



Newsletter

Women's Research Centre

Phone (403) 492-8950

January 1990



Women's Research Centre Presentations for January and February

Jan. 24 (Wednesday): Breda Cech, "Discovering the Erotic: on the way to personal spiritual power." 7:30 p.m. Women's Research Centre, 11043-90 Ave.

February 13(Tuesday): Anne McGrath. "Financing Change for Women: When the State tries to withdraw, what to do" 7:30 p.m. Women's Research Centre, 11043-90 Ave.

Notes on our last Research Presentation: Research on/by/for Native Women

On November 22, 1989 Lorraine Courtrille and Anne Trottier presented details of Lorraine's research on the impact of women's shelters on native women victims of violence. Anne Trottier is the writer for the project.

It was a fascinating presentation. Women attending were unanimous in their praise - for the quality of the work and for the importance of their findings and recommendations.

The roadblocks facing native women seeking help are enormous and include: isolation, telephone and transportation costs, ties to extended family, historical assumptions re: "alien white others", problems with intrusive interventions, involvement of law enforcement agencies, child welfare, other family members, tribal relationships, loneliness, frustration, alienation, and sometimes addictions. Many need help with medical, parenting, and legal problems. There is a great need for more support services across the board - most directors say only 10% of the women are being helped.

Lorraine and Anne looked at why these women were leaving their homes, why they did or did not use shelters, and they also examined other institutions mandated to support the women with a view to how they can be improved. Their recommendations cover legislative, societal, cultural, educational and community initiatives and strategies. They described the types of campaigns that appear necessary before change can take place.

For you who were unable to attend there will be a longer report available at the Centre in the next few months. In the spring there will also be a second stage of the project - the development of educational programs for the communities. Watch for details.

CRIAW CONFERENCE 1991..... TO BE HELD IN EDMONTON. Our offer has been accepted. Edmonton will be the venue for the 1991 CRIAW conference, to be held on the November 11 week-end. Next year's Research Forum is seen as a dry run for that conference. Anyone interested in getting involved in planning for either conference is invited to phone the office 492-8950 and leave a message.

Notes on the Second Annual Feminist Research Forum, Oct. 27 & 28, 1989:

Sober afterthoughts are being raised regarding the forum, and in preparation for the next one which will probably be held September 21 and 22 1990. (There has been some talk of a January or February date, as some feel that it is difficult to organize a conference so soon after the beginning of term.)

Some of the suggestions are: to have an overall Theme which would be carried through to the plenary session; to give more encouragement to graduate students to give presentations; and to have more and earlier contact with outside groups, community activists and researchers. Besides this broadened participation, members agreed to start planning earlier (for example, committees for publicity and workshops). Also, committees for registration, food, child care and trouble-shooting must be in place well before the Forum. All in all, the annual Feminist Research Forum was considered a success, and there were many appreciative comments in the evaluation forms.

The Research Centre and the Women's Program and Resource Centre are jointly publishing The Proceedings of the Forum by the end of January. They will be composed of submissions received to date. This does not include every session, since some were discussions rather than presentations, but the document will capture much of the Forum. If you would still like to submit your work for the proceedings call Pat Leginsky at 492-3093.

Some Current Concerns about the Women's Research Centre

The subject of membership has been on the minds of many members: how to continue building an organization of effective ongoing relationships and good communication, is a question often asked. The structure considered appropriate for the organization is: 1) members; 2) a body which meets perhaps twice a year to discuss the centre and its directions, that is, a policy body; and 3) an operations committee which deals with the day to day operations.

The centre is still developing its structures. It is becoming an organization which provides both space and structure required by women of differing needs and perspectives. This includes a structure in which women researchers are provided with facilities and possibilities for interaction with other researchers. Already the centre has successfully helped individual researchers by lending its name to their applications for funding. Also, members with research in progress or vague plans for future research have found the centre one place where they can make a presentation and get some assistance in working out their ideas with other researchers. These presentations, as well as presentations of finished research, have been an exciting and stimulating part of the centre. (If you want to present your work contact the centre and propose your topic... on tape if necessary).

The Research Centre continues to work on an absolute shoe-string budget, so that only a few hours a week of paid help is available. That is why we must often say "leave your message on tape", and it is a major concern for us as we try to speak to women's research needs which are presented to us.

The Centre plan recognized there would be resource limitations and consequently incorporated a view of collaboration with other resources and programs for women sponsored by the two universities and elsewhere in the community. For example, documents for some types of research projects are held by the Women's Program and Resource Centre. At this time the Resource Centre is evaluating its holding and planning new acquisitions. Research Centre members are encouraged to make suggestions as to resources they would like to see in the Resource Centre library.

Upcoming Conferences and Exhibitions

Feb. 16 - 18: Western Canadian Studies Conference, "Gender and Family in Western Canada", Banff Centre. Contact persons Janice Hillmo in Calgary (220-7862) or Susan Jackel in Edmonton (492-5086).

March 3 - April 22: "Dangerous Goods: Contemporary Canadian Feminist Art Practice." Selection of the works in this important show includes performance art, installations, paintings and drawings. Edmonton Art Gallery and Latitude 53. Contact person Janice Williamson (492-2436)

April 5 - 7: "Women Imagining" A conference. More details on this conference are forthcoming. Contacts are Bridget Elliott, Jan Williamson, and Shirley Neuman, all on the U of A campus.

June 15-17: "Creating a Feminist Agenda for the 1990's." Trent University, Peterborough Ontario. For more information contact: Women's Studies Conference, c/o Eaton College, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7B8 Phone: (705) 748-1430.

Also a busy Women's Speakers Series is being sponsored by the Women's Studies Program of the University of Alberta this winter. Contact 492-7078 for information or watch the Generic Newsletter of the Women's Program and Resource Centre.

CRIAW News (Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women)

Susan Boychuk and Pat Leginsky were among a number of women from Edmonton who attended the 13th Annual CRIAW Conference, "Making Connections", in Yellowknife, November 10 to 12. The conference was attended by over 200 women from across the country - from Labrador to Inuvik. A northern welcome was received by all, as temperatures dipped to 30° below. A highlight of the weekend was a Dene Community Feast and Drum Dancing with Ethel Blondin (M.P. from the N.W.T.) who became Honorary Member of CRIAW. The unique concerns of northern women were brought to light in research papers and shared experiences.

Sessions Pat and Susan attended included: "Making the Daycare Connection in the North", "Inuit Ways of Midwifery", "How Residential Schools Affected Women and Families in the Yukon", "Global Feminism: Worldwide Connections as a Local Resource", "Creating Connection Through Action Research". Some of these papers are now housed in the Women's Resource Centre (11019-90 Ave, Ph. 492-3093).

Other News at the Research Centre

We have an IBM clone computer, thanks to Athabasca University. However, it needs a little woman power before it will be able to help us do our work. Would you, dear reader, like to become a foster-mother to this computer based on your considerable knowledge of IBM p.c.s? Unfortunately, most of us have honed our computer skills on Macs and getting serious about an IBM seems quite mind-boggling... so this one needs someone who can load the necessary software onto the hard-disk and identify all those things which it is going to need to be a fully-functioning computer-being. For that contribution of your time and energy we can only promise you the right to give the computer its name... and then, like most changing creatures, it might go through many name changes....

Also, it needs a printer, if you know of one which might be donated or available "very cheaply" we would like to hear about it. It will be set up in our upstairs office.

That's all

That's all until next time. Send us short blurbs (two to three lines) about your research and we'll post them as part of our interactive bulletin board... in case someone out there would like to network with you!

Women's Research Centre
University of Alberta/Athabasca University
11043-90 Ave., Edmonton, Alta., T6G 2E1
(phone 492-8950)

June 1990 Newsletter

Third Annual Feminist Research Forum September 21 and 22, 1990

- a) If you wish to make a presentation or organize a workshop on your formal or informal research, there is still time to get on the program. Please phone 492-8950 and leave a message on the tape. Proposals will be received by the planning committee until June 15. Acceptance of them will depend on their relation to the overall program and suitability for the research forum.
- b) A number of forum planning meetings have been held to date. The Forum location will again be the Education Building, University of Alberta campus, and the thematic lines will be Women and Work/the Law; Women and Health; Women and the Arts, plus one other to be added when further submissions are received.
- c) Eileen Morouney has been hired on a CEIC SE/ED project to give us assistance with the Forum. Many of you have already volunteered to provide help on that weekend but more volunteers are welcome, for everything from staffing the registration desk to chairing sessions. Please leave a note on the Research Centre tape, 492-8950.

Research Centre News

One of the nicest bits of news we have is the fact that the Research Centre was able to hire two enthusiastic workers for the summer period, thanks to a SE/ED grant from CEIC. Eileen Morouney and Carolyn Geekie joined us on April 30 and will work with us until the middle of August. Eileen is working on the conference, and assisting with administrative, book-keeping, and other tasks at the house. Carolyn is working as a research assistant on two projects. The women may "trade" some of their work if they get over-loaded or just want a change, and either may be on the phone when you call. Give them a welcome!

The (as yet unnamed) IBM compatible computer is now resting in the house, and should be set up for use by the time you read this. A Macintosh Plus has also been ordered, as it is impossible for research assistants to work without easy access to such a tool. Gradually, the centre is becoming a real resource for women's research ..it is a bit of a loaves and fishes act financially, and lots of work by the few women on the operations committee, but a pleasure to see the progress.

The operations committee, at its May 14th meeting, again discussed naming of the research centre. This task has sat unattended through Marilyn's illness, in spite of a report from the naming committee coming in as requested last fall. There was strong agreement with a proposal to incorporate the

names of two women, one proposed by the naming committee and the other from an earlier discussion of the operations committee. The research centre would then be called the **Margetts/Misener or the Misener/Margetts Women's Research Centre**.

Jenny Margetts is well-known in Alberta for her work with Indian Rights for Indian women, the organizational vehicle for challenging the hundred year old sexual discrimination clauses in the Indian Act which resulted in changes to that Act in 1985. Born on the Saddle Lake Reserve as Jenny Shirt and initially schooled to be a nun and a school teacher, her work has been firmly located in the community and a sector of the women's movement which might be considered other than "mainstream". She represents one type of research which the centre wishes to recognize and support.

Geneva Misener was the first woman professor hired by the University, taking a position here in 1913 as a classics professor. Although her research was not "women-centered" as we would now expect for centre research, she represents one type of research scholarship which the centre recognizes and supports, and she was active in women's organizations such as the Women's Forum Movement, and the Canadian Federation of University Women. Like many such women, her full story has not yet been told and it is hoped that naming the centre after her will contribute to "making one more woman visible" in the history of Alberta. The next steps for this process are approaching the naming committees of our sponsoring universities (Athabasca, U of A) to obtain approval for this name. We hope there will be no problems with that process and that we can finally designate the Centre in a way which reduces confusion with other women's activities on the U of A campus.

The Operations Committee accepted with regret the resignation of two enthusiastic members in May. Barbara Roberts from Athabasca University has a major research grant from SSHRC and has decided she must cut back on all other work. We look forward to meeting her replacement, Jane Brindley, at the next meeting of the operations committee. Melody Burton, the women's librarian on the U of A campus and an able "at large" member of the committee is on her way to Toronto this summer. We wish her all the best, but begrudge just a tiny bit that Toronto gets such a gain from our loss.

Notes on Recent Research Presentations

One of the goals of the research centre is to provide space and encouragement to women who want to share their research plans, process, problems, and results. This year we've been privileged to share in some fascinating research incorporating many new ideas for social change. One study, Lorraine Courtrille's, was reviewed briefly in the last newsletter and is on-going at the centre.

"Discovering the Erotic: on the way to personal spiritual power."

In January Brenda Cech, Women's Studies student at the U of A, gave an unusual presentation which attracted a large participating audience. The subject of her research (on-going) is herself - her journey as a woman, a feminist, as she re-connects with an essential part of her self - her experience of the erotic and the goddess (of love) within. Her approach was personal and poetic, and as such was a very engaging description of her research. Brenda talked about a variety of techniques she is exploring to aid in reclaiming personal power; the work she is doing with other theorists: Carol Christ, Audre Lorde, and Mary Daly among others; her growing connection to the earth and other women; and her affirmation of her body and herself. Good lessons to help end the silence on these important issues, and to help expand our perceptions of social change.

"Financing Change for Women: when the state threatens to withdraw, what to do."

In February Anne McGrath, Alberta's representative on the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, presented another type of research. This time we were asked to consider several weighty and provocative questions, for example: Should women's groups be receiving funding from government?; Whose responsibility is women's equality?; Whose responsibilities are women's job ghettos?; Whose responsibility is it to stop violence against women and children? Anne documented the current neo-conservative political context: the decline in funding of social programs, for daycare, for women's advocacy groups, and for women generally,

(now allotted \$11 million down from \$13, compared to \$14 million for the government's public relations on the G.S.T.). Anne's recommendations for change include: Be vigilant about women's role in service delivery (such as shelter work) that we don't become de-politicized in the drive to obtain funding. Oppose changes which will make us inappropriately reliant on unpaid labour in the home. Insist that advocacy work, necessary for equality, must also be funded. Develop co-ordinated campaigns among women's organizations, (fund-raising for example).

Anne expressed surprise at the size of her audience (funding is not usually seen as an attractive issue!). Definitely a topic that stirred interest, the discussion continued and everyone provided suggestions for future work, and future research centre presentations.

"Project Soledad"

In March and April Monica Zurita, Duane Burton and Adrienne Wiebe brought us the impressive Project Soledad, a research-in-action community development project by Latin-American women attempting to address the difficult topic of wife abuse in the Latin-American community. They have researched and produced a video and a resource booklet on the topic to help women communicate with and support each other, in order to understand the problem and make changes in their lives.

Adrienne (from the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers) explained how the project was initiated and funded. Duane evaluated the research process (and problems) and the 'how to' of video production. Monica provided details of her years of research and the day to day work of the twelve community women as they dialogued and developed ways of working together.

Soledad means "solitude". A major goal of the project has been to break down the silence and solitude surrounding the issue. This certainly appears to be taking place as the video and booklet are more and more in demand in the community. One example of the difficulties facing Latin-American women is that once they separate from their husbands they often end up separated from their communities also. The project deals with this and many other complicated issues.

Project Soledad is a perfect example of action research leading to social change and it deserves to be described by the women involved. If you missed the presentation you can catch it at the Forum in September.

"A Profile of Action Research: the Contribution of Jenny Margetts"

The intention of this meeting (in April) was first of all to honour and recognize Jenny Margetts for her years of work on behalf of all women, and secondly to focus on Indian Rights for Indian Women. We wanted to know the research needs which they had as an organization, and the activities of the group which contributed to the eventual passage of Bill C-31, the amendments to the Indian Act which were to eliminate discrimination against Indian women.

Unfortunately, Jenny herself was unable to attend the evening, but she was ably represented by her son Tim and by Kay Anderson who was also very active in IRIW. The evening began with Khorshad Chandra from India, who as a graduate student had been working as a research assistant on Jenny's biography project. She spoke of her introduction through the literature, to the problems faced by Canadian Indian women, the work of Jenny, and the incredible determination the women displayed as they worked to change the law. Then Kay Anderson described the process IRIW followed from 1970 to the 1985 passage of the new legislation. They had been advised to obtain research assistance from several academics at the University of Alberta - an historian, an anthropologist, and a lawyer. With great humour Kay talked about the responses academics gave them as they sought this assistance, responses that could only politely be described as not very helpful. Finally, they were referred to a young law student who gave hours of free research assistance. Kay also commented on the consequences of the current legislation, as it clearly has introduced new absurd problems into the lives of Indian women.

It was a fascinating evening, as we listened to the story of the struggle of a small group of women and as we realized how much knowledge has been generated partly as a result of their political activity.

Research Committee Meetings Upcoming

- a) Operations Committee, to be held June 11 at 2 p.m. at the Research Centre house. Members are Pat Leginsky, Susan Belcher, Winnie Tomm, Marilyn Assheton-Smith, Janice Williamson, Jane Brindley, Diana Chown and Mary Potrebenko. If you want to have some items raised at this meeting, contact any one of the members. We plan to discuss the theme for the 1991 CRIAW conference, the budget and our plan for next year.
- b) The planning sub-committee for the Feminist Research Forum will meet at a members home on Monday June 18 at 7 p.m. The members are Noreen Bell, Marie Carlson, Carol Murray, Diana Chown, Marilyn Assheton-Smith and Eileen Morouney. The plan is to make final decisions on the Forum program (based on the advice of the last expanded operations committee, held on May 14) so that Eileen can proceed to contact people participating and make all other arrangements through the summer.

Other notes

Congratulations to the Motherhood Conference organizing committee for a very successful conference held in Edmonton on May 11- 12. It was a treat to hear the beginnings of a feminist analysis on the realities of motherhood..essential work. Thank you all.

There is a Women's Summer Celebration in the works for Thursday June 21, at 7:30 pm at the Centennial Public Library theatre. The evening will include film notables such as Barbara Evans and "In Her Chosen Field", a book-launch, music and performance art. Watch The Genny for details.

The Canadian Women's Periodical Index, a current "KWOC" index of women's periodicals and articles published in Canada, continues to be produced for CRIAW by an Edmonton committee based in the Women's Research Centre and the Women's Program and Resource Centre. Funds have been further reduced for the work, but given a successful year on the subscription side we boldly proceed into Volume 6. Look for a copy at either the Resource Centre or the Research Centre and consider subscribing yourself or advising your friendly library to subscribe. If you see areas of research publications which seem to be being missed, mention it to Mair Smith who does the journal searching and computer in-putting. As always, positive comments are at least as welcome as suggestions for improvement!

Catalyst Theatre's Women's Circle Project which performed at the Motherhood Conference, is now focusing on a work in

progress concerning other women's issues.

They are in the process of script development and are asking that any interested research centre members attend in order to respond to the work that has been done and/or give input as to other areas to explore. If you would like to attend on May 30th, or to participate in the future contact Marilyn at 426-5840.

Athabasca University is offering a Women's Studies course in the Fall entitled "Perspectives on Women: An Introduction to Women's Studies". This course introduces students to the field of women's studies and covers such topics as theories of human origins, the history and sociology of women and work, the acquisition of gender identity, gender and communication, and women in popular culture. The course will be taught by Susan Belcher, Wednesdays, September 12th - December 5th. The deadline to register is August 15th. For further information or a calender, contact Athabasca University, 421-8700.

Edmonton Working Women are sponsoring a conference June 8th and 9th, entitled, "Counter-Plot". The conference has been organized in response to the issue of privatization - free trade, selling crown corporations, contracting-out, deregulation, franchising, volunteerism, user fees, cut -backs, budget cuts, and so on. Workshops will include: "Government Services: Impact on Workers and Consumers", "Health Care: Where Do Our Dollars Go?", and "Education: Is it a Profit-Making Business?" For further information contact Edmonton Working Women at 429-3370.

Women's Research Centre
 University of Alberta/Athabasca University
 11043-90 Ave.
 (phone 492-8950)

Newsletter #2
 July 1989

**Second Annual Feminist Research Forum
 October 27 and 28**

a) If you would like to make a presentation at this fall's Research Forum, phone 492-8950 and leave a message on the tape. It could be individual research you are doing, from preliminary to completed, or it could be presentation of research based on action in the community by a woman's group. Also, if you would like to organize or facilitate a session, call us. We want to have the program in place by late August.

b) The forum this year will be co-sponsored by the fledgling Alberta Women's Studies Association, and it will be held (as last year) in the Education Building on the U of A campus. It will begin on Friday evening in the amphitheatre (2-115) with Randi Warne presenting "An Evening with Nellie McClung", a presentation of women's history which will remind us all that history need never be dull! Saturday will consist of concurrent presentations in the small rooms around 2-115 and lunch will be available - by The Bagel Tree!

c) Some possible topics include:

- peace work, e.g the Suffield research.
- women's archives
- new reproductive technologies
- feminist cultural production (literature and the arts)
- researching women's history for feminist film-making
- add your work here!

- we would also like to underscore how the Women's Research Centre connects women to each other's interests, work, and struggles for change. As well as workshops and panel discussions, we will organize several short sessions for us to meet in small groups and familiarize ourselves with our differences and commonalities.

d) Finally, there is always lots of work to do at a gathering such as this... if you can volunteer any time it would be greatly appreciated. For example, working on the registration table, setting up rooms and tidying after, preparing the brochure on a computer... etc..



1. Research Centre News

What is going on at the Centre now? Sometimes it is a busy place, sometimes quiet, but just to give you an idea:

a) Mary Potrebenko is working here two afternoons a week, coordinating , doing interior decor and admin work...

b) Lorraine Courtrille is working on her summer research project on the experience battered native women have with shelters... sister Verna is often at the Centre typing for Lorraine.

Lorraine's support and advisory committee also meets occasionally to discuss the research.

c) Graduate student Elaine Filax, meets monthly with a study group.

d) Marilyn Assheton-Smith drops in to do books and other paper work.

e) The Canadian Women's Periodicals Title Words Index, produced by a committee attached to the Women's Resource Centre and published by CRIAW in Ottawa, will now be done in Edmonton. The Research Centre and the Women's Program and Resource Centre will share administration ... Mair Smith does most of the work.

f) The Operations committee meets regularly, to plan this years Feminist Forum and discuss further development of the Centre. This committee is the "administrative" unit of the Research Centre, arising out of the previous vice-president's advisory committee.

Membership consists of two people appointed by Athabasca University, two appointed by the U of A, and three "at large".

g) There have been four requests to date by researchers wanting to use space in the centre... unfortunately we don't yet have all the space we need. Maybe someday in the future....

' h) There is a bulletin board for display, and minutes of the Operations committee are available to read.

i) Finally, read Mary's note below to get a feel for the changes in the ambience.... (M. A-S.)

2. Research: work in progress

a) Diana Chown, who last year gave a presentation on Alice Chown and her 1921 publication, The Stairway, tells us that Heather Goldin, a Toronto producer, has expressed interest in producing a film about Alice Chown.

b) Lorraine Courtrille's work is mentioned above and below... it is the busiest project at the centre.

c) Marilyn Assheton-Smith continues her work on native women's education and employment, adding work on one woman's biography (Jenny Margetts).

d) Cathy Bray's work on women's embodiment is proceeding with the same energy and excitement that was generated during her presentation in April.

e) Susan Jackel is busy in a thousand ways, but her work on women's history which she discussed at the centre is being reflected in work on the Alberta famous five, especially Emily Murphy.

f) The Northern Alberta Archive Project - "Recovering Women's Herstory" - is co-sponsored by the Women's Research Centre and the Women's Program and Resource

Centre. An Archive is any personal material or photograph saved over the years to document involvement with the community. The goal of this project is to recover women's herstory by encouraging all of us to bring our personal historical material out of our basements into public view- so that we can recognize the significance of our heritage and save it for future generations. Project members are also working to develop archival methods which are sensitive to the lives of women . Phone 492-3093 for brochures and further information.

3) Related News

a) The Person's Case Exhibit: will be on display in the foyer of Rutherford South, on the U of A campus, from Oct 15 to Oct 28. Diana Chown is one of many persons involved if you want more information. It will, of course, be an exhibit to celebrate the Privy Council's decision in 1929 which conceded that Canadian women were, after all, persons as that term was used in the BNA Act. Five Alberta women brought the case forward at that time.

b) A Participatory Research Conference was held at the University of Calgary from July 12 - 14. It was based on case study presentations from various countries and included a gender theme group which was an attempt to focus some questions on women's concerns. It lacked any feminist studies, which meant there were some difficulties in raising a number of issues specific to this large body of participatory research. If you want to hear more about it, Marilyn Assheton-

Smith, Cathy Bray, and Barbara Spronk were there.

c) In Lethbridge, a National Symposium on Aboriginal Women of Canada will be held this fall, from October 19 to 21. For information and registration contact Christine Miller, Dept of Native American Studies, University of Lethbridge, 4401 University Drive, Lethbridge T1K 3M4 or phone 329 2635.

d) CRIAW's 1989 conference will be in Yellowknife, November 10 to 12. It is titled 'Creating Connections' and is an Action Research oriented conference as both academic and community presenters were asked to specify problems and propose solutions based on their research and action. Papers and presentations will be about half from the north and half from the south. Attendance will be limited due to hotel and conference space, but if you are interested contact Rosemary Cairns, Conference Co-ordinator, Box 995, Yellowknife NWT X1A 2N7.

4. Tribute to Ursula Franklin

Ursula Franklin was granted an honorary degree by the University of Alberta this June 12. It was lovely to see the university honour this woman whose life has been an exemplar of "heart and mind" working together to create a better world... whether in women's work, in peace activism, or in her chosen field of metallurgy. Kudos to Dallas Cullen for her work to ensure that Ursula would receive this recognition.

5. Other Announcements

- Another Spirituality group?
Sarah Cerridwen, 439-7350 is willing to organize another group of women interested in women's spirituality.

- A Women's Studies Conference at Trent University is to be held June 15-17, 1990, entitled "Moving Forward: Setting a Feminist Agenda for the 1990's". Papers are invited and should focus on: Women and Work; Social Justice; Control and Safety of Women's Bodies; Women's Culture. Deadline is Aug 15, 1989.

6. Names Committee

If anyone has any suggestions for naming the Research Centre, Doris Robbins and Nancy Langford would like to hear from you. They are creating a list to be submitted to the Operations Committee in September. Phone: 436-0379, Doris, or 453-1764, Nancy.

7. Conceptual Circles (Theoretical Circles):

Here is one idea that we are developing to enhance work at the Research Centre: workshops or conceptual circles in which a group of researchers who have worked in particular areas of knowledge and practise would meet for a specific period of time to clarify and develop their thinking. We would see this as a product-oriented group which has a fairly short organized existence; product oriented in the sense the group would write a monograph or working paper to make public their analysis. The

working group would be open only to invited participants, but it would be one way of drawing on expertise in the community and the universities. The working paper might be a prolegomena to further research, or a clear statement of theory and practise in the area. Possible examples for this kind of work include violence against women, child custody, or doing women's history through biographies... but there are a limitless number of possibilities. . (M. A-S.)

8. Proposed Interactive Notice Board, or Seriously Seeking Sisters:

Ever wished for a way to find a couple of other feminist researchers to help you get unstuck when you bog down in the midst of a project? Or, wanted to find someone else working on a similar area, for solidarity or cooperative ventures? We're thinking of a big newsprint area to function as a networking device. We can post/write our needs or resources - or whatever. A trial run is planned for the Feminist Forum. (B. R.)

9. Report from Mary

First of all, let me invite you to drop by for tea and a tour. We would like to hear about your research needs and any suggestions you may have for the house. The house is beginning to take on an aura, what with Georgia O. on the walls, our new Resources for Studying Women in Canada discreetly displayed, and elegant dishes from Barbara S. and Isobel M. adorning les tables.

Many offerings have contributed to the developing comfort and tranquility at the centre - dishes, cups, flowers and notes of encouragement, thank you everyone. Please remember to keep our conference room in mind for a quiet workspace for yourself, or for small group workshops. And do inquire about our 'special deals'...

The going concern at the Research Centre these days, of course, is Lorraine Courtrille's pioneer project on native women and battering. Verna has typed herself a mountain of interviews and Lorraine is beginning the data analysis. We provide space and administrative support - and feel very privileged to be part of such important work. The Archives Project, (see above), is also well under-way, and we have received space requests from several other feminist researchers. It's very satisfying that more and more women are using the house and that the administrative systems are operating - (thanks of course to Leslie and Aureene), and now if we could just get on with the fund-raising part! All offers of help in this regard will be received with reverence and joy.

Many women have expressed an interest in hearing the intimate details of the day-to-day research process - ie-how and why do we do different kinds of research? Cathy Bray's presentation on 'embodiment' in April was an excellent example of this descriptive and interactive process - the women present were actually engaged in the work in progress. It was a mutual learning experiment, and a high level of

creative energy was maintained. If this kind of total experience intrigues you, watch for the next public episode coming soon to the WRC nearest you.

The developing aura around here could still use the odd plant or lamp, wall hanging, area rug or whathaveyou that may be cramping your style, so please don't hesitate to phone 492-8950 and we'll help you out. Details of upcoming meetings are usually on our machine... and please visit - after 3 on Tues. and Thurs. and occasionally Weds. or Fri. (M.P.)

10. This "months" issue...

Child Custody: As an issue of male control involving children's rights as well as female reproductive rights, child custody may be developing into the major struggle for women in the 1990's. There is an urgent need for women to document current happenings in Alberta: the new 'fatherhood' cults, the legal problems of access and enforcement, and the problem of joint custody and protection of children. Just last week another woman we know lost 2 children to a sexually abusive father. I am collecting the most useful recent material on this, and also on the scary new reproductive technologies, and would love to help women connect to work on them. ('Collation Politics' Janice calls it). If interested please call Mary at the house, 492-8950.



Women's Research Centre
University of Alberta/Athabasca University
11043 - 90 Ave.
Edmonton
(phone 492-8950)

UPDATE

Research Grant Received

A grant of \$15,000 has been received by Lorraine Courterelle to assist her research on native women's experiences with battered women's shelters. This is an off-campus project.

Research Needed

A Chinese organization in Edmonton is interested in getting some research done on language training for immigrant women. The group would like good background documentation, an analysis of the present situation, and a study which would enable them to develop policy alternatives which would be a basis for lobbying. Papers which are suitable for some undergraduate or graduate courses could make a contribution.

If you are interested, please contact Dr. Marilyn Assheton-Smith, 492-8950 or 492-2556.

Women's Studies Lectures

Monday March 6, 4 pm: Thelma McCormack "The nature and purpose of feminist interdisciplinary research" HC 5-20 Humanities Centre.

Tuesday March 7, 7:30 pm: Thelma McCormack "What does feminist research have to offer?" HC L-3 Humanities Centre.

Monday March 20, 4 pm: Lynda Nead "Getting down to basics: Art history and the female nude" 2-20 Fine Arts Building.

Canadian Women's Periodicals: Title Word Index

is prepared three times a year by the Women's Program Faculty of Extension and the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women. It is a handy reference because it is available very soon after the periodicals are printed. Copies are located at the Women's Resource Centre (11019 90 Ave). A subscription can be obtained from CRIAW, 408-151 Slater Ottawa Ontario, K1P 5H3.

Movement: An Edmonton Women's Newsletter

which has been dormant for a time will be published again. Call Maureen Irwin at 454-8031 if you have news to include or would like to become a subscriber.

The next Women's Research Centre Gathering will be held on Tuesday February 14, 7:30 pm at 11043 90 Ave. Dr. Susan Jackel will discuss "Mothers of Confederation", her work in progress.



to:

Cathy & Aarene

date:

Dec 14/88

from:

Winnie Tom

our file:

your file:

subject:

Congratulations on getting out
Newsletter #1 for the Women's Research
Centre. Thank you for your work.
I find the newsletter to be interesting
and important for quick reference to
a number of different feminist activities.

Cathy, good luck to you at
Athabasca University. I will miss
you here. They are lucky to have you. I
look forward to working with you in
your new position.

Warm regards,
Winnie

NEWSLETTER #1 December 1988

WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE

11043-90 AVENUE, T6G 1A6
PHONE: 432-8950
FAX: WE WISH!

WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE NEWS

The Women's Research Centre, after years of work and planning, is finally a recognized entity both within Athabasca University and the University of Alberta. The Centre was officially recognized by Athabasca University in spring of this year, and in November passed its last hurdle at the U of A when the Board of Governors approved it. Although those of us who choose to work within the structure will eventually determine exactly what it will be, it has clearly begun as a centre which will be open to feminist researchers wherever they are working... the community, government positions, the university, or other institutions.

Last year, 5 evening sessions were held in which we discussed on-going feminist research; this fall we began with a Feminist Research Forum held on October 20 and 21. Dorothy Smith from OISE (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) in Toronto spoke to a plenary on Friday evening and over 30 women presented their research to another 100 or more participants on Saturday. It was a very pleasant weekend and we look forward to more research discussions in the future.

On November 8th, a dozen of us met to plan the next stages of work and growth in the Centre. Each of us identified the research areas in which we would like to work and the other ways we would contribute work to the Centre. The **next meeting** will be Tuesday, **January 17th, 1989 at 7 p.m.** at the **Women's Research Centre** house located at **11043-90 Avenue**. Please come if you have an interest in feminist research; join or form a research sub-group within the Centre; and enjoy the energy of working together on the knowledge questions which confront us as women in this world!

Marilyn Assheton-Smith, Edmonton

WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE TASKS

Out of the November 8th meeting arose a task and project list that is still evolving (and probably will be for sometime to come). Many new tasks can be added and new names can be added to tasks. Please do not assume that hierarchy prevails.

Tasks and Workers. Tentative List

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Newsletters: | Cathy Bray |
| Community Outreach: | Pat Leginsky |
| Research Bank/Directory: | Bridget Elliot, Jan Williamson, Sharon Frantz-Lutzer (science) |
| Fundraising: | Marilyn Assheton-Smith, Shirley Neuman |
| U. of A. Liaison: | Shirley Neuman |
| Athabasca University Liaison: | Cathy Bray |
| Undergraduate Student Liaison: | Winnie Tomm |
| Grad. Student Representative: | Sharon Frantz-Lutzer |
| Fun Maintenance: | Mair Smith, Pat Leginsky, Lisa Austin |
| Empowerment: | Pat Leginsky |
| Facilities: | Rosemary Liburd |
| Ongoing Administrative Tasks: | Aureene Costuros |

Other Possible Tasks: Organizing Membership, Budget, Staff Liaison (administration)...

If people would like to have their phone numbers printed in upcoming newsletters so that perhaps some networking can begin to happen, just call the house or send a note in the mail.

WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE PROJECTS

A number of research interests were also identified at the November 8th meeting and a number of women expressed interest in pursuing these together in the future. As with the tasks, new projects can be added and new names can be added to new or existing projects. The projects identified were:

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>Spirituality/Theology/the Goddess:</u> | Mair Smith, Donna Christianson-Cooley, Marlene Brouwer, and Winnie Tomm |
| <u>Science:</u> | Sharon Frantz-Lutzer |
| <u>Native Women's Studies:</u> | Marilyn Assheton-Smith |
| <u>Feminist Therapy:</u> | Rosa Spricer, Cheryl Malmo, Donna Christianson-Cooley |
| <u>Cultural Studies:</u> | Bridget Elliot and Jan Williamson |

Cathy Bray and Aureene Costuros, Edmonton

Rosemary Liburd *Albany University* facility

432-5205

Cathy Bray: Allison newsletters

437-2357

USA AUSTIN: FUN + FROLIC

455-0072 / 427-2643

MAIR SMITH FUN & THE GODDESS

479-0623 / 432-5058

Arcene Costuros coordinating tasks thru research centre.

439-5988 / 432-8950

Sharon Frantz-Lutzger Grad ♀ Studies Program
(♀) Science Research Bank

478-7806 / 466-6633

Marlene Brouwer Spirituality (Project)

452-1188 / 428-0727 (wk)

Donna Christianson-Lodley Spirituality-Fem Therapy

452-1188

Marilyn Anderson-Divison Native ♀
Fundraising

458-3051 Jan-April

Winnie Tom Spirituality & Students

432-7078

FAT LEGINSKY

FUN & OUTREACH & EMPOWERMENT

463-5585

Shirley Neuman

Funding

436-1946 (message)

U of A Liaison

432-2180; 432-7078

Bridget Elliott

data base / cultural
directory / studies

432-3015 (w)

455-4706 (h)

Cheryl Malmo

Feminist Therapy

439-0576 w

Research Project

433-5988 h

Jana Williamson

directory / cultural studies

432-2436

434-7792

Rosa Spricer

Feminist Therapy

488-0146 w

Research Project

471-5711 h

Other possible tasks: budget, staff liaison, *barbadoja*
(administration)