

**2003**

**2004**



**COMMON WOMAN CHORUS**

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**WORTH COMING OUT FOR!**

**T**he Common Woman Chorus is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has served the Triangle community since 1983. We are proud members of The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), The Sister Singers Network, and TriangleSings! The Chorus is directed by the talented Cindy Bizzell. We rehearse on Tuesdays from 7 PM til 9 PM. Contact us at [commonwomanchorus.org](http://commonwomanchorus.org) to learn about our next open rehearsal.

Individual and corporate donations are greatly appreciated and vital to our fiscal health. They enable us to rent rehearsal space, purchase music, keep membership dues low, and we hope they will eventually allow us to purchase risers.

The Common Woman Chorus . . . we're the chorus your mother warned you about!

COMMON WOMAN CHORUS  
POST OFFICE BOX 51731  
DURHAM NC 27717  
[COMMONWOMANCHORUS.ORG](http://COMMONWOMANCHORUS.ORG)

# WELCOME

**T H E C H O R U S** is going all out for our twentieth-anniversary season and you're invited to the festivities. Our first major production, Heroes, premieres 15 November 2003. This multimedia extravaganza celebrates women whose love, creativity, bravery, and strength inspire us all. Then, on Valentine's Day 2004, the Chorus teams up with Rubyslipper Dance Asylum to host our annual Valentine's Dance. Our dance is THE Valentine event for the alternative community, so get your dancing shoes ready! Then we return to our roots at a romping Cabaret on 22 May 2004.

The Chorus is already hard at work on our Sing For The Cure concert, slated for October 2004. Please check our Web site for details.

We're glad you joined us this season and we appreciate your support.

## from the director

As Director of the Common Woman Chorus, I welcome you to our 2003–2004 performance season. As we celebrate our twentieth anniversary this year, we have an exciting season planned. There will be singing, dancing and excessive gaiety! Please join us for our concerts and special events.



The women of the Common Woman Chorus are my heroes. Each one has taught me something valuable. Most of the lessons are not about music; rather, they are about showing up in the world in a powerful and creative way. Each woman has her own inspiring story of courage and compassion. Each has committed time and energy to making the world a better place—through music. I honor each woman and am so proud of the music we are creating together.

If you would like to join our singing community, we welcome you. No auditions are required. Our members range from amateur to classically trained musicians. Please watch our Web site at [www.commonwomanchorus.org](http://www.commonwomanchorus.org) for open enrollment dates.

Thank you for supporting us in our 2003–2004 performance season as we celebrate the heroes in our lives.

—Cindy

# 2003-2004 season

THE COMMON WOMAN CHORUS is a feminist organization committed to singing inclusive music that celebrates the diversity and strength of women's everyday lives and experiences. We perform at progressive events throughout the year and support our activities through concerts and other fund-raising activities. Our name is derived from a Judy Grahn poem that reads, in part, "a common woman is as common as a common loaf of bread ... and will rise."

The Chorus typically hosts two major concerts a year. Our repertoire includes translations ("Azanian Freedom Song"; the testimony of a Holocaust survivor), scores that showcase the integrity and inherent worth of individuals (a tribute to Harriet Tubman, a tribute to victims of the AIDS epidemic, elegies for victims of hate crimes and domestic violence, witness testimony from the Sacco and Vanzetti trial), accounts of historical abuse against women (an overview of the witchhunts), tunes to make our audience laugh ("I Got Those OBG Why Me Blues," "Big Dogs Music and Wild, Wild Women Are Making My Life Complete") while encouraging all of us to appreciate our differences ("I'm a Big-Legged Woman," "I'm a Gray-Haired Woman and I'm Coming into My Years," "Don't Shut My Sister Out") and personal struggles ("To Breed or Not to Breed"), plus plenty of politically charged works. Our original theatrical productions and unique twists on old standards—"I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl Who Married Dear Old Dad"—explain why we have been performing for standing room-only crowds since 1983.

The chorus works hard to develop and refine our individual as well as group musical skills while encouraging friendship and the open exchange of beliefs and insights. We've put a lot of work into this season and we hope that you enjoy the fruits of our labor.

The Chorus has opened for Holly Near, Castlebury and Dupree, Fred Small, and numerous other progressive performers. We have performed at benefits for and gatherings of the War Resisters League, The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, The National Abortion Rights Action League, Festival for the Eno, Crape Myrtle Festival, Artspace, NC Pride Festival, Rape Crisis Center of Durham, CASA, The Battered Women's Shelter, Triangle Hospice, and numerous other organizations.

We also brought the women's professional softball crowd to its feet with an original arrangement of the National Anthem, which we performed at a rompin' Durham Dragons game.

The Common Woman Chorus ... we're worth coming out for!

## RAISING CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT THE QUALITY OF WOMEN'S LIVES AND EXPERIENCES LOCALLY ... AND AROUND THE WORLD

### TRAILBLAZERS

**1848** Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo brings SW under US law. Married women living in region lose property rights & can no longer enter into contracts, sue in court, or operate their own businesses **1848** 1st Women's Rights Convention produces Declaration of Rights of Woman & demands women's suffrage in Seneca Falls, NY **1848** Astronomer Maria Mitchell becomes 1st woman elected to American Academy of Arts & Sciences; almost a century passes before a 2nd woman is added **1849** Elizabeth Smith Miller appears in "Turkish trousers," AKA "bloomers." (Seneca Falls, NY) **1849** Amelia Jenks Bloomer publishes *Lily*, 1st prominent women's rights newspaper **1850** Quaker physicians establish Female Medical College of Pennsylvania. 1st women must graduate under police guard because of threats (Philadelphia) **1850** Newspaper publisher Jane Grey Swisshelm, 1st official female Washington correspondent, strikes blow for equal access by insisting that women be admitted to Senate press gallery **1851** Sojourner Truth gives spontaneous "And Ain't I A Woman?" speech at women's rights convention (Akron, OH) **1851** Myrtilla Minder opens 1st school to train black women as teachers (Washington, DC) **1853** Antoinette Brown (later Blackwell) is 1st US woman ordained a Protestant minister (New York) **1855** Lucy Stone is 1st woman on record to keep own name in marriage **1855** U of Iowa becomes 1st state school to admit women. In 1858, the board of managers tries, but fails, to again exclude women **1855** In *Missouri v. Celia*, a Slave is declared property without a right to defend herself against a master's act of rape **1859** Reliable condoms become available; birth rate spirals downward **1859** AMA announces its opposition to abortion **1860** CT is 1st state to enact laws prohibiting all abortions **1860** Census reports 2,225,086 Black women in US; 1,971,135 are slaves **1862** Homestead Act promises 160 acres free land to anyone who lives on it for 5 years. Single women, especially teachers "prove up claims" **1862** Mary Jane Patterson is 1st African-American woman to receive full BA degree (Oberlin) **1862** Congress passes Morrill Act, establishing land grant colleges in rural areas & allowing millions of women to earn low-cost degrees **1863** Olympia Brown is 1st woman ordained minister by full authority of her denomination (Northern Universalists) **1865** Hundreds of white women go south to teach at Freedman Schools **1866** 14th Amendment passed by Congress (& ratified by states in 1868), marking 1st time that citizens & voters are defined as male by US Constitution **1866** American Equal Rights Association is 1st US organization to advocate national women's suffrage **1866** Suffragists present petitions bearing 10,000 signatures to Congress for an amendment prohibiting disenfranchisement on the basis of sex



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# The Early Years

THE CHORUS was the brainchild of Nancy Agnew and Barbara Anderson, who, each having moved from other cities with choruses, independently thought that a women's chorus was needed in the Triangle. As I recall, both were at a TALF meeting and announced their idea. A sign-up sheet was circulated that evening and many women signed up. Twenty to twenty-five women were at the organizational meeting.

All we lacked was a director.

We stumbled along for a few months until a miracle occurred and Eleanor Sableski came into our lives and led us for the next seventeen years.

Way back then, music that we wanted to sing was a lot harder to come by. Looking back on the first year or two, we joke that all we knew were three songs, which we sang with gusto wherever we had

the opportunity—while praying that they did not ask for an encore! Those formative years required much talk about organization and philosophy. Business meetings sometimes took two separate evenings! Even choosing a name was a multi-week process. But, over time, the chorus jelled and became the fun place that it is today! Over the years, many women have come through the chorus. I believe that the camaraderie has made them the better for it. It certainly did for me. The Chorus will always hold a warm spot in my heart.

—LEANN WALLACE

(LEANN WALLACE, a founding member of the Chorus, lives and works in Raleigh)

## MY HERO

I am lucky enough to live with my hero, my partner, Trudie Jean Kiliru. During her life she has traveled much geographic and emotional terrain. I admire her willingness to be vulnerable, to engage deeply, and to communicate honestly. She teaches me to stay on a loving path when hiking through the forests of fear.  
(Judith Casseday)

1867 Kansas puts woman suffrage on ballot; it loses 1868 Working Women's Protective Union established to give free legal aid to workers, act as employment agency, & lobby successfully for laws to protect women workers (NY) 1868 National Labor Union supports equal pay for equal work 1868 Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony publish *The Revolution*, an important women's movement periodical 1868 African Methodist Church establishes women's 1st official office within organized Christianity: "Stewardess," or assistant to clergy 1868 14th Amendment ratified: the word *male* defines a citizen 1868 Federal women's suffrage amendment introduced in Congress 1869 1st US woman suffrage law passes in Wyoming territory 1869 Anna Webb, 27th wife of Mormon leader Brigham Young, leaves husband, lives in fear of reprisals, & finally speaks out publicly against polygamy 6 years later. Her speeches help pass federal legislation banning polygamy in territories 1870 For 1st time in history of jurisprudence, women serve on juries in Wyoming Territory 1870 Iowa is 1st state to admit a woman, Arabella Mansfield, to the bar 1870 5th Amendment receives final ratification. By its text, women are not specifically excluded from the vote. During the next 2 years, approximately 150 women, including the Grimke sisters (Boston), Sojourner Truth (Battle Creek, MI) & Matilda Joselyn Gage (NY), attempt to vote. In SC, a few Black women, protected by Reconstruction officials, also cast ballots. 1870 1st issue of *Women's Journal*, sponsored by American Woman Suffrage Association, is published 1871 1st national organization of church women, Woman's Centenary Association, forms. One goal is to promote the education of women ministers 1872 Congress passes law giving women federal employees equal pay for equal work after much effort by lawyer Belva Lockwood 1872 Charlotte E. Ray, Howard University law school graduate, becomes 1st African-American woman admitted to US bar 1872 Susan B. Anthony & 14 other women register to vote in presidential election to test whether recently adopted 14th Amendment can be interpreted as protecting women's rights. Anthony is arrested, tried, found guilty, & fined \$100, which she refuses to pay 1873 Prof. Edward H. Clarke of Harvard Medical College argues that higher education harms women & their future offspring. Clarke is widely believed & quoted for decades 1873 Association for the Advancement of Women is formed to promote both higher education & professional possibilities for women 1873 Supreme Court affirms in *Bradwell v. Illinois* that states can restrict women from the practice of any profession to preserve family harmony & uphold the law of the Creator 1873 Congress passes Comstock Law, defining contraceptive information as "obscene material." As postal inspector, moralist Anthony Comstock seizes mail & shuts down newspapers that carry such information



Spotlight: Local Hero

# Durham Editor

CATHERINE NICHOLSON'S deep interest in the advancement of women and the rise of the lesbian feminist movement has been reflected in her own achievements. She was born in Troy, North Carolina, in 1922. She earned her Bachelor's in English at Flora MacDonald College in Red Springs, North Carolina, and her Masters in English at UNC Chapel Hill. She taught at Sullins College in Bristol, Virginia and at Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. After receiving her PhD in Theater from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, in 1961, she taught theater at Randolph-Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, UNC-Charlotte, and Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont.

On July 4, 1976, she and Harriett Desmoines founded *Sinister Wisdom*, a nationally recognized lesbian feminist journal that continues to be recognized for its groundbreaking role in publishing a diverse array of women writers.

Catherine moved to Durham in 1990. With Elizabeth Freeman, Janey Wharton, and Betsy Storozuk, she established the first women's co-op residence in North Carolina.

Catherine is a charter member of OLOC, Old Lesbians Organizing for Change. With Elizabeth Freeman, she organized an OLOC national conference in Durham that gathered together old lesbians from all over the country. Since she has lived in Durham, she has volunteered at *The Independent*, worked on *The Newsletter*, volunteered at the fiction desk at the Durham Public Library, and tutored a student from Watts Elementary. She also directed a production of *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* at the Carrboro Arts Center.

Catherine Nicholson is just one of many local heroes we celebrate.

—Elizabeth Brownrigg

(ELIZABETH BROWNRIGG, author of *Falling To Earth*, lives and writes in Durham)

1873 Victoria Woodhull, who cannot vote & is imprisoned for violating the Comstock Law (by mailing "obscene" material discussing free love), is 1st woman to run for president 1874 Presbyterian Mission Home, a women's shelter in Chinatown (San Francisco, CA) leads police-backed raids to rescue Chinese women held & abused as prostitutes 1874 Women's Christian Temperance Union, which later becomes an important force for woman suffrage, is founded 1875 Through her will, Sophia Smith becomes 1st woman to found & endow a women's college. Smith College is subsequently chartered in 1871 & opens its doors in 1875 1875 Supreme Court, in *Minor v. Happersett*, refuses to extend the 14th Amendment to protect women's rights & denies voting rights to women 1876 Matilda Joselyn Gage writes Declaration of the Rights of Women, which is distributed on July 4 to crowds attending massive Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Many women's networks grow out of this action 1877 Helen Magill is 1st woman to receive a Ph.D. at a US school (doctorate in Greek from Boston U) 1878 Senator AA Sargent (CA) introduces a woman suffrage amendment in Congress; the wording remains unchanged until it is finally passed in 1919 1878 Susan B. Anthony Amendment to grant women the vote introduced in Congress 1881 African-American washerwomen in Atlanta launch a strike to protect their autonomy & demand higher fees for their services 1890 South Dakota campaign for woman suffrage loses Colorado is 1st state to allow women's suffrage 1894 At NY State Constitutional Convention, 600,000 signatures are presented in effort to bring a woman suffrage amendment to the voters. The effort fails 1896 Utah joins the Union & grants women full suffrage. Idaho & Washington state adopt woman suffrage 1901 The electric washing machine is invented 1903 National Women's Trade Union League is formed 1904 Mary McLeod Bethune opens The Daytona Normal & Industrial Institute for Negro Girls 1904 17-year-old Virne Beatrice "Jackie" Mitchell of Chattanooga, TN, strikes out both Babe Ruth & Lou Gehrig in exhibition game. Newspapers insist it's a joke, a publicity stunt, or male chivalry, but Mitchell insists the strikeouts were entirely serious 1906 Wisconsin court of appeals acquits accused rapist despite evident that 16-year-old victim screamed, tried to get away from attacker, & was nearly strangled, ruling that, because the girl did not use her hands, feet, or pelvic muscles to demonstrate her lack of consent, any claim she offered "utmost resistance" was "well nigh incredible" 1907 Kate Barnard elected Oklahoma commissioner of charities & corrections by all-male electorate 1980 Julia Ward Howe, author of "Battle Hymn of the Republic," is 1st woman elected to American Academy of Arts & Letters. She remains its only female member until 1930 1909-10 The Great Uprising, or shirtwaist makers'



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## MY HERO

... is my Mom, Gwen Parkinson. I don't often give her enough credit and we fight like cats and dogs, but she worked real hard to bring us up right.

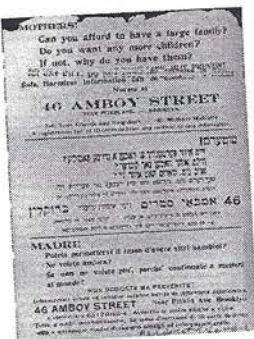
My folks grew up in Wales, in the middle of the coal mines and heavy metal factories. Typically, the men worked, came home for dinner, then went to the pub. The women stayed home and took care of the kids and the house. Mom decided at an early age that she was not going to live that way, and it is the family joke that from the day they met, the only place Dad went without Mom was to work.

Dad liked to tell us about a Saturday afternoon shortly after I was born. They were out taking a walk with me in the buggy and an old drinking buddy of his came up and asked my Dad when SHE was going to let him off the ball and chain. Before Dad could answer, Mom said, "He can go now if he wants, but you'd better make sure you have a bed for him, because he won't be coming home to me! And you'd be better off going home to your wife and son instead of drinking your money away!" Mom taught me to stand up for myself (not to her, of course!) and, as she puts it, "Don't take crap from any man."

When I was three, Mom and Dad pulled up roots and moved to America to make a better life for me and my brothers to come. She mostly cut off ties from her family because most of her family drank their money away and slept around, and she didn't want her kids growing up around that. We had a decent upbringing and Mom and Dad were strict with us, because they didn't want us falling into trap they had pulled themselves out of.

(Pam Parkinson)

strike, includes 20–30,000 women & establishes a major union (ILGWU) 1910 1st international women's day is celebrated 1911 Toxicologist Alice Hamilton publishes 1st study of occupational disease 1911 Worst single disaster in 20th-century women's history occurs when 146 women garment workers die in Triangle Shirtwaist Fire (Greenwich Village). The factory contained only 2 elevators & 2 narrow staircases, but the door to one of the staircases was kept locked. Many women jumped to their deaths from top 3 floors of 10-story building 1911 California grants woman suffrage 1912 20,000 suffrage supporters join NYC parade, with a half-million onlookers. Oregon, Kansas, & Arizona adopt woman suffrage 1912 Julia Lathrop appointed director of newly formed Children's Bureau of US Department of Labor, making her 1st female head of a major US government bureau 1913 On the day preceding President Wilson's inauguration, thousands of suffragists organized by Alice Paul parade in DC & are mobbed by abusive crowds 1914 Mother's Day becomes a national day of observance 1914 Radical lawyer Crystal Eastman founds the Woman's Peace Party 1914 Montana & Nevada adopt woman suffrage 1915 Transcontinental tour by suffragists gathers over a half million signatures on petitions to Congress. 40,000 march in NYC. Woman suffrage measures are defeated in PA, NY, and MA 1916 Margaret Sanger opens 1st birth control clinic in Brooklyn 1917 NY adopts woman suffrage 1917 National Woman's Party pickets appear in front of White House, remaining there despite bad weather and violent public response 1917 Jeannette Rankin of MT is 1st woman elected to Congress 1917 Police begin arresting White House picketers on charges of obstructing traffic & women are sentenced to up to 6 months in jail. Their inhumane treatment in jail causes martyrs for suffrage cause. In response to public outcry & jailers' inability to stop picketers' hunger strikes, the government unconditionally releases them 1918 Anne Henrietta Martin, suffragist, pacifist, & legislative chair of National Woman's Party, becomes 1st woman to run for US Senate. She is defeated 1918 Michigan, South Dakota, & Oklahoma adopt woman suffrage 1919 Directly in line with White House front door, the National Woman's Party builds a perpetual "watchfire for freedom" in which they burn the words of every speech President Wilson gives about democracy 1919 Julia Gordon Low founds Girl Scouts 1919 Released from jail, suffragists tour country on a train called the Prison Special 1919 Congress passes Nineteenth Amendment, called "The Susan B. Anthony Amendment," granting US women the right to vote 1919 League of Women Voters formed



**Bella Abzug** (1920-) Politician & activist from the Bronx, known as "Battlin' Bella" who studied labor law & civil rights at Hunter College.

**Jane Addams** (1860-1935) Social reformer & suffragist who started Hull House settlement to encourage reform projects; she & Ellen Gates Starr helped form the ACLU in 1893.

**Anna Mae Aquash** Native rights activist martyred in 1975.

**Susan B. Anthony** (1820-1906) pioneer for abolition, temperance, and women's rights, she and Elizabeth Cady Stanton led the 19th-century battle for women's rights. Anthony was tried for the "crime" of voting in 1872 & fined \$100, which she refused to pay. The Susan B. Anthony Amendment to grant women the vote was 1st introduced in US Congress in 1878.

**Mary McLeod Bethune** a noted Black educator and the first Black woman to officially advise a US President.

**Rita Mae Brown** (1944-) Lesbian feminist & novelist whose attempts to confront heterosexism in the women's movement in 1970 resulted in NOW-president Betty Friedan denouncing a "lavender menace" that threatened feminist credibility. Brown formed the radical women's group The Furies in 1971 in DC & later spoke openly about her relationship with tennis great Martina Navratilova.

**Shirley Chisholm** (1924-) Brooklyn-raised politician & 1st black woman elected to Congress. She campaigned for the rights of women, racial minorities, & for domestic workers to get minimum wage & ran for president in 1972.

**Mary Daly** (1928-) writer & theologian fired from Boston College theology department in 1968 because of controversy surrounding *The Church & the Second Sex*. She was rehired after students protested. She continues to write extensively on feminism & spirituality. *Beyond God the Father* (1973) & *Gyn/Ecology* (1978) are her best-known works.

**Simone De Beauvoir** French feminist author of *The Second Sex*. The phrase "women's liberation," later adopted by the more radical wing of the feminist movement, was 1st used in this book.

**Barbara Ehrenreich** (1941-) Journalist from a mining family from Butte, MT who has written about women's health issues since the early '70s; wrote the damning *Nickel & Dimed: On Not Getting By in America*.

**Geraldine Ferraro** (1935-) politician who worked as a schoolteacher while attending law school at night; she was 1st woman appointed Chair of Democratic platform committee & 1st vice-presidential running mate (of Walter Mondale in 1984); she sponsored the Economic Equity Act in 1981.

**Shulamith Firestone** (1945-) Canadian writer and radical feminist who studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, edited *Red Stockings*, a radical feminist journal, and wrote *Dialectic of Sex* (1970)—an influential book here & abroad.



**Betty Friedan** (1921-) author of groundbreaking book *Sexual Politics*, which, along with *The Second Sex*, set postwar feminism into motion. Helped form National Organization for Women (1966), National Women's Political Caucus (1971), and 1st Women's Bank (1973).

**Dolores Huerta** Union organizer known as Dolores Huelga (strike) for the number of strikes she organized; 2nd in command under United Farm Workers of America founder Cesar Chavez. Organized farm workers & brought the use of boycotts & other nonviolent tactics to the labor struggle.

**Zora Neale Hurston** southern African-American novelist, folklorist, & anthropologist.

**Mary Harris (Mother) Jones** labor organizer & anti-suffragist who led wives of striking miners against scabs in the 1890s & campaigned on behalf of workers.

**Belva Lockwood** 1st lawyer admitted to practice before US Supreme Court. Her years of lobbying paid off when Congress passed legislation permitting women to practice law in all federal courts. Her efforts were also instrumental in Congress passing a law giving women federal employees equal pay for equal work (1872).

**Margaret Mead** (1901-78) Barnard-educated anthropologist whose research influenced the cultural aspects of gender relations.

**Kate Millet** Author of groundbreaking *Sexual Politics* (1971) & one-time darling of the feminist movement who appeared on the cover of *Time*. Her admission of her bisexuality sent shock waves through the feminist movement & resulted in public vilification.

## MY HERO

Sophie Babette Blesy Burke immigrated to the United States in 1921 from Le Noir-mont, Suisse, the eldest female of nine children. She met Fredrick, from Geneve, Suisse, in the US and they were soon married. Sophie was raped in Suisse, at age 14, by a farmhand. One of her 4 children was born blind and died tragically when a train struck her down on her way to teach Sunday School. When Sophie was 55, Fred passed away. So she went to driver's ed. and got her license, continued to own the family business, and found a job outside the home. Throughout her 91 years, she espoused diversity before it was a word, never rendered judgment or lost her sense of humor, bestowed unconditional love, was selfless, and had a never-ending supply of homemade cookies. Sophie was my grandmother. AuRevoir, Nana. (Michele van Note)

**Rosa Parks** seamstress & activist whose refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, AL, bus launched a 381-day bus boycott that inspired the Civil Rights movement.

**Alice Paul** (1885-1977) radical activist, founder of National Women's Party, & advocate for egalitarian feminism who drafted the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923; Congress passed the amendment in 1972.

**Minnie Bruce Pratt** poet, essayist, teacher, & former member of Durham's editorial collective *FEMINARY: A FEMINIST JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH, EMPHASIZING LESBIAN VISIONS*. Pratt's award-winning *Crimes Against Nature* recounts the experience of being charged with Crimes Against Nature in NC and subsequently losing custody of her children. Pratt & lesbian writers Chrystos and Audre Lorde were 3 of the 5 artists on Jesse Helms's infamous "NEA 5" hit list.

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**Bernice Johnson Reagon** (1942-) Civil-Rights activist, singer, & Smithsonian Institution curator from rural GA who was active in Student Non-violent Co-ordinating Committee & performed in Freedom Singers. Johnson founded Sweet Honey in the Rock in the '70s.

**Helen Reddy** (1942-) Australian singer whose "I Am Woman" became the anthem of the modern women's movement

**Sally Ride** 1st female US astronaut who spent 6 days in orbit aboard space shuttle Challenger, becoming 1st woman in space in 20 years.

**Eleanor Roosevelt** (1884-1962) Social reformer, first lady, politician, & defender of black & women's rights.

**Margaret Sanger** (b. 1883) dared campaign for birth control when polite Americans were still pretending that they didn't know where babies came from.

**Sappho** famous lesbian & greatest of all early Greek lyric poets.

**Mab Segrest** local writer & activist who co-founded *FEMINARY: A LESBIAN-FEMINIST JOURNAL FOR THE SOUTH*. She coordinated the U.S. Urban-Rural Mission of the World Council of Churches, worked as an anti-racist within the feminist movement & as an out lesbian in the peace movement. Segrest's *Memoir of a Race Traitor* tells the story of her 6 years as a full-time anti-Klan coordinator at North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence while providing a mini-history of US racism as told through her own family lineage.



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**Karen Silkwood** (1946-74) campaigner against industrial hazards who highlighted hazardous working conditions at Kerr-McGee Corporation's plutonium fuel plant. Died in a suspicious car accident while on the way to a meeting with a *New York Times* reporter and Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers' Union (OCAW) official.

**Dame Ethel Smyth** (b. 1858) composer of note & one of the foremost feminists of her day whose explicit memoirs boasted of her many lesbian affairs.

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton** led 19th-century battle for women's rights with Susan B. Anthony. Anthony's organizing abilities complemented Stanton's strengths as a theoretician. She was a founder of the National Woman Suffrage Association, a convener of the 1st women's convention in 1848, & she wrote its Declaration of Rights.

**Lucy Stone** 1st woman on record to keep her own name in marriage (in 1855), setting a trend among women who were consequently known as "Lucy Stoners."

**Alice B. Toklas** writer and commentator whose major occupation was the care and maintenance of Gertrude Stein. She & Stein lie together, head to head, in P re Lachaise.

**Sojourner Truth** (c. 1797-1883), inspired speaker for abolitionist & women's rights movement who delivered her famous "And Ain't I A Woman?" speech in 1851. With the help of Quakers, she sued to recover a son illegally sold into slavery. She also helped integrate DC streetcars in 1864.

**Harriet Tubman** (1820?-1913), fugitive slave who led the Underground Railroad with a group of ex-slaves; made an estimated 19 trips to the South to free family members & hundreds of other slaves.

**Ida B. Wells** (1862-1931) Daughter of MS slaves & anti-lynching campaigner who helped form National Association of Colored Women & NAACP. She reported on race riots in East St. Louis, Arkansas, & Chicago and defended African-Americans who had been arrested. She refused to move to the "colored" cars on a TN train & was forcibly ejected; she sued but eventually lost before the state Supreme Court in 1887.

**Virginia Woolf** (1882-1941) writer, central figure in the Bloomsbury Group, & important publisher (Hogarth Press). Her *Three Guineas* (1938) & *A Room of One's Own* (1929) were influential inter-war feminist statements. Intimate friend of Vita Sackville-West, who influenced *Orlando*.

# Heroes

1920 Congress ratifies the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote 1921 Congress passes 1st federally funded health care & welfare program, The Sheppard-Towner Act, which was enacted to reduce maternal & infant mortality rates 1923 Equal Rights Amendment is 1st introduced in Congress 1927 Female sex hormones are discovered 1928 Margaret Mead publishes *Coming of Age in Samoa*, a fundamental text in nature-nurture controversy 1929 300+ women walk off jobs at rayon plant (Elizabethton, TN). The plant closes down. Strike spreads to Gastonia, Marion, & Danville 1932 Amelia Earhart flies solo across Atlantic Ocean 1935 Educator Mary McLeod Bethune & other prominent black women leaders form National Council of Negro women (NCNW) 1936 Comstock Law repealed 1939 Karen Horney challenges Freudian concepts of female psychology in *New Ways in Psychology* 1939 Daughters of the American Revolution refuses the great contralto Marian Anderson permission to sing at Constitution Hall because she is a member of "the Negro race." Eleanor Roosevelt resigns her DAR membership & helps arrange concert at Lincoln Memorial, which is attended by 7,500 people 1947 Ferdinand Lundberg & Marynia Farnham publish bestselling postwar treatise *Modern Woman: The Lost Sex*, which describes the "female organism" as incapable of attaining "feelings of well-being by the route of male achievement," describes women who pursue careers as sick souls suffering from penis envy, & calls for the return of women to "their maternal role in home & society" 1947 Dr. Benjamin Spock publishes *Common Sense Book of Baby & Child Care* & reshapes modern thinking & popular opinion on attitudes toward child-rearing & gender differences 1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act define 43 career fields as "fully suitable" for women 1950 Anti-feminist Phyllis Schlafly does research for Senator Joseph McCarthy at the height of the "McCarthy cra" 1951 Tennis champion Alice Marble spearheads campaign to force US Lawn Tennis Championship to let Althea Gibson play, breaking the color line in tennis 1953 *The Second Sex*, by French feminist writer Simone De Beauvoir, is published in the US & the phrase *women's liberation* enters the lexicon 1953 Kinsey's *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, based on interviews with 8,000 women, is published 1953 *Yale Law Review* article suggests that rape victims bear a responsibility for attacker's actions because of the "unusual inducement to malicious or psychopathic accusation inherent in the sexual nature of the crime" & modern penal codes incorporate this mistaken concept for the next 2 decades 1953 Hugh Hefner publishes 1st issue of *Playboy* 1953 First Lady Mamie Eisenhower is praised by *Better Homes & Gardens* for not attempting "to become an intellectual." *Woman's Home Companion* also praises her for being "no bluestocking feminist" 1953 For 20th successive year, Connecticut State Senate debates the retention of a law forbidding the use of contraceptives by both married & unmarried women 1953 Former Congresswoman/playwright Clare Boothe Luce appointed Ambassador to Italy, becoming 1st woman to represent US in major diplomatic office



## MY HERO

is Sister Margaret Freeman (aka Sam), member of Medical Mission Sisters, whose final mission was the St. Petersburg Free Clinic. She served as its energetic and energizing leader for almost 20 years.

Sam gave me friendship, unconditional love—and a job when I needed them most. She taught me, by example, that being passionate about what you do brings joy to your own life and the lives of those around you. (Bernise Lynch)

*How could anyone ever tell you  
You are anything less than beautiful?  
How could anyone ever tell you  
You are less than whole?  
How could anyone fail to notice  
That your loving is a miracle?  
How deeply you're connected to my soul.*  
—Libby Roderick, How Could Anyone?



SWOOP (Strong Women Organizing Outrageous Projects) congratulates The Common Woman Chorus on its twentieth anniversary of making beautiful and OUTRAGEOUS music together.

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1953 Eleanor Roosevelt publicly allies herself with National Federation of Business & Professional Women (BPW) & publicly favors equality 1953 Queen Elizabeth II ascends throne & becomes 1st British ruler to be crowned Head of Commonwealth 1954 Supreme Court declares in *Brown v. Board of Education* that "separate but equal" facilities violate 14th Amendment 1954 "Father Knows Best" premieres on TV & promotes mythical image of a "proper" patriarchal family 1954 Women volunteers participate in 1st experimental trials on humans of oral contraceptives in a research project financed by Katherine Dexter McCormick, 2nd woman to graduate from MIT 1954 Eleanor Roosevelt & Lorena Hickok publish *Ladies of Courage*, a tribute to women in American politics. The book urges women to enter politics & offers advice on getting started 1955 Adlai Stevenson urges graduating class of Smith College not to define themselves by any profession & to participate in politics only through the role of wife & mother 1955 Rosa Parks keeps her seat in the front of a bus in Montgomery, AL, & is arrested. 1955 The 1st lesbian organization, the Daughters of Bilitis, is founded 1955 Daisy Lee Bates, President of Arkansas NAACP & others lead 9 African-American teenagers to integrate Little Rock High School 1955 Women are accepted, by vote, as ministers in US Presbyterian Church 1955 Mrs. Sheldon Rubbins becomes 1st female cantor in history of Judaism 1955

Lucille Ball's character on "I Love Lucy" gives birth to Little Ricky. By continuing to do the show throughout her pregnancy & by letting her pregnancy show onscreen, Lucille Ball proves by example that mothers need not give up their careers 1955 On May 18, Mary McLeod Bethune, noted Black educator, dies at the age of 80. With the support of Eleanor Roosevelt, Bethune became the first Black woman to officially advise a US President when Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her Negro Affairs Director in 1939 1957 Soviet Union launches 1st space satellite, Sputnik, spurring a demand to train women in math & science 1959 Mattel debuts Barbie doll 1960 Daughters of Bilitis holds the first national lesbian conference in San Francisco 1960 FDA approves birth control pill 1961 President's Commission on the Status of Women is formed by John F. Kennedy with Eleanor Roosevelt as chair 1961 50,000 women in 60 cities, mobilized by Women Strike for Peace, protest above-ground testing of nuclear bombs & tainted milk 1961 Dolores Huerta joins Cesar Chavez as leader of the National Farm Worker's Association (later UFW). Jessie Lopez de la Cruz becomes 1st union woman to organize in the field 1961 President Kennedy establishes Special Commission on Status of Women



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2003  
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## Spotlight: Local Hero

## Wynn Cherry: GSA

When 4-5 kids approached me about being the GSA advisor at our school, how could I say no? They were eager, idealistic, naive in their expectations, but brave. I was cautious, realistic, and experienced in the ways of conservative opposition, but if they could be courageous, I could, too.

The kids come and go over the years. Some are out and bold and don't give a damn who knows. Some are quiet and reserved and where they are in the coming-out process is a mystery. Many are progressive straight kids there to support friends or family members who are gay. At meetings the kids talk and laugh and tell stories about incidents with homophobic students and adults that get a laugh all around. I find myself laughing with them time and time again at the silliness of straight people.

They plan Halloween parties, design T-shirts, paint banners and march in the Homecoming Parade as a group, their colored GSA T-shirts creating a rainbow effect that they think is cool. They participate in the National Day of Silence, put up stats about homophobic language and suicide among gay teens in the halls, and enjoy each other's company in the courtyard before school.

I've watched them for years, this continual wave of gay adolescents at various places in the coming out process and the straight kids who surround and support them. It makes me happy that they have each other, that their future is bright because of their solidarity, that they can laugh and march in school parades and have their pictures in the yearbook like all the other school groups. Things were not like that when I was coming along.

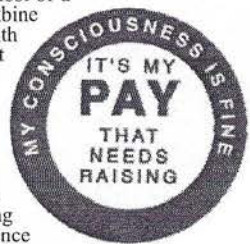
For all of their teenage silliness, they are a great presence in the school. When they post flyers to announce when they are meeting, they send a message to the entire school that gay kids exist and that straight kids support them. One of the most important things I've ever done in my teaching career is to help them exist as a group. I hope that I'm a presence for them in the same way that they are a presence to the school.

We operate in a setting that once was extremely conservative. Jesse Helms's grandchildren went to my school and several of them were in my class. But over the years, for lots of reasons, the school climate has become more and more accepting of difference and diversities of all kinds. I'm grateful that the climate now is such that the group exists and I can be who I am as well. I think it all comes from just standing where you are and being who you are. Whether or not we realize it, our presence as gay men and lesbians sends a strong message to the rest of the world.

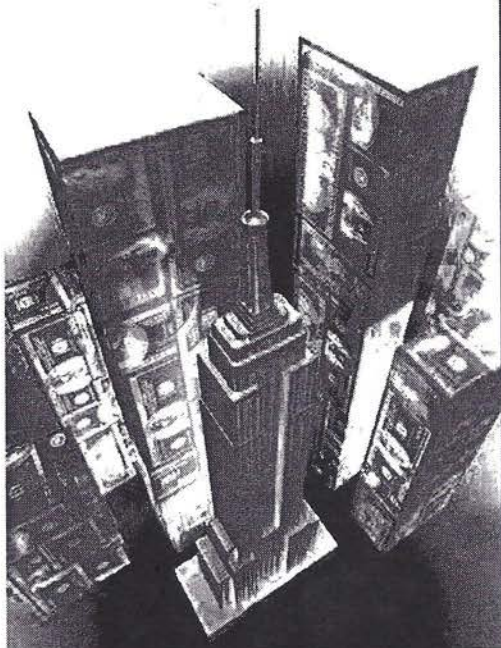
Several years ago I traveled to Quebec City and was captured by a piece of Inuit art I saw in a gallery. It was nothing more than a pile of stones, one on top of the other, yet I was stopped in my tracks when I saw it. "What is that?" I asked the sales girl. "It's an innukshuk," she said. "Eskimos used piles of stones on the barren tundra to point the way for others who followed. On landscape with little defining landmarks, an innukshuk kept people from getting lost." It is my hope that my presence at school acts as a point of definition, a marker for those who follow. It is my hope that the GSA will do the same. It's all about being a presence....

(WYNN CHERRY lives and writes in Durham. She teaches at Broughton High School)

1962 Rachel Carson publishes *Silent Spring*, which exposes the dangers of pesticide use & helps launch the modern environmental movement. She is subjected to sexist attacks for her work 1962 US medical authorities refuse to approve an abortion for Sherri Finkbine, pregnant host of a children's TV program in AZ who learns the tranquilizer she'd been taking, thalidomide, causes terrible birth defects in children. Finkbine is fired from job after she flies to Sweden for the procedure 1963 Betty Friedan publishes *The Feminine Mystique*, which, along with Simone de Beauvoir's *Second Sex*, launches 2nd wave of feminism in the US 1963 Russia cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkiva becomes 1st female astronaut to orbit Earth 1963 Congress passes Equal Pay Act 1963 PCSW presents report to Kennedy documenting discrimination against women 1963 200,000+ people rally in Washington, DC, to hear Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech 1963 Alice Rossi presents "Equality Between the Sexes: An Immodest Proposal" at American Academy of Arts & Sciences conference 1963 Bomb planted by segregationists kills 4 choirgirls attending Sunday School in Birmingham, AL; Condoleezza Rice is among the friends who mourn the deaths of these girls 1964 Congress passes Civil Rights Act, which includes Title VII, prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex 1964 Many women go south to register voters as part of the Mississippi Freedom Summer 1965 Casey Hayden & Mary King circulate a memo about sexism in the Civil Rights Movement 1965 Heather Booth does her 1st abortion referral. This eventually leads to the founding of Jane, the groundbreaking Abortion Counseling Service 1965 The "Woman Question" is raised for 1st time at a Students for Democratic Society (SDS) conference 1965 Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioners (EEOC) appointed to enforce Civil Rights Act. Aileen Hernandez, a future president of NOW, is only woman appointed to the commission 1965 President Johnson signs Voting Rights Act 1965 In *Griswold v. Connecticut*, Supreme Court strikes down the one remaining state law prohibiting the use of contraceptives 1966 A *Stanford Law Review* article on rape states "Although a woman may desire sexual intercourse, it is customary for her to say 'no, no, no' (although meaning 'yes, yes, yes') and to expect the male to be the aggressor ... the problem of determining whether the female really meant yes or no is compounded when ... the female had no clearly determined attitude—that is, her attitude was one of ambivalence." The author defines the standard of resistance as high enough "to assure that the resistance is unfeigned & to indicate with some degree of certainty that the woman's attitude was not one of ambivalence or unconscious compliance & that her complaints do not result from moralistic afterthoughts" but also must be low enough "to make death or serious bodily injury an unlikely outcome of the event."



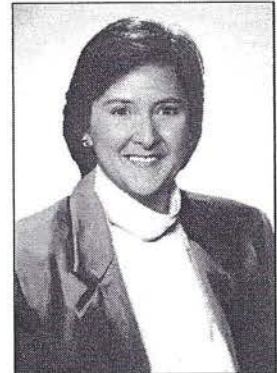
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1966 National Organization for Women (NOW) is founded, in part, because of frustration over the EEOC's refusal to deal with women's job discrimination complaints—airlines, for example, still fire stewardesses who marry. 1967 Women's Liberation groups begin springing up all across the country 1967 President Johnson signs Executive Order 11375 forbidding sex discrimination in businesses working with the government 1967 NOW begins petitioning the EEOC to end sex-segregated want ads 1967 NOW adopts a Bill of Rights for Women 1967 Eugene McCarthy introduces Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in the Senate 1967 NY Radical Women is formed by Shulamith Firestone, Pam Allen, & Anne Koedt, who organize consciousness-raising groups 1968 Shirley Chisholm becomes 1st African-American woman member of Congress 1968 NY feminists bury dummy of Traditional Womanhood at all-women's Jeanette Rankin Brigade demonstration against the war in Vietnam 1968 1st public speak-out against abortion laws is held in NYC 1968 Women protest Miss America Beauty Pageant in Atlantic City 1968 1st national women's liberation conference in Lake Villa, IL 1968 Notes from the First Year, a women's liberation theoretical journal, is published by NY Radical Women 1968 1st issue of Voice of Women's Liberation appears 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated & Chicago Mayor Richard Daley issues his infamous "Shoot to Kill" orders when riots break out on the West side 1968 Police attack anti-war protestors at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago 1969 Eleanor Holland, Helen Langa, Raymina Mays, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Mab Segrest, Cris South, Aida Wakil, & others form Feminary, a women's collective in Durham & Chapel Hill & circulate Female Liberation Newsletter. This newsletter evolves into a quarterly "feminist journal for the South emphasizing lesbian visions," which enjoys a national audience 1968 US soldiers go on rampage & systematically rape, abuse, then kill victims; 347 women, men, & children are officially reported murdered at My Lai Massacre. Members of Charlie Company are charged with rape, but charges are quietly dropped & the incident remains unknown to the public until 1969. After the My Lai incidents, soldiers admit to reporters that rape is standard operating procedure with US troops 1969 Gays & lesbians resist police raid at Stonewall Bar in New York & launch gay liberation movement 1969 Members of Redstockings, a radical feminist group, disrupt a hearing on abortion laws of the NY state legislature when the panel of witnesses turns out to be 14 men & a nun. They demand repeal, not reform, of abortion laws 1969 NOW celebrates Mother's Day with the slogan "Rights, Not Roscs"



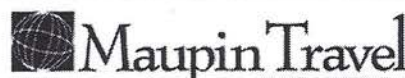
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My hero is my mother. She has always loved me but my coming out at the ripe old age of 41 challenged *how* she loved me. After all, being gay was wrong in her world, and she also feared I would join the devil after leaving this world.

One evening in November of 1995, my mother called me back after a difficult, but honest, conversation with her about who I am. She wanted to come see me in Chapel Hill the next day if I was not busy. Making a trip on the spur of the moment like this was rare. I was a little anxious but told her to come on up. On that beautiful morning, when I opened my door to let her in, she said, "I came to tell you in person that I love you." That was the day that we opened the door to our *hearts*, and I knew everything would be okay. My mother taught me about love. (Linda Carmichael)

My hero is Hillary Rodham Clinton. She went into the White House beside her eager husband with enthusiasm and motivation, and carried out many wonderful missions while she was First Lady. She stands for the rights of

# My Hero



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women and children. In the midst of much domestic and very public adversity, she stood tall and proud and never once let herself be beaten down. I think of the power and perseverance of Hillary Clinton when I need strength in tough times. (Barrett Mardre)

My hero is my maternal grandmother, Mary Todd Head. She lived to the ripe old age of 93 despite many hardships in her life. She lost both of her parents by the age of 8 and lived in an orphanage until graduating from high school. She went on to attend the Southern Conservatory of Music and became a well-regarded piano teacher. In fact, she taught students in her home until she was 88! Not only did she teach me to be strong and perseverant, she also showed me the meaning of unconditional love. (Caroline TODD Herbert)

1969 National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (NARAL) is founded 1969 The Redstockings organize a speak-out on abortion in NYC, where women describe their experiences with illegal abortions. Feminists in other states follow suit 1969 Vernita Gray starts a gay & lesbian hotline out of her Chicago southside apartment 1969 Sit-ins are held at U of Chicago to protest the firing of feminist sociology professor Marlene Dixon 1969 Demonstrators, mostly members of Redstockings, appear at Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, NJ 1969 Members of WITCH hold un-wedding ceremony, stating "we are gathered here in the spirit of our passion to affirm love & initiate our freedom from the unholy state of American patriarchal oppression . . . We promise to love, cherish & groove on each other & on all living things. . . We promise not to obey. . . We promise these things until choice do us part." 1970 1st Women's Studies program is established at San Diego State College, following protests 1970 *Sisterhood is Powerful, An Anthology of Writings from the Women's Liberation Movement*, edited by Robin Morgan, is published 1970 *Our Bodies, Ourselves* is 1st published 1970 NY eliminates most restrictions on early abortions; networks around the country organize to send women to clinics there 1970 Feminists take over *Ladies' Home Journal* offices to expose sexism of "women's magazines" 1970 Kate Millet publishes *Sexual Politics*, which articulates a philosophy of women's liberation 1970 Chicana feminists found Comision Femenil Mexicana 1970 Vivian Rothstein & Naomi Weisstein form Midwives of the Revolution 1970 On August 26, tens of thousands of US women participate in "A Women's Strike Day" to demand equality 1970 Bella Abzug elected to Congress (NY) 1970 President Nixon vetoes Comprehensive Child Development Act, which would have established federally funded childcare centers 1970 AFL-CIO meets to discuss status of women in unions. It endorses the ERA & opposes state protective legislation 1970 Lutherans allow women to be ordained 1970 National Right to Life Committee established to block liberalization of abortion 1970 Maggie Kuhn begins Gray Panthers, dedicated to championing causes of the elderly 1971 Bella Abzug, Shirley Chisholm, Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, & others help found the National Women's Political Caucus 1971 1st public rape victim's speak-out is held at St. Clement's Episcopal Church in New York City 1971 1st battered women's shelter opens in the Urbana, IL 1971 Oprah Winfrey is 1st Black winner of Miss Fire Prevention beauty pageant in Nashville, TN 1971 NY Radical Feminists hold a series of speak-outs & a conference on rape & women's treatment by the criminal justice system



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2003  
2004**MY HERO**

My heroes are everyday heroes, women I know or about whom I have heard. My significant heroes include my mother and my longtime friend, Marion. Mom was the oldest of 6 children in rural Ireland and was 12 when her mother died unexpectedly. They lived in a thatched cottage with a peat fireplace and pumped water from a well, cooked over an open hearth, raised animals, and looked after each other. Mom became her siblings' mother and worked as a nanny before completing high school, saving enough money to emigrate to the US. She continued to work hard, earning money to send back to her family so more of them could emigrate. My father's family was doing this, too, so we always had recently emigrated aunts and uncles living with us as they saved enough money to set up their own households.

Mom kept house for all of us. She never complained and still doesn't to this day. She has always been the caretaker, the advisor to those in need, the most generous and dedicated woman I know. Despite having to leave school to work, she is one of the most intelligent people I've ever met. I've learned so much from her—both she and my dad have inspired my life-long thirst for knowledge and strong compassion for those less fortunate, and reinforced standing by principles which make a difference. She has been one of the most inspiring forces in my life.

I met my friend Marion in college. We were immediate buddies and remained so for 27 years. Like me, she was the oldest child of blue-collar Irish parents and the first in her family to attend college. We graduated with honors and were cut from the same cloth regarding work ethics and caring for those less fortunate than ourselves. Marion loved hiking, biking, and being outdoors and, despite having to tote 3 kids around, she and her husband Gerry camped and flew and drove all over this country. On one of those vacations she became ill and, for the next 3 years, she fought for her life against the colon cancer.

She tried every conventional and alternative healing option available in her courageous attempts remain with us. And, in planning to die, she took care of everything. She made scrapbooks for her children and picked out presents she wanted given them after she was gone. She wrote copiously in her diary so her children could know her. She insisted that they keep traveling so her kids would remember being together as a family in incredibly beautiful places this world offers. She planned her funeral and brought all of their longtime friends together before it, so that she could tell us what she needed from us after she was gone.

Her home remained open to all who wished to visit, even as she became weaker. She left us in June 2001 and I still can't believe she is gone. I learned so much from her and never laughed as much as I did with her. I try to carry on her joy for life and embrace everyone. I think of her every day and, when some days are more challenging than others, I remember what she faced and how she persevered with unending zeal. She is always with me and I miss her so. She is one of the heroes who has blessed and inspired my life. (Jane C. Mac Neela)

**My Hero**

My heroes are Carol Burnett and Maya Angelou. Together they embody the two aspects of my own self that I seek to develop and feel most passionate about expressing: laughter and compassion.

Laughter is Carol Burnett's thing: she can make others laugh, and she can laugh at herself. And she has transcended even the most challenging of life's sorrows with a knowledge that the tears will eventually give way to laughter and joy.

As a Renaissance woman, Maya Angelou's passion has taken many forms. Her voice alone is pure poetry. With her very presence comes serenity, beauty and grace. Together her spoken and written words reveal the power of reflection and inspire compassion and understanding. (Julia Storm)

Mary worked in a large nursing home. From the first day till her last, she saw the elderly and infirm as vibrant human beings—took them fishing, to the mountains and beaches. She organized dances, quilting bees, Easter egg hunts, travel-log dinners, daily newspaper readings and more. Many holidays found her in the kitchen preparing special meals for the staff, letting them know they were appreciated for their work. And when residents were dying without family, she sat with them, holding their hands and letting them know they were not alone and that they had been loved in this life. My younger sister's caring for others continues to inspire me. (Ann Garrou)

# INTERWEAVE

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***"Where you can be  
your whole self  
and leave nothing  
at the door"***

## MY HERO

My heroes are my mother, sister, Katherine Hepburn and Barbra Streisand. All for the same wonderful reason. These women's strength, humanity, and sense of individuality have inspired me to develop my sense of self and yet not forsake the importance of others in my life. What a gift! I hope to pass this legacy on to my daughter.

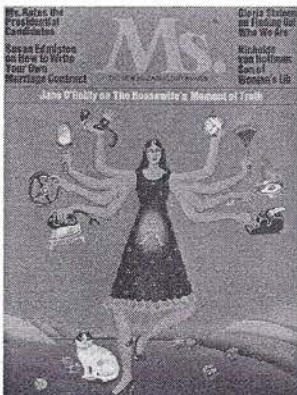
(Kathy Keyser)

Jean Rayburn, a first cousin, was my hero—especially in my teenage years. She had a charismatic personality and a terrific wit.

Jean was the first woman to be appointed dean at the University of Virginia. She inspired me by being so happy all the time, and telling me I could do *anything* I wanted to do. And best of all, she encouraged me to leave home!

(Anita Walker)

1971 Feminist Women's Health Center is founded in LA by Carol Downer & Lorraine Rothman 1971 Union Wage, a working woman's organization, is founded in the Bay Area 1971 Rita Mae Brown and others found lesbian-feminist separatist collective The Furies, primarily as a reaction to anti-gay attitudes in the feminist movement 1971 NOW acknowledges lesbian oppression after some members are expelled for being gay 1972 Senator Jacob Javits of NY nominates a woman to the Naval Academy, which denies her admission for gender reasons 1972 Miss Black Nashville Oprah Winfrey wins a 4-year scholarship to Tennessee State University 1972 Gloria Steinem publishes 1st issue of Ms. Magazine as an insert in New York magazine 1972 Congress passes Equal Rights Amendment & sends it to the states for consideration 1972 Seven members of Jane collective are arrested & held in jail overnight, charged with performing & conspiracy to perform abortions 1972 Congress passes Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments to the Civil Rights Act to enforce sex equality in education, which forces educational institutions to support women's sports 1972 Representative Shirley Chisholm runs for Democratic Party presidential nomination 1972 Bay Area Women Against Rape opens 1st rape crisis center in Berkeley, CA 1972 Ms. magazine carries ad headlined "We Have Had Abortions" signed by such prominent women as Gloria Steinem, Billie Jean King, Susan Sontag, & Lillian Hellman 1972 Former McCarthy investigator Phyllis Schlafly attacks the ERA in her newsletter & forms the STOP ERA organization 1972 Congress debates resolution tating that a woman nominated to a military academy should not be denied solely on the basis of her gender. It passes the Senate but is defeated in the House 1973 On January 22, US Supreme Court strikes down many state abortion laws with the Roe v. Wade decision 1973 A woman who had been denied admission to the Naval Academy sues the Navy. Pressure for Congress to act increases & Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder argues that women should be allowed to attend for the same reasons men do—to be trained as good officers & to receive a fine education 1973 Congress allows 1st female page in the House of Representatives 1973 Singer Helen Reddy wins a Grammy Award for "I Am Woman," the unofficial anthem of the women's movement 1973 Bobby Riggs, former tennis champion & vocal opponent of women getting equal prize money, challenges Margaret Court to a match & defeats her on Mother's Day. Billie Jean King then challenges Riggs to a match, which is held



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# My Hero

Dr. Sue Lorch is my hero/mentor and the first self-proclaimed feminist that I ever met. Few people would believe her now, but Sue swears that I was so timid when she first met me that she could barely hear me speak. I was an 18-year-old struggling to find the funds and wherewithall to go to college, despite the fact that I had been living on my own for 3 years and my minimum-wage job barely kept me in Ramen. She was a young Shakespearean scholar building her career. As my undergraduate advisor, Sue helped me find my voice and convinced me to stay in school more than once—never once mentioning the pile of papers that she could have been grading instead.

Sue helped me find odd jobs that enabled me to pay tuition—painting her house, painting other professors' houses, tilling a garden, cat-sitting—the list goes on. Her women's-studies courses taught me to examine the Southern-Baptist culture in which I was raised. The lessons I learned in her classes allowed me to imagine myself as someone who could move beyond the confines of my small town and into my own stubborn self. Twenty-two years later, our ongoing friendship and her sage advice continue to remind me to push myself to do what I can to transform this world into a place where every woman can find her own voice and express herself freely.  
(Angela Williams)

My heroes are Janet Palladi, therapist, and Shakti Gawain, author of *Creative Visualization* and *Living in the Light*. Both helped me to understand my own inner strength and how to access my own intuition and inspiration. To understand and believe that we each are responsible for our own happiness and for realizing our own dreams has been a guiding force in my life.  
(Ruth Heruska)

*Judith C. Powell, Ph.D.*

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at the Astrodome in front of 30,000 spectators. An estimated 40 million TV viewers also watched her win a purse of over \$100,000 by defeating Riggs 6-4, 6-3, and 6-3 1973 AT&T agrees to end discrimination in women's salaries & to pay retroactive compensation to women employees 1973 National Black Feminist Organization is formed 1973 300+ women from 27 countries attend International Feminist Planning Conference in Cambridge, MA. Their goal is to create an international movement through global conferences 1973 Olivia Records, a women's music record company, is founded & issues Holly Near's "Hang in There" 1973 Barbara Grier & Donna McBride start Naiad Press, lesbian book publishers 1973 Independent triangle women's groups work together on a compilation of *Whole Women Catalogue*, a resource book for NC women 1974 Equal Credit Opportunity Act passes, ending much of the discrimination against women in obtaining credit 1974 After covering Washington for 30 years, Helen Thomas is finally named White House reporter 1974 Local NOW chapters around the country file a lawsuit against Sears for sex discrimination &, in April '77, the EEOC finds reasonable cause to believe Sears was violating federal law 1974 Elaine Noble becomes 1st openly gay candidate elected to a state legislature (MA) 1974 Homosexuality is removed from the list of mental disorders by the American Psychiatric Association 1974 The Committee to End Sterilization Abuse (CESA) is formed, which includes the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) & the CWLU 1974 Chicago hosts founding convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) 1975 UN sponsors First International Conference on Women (Mexico City) 1975 The House passes Stratton Amendment calling for women to be admitted to military academies on the same basis as men & the military begins planning for the inevitable admission of women 1975 For the first time, federal employees' salaries can be garnished for child support & alimony 1975 11-year-old Karen Stead of PA is the 1st female to win the soapbox derby, driving a fiberglass racer she designed & built herself 1975 National Right to Life PAC is organized to stop women from obtaining legal abortions 1975 Phyllis Schlafly organizes Eagle Forum as an alternative to "women's lib," in support of voluntary school prayer, law & order, & a strong national defense, & against busing, federally funded child care, & abortion 1975 Tish Sommers, chair of NOW's Older Women Task Force, coins the phrase "displaced homemaker"





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*"To say that a setting of the United Church of Christ is Open and Affirming means that it has publicly declared that gay, lesbian, and bisexual people or those of all sexual orientations are welcome in its full life and ministry (e.g. membership, leadership, employment etc.) It bespeaks a spirit of hospitality and a willingness to live out that welcome in meaningful ways." (from UCC web page FAQ about the Open and Affirming Movement in the United Church of Christ)*

# My Hero

. . . is Mykol Hamilton, one of my college professors. Mykol is an out lesbian at my small, conservative college in Kentucky. She was there for me when I was coming out at the age of 17.

She took me to see Holly Near and Kate Clinton and other amazing women performers and speakers.

I was so lucky to have someone to talk with during that very confusing time in my life.

(Michele Reader)

My mother was a strong and beautiful woman who modeled independence, courage, perseverance, and unconditional love.

She is my hero.

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1975 Susan Brownmiller's *Against Our Will* on the ubiquity of rape is published 1975 NOW sponsors "Alice Doesn't" Day & asks women across the country to go on strike for one day 1975 Joanne Little, who was raped by a guard while in jail, is acquitted of murdering her offender. The case establishes a precedent for killing as self-defense against rape 1976 Barbara Walters becomes 1st woman coanchor of a daily evening news program 1976 1st women admitted to US military academies 1976 *Redbook* magazine polls readers about sexual harassment; 90% of young women say they view the situation as serious 1976 A bill defining a "person" as "a human being" from the moment of fertilization is signed by LA's governor 1976 Anita Bryant leads a movement to repeal a gay rights ordinance in Dade County, FL 1976 ERAmerica is launched to promote the ratification of ERA 1976 Local editor Catherine Nicholson and Harriet Desmoines found *Sinister Wisdom*, a nationally recognized lesbian feminist journal that continues to be recognized for its groundbreaking role in publishing a diverse array of women writers 1976 Hyde Amendment to health, education, & welfare appropriations bill bars the use of federal funds for abortions "except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus was brought to term." 250,000-300,000 women had received Medicaid-funded abortions the previous year 1976 Organization of Pan Asian American Women forms for women of Asian & Pacific American Islander descent 1976 Barbara Jordan becomes the 1st African-American & 1st woman to give the keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention 1976 Supreme Court agrees with General Electric that the company's failure to cover pregnancy-related disability is not discriminatory 1976 Both the House & Senate pass the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits the use of federal Medicaid money for abortion 1976 Many professional & women's organizations decide to boycott those states that haven't passed the ERA & to hold their conferences elsewhere 1976 1st marital rape law, making it illegal for a husband to rape his wife, is enacted in Nebraska 1976 Ladslipper Music of Durham publishes print version of the Ladslipper Catalog & Resource Guide of Music By Women 1977 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) asks Rhode Island Supreme Court to allow women to use their own names, rather than those of their husbands 1977 Air Force graduates its 1st women pilots 1977 Fort Bragg purges over 50 suspected lesbians



Anita Bryant

**MY HERO**

... is Julie Andrews, who not only inspired me with her incredible drive and talent, but who also has shown remarkable strength in the face of tragedy with the loss of her voice, the source of her passion. (Sandi Sullivan)

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1977 Houston, TX, witnesses 1st National Women's Conference, where 20,000 representatives from all 50 states pass a far-reaching National Plan of Action 1977 National Association of Cuban-American Women is formed 1977 National Coalition Against Domestic Violence is established 1977



Elleanor Smeal, president of NOW, demands that homemakers have their own Social Security accounts 1979 Judy Grahn's *Dinner Party* opens at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art 1979 1st National March on Washington for Gay & Lesbian Rights 1979 1968 Annapolis graduate & former secretary of the Navy argues in *Washingtonian* article "Women Can't Fight" that changes at the Naval Academy create physical & mental punishment in male cadets & result in weakened officer corps 1979 Yale legal scholar Catharine MacKinnon publishes *Sexual Harassment of Working Women*, asserting that harassment is discrimination against women 1980 90,000 march & rally in support of the ERA in Chicago's Grant Park 1980 Supreme Court upholds Hyde Amendment in *Harris v. McRae* 1981 President Reagan nominates AZ judge Sandra Day O'Connor as 1st woman to sit on Supreme Court 1982 Russian Svetlana Savitskaya becomes 2nd woman to fly in space 1982 National ERA ratification process expires, effectively killing the measure 1983 NC appeals court overturns conviction of a man found guilty of raping his 3 daughters in *State v. Lester*. The man had been known to carry a gun, had often battered the girls' mother, & had threatened to kill them all, but the court inexplicably found that the girls had no reason to fear that he would use force & further determined that they did not put up enough resistance 1983 Sally Ride becomes 1st female US astronaut in space 20 years after Russia sent a woman into space 1983 Coretta Scott King & other black leaders announce support of gay civil rights 1983 Women in Durham, NC, and surrounding areas form the Common Woman Chorus 1984 Walter Mondale chooses Geraldine Ferraro as vice-presidential running mate. They lose to Ronald Reagan & George Bush

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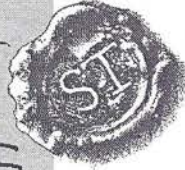
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2003  
2004

## MY HERO

. . . is Cynthia Collins: a writer, teacher of Wicca, member of Mensa, and the first Witch in my life. She laughs more than anyone I know despite having experienced menopause at 27, and now, at 52, severe osteoporosis and other illnesses. She inspires balance, self-acceptance, and laughter.  
(Heather Barnes)

My heroes are Christine Fontenot, my high-school English teacher, and Ann Martin Scott, my favorite university English teacher. They helped me learn that I am a writer. Writing has been a continuous thread in my life's fabric since high school, helping me to earn a decent paycheck and also to explore and understand myself as a woman and human being. In helping me learn that I am a writer, Christine and Ann pointed me toward a practical and personal skill that still nourishes my body and spirit.  
(Betty Prioux)

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1984 Berkeley becomes 1st city in the US to institute Domestic Partner policy 1985 Bella Abzug founds Women's Foreign Policy Council, which, along with Women for Meaningful Summits & the Jane Addams Conference, struggles to promote women's interests in foreign policy 1985 Amy Eilberg becomes 1st woman Conservative Rabbi 1985 Libby Riddles is 1st woman to win Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, crossing 1,100 miles of Alaskan wilderness in just over 17 days 1985 Wilma Pearl Mankiller is sworn in as 1st woman principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma 1985 Guerrilla Girls form in response to Museum of Modern Art show of 169 major artists, only 13 of whom are women. "The conscience of the art world," they wear gorilla masks in public to protect their identities & answer to the names of women artists of the past. Their clever informational posters & protests add a new twist to art activism & members say that channeling their anger keeps them from turning it back on themselves 1985 Ellen Malcolm founds EMILY's List (Early Money Is Like Yeast [It Raises Dough]) PAC to help fund women's political campaigns, now the largest PAC in the US, in her basement; it is subsequently called "the best new idea in politics" 1986 Meese Commission produces a list of all the films it deems to be pornographic "social menaces" based partly on Tipper Gore's input 1986 Supreme Court rules in *EEOC v. Sears* that Sears did not discriminate against women 1986 Margaret Atwood publishes her dystopian novel *The Handmaid's Tale*, in which the religious Right has won electoral power & creates the theocracy & republic of Gilead 1986 *New York Times* finally agrees to use Ms. instead of Miss or Mrs. 1986 Barbara Mikulski (MD) becomes 1st Democratic woman elected to the Senate who hasn't succeeded her husband; the number of women in the Senate doubles from one to two 1986 *Newsweek* poll reveals 56% of women consider themselves feminists; 71% say that the movement has improved their lives; only 4% describe themselves as antifeminist 1987 Eleanor Smeal & others found the Fund for the Feminist Majority, in part to encourage feminists to run for office 1987 Congress declares March "Women's History Month" 1987 Department of Defense Task Force on Women in the Military calls for clearer standards for evaluating whether certain types of noncombatant positions should be opened to women 1988 The military's Risk Rule provides service branches with a standard for determining how woman can serve. Under its guidelines, noncombatant positions can be closed to women only when they involve "risks of exposure to direct combat, hostile fire, or capture." Some 30,000 additional noncombatant positions are made available to women 1988 Randall Terry, a NY used-car salesman, takes over his wife's "project" to found the anti-choice group Operation Rescue, which uses a policy of harassment & intimidation to try to shut down abortion clinics 1988 In *Webster v. Reproductive Services*, Supreme Court allows Missouri's prohibition of the use of public funds for abortion 1988 Toni Morrison receives Pulitzer Prize for all of her work, including *Beloved* 1988 Methodists create gender-neutral hymnal 1988 Congress approves a memorial for the 10,000 women who served in Viet Nam 1988 Supreme Court prohibits discrimination against women in private social clubs 1988 Undercover feminist Michelle Anderson, a student at UCal Santa Cruz, spends 18 months & \$5,000 training to win the Miss Santa Cruz beauty contest. She goes on to San Diego where, as Miss California is being crowned, she pulls from her bra a banner reading, "Pageants Hurt All Women"

# My Hero

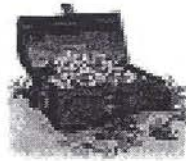
... is my Aunt Dot. She is the "never married" sister of my father, first in the family to earn her PhD, self-determining feminist, college professor, world traveller, and lover of the outdoors. Much of what I am today is attributable to my trying to emulate her.

(Chris Merrill)



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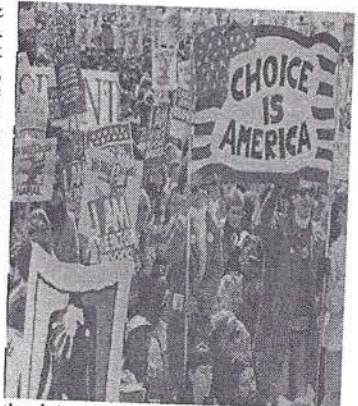
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1989 Congress votes to authorize Medicaid payments for abortions for victims of rape & incest; President Bush the Elder vetoes the measure & Congress fails to override 1989 Supreme Court's *Webster* decision upholds numerous restrictions on a woman's right to choose abortion & undermines Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which guaranteed abortion rights without qualification. The ruling includes a pre-amble stating that "the life of each human begins at conception" & allows states to prohibit "public facilities" & "public employees" from being used to perform or assist in abortions in cases in which a woman's life is not at risk. Women of all ages take to the street in protest **1989** Duke University establishes a Women's Center. **1989** Mark Lepine fatally shoots 14 women engineering students at the University of Montreal Engineering School, shouting, "You're women, you're going to be engineers. You're all a bunch of feminists. I hate feminists" **1990** Catherine Nicholson, Elizabeth Freeman, Janey Wharton, and Betsy Storozuk establish the first women's co-op residence in North Carolina in Durham **1990** President Bush the Elder vetoes the Family & Medical Leave Act, which guaranteed unpaid family leave **1990** MA Supreme Court grants joint parental rights to Dr. Susan Love & Dr. Helen Cooksey, surgeons in the mid-forties and former Harvard faculty members. Their 5-year-old daughter was conceived by Love through artificial insemination **1991** President Bush vetoes Civil Rights Act of 1990 **1991** Anita Hill accuses US Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment. Thomas is subsequently nominated **1991** The Campus Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights Act, later known as the Ramstad Amendment to the Higher Education Act, requires colleges to develop & publicize a campus sexual assault policy **1991** Several women are killed & 2 women become prisoners of war during the Persian Gulf War **1991** Tailhook Scandal occurs as navy aviators & top brass in a Las Vegas hotel don T-shirts stating that "Women Are Property" & force at least 25 women to run a gauntlet of as many as 70 groping male officers **1992** The American Association of University Women publishes *How Schools Shortchange Girls*, which reports that "construction of the glass ceiling begins not in the executive suite but in the classroom" **1992** 750,000 Americans assemble in DC for a pro-choice rally, making it the largest demonstration in the capital in American history. The event receives less ink or airtime than Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade **1992** Senate holds up the promotions & transfers of nearly 9,000 navy personnel & marines until they could prove they were not involved in the Tailhook Scandal **1992** Mac Jamison becomes the 1st African-American woman to go into space **1992** Carol Moseley-Braun (IL) becomes 1st African-American woman elected to the Senate **1992** Many artists are among the founders of The Women's Action Coalition (WAC), an activist political group created in response to women's anger over the Anita



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It takes a community to sustain a chorus and we want you to know that you have done a great job for 20 years. By funding our efforts, we provide you with musical events that unite, excite, and raise the spirits and consciousness of our audience.

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**Raffle for 2 nights stay at Hidden Treasure Inn, Kure Beach, NC** Raised \$1,985.00. Raffle winner: Maggie McGlynn

**Gold Circle proceeds from the "Love, Love, Love" Concert** Raised \$364.00 (donated to SWOOP and The Women's Center of Wake County)

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Even when the Chorus is not holding a fundraiser or performing, you can support us through individual or corporate donations. The Chorus is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Please consider pledging your support today.

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PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATIONS payable to The Common Woman Chorus. For more information, visit our Web site at [www.commonwomanchorus.org](http://www.commonwomanchorus.org).

Thank You.  
Ruth Heruska (2003 CWC Treasurer)

Hill-Clarence Thomas confrontation in the US Senate. Starting in New York, Women's Action Coalition spreads to other cities & to Europe. WAC & Guerrilla Girls protest the Guggenheim Museum's Soho branch, which includes no women in its inaugural show. At the last minute, officials agree to include Louise Bourgeois 1992 Lesbian Avengers occupy the offices of *Self* magazine to protest its participation in an upcoming convention in Colorado, which has passed an antigay legislation. The magazine agrees to boycott the state 1993 Dr. Joycelyn Elders is appointed Surgeon General of the United States by President Clinton 1993 "Our Own Place" closes its Watts St. doors & Duke's Women Center acquires the Women's Book Exchange—a 3,600+ volume feminist lending library of books by, for, & about women 1993 Pentagon's inspector general report finds that 49 civilian women, 22 service-women, 6 female government employees, 6 wives, & 6 servicemen were victims of sexual abuse at the Tailhook convention & recommends that at least 140 officers be brought up on disciplinary charges 1993 Princeton graduate student Katie Roiphe suggests in *The Morning After: Sex, Fear, & Feminism on Campus* that male sexual assault has been exaggerated & invented by mass hysteria 1993 Secretary of Defense Les Aspin orders an end to the ban on women in combat aviation jobs, urges the navy to increase women's assignments to sea duty, & orders all branches of the military to review & justify policies that exclude women from combat duty 1993 On *Roe v. Wade* anniversary, President Clinton signs executive orders reversing presidents Reagan & Bush's anti-choice legislation. Public clinics are again allowed to provide abortions counseling & fund international family-planning efforts 1993 In an outbreak of violence against abortion providers, Dr. David Gunn is assassinated in his Pensacola, FL, family planning clinic; Dr. George Tiller is wounded outside his clinic in Wichita, KS; & Dr. Wayne Patterson is killed in Mobile, AL 1993 Toni Morrison awarded the Nobel Prize 1993 President Clinton nominates openly lesbian Roberta Achtenburg for assistant secretary for fair housing at the Department of Housing & Urban Development. In the contentious debate over her nomination, Sen. Claiborne Pell (RI) speaks out in favor of the nomination & reveals that his daughter is a lesbian, stating that he does not want to see her "barred from a government job because of her orientation." This is believed to be the 1st time that a senator outs a family member on the Senate floor 1993 Common Woman Chorus performs at The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change conference in Durham, NC 1993 Take Our Daughters to Work Day is organized 1993 Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg states during her 1993 Senate confirmation hearings that "the state controlling a woman would mean denying her full autonomy & full equality" 1994 Violence Against Women Act passed by Congress 1994 A VA court overturns a lower court ruling that homosexuality makes someone an unfit parent 1994 2-part "Bad Girls" exhibition of feminist art is held at New Museum of Contemporary Art in NY 1994 Women's WORLD, a global free speech network of feminist writers, is founded to defend women writers under attack. Former CWLU member Meredith Tax is its President 1994 Congress passes the Gender Equity in Education Act to promote math & science learning by girls, counsel pregnant teens, & prevent sexual harassment 1994 West Point is scene of a sexual harassment "groping" scandal 1994 Paula Jones brings a civil suit against President Clinton, accusing him of "sexually harassing & assaulting" her at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock in 1991 1995 4th World Conference on Women opens in Beijing, China 1995 Shannon Faulkner is admitted to The Citadel under court order 1995 NC legislator Henry Aldridge announces "The facts show that people who are raped, who are truly raped, the juices don't flow, the body functions don't work & they don't get pregnant" as he argues against funds for abortions for women who have been raped 1995 The Museum of Modern Art invites painter Elizabeth Murray to organize a show of modern women artists. Murray calls the show "payback" for women artists whose struggles paved the way for her work 1996 Amnesty International issues a report on the status of women in Taliban controlled Afghanistan, calling it a "disaster" 1996 Supreme Court orders Virginia Military Institute, the last all-male, state-sponsored military college, to admit women 1996 2 female cadets at the Citadel allege that they had been hazed by male cadets in abusive ways, including having their clothes set on fire and having deodorant sprayed in their mouths. One male cadet is dismissed for his role in the incident & 9 others are disciplined 1997 Madeleine Albright is 1st woman to serve as US Secretary of State 1997 Supreme Court rules that college athletics programs must actively involve roughly equal numbers of men & women to qualify for federal support 1997 "Queering The South" gathering held in Atlanta, GA. The conference explores the question "What Does It Mean to be Queer in the South?" 1997 A West Point cadet is acquitted of a charge of raping a female cadet 1997 *Time* magazine runs Ellen DeGeneres story "Yep, I'm gay." 3 weeks later, Ellen's sitcom character Ellen Morgan comes out on national TV 1998 Judge Susan Webber Wright dismisses Paula Jones's case against President Clinton, arguing that, although the President's behavior was "boorish & offensive," Jones had not proven her charge that she had suffered job setbacks or psychological damage from the incident 2000 founding director of Common Woman Chorus Eleanor Sableski retires 2001 Cindy Bizzell begins directing the Common Woman Chorus **Timeline compiled with thanks to Women's Health USA 2002; Legacy 98; the Feminist Majority Timeline; the Feminist Archives**



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