

X, Laura (1940 –) Since 1969, the “X” of Laura’s name has stood for the anonymity of women’s stolen history and women having to carry their slave owners’ names. She co- founded a SANE chapter at Vassar College, and since 1960 has been involved in the peace and civil rights movements, educational reform, the lesbian, Jewish, socialist, African, Puerto Rican and Mexican movements, and music. A Spanish-speaking Head Start teacher in NYC (1960), she moved to Berkeley, CA, in 1963 and became involved in the students’ non-violent free speech movement, and Women for Peace. After visiting the USSR in 1967, she discovered that the women who sparked the 1917 revolution were celebrating International Women’s Day, and that IWD was based on an American event. She called for U.S. celebrations of IWD (11/11/68 *Daily Cal*). From July 1968, she collected manifestos and letters to the editor from movement women documenting their dismissal as “bourgeois” for demanding equal rights. In 1969, she helped organize the first U.S. IWD street demonstration since 1947 and was soon calling for/aiding National Women’s History Month activities to be built around IWD. In 1969, enraged by a male University of California, Berkeley, professor’s remark that it was not worth teaching women’s studies because there was not enough material to fill a quarter course, she collected a list of 1,000 influential women and nailed it to the professor’s door. People from 40 countries began sending material for her growing Women’s History Library. In April 1969, she and fellow members of Redstockings West published the only national women’s liberation newsletter, SPAZM. This became the first women’s liberation newspaper, *It Ain’t Me Babe*, in 1970. Firsts from her Women’s History Library: the anthology *Masculine/Feminine* (1969); *Women’s Songbook* (1971); films by and/or about women; Bibliography on Rape (1973); Herstory (821 serial titles); nearly one million documents published on microfilm (1974) by the Library, which was commended by the American Library Association as the most comprehensive archive of any social protest movement. In addition to this work, she co-founded the disability rights caucuses of NWSA, NCASA, NCADV. From 1978, she also campaigned successfully in 45 states and 20 countries to make marital and date rape a crime, culminating in the unanimous vote against a husband’s entitlement to his wife at the 1995 United Nations Beijing Conference. Archives on microfilm are available at 400 libraries in 14 countries.