



# Women's VU

The monthly newsletter of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

March 2006, Volume 28, Issue 8

## Don't Miss It!

The Annual Margaret Cuninggim Lecture Presents

Rev. Debra Haffner  
"Sexuality, Spirituality, and Religion: What's the Connection?"

Tuesday,  
March 28, 2006  
7:00 pm  
Wilson Hall, 103  
FREE!

Members of the community can find parking for this event at the Terrace Place garage. For more information, please call the Women's Center at 322-4843.

## Sexuality, Spirituality, and Religion: What's the Connection?

### The Women's Center Presents Debra Haffner

The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center Annual Lecture will take place on Tuesday, March 28th at 7pm in Wilson Hall 103. This endowed lecture on women in culture and society is given by a distinguished scholar each year. Past lecturers have included Patricia Hill Collins, Peggy McIntosh, and Louise Silverstein. This year, the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center proudly presents Reverend Debra W. Haffner and her talk: "Sexuality, Spirituality, and Religion: What's the Connection?"

Reverend Haffner, a Universal Unitarian minister, is the director of the Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing. The Religious Institute, founded in 2001, is an ecumenical, interfaith organization dedicated to advocating for sexual health, education, and justice in faith communities and society. Under Haffner's leadership, the Religious Institute is working to develop and support a network of clergy, religious educators, theologians, ethicists, and other religious leaders committed to sexual justice; to build the capacity of religious institutions and clergy to offer sexuality education within the context of their own faith traditions; to help congregations become sexually healthy faith communities; and to educate the public and policymakers about this religious vision of sexual morality, justice, and healing.

Haffner's work at the Religious Institute follows the Religious Declaration on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing. According to the Religious Declaration,

"sexuality is God's life-giving and life-fulfilling gift... We are speaking out against the pain, brokenness, oppression, and loss of meaning that many experience about their sexuality. Our culture needs a sexual ethic focused on personal relationships and social justice rather than particular sexual acts. All persons have the right and responsibility to lead sexual lives that express love, justice, mutuality, commitment, consent, and pleasure. Grounded in respect for the body and for the vulnerability that intimacy brings, this ethic fosters physical, emotional, and spiritual health. It accepts no double standards and applies to all persons, without regard to sex, gender, color, age, bodily condition, marital status, or sexual orientation."

The Religious Institute advocates for theological reflection and dialogue about sexuality with voices present from medical, social, arts, religious, and humanitarian fields, as well as for the full inclusion of women and sexual minorities in congregational life. Religious leaders are encouraged to receive training on sexuality counseling and education throughout the lifespan, and to support those who challenge sexual oppression and work for justice within their communities. Haffner encourages persons of faith to endorse

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For more info, please see our website: [www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter)

## March is Women's History Month

## Women's Center Seeks Mentoring Award Nominees

The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center is currently accepting nominations for an award given annually to recognize achievements by and in support of women at Vanderbilt University.

*The Mentoring Award* honors a member of the Vanderbilt University community who fosters the professional and intellectual development of Vanderbilt women. The award will be announced in April, when the honoree will be presented with a special gift and certificate.

**Deadline:** If you know someone who is deserving of this recognition, please submit your nomination by **Friday, March 17**. Nomination forms are available at the Sarratt desk or at the Women's Center. Curriculum vitae of the nominee are also welcomed as well as up to three additional letters of support for the nominee.

## The Women's Center Says Goodbye to One of its Own

This past February, *Jennifer Hackett*, associate director of the Women's Center, accepted a new position with the National Conference of Community and Justice here in Nashville. For three years she directed the Gender Matters programming here at the Women's Center.

*Good luck, Jennifer!*

*Women's VU* is published monthly August through May at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

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**Address changes:** Please contact our office manager at [robin.l.van.arman@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:robin.l.van.arman@vanderbilt.edu)

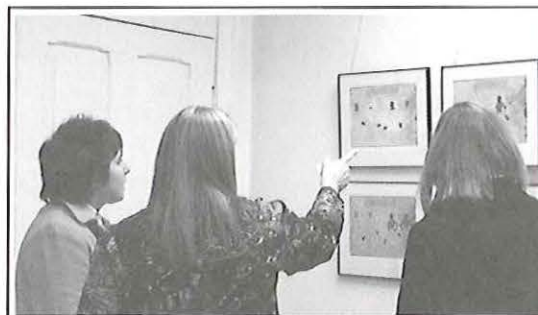
**Deadline for newsletter:** Submissions are due on the 1st of the month preceding publication.

## Seedpod Senescence: works by Patricia Jordan

*Don't miss your chance to see our latest art exhibit, Seedpod Senescence: works by Patricia Jordan*

Patricia Jordan utilizes biological and metaphorical imagery in charcoal drawings, prints and collages to deal with the "change of life" for women—an exploration of the possibilities for this new life stage.

The show runs February 6 through April 28. To see the show, call 322-4843 for viewing times and directions.



Photos by Misa Culley

Patricia Jordan discusses her work with two admirers during the opening reception.

## Congratulations to the 2006 Vagina Warriors

*Being a Vagina Warrior "means developing the spiritual muscle to enter and survive the grief that violence brings, and, in that dangerous space of stunned knowing, inviting the deeper wisdom."*

—Eve Ensler, Author, *The Vagina Monologues*

Project Safe congratulates the following women for their extraordinary contributions to Vanderbilt University and Nashville in the movement to end violence against women:

*Renee Roberson*

*Rachel Cook*

*Elizabeth Edmondson*

*Misa Culley*

Thanks to all those who made this year's production of *The Vagina Monologues* possible!

**Happy V-DAY: Until the Violence Stops!**



## Sexuality, Spirituality, and Religion: What's the Connection?

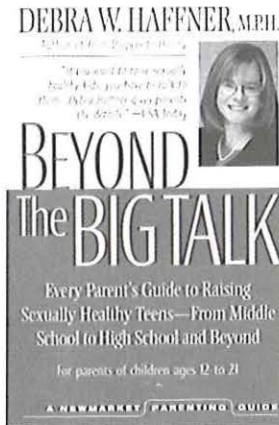
### MCWC Presents Rev. Debra Haffner

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sexual and spiritual wholeness in society, specifically: a lifelong, age appropriate sexuality education in the community, a faith-based commitment to sexual and reproductive rights, and religious leadership in movements to end sexual and social injustice.

Reverend Haffner also participated in the Dialogue on

Reproductive Rights held in the fall of 1999 by the Aspen Institute and Search for Common Ground. The conference brought together individuals from various social, political, and faith-based perspectives and the participants created guidelines for having a religiously inclusive dialogue around reproductive rights. Seven areas of common ground emerged from this conversation: promoting sexual responsibility; fostering equality and respect for women; strengthening parent-child communication; working to reduce



teen pregnancies; improving prenatal and maternal care; supporting the choice of adoption; and working together to remove the conditions that lead to unplanned pregnancies and abortions. Haffner works to continue this dialogue within the faith-based communities and the larger socio-political culture to increase nationwide conversations about the connection between sexual health and spirituality.

The staff at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center invites anyone interested in this conversation to join us for the Annual Lecture on Tuesday, March 28th at 7:00pm in Wilson Hall 103. Members of the community can find parking for this free event at the Terrace Place garage. We believe that fostering conversation about reproductive rights, healthy sexuality, and spirituality is crucial to the current feminist movement.

#### Who Is Debra Haffner?

Debra W. Haffner is the director of a new organization, the Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing. Ms. Haffner was the chief executive officer of SIECUS, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States, from 1988 through May 2000. Under her leadership, SIECUS tripled in staff size, increased its annual budget revenues more than six-fold, and opened professional offices in New York and Washington, DC. During Ms. Haffner's tenure at SIECUS, she created the Religious Declaration on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing; the National Coalition to Support Sexuality Education; the Commission on Adolescent Sexual Health; and the Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, Kindergarten–Grade Twelve.

Prior to joining SIECUS, Ms. Haffner served as the Director of Education for the Center for Population Options; the Director of Community Services for Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington; a Special Assistant in the U.S. Public Health Service; and the Resource Center Coordinator of the Population Institute.

Ms. Haffner is the author of *From Diapers to Dating: A Parent's Guide to Raising Sexually Healthy Children*, which was called by Kirkus Review "the very best kind of guide for being a better parent," and *Beyond the Big Talk: Every Parent's Guide to Raising Sexually Healthy Teens*, which the American Library Association's Booklist says, "offers solid advice and resources to parents, who will greatly appreciate her candor." She is also the co-author of a college sexuality textbook, *What I've Learned About Sex*. Ms. Haffner has also published nine chapters in books and encyclopedias, more than 70 articles in professional journals, 14 monographs, and numerous pamphlets for the general public. She has conducted speeches and training workshops in Brazil, Venezuela, England, Hong Kong, Japan, Israel, Uruguay, Guatemala, the Eastern Caribbean, Spain, and the Netherlands.

Ms. Haffner's work has been honored by the Yale School of Epidemiology and Public Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, the Association for the Advancement of Health Education, and the Society for Adolescent Medicine. She received the Connecticut Sexuality Educator of the Year Award in May 2002.

Ms. Haffner appears regularly in the national media. She is frequently quoted in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, and has appeared on such programs as *Nightline*, *PrimeTime Live*, *20/20*, *Dateline*, *Crossfire*, *Good Morning America*, *Oprah*, and the *Today Show*.

Ms. Haffner has a Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, a Masters of Public Health from the Yale University School of Medicine and an undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University. In 1996-97, she was a Research Fellow at the Yale Divinity School. She is also a Fellow of the Society for Adolescent Medicine.

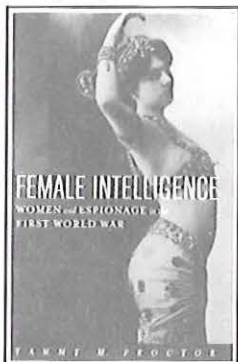
Ms. Haffner has been married for 20 years and is the proud mother of a 17-year-old daughter and a nine-year-old son.

Compiled by Katie Protos.

For more information on this upcoming program, please call the Women's Center at 322-4843.

## Women's Role in Espionage and Gender and Culture in the 50s

March is celebrated as Women's History Month and the Women's Center Library has many volumes that chronicle the history of women.



Women in espionage is an aspect of women's history on which little has been written. In *Female Intelligence: Women and Espionage in the First World War* (New York University Press, 2003)

Tammy M. Proctor focuses on women in British intelligence in World War I. Proctor, an associate professor of history at Wittenberg University in Ohio, usually studies British youth and was led to the topic of espionage when she uncovered information about Girl Guides who had worked for the British War Office.

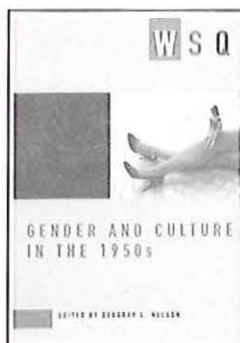
Between 1909 and 1919 over six thousand women, of very diverse backgrounds, ages and interests, participated in British intelligence operations in either civilian or military capacities. They varied from British teenagers to elderly Belgian women. Yet their contributions are little-known today and even the stories of alleged spies who were once famous, such as Edith Cavell, have been largely forgotten. Proctor explains that "This book examines both the powerful cultural images of the woman spy and the realities of women's intelligence work during the period of the British Secret Service's expansion and professionalization—the First World War."

The writer discusses the sexual division of labor that arose in intelligence early in the twentieth century. Professional spying was associated with the qualities of calmness and coolness then usually attributed to males, while exotic sexualized images, such as that of the notorious Mata Hari, were associated with females in secrets work. However, most of the women involved in British intelligence worked in London offices that dealt with such issues as mail censorship, aliens who were perceived to be threats, and cryptography. They filled such positions as censors, decoders, chemical testers, translators, examiners, clerks and historians. Girl Guides aged as young as fourteen were employed largely as messengers, though they were given a few other light duties. In 1915 they replaced the Boy Scouts who had originally been hired but who were found to be getting into too much mischief.

Smaller numbers of women worked as spies for Britain in the occupied territories in Europe, especially in Belgium. Other women worked for the French and Belgian intelligence offices. Their duties included gathering information on German military movements, encoding and passing on that information and organizing networks of spies. While hundreds of women were arrested on suspicion of being spies, comparatively few were

convicted and put to death by the Germans. A public outcry followed the 1915 execution in occupied Brussels of Edith Cavell, a British nurse whose contributions involved the humanitarian work of hiding and smuggling refugees rather than actual espionage. Other well-known spy-martyrs included the Belgian spies Elise Grandprez and Gabrielle Petit and the French Louise de Bettignies.

One chapter is devoted to Mata Hari, a Dutch exotic dancer, and to others who contributed to the popular image of female spies as women who seduced men in order to obtain important information from them. Proctor shows how this image of the spy-seductress owes more to works of fiction than to reality. The vast majority of women in intelligence worked quietly and diligently, with little recognition of their contributions to the war effort.



Deborah L. Nelson is the editor of *Gender and Culture in the 1950s* (Feminist Press, 2005), which was also published as an issue of *Women's Studies Quarterly*. Nelson, an associate professor of English at the University of Chicago, notes the distinction between the nostalgia for the fifties and the idealization of that era, and the critical accounts by many in the fields of gender and sexuality studies. She feels that many scholars have "redescribed the 1950s as an era of oppressive normalization, anxiety, depression and simmering discontent."

The contributors, mostly academics working in the United States, represent a variety of ages, backgrounds, opinions and expertise. Some experienced the fifties themselves while the younger writers have only studied the era. Their articles cover a diverse array of topics including women, Communism and the Catholic Church in Mexico; American families who adopted children fathered by GIs in Korea; the remarkable success of the scandalous 1956 novel, *Peyton Place*; the lives of Russian women during the Khrushchev years; and gender and sexuality in three of Patricia Highsmith's novels.

Some of our other recent books on women's history include: *Women's History in Global Perspective*, Vols. 1-3, edited by Bonnie G. Smith, *The Road to Seneca Falls: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the First Women's Rights Convention* by Judith Wellman, and *Restoring Women's History Through Historic Preservation* edited by Gail Lee Dubrow & Jennifer B. Goodman.



Barbara Clarke  
Women's Center  
Librarian

## March 2006 Calendar



Unless otherwise indicated, all groups and events are open to the public and are held at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center at 316 West Side Row on Vanderbilt University's campus.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Annual Antoinette Brown Lecture

Laurel Schneider presents:

*When Hell Freezes Over: Feminism, Ontology, and Multiplicity*

Thursday, March 16, 7:00pm in Benton Chapel at the Vanderbilt Divinity School

**What:** Antoinette Brown (1825-1921) was a U.S. abolitionist, feminist, and was the first woman ordained minister in the U.S. The lectureship is intended to bring distinguished women theologians and church leaders to the Divinity School to speak on a variety of concerns for

women in ministry. This talk confronts a Christian theological history vulnerable to patriarchy and white supremacy.

**Who:** Laurel Schneider, Chicago Associate Professor of Theology, Ethics, and Culture, Chicago Theological Seminary will be the featured guest speaker.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 322-2776

#### Pregnancy Resource Forum

**Where and When:** Tuesday, March 21st, 7pm in the Board of Trust Room at the Student Life Center

**What:** Do you know what to do if you or someone you know is pregnant at Vanderbilt? Are you interested in learning more about what resources are available on and off campus?

Panelists from organizations in the Vanderbilt and Nashville community will discuss pregnancy and how the choices around pregnancy will impact your life as a student. Resources will be provided with information regarding services and support available to students. Cosponsored by Vanderbilt Students for Life and the Vanderbilt Feminists. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Emily Gaddis at emily.r.gaddis@vanderbilt.edu or Emily Baunach at emily.baunach@vanderbilt.edu.

#### Women in Academe Series Presents:

*Combating Sexual Harassment in Grad School*

Thursday, March 23, 4:10pm-5:30pm, Buttrick Hall, Rm. 206

**What:** After defining the specifics of sexual harassment and reviewing the reporting process and their possible outcomes, representatives from the Opportunity Development Center will present the different resources provided by Vanderbilt University that assist in its prevention and attenuation.

**Who:** This event is free and open to anyone who is, or who is

considering becoming a graduate student.

For more information, contact [vanessa.k.valdes@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vanessa.k.valdes@vanderbilt.edu)

**The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center Annual Lecture: Sexuality, Spirituality, and Religion: What's the Connection?**  
Tuesday, March 28, 7pm, Wilson Hall, Rm. 103

**What:** The Reverend Debra W. Haffner, an ordained minister and a sexologist for the past 30 years, will help us explore the connection between our sexuality and our faiths. Rev. Haffner will be speaking on topics such as: *What does the Bible really say about sex? Why are so many religious institutions concerned about your sex life? What's the new movement for sexual justice in faith communities?*

Co-sponsored with Women and Gender Studies, The Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender and Sexuality, and Nashville CABLE. For more information, contact [katie.protos@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:katie.protos@vanderbilt.edu)

**Second Annual Women's History Month Distinguished Lecture Professor Tina Campt**

Thursday, March 30th, 5:10pm, Wilson 126

**What:** Tina Campt is Associate Professor of History and Women's Studies and the Interim Director, Program in Women's Studies, Duke University. Tina Campt's talk is called "Pictures of 'Us'? -Race, Gender and the Historical Image"

**Who:** This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact [monica.casper@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:monica.casper@vanderbilt.edu)

#### Ongoing:

**Seedpod Senescence: works by Patricia Jordan**

**What:** Patricia Jordan utilizes biological and metaphorical imagery in charcoal drawings, prints and collages to deal with the "change of life" for women—an exploration of the possibilities for this new life stage. The show runs February 6 through April 28. To see the show, call 322-4843 for viewing times and directions.

### REGULAR GROUPS/ MEETINGS

#### Sistahs Reading Sistahs

Wednesday, March 1, 12:30-1:30pm (Meets the 1st Wednesday)

**What:** A book group for everyone interested in reading African-American women authors. This month the group will be reading *Coldest Winter Ever* by Sista Souljah.

**Who:** This group is free and open to everyone!

For more info, please contact [regina.snell@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:regina.snell@vanderbilt.edu)

#### T-BLAST

T-BLAST was meeting the second Monday of the month.

However, due to staff transitions, this

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## March 2006 Calendar Listings

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group is currently not meeting. For more information about LGBT groups in the community, contact melinda.brown@vanderbilt.edu

### NEW!

#### **Making Connections: A discussion group about Body Image**

**What:** Come join a discussion group to learn about making closer connections with others, your body—and most importantly—yourself. Topics may include body image, intimate relationships, self confidence, managing anxiety and stress, and many others. Come check it out. Confidential.

**Who:** Free and open to anyone with an interest in these issues. For more information, time and location: call Pamela Fishel-Ingram, Ph.D., 343-3561 or e-mail pamelaingram@vanderbilt.edu

#### **Creative Life Planning Group**

**Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28, 11:30am–1:00 pm (Meets every Tuesday)**

**What/Who:** A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Free and open to everyone and is usually attended by women between 40 and 90 years of age.

For more information, call 322-4843.

#### **Creative Writing Group**

**Tuesday, March 14, at 5:30pm–7pm (meets the 2nd Tuesday)**

**What:** The Creative Writing Group is open to new members! We look forward to hearing your piece. No writing experience necessary. You can bring a piece or create one at the group.

**Who:** This group is free and open to everyone. It is led by Anna Sir who will be doing some writing instruction as well as facilitation of the group. For more information, or to RSVP to the group, contact annasir@bellsouth.net

#### **Vandy Moms**

**Thursday, March 9 and 23, 11:30am–12:30pm (Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays)**

**What/Who:** Moms of any age! Women who juggle! Superheroes! Open to all mothers, partnered or single. This is a support network that provides advocacy for moms in the Vanderbilt and larger communities. It also provides programming to inform, empower and enrich. The March 9 meeting will be Rhonda Laird (VU Childcare Center) who will discuss age-appropriate discipline. To RSVP, contact misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu or call 343-4367.

#### **Book Group**

**Monday, March 13, 5:15pm-6:15pm (meets the second Monday)**

**What/Who:** The book group is open to new members at all times and is for anyone who loves to read. The book group will read *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lionel Shriver.

For more information, contact Jane Du Bose at jdubose@bellsouth.net or Carmen Gherman at cggherman@yahoo.com

#### **Vanderbilt Feminists (Vandy Fems)**

**Wednesdays, March 1, 15, 22, and 29, 5:00pm–6:00pm (meets every Wednesday except the 8th due to Spring Break)**

**Who:** Open to all students of any gender.

**What:** A student group concerned about women's issues on campus, and promoting equality between genders.

Contact emily.c.baunach@vanderbilt.edu or katie.protos@vanderbilt.edu *Or just come to a meeting!*



#### **Peer Educators of Project Safe**

**Meets Sunday nights 6pm**

**What/Who:** Peer Educators are students trained to facilitate workshops that promote discussion and encourage understanding of violence against women.

For more information, contact katie.protos@vanderbilt.edu or kasie.r.luttrell@vanderbilt.edu



#### **Men Promoting a Solution**

**Meets Monday nights, 6pm in Sarratt 112 (except March 20, when it is in the Women's Center. NO meeting the 6th/Spring Break week)**

**What/Who:** A group of men dedicated to creating awareness about violent crimes against women and eliminating those crimes through social change. New members are always welcome!

For more information, contact steve.frooman@vanderbilt.edu



#### **Support Group**

**What/Who:** A support group for women who are survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. This group meets weekly at a confidential time and location; all information shared is kept confidential. For more information, please contact kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu or 322-1333.

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The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center is pleased to co-sponsor with the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, *Great African American Women Through History Noontime Film Festival*. All movies are on Mondays at noon.

**March 13:** *Rosa Parks: Modern Day Heroine*

**March 20:** *Ella Fitzgerald: Something to Live For*

**March 27:** *Beah Richards: A Black Woman Speaks*

**April 3:** *Aida's Brothers and Sisters: Black Voices in Opera*

**April 10:** *Beyond Tara: The Extraordinary Life of Hattie McDaniel*

**April 17:** *Shirley Chisholm: Unbought and Unbossed*

Refreshments will be served at each film.

For more information, please contact the BCC at 322-2524.

## Iconic Passing

*In the last two months, the women's movement and the civil rights movement witnessed the loss of several influential leaders.*

### Coretta Scott King

On January 30, 2006, Coretta Scott King died. She was considered the First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement, marching hand-in-hand with her husband Martin Luther King, Jr., to change a nation's perceptions. Her partnership with Dr. King was based on mutual respect and a strong commitment to social justice, racial and economic equality, women and children's rights and equal educational opportunities for all peoples. She continued King's work and his legacy after his untimely death in 1968, lending her support to democratic movements around the world, and sharing her influence with leaders of other nations. In 1981, her hard work paid off when the King Center opened to the public. Her persistence in educating others about social justice and human rights and the strategy of non-violence is evident in the Center's many seminars, workshops and training programs. She has been the stoic icon of the late Dr. King's work, making it her own, even as she led the campaign to make his birthday a national holiday. (The first national observance of this holiday was in 1986.) Ms. King spent 27 years at the helm of the King Center before turning the reins over to her son, Dexter Scott King in 1995. In the last few years, she became active in the causes of AIDS education and curbing gun violence. Her legacy may forever be entwined with Dr. King's, yet she was an inspirational leader in her own right.

### Wendy Wasserstein

Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright, Wendy Wasserstein, lost her battle with lymphoma on Jan. 30. She was 55. Wasserstein was hailed as one of the best-known female playwrights of her generation, often evoking comparisons to Neil Simon. Her plays were witty, yet tinged with social commentary. Her interest in women's issues fueled her interest in writing. In creating *The Heidi Chronicles* (1989) she gave voice to the ambivalence all women feel about "having it all" and mirrored the evolution of the women's movement from the 1960s through the 1980s. In 1993 she wrote *The Sisters Rosenweig* which dealt with a single woman's search for true love. In the heart of all of her writing is the memorable, strong female character with all her dreams, desires, ambiguity and secret yearnings. She truly captured the cadence of a woman's heart.

### **In Memoriam: Betty Friedan**

#### **Honoring Groundbreaking Author, a NOW Founder and First President**

February 4 - Today the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the nation celebrate the life and legacy of Betty Friedan, one of the founders of NOW and the modern women's rights movement.

"Friedan wrote *The Feminine Mystique* in 1963, and it opened women's eyes," said NOW President Kim Gandy. "Betty recognized a longing in the women of her generation, a longing for something more — opportunity, recognition, fulfillment, success, a chance to live their own dreams beyond the narrow definition of 'womanhood' that had limited their lives."

In June, 1966, Betty Friedan and 27 other women and men founded NOW, which has grown into the United States' largest feminist organization. Later that year she was elected NOW's first president, and her fame as an author helped attract hundreds of thousands of women to the new organization. Friedan and Dr. Pauli Murray co-authored NOW's original Statement of Purpose, which began, "The purpose of NOW is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men."

Friedan was NOW's president from 1966 to 1970. During that time we lobbied the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to enforce laws against sex discrimination in employment, and to ban ads that were segregated by sex. We forced airlines to change their policies that permitted only female flight attendants, and required them to resign once they married or turned 32. And in a key achievement, NOW convinced President Johnson to sign an Executive Order barring sex discrimination by federal contractors. In 1968, NOW became the first national organization to endorse the legalization of abortion.

Gandy remembers that time: "Betty led NOW through those first few turbulent years after our founding in 1966, when we were challenging every orthodoxy about what it meant to be a woman — about what it would mean to have control over your own body and your own life, and not be limited by other peoples' stereotypes."

Latifa Lyles, elected a national Vice President of NOW last year at age 29, says of Friedan, "The movement that was sparked by *The Feminine Mystique* continues today to inspire women of my generation to take action to achieve full equality."

The organization she led celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Gandy says, "She sparked a movement that is larger and stronger than ever — made up of women who expect equality and equal opportunity for ourselves and our daughters, and the men who stand with us."

*Used with permission from the NOW website. Copyright 2006.*

*For more news and information regarding women's issues, please visit [www.NOW.org](http://www.NOW.org)*



## Women's Issues in the News

### ONE STEP FORWARD...

As reported in *Women's VU* back in December 2005, *The Bureau of Labor Statistics* announced last August that it would cease collecting data on working women. Since many policies are constructed using Census Bureau as well as labor statistics, many argued that this was a gross oversight to working women everywhere. Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), along with their colleagues in the House, Rosa DeLauro (D-NY) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) took up the fight to have it reinstated. When President Bush signed the Health/Labor/Education Appropriations bill on December 30, it included an amendment that required BLS to reinstate its program on collecting data on working women.

### ...TWO STEPS BACK

When the *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)* expired at the end of September last year, activists urged the Senate and House to reauthorize the Act quickly in order to safeguard the millions of dollars needed to fund programs across the country. After passing unanimously in both the House and Senate last year, the President signed the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005 on January 5, 2006. Unfortunately, the draft of his FY 2007 budget proposes an overall cut in funding for these domestic violence programs as well as no funding for the law's 21 new programs. The budget includes \$546 million for domestic violence programs for FY 2007, but this is a decrease of \$20 million appropriated for 2006. As reported by other media, these domestic violence programs are part of many of the social programs that will be cut from the budget. Many programs being cut include social programs that aid the poor, such as housing assistance for the elderly, food stamp programs, child care and of course, Medicare and Medicaid.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NASHVILLE NOW (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN)** meets the 4th Monday of the month, March 27 at the Nashville Peace and Justice Center behind Scarritt Bennett at 7pm. This meeting is open to members, friends and those seeking more information. For more information, contact [CynthiaNashNOW@aol.com](mailto:CynthiaNashNOW@aol.com), [tennesseehow@comcast.net](mailto:tennesseehow@comcast.net) or 269-7141.

**NASHVILLE CABLE's** next meeting will be at the Stadium Club at Vanderbilt on March 8 from 11:30am-1:00 p.m. Registration deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3. Members are \$25/Guests \$35 (vegetarian meals available upon request and must be ordered in advance).

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Nashville CABLE's ATHENA Awards Program** will be held on March 30, 2006 at The Parthenon at Centennial Park. Reception is at 6:00pm; Program is at 7:00pm. The Nashville ATHENA Awards Program is designed to recognize, encourage and celebrate the achievements of women in business and their professions. The ATHENA Award honors those women who have attained and personify the highest level of excellence. Vanderbilt University is the presenting sponsor for the event.

**The Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center** presents *Unsung Heroines: Honoring Black Women of Courage* to honor the first black women graduates of Vanderbilt University and Peabody College on March 23, 7pm in the BOT Rm in the Student Life Center. To RSVP, please contact BCC at 322-2524. The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center is pleased to be a co-sponsor of this event.



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