
ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

June/July 1992

Volume III, Number 2



Photo by: Sheryl Ackerman

THE WOMEN BEHIND THE SCENES

HAPPY SUMMER SOLSTICE

ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

1992-1993 Board Members

Barrhead

Claire Robillard

421-0306

Edmonton

Lorraine Gregoire

Tammy Horne

Jenny Kain

Moyra Lang

Christine Leonard

Cathy Meade

Sharon Reiner

Deb Stewart-Furmanski

Calgary

233-0731

Donna Gould

Anne Mcauley

Nancy Miller

Fort McMurray

Nicole Balmer

Regional Representatives

Edmonton

Paula Ferneyhough

Fort McMurray

Francine Wilson

Two Hills

Nancy Mereska

Westerose

Gerry Bailey

Innisfail

Lori Crocker

Grimshaw

Jocelyn Bathgate

Medicine Hat

Anne Dickason

ASWAC Edmonton:

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Located at: Women's Building, #10, 9930 — 106 Street

Fax : 425-3293 Phone: 421-0306

ASWAC Calgary:

#303, 223 — 12 Ave. S.W.

Calgary, AB T2R 0G9

Fax : 269-2012 Phone: 233-0731

The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Secretary of State Women's Program and the Alberta Wild Rose Foundation

ASWAC Events

FROM THE ASWAC NEWSROOM:

The deadline for submissions on our next newsletter is August 11/92 Noon. So please send all submissions as soon as possible to our Edmonton office.

We invite your input and would like to hear from you. Is there something you'd like to see in the newsletter? Please let us know. If you've attended a workshop or conference and would like to share the information. Would you be interested in writing an article?

GOODBYE

Sheryl McInnes and Dorothy Mandy are no longer ASWAC Board members. We will miss these two wonderful women. Sheryl is still working with ASWAC on a number of different issues and Dorothy has become the NAC Alberta Regional Representative. So it's not really a good bye, but we will miss them both at our Board meetings. All the best to you both. Debbie Smith has also left ASWAC as the Calgary Regional Representative. Debbie is off to B.C. to continue her education. We will miss Debbie's strong support in the Calgary area.

WELCOME

A really big welcome to our new Board members and Regional Representatives. The staff and Board are pleased to have new women involved. Welcome!

A REMINDER

ASWAC is currently working on an organizational review. Questionnaires have been sent out to our membership. If you are a new member and have not received yours or have an address change please call the Edmonton office (421-0306) and we'll get one out to you. Please take the time to fill out and return this information as it will give us direction on the future as well as ensuring we hear the membership's concerns and complements. So if you haven't done so, mail yours today!

The following people are recorded in our files as current ASWAC members. Unfortunately we have received returned mail in their name or for some reason do not have their address. If you know the whereabouts of any of them, please tell us so they can receive the goodies:

Debbie Krampf

Rhonda Elder

The Calgary Singles Council

The Women's Room

Women in Support of Agriculture

Ontario Committee on the Status of Women

Please keep your address current with us.

OUR FEATURE

ASWAC's attempt at re-birth of the Spring Conference tradition is being hailed a huge success by the women of Alberta. Over two hundred women gathered in Edmonton to attend "Making Connections '92: Sharing Women's Vision, Values and Work" a provincial networking conference sponsored by the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee in May.

The conference theme was demonstrated clearly as women of all ages from all walks of life attended workshops on the feminist movement, spirituality, the value of women's work, fundraising, isolation in rural areas, sexuality, new technologies in birthing, inter-racial relationships, multicultural health issues, aging, poverty, and a multitude of other issues which women of the 90's face each day at home and at work.

The weekend was a celebration of women appreciating each other's differences. In coming together we realized that continued societal change is needed to ensure equality for all people regardless of sex, race, cultural background, physical ability, or sexual orientation. Throughout the weekend, in addition to the stimulating workshops, women met informally in special interest groups to discuss future action and to offer support.

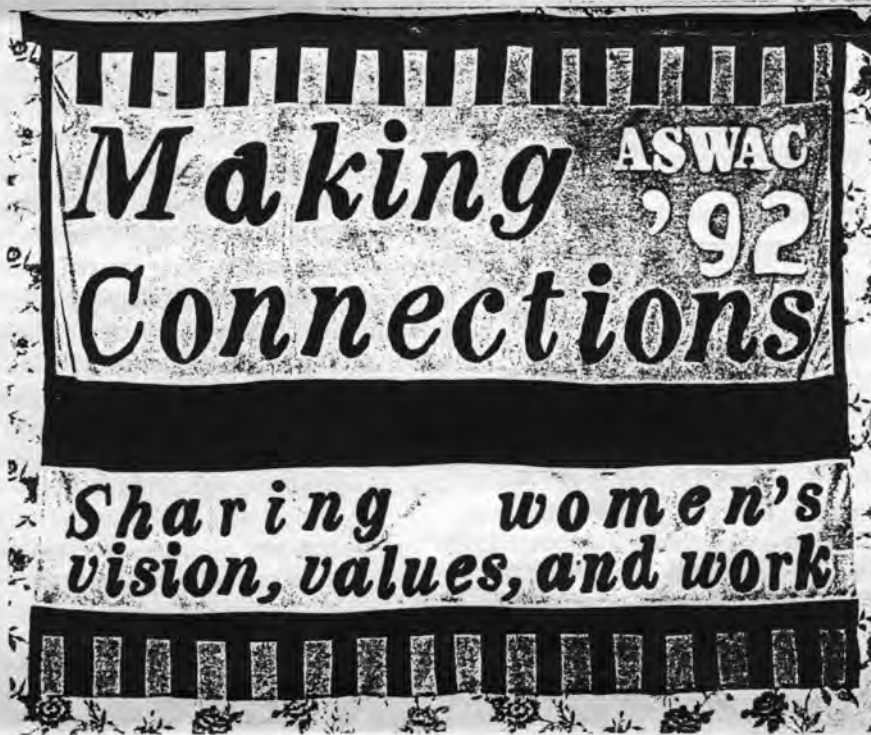


Photo by: Sheryl Ackerman

"Making Connections" was truly a networking experience. As emphasized by Naomi Wolf, the keynote speaker, we will have to get together on issues, continue to network and value each other as individuals in order to create change in the 90's. This, she felt, will ensure increased choice in our lives. Only through working together will we be able to improve our economic status and work towards a true meritocracy where people are valued for what they do, as opposed to where they come from and how they look. Only through collective efforts like the ASWAC conference will our voices be strong enough to make the changes needed to increase the choices we have in our lives, whether the choices are to stay at home and raise children, to become an engineer, to volunteer in the community or simply to live a life free of judgement and discrimination.

Now that the dust has settled, conference organizers, volunteers and delegates have had time to reflect on the experience. A conference of this magnitude had not been attempted in ASWAC's recent history and many were hesitant at first to embark upon such an initiative. In retrospect it is generally agreed that all the hard work and commitment was worth the effort, as people have come away from the conference with a renewed interest in ASWAC, in feminism and the desire to continue building alliances in order that change may occur. The proof of this renewed enthusiasm will be in the near future as this organization and others forge ahead amidst the conservative agenda and the backlash against feminism.

According to the evaluation comments and letters to ASWAC since the conference women are asking where and when the next conference will be, as well as providing us with encouraging recommendations for future events. Unfortunately, because of ASWAC's limited resources, the only possible way yearly conferences of this calibre can occur is through special project funding or a miracle. This conference was funded entirely by

registration fees, donations from individual supportive women, and community endorsements. All labour, including the conference planning and organizing, was completed by volunteers and ASWAC staff in addition to the organization's regular ongoing operation. Although a short-term Employment and Immigration grant enabled ASWAC to hire three people, that project is primarily focussed on producing a comprehensive conference follow up package and evaluation which will be available shortly to conference participants.

Only as a result of pressured, time-consuming, fundraising efforts was the conference even possible. ASWAC is deeply indebted to the community for its support. Ideally the conference committee would have liked to have offered the conference at no charge along with travel subsidies for out-of-town delegates. In lieu of that, the low income honour

Alberta Feminist Calendar

CALGARY

Cris Williamson & Tret Fure in concert Thursday, July 30, 1992, at 8:00 pm at the Dr. Betty Mitchell Theatre Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Tickets available through: A Woman's Place Bookstore, 1412 Centre Street South, phone: 263-5256. Ticket price is \$17.00 advance and \$19.00 at the door. Coffee reception to follow performance. For more information call 686-2912. This concert is being put together by a group of women working to develop a women's music scene in Calgary. This is a non-profit group. Womyn's Collective Social and Recreational Society also known as the Lesbian Information Line has regrouped and is moving forward with new activities and ideas. Anyone interested in finding out more is welcome to come to the next open meeting June 17, at 7:30 pm room 200A Old Y. Other activities: Phonelines/drop in peer support Mon/Wed 7:30-9:30 pm. Games night, Thursday monthly. Support/discussion group. June 28 fly a kite with pride. Join us at 2 pm at the top of Edworthy park for kite flying. Be creative and make the best pink triangle kite. July 26, BBQ and fun day at Kananaskis. August 18, volunteers needed to sell hot dogs for fundraiser. For information call 265-9458. Do you receive child support? Do you know you pay too much tax. We want to change this law. The Society for Children's Adequate Maintenance (SCAM) meets to share. For more information call Carolyn at 271-5469.

Saturday, June 27, 11:00 in front of Harry Hays Building, a Rally to Protest the unfair taxing of child support payments. Organized by SCAM. Join us for the placard making meeting on Monday, June 22, 7:30 pm at the Old Y Common Room. Please bring art supplies and poster boards.

Call for submissions: Custody in Crisis: Youth Perspectives- The Calgary Status of Women Action Committee is seeking poems, drawings, posters, songs, essays, cartoons...by youth (ages 13 to 18) on your thoughts and feelings on changing families. Separation, divorce, and remarriage are some of the changes families may experience. Deadline for submissions is September 4, 1992. Mail or drop off to CSWAC, 319, 223-12th Ave, S.W. T2R 0G9. Be sure your name, address and phone number is enclosed. Phone 262-1873 for more information.

Maintenance enforcement- A support group is being formed for women experiencing difficulties with maintenance enforcement. The first meeting will be June 18, at 7:30 pm in Room 200A of the Old Y Centre, 223-12 Ave. S.W. For more information call Belinda at 288-4450.

On June 18th please join us for the Annual General Meeting and Women's Round Table, at 4:00-6:00 pm at the Old Y Centre. Childcare subsidies are available. RSVP to 269-1144.

Gay Pride Dance, Saturday, June 20. Camp 181 and Lesbian Mothers Support Society (LMSS) are sponsoring a

dance to celebrate Gay Pride Week. 20 volunteers are needed to make this a successful fundraiser for LMSS. Childcare subsidy is available. Contact Tarea at 241-2456. Ethnic Art Fair! The Calgary Catholic Immigration Society will host an Ethnic Art Fair in conjunction with the opening ceremonies of the Canada 125 weeks of celebrations. The art display will take place at the Devonian Gardens June 24 and 25, 1992. For more information call Diane at 262-2006. "How To Talk With Your Child About Pornography: A Media Literacy Workshop For Parents" - ACAP. Workshop and facilitators available in September, 1992. For more information call 264-6778.

Women's Employment Counselling Services, Employment Preparation and Essential Services Training Program-New location is: 6th Floor - Esso Plaza (East Tower), 425 - 1st Street S.W. New phone numbers: Women's Employment Counselling: 531-9620, Employment Preparation: 531-9629, Essential Services Training: 531-9629. Manager: Lorraine Moulding.

The Calgary Lesbian and Gay Political Action Guild (CLAGPAG) is actively involved in lobbying for gay and lesbian rights. Regardless of your sexual orientation you can help. CLAGPAG is not eligible for any government funding or tax deductible status. You can help work towards equality for all members of society by donating money, office supplies, furniture and other useful items. Please join us in solidarity to celebrate Gay and Lesbian Pride Day, 7:00 pm June 21 at Municipal Plaza for a rally and a parade, followed by a party. Bring your organization, banner, family, friends or even a float. For more information call CLAGPAG (266-5318) or Gay Lines Calgary 234-8973.

EDMONTON

Women of the Metis Nation is sponsoring "Women in the Shadows", A Conference on Violence Against Aboriginal Women, November 27, 28, 29, 1992 at Camp He-Ho-Ha (there will be buses to and from Edmonton). This will be an educational conference using training workshops and "Healing" circles to give and receive information. Call 484-7989 for more information.

On the Road for Quality Childcare - Childcare champion launches 11,000 km. cross-Canada trip. The team has left Vancouver and will be arriving in Edmonton on August 18 and in Calgary on August 24. For information on how to show your support please contact Avril Pike at (403)482-2116.

The Black Women's Association of Alberta is holding a Father's Day Buffet Lunch, Sunday June 21 - 12:30 - 4:30 at the Dutch Canadian Club Hall, 13312 -142 Street. Adults - \$15.00 - Youths 12 yrs. & under - \$10.00 - Children 3 yrs. & under - free.

"She Who Creates All" - a window installation located at

Remember to be at the ASWAC benefit July 16th and bring a friend

Alberta Feminist Calendar

Jasper Avenue and 101 Street, Royal Bank, will be on view from June 2 to September 18. Eisert Hall, who has retrieved this image from an ancient source, will be at this location for discussions on July 1,3,4, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. She will also be presenting a slide show at the Centennial Theatre of the Public Library on July 2 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

A memorial bursary fund has been set up to celebrate the advancement of women who dare to enter roads less travelled. Part of the proceeds from the sale of art objects by Eisert Hall will be donated to this fund and she urges you to give if you can. Contributions are tax deductible and can be sent to "Women's Memorial Bursary, Engineering" Attention: Jean Adams, University of Alberta, Development Office, 450 Athabasca Hall, T6G 2E8.

Mothers Without Children is a support group for women who have lost their children due to custody disputes or other situations. They meet Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Mill Creek Centre, Community and Family Services, #300 Mill Creek Place, 9119 - 82 Avenue. For further information call 428-2625 or 434-9288.

Association for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth is presenting a film night on childbirth and midwifery at J. Percy Page Composite High School, Room 6-204 2707 Millwoods Road, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. June 16. Admission is free.

WASH - Women in Alberta and Saskatchewan History is organizing a Women's History Workshop, August 14-15, on the U of A Campus. Session topics will include aboriginal women in prairie history, women and archives, ethnicity and feminism, women in "public" or community history, rural and urban perspectives, & teaching women's history to undergraduates. Deadline for registration is August 1, fee is \$30.00. Childcare will be available at a reasonable cost. Registration forms are available at the Edmonton ASWAC office.

Lorraine Coutrille was a woman with a vision. She wanted a better world for her children and her Native people. Education was her solution. Tragically, Lorraine was killed while returning from a presentation at a Reserve school earlier this spring. The U of A Aboriginal Student Council will initiate a memorial fund in Lorraine's memory. The bursary will be awarded to an aboriginal student (with dependants) based on financial need. Donations are welcomed. Make cheques payable to: U of A Lorraine Coutrille Memorial Fund, Development Office, 450 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, T6G 3E8. Tax receipt issued for all donations.

Warning: Women's Dance at Riverdale Hall changed from Saturday, June 27 to Friday June 26. 9231-100 Avenue. 8:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. \$7 Sliding Scale. Non-alcoholic beverages. All women welcome. Watch for the next

women's dance September 26.

Dreamspeakers Festival: Dreamspeakers is an Aboriginal Cultural, Artistic and Film Festival being held September 22 - 27. Live performances by international, national and local stars will celebrate aboriginal culture, art and knowledge. For further information call or write, Dreamspeakers Festival at 9914-76 Ave, Edmonton, T6E 1K7, Tel: 439-3456.

Insight '92, a festival of women's film and video will be in Edmonton November 20-22, 1992. The festival will also tour Alberta. If you would like to bring Insight to your community contact Moyra at 421-0306. For further information on Insight '92 call 448-0730.

The 13th annual Social Justice Institute, June 29-July 3, 1992. Between Memory and Hope: 500 Years and Beyond with Arturo Ornelas & Lily Quintos. The Social Justice Institute is an ecumenical event for people of faith committed to social justice. Location: Kirk United Church 13535-122 Ave. Edmonton.

Edmonton 1992 Coalition is a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and organizations working together to organize activities highlighting 500 years of Indigenous and popular resistance. Activities are being planned for 1992, you can reach us by calling 475-6856 or 424-2475.

Break the Cycle: Across Canada, Child Sexual Abuse Awareness and Fundraiser Campaign. Two women from Canmore, Alberta, both survivors of child sexual abuse, will cycle across Canada this summer to increase public awareness of this issue and raise funds for the newly established BREAK THE CYCLE Foundation. The aim of the foundation is to provide financial support to programs which have suffered from funding cuts. They will be arriving in Alberta regions on the following dates: Aug 13 - Medicine Hat, Aug 14 - Brooks, Aug 15 - Strathmore, Aug 16-17 -18 - Calgary, Aug 19 - Bowden, Aug 20 - Red Deer, Aug 21-22-23 - Edmonton, Aug 24-25 - Banff. If you are interested in participating or would like further information, write to the BREAK THE CYCLE office at Box 697, Canmore, Alberta, T0L 0M0 or phone (403) 678-6371 fax: (403) 678-4728

Menopause support group meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Royal Alexandra Hospital Women's Centre in the Out-Patient Diabetic Clinic. For additional information call Joanne Symonds at 939-3699 or Marie Delisle at 423-4699.

Business Administration Management Training Program (BAMTP) For Women. Women of the Metis Nation (WMN) is a non-profit organization which is devoted to the betterment of the lives of Metis women in Alberta. WMN is presently seeking potential applicants for a 47 week training program including; Self-management training, Business

FEATURE CONTINUED

system in conjunction with the "sponsor a sister" campaign was developed. This system was applauded throughout the May weekend, as it enabled women to attend who would not have otherwise been able to afford it.

The conference's very conservative zero-based budget (with attention to accessibility and environmental issues) was based on a minimum attendance of 200 women (at the \$75 fee), sales of t-shirts, mugs and bags, a considerable public showing at Naomi Wolf (paying \$30 each), along with general public participation at the Saturday evening concert. These variables did not come together as projected, and as a result the conference ran at a deficit. To compensate for the loss at the concert, the Women's Music Collective has generously committed donations over the next year to recover that loss. The overall conference shortfall, however will have to be made up through fundraisers and donations. This will likely be at the expense of some much needed ASWAC projects and actions. Please contribute what you can, when you can. There are still plenty of t-shirts, mugs and bags for sale at both the Edmonton and Calgary offices.

Conference coordinators had differences of opinion in monitoring low income rates, monitoring attendance at Naomi Wolf, and the conference fee itself. We felt that for a conference which included all meals, workshops and two days of child care \$75.00 was fair. Many families would be hard pressed to stay at home for that price. Conference delegates and presenters have included comments and recommendations on the evaluation forms, but ASWAC still welcomes any additional feedback from membership on the overall administration, organization and philosophy of the conference. Please write or call any time to either the Calgary or Edmonton office with your comments and suggestions.

In a letter to the Edmonton Journal and the Calgary Herald a group of women who attended the conference wrote:

"We would like to congratulate the women of ASWAC for presenting a long overdue opportunity for us to re-affirm our commitment to change. Since the conference was funded entirely through sponsorship, donations and advertising dollars, we also congratulate the community for its support, along with the volunteers for their hard work in coordinating the fundraising effort, which made the conference accessible to women who were not able to afford the entire conference fee. We look forward to working with ASWAC in the future."

Hi! I'm Lisa Ashley, hired for the summer to put together educational packages on "Women and Poverty" for high schools, and write a series of newspaper articles on this topic. If anyone has input, or suggestions, your ideas would be very welcome. Call me weekdays at the Edmonton ASWAC office.

CALENDAR CON'T

Administration, Accounting, and Micro-computer courses. This program is tentatively scheduled to begin September 1, 1992 upon final approval of funding under CJS programs of Employment and Immigration Canada. If you are seeking training which will enable you to compete in the workforce, or if you require upgraded skills in order to acquire higher paying jobs, more information is available by calling 484-7989 (days) or 963-7898 (evenings). BAMTP is an affirmative action training program for women of Aboriginal descent.

The Women's Program and Resource Centre (Faculty of Extension, U of A) is offering various programs this fall including Introduction to Feminist Thought, Women's Spirituality, Compulsive Eating and Body Image, Lesbian Sexuality, and Celebrating the Goddess. Two counselling courses are also being offered; Counselling Women as Survivors of Sexual Violence, and Counselling Girls Two to Twelve. A fall brochure with full listings will be available early August. If you are not presently on their mailing list and would like to be, call 492-3093. Please note that the summer hours for the Resource Centre (May '92 - Aug '92) are: Thursdays and Fridays, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm.

In-Sight - A Festival of Women's Film & Video - Films by women, for everyone, from dramas to documentaries, animation to experimental works - In-Sight will challenge and entertain you. Viewing the world through women's eyes will be an exciting and thought-provoking experience for men and women both. For more information call 495-5453 or 448-0730.

Children's Concert, Noele Hall performs magically, July 16 at 6:30 pm, Provincial Museum, tickets are \$5 at Ticketmaster call 451-8000. Wheel chair accessible and ASL on site. Call ASWAC for more information, 421-0306.

The Wyrd Sisters in concert July 16, at 8:30 pm, at the Provincial Museum, Tickets are \$15, a limited number of low income tickets for \$5 are available through Ticketmaster, call 451-8000. Wheel chair accessible and ASL on site. For more information call ASWAC 421-0306.

JASPER

Jasper Heritage Folk Festival will be held August 1 and will feature a variety of folk acts on three sound stages. Besides music, the festival will include craft tents, a native village, an ethnic food fair and much more. For more information call or write Box 1704 Jasper, A.B. T0E 1E0, 852-5187.

We don't see things as they are,
we see them as we are
Anais Nin

•As feminists, it is important that we are politically active in whatever capacity we can be. While political activism takes on a variety of meanings for a variety of people, one method of activism in which many of us can participate is letter writing. Writing letters to MLA's and MP's is a relatively effective way of lobbying on an individual basis.

In order to provide ASWAC's membership with information regarding issues warranting letters we have created this section for political information sharing. To this end, we encourage members to let us know of any other letter writing campaigns in which they are involved.

The Edmonton ASWAC office has a copy of MP's names and ridings, if you require this information please call the office. **Please send a copy of your letter to the Edmonton ASWAC office.**

•Although ASWAC and many other women's groups have received their Secretary of State Women's Program funding for the current year, there is always a concern about next year's funding. The Women's Program is currently being re-evaluated and it's "mandate" expires March 31, 1993. At that time, the program can be renewed or cancelled.

Therefore let's ensure that the government is aware of what the Women's Program means to individual women and that there is an incredible amount of support for it. An example of what you can do: Write a letter congratulating the Conservatives for continuing to fund women's groups and include an example of how you have personally benefitted from the Secretary of State Women's Program. (eg.: used the services of a Women's Resource Centre or attended a workshop presented by a Sec. State funded group). Address your letters to: The Honorable Mary Collins, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. The Honorable Robert R. de Cotret, Secretary of State. The Right Honorable Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, your Member of Parliament. Also send a copy of your letter to M.P. Dawn Black, N.D. Status of Women Critic, and M.P. Mary Clancy, Liberal Status of Women Critic. All letters are postage free and should be addressed to: House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M5. It is clear the government needs to continue the Women's Program and to expand it. Please pass this information on to your friends, co-workers, organizations and newsletter editors.

•I Know - Breast Implant Information Network of Alberta. Women are in crisis! Experiencing severe health problems (connective tissue diseases/auto immune disorders) following implantation of silicone gel breast implants. Our Alberta chapter is uniting with national networks to promote psychological support, proper mammography to detect rupture, gel bleed and disease, reliable laboratory diagnostic procedures, qualified surgical intervention and appropriate medical treatment. We are also concerned with the long term health effects of breast-fed children of implant mothers. For further information please call ASWAC Edmonton 421-0306 or ASWAC Calgary 233-0731. Please leave your name and number and ASWAC staff will put you in touch with this

group.

•Call to action, breast cancer action. In 1992 one in nine women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. 15,000 new cases of breast cancer and 5,000 deaths - 70% have no known risk factors. In 1991, more than 5,000 Canadian women died of their breast cancer. That same year, 161 Canadians died of AIDS and the federal government allocated more than \$33 million in AIDS research. Please give our letter writing campaign your immediate attention. Write to your respective Members of Parliament as soon as possible requesting new research dollars NOW to find the cause and cure for breast cancer and to improve access to high quality treatment for all women. Please send a copy of your letter to Breast Cancer Action P.O. Box 4332, Station E, Ottawa, Ont., K1S 5B3.

The Career Information Hotline is pleased to announce our conversion to a 1-800 telephone number. For further information call the Career Information Hotline at 1-800-661-3753.

Are you connected with a group involving women with disabilities or see the need for and are interested in developing a group? We need your help. Contact the Southern Director, A.B. Committee South, 424A-8th Ave. S.E., Calgary, A.B. T2G 0L7.

HUG THESE WOMEN

The ASWAC Newsletter collective consists of women who volunteer their time and energy. We take this opportunity to thank these women for their work. Louise Janzen, Tammy Horne, Christine Leonard, Dorothy Mandy, Moyra Lang, Sheryl McInnes, Angele Courchaine. A special thanks to Suzanne Trudel. If you would like to become involved with the collective please call the Edmonton office.

Thank you to the Alberta Women's Secretariat. A big hug goes to Sheryl Ackerman who was ASWAC's photographer for Making Connections. Hugs to all the women who were committee mothers. Thanks and hugs for Lorraine Gregoire, who made the Making Connections banner. Thanks to the staff at the Inn on 7th, for being so flexible and caring. A really big hug and thanks to all the conference sponsors and the women who sponsored a sister. Thanks and hugs to Nancy Poole for all of her time and energy she has given and continues to give. Thanks to the Women's Music Collective for their show of support. Thanks and hugs to all the women who volunteered at the conference. **Thanks to all of you!**

MEMBERSHIP

Ten reasons why you should renew your ASWAC membership:

1. If you don't, you will not receive the September newsletter
2. If "91" appears on your mailing label, you have been receiving the ASWAC newsletter at the expense of ASWAC for one year and will soon be removed from the mailing list
3. If "92" appears on your mailing label your membership renewal is welcome for "93"
4. ASWAC membership dollars and donations are counted on in the 1992- 93 budget
5. ASWAC membership numbers reflect support for continued action on equality issues for women in Alberta
6. If you don't you will miss out on important upcoming ASWAC events
7. An ASWAC membership is one of the best values for your money in today's economy - it is an investment in our future
8. If you can't afford the \$20 membership fee all at once, you can send in post dated cheques or pay what you can afford
9. The suggested membership fee is so low, you can afford to make a donation as well
10. You can remain aware of provincial activities, know where to write letters of support or protest, and find out about current events from a feminist perspective



SUPPORT

Dear ASWAC.

I really enjoyed the ASWAC conference and understand that the final budget did not break even. I would like to help, but I have very little extra money. What can I do?

- underemployed

Dear Underemployed,

You can:

- Buy an ASWAC t-shirt when you need a new shirt
- Buy an ASWAC travel mug instead of one from a gas station
- Use ASWAC products to give away as gifts which you would buy anyway (mugs, t-shirts, bags, memberships)
- Suggest to others to buy ASWAC mugs to use at conferences, meetings, for their offices, etc.
- Suggest others use ASWAC bags as their grocery or book bags
- Bring a friend to the "Wyrd Sisters"
- Bring some children to "Noele Hall's magical concert"
- Put up a poster for the ASWAC summer fundraisers
- Distribute flyers for ASWAC fundraising events
- Keep membership forms with you at all times and hand them out to your friends and relatives
- Write a letter of support to ASWAC about the conference
- Have a garage sale and advertise contributions to be made to ASWAC
- Sell ASWAC products at your garage sale
- Take your ASWAC newsletter to work, doctor's office, hair dresser, day care, therapist etc. (or leave it on the bus or in a cab)
- Encourage anyone (or any business) you know to donate to ASWAC
- Suggest your ball team buy ASWAC shirts (they're really nice!)
- Write a letter to the Editor about what feminism means to you

your sisters at ASWAC

ART WINNERS

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| #1 Little Sisters | Donna Mackey (Artist- Mufty Mathewson) |
| #2 Earrings | Suzanne Trudel (Artist- Manon Elder) |
| #3 Raku Potter | Lise Smallman (Artist - Elli Grassmuck) |
| #4 Zincograph | Jane Chezborough (Artist - Janet Cardiff) |
| #5 Skyline | Maxine Morris (Artist - Meaghan Dean) |
| #6 Goddess | Tamara Dolinsky (Artist - Linda Stoddard) |
| #7 Sisters | Diane Latham (Artist - Kelly Dickeson) |
| #8 Sundrinker | Heather White (Artist - Meaghan Dean) |

IN CONCERT

Noele Hall In Concert.

On Thursday July 16, Noele Hall will perform a children's concert at the Provincial Museum. Noele brings a blend of magic, action songs, sing-a-long songs and a wacky sense of humour.

Based in Regina, Noele has opened the International Children's Festival there for several year's. She hits the road each summer to perform for children in libraries, Legion Halls, school gyms, festivals and community rinks. She charms the smallest to the tallest with her brand of magic, humour and songs.

Noele has a short-play children's cassette and a video entitled *Get Down Dino*. Her "Spitting Song" is published in *Jumbo Gumbo*, which features some of the best writing for children from across Canada.

Tickets are \$5, for young and old, available through all Ticketmaster locations (451-8000) and at the door. The concert will start at 6:30 pm. The concert is wheel chair accessible and will be signed for the hearing impaired. The concert is a benefit for The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee.

The Wyrd Sisters.

On Thursday July 16, The Wyrd Sisters will perform in concert at the Provincial Museum. This wonderful trio from Winnipeg sing moving, acoustically oriented music with rich, clear voices and powerful harmonies.

The CBC Talent Development Program has taken a keen interest in The Wyrd Sisters and has produced a radio-play tape which has received national attention. The group has played at the Winnipeg Folk Festival and is performing this concert en route to the annual Folk Festival held in Yellowknife.

"The Wyrd Sisters" is the name of the pre-Christian deity known as the Triple Goddess. She represented the circular nature of life - the maiden, the mother and the crone; the three phases of the moon; she who was, she who is, and she who will be.

The concert is a benefit for the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee which works to provide a forum for women's voices (both musical and non-musical!) towards effecting change in the status of women.

Tickets are \$15 (\$5 for those with low income, these are available in limited numbers) available through all Ticketmaster locations (451-8000) and at the door. The concert will start at 8:30 pm. The concert is wheel chair accessible and will be signed for the hearing impaired.

PASSP

Public Awareness of Sexual Stereotyping & Pornography
For information about PASSP's services, information kits, volunteer services & membership call 450-4777.

INFORMATION

Edmonton Labour Support Program. There is no need to be alone during childbirth. Labour Support provides: • companionship • emotional support • comfort measures. There is no charge for this service. Call Linda 465-9272 or Julie 431-1248.

SAVE THE PLANET

use ASWAC mugs for your office or home

- attractive
- with lids for travel
- recycled plastic

\$5 each or 2/\$7

bulk orders (will deliver or ship)

call 421-0306 for more information.

As of Monday, May 25, 1992, the YWCA of Calgary's Women's Resource Centre will be located at: #101, 325-10 Street N.W. Calgary, A.B. T2N 4J5. Phone: 283-5994. Drop in to see us! Please pass on the news.

Here's your big chance to be on air! We are starting a feminist radio show (as yet unnamed—we need suggestions) and we need FEMINISTS! Our first show will be on June 18 at 5:00 pm. We will be on every Thursday at that time.

We are now in the process of developing our mandate, and we need your help. We meet every Wednesday at 6:30 pm, CJSR, second floor Students' Union Building, U of A.

If you have questions, please call Lee at 488-6724 or Teresa at 479-3778.

If you've had a breast implant...your opinions, thoughts and experiences are very important to us. The Angus Reid Group is conducting an independent telephone survey on breast implants for Health and Welfare Canada. Your absolute confidentiality is assured. It will take 20 minutes of your time. This survey will help assess the experiences that women have had with breast implants. Your personal information will be kept confidential. The overall results will be used by Health and Welfare Canada in their efforts to keep women fully informed about safety and efficacy of these devices. Participants can request further information on the subject. Please call before Friday, July 31, 1992. 1-800-661-4437.

News From NAC

by Dorothy Mandy

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women Annual General Meeting accepted me onto the executive as the Alberta Regional Representative.

As my first task I would like to thank Yvonne Stanford for fulfilling this position for the past two years. She is very much respected by the NAC executive and we know she did a lot of good work in the region. I hope we can build on her work in Calgary while raising the level of activities in Edmonton and the rest of the province.

The NAC Conference and 20th Birthday celebration was my first involvement with NAC. More information about the AGM will be coming from the NAC executive and I will also be reporting more fully to member groups. For now I would like to give you a brief summary of two proposals passed by the delegates which affects our region and my work.

The first proposal states that local and regional groups will be organized in the regions to provide support for the Regional Reps. and do some of the work of NAC. Both representatives of member groups and individuals may join. In the second proposal, the NAC executive was instructed to find funding and/or personnel to assist regions.

These decisions were made after lengthy discussions, the idea of regional NAC groups. I feel that the job of Regional Rep. is too big for one person and support groups would be very helpful. NAC attempts to include as many women from as wide a spectrum as possible and I would like the Alberta groups to reflect that diversity.

I will be contacting NAC member groups in the coming weeks and will count heavily on them and ASWAC Newsletter readers to put me in contact with as many other women as possible to invite them to attend a planning meeting.

A tentative date for this meeting is Wednesday Sept. 9, 1992. If you are interested in being part of an Alberta NAC group please call me at 451-0933 (days).

On June 10th women attending an IWD committee meeting expressed interest in using a NAC theme or one of the NAC campaigns in the IWD celebrations. I will continue to be involved in the IWD planning and NAC certainly can play a part in that. The next meeting of the IWD Committee is scheduled for Monday July 13th, 7:00pm, Women's Building, Commom Room.

Womon To Womon Books, a new mail order book and information service for feminists/lesbians in the province of Alberta will launch it's first catalogue in August 1992. To be on the mailing list and receive a questionnaire about books of interest to you, write: Womon To Womon Books, 106-12404-114 Ave. Edmonton, A.B. T5M 3M5, or call: 454-8031.

Contrary to rumor, Womospace continues to exist. The dances and newsletter will be available as usual. For information please call 425-0511 and leave a message. Calls will be responded to as quickly as possible.

AGM '92

ASWAC AGM Highlights

1991-92 was an active year for ASWAC. The organization's goals, objectives and mandates were endorsed by the membership at the annual meeting, held on May 2 where fifty-six women attended. In addition to approving the 1992-93 budget and Plan of Action, the membership supported the following Board recommendations for the coming year:

ASWAC will:

continue with the Board position sharing policy

remain committed to beginning a new Board year with a day-long orientation session introducing members to the collective process and the workings of the ASWAC board

continue to use the Board/group guidelines as developed at the orientation session to assist in working together respectfully and cooperatively

establish a standing committee on membership/volunteer development

combine the Long Range Planning and Budget committees into one committee

continue priority initiatives as identified in the Long Range Plan: Women and Poverty, Violence Against Women, Fundraising/Self-Sufficiency, Networking and Regional Outreach

continue with the process of organizational review

Considerable discussion ensued regarding Board and Regional Representative recruitment as well as more long-term 92 commitments to the Board. The group also raised concerns regarding the review process being used to study the Secretary of State Women's Program currently underway nationally.

The membership selected the Board and Regional Representatives for the 1992-93 year and thanked those who committed their time and energy in the previous year in that capacity.

If you missed the AGM, the following documents are available to ASWAC members. Call or write and specify documents required:

Annual Report
1992-93 Budget
1992-93 Plan of Action
ASWAC Long Range Plan
1991-92 Audited Financial Statements
Minutes for the Annual Meeting
Spring Conference Final Budget Breakdown

BEFORE.....STONEWALL.....AFTER

by Sheryl McInnes

Pink, Pride, Power... the theme of Edmonton's Pride Week, 1992; a week long celebration of 23 years of our involvement in the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Movement. (Similar celebrations are occurring in Calgary and other cities across North America. What is this PRIDE stuff all about? Why do lesbians and Gay men need "rights"; are these "special rights"? No, we are simply asking for the same individual rights protection that all other Albertans take for granted, in other words, an end to discrimination. And how does all this fit with feminism and the women's movement?

Beginning in approximately the 1920's, when among other things the label of 'lesbianism' silenced the first wave of feminism, there was a slow, somewhat secretive movement aimed at ending discrimination based on 'sexual orientation'. By the 1950's and 1960's, homosexual male and lesbian organizations such as the Mattachine society and Daughters of Bilitis (USA) and the Vancouver Association for Social Knowledge began to create a sense of community for gays and lesbians. In Canada in May of 1969, consensual homosexual acts were decriminalized for persons over the age of 21 (this was dropped to age 18 in 1987), provided that such activity takes place in private.

On June 27-28, 1969 the New York Vice squad raided the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village (a known gay bar) under the pretext that they were "serving liquor without a licence". The 'street queens' protested verbally which drew a crowd. When a lesbian (described as a woman dressed like a man) emerged from the bar, police attempted to put her in a paddy wagon. She resisted and this struggle led to a full scale riot. Over the next two days, hundreds of lesbians and gay men openly rebelled against years of repression, harassment and 'bashing'. The Stonewall Riots have come to be known as the 'birth' of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Movement. Subsequently across North America, thousands of organizations formed around the issues of rights to privacy and freedom of association (USA) and individual rights protection under the Human Rights Act (Canada). Taking their cue from the Black and Native Civil Rights Movements (racism), and the Women's Movement (sexism), lesbians began to develop theories around heterosexism (a belief that the only "natural" sexual relations are between a man and a woman) and homophobia (the fear and hatred of same sex relationships). Working in parallel with the other social movements that arose out of the 1960's, the movement for lesbian and gay rights has both an academic strand of activity and grass roots activism. The grass roots movement is somewhat divided between lesbian-only (some would say 'separatist') associations and the mixed gay/lesbian rights organizations.

At one level rights for gay men and lesbians have a common ground under the term 'sexual orientation'. But lesbians, as



females, also have a different experience of oppression that may require closer attention to the combined effects of sexism and heterosexism and how the courts adjudicate those rights' issues for lesbians. Currently L.E.A.F. (Women's Legal Education and Action Fund) is holding consultations with lesbians across Canada to examine these issues (an information package is available through ASWAC or Womospace). Lesbians are not a homogenous group; we are quite literally everywhere, and therefore are also subject to discrimination based on able-bodiness, race, religion, ageism and so on. Lesbian issues are feminist issues; feminist issues are lesbian issues. The false division among us based on a 'label of deviancy' must not become part of our collective work for our rights of equality, as women. With that in mind, I would like to call on all ASWAC members and friends to join with us during the week of June 20 - 28; come talk, sing, and march with us in solidarity. Wear PINK, celebrate PRIDE, and help us take our own POWER to effect change.

PRIDE WEEK EVENTS: Edmonton

Friday June 19, 8pm, Boyle Street Community Centre (9515-104 St) PRIDE WEEK DANCE sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Community Centre Youth Group

Saturday June 20, 8pm, Bonnie Doon Hall (9240-93 St) WOMONSPACE DANCE

FILM FESTIVAL: Monday June 22, Centennial Library Theatre 7:30 show, 9pm reception ... Tuesday/Wednesday National Film Board Theatre (Canada Place) 7:30 pm showing

Friday June 26, Riverdale Hall (9231 - 100 Ave) WOMEN'S SUMMER SOLSTICE DANCE

.... AND the BIG DAY, Saturday June 27 ... PRIDE - A - THON (cycle, walk, jog) 10am Kinsmen Field House

PARADE AND RALLY (with Svend Robinson), meet at 83 Ave and 104 St (Gazebo), wear pink, march proud - 2-4pm

ROMANOVSKY & PHILLIPS 7pm, Garneau Theatre (Gay & Lesbian, social/political satire in concert)

Full information on all this and more, call Gay and Lesbian Community Centre, afternoons or after 7pm 488-3234
Calgary: 233-0731
Lethbridge: 328-GALA

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CHILDREN'S CONCERT JULY 16 AT 6:30 pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANY TICKETMASTER OUTLET
CALL 451-8000

(All Admission \$5.00)



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A benefit for the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

