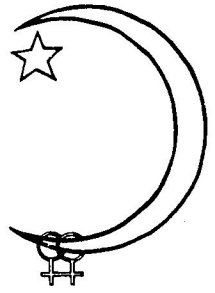


WOMONSPACE

our voice in the lesbian community



Alice Austen: **The Darned Club**; 1891;

Courtesy The Staten Island Historical Society

NEWS

Oct. 84

Vol. 2

No. 10

Editorial ~



I may be called the editor of this newsletter, but I have no intention of writing editorials. This was one of my arguments against accepting the position. "No problem," I was assured by the newsletter committee. "Get other women to write guest editorials." However, it has not been that simple. I did not find anyone willing to oblige for the October issue. True, I only asked about fifteen people. By advertising our need in the newsletter, I hope to reach all of you who will jump at the opportunity to editorialize.

An editorial is basically the leading article of a publication. It may be on any subject of interest to us as women and lesbians, but it would be preferable to deal with matters concerning Womonspace specifically. The letter to the editor in this issue is an excellent example of an article which could be an editorial. Material which is racist, sexist, heterosexist, or which slanders or misrepresents Womonspace is not suitable.

Editorials should be submitted by the 10th of the month (mail them to Womonspace or drop them off at Every Woman's Place). If you have intentions of writing one, please give me some advance notice - 469-2143.

Lindy Pratch



As a volunteer coordinator on duty at the September Womonspace dance I would like to share a few observations with the readers.

All women should know by now that ALL tasks at Womonspace dances are executed by volunteers--whether or not they are members of Womonspace. The only exception to this policy is the disc-jockey who is paid to provide music between the hours of 8 pm and 1 am.

Womonspace, like every other organization in Alberta, has to apply for liquor permits to provide bar service at its dances. A.L.C.B. regulations stipulate that cut-off time be no later than 1 am and that ALL liquor be off the tables (and out of people's hands) by 1:30 am.

Probably the most thankless task we can ask of our volunteers is to enforce this last regulation. I have seen (and experienced myself) the shit and abuse that is heaped on these volunteers who continue on with their work--still smiling.

Well, I for one have had enough! No, I am not withdrawing my membership--nor am I refusing to volunteer at future dances. I want Womonspace dances to be enjoyed by all, including the volunteers who so generously give of their time for the benefit of others. Therefore, I would like to see Womonspace take a stand against women who insist on being obnoxious, rude and terribly uncooperative towards volunteers. My recommendation is to simply bar such women from our dances. If they can find a club (or a group of friends) who will tolerate such behavior--fine!



They can go party elsewhere! I refuse to see our hard-earned reputation with the Liquor Board compromised by a few Yahoos intent on getting completely inebriated.

In the three years I've been attending Womospace dances, I've met the nicest women and have truly enjoyed myself time after time. Even now that women have been given a weekend night at one of the local clubs, I believe that Womospace dances fill a need for many women. For them, and for me too, I want Womospace dances to live on and to be enjoyable places for volunteers to work.



A.G.

THE LAW IS FAIR?

An Illinois judge drew criticism from feminists after sentencing a woman in the manslaughter shooting of her abusive husband. The judge said he considered the fact that the woman had previously had three abortions as an index of her regard for human life. In another case, while sentencing a woman who pled guilty to killing her battering husband, an Arizona judge said he wanted to make the woman "angry enough at the situation" of her marriage that she would never allow herself to be battered again. The woman was sentenced to three months in jail, five years probation, counselling, 100 hours of community service, and she was also forbidden to live with or marry a man without first getting permission from her psychiatrist and probation officer.

Harrisburg Area Womens News and Rag Times via Lesbian Connection

B O O K S

My journey "out of the closet" took me to several counsellors. My hours of therapy yielded a very valuable piece of advice. "Read", she said, "Read everything you can lay your hands on!" I took the advice she failed to follow herself. I read it all!

This very small sampling of my bibliography may be of assistance to anyone whose response to pain and uncertainty is to brandish one's library card.

A word of advice when choosing non-fiction: Check when it was written. 1975 seems to be a benchmark for gaging usefulness. Earlier material has not had the benefit of the research done or the change in attitudes in recent years.

1) The Lesbian Myth by Bettie Wysor. This was the first book I read. It's easy to read, well-organized and systematic in its approach to the prevalent misinformation. It's a must for neophytes.

2) Lesbian Crossroads by Ruth Baetz. An excellent book for those on their way "out".

It is intended that this article will be the beginning of a regular feature in WOMONSPACE NEWS. Anyone who has read a book or article they wish to recommend reading, or avoiding, is invited to submit its name, source, and a review.

J.B.



MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE

1981 550 Suzuki, like new, 1700 km, w/ krauser bags, roll bars. Best offer. Phone Karen: 451-1351.



Re: WOMEN'S PRESS

Has anyone else noticed that the Edmonton Journal, the Sun, and even The Globe & Mail seem to neglect lesbian issues? Maybe we're so used to being invisible and silent that we don't notice the absence--or maybe we think there is no news about lesbians.

Fortunately a healthy feminist press exists but it can't survive without us. The unfortunate part is that there are few outlets for these newspapers in town. (Common Woman Books does have copies of some things.) The only sure way to get them is to subscribe.

One of the best (one of the only) Canadian women's papers is Broadside : A Feminist Review.

Recent copy, for example, contains a long article by Mary Meigs--a 60-ish lesbian writer and painter--on her former lover and long time friend author Barbara Deming; a commentary by Susan G. Cole, Toronto lesbian activist, on Media and Pornography; reviews on a half a dozen new books by women; and several items on Toronto's Lesbian Sexuality Conference. Although Broadside is dominated by Toronto news, it does provide a healthy dose of Canadian Lesbian information.

Broadside, P.O. Box 494, Stn. P, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2T1; \$13 for 10 issues.

J.M.P.



THE CAMP OUT Minnow Lake Aug. 24-26

The rain on Friday evening did not deter nine hardy souls who pitched tents in the small but quite delightful campground. (Actually there were some not-so-hardy who came in vans! And still called it camping!) We sat around a truly magnificent fire and listened to the thunder and torrential downpour!

Our perseverance was rewarded when Saturday and Sunday dawned warm and glorious. The wind surfer, canoe, two dinghies, numerous books, games, bottles of beer and other light refreshments made spending the day on the small "beach" the only alternative. Those who have never skinny-dipped, burned their buns, or been topless canoeing through the reeds have missed out on the true joys of wilderness living.

Campfire was an experience! I don't think I'd ever heard those songs sung quite that way before!

The food, the company, the facilities were great. We who attended feel that it has definite potential as an annual event. Those who missed it--see you there next year.

J.B.

SHARK DEFENCE

After reviewing the data on shark attacks at an Australian beach, a group of scientists found that men were attacked nine times more often than women. While there is little doubt that sharks are drawn to fresh blood, they seem to be repelled by hemolyzed blood, such as that discharged during menstruation.

Women's Sports
via Lesbian Connection

SEMINAR
& MUSICAL PRESENTATION
HOMOSEXUALITY & THE BIBLE

Rev. Sylvia Pennington
(Founder of Lambda Christian
Fellowship, Former MCC Pastor)

Saturday Afternoon
OCTOBER 20

Location to be announced

MCC: 438-5168 Womospace: 488-2918

Sylvia will be in Edmonton Oct.
16-23. Other events are still in
the planning stages.



AIDS



An AIDS Support Network is being developed for the person who is Edmonton's first case of AIDS. Anyone interested in becoming part of the network is asked to leave a message on the phone line - Liz will put you in touch with someone.



**COMMON WOMAN
BOOKS**

Alberta's Only Feminist Bookstore

non-sexist children's books
records * jewelry * t-shirts
fiction * feminist theory
overcoming male & female stereotypes
a good selection of lesbian literature

Tuesday & Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday & Friday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

8208 - 104 Street 432-9344



SPEAKER'S BUREAU

A Speaker's Bureau is being established. Interested? Call the phone line: 488-2918.

Ardelle L. Dudley

Telephone:
(403) 998-1740



**Women's Counselling
Services of Edmonton**

R.R. 1, Fort Saskatchewan,
Alberta, Canada T8L 2N7



Elizabeth MASSIAH, M.S.W. - Feminist Therapist

*Individuals, Couples, Groups

*Flexible fees, and times

Edmonton: (bus.) 422-3022 (home) 481-5973



P.M.S.

We've been talking about organizing a P.M.S. (Pre-Menstrual Syndrome) workshop but for anyone who needs help now there's a support group meeting at E.W.P. on the first Thurs. of every month. It's open to all women.

MAIL ORDER SHOPPING

Looking for a T-shirt proclaiming yourself "Lesbian & Proud"? How about a labyris pendant for your lover? Know someone you'd like to give a "Dykes Ignite" lighter to? You can get these items delivered to your door!

Womospace has a number of mail order catalogues on file in the office. Women are welcome to browse through the wide array of products offered; bumper stickers, leather goods, jewelry, clothing, note cards, rubber stamps, books and more.

The office is often locked--best time to look at the catalogues would be on Thursday nights during the lesbian drop-in. Otherwise, leave a message on 488-2918 and we'll make arrangements. If you would like to add to our collection, please do!

WOMEN... REACHING OUT... SHARING RESOURCES.

The CANADIAN WOMEN'S MAILING LIST (CWML) is an information service now available to women and women's groups. Once registered, you will be kept informed about feminist events, actions, publications, and services. By completing a registration form, you determine the subject areas that interest you and your wishes are then respected. Interest areas include women's culture, women's sports, health, legal/political issues, lesbian women, women of color, education, violence against women, and work. There are numerous subdivisions under each topic.

Contact Womospace if you would like to obtain a registration form for the network.



WOMEN'S PROGRAM

The Women's Program, Faculty of Extension, U of A, is offering a variety of workshops, forums and courses through the fall. Courses are non-credit and require no particular educational background. Topics include:

- * Returning to Learning
- * Assertiveness Workshop
- * Stress Management for Women
- * Compulsive Eating and Body Image
- * If We're All In This Together, Where Is Everybody (The Women's Movement)
- * Women, Education and Work
- * Understanding PMS
- * Mid-life Wellness for Women
- * The Law as it Affects Women
- * Financial Planning for Women

Also planned is a provincial conference "Women and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms"--Edmonton, October 19-21.

For more info, phone Sandy Susut or Mavis Booker at 432-3093.



7th ANNUAL METAMORPHOSIS

A Prairie Celebration of Lesbians and Gay Men

Saskatoon: Oct 5th to 8th, 1984

Events Include: Workshops
Coffee House
Dance
Concert

Childcare is available during activities.

Call Marilyn at 429-2355 for further information on the events, transportation, or rooming.

NEWSLETTER



Notice the changes in our newsletter? Some of the changes will save us money, as will the fact that almost all of the work is now being done by Womonspace members.

We need help: people interested in layout and graphics, people who can help collate the newsletter (one Wednesday night a month) and typists.

If you'd like to help create this lovely newsletter, please leave a message for Lindy at 488-2918.



WANTED : PHOTOGRAPHS

WOMONSPACE NEWS would rather use photos and graphics produced by women in our community than lift materials from published works. Please send us photos and drawings that express your lesbian-vision. Black & white reproduces better but colour is acceptable. If people are recognizable, get their written permission for us so we can use the photograph.

WOMONSPACE AND WOMONSPACE NEWS

Womonspace is its members. You are Womonspace. Your participation directs what happens in the group.

WOMONSPACE NEWS is the voice of Womonspace. It is your voice only if you are there to speak at meetings and/or if you are writing contributions to the newsletter.

Submissions of interest to lesbian women are welcome from both members and non-members. Our deadline is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue. Please mail your submissions to WOMONSPACE NEWS, c/o E.W.P., 9926 - 112 St. T5K 1L7.

CIVIL RIGHTS

At the September meeting, Womonspace decided to donate \$100 and physical support to the letter-writing campaign being organized by G.A.L.A. to support the proposed amendments to the Individual Rights Protection Act.

Writing letters to our M.L.A.'s is a very effective way of lobbying. If the amendment is passed it will protect us from discrimination by employers. So stay tuned to the phone line for an announcement of the date of our letter-writing bee.

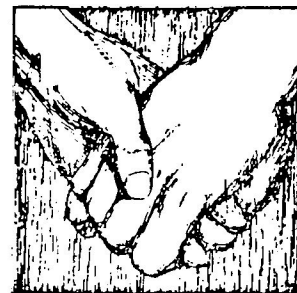
If you'd like to work on the committee, call Liz at 488-2918.

G.A.T.E.

Wednesday nights are women's nights at the Gay Alliance Towards Equality office. Drop in at 10173 and 104 Street between 7 - 10 pm. G.A.T.E. has a good library and peer counselling is also available.

GATE

GAY ALLIANCE TOWARD EQUALITY



10173-104 St. EDMONTON (403)424-8361

- DROP-IN CENTRE
- PEER COUNSELLING
- SPEAKERS' BUREAU
- CIVIL RIGHTS
- SOCIAL EVENTS
- LIBRARY

HERBOLOGY WORKSHOP

Hester Elliot, Edmonton herborologist, will be giving a workshop on herbology at EWP on Monday, December 10th at 7 pm. Phone 488-2748 for more information. This workshop is being sponsored by Every Woman's Place.



AUTHOR'S BREAKFAST

Common Woman Books and EWP will be putting on a breakfast on Sunday October 14 at 11:00 am. Linda Woodbridge, author of The History of Renaissance Women, will be the guest speaker. 488-2748 for details.



SUPPORT GROUP FOR SINGLE WOMEN

I would like to start a support group for single women. If anyone is interested in being part of this group please call Donna Mumm at Every Woman's Place. The number is 488-2748.

CHRISTIANITY AND FEMINISM

On Monday, November 12, United Church Minister Delores Reed will be giving a talk on Christianity and feminism. The talk concerns the changing roles of women in Church, correcting mistranslations from the Hebrew and Greek scriptures concerning women, and evidence that proves that Christianity (when not distorted) takes a feminist stance. Phone 488-2748 for more information.



WEN-DO WORKSHOP

Womonspace is sponsoring a one or two day Wen-Do workshop October 27/28, 1984 (tentative dates). It will be held at the Bissel Centre and will be a beginner level workshop; all women are welcome.

Wen-Do is a system of self-defense designed for women; many members of our community have been involved in Wen-Do and report increased self-confidence and a stronger sense of security. The workshop includes both theory and hands-on learning.

This workshop will not be restricted to Womonspace members only. Womonspace donated \$200 to Wen-Do early in 1984 and this workshop will be subsidized for Womonspace members. Final details are not confirmed; contact Ann at 488-8457 or leave your name on the Womonspace phone line. At least three persons are required for the workshop; maximum is 20, so make your plans early.

LESBIAN DROP-IN

Every Thursday is drop-in night from 7 - 9 at Every Woman's Place. (9926 - 112 Street) All women are welcome.

LESBIAN TALK NIGHT

Last Thursday night of each month
7 - 9 p.m. (or later)

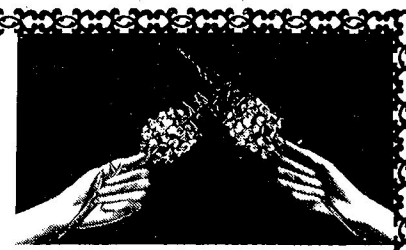
Every Woman's Place

Gather for an evening to discuss issues of lesbianism/feminism.

Bring your suggestions for topics (ideas, articles, books to read, etc)

At the end of each evening we choose our topic for the next Lesbian Talk Night and decide if we need to distribute reading materials.

Activities



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our annual policy making meeting is coming up soon. Members must have attended one general meeting since October 1983 in order to vote at the A.G.M. It will be held Wednesday, September 26 at 7 pm, upstairs at The Roost. (10345-104 St.)

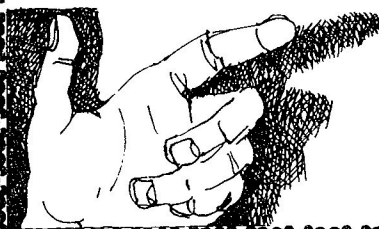
This is the most important meeting of the year. Subjects discussed will include: an activities report; the annual financial report; and major policy changes. In addition the ELECTIONS for all board positions will be held at this meeting.

GENERAL MEETING

General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at E.W.P. at 7:30 pm. Next one is October 9. Everyone is welcome.

NEWSLETTER MEETING

The next newsletter meeting will be held on Sunday, October 14, 6:30 pm at Jeanne's. (#1, 10739-86 Avenue) If you would like to help with WOMONSPACE NEWS, but cannot come to the meeting, you are welcome to phone Lindy at 469-2143 and talk to her about what you'd like to do.



WEN-DO

Wen-do (women's self defense) is doing a beginner course, sponsored by Womospace, on Oct. 27 & 28. For more details and to register, leave your message on the Wen-do line: 479-0395.

PR DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

The next PR Directions Committee meeting will be Monday, Oct. 15, 5:30 pm at Laura's. (#36 Sundance, 87 St. & 100 Ave.) Phone first; 429-2355.

From now on PR Directions meetings will be the second Monday of the month--watch the newsletter for location.

VOLUNTEERS

Womospace always needs volunteers. There is a need right now for women who are willing to help out with the October dance. Leave your name on the phone line: 488-2918.

REFERRAL LIST

We need names of lesbian-positive professionals that we can give to women needing services (mechanics, dentists, hairdressers, etc.) Members of the PR Directions Committee will contact the person before they are put on the list. Please give your suggestions to: Laura. (488-2918 message)

WOMONSPACE DANCE

HAZELDEAN HALL - 9630 - 66 AVENUE

OCT. 20
8pm to 1:30am

Adm. - Members \$5
Non — \$6

Toni Frissell: **Five Girls Running**; New York, 1930;
Courtesy the Frissell Collection, The Library of Congress

Cover and Back Photographs taken from "A collection of WOMEN ALONE
Twentieth Century WOMEN TOGETHER
Women Photographers"
1983 Calendar Women's Resources Distribution Company.

PLEASE NOTE:

Articles published in Womonspace News do not necessarily reflect the policies and opinions of Womonspace.

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 488-2918

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