

Veteran Feminists of America

Vol II No. 2

Fall/Winter 1994

WE CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AND A WORLD LEADER

Bella Abzug To Receive The VFA Medal of Honor

Bella hardly had time to allow us to honor her as she was running from one conference to another — to Cairo, Vienna, you name it! And, she'll run from a pre Beijing conference with women from around the world at the United Nations the afternoon of December 2! To our great joy, many of the women who are here for that conference may join us. It is fitting that we celebrate Bella practically on the eve of the International Women's Conference in Beijing.

And, as always, we're honoring each other. Keeping in touch for our own joy at being together once again, and hopefully, again and again and again — not as often as we got together in the past perhaps, and not for as intense reasons, but the excitement is still there. The revolution we launched is going on and on, but we're no longer alone and there's time to stop and smell the flowers.

Happy holidays to all!

- Jacqui

BELLA

In the year 2001 when the Martians land on Earth, we know the first thing they're going to demand is "Take us to your leader."

And we know what our answer will be. "She's the one over there", we'll say, "the one with the crown...er, the hat...on her head. Bella, the Bronx's gift to our world!"

We'll tell them that from civil rights to peace, from the Congress to feminism, from politics and the environment to the international women's movement, Bella Abzug has always been a leading force for progress. In the 1950's the young civil liberties-labor lawyer defended Hollywood stars against the mad McCarthy witchhunt. She helped organize the Women's Strike for Peace and initiated the anti-nuke campaigns. By the '60's Bella's compelling voice rang out: Stop the Vietnam war! Then at age 50 she took her seat in Congress.

Well, a woman's place is in the House, right?

In 1970 Bella initiated what was to become the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues. She wrote the first laws banning economic discrimination, introduced bills on comprehensive child care, social security for homemakers, abortion rights, gay rights, benefits for Vietnam vets...and the list goes on. Chosen as the third most influential member of the House, a 1977 Gallup Poll confirmed Bella as one of the 20 most influential women in the world.

The feminist movement became another stronghold when Bella joined with others to found the National Women's Political Caucus, and served as its first cochair. As chief strategist for Democratic women, she led a successful campaign for equal representation in all elective and appointive posts.

Bella moved into the international arena when President Carter named her head of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year. With colleagues she organized the 1980 USA Fund, Inc., which has conducted women's voter education, and is currently involved in an international effort to organize women against pollution and poverty. Bella created the Women's Environment and Development organization, and conceived and presided over the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet which produced a blueprint for incorporating the woman's dimension into local, national and international environmental issues.

Today at the United Nations Bella continues to organize women's caucus meetings at major international conferences, including the one in Cairo this past September and the

Fourth World Conference on Women slated for Beijing next September.

Bella has won love, loyalty and devotion from friends and coworkers. She takes great pleasure in her daughters Eve and Liz and her sister Helene. Teaching us by example to survive loss and sorrow and keep on truckin', Bella's bested two political defeats, the death of her husband and companion, Martin, and breast cancer.

The Bronx's gift to New York and the nation is now and will keep on being its gift to the world and—who knows—maybe even Mars. With love in our hearts, a catch in our throats and tears of pride in our eyes—not to mention credit cards in our own names in our pockets—the Veteran Feminists of America presents our Medal of Honor to our esteemed and respected, our much-loved and admired woman for all seasons—Bella Abzug.

WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 12 1994

Stepping into the Victorian atmosphere of the Sewall Belmont House in the shadow of the Senate Office building, one feels the presence of the great women who fought so long for the vote and the Equal Rights Amendment. In this setting legendary feminists Betty Friedan and Congresswoman Martha Griffiths were joined by sister feminists they'd not seen for years as they accepted our medal of honor.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan bestowed the medal on Friedan, and our first honored hero, Catherine East, was there to honor Griffiths.

Throughout the late afternoon, senators and congress people took time from official duties to honor their constituents: Senators Kohl for Gene Boyer, Kassebaum for Virginia Allan, Feinstein for Toni Carabillo; Representatives Ford for Dorothy Haener, Rankin for Evelyn Cunningham, Johnson for Ida Davidoff. Former NOW president Ellie Smeal was there for Phineas Indritz and Virginia Whitehill stepped in to honor her sister Texan Hermine Tobolowsky.

Marjorie Stoneman Douglas and Nan Wood weren't able to be with us, so Representative Meek's office and Nikki Beare accepted the honor for Florida

suffragist Douglas, and Mary Jean Collins accepted for Nan Wood, her sister activist in Chicago NOW.

Wonderful moments:

From Virginia Allan, who had doubts about the word veteran: *When I was told I was to receive the Veteran Feminists of America medal of honor, I ran to the thesaurus to look up veteran. This is what I found*

— old soldier, old timer, old pro, old campaigner, old war horse. *There's no doubt that all these fit me, but I felt better when I consulted the dictionary and found this, "One who has a long record of service in a given activity. "So now I feel very good about what the VFA is doing.*

From Senator Feinstein: *I've found there's no way for US senators to commend someone for doing good work, so we've just invented a certificate, and I've made out the first one to Toni Carabillo.*

Heather Booth of Washington, a founder of Women's Liberation in Chicago: *It's spectacular! I see people here who have shaped history.*

Patricia Burnett of Detroit: *This is a beautiful moment. Some of us weren't really close friends—we were opposed to each other on issues—and now we fly into each other's arms. All is forgotten!*

Betty Friedan and Toni Carabillo (...as Patricia said....) greet each other warmly: (Betty) *Hello Toni. You know, I'm in Santa Monica part of the year teaching. Let's get together.*

Toni's talk—*I'll never forget when I went to my first NOW board meeting and met those spectacular women so committed to the cause. I'd thought I was a bit weird—Didn't we all think we were unique in our belief that women should have something more? Didn't we all think we were a little bit "funny?" So it was a revelation when I discovered there were more like me. It's been the joy of my life and I wouldn't change it for anything.*

Martha Griffiths on the story of what happened when an amendment was added to Title VII to include the word "sex." *The House erupted in laughter. Lee Sullivan of Missouri said, "Martha, if you don't stop that laughter we'll lose and we'll never have this chance again." Well gentlemen, I said, if anything prove d how little you think of women, how disrespectful you are of us, your laughter has. We've spent three days arguing the rights of blacks. Now that we talk about women - your mothers, your wives, your daughters - you think it's funny. You could have heard a pin drop.*

Hermine Tobolosky: *Texas is fine for men and dogs, but hell on horses and women. Texas was known as the state with the most laws discriminating against women. Or so it was until the Equal Legal Rights Amendment. I worked long and hard to get that bill passed. I may be a veteran but I'm not retiring until the Equal Rights Amendment is passed in the nation!*

Ida Davidoff of Connecticut, 91 years young: *I'm honored to be in such company! While you all were painting murals, we in Fairfield County were painting a miniature, but a damn good one!*

Ginnie Whitehill of Dallas: *My mother knew Carrie Chapman Catt. And, she joined the League of Women Voters right here in Alice Paul's living room.*

And Betty Friedan, dropping her voice two octaves after a rousing account of her feminist voyage: *So many wonderful people. It was such a passionate journey. We had our differences—there were lots of issues we had to surmount and survive—but aren't you glad we did it? How well we used our lives ... a bunch of ordinary, and not so ordinary women doing the miracle of making political what had not been political.*

BOOK SHELF

FEMINIST CLASSICS: WOMEN'S WORDS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD - Meg Bowman. A sampling of short articles, one-liners, poems and book segments that raised consciousness during the second wave, written with a grant from the *Thanks Be To Grandmother Winifred Foundation. Send \$2.00 for a free copy.

WOMEN'S HISTORY; DRAMATIC READINGS - Meg Bowman. Focuses on the lives of six women; Sappho, Hypatia, Mary Wollstonecraft, Deborah Sampson, Emma Goldman and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. Great for programs.

Dr. Meg Bowman teaches courses in Masculinity & Femininity and Sex Roles, produces plays and does readings on women's history, has published five books, including a SEXIST LANGUAGE reader, and is now writing on female genital mutilations. She has organized five FOCUS ON WOMEN tours, and will escort a group to the Beijing United Nations Conference on Women. (see "DRAWING")

For both books: Hot Flash Press, P.O. Box 21506, San Jose, Ca. 95151.

* For information on this foundation for women who are US citizens over 54 years old, write to: TBTGWFF, P.O. Box 1449, Wainscott, New York 11975. Phone - 516/725-0323

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Editor/Publisher: Jacqui Ceballos with help from Joan Michel and Mary Eastwood.
—All errors, omissions are mine. JC

MailBox

... I am a former US Army nurse and would like to correspond with others my age, especially those with MS, an ailment I have, to share experiences for coping in our society. I am also looking for communities for elderly and handicapped women like Spinster Haven in Fayetteville, Arkansas, Sister Spirit Camp in Overt, Mississippi, Hawkwind in Alabama, Golden Wimmen in Wolse Creek, Oregon, The Farm in Tennessee. If you hear of any, please let me know. I am part of the Memorial to Military Women now in planning for Arlington National Cemetery. Please announce that the U.S. Public Health Service is looking for all cadet nurses from WW II.

Betty Mitchell

2510 N E 9th St., Apt. 504 • Gainesville, FL 32609 • 904/375-5812

...I was not with you in person but I was definitely there in spirit and mind. The reason for my physical absence is that I was receiving an honorary doctorate (humane letters) at the State University of New York (SUNY). I accepted the degree on behalf of all feminists, and made a rousing (I hope) speech about equality for women. The response of over 4000 in this conservative place was so much clapping and cheering to every feminist statement that it served a (further) proof that our message has gotten across.

Karen DeCrow

7599 Brown Galf Rd. • Jamesville, NY 13078

Attorney Karen DeCrow was national NOW president 1974 -1977

..Here's my renewal for VFA. I do really appreciate the newsletter. It's a terrific connection over the years and the miles. I enjoy entertaining old friends from the USA and was elated when Betty Friedan came through this year on a book tour.

Judy Lightfoot Cormack

41 Lower Blich Street • Northbridge, NSW 2063

Sydney, Australia Phone 02-958 0888 • Fax - 02-958-0999

Formerly of Atlanta, Judy was chair of NOW national board from 7/3/76

OOPS!: NOW LOGO DESIGNED BY IVY BOTTINI

Designing of NOW LOGO was credited to Toni Carabillo in last newsletter. Ivy Bottini is the designer. President of New York NOW from 1968 to '71, Ivy was a graphic artist for New York NEWSDAY. She moved to L.A. in the 1970's where she performs as a comedian and works in real estate.

From Radical Feminist and SUNY Professor Rosalyn Baxandall

...We're collecting materials from the Women's Liberation Movement; leaflets, posters, pamphlets, songs and other memorabilia from the 1960's to 1976 for a several-volume collection to be published by Carlson. Focus is only on the WLM, as NOW and other organizations have records. We'd appreciate names of activists to whom we should write, or archival collections we may not know about.. We want materials from all parts of the movement—all regions and social groups. We'll reimburse you for copying and mailing, and you'll be credited in the book.

We hope that as you look through your files, you will consider donating your papers to a good archive, and we'll be glad to consult with you on an appropriate place.

Rosalyn Baxandall, American Studies, SUNY Old Westbury, NY 11568-0210 (212) 982-8388, fax - 2121 982-0194 email ROSYBAX@AOL.COM or Linda Gordon, History, U. of Wisconsin, 455 North Park St., Madison, WI 53706, (608) 251-0826 - Fax (608) 263-5302, email ILGordon@macc.wisc.edu

BARBARA SEAMAN, author and health activist celebrated two anniversaries this year. Her ground breaking book, The Doctor's Case Against the Pill was published 25 years ago, and she founded the modern women's health movement in 1969.

Barbara was the first to report that the pill was implicated in strokes, heart attacks, cancer, and risky to older women, diabetics, hypertensives and smokers. She'd discovered that it had never been mass-tested before it was released. Her activism in the '70's led to the inclusion of "patient package inserts," which warn of a drug's dangers, for birth control pills.

"The connection between the Food and Drug Administration and the pharmaceutical companies have continued to this day," Barbara states, and she expresses deep skepticism about the long-term efficacy of Premarin, a drug now widely prescribed for menopausal women. She tells the story of a pharmaceutical executive who boasted that he could "put horse manure in a pill and 95 percent of doctors would prescribe it." Premarin, from pregnant mares' urine, is a close relative to horse manure."

Today, besides her campaign to make patient package inserts on all prescription drugs a law, she's working for emergency room identification of battered women and fighting Norplant, the timed-release birth control pill that is implanted in the arm via rods. The FDA approved Norplant, she says, though rod-removal was never perfected. Now she is compiling reports of women with badly scarred arms or impaired circulation.

The Doctor's Case Against the Pill is being reissued by Hunter House Publishers, P.O. Box 2914, Alameda, CA 94501

Barbara is also a founder of the VFA, and she it was who dubbed us Veterans of Feminist Wars.

Louise Bernikow - wants to talk with anyone who did feminist work across racial or class lines, with lesbians who did not feel "purged" from the movement, and those active in the 1980's, in spite of the backlash. Stories of overcoming racism, classism, homophobia with the movement — and all accounts outside New York — are passionately desired. All this to counter the 1992 young feminist's remark, "your movement fell apart because it was all white and middle class." Help prove it isn't true. Contact Louise at 318 West 105 Street, New York, NY 10025, 212/662-6307.

From a Florida press release:

Governor Chiles announced the appointment of feminist **Nikki Beare** to the **Florida Women's Hall of Fame**. **Nikki Beare** of Havana is a longtime, tireless advocate for women's issues and mentor of women leaders in government and business. She is a founder of Dade County NOW and served on the national board, a founding member of the NWPC, hosted a feminist radio talk show in Miami, inspired the creation of the Florida Women's Credit Union, publishes the Women's Almanac, a feminist newspaper and was influential in removing gender bias in advertising of a major newspaper. She's a lobbyist for feminist/humanist causes, a tireless campaigner for pro feminist candidates and on the advisory board of VFA. She joins dynamos Roxcy Bolton and Representative Elaine Gordon on the Florida roster.

FEMINIST PARENTS

I'm looking for your stories, your challenges and your triumphs. If your children are from 2 to 82 and you are willing to complete a questionnaire or be interviewed (anonymous, if desired) you will be entered into a drawing for the \$200 U.S. savings bond upon publication. Write Jill Morris, 20953 Boca Ridge Dr. W., Boca Raton, FL 33428 or call 800/479-3661.

Boston PBS TV & BBC to Produce Segment on Early Movement

Boston PBS and the BBC are producing a twenty-seven segment series on the 20th Century, called "The People's Century. One hour will be devoted to the women's movement around the world. Looking for women who had changed their lives because of the movement, they interviewed many by phone, and later traveled to California, Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mexico City and back to Massachusetts to film *Dusty Roads*, organizer of "Stewardesses for Women's Rights"; Ginnie Whitehill, active in *Roe vs Wade*; Lorena Weeks, who sued Bell Telephone in the 1970's; Kathy Grady, abortion activist; Jacqui Ceballos, VFA founder/director; and Anilu Elias, who was involved with 1975 Year of the Woman conference in Mexico. Series will air in fall of '95; the feminist segment in early '96.

IN MEMORY

Phyllis Birkby - 51, died of breast cancer April 13, 1994 in Great Barrington, MA. A memorial party was held at Kate Millett's New York apartment on June 5. Formerly of New York City, Phyllis Birkby, an architect, documented the feminist movement in the 1970's, shooting miles of film and still photographs. The Phyllis Birkby Archives and Fund is being established to preserve and disseminate her work. Donations may be sent c/o Jan Roby, P.O. Box 146, North Egremont, MA 01252.

**DRAWING FOR FREE TRIP TO FOURTH INTERNATIONAL UNITED NATIONS
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN BEIJING, CHINA AUGUST 19 TO SEPTEMBER 5, 1995**

—To raise money for San Jose/South Bay NOW. \$5.00 a ticket, six tickets for \$25.00. Send \$ to: San Jose/South Bay NOW, P.O. Box 21506, San Jose, CA 95151. Your odds are great, as only 1000 tickets are needed to make what 's needed. One in one-thousand! Not bad!

You'll travel with feminists. Trip includes round-trip airfare from San Francisco, including intra-China flights, transfers, visa, ground transportation, hotels, most meals, guides and NGO FORUM Conference fee. Also includes scenic Guilin/Li River cruise/Flute Cave: XIAN (archaeological legacy—terra cottas and Banpo, ancient matriarchy): BEIJING—Great Wall/Ming Tombs/Forbidden City/NGO FORUM.

(For more info write Meg Bowman, 1448 Sunshade Lane, San Jose, CA 95122, (408) 292-1172. Travel Programs. Rt #3, Box 786, Havana, FL, 32333, 1- 800-248-9079/Fax-904-539-0580.)

NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SPONSORS MISSION TO BEIJING

Along with participation in the United Nations conference, this tour also offers side tours. Besides visits to the Great Wall, Forbidden City and the Empress Dowager's Summer Palace, they have arranged to have key women and officials of Chinese women's associations, discuss how Chinese women deal with changing roles in a society that is restructuring itself. The 11-day trip costs \$2,950. Deadline for deposit of \$550 by March 31, 1995. For more complete information: Nikki Beare NWCC Travel Programs. Rt #3, Box 786, Havana, FL, 32333, 1- 800-248-9079/Fax-904-539-0580.

Preserving Our History Our Way

Mary Jean Tully

Whether or not we knew it at the time, we were all making history in the 60's and 70's as we dashed frenziedly from one meeting to another, spent most of the day and half of the night on the phone, picketed and pleaded, buoyed up by the heady excitement of what Betty Friedan has called "our passionate journey."

It was the memory of those years, the excitement and the challenges, the wonderful women (and occasionally men) that inspired me to set up the *Tully - Crenshaw Oral History Project at Radcliffe College's Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America. I had been painfully aware that we were not keeping records of our journey because we were too busy just doing it.

We are taping the memoirs of the major national level leaders from NOW's founding in 1966 until the Houston Conference of November 1977 — from the streets to the White House—sort of. We're also gathering information on Betty Friedan. Most of the interviews have been transcribed and will soon be available on interlibrary loan anywhere in the world.

Unfortunately there isn't enough money to do all the important people, especially those who did their primary work at the state and local levels and those whose major effort was not directly involved with NOW. *These are the people I'm concerned about and I urge you who have not been interviewed to preserve your versions of our history, as well as all clippings, letters, whatever.* We'd hoped the Schlesinger Library would be able to accept them, but that is not possible. However, colleges and universities are interested. I urge you to make a few phone calls in your area to find out where to send them. It's important for us, those who did it, to tell it like it was and leave our stories behind.

Let us know where you send your papers. Phone or fax me at 212-744-4172, or write — 3 Sniffen Road, Armonk, NY 10504.

*Named for my mother, Maude Gresham Crenshaw, and me.

Mary Jean Tully was a sociologist when she joined NOW in 1970. After observing several national board meetings as the editor of the national newsletter, she decided she could best serve by helping to raise money, so she took on the dormant Legal Defense and Education Fund and brought it to life. Her success has made her indispensable in the movement as a financial advisor. She is a longtime active member of Emily's List. Ed.

Living in this world can make women, especially feminists, crazy, remarked Catherine East, on hearing of the nonsensical behavior of a sister. It's important to escape in some way to stay sane! Three veteran feminists escape through dance.

Merrilee Dolan of Albuquerque takes lessons in flamenco dancing. Irish she may be, but she's mastered this passionate Spanish dance enough to perform in public. (Another way to vent rage, besides beating a pillow, is to stomp it out.)

Merrilee, 1006 Washington S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87108 was a founder of New Mexico NOW and on national board in early years.

Cindy Judd Hill of Pittsburgh, 67 years young, also dances and sings, too. Professionally. Named Ms. National Senior for 1994, Pittsburgh NOW founder Cindy entertains from Honolulu to Florida. "She's a high-stepping dancer and a golden-throated singer," wrote the Miami Herald. After each performance, when she's won over the audience, she passes out her promo sheet with a little reminder, "Women Are People." "They are amazed that I'm a feminist, she writes. I'm breaking two stereotypes — older women are vibrant and feminists are fun! My dancing gives me a pulpit to reach those whom I would never reach if I were introduced as a feminist!"

Cindy Judd Hill's feminist activities began in 1966 when she was fired from her teaching job because she was pregnant. She sued the district and NOW came in to help her win. She can be reached through her manager John Hill, 1125 Cornell Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

Evelyn Cunningham of New York, who received our medal of honor in May, declared in her acceptance speech that tap-dancing gives her great pleasure. She joined a senior citizen tap class last year, and has been moved up to the front line.

Evelyn's bio. is in Spring newsletter lists some of her feminist activities. She's on almost every community and art board in New York City.

(...continued)

YOUR BODY BELIEVES EVERY WORD YOU SAY -- Barbara Hoberman Levine-
Written out of her own experience with a serious illness, Levine cured herself, and wants others to be aware that they can, too. The book is a referral by the People's Medical Society. Write Renaissance Book Services - 2400 Black Rock Turnpike, Suite 342, Fairfield, CT 06430

Musts!

MOVING BEYOND WORDS -- Steinem

SUSAN B. ANTHONY SLEPT HERE -- Kazickas and Sherr

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO?

BARBARA LAMONT

The CBS , WNEW television and WINS radio reporter , feminist and political activist in New York City until 1986, Barbara moved to New Orleans with her husband Ludvig Gelobter (Shirley Chisholm's campaign manager) and children and founded Teleport, a telecommunicating gateway for video, voice and data. As active in the Big Easy as she was in the Big Apple, she is president of Network Teleports, Inc., serves on several art and community boards, is involved in politics and women's issues , and is a member of the New Orleans chapter of the Women's Forum.

Barbara Lamont- 3200 Chartres Street New Orleans, LA 70117 504/942-9200 Fax - 9204

MIDGE KOVACS

Remember Midge? The brilliant , kind of timid , but intrepid head of New York NOW'S Image Committee for five years in the early 70's ; she who coordinated a license challenge against WABC-TV, visits to The New York Times, ad agencies, radio and TV stations to protest their portrayal of women, and conducted stockholder actions against major movie studios; who organized workshops for advertising executives to educate them about sexism; she who was responsible for the Public Service Ad Campaign , *WOMAN POWER. IT'S MUCH TOO GOOD TO WASTE* — remember the ad that shows a man lifting his trousers to reveal his legs with the caption *Hire him, he's got great legs!*

Whatever happened to Midge?

Well, she's still active in New York City , but is afflicted with Spasmodic Dysphonia, a dysfunction of the vocal cords, so communicator Midge has had to limit the use of her voice, and can't subject herself to noisy gatherings. Her talents these days are directed toward another revolution, one infinitely more personal. Here's her story.

MY SECOND REVOLUTION

Midge Kovacs

I never dreamed I'd be waging a second revolution almost twenty years after my intense involvement with the feminist movement. However, this revolution was caused by my need to fight back against a strange illness that strikes thousands in their most productive middle years ... and mostly women.

In 1985, after ten hard years building my small ad agency to success, I was suddenly struck with a devastating disorder that literally left me speechless It's called Spasmodic Dysphonia, a rare neurological disorder that robs its victims of normal speech. You can well imagine how anyone afflicted with this, especially one in a communication profession, would be devastated. Besides searching for medical help, and treatments that enable one to speak, one has to rearrange one's life completely while struggling against the killer depression that naturally sets in.

One thing I learned in NOW is that there's solace and strength in joining with others and in organizing comes the power to do something positive. Now I needed another kind of group to give me emotional support, and it made sense that others with S.D. did, too. So I founded a large New York support group, then a national newsletter called "OUR VOICE" and helped to form a National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association. There are now 85 groups around the country.

Well, you wonder, can I talk? Yes -- thanks to vocal cord injections that are still in an experimental stage. Once I've been injected my voice functions for about three to four months. Until my recent retirement I was known as the "Ad Agency president who conducted her business and kept her clients, though speechless."

One thing is clear -- I am no longer who I was. I have an almost spiritual feeling that life chose me to get Spasmodic Dysphonia so that I could use all of the leadership skills, ideas and strategy-planning abilities (learned at close proximity to some of the smartest, most able women in the movement) to help others to overcome a spirit-threatening disorder.

To think that all those long evenings spent in bone-crushing uncomfortable chairs at lengthy NOW-NYC board meetings gave me all the learning I need now to survive and prevail in my own personal and important, life-enhancing revolution! I am grateful to all of you for this!

365 West 25th St. - 13-E, New York, New York 10001 Phone: 212/242-1594 Fax: 212/929-4099

GENE BOYER'S ADDRESS - EXCERPTS

5/13/94

What a wonderful, joyous occasion this is! Having newly arrived from obscurity, it is a distinguishing honor to become one of the designated relics of the year!

I understand that the criteria for being honored now was —you had to be either a persecuted darling of the media or an unsung heroine —and in imminent danger of a sudden overtaking by the grim reaper. One foot on a banana peel, so to speak.

Fame and fortune combined in the experience I had coming here. As I got on the plane the flight attendant recognized me and said, " Ms. Boyer, you will be pleased to know we have an all-female crew today. The pilot is a woman, the copilot is a woman, the attendants and maintenance staff are women!"

How exciting, I replied. May I go to the cockpit to congratulate the captain?

Oh, Ms. Boyer, she said, we don't call it a cockpit anymore!"

Well - that's an old joke —but this is a new day! — A day of challenge and opportunity for younger women. Not one of our issues can be laid to rest, from the feminization of poverty to the feminization of power, there is still a tremendous shortfall in women's equality. As long as men shrink in fear of domination by women — as long as women are driven by the quest to please men, both sexes will continue to deny each other the ecstasy of true partnership —the conjuncture of shared passions, shared burdens, and the deep intimacy for which we yearn.

I humbly acknowledge your recognition, experiencing at once the pleasure of achievement and the pain of continuing sacrifices. But it can only be with hope and anticipation that we enter the age of technological explosion that is making it possible to join hands around the world. Like the pioneers in this room who built on the legacies of the suffragists, there are also valiant adventurers of the future. May you stand on the shoulders of fallen giants and reach for the stars.

Veteran Feminists of America

220 Doucet Road #225-D
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The Veteran Feminists of America is an organization for those who actively participated in the feminist movement until 1975. Goals are to enjoy the sisterhood forged during those years of intense commitment, to document our history, to honor ourselves and our heroes, to rekindle the spark and spirit of the feminist revolution, to act as "keeper of the flame" so that the original commitment to the ideals of feminism continues to reverberate and influence others.

The Veteran Feminists of America

invites you to join

Susan Brownmiller Karen Burstein Phyllis Chester Blanche Cook
Evelyn Cunningham Catherine East Geraldine Ferraro Muriel Fox
Betty Friedan Flo Kennedy Elizabeth Holzman Helen Hunt
Myrna Lamb Jewell Jackson McCabe Mim Kelber Kate Millet
Robin Morgan Gloria Steinem Marlo Thomas Faye Wattleton

and others too numerous to mention here, but just as important!

to celebrate

Bella Abzug

and present her with the

VFA MEDAL OF HONOR

Friday Evening December 2 1994
Seventh Regiment Armory 4th floor
Park Avenue at 67 Street New York

6 o'clock CASH BAR 7 o'clock DINNER
MEMBERS AND GUESTS \$40.00 OTHERS: \$55.00

The real story of the Strike has never been told and those who made it happen are never credited. In the interest of history we have a moral obligation to record their stories. If you were a key figure in the planning, if you organized or took part in an action, especially in New York City, please write your memories and send to us. They will eventually be sent to the Schlesinger Library.

Whatever ever happened to ?

MORDICAI JANE POLLOCK ? The dynamic young professor added color to early NOW board meetings. Many have asked about her. Jane's sister, Clarice Pollock was at Bella's event. Jane wrote soon after.

In 1981 I left college teaching and embarked on a second career of technical translation and writing and am now working for a large computer manufacturer writing software books. To satisfy my soul I write historical fiction. I'm writing a second book that takes place during the French Revolution when there was an active feminist political movement, the first in history, I believe. The leader was guillotined.

Jane Pollock

LEOTA KORNS ? The co-founder of Durango NOW writes, *I still have my boots on, but can't possibly retire. After selling some properties I am back to writing and looking for a publisher for my feminist novel. Address: P.O. Box - 1617, Durango Co 81302- 1617.*

Anselma dell'Olio? Tall, dark and handsome, charismatic Anselma was an inspiring leader who wrote New York NOW's first newsletter, organized the motorcade and demonstration against Colgate Palmolive (when we poured Ajax down Kate Millett's sculptured toilet on Park Avenue), founded, directed and acted in The New Feminist Theatre.

In 1971 Anselma moved to Los Angeles to work with the Italian and USA film industry and later moved to Rome where today she continues her work as a journalist and television personality and shares her life her husband who is a member of the Italian parliament and television show host.

MEMBER NEWS

Brenda Feigen is now a literary agent . 10158 Hollow Glen Circle Bel Air, Ca. 90077 - 310-271-0606 Fax- 274-0503.

I've shared my adventures with you and now it seems important to share the other side of life as well. ... to my shock and surprise I was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma of the uterus. Surgery was performed, the cancer's gone and chemo treatment is over, so I'm at work again.

Suzanne Benton

Sculptor, painter, actor, writer Benton lives at 22 Donnelly Dr, Ridgefield, Ct 06877-5611

I am writing a biography of Gloria Steinem and looking for anecdotes and experiences shared with her. I'd appreciate any memories you'd like to share. Sydney Ladensohn, 6 Donnellan Rd, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Call collect, 914-723-3789 or E-Mail Sydsterne @AOL.COM

Snippets from a recent conversation with **Jo Ann Evansgardner**: *It's cold outside, but I'm enjoying the warmth of the sun room in the house Gerry and I designed. Yes, we're still involved in local NOW . So are Phyllis Wetherby and my sister, Barbara Evans Crawford. We demonstrated in Harrisburg against the Welfare Bill. I'm writing my memoirs. .Gerry, Charlie Smeal and Phyllis Weatherby practically funded the movement over here. When you see Roxcy (Bolton) tell her I think of her everytime there's a hurricane.*

VFA members are planning to hold luncheon meetings and will brainstorm how to make VFA relevant to the community -- like mentoring young people and sponsoring feminist writing contests. Grace Welch , coordinator of Long Island VFA. To join them --516-348-7199.

Wisconsin NOW commemorated NOW's 30th at their annual Feminist of the Year event. Founders Dorothy Austin and Mary Eastwood attended. Gene Boyer was snowbirding in Florida.

Kathy Grady, founder of Brooklyn NOW and head of Mass, Inst. of behavioral Medicine was named Democrat of the Year in Longmeadow -- Not a big deal, she says, but unusual that a person as "radical" as I would be so honored.