

N.O.W. Bay Area Chapter



NEWS

National Organization for Women

Volume VII, Number 3 March 1979

SALOMA

"THE TURKISH DELIGHT"

Middle Eastern Belly Dancer & Instructor

March 1: Bay Area NOW Program meeting at A Uniting Church, El Camino & Reseda, Clear Lake City. Meet at 7:30 for conversation and to get a place on the agenda. Program at 8:00, then business. Nora Mertz is coordinator.

Grace Seelhurst was born in Turkey of an Egyptian mother and an American father. She can remember having only one ambition, to be a belly dancer. She will demonstrate her art, tell us about its history, and its herstory, and talk about making a living as a belly dancer.



CALENDAR

Feb 27...7:30...ERA phone banks; 4600 Main (HAFPCU)

March 1st...7:30...Bay Area N.O.W. program meeting; Uniting Church; El Camino Real at Reseda; Clear Lake City, Texas

March 15...7:30...Women*s Rights Coordinating Council...World Trade Center...Texas at Crawford

March 23...Dr. Phyllis Chesler to talk on Women Money and Power, 8 p.m., U. of Houston at Clear Lake City...\$5 ticket to benefit Breakthrough Writer's Fund.

March 23-25...Texas N.O.W. Conference...Denton

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TYPED!

April newsletter deadline is Tuesday March 20. Mail/info to Melissa Weiksnar, P.O. Box 2197 Suite 2600, Houston TX 77001, or get materials to Evie Whitsett by Sunday March 18th. Call MMW at 965-3032 if you have newsletter questions.

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Three new Consciousness Raising groups now function in the Clear Lake area:

- Jean Saletan and Jane Markley lead one Tuesday nights
- Marie Stimson runs one on Saturday Mornings
- Dorothy Howard heads the Sunday Afternoon group.

All sessions meet at 1529 Bonanza, Clear Lake. Further info call 486-0752.

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Sandra Anderson will conduct Assertiveness Training Groups starting 2-21-79 at 1959 Bonanza. For details, contact Sandy at 554-6416 or 488-9216.

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Bay Area N.O.W. Business Meeting...Friday February 16, 1979.....

Members present were Marge Randall, Dorothy Howard, Rusty Richards, Nancy Whitecotton, Evie Whitsett, and Phyllis Tucker.

Evie Whitsett announced that the Feminist Credit Union has automatic bank drafting and wants more members of the Credit Union to take advantage of it. She discussed the possibility of a Memorial Fund for Betty Yancey's sister.

Phyllis Tucker reported on the WRCC (Women's Rights Coordinating Council) meeting held Wednesday February 14. One proposal made at this meeting was that the 28 participating organizations put on a Fund Raiser for the Women's Center to help with the high expenses for each month (\$425/month just for rent). The plan would require each organization to have a fundraiser and contribute \$100 minimum. If an organization contributes over the \$100, it would get 50% of the excess back. Press coverage would be extensive.

Evie Whitsett announced that Commissioner Tom Bass would be in Clear Lake City on Wednesday on February 21, and could be visited between 4:30 and 6:30. She also reported that the Clear Creek Country Theater is conducting "Life with Mother Superior" and has roles for 5 women, 2 men, and 20 teenage girls. Tryouts are March 3 & 4 at 2 p.m.

Phyllis Ticker suggested that Bay Area N.O.W. hold another garage sale as a fundraiser for the Women's Center. Evie Whitsett said the sale could be held at her home if members agree to help clear out the unsold items.

---Rusty Richards

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of Bay Area N.O.W. or N.O.W., Inc.

FROM NATIONAL NOW BOARD MEETING
2-17-79.....

The plan of action proposed by the ERA Strike Force involves a call to local chapters to "send us your best" to form an "Alice Paul Brigade" of 50-100 experienced, full-time field organizers. They in turn will recruit local workers, both from those available during the day and from "night fighters."

The major theme will be "ERA means an end to women working twice as hard for half as much." The minor theme will be the losses women would surely endure if the Equal Rights Amendment ratification failed.

Green and white will be the uniform colors of the campaign. Watch for "On Crossing the Rubicon" in the March National NOW Times.

FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE! For more information, Evie Whitsett 488-1777 To get involved, join Frances Hicks Tuesday 2-27-79 at 7:30 at 4600 Main St.

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Holly Near Concert March 10th

Houstonians are in for a triple treat. Holly Near, who last visited Texas to perform at the IWY Conference, will be returning to Houston on Saturday March 10th. She will perform with pianist J.T. Thomas at 8 pm, at University of Houston's Central Campus, Agnes Arnold Hall.

As a bonus, Cris Williamson will do a guest set, in what will be Texas women's first opportunity to experience Cris's spirit-nuturing music live, in concert.

Advance tickets (\$5, donation) available; signing, wheelchair accessibility, child care provided. For further info: 665-3083

FROM TEXAS NOW COUNCIL
2-17-79.....

The Texas N.O.W. Council meeting was held in Dallas on 2-17-79. Due to horrible weather conditions, the meeting began 4 hrs. late with 18 members present. The current membership list shows 764 paid members, which breaks down to 32 voting delegates.

As of 1-1-79, Texas N.O.W. had \$3096.23 in the bank. During January income was \$432, and expenses \$771.98, leaving a balance of \$2756.25 on 1-31-79. The state treasurer made a plea for the chapters to send in their donations to pay for our lobbyist. (I was quite proud to boast that Bay Area N.O.W. has paid their commitment.)

Terri Chandler, state communications coordinator, announced that Feb. 24th is the deadline for newsletter information. Terri requested newsletter editors of chapters to send copies to her.

Rhonda Belt, N.O.W. lobbyist gave an update on bills which have been introduced to the Texas Legislature. Of prime importance are the two "recission" bills. S.C.R. 12 has been sent to the Jurisprudence Committee in the senate, and H.C.R. 22 has been sent to the Constitutional Amendment Committee in the HOuse. The members of each chapter are urged to contact the individual members of each committee and express their disapproval of these bills.

--Phyllis TUCKER
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WHAT'S HAPPENING...KTRH 2-20-1979

Stephanie Shelton's CBS commentary following Nikki Van Hightower's show noted the results of the most recent SEVENTEEN magazine semi-annual poll on attitudes of girls 12-19. They report that 41% favor legalized abortion; 84% favor passage of the E.R.A. Of 30 lifetime careers, the one most commonly chosen was wife/mother (later they say 8% chose this one category).

How were the questions phrased? Why are the most influential media telling youth what they are?
---MMW



TEXAS N.O.W.
CONTINUING TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR WOMEN
February, 1979

To: Superintendents of Schools and Textbook Committee Members
Re: Textbooks Opposed For Local Adoption On The Basis Of Sexist Bias

The state-wide Task Force is concerned with sexism, defined as a belief that sex is the primary determinant of human traits and capabilities, and that sexual differences produce an inherent superiority of the male sex which qualifies the male for greater rights and opportunities in the society. There is much evidence that adherence to this belief has resulted, in American education, in discrimination based on sex and directed primarily against women and girls. For the past seven years, we have reviewed textbooks submitted to the Texas Education Agency for state adoption, using objective methods to identify and protest sexist content.

Most textbooks reviewed this year show many revisions made in the direction of reducing sexism or eliminating it entirely. It has therefore been possible for the Task Force to be more selective in targeting its objections. Books protested now tend to be outdated editions overdue for general revision, or "classic" literature series assembled with a preponderance of selections from two or more generations ago. The more traditional collections are heavily biased toward male activities and mystique because this bias is more prevalent in older literature and because literature from any period embodying a more original or independent vision has long been avoided by stereotype-bound anthologists.

Textbooks cited in the following list were found unacceptable because of their high level of sexist bias and gross failure to meet fairness standards set forth in the TEA Textbook Proclamation:

Subject and Grade	Title of Book	Publisher
Art 7	THE CREATIVE EYE, Vol. 1	Benson
" 8	" " 2	"
Vocal Music 7	EXPLORING MUSIC	Holt, Rinehart, Winston
" 8	"	"
Amer. History 8	FOUNDATIONS OF FREEDOM	Laidlaw
" HS	CHALLENGE & CHANGE	"
Literature I	ADVENTURES IN READING	Harcourt
" II	ADVENTURES IN APPRECIATION	"
" III	ADVENTURES IN AMER. LITERATURE	"
" IV	ADVENTURES IN ENGL. LITERATURE	"
I.A. Shop I & II	UNDERSTANDING AMERICA'S INDUSTRY	McKnight
" "	I. A. FOR THE GENERAL SHOP	Prentice Hall
I.A. Graphic Arts	COMPREHENSIVE GRAPHIC ARTS	Bobbs Merrill
I.A. Ind. Mtls. & Proc.	THE WORLD OF CONSTRUCTION	McKnight
"	THE WORLD OF MANUFACTURING	"

Date: 14 February 1979

To: Director, Office for Civil Rights
Department of Health, Education and Welfare
330 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D. C. 20201

From: Bay Area Title IX Coalition
18507 Point Lookout Dr., Houston, TX 77058
(713) 333-4764

Re: Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972, Subpart D, §86.3] (b) (5)

The Bay Area Title IX Coalition advocates retaining the Title IX regulation banning sex discrimination "in rules of appearance."

Stress on stereotypical "differences" between the sexes, enshrined in school dress codes, has always served to support and perpetuate the traditional rationale for discriminatory treatment, chiefly disadvantageous to females, of students and staff in educational institutions throughout the United States.

The "dress code" ban was the first provision of Title IX to have significant impact on the schools. Its actual and symbolic value in communicating the fundamental requirement of sex-fairness has been effective and lasting. Experience gained in applying this provision has helped create a climate of acceptance for other, more complex, requirements of Title IX.

To retreat from a positive position on this basic principle prohibiting differential treatment based on sex would be to cast doubt on the strength of HEW's commitment to impartial pursuit of the objectives of Title IX. Certainly, any ongoing and future efforts to work out local problems and gain full compliance with other Title IX regulations would be badly compromised by evident abandonment of the basic principle on which the law rests, that "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex...be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Elizabeth Glenn, Representative
Clear Lake City Branch, American Association of
University Women

Twiss Butler, Representative
Bay Area League of Women Voters

Marjorie Randal, Representative
Bay Area Chapter, National Organization for Women

He-man words 'chill'

AUSTIN (AP) — Feminists urged the State Board of Education to require textbook publishers to stop using "he" or "man" when referring to both sexes.

Twiss Butler of Nassau Bay said, "We are not men and we find it unacceptable to be called 'men.'"

The board's Committee on Programs and Personnel heard the testimony Thursday. The board takes its first of three votes on the 1979 textbook proclamation Saturday.

"The generic use of masculine nouns and pronouns has a chilling effect on females. It says, 'No, not or you — this is for and about males,'" said Barbara Duke of Austin, a member of the national board of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Ms. Duke and Ms. Butler, representing Texas NOW's education task force, endorsed a change in the proclamation submitted by board member Virginia Currey of Arlington.

Ms. Currey, a Southern Methodist University professor, wants the proclamation to say texts "shall use non-sexist language and ordinarily avoid the use of a masculine noun or pronoun to function as a generic singular." Exceptions would be classics or previously published materials presented as literature.

A special invitation to all Texas feminists to attend the upcoming

TEXAS STATE NOW CONVENTION
 March 23-25, 1979
 Texas Woman's University Campus
 Denton, Texas

The 1979 Texas State NOW Convention promises to be one of the most exciting and memorable events of the year...but it can't happen without YOU! Please plan to join us in March for a weekend of work and fun:

- Feminist Film Festival
- Plenary Sessions
- Speeches by Helen Copittka, Texas feminist and Judy Goldsmith, Executive Vice-President of National NOW
- Banquet (Saturday night)
- ERA Update and Action
- Readers' Theatre
- By-laws Adoption
- Live entertainment
- Strategy planning

Motel reservations may be made through Jim Horn, Holiday Inn, PO Box 1429, Denton, TX. 76201 or by calling (817) 387-3511. Rates vary from \$21.00 plus tax (1 person, 1 bed) to \$25.00 (executive suite). Additional occupants are \$4.00 each.

Please fill out the registration form below and mail as soon as possible. In a separate note, list any special accommodations you will need (signing for the deaf, handicapped facilities, transportation between motel and convention sites, free childcare during convention hours, or lodging in Denton County NOW members' homes). Send this information, completed registration form and check or money order to:

Denton County NOW
 Convention Planning Committee
 PO Box 402--Denton, 76201-

I wish to attend the Texas State NOW Convention March 23-25. Enclosed please find my reservations and registration fees:

*BRING PROOF of Membership:
 Membership card, Canceled check,
 or NOW T-shirt w/label.

Texas NOW member	(\$15.00)	_____
Non-NOW member	(\$20.00)	_____
Saturday night banquet	(\$6.00)	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		_____

Make checks payable to
 Texas NOW Convention

Name _____ Local Chapter _____
 Address _____ Phone _____

See you in Denton!

WORKSHOPS
 N.O.W. STATE CONFERENCE 1979

TOPICS	LEADERS
Women in the Media	Marge Schuchat, Dallas N.O.W.
Lesbianism/Gay Rights	Jeanie Minor, San Antonio N.O.W.
Consciousness Raising	Peggy Hall, Montrose N.O.W.
Socialism and Feminism	Carolyn Berman, Denton N.O.W. Lea Sherman, Merrill Cohen, Dallas N.O.W.
Reproductive Rights	Charlotte Taft & Cynthia Rutledge, Routh Street Women's Clinic
Women in Higher Education	Dr. Janet L. Aune, Executive Director, Texas Woman's Univ. Houston Center
Women in Sports	Sue Mottinger, Sports Information Coordinator, T.W.U.
Women in Texas Law	Carla Crisford & Jonita Borchardt, Denton N.O.W.
Women in the Arts	Sandra Taylor, Ann Caldwell, and Lin Hughes, Denton N.O.W.
Women in Local Politics	Elinor Hughes, Denton City Councilwoman
Math Anxiety	Lynne Mutchler and Peggy Hall, Southwest Houston and Montrose N.O.W.
Newsletter and Women's Directory	Candyce Byrne, Galveston N.O.W. Janelle Jenkins, Dallas N.O.W.
<u>Lobbying + Texas Politics</u>	<u>Rhonda Belt</u>
Proposed--Leaders Unconfirmed	
Older Women	
Sexual Harrassment in Employment	
Title IX (Education)	<u>Kaye Wiley Burn</u>
Women and Mental Health	

Please indicate your number one, two and three choices of workshops when returning your registration form.

[Mar. 1979]

Women in combat? *Houston Post 2/16/79*

Any draft should not be restricted to men

By DOROTHY STORCK
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

They're talking about bringing back the draft again. Somebody looked at the all-volunteer army and discovered it was down-right tatty.

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown recently testified on the matter before the House Armed Services Committee. And he added a thought.

If we begin drafting men, Brown said, "We should include the registration of women."

"In this equal-rights environment," Rep. G.V. Montgomery, D-Miss., said in agreeing with Brown, "men are going to challenge in court any legislation that drafts men and not women."

Good. That's as it should be.

Equal Rights Amendment or no, women should be just as inconvenienced as men by this military nonsense. If they're inconvenienced enough they might get out and vote against the Defense Department's 44 percent of our national budget.

Being drafted would be a financial boon to most working women, who earn only 60 cents

on every dollar earned by men in the non-military marketplace.

There is this problem with combat duty.

The way most men talk about combat duty you'd think each one of them served out his time in a trench next to a live grenade.

In fact, less than 10 percent of the military forces see actual combat during our customary wars.

In future wars, even if SALT really does something about nuclear disarmament, only about 1 percent of the troops will be engaged in hand-to-hand combat. If we unleash the nukes, then everybody's in and it doesn't matter what you had planned for dinner.

A little credential-spilling here.

I spent 13 years on active duty with the military — one year as a Marine and 12 years as an Air Force officer. I resigned finally for a number of reasons, including the Vietnam War and the notion that this was a fool way to be spending my life.

During my period of servitude (make no mistake, I volunteered for this; the culpa is mea) the options for women were few.

Now things have changed. Women in the services are eligible for more than 90 percent

of the jobs. They have women pilots coming out of the Air Force Academy and they're sending women to sea.

The one thing left to the defenders of the all-male war is that women are barred from actual combat. Men I have talked to seem to glory in this, making it, pathetically, the last stand of maleness.

They speak of the strength needed for combat. They talk of the aggressiveness. They say that women are not built for it, not psychologically tuned to the toughness it takes to kill someone.

Maybe so, although the domestic homicide statistics in any large city indicate some women might be perfectly swell in combat. Others would definitely not be swell. Just like men.

I think the objections come from a much deeper place. They come from the mystique of the warrior, the chivalrous tradition and the strong feeling inside even the most "enlightened" male that if he lets a woman fight for him he is nothing but a wimp.

If the Army study groups aren't dealing with this one, they'd better.

Page 8, THE DAILY CITIZEN, Saturday, February 17, 1979

Church elects all women officers

In what may be a first in the state of Texas, all those elected as officers of a local church are women.

the congregation, met and elected the following officers: president, Susan Garman; vice-president, Judy Blanchard; secretary, Bettie Tremant; treasurer, Barbara Schwin; and session Clerk, Marrie Stimson.

Six other council positions are held by four men, one woman and one youth.

A Uniting Church is unique in that several years ago two denominations joined to form the

congregation; church members belong to either the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. or the United Church of Christ.

The church has long been deeply involved in social issues and welcomes all visitors

who wish to share in the vision of "uniting personal faith and social responsibility".

A Uniting Church is located in Clear Lake City at the corner of El Camino Real and Reseda Drive.

JOIN N.O.W.: Clip and mail with your check to Marjorie Randal, 1922 Redway, Houston 77062.

I would like to become a member of Bay Area NOW and National NOW. (\$27)

I am already a member of National NOW and wish to pay chapter dues. (\$7)

I want to join but can only afford \$_____.

I am not a member but would like to receive the NEWSLETTER for a year. (\$4)

I would like to make a contribution of \$_____ to NOW.

As a NOW member, I authorize my name and address to be published on the chapter roster.

NAME _____ Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

ADDRESS _____ City and Zip _____

Occupation _____

Interests and/or skills which I can contribute to Bay Area NOW projects:

