



THE WAND

Womynspace Activities/Networking Directory

Vol. 6, No. 12

December

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HAPPY SECOND BIRTHDAY, INKLINGS!
WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

The WAND is a monthly publication of WOMYNSPACE, an organization designed by and for womyn, and operated by a steering committee.

Opinions expressed in articles printed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of the WAND or the Womynspace organization as a whole.

Submissions to the calendar:

must be camera - ready, with three inch columns;

are due the tenth of the preceding month for the next issue;

WOMYNSPACE
P. O. BOX 980601
Houston, Tx. 77098



FOUNDED IN 1978
OVER TEN YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE COMMUNITY

MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER

ANGELA PASSARETTI, MSW, CSW
WOMEN'S PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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- DR. MARYANN TOMKO, D.C., 963-9143, 20% off initial office visit
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YES, I want to join WOMYNSPACE and become part of the dream.

Enclosed is \$_____ dues for one year.
The following suggested scale is offered on the basis of "more if you can, less if you can't." Please select the amount appropriate for you: \$31.00 (62% of the average amount a man spends on membership in an organization), or \$5.00 for each \$2,500.00 of yearly income. Two or more members in the same household may combine their incomes and pay jointly.
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NO, I do not wish to become a member at this time, but enclosed is \$15.00 for a subscription to the Community Calendar.

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THE BIRTH OF INKLINGS

In the 1970s, Houston's feminist bookstore was The Bookstore on Bissonnet. Then, in the 1980s, there were several gay or lesbian stores: Wilde & Stein Books, B.D. & Daughter, then Wit & Wisdom.

Then, in April, 1988, there were none.

Soon after, over lunch at Treebeard's Restaurant, long-time Houston activists Pokey Anderson and Annise Parker were lamenting the vacuum. They refused to believe that Houston's gay/lesbian/feminist community couldn't--or wouldn't--support a bookstore.

At the time, Pokey had been a legal secretary for nine years for one of the city's largest law firms; Annise was in her eighth year with Mosbacher Energy Company, an independent oil & gas company. They were looking for new challenges, and they tackled the idea of a bookstore head-on. Before it was reality, they were to fill five notebooks with notes, write a 40-page business plan, and compile an 650-page list of potential books to carry.

Annise and Pokey interviewed the people who had run the previous four bookstores in Houston to find out what had worked, and what hadn't. They visited other bookstores in the area. They received invaluable advice from Barbara Grier of Naiad Press, Carol Seajay of Feminist Bookstore News, and numerous others around the country. They questioned authors, wholesalers, publishers, and consumers.

They joined the American Booksellers Association, and contacted Houston's Small Business Development Council. They created maps of the targeted Montrose area, and compiled general and specific economic data. They met with an accountant and a lawyer. They set up a management plan, with Pokey to quit her downtown job soon after the store opened, while Annise would keep her same job.

The store needed a name. Pokey and Annise brainstormed, coming up with separate lists of any name they could think of. After crossing out dozens of names, eight survived.

They wrote these names on flashcards, snagged anyone they could, and asked them to rate the names, and comment on their reactions. You already know the winner: Inklings.

Pokey and Annise set up a budget. One advisor warned they would need a minimum of \$20,000 to start. Another advised not to bother without \$125,000 as a bare minimum. Within these rather broad parameters, a budget and cash flow projections were drawn up. Pokey and Annise put in equal amounts in the partnership. Additional amounts, in increments of \$1,000, were loaned by friends and lovers who believed in the project. In September, 1988, a bank account was opened, and Inklings began to establish credit relationships with suppliers. Commercial credit is like a lot of other things--you have to already have it to get it. Fortunately, Barbara Grier was willing to grant immediate credit, and two other companies Pokey had worked with as a music producer were willing to be references.

Inklings started placing tiny orders to get started, and first set books out at a table in front of Bacchus during a Womynspace garage sale. Initial response was quite positive, and this also was the beginning of a mutually rewarding relationship with Womynspace.

Meanwhile, Pokey and Annise had been scouring the chosen sector of Montrose for a place to rent since July. A well-known marketing analyst--who happened to be a lesbian--knew the target neighborhood like the back of her hand, and steered Inklings away from lack-luster locations. Three places fell through before they finally found a site that was the right size, with parking, visibility, affordable, and with owners that wouldn't flinch at the words "feminist" or "gay and lesbian." One master's level psychologist, when told it would be a feminist bookstore, responded pertly, "Oh, that's wonderful! A feminine bookstore!" Pokey noted, "We occasionally wondered whether we'd been beamed back in time as we tried to explain this alien concept to Houston's property owners."

Finally, on November 15, Inklings signed a lease at 1846 Richmond, a building with a rather checkered past. It was then a flower shop, but for about 18 years before that it was Club Diablo, a place where, neighbors told us, anything went. The floor and bar area had been spatter-painted hot pink, gray and black. The walls had 18 mirrors. And, there were several spent bullets discovered in the mantel.

An opening date was set 18 days hence, and Hazelwitch's mailing list was borrowed to alert the town. A stalwart crew of volunteers and professionals set to work remodeling the entire downstairs. Pokey met with a lesbian interior designer and supervised the crews, even though she was still working her full-time job downtown. Annise had to leave town due a death in her family, but was back in time for the marathon book-shelving the night before opening day. Other stores, which could have viewed us as unwelcome competitors, welcomed Inklings with open arms: Lucia's Garden delivered a free counter (along with a continuing stream of good advice), and Lobo sent best wishes and flowers. But the customers' response was the best: Inklings was welcomed into the world by an enthusiastic crowd which swooped up 1/3 of the stock on the first day.

Now, celebrating the end of the first two years, Inklings can look back at all that has been learned, and hope that the existence of Inklings has made a difference in the lives of individuals and the community as a whole. Inklings looks forward to serving the community for many more years.



ONGOING EVENTS

DECEMBER

Sunday

THE WOMAN'S GROUP meets every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin at Southmore. Call 529-7329 for information.

LESBIAN INCEST SURVIVORS ANONYMOUS (LISA) meets every Sunday from 4:00-5:00 p.m. above Inklings, 1846 Richmond. For more information, call Sherry at 527-8712.

Adult Children of Alcoholic and Dysfunctional Families, a twelve step support group, meets Sundays at 1:00pm, at Dawn of Faith MCC, 10595 Telephone Road at Fuqua, Houston Texas 77075, 991-6766. Although primarily attended by lesbians, the group's only requirement is to be a child of a dysfunctional family

Monday

Lesbian Therapy Group, Therapy group addressing relationships and issues surrounding being a lesbian and a woman, Sharon Stone and Associates, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, 3935 Westheimer, Suite 360, call 623-6081 for information

WILDE 'n' STEIN - KPFT 90.1 FM, Mondays from 9:00-10:00 p.m. Lesbian and gay issues, interviews, music and news presented by those courageous community activists, Deborah Bell and Jack Valinski.

Tuesday

The Support Group for Gay and Lesbian Codependents Anonymous. This is a non-smoking discussion group for the gay and lesbian community with issues related to codependency. No membership required, 5:30 PM, Montrose Counseling Center, Suite 203, 900 Lovett, call Sharon 893-0514 or Jack 523-4863 for information

A WOMAN'S PLACE- KPFT 90.1 FM, Tuesdays from 9:00-10:00 p.m.. Feminist issues and herstorical portraits with that tireless educator, Klara Kern.

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN GROUP, for HIV positive Mothers and Children meets every Tuesday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Multi-Service Center, 1475 W.Gray, Suite 163. The meetings are informal gatherings with speakers, refreshments, games, and companionship. For more information, call 522-5428.

DEAF HEARING-IMPAIRED GROUP - A group, facilitated in sign, for hearing-impaired people with concerns about HIV; this group includes PWA's, "worried well", and significant others and offers support and education. Walk-in. American Sign Language Interpreter. 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett Blvd, Room 3. For more information, call 529-0037.

Wednesday

WOMEN'S HOUR- KTRU 91.7 FM, Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Although 'music' isn't part of the name anymore, women's music is still an integral part of the show. Claire and Yoshiko have always played music by, for, and about women. Now they have added interviews, news stories, and a women's calendar to their show. For information, call 527-4050.

WOMEN'S THERAPY GROUP with an emphasis on spirituality meets Wednesdays from 6:15-7:45 p.m., at 6300 West Loop South. Led by Karen Hanson, CSW-ACP. Open to new members. Sliding scale. For information, call 667-5733.

WOMEN'S THERAPY GROUP with inner child focus, meets every Wednesday from 7:30-9:00 p.m., at 6300 West Loop South, Suite 215. Facilitated by Joyce M. Gayles, Ph.D. Open to new members. For information, call 667-6047.

ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS

WOMEN'S NETWORK is a support group, established to serve the lesbian and bisexual women's community of Houston; any woman who is sensitive to and comfortable with lesbians, is welcome. The network provides an opportunity to discuss women's issues in a safe environment, network with other women, and socialize with old and new friends. A donation of \$3-5.00 per meeting is requested, but any woman is welcome regardless of her ability to pay. Meetings are every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett, 2nd floor. For information, call 529-0037.

Thursday

SORA (SEX OR RELATIONSHIP ADDICTS ANONYMOUS) meets every Thursday from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. A weekly support group for lesbians who desire to stop acting on their romance or relationship addiction, sex or co-sex addiction, or other types of codependency in relationships. They meet at Supportive Services, 4545 Post Oak Place, Suite 210. For more information, call Jane (868-4125) or Glenda (666-6968).

AFRO FEMCENTRIC, a group devoted strictly to social and political concerns of African American Lesbians, has begun weekly meetings at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Call 688-0276 for more information.

ENFOQUE DE LA MUJER is a segment of KPFT's ENFOQUE LATINOAMERICANO program which airs from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Enfoque de la Mujer brings news on Latin American and Caribbean women as well as feminist commentaries, interviews and literary analysis. Call Rossana Daumas at 526-4000 for more information.

Friday

BREAKTHROUGH KPFT 90.1 FM, Friday mornings from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Women's music with Pokey Anderson and Cherry Wolf. These two women have dedicated over nine consecutive years to producing this highly acclaimed weekly show. We the community deeply cherish their gift.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 1

Inklings, an alternative bookshop, will celebrate it's sccond anniversary. Enjoy refreshments and 10% off everything in the store from 10:30am-6:30pm. Inklings is located at 1846 Richmond. FMI, call 521-3369

Sunday 2

full moon

The Women's Group*, Theresa Blackburn, MD., a psychiatrist, will speak to us about women's issues.

Gay Cycling Club, Come out and ride with the new Gay Cycling Club. "The Colleges Tour" will meander through Houston on a circuit of the colleges and universities. The ride will start from The Montrose Mining Company parking lot at 10am. Rides will vary in length from 15-23 miles. FMI, call Dee at 480-7998 or Marion at 528-3401

Inklings, an alternative bookshop, will celebrate it's second anniversary. Enjoy refreshments and 10% off everything in the store from noon-5:00pm. Inklings is located at 1846 Richmond. FMI, call 521-3369

Lucia's Garden Christmas Show, Come shop for your Christmas favorites: herbal vinegars, wreaths, bayberry candles, special potpourris, pottery, and other items to brighten your holiday home. We will be serving hot wassail and baked goods from 11am-6pm.

Monday 3

Lucia's Garden Full Moon Meditation, at 7:30pm. Cost is \$8 per person. For women only. FMI and reservations, call 523-6494.

Wilde 'n' Stein*, Tune-in to a radio interview with Dell Richards, author of the new book Lesbian Lists, as she talks about lesbian superstars of today and yesterday.

Wednesday 5

WAVE: Women Against Violence Everywhere, meets at 7:30 PM at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, for information call 529-7329

WAVE meets the first Wednesday of each month.

Sunday 9

Women's Reading Group, meets the second Sunday of each month from 4-6pm in a member's home. This month's selection is *Bingo* by Rita Mae Brown. FMI, Call Ibis at 795-0984

The Women's Group*, Women, Dance, and Song, Carole Etzler and Bren Chambers visit us from Vermont to share their travels, music, art, and stories with us. They both have studied with the Seneca indian teacher Yehwehnode (She whose voice rides the wind). Carole is a former writer and photographer and has won many awards for her work in radio and film production. Bren is a classical cellist and has developed a string educational program for public schools

Carole Etzler and Bren Chambers, will perform for us at 7:00pm in Channing Hall. FMI, call 529-8571

BOOK SALE & CRAFT BAZAAR!

The First Unitarian Church is holding a craft and gift sale in the courtyard of the church at 5210 Fannin at Southmore 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call 526-1571 for more information.

Wednesday 12

Women's Network* Join us for a holiday celebration!-Share the Joy! All participants please bring four things: a wish written on a piece of paper, something you are thankful for written on a piece of paper, a non-perishable food item to be given to a family in need, and most important, special friends to share in our celebration. Participants are invited to bring finger foods and munchies.

Friday 14

Southwest Conference of the **World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations**, will meet December 14, 15, & 16 at the Ramada Hotel-Love Field in Dallas, Texas. For further information on events, prices, and how to register, contact Congregation Beth El Binah at 214-840-3553

Saturday 15

Gay Cycling Club, Come out and ride with the new Gay Cycling Club. "The Fancy HomeTour" will meander through the Heights and River Oaks areas. The ride will start from The Montrose Mining Company parking lot at 10am. Rides will vary in length from 15-23 miles. FMI, call Dee at 480-7998 or Marion at 528-3401.

Sunday 16

KAY HEJNY will hold her annual basket show and sale from noon to five p.m. at Inklings.

NOTE: If an event has an astrisk*, more detail is listed under ongoing events.

Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF), 2:00 PM, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, 661-1482

LOAF meets the third Sunday of each month.

Mother's Web Monthly Pot Luck Lunch/Picnic/BBQ meets the third Sunday of each month from 1-4pm in Fleming Park, Sunset Blvd. between Hazard and Kent, Hwy 59 and Shepherd exit, in West U. Rain place is the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin at Southmore. Call Nancy at 869-6689 for more information.

The Women's Group*, presents "The Herstory of Womynspace." Join panel members in discussing the past, present, and future of Womynspace. Womynspace, the brain child of the Women's Group, provides women a womyn only, chem-free environment to enjoy each other's company. All present and past Womynspace members are encouraged to attend to share your stories and memories. Come and contribute your thoughts.

AMIGA de Houston, holds its business meeting, with potluck dinner following. While the focus of this group is Latina/Lesbiana - All Mujeres Interested in Getting Active invites all women to join them., 5:00 PM, Call 520-5667 for information

Monday 17

NEW MOON

Tuesday 18

WAND Layout, FMI, Call Kathy at 664-7438

Wednesday 19

Marian's Macro Center, "Woman's Issues" at 7-9:00pm. FMI, call 523-0171

Thursday 20

Marian's Macro Center, "Holiday Party" at 7-10:00pm. Join us. FMI, call 523-0171

Friday 21

Happy Winter Solstice Earthlings

AN EVENING OF CELEBRATORY POEMS cosponsored by Afrofem-centric and First Unitarian Women's Group will be held at 8 p.m. at Inklings. Call Jacsun for information at 529-7329.

Sunday 23

The Women's Group*, Come share a short story, poem, song or personal experience. Enjoy the richness of being a woman. Bring a holiday sweet to share

Monday 24

Midnight Mass, Celebration of Christmas Midnight Mass in the gay and lesbian parish of Montrose, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 1218 Welch St., between Montrose and Waugh, at 12:00 am. FMI, call 528-0012

Wilde 'n' Stein*, A special holiday show, featuring Deborah Bell and Jack Valinski opening their presents.

Sunday 30

The Women's Group*, How can we raise our consciousness in the New Year? Come celebrate the Feminist Perspectives for 1991 with friends, music, and champagne.

April 24-28

National Lesbian Conference, Diversity, Solidarity, Empowerment, proposals are now being sought to fill 400 slots for workshops and panels in both traditional and non-traditional formats, over 5,000 lesbians are expected to participate in this gathering, write Box 1999, Decatur, GA 30031 or call 404-373-0000

REGARDING SUBMISSIONS TO THE WAND

Groups may send us notice of their regular meetings and special events by the 10th of the month for the next month's issue Use of any submitted material is at the discretion of the Newsletter Committee. We are glad to network with other groups that work for social change and share a perspective in line with the feminist concept of WOMYNSPACE.

Articles submitted are also subject to acceptance for publication at the discretion of the committee. Articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the organization or individual members of the committee. We try to use what we can as space allows. For the return of any material, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. It is best if articles are typed in column width of 3" (length is not a problem provided material is not too lengthy).

Thank you Jack Valinski for the use of your Macintosh.

BASKETS AND CEREMONIAL GOURDS BY KAY

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*See Kay's work at Inklings, 1846 Richmond,
Alpha 2 Omega Gallery, 1538 Welch at Yupon
and CraftWork Gallery, 2811 Colquitt.*

DIRECTORY

AMIGA [All Mujeres Interested in Getting Active]: 520-5667

Gay/Lesbian Switchboard: 529-3211

HeartSong [Women's Chorus]: 522-1747

Houston Area NOW [National Organization for Women]: 668-9008

Houston Area Women's Center: 528-6798

Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus [HGLPC]: 521-1000

Lambda Center [AA Groups]: 521-9772

Lesbians Over Age Fifty [LOAF]: 661-1482

Montrose Activity Center [MAC]: 529-1223

Montrose Counseling Center: 529-0037

Rape Crisis Hotline: 528-7273; 528-RAPE

Stop Searching: 785-9258

WAVE [Women Against Violence Everywhere]: Jacsun 529-7329

WIRES [Women's Information and Referral Exchange]: 528-2121

Women's Group at the First Unitarian Church - 5210 Fannin: 529-8571 or 529-7329

Women's Reading Group: Ibis, 795-0984, Kathy 664-7438

WOMYNSPACE: 668-1135

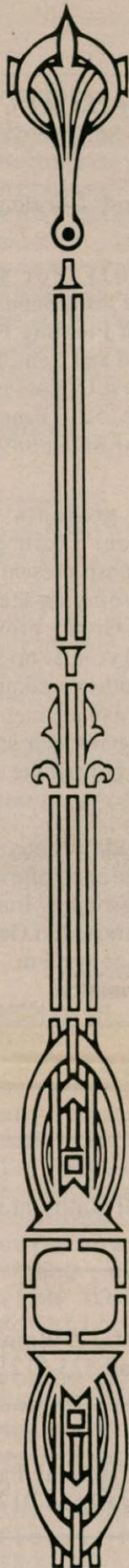
YWCA [Willa @ Waugh/Masterson Branch]: 868-6075

WOMEN, AIDS & THE CDC

Did you know that women with AIDS die four to six times faster than men? that AIDS is the leading cause of death among Black women aged 24-36? that 65% of HIV+ women get sick and die from HIV related infections that do not fit the Center for Disease Control definition of AIDS?

Social Security disability benefits only get paid to those who fit the CDC definition. Women's complaints, particularly of ailments below the belt, are not studied.

AIDS activists from around the country will be picketing the CDC in Atlanta on December 1-3. ACT UP is leading the march.



7 Lesbians Behind the Scenes

1. DOROTHY ARZNER: Arzner was an early Hollywood director. Her films include the 1937 movie, *The Bride Wore Red* with Joan Crawford and *The Wild Party* in 1929.
2. ELIZABETH MARBURY: Marbury was an early twentieth-century theater manager who later became a politician. She was also openly involved with another woman, Elsie de Wolfe.
3. JAN OXENBERG: A contemporary American independent director, Oxenberg has made lesbian comedies such as *Home Movie*.
4. BARBARA HAMMER: A contemporary American independent, Hammer has made such underground lesbian films as *Superdyke*, *Dyketactics*, and *No No Nooky T.V.*
5. MONIKA TRUET: Truet, a contemporary German director, has made *Virgin Machine*, *Seduction: The Cruel Woman*, and *Bondage*.
6. DONNA DEITCH: Deitch is a contemporary Hollywood director who was known for her early documentaries — such as the feminist film *Woman to Woman* — before producing the highly-acclaimed lesbian drama, *Desert Hearts*. Deitch also directed the made-for-TV movie, *Women of Brewster Place*.
7. MIDI ONODERA: A contemporary Canadian independent filmmaker, this Asian lesbian has made such films as *The Displaced View*, and *Ten Cents a Dance (Parallax)*.

Excerpted from *Lesbian Lists* by Dell Richards (Alyson Publications: Boston, MA).

13 Fave-Rave Lesbian Songs: A Queer Dozen

1. *LEAPING (LESBIANS)*, by Sue Fink and Joclyn Grippo
2. *AMAZON ABC*, by Alix Dobkin
3. *IMAGINE MY SURPRISE*, by Holly Near
4. *SWEET WOMAN*, by Cris Williamson
5. *ODE TO A GYM TEACHER*, by Meg Christian
6. *SURPRISE (I'M A LESBIAN)*, by Paula Walowitz
7. *ROSALIE*, by Bonnie Hayes, performed by Teresa Trull
8. *WOMANLY WAY*, by Linda Tillery
9. *OLDER WOMEN*, by Lynn Lavner
10. *MADEMOISELLE*, by Lucie Blue Tremblay
11. *SISTERSHIP*, by Faith Nolan
12. *WOMAN-LOVING WOMEN*, by Teresa Trull
13. *THE LESBIAN POWER AUTHORITY*, by Alix Dobkin



HALLOWEEN!!

About Inklings' Owners

Inklings is the only business in town which can boast of two former Lesbian and Gay Pride Week Grand Marshals.

Pokey Anderson moved to Houston 17 years ago from the midwest. She was a co-founder of the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, and a delegate to the International Women's Year convention in Houston. In 1977, she was in the first group of openly gay and lesbian people invited to the White House.

She has produced women's music for fifteen years. May marked her ninth continuous year with Cherry Wolf producing the highly acclaimed Breakthrough radio program on KPFT. She is a former legal secretary who likes the word "former" the best in that job description.

Annie Parker is a native Houstonian who attended Rice University on a National Merit Scholarship. There she helped found the Rice University Gay/Lesbian Support Group. She is a former president of the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and of the Houston Women's Softball League. She has appeared on local and national television, speaking on behalf of lesbian and gay civil rights.

Annie is currently active in several lesbian/gay organizations. In addition, she chairs the mayors' Police Advisory Committee. Last month she was appointed to a United Way committee. She works for a small oil company and lives in Montrose with her six cats.

Halloween-Masked Ball was a SUCCESS!! The costumes and masks were unique! Here are some of the pictures that prove it! Were You there? In order for us to do a better job next year, we would like to ask you a few questions:

- 1.- Was the location easy to find?
- 2.- Was the entrance fee reasonable for You?
- 3.- Was parking a problem?
- 4.- Were the refreshments fullfilling?
- 5.- Would You come back next year?
- 6.- Is there any other location that You know that this event could be held?
- 7.- How do You feel being in a Non-Chemical event?
- 8.- If you could improve this dance, what would You change?

Please send your comments to Womynspace. THANK YOU...



A NIGHT FULL OF WILD,
WONDERFUL, AND WEIRD WOMEN!

*
Womynspace Masked Ball
Saturday, October 27, 1990
*

There was a great turnout of bewigged and bewitching women for the Womynspace Masked Ball. Prizes were awarded for the funniest, scariest, most creative and SEXIEST mask! D.J. Cherry Wolf played lots of toe-tapping and two-stepping tunes, and Aleta's marvelous masks brightened and bedecked the tables.

Twas a successful and enjoyable event.

On a business note -- Womynspace would like to find a less expensive space for dances. If you know of a reasonably-priced place, please call Kathy at 664-7438.



ALISON BECHDEL IS COMING BACK!



Look in this space next month for her cartoons!



KPFT  Pacifica  FM 90

Mary Helen Merzbacher

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communities

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an alternative bookshop

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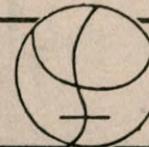
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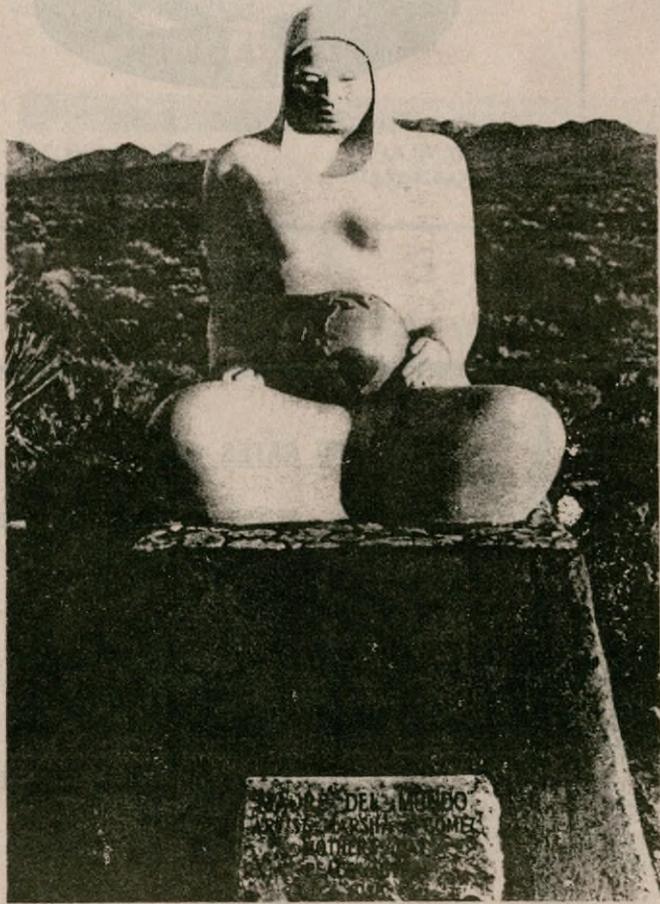


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