

Women's History Events

The Last Word

THE LAST WORD
Women's Literary Open Mike continues its winter season at In Other Words Women's Books and Resources (located at 3734 SE Hawthorne Blvd.) The guest host will be Kristy Athens. All women are invited to bring their own poetry, short fiction, journal musings, personal essays, and other written and spoken words to read for 5-7 minutes. The work runs the gamut of humorous, political, sexy, somber, lovelorn, lovestruck, angry, quiet, personal, loud and sassy.

The Natural Way

The Natural Way Series is a workshop series on Earth healing and spiritual growth. On Wednesday, March 31, Sister Jose Hobday, a Seneca Elder, Sister of Franciscan Order and author of Simple Living: The Way to Inner Freedom.

The Lavender Menace

In Other Words is proud to present celebrated editor, writer and activist Karla Jay reading from her sharp, funny new memoir of being a radical lesbian in the 60's and 70's: Tales of the Lavender Menace. With a canny eye for detail, her memoir creates a vivid realistic portrait of early 1970s feminist and sexual radicalism, from communal living to group sex to the watershed feminist protest in the offices of Ladies Home Journal. Karla Jay will be reading from her new book on Wednesday, April 17, 7 PM at In Other Words (3734 SE Hawthorne Blvd.).

Many Strong and Beautiful Women

This theatrical production was developed by the Sam Barlow High School's Theater Arts program. The show portrays a woman's life from adolescence to maturity, illuminating the possibilities for the future, while invoking memories from past experiences. The play draws from literature by and about women. A question-and-answer session follows the 50-minute production. The event will be at Portland Community College on Wednesday, March 31 at Terrell Hall, Room 122 from NOON - 1 PM.

Women's Health Fair

Local health advocates and organizations for women will be on hand to share information on their organizations. Participants include the Oregon School of Massage, the College of Oriental Medicine, the College of Naturopathic Medicine, the Washington County Health and Human Services department, Planned Parenthood and the Breast Cancer Clinic. This event will be at Portland Community College, April 6 at Mall, Building 3 from 10 AM - 2 PM.

Asian American Poets

Radical Women will host local activists reading the works of Asian American women poets on Thursday, April 8, at 7 PM. A Thai buffet will be available at 6:30 PM for a \$6 donation. Everyone is welcome. The reading will be held at the NW Neighborhood Cultural Center in the Community Room located at 1819 NW Everett in Portland. Call 503/228-3090. Wheelchair accessible.

GirlFriend Prayer Breakfast

Christ Memorial COGIC, Department of Women Affairs will be holding Girlfriend Weekend. It will be Saturday and Sunday, March 27th and 28th. This year's theme is "Woman, the Queen of His Heart." The scripture used will be I Samuel 12:24. This event will be held Saturday, March 27th, at the Alderwood Inn at the Airport, 7025 NE Alderwood Road. The Prayer Breakfast will be from 9 AM to 1 PM, and the tickets are \$20. The guest speaker will be National Evangelist Lois Moore of Los Angeles, California. Call 503/ 286-9624.

Pedal For The Cure

In Other Words will be showing a slide show of the momentous 1997 PEDAL FOR THE CURE, while raising awareness and money for the 1999 ride this May. In November of 1997, a team of 11 women made history by riding bicycles from San Diego, California to Jacksonville, Florida. Nicki Eybel will host the evening. Eybel will join 40 women in San Diego on May 14 to ride across the country. The slide show will be free. Call 232-6003.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH THE END OF PATRIARCHY

By JOY RAMOS AND DIANE ADAMS, M.A.

March is Women's History Month. Currently, women are questioning Patriarchy as they redefine themselves and influence our changing society. Women are collectively recognizing their inner masculine qualities to achieve balance within themselves, but the old images of masculine under patriarchy leave many women conflicted and polarized. We can define patriarchy as "the system of paternal/filial authority over the maternal and child-like that renders us incapable of genuinely loving ourselves and others." This is the definition of Claudio Naranjo in his book, The End of Patriarchy and the Dawning of a Tri-une Society. Patriarchy means power and control over. It means a system that does not value the feminine qualities of cooperation, nurturing, surrender, trusting, love, compassion. It also does not value the child-like qualities of playfulness, spontaneity, openness, questioning and joy.

Under patriarchy, women are exploited and made dependent upon the economic support of a man. They are constantly bombarded with images of the ultra feminine like a super model or negatively portrayed as possessive, seductive, manipulative or "angry feminists," Naranjo states that he has been exploring for a long time the view of patriarchy as the single root of industrial-mindedness, capitalism, exploitation, greed, alienation, our incapacity for peace and the destruction of the natural world.

As we move into the 21st cen-

tury, there is a resurgence of valuing the feminine qualities of quiet wisdom, receptiveness, nurturing, gentleness and holistic thinking. Some in the men's movement are awakening to their own feminine side to find balance. They are strong by being at peace within themselves...they are gentler, wiser and in touch with feelings. Daniel Goleman wrote the book Emotional Intelligence in which he states that emotional intelligence is much more important than IQ in determining success in today's world.

There are masculine images that are positive and not connected with patriarchy. The word husband itself means "one who takes care of." He is one who cares for and cares about his world. He gives all his strength, beauty and wisdom to that endeavor. A "real man" is one who has power-in-response instead of power-over. He knows himself and has compassion and stewardship as high values. He is not just in this life for himself alone, to accumulate "things" and ignore his fellow humans and the environment.

Some men and women in our society are still jockeying for power. The equality sought by both sexes is not the equality between the millions of men and women on this planet; that is only the outward appearance. What is really happening is not a "battle between the sexes," it is a war between each individual's masculine and feminine natures, explains Michael Katz, a local writer.

Naranjo envisions a tri-une so-

ciety in which we honor father, mother and child. All three have equal power and contribute to our mutual well-being. Children are marvelous teachers of truth, newness, play, spontaneity and freshness. We must recognize them in both our laws and practices. They have a complementary and harmonizing effect on both men and women. Like a triangle, man-woman-child form a stable structure.

The system of patriarchy can only function with the cooperation of women. In the past their cooperation was secured by gender indoctrination, education, denying women the knowledge of their history and dividing women, one from the other, by defining outright coercion; by discrimination in access to economic resources and political power. For nearly four thousand years, women have shaped their lives under the umbrella of patriarchy and they have done so willingly because to step outside of women's roles meant terrible consequences.

Today, our planet, our peoples, our future depends upon women assuming the right to define our collective values, policies and procedures. This means redefining all of our societal structures: education, economics, politics, religion, social, family and entertainment priorities. It begins with women recognizing and affirming their worth to humanity and challenging the patriarchal system on every level. Women and men of conscience must unmask patriarchy, make it visible and in the light of day redefine our world.

Benefit Concert

High School Band Fund Raiser ~ \$10.00 per Person

Dave Hubbard

"From the voice of the California Raisins"

Comedian: Eddie Lawrence

Rap: Rob

Date: Friday Night, March 26, 1999 8:00 PM

Location: Fort Vancouver High School Auditorium
Vancouver, WA