL: Representative Leonard E. Sullivan, (OK-R), is seeking to have Professor Anita Hill removed from her tenured position at the University of Oklahoma. In his letter to University president Richard Van Horn, Sullivan said, "We can't afford to have a high profile professor on campus that millions of Americans, according to polls and national talk shows, believe is a fantasizing liar." Please write and state your opinion to:

President Van Horn, University of Oklahoma, 300 Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73019; Representative Leonard Sullivan, House of Representatives, Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105; Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105; Professor Anita M. Hill, School of Law, University of Oklahoma, 300 Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73019. (Labyrinth, New York Times and Women Oughta Know, Vol. 2 No. 1 Jan 1992)

NATIONAL WOMEN OF COLOR DAY: March 1, "Honoring Our Grandmothers" Brunch from 1-3 pm, in the WSU CUB Senior Ballroom. Cost is \$10.00.

MARCH 1992 NETWORKING CALENDAR

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Women's Center Program -12:30- UCC 306	3 ATHENA 6 P.M. SUB	4 Women's Center Program -12:30- AIDS Education 8-4*	5 "Eyes on the Prize" #7- Time Has Come: 1964-1965	6	7
8	9 *Lesbian Supper Club (Mid -	10 Women's Center Program -12:30- Term	11 Women's Center Program -12:30- Exami	12 "Eyes on the Prize" #8- Two Societies: 1965-1968	13	14
15	16 S P	17 R I N	18 G	19 B R E	20 A K	21
22	23 *Lesbian Supper Club	24 Women's Center Program -12:30-	25	26 "Eyes on the Prize" #9- Power: 1966-1968	27	28 *NWGPA Dance -8 P.M.-
29	30	31 Women's Center Program -12:30-	APRIL 1 Women's Center Program -12:30-	2 "Eyes on the Prize" #10- The Promised Land: 1967-1968	3 Honors Convocation Family Weekend	4 Pow-Wow & Dinner 1 P.M.

For more information about these events, see this newsletter or call the Women's Center, 885-6616

*Northwest Gay Peoples Alliance. For Information call 334-0295 or 882-9499.

*Sponsored by Gritman Medical Center - for general public & health workers, 883-2232.

*Lesbian Supper Club, the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, 6 pm. For information call 335-6830.

OUTRAGEOUS OLDER WOMAN KIT: Knowledge Ideas and Trends'(KIT) latest offering is "Be An Outrageous Older Woman: A R*A*S*P (Remarkable Aging Smart Person)" by Ruth Harriet Jacobs, PhD. This book includes suggestions for finding economical housing, how to find friends and enjoy true belonging, how to interact with one's grown 'descendents,' how to handle health, economic and psychological matters, how to find laughter and comfort on a limited budget, how to deal with sexuality and bereavement. Jacobs works with the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women and teaches courses at Elderhostels. KIT, 1131-0 Tolland Turnpike, Suite 175, Manchester, CT 06040. (Feminist Bookstore News and Women Oughta Know, Dec. 1991)

FIRST AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION: The early formation of the woman's suffrage movement was marked by the Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York, which was called by Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and several other women in 1848. The two-day meeting was attended by over 300 women and men, and was followed by similar meetings in various parts of the country every year until the outbreak of the Civil War. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony joined forces in 1852 to create a working partnership that would provide the theoretical backbone and the public presence necessary to bring women's rights issues to the American public. (National Women's History Project)

SENIOR'S POW WOW: A Pow Wow honoring graduating seniors will be held in the Memorial Gym as part of the Family Weekend activities. Everyone is welcome to attend the April 4 dinner and dancing, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

GRADUATE STUDENT ART SHOW: Opening Friday evening, April 3, at the Prichard Gallery, the show will feature the work of four graduate students, including the Women's Center's longtime friend Jennifer Rod's non-domestic art (drawings, paintings and furniture). The opening begins at 5:00 p.m. and refreshments will be provided.

"EYES ON THE PRIZE" DOCUMENTARY: The Women's Center continues to present weekly showings of the "Eyes On The Prize: America's Civil Rights Years" series; every Thursday at 12:30 through April 30.

ATHENA: Dr. Elisabeth Zinser will address the March 3rd meeting of Athena, an association supporting the interests of faculty and other professional women at the University of Idaho. Social time at 6:00, dinner at 6:30, President Zinser will speak at 7:15 in the SUB. For more information, contact Judy Neilsen, 885-7951.

INLAND NORTHWEST GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE: The newly formed Inland Northwest Gay People's Alliance (NWGPA) is sponsoring a Spring Equinox Barn Dance & Bonfire, March 28 at 8 p.m. The Inland NWGPA is also organizing support groups for couples, male intimacy issues and parents and friends of Lesbians & Gays. For more information on Inland NWGPA activities call Chris 334-0295, Kathy 882-9499 or Scott 746-7434.

ANONYMOUS: "Practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty."

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University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83843



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