



HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 8
AUGUST 1987

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.
1630 NW 19, OKC, OK 73106

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

by GLORIA STEINEM

While working on this Anniversary Issue, I met with a businessman for advice on economic trends.

"You must be very happy," he said, while his butler served us breakfast in his elegant boardroom. "The Women's Movement has succeeded, and now you can go on to something else."

"What makes you think it's over?" I asked politely. After all, I was about to eat this man's scrambled eggs.

"Why, I see women everywhere now," my host explained. "They're working in my bank, my investment house, my ad agency—everywhere. I see more of them all the time."

I thought about pointing out that the women he saw were not anywhere near his own level, and were certainly not corporate presidents or other authorities he himself might report to, but I thought he would just say that women had not been "in the pipeline" long enough; as if change were automatic and talent would always be rewarded.

"Do you think," I asked instead, "that men are doing housework and raising children as much as women are?"

"My God, no," said my host, appalled. "Is that what you want? That will never happen!"

I'm sure many of us have had some version of this conversation. Now that the idea of equality has entered the mainstream and there are new legal tools and visible women in many new places, resistance takes the more concealed form of assuming that enough change has already happened. Of course, that response is still a quantum leap forward from 15 years ago when independence for women was ridiculed as the unnatural idea of a few "bra burners." But now that public opinion polls show most Americans, men and women, to be in support of women's equal power

in everything from reproductive freedom to high political office, those who oppose equality fall into two groups: active resisters (who still insist that women's natural position is dictated by biology or religion or Freud or something), and passive resisters (who admit that feminism once was necessary, but insist that it isn't anymore).

No argument is successful without a germ of truth. Each of these groups has one.

Active resisters, from the secular right wing to religious fundamentalists, are accurate when they point out that independent women undermine the patriarchal family, deprive the world of its biggest source of unpaid labor, and transform the masculine/feminine paradigm on which much of the world's polarized thinking depends. The secular George Gilder may sound naive when he insists that man's only motive for planning and earning money is the support of dependent women and children. (Which is why independent women threaten human progress. Try to get a grip on his logic.) The fundamentalist Jerry Falwell may be selective when he quotes the Bible to prove that Jesus, an egalitarian for his day, was really a prophet of women's subservience. But collectively, these charges that feminism will change Western civilization as we know it are only half right. With any luck, it will change Eastern civilization, too.

As for the more passive resisters like my friend the businessman, they also reflect some truth. There has been an amazing amount of change, and this should make

us all rejoice. Women have transformed the paid labor force in the 1970s and 1980s, with an impact on both women and conventional work patterns that is still too futuristic to assess. Fifteen years ago the few women in powerful positions, especially in politics, were widows whose husbands had occupied those positions first. Now there are independently elected women in the U.S. Congress. Even the WHITE MALE ONLY sign has been ripped off the White House by black and female pioneer candidates for the top office in the land. That's a very long trip for just two decades.

But those who use words like "post-feminism" are missing the realities of most women's lives: the wildly disproportionate amount of violence directed at females because they are females, the "feminization of poverty" that simply means most of the poor are women and kids, the killing sexism still taken less seriously than racial or religious bias that affects men, too, the double dose of prejudice against females who are not white, not heterosexual, not able-bodied, or not young—and much, much more.

Passive resisters may seem less dangerous because they don't preach a return to the past as the activists do, but their combination of inaction and unrealism can endanger the maintenance of past victories and prevent future ones. After all, they've only amended Freud to read: "What more could women want?"

The answer is: A lot. The truth is: We've only just begun.

Think of historical precedents. The suffragist and abolitionist movements of the First Wave took more than a century to win a legal and social identity as citizens and human beings for everyone in this country who was not both white and male. Now we are only in the second full decade of an even more complex struggle for legal and social equality, regardless of sex or race. Especially for females of all races—whose sheer numbers

mean we must transform the structures around us, not just integrate them—common sense tells us that we have at least another 75 or 80 years to go.

So does even a hint of an agenda:

- In addition to filling jobs that already exist, we have to create our own. If we are to become more independent of job-loss fears that now govern our behavior, accumulate economic power, and experiment with new values in the workplace, we must initiate and control our own economic structures.

Many new women entrepreneurs have already begun this process. Female-owned businesses are increasing at three times the start-up rate of male-owned ones. The one-woman catering or clothing enterprises of the 1970s have been joined by the female-owned microchip, computer programming, or small manufacturing businesses of the 1980s. Most recently, groups of women have begun to accumulate capital communally, and to start jointly owned enterprises that often spring from community groups, women getting off welfare, or women marketing their own local products. "Economic development" and "economic empowerment" are now phrases regularly heard from feminists.

Of course, jobs are not an either/or question. We need to be inside existing economic structures as well as to create our own. But conventional employers still mass women workers at the bottom, and allow only a few infiltrators at the middle and top. Alternative, women-run structures—with their greater chance for independence and changed values—are the trend of the future.

- Domestic violence against women—just a wordless part of life until this Second Wave of feminism began—now has names like "battering" and "sexual assault" that are against the law. We have begun the lifesaving process of rescuing victims. (For one example, see "We Are Survivors . . .," page 88.) What we have *not* begun to do is to find the life-giving cures that can keep women from being victimized in the first place. The original cause lies deep within any definition of masculinity that depends on violence, aggression, and superiority to women. Since most men are more aggressive than most women, should we use our daughter-rearing patterns as a model for raising sons? Should we run programs for the most violent of men, who have become so addicted to aggression that they don't feel like "real men" without it, just as we now run programs for other addicts?

Even the questions are new. Their answers lie in the future.

- Women have become more visible in the media. Sometimes their images are even diversified beyond the young-

pretty-white-thin stereotype. But there are still four times more men than women on television, and women's average age is still visibly younger.

Furthermore, "hard" news is still defined as that which mostly concerns men, and "soft" news as that which mostly concerns women or children. The female half of the country, in all of our diversity, is barely present in media policy-making: where are the women at the top or in ownership positions? In movies and advertising, it's still a triumph for women to take "men's jobs" (and stay women). Almost no men do "women's work" (and stay men).

More than any other democracy in the world, this country behaves as if children did not exist until the age of six, and public health were a private responsibility. Since childbirth means that women use health care systems far more than men do, and since society makes women the main caretakers of children (as well as the ill, the elderly, and any other people who can't take care of themselves), the female half of America has far more need for both a national system of child care and a national system of health care. Those issues should not be futuristic—but they are.

In fact, there can never be reproductive freedom, or uniformly humane policy toward new birth technologies, without national policy and support that makes childbearing choices real for all women.

The truth is that far poorer countries than ours are meeting health-care and child-care needs better than we are. (See "What the U.S. Has To Learn About Women," page 162.) If national budgets are a statement of values, what values are reflected in our distribution of national dollars?

- More than blacks, Jews, or Italians, more than farmers or defense contractors, fundamentalists or manufacturers, women *as women* are still supporting politicians who don't support them.

I'm not suggesting that women's interests aren't diverse. Clearly, we are or should be half of all the groups mentioned above. But there are overarching concerns of equality that self-respecting women of every race, ethnicity, profession, sexual preference, and age can only ignore at their peril.

In preparation for a future as near as the elections of 1988, every women's center and rape hot line, every clinic, battered women's shelter and professional networking group, every university, women's college and national association should be registering the women it serves, making sure they know

the issues of special interest in every election, and pulling out that vote on election day.

We can't depend on any political party to get out our vote, or any media to properly inform it. If we want equality, we must be able to deliver a reliable and crucial margin of pro-equality voters. It is this ability to deliver voters that has served every insurgent group in this imperfect democracy.

- Okay, women can have their own first names (no more "Mrs. John Jones"), last names (even if some use their husband's name for a total of three), and the use of Ms. (which is now accepted U.S. government and private usage).

But what about children? Overwhelmingly, even in egalitarian households, children still have their fathers' names.

In a future of computers, as well as equality, children would be better identified by having both parents' last names, thus saving millions of people-hours now spent explaining, "This is my daughter by my second marriage. . . ." At 16 or 18, children could choose their own last names, from their parents or otherwise, as part of becoming their own unique selves.

- Yes, women are flooding into the paid labor force, as my breakfast partner pointed out. This is an event of such impact that even conventional economists compare it to the Industrial Revolution. But women will not have the revolutionary force economists predict—and we'll never have real equality—if men do not flood equally into the *unpaid* labor force of child-rearing and homemaking. Women will just continue to do two jobs while men do only one, children will continue to have too much mother and too little father, and the cruel, guilt-producing impossibility of being Super Woman and Super Mom will keep on robbing the country of talent and women of peace of mind.

Making men as much a part of the private world as women are of the public one: that's an agenda item that will take several generations by itself. Even those men who now want to be caregiving fathers are unlikely to find the parental leave, flexible working hours, understanding employer, or supportive male peers to make that possible. And women who need those structural changes in the workplace are unlikely to get them unless men become their advocates, too. As long as children-related benefits are seen as the price of employing women, they will be used as arguments against doing exactly that.

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his list is just a tangible agenda. The internal voyages of psychological, sexual, and spiritual change haven't even been symbolized here.

Neither has the international agenda of peace and cross-cultural organizing that spread into the future from every one of these domestic actions and concerns.

We haven't seen anything yet.
But we will. Together. ●

Gloria Steinem is a founder and editor of "Ms." Magazine. In the 1972 Preview Issue, she introduced this new magazine with her article "Sisterhood."

Ms. July/August 1987

FESTIVALS

Thousands of wimmin will head north August 12-16 for the 12th annual Michigan Women's Music Festival. There will be 3 music stages featuring some of the best womyn musicians of the day, plus 1-day intensive workshops with Sonia Johnson, Amy Lee, Pauline Oliveros, Rhiannon, Diane Stein, & more. The Womyn's Village created at the site will include support & networking for children, differently abled resources (DART), sober support, over 40's, Francophone women, etc. Over 200 workshops & 200 crafts displays—and don't forget the annual Lois Lane Run, after-hours performances with tickets chosen by lottery, midnight movies, etc. etc.! For info see flyer at ♀'s Library or write We Want The Music Collective, Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458.

* * *

Recovering from last year's cancellation (due to withdrawal of permission to use the Boy Scout campsite), the New England Women's Musical Retreat (NEWMR VII) will be held Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-7, at the U of RI Environmental Research Center. Concert stage, open mic, dancing, workshops, crafts, swimming, accessible & interpreted. Proceeds to Women's Health Services. Womyn's Library or write NEWMR, PO Box 217, New Haven, CT 06513, or call 203-523-1268.

* * *

If you're headed west, check out the 8th annual West Coast Women's Music & Comedy Festival, September 3-7 (Labor Day Weekend). Schedule includes music, comedy, theater, films, speakers, & dances every night. Located at a private camp near Yosemite. Info: WCWMP, 13514 Hart St., Van Nuys, CA 91405.

up & coming



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL SUMMER YARD SALE

August 1 & 2

Saturday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Last summer's sale raised over \$500 for Herland, thanks to all of you. Let's do it again this year. All proceeds go to support YOUR place, and help YOUR collective to grow!!

You may still bring "stuff" to Herland to sell as late as Saturday morning August 1 so don't feel you've missed out on donating something, if you have not done so yet. See you there!!!



COLLECTIVE MEETING

August 23, 4:30 p.m.
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794-7464

1-353-6861 (LAWTON)

VOLUNTEER INFO: 672-4141

ADVERTISING: 495-4390

AUTHOR PLANS TRIP

What is it like to be a lesbian in the United States, today? This is what author Martha Barron Barrett wants to know and write about. She has recently contracted with the publishing firm of William Morrow and Company to write a book on lesbian life in America. An accomplished writer, Ms. Barrett is the author of two novels: Maggie's Way (Signet, 1981) and God's Country (Bantam, 1987).

To fulfill her objective, she is in the process of soliciting and collecting as many lesbian publications from all parts of the country as she can find, including the Herland Sister Resources Newsletter. Her letter requesting OUR NEWSLETTER arrived at Herland in June. And, we have --- in the spirit of our cohesive little, but actively-growing community --- dutifully responded by getting a copy of it into the mail to her.

In addition to the printed materials, Ms. Barrett is making a cross-country, data-collecting journey. She plans to use this opportunity to interview lesbians in various parts of the United States to compile first-hand information for her book.

Let us hope that at some point during her travels away from her Milbridge, Maine home, she finds the road to Oklahoma City. For we have HERE in our own back yards, in our very own community, plenty of good things for Ms. Barrett to write about.

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SAY IT WITH CLOTHES

EAST LANSING -- Michigan State University Lesbian/Gay Council has filed a grievance against the local College Republican group. When the gay group announced that students who supported gay pride week should wear jeans on a given day, the College Republicans initiated a counter-campaign called "Straight Shirt Day", which called for students to wear shirts as a symbolic move to "fight back against homosexuals." by tal

Press Release

From Off Our Backs

LESBIAN SCHOLARSHIP

The National Women's Studies Association, courtesy of Naiad Press, will be offering its first \$500 graduate scholarship in Lesbian Studies in 1987. Candidates must be doing research for or writing a Master's thesis or PhD dissertation in Lesbian Studies.

From Feminist Bookstore News, and Lesbian Connection (July/August, 1987)

HELP WANTED....

A professor at Arizona State University is looking for persons who would be willing to distribute and collect questionnaires for a study on violence in intimate homosexual and heterosexual relationships. The study hopes to identify similarities and differences in the violence found among same-sex and cross-sex couples. It is hoped that the results of this research will dispel myths and stereotypes about same-sex versus cross-sex relationships. A primary aim of the organizers of the study is to preserve the anonymity of the participants and contact persons. Participants must have personal experience in an abusive intimate relationship, either current or past.

Those interested in the project or in participating in the survey process may contact: Gwat Yong Lie, PhD., Arizona State University, School of Social Work, Tempe, AZ 85287, (602) 965-3304.

DUMP TRUCK EXCITES GIRLS

The idol and role model of thousands of Japanese teenage girls is not the traditional elegant Geisha, but a 200-pound female professional wrestler named Dump (for dump truck) Matsumoto. In Japan, women's wrestling draws more TV viewers than competing shows. Lady wrestlers are sought as talk-show guests and command huge audiences, made up mostly of giggling, chanting schoolgirls. "They're seeing women do something they can't do," said a social commentator. "It's something like your women's movement in the United States. The wrestlers are tough; nobody pushes them around."

From San Francisco Chronicle-Examiner, and Lesbian Connection (July/Aug. 1987)

Dear friends

I know how hard many of you have been hit in these uncertain economic times. Knowing this, I still must appeal to you, those who benefit from the existence of Herland. We are now in a severe struggle. Our finances are extremely low and our spirits are not much higher. Burnout has taken many of us from the active roster, and those of us who are left need your help.

I ask you to reflect on the time when there was no Herland, no newsletter, no efforts to get you records and books, no workshops, no spring and fall retreats, no listings in national guides, such as Places of Interest to Women, Gaia's Guide, and Gayellow Pages for a women's center such as ours in Oklahoma City, and no Herland library. If you find the time before to be no different than the time now, then this appeal is not for you and you need not read on. BUT, if you are aware of our efforts and find them worthy, please help us with our growth.

Our shelves are bare and we are not individually capable of handling the total financial load of operating Herland. Herland is a non-profit organization and we volunteer because we believe in the cause.

So I ask you. Do you want us to continue, and will you help? I know many of you have donated willingly of your time as well as your money. For this we thank you. Yet there are over 600 persons receiving the newsletter. If everyone on the mailing list would donate \$12, which is only \$1 per month, we would be able to stock shelves, try new things, plan concerts, sponsor workshops, and move to a place that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer, and we could have a place that we all would be truly proud of. Think of it. All we need to do to raise \$7200 is for 600 people to donate \$12. Please take us seriously and send a check or money order today, or drop by on a Saturday or Sunday with your donation, when we are open.

Sincerely,

BC/Herland Collective

YES! I want to help Herland with an annual donation of \$12.

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THANKS! (Herland will send you a receipt for your tax purposes.)

Herland is not able to forward your newsletter unless you send us a change of address (just sending one to the Post Office won't do it).

This form may also be used to add a name to the mailing list.

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AND THE BEAT GOES ON....

Rainbow Productions sponsored its second dance recently at the First Unitarian Church in Oklahoma City. A small, but enthusiastic crowd turned out to rock to the music filling the air through an excellent sound system and roll with comic, Hillary Harris. Ms. Harris, a resident of Arkansas, is an up and coming personality in the women's entertainment industry. Her rather irreverent humor, which was enjoyed by guests at Herland's second retreat in the Spring of 1986, was the highlight of a fun evening.

A variety of non-alcoholic beverages was popular among the attendees after an especially thirst-prompting, foot-stomping gyrations around the dance floor. Freshly-popped popcorn rounded out the concession corner, and delighted those who found something more ingenious to do with popcorn than, simply, eat it.

Little May Avenue of the notorious local rock-'n-roll group, the Shartels, was on hand to ask for contributions to a worthy cause: bail money for the rest of the Shartels. It seems they have managed to get themselves into a bit of incarceration on a variety of charges including sax offenses, hubcap kleptomania, mouthing off at the wrong folks, and hopeless clumsiness. Little May tearfully explained that it is imperative that bail be raised for their release before the September dance, for without it, there will be no live music to dance to. If you wish to respond to Little May's plea, you may do so at the next dance, which is scheduled for August 29, at the First Unitarian Church.

"The dance looks like a monthly event," said Helen, President of Rainbow Productions, "We believe this is a good opportunity for women to meet other women, make new friends, and have good times together. There's something for everyone."

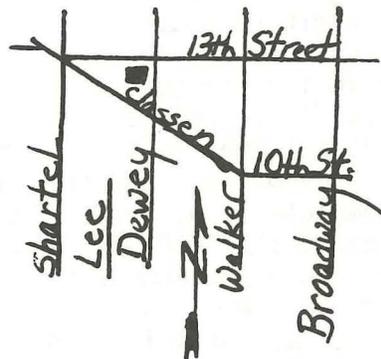
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HELP GIRLS COMPETE

New York, NY - June 19 - "Recent studies show that girls and young women want more opportunities for sports participation than most communities provide," said Margaret Gates, National Executive Director of Girls Clubs of America, Inc. (GCA). "Through sports, girls gain not only physical fitness and skills, but confidence, self-discipline, and healthy social attitudes."

- Of the 281 events in the Olympic games, 179 are for men only, 86 are for women only, and 16 are for both.
- It is estimated that girls represent only 15% of the participants in organized after-school sports programs.
- Studies have shown that athletic coaches treat girls differently from boys, giving girls 1/8 the sports skill instruction they give to boys.

To assist and promote girls' participation in sports, Girls Clubs of America announces that its Sports Resource Kit, a comprehensive set of materials for planning effective sports programs for girls ages 6-18, is now available from the GCA National Resource Center, 441 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. The kit, prepared for youth workers, coaches, and program administrators, includes sports manuals, booklets and a 1/2" video, "Sports: Beyond Winning," which promotes teen women's sports involvement.

Some components of the kit, which sells for \$45.00, may be purchased separately. These include a Sports Resource Guide, written by GCA and sponsored by the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, containing an annotated directory of the national governing bodies, major sports organizations and sports support groups available in the United States as well as a reading list of recommended materials for understanding issues related to girls in sports. Other pieces available are On Your Mark: A Complete Guide to Developing Sports Programs For Girls (\$10.00), a GCA manual to help design and manage recreational sports programs, and GCA's Ten Principles of Girls' Sports Participation booklet (\$3.50) and accompanying poster (\$5.00), provide ten research-based reasons to encourage girls' participation in sports.

The publication of the kit coincides with the opening of New Agenda II, a national conference on girls and sports,

co-hosted by Girls Clubs of America, the National Association For Girls and Women in Sports and the Women's Sports Foundation.

Both the Sports Resource Kit and New Agenda II are part of Girls Clubs of America's ongoing national program, SPORTING CHANCE. Designed and developed to provide a comprehensive approach to sports awareness and participation for girls ages 6-18, SPORTING CHANCE builds on and enhances the excellent sports program currently offered by 99% of all local Girls Clubs.

Girls Clubs of America, Inc. is a national not-for-profit organization serving 250,000 girls across the United States through 240 Girls Club centers and various outreach programs. For more information write: Girls Clubs of America, Inc., National Resource Center, 441 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

A college newspaper tried to enter a roast beef on a pair of high heels in the Miss Georgia College Beauty Pageant. Officials refused to allow the entry, even though the roast beef met most contest requirements: never married, never cohabitated with a man, never had an abortion, and had no plans to marry before the end of its reign.

From Off Our Backs via Hag Rag, and Lesbian Connection (July/August, 1987)

SMARTER THAN WE THOUGHT?

Health researchers have uncovered a new social trend in response to AIDS. While discussing sex practices with college students, researchers found a high percentage of young women were fearful of acquiring AIDS through sex with men, and had decided to choose only women for sex partners. During a follow-up session two months later, researchers were taken aback to learn that 85% of the young women had no intention of returning to sex with men. "We've already begun to see bisexual men choosing only women for fear of AIDS, so I can't say that I'm surprised that now women want to avoid having sex with men. What this means for men's social status and sense of self-worth I can't even hazard a guess", the lead researcher said.

AT IT AGAIN

In another of its continuing attacks on the lesbian and gay community, Adolph Coors Company specifically excluded same-sex couples from entering the Coors Couple's Run on Valentines Day in Portland, Oregon. The race was held to benefit the American Heart Association. Catherine Crooker, special events coordinator for the Heart Association, explained that the event's design and promotion was prepared by Coors. She added, "the American Heart Association in Oregon does not discriminate against gays or any other group. After all, heart disease is non discriminatory." When the race brochure was printed stating seven times that same-sex couples could not participate, Catherine questioned the policy. She was told that the set-up of the race was not adaptable to same-sex runners because two men or two women would not be equal to a mixed couple in running strength.

Press Release, Lesbian Connection
(July/August, 1987)

JESUS LOVES HER

Rose Marie Denman, a lesbian minister with the United Methodist Church, has chosen to face an ecclesiastical trial rather than withdraw from the ministry or allow her peers to vote on expelling her as a "self-avowed practicing homosexual." Denman's trial will be an open challenge to her church's controversial 1984 decision explicitly banning gays from the ministry - a decision which Denman herself supported at the time. Ironically, only months after she told Bishop George W. Bashmore that she would consider leaving the denomination if admitted homosexuals, she herself decided to take a leave from her pastorate to be with a woman lover. She now characterizes her former stand as "blatant, raw, fear-filled homophobia." Denman will be tried by thirteen "open-minded" clergy. She expects to be defrocked, she says, but plans to join the Unitarian Universalist Association in November, regardless of the trial's outcome.

From the Kennebec Journal (5/20/87),
Gay Community News (5/31/87), and the
Washington times (5/22/87),
(July, 1987) oob

A LESBIAN JUDGE

SAN FRANCISCO -- Judge Mary Morgan, an open lesbian, has been elected as the presiding judge of the San Francisco Municipal Court. She will be the first presiding judge in the city and in the state of California to be openly gay.

According to the Washington Blade, the Bay Area Reporter quoted Morgan as saying that visibility made her role as a lesbian judge important: "I have an understanding of homophobia that no one else has." by tal

From Off Our Backs (5/29/87)

CLAIMING THEIR POWER: WOMEN-CHURCH WILL GATHER IN CINCINNATI

Several thousand women, calling themselves Women-Church, will gather at the Cincinnati, Ohio, Convention Center on October 9-11, 1987.

Women-Church Convergence, a four-year-old coalition of 26 women's groups & organizations from the Catholic tradition, is sponsoring an ecumenical, inter-faith conference entitled "Women-Church: Claiming Our Power."

"Women-Church will gather in Cincinnati to support each other and to claim our economic, spiritual, sexual and political powers," stated Diann Neu, Conf. Coordinator. "We invite church leaders to join us, to listen to our concerns, and to act on our behalf with courage."

Speakers will include Dagmar Celeste, 1st woman of Ohio; feminist theorist Charlotte Bunche; Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza, world renowned feminist biblical scholar; Asian theologian Kwok Pui Lan; Dolores Huerta of the United Farmworkers; Theresa Kane, spokesperson for No. Amer. nuns during the Pope's last US visit; Frances Kissling, pro-choice activist; NOW Pres. Eleanor Smeal, President of NOW; Gloria Steinem of Ms.; America Sosa, Salvadoran Co-Madre; and many others.

Participants in the conference include women from various age, economic, lifestyle, racial & ethnic backgrounds, women from religious congregations, local and national organizations, peace & justice groups, parishes & base communities across the US. A large number of scholarships are available for low income women. Men may also participate.

For more information on this coalition committed to being "a discipleship of equals," write Women-Church, 8035 13th St., Silver Spring, MD 20910, ph. 301-589-3150.

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