

The dream of a common space



Photo by Laurel F.

Imagine a place for lesbians. The place would be private and safe--no wait persons; no men or women walking through on their way to other rooms, as in the 604 Building; no homophobia limiting when and for what purpose we can use the space, as at the YWCA; and no giving our money to non-lesbian organizations to rent their facilities, as we do so often at various churches and universities.

Our Own Place offers us the opportunity to have such a space.

"Our Place" as a concept was born in 1984 in response to the need for a lesbian space in the Triangle area. Several women over the course of five years have poured time and energy into the project, and now the time has come for their work to bear fruit. Is there enough support out there, among our very diverse and geographically scattered sisters, for a cooperative enterprise to get going and keep going?

This question was asked in The Newsletter, along with the announcement of an open meeting June 11. Twenty women attended the meeting, from every corner of the Triangle and Wake Forest. In a way, the attendance itself was an answer to the question. Many of the women had never before attended an Our Own Place meeting, but were aware of the work that had gone into the project and were ready to lend support when they realized how much it was needed.

The discussion at the meeting focused on three questions: What exactly is Our Own Place? What needs to be done to make it happen? What needs to be done to keep it going?

Our Own Place core committee members Kim, Kelly, and Robyn, and former committee members Elizabeth and Amy, and other key volunteers, explained that the vision is of a co-op, in which members would define the nature of the Place through a consensus process. For this reason, the core committee had not formulated any concrete plans for specific programs and activities to be offered once the Place opened. The vision also is of inclusiveness: all women will be welcome, not just members. Members will participate in decision-making and will provide the crucial stable base of income and woman power required to keep the space open.

To make it happen and keep it going, then, members are one necessity. As of June 11, 22 women had purchased memberships. Dues are now set at \$52 a year, which is of course just a dollar a week. At this price, the committee estimates that a minimum of 450 women could sustain Our Own Place financially. They also estimate that there are 14,000 lesbians in the Triangle! Fundraising through events, etc., is also an important source of income, and grant writing is another (tax-exempt status is a goal).

Perhaps even more than money, energy is required to launch and maintain Our Own Place. At the June 11 meeting nine committees were set up to get the work done: space search; programming and events; accounts and finances; fundraising; advertising and graphic design; public relations and outreach; house meetings; interior space planning; and membership coordinating. Many more women are needed, so if you're interested in contributing



Photo by Laurel F.

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The dream of a common space

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your energy to a community project—of, by, and for lesbians—this is a great time to do it! (See address/phone number at end of article.)

A key decision was made at the June 11 meeting, too. Because we all agreed that something concrete was needed before we could expect more widespread support, both in memberships and in energy, it was decided to find and rent a space as soon as possible. Given the amount of money currently on hand—\$6,000—a relatively small space is a realistic goal.

An apartment was one suggestion; it would have the virtues of a kitchen and a comfy feel. This smallish Place could be used, for example, for meetings of all kinds, drop-in nights for coffeehouse-style interaction, small concerts, readings, lectures, movie nights, and a lending library of books and videos. It would house the Our Own Place telephone and answering machine and would be staffed by volunteers.

In time, the plan is to get a bigger Place, big enough for dances and other special events, possibly big enough for some space to be rented to lesbian businesses that want a lesbian clientele. Ideally, the ultimate Place would be purchased, rather than rented, to ensure that the existence of Our Own Place would never be subject to the whim of an owner.

An Our Own Place pamphlet went out with the June mid-month Newsletter calendar. It contains a mail-in form for membership and/or volunteering. If you didn't get one, lost it, or want a few for friends, send a request to Our Own Place (address below). If you have questions or suggestions, write or call. The answering machine tape will be updated periodically to provide current information about the project and will also take your message.

Our Own Place is becoming a reality, thanks to the dedication and support of many women over five years' time. More support is needed to push it over the top, and ongoing commitment will keep it there for all of us.

Our Own Place
P.O. Box 11732
Durham, NC 27703
828-9654 (R)

-- Laurel



Let's hear it for "Lissa and the Lively Lesbians" who brought us the Top Ten Hit of our recent Pride parade. Way to go women!

Lissa M.'s genius with wit and words brought the OUR OWN PLACE message to life as she and The Our Own Place Singers (and shakers) brought us up to date on the Community Center project. The Our Own Place Singers were Vickie, Robyn, Amy, Kim, Elizabeth, Kelly, and Lissa.

OUR OWN PLACE

sung to "I've Been Working On The Railroad"

We've been working on Our Own Place.
Working on it night and day.
Just so we can have our own space,
A lesbian place to play.

Can't you hear the whistle blowing?
Pour yourself some coffee or tea.
Lesbian energies are glowing,
It's the place for you to be.

We've got a running start,
Won't you do your part
And join the Our Own Place family?
Do it for yourself
Give us all some help
To make it a reality.

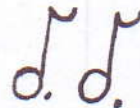
We've been working on a center
Where we can plot-and-play or just hang out.
A spot for intimate adventure
Or for whatever else you're about.

Can't you see us all together
Playing pool or groovin' to a song?
Be-ing free to love each other,
Sisters it won't be long.

For 52 a year
You can openly be queer
And have a vote in what we say and do.
But-if you really cannot pay
Please don't turn away,
You can still call it your place too.

(Interlude)

We've got a running start, etc.



Lissa M. (1989)

In the works for Our Own Place: space rental, election of first Board of Directors

Plans for the opening of **Our Own Place**, North Carolina's first lesbian center, are moving ahead rapidly. Memberships have risen with the distribution of our brochure, more visibility in *The Newsletter*, and housemeetings all over the Triangle. Community meetings in Durham and Raleigh have brought together the womanpower needed to rejuvenate the project in the form of active and vital committees.

The search committee is looking all over the Triangle for centrally located space to call our own. We are starting smaller than we originally planned since the necessary capital has not been raised to either purchase or rent a space big enough for dances. It was generally agreed that a thousand or so square feet in which to meet and gather would be a good start for our community.

A full year's operating budget will depend on successful fundraising events, admissions from programs, membership fees, and larger donations. The fundraising committee, at the time of this printing, will have hosted the lesbian film night on September 23, and plans for the annual gala in January are already in the making.

An election committee is taking care of the logistics of the first Board of Directors election, with the formidable task of keeping to the letter of the bylaws. Members of **Our Own Place** can vote or run for the board. Any woman who wishes to support a lesbian resource/social center is welcome to join. Membership is \$52.00 per year. This supports the rental and expenses of the space. Members make the decisions regarding the space. Activities and programs will be for all lesbians and supportive women. You don't have to be a member to use the space.

The **Our Own Place** timeline is as follows:

- 8/30/89
Members notified by mail re: Board of Directors elections
- 10/3/89
Members' nominations for board candidates due
- 10/14/89
Members notified of board nominees

- 11/14/89
First membership meeting; Election of Board of Directors
- 11/89
Space rental
- 11/89 - 12/89
Space fix-up and interior renovation
- 1/90
GRAND AND GLORIOUS OPENING OF OUR OWN PLACE!

It is with wonder and gratitude that we come to this point in the project's development. The awesomeness of creating a visible community project for lesbians in a sexist, homophobic world has, at times, been lost in the day-to-day hard work. The forces of oppression, often invisible and unspoken, have weighed heavily on us, as they tend to, when we push against them. The awareness of the importance of our task can easily give way to resentments and pessimism when events unfold differently or more slowly than hoped for.

Most insidious is the tendency to doubt our own vision and our ability to realize it. We have fought against this consciously as organizers and as individual lesbians. Perhaps this is the best place to thank those who have kept the purpose in their hearts and worked for it. Every woman who has joined, passed the word on, put her work in, opened her home, contributed money, given an encouraging nod, is the reason this dream is coming true. We hope more will join and make it their own. Investing in ourselves as lesbians (who else will?) is its own reward.

—Elizabeth Manley

Detach and mail
OUR OWN PLACE, II
P.O. Box 11
Durham, NC 27

YES! I want to join OUR OWN PLACE, INC.

- Enclosed is my \$52 Membership Fee (Membership begins upon opening)
- Enclosed is my \$_____ Donation
- I would like to help with the following committees:

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Accounts & Finances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraisers | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Events & Programming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Coordination | | | |

Name _____ Phone: Day _____ Evenings _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

- Please add me to your mailing list.
- Already on your mailing list
- Please contact me about hosting or attending a House Meeting

The Newsletter

Postal Cancellation Recognizes Gay Pride

At the request of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the U.S. Post Office issued a special stamp cancellation (featuring artwork designed by prominent artist Keith Haring) that was available at the June 25 lesbian and gay pride march in New York City. The cancellation was issued in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, when patrons of a gay bar fought back against police harassment and launched the modern lesbian and gay liberation movement.

When apprised of the cancellation, Senator Jesse Helms castigated the United States Postal Service on the Senate floor for celebrating "perversion". He attacked the lesbian and gay movement for trying to subvert "American values". He also submitted into the Congressional Record similar remarks—attacking GLAAD by name—by Rep. Robert Dornan.

Craig Davidson, executive director of GLAAD, responded, "The nastiness of Sen. Helms' remarks reveal the desperation of one who knows he is losing his battle to deny Americans the truth that lesbian and gay people are decent, loving and proud".

He added, "The post office regularly celebrates the cultural diversity of America with special stamps and stamp cancellations, and that is exactly what they have done here. While Sen. Helms wishes a 'pox' on postal officials who approved our cancellation, we thank them for their fairness—the most fundamental of American values".

Founded in 1985, GLAAD discourages stereotypes and misinformation about lesbians and gay men by sponsoring visibility projects such as the Stonewall stamp cancellation and organizing grass roots responses to public anti-gay bigotry, particularly in the media.

—clipped from Bay Area Reporter by Mandy

A Woman's Place Is... Our Own Place

IT'S HERE! IT'S REAL! IT'S A PLACE! On Monday, October 16, Our Own Place signed a lease on a lovely Watts St., Durham house. Plans are underway to make it handicapped accessible with the building of a ramp, etc., and soon we will have the place up and running.

Board Election

The first use to which the place will be put will be the membership meeting, on Wednesday, November 15, at which the first board of directors will be elected. (NOTE: This is a change from the previously announced site of this meeting. It was to have been held at the Unitarian Church in Raleigh—but now that we have our own place...)

The elected women will make the organization work for the membership and the community at large by implementing policy in a number of areas, from programs and events to budgets and books.

The candidates (in alphabetical order):

Mandy Carter
Jill Duvall
Laurel Ferejohn
Patty Michaels
Judith Powell
Kim Saffran
Judy Winston

Brief nominating statements about the candidates will be available at the election meeting.

All members are asked to attend and vote, and all other interested women are invited too. Get a preview of the Place! The evening will begin at 6:15 with a social (please bring a snack to share), and end at 8:45 with the announcement of the new board.

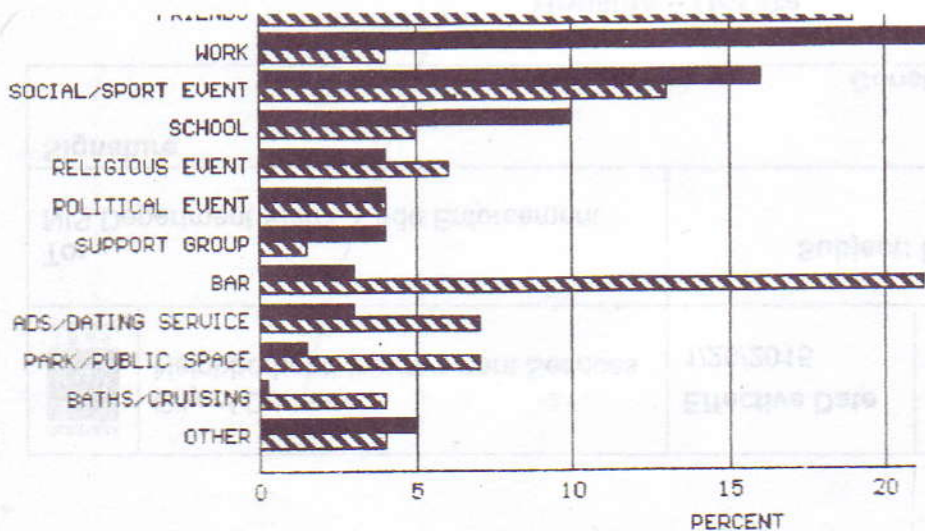
Items Needed

We need to furnish the Place, and any items that anyone cares to donate will be much appreciated. Things we can't use we'll put in a yard sale later on to help fund any necessary purchases.

Particularly needed are chairs, tables, lamps, desk, file cabinet, bookshelves, and kitchen things (glasses, cups, coffee makers, etc.).

Plan to come out on November 15 in support of a woman's place—Our Own Place. For further information, call 828-9654.

—Our Own Place



I have two concrete suggestions to offer to the community:

(1) Ask yourself what you know about oppression. What do you know about being silenced, about silencing others, about silencing yourself? Think for a while about the words of Barbara Smith (I am paraphrasing): "First, forget that I am Black. Second, never forget that I am

(2) Use The Newsletter as one possible forum for discussion of issues like participation, exclusion, racism, community. Do you feel represented by what gets printed here each month? Do you feel "visible" in this community? Is it even meaningful to talk about the collection of lesbians and feminists who live in and around your area as a "community"?

Although I am a Newsletter coordinator, I have written this letter as Sarah the individual. As an individual, I welcome replies, comments, and questions.

Sarah Carroll

OUR OWN PLACE: FIRST MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The first Our Own Place membership meeting was a very encouraging affirmation of the need, and the support, for a lesbian space. About 50 women attended, including over 30 members (membership now stands at 68 women). The women who have worked on planning, fundraising, and planning some more over the past five years were jubilant at seeing the community actually take over, and the tone of the meeting said that the rest of us are prepared to do so.

Board members elected include Mandy Carter, Jill Duvall, Laurel Ferejohn, Patty Michaels, Judith Powell, Kim Saffran, and Judy Winston.

There are five remaining seats on the Board, and they will be held open until filled by women of color. Board members, former core committee members, and the women at the first meeting support this decision and the spirit behind it; Our Own Place must be for and by all lesbians and supportive women. For information on the vacant positions and election procedures, please leave your name, number and message on the OOP phone: 828-9654. (This phone will eventually be switched to the Place.)

Among other matters discussed were Friday "happy hour" and a weekly coffee house, with a number of comments on the issue of alcohol/no alcohol. The coffee house will be alcohol-free; "happy hour" (being renamed by participants, possibly to "sister hour") will allow alcohol (bring your own). Mandy is coordinating programs and events, and both of these fall under her expert guidance; she will announce starting dates and schedules. Other activities are also being planned—give us your ideas. Volunteer to lead groups, workshops, whatever interests you.

OOP needs members, both for financial support and for energy. We estimate a need for 400 members (membership fee is \$52/year). How about it?

Please, all women of the wide community, put your thinking caps on and pitch in to make this venture work for all of us. If you're a woman of color, please consider a Board position, or get involved in other ways. If your group wants to meet in the space, give us a ring. If you have furniture to donate, a truck, a burning desire to rake leaves, books in search of a library—we'll be waiting for your call! —OOP

FEMALE PROBLEMS

I was sitting with my friend Medina (pronounced with a long E sound in the middle so that it doesn't rhyme with vagina) in this very tasteful waiting room — with cushy carpeting, and flowered wallpaper, and the kind of chairs you don't stick to — and she was telling me her medical history while I filled in blanks about mine.

"One time I saw my cervix ..." she said, and I said, "Oh, I love seeing my cervix," very earnestly, which sent her pivoting across the room to a tasteful couch, which she fell into laughing.

The other women in the room were all decorously staying in their seats. Medina returned to hers just in time for the birth control blank. I wrote in "Lesbianism." This sent her spinning back to the couch. I wrote that not only to amuse myself and Medina but also because I can't stand the scenario in which someone in white frowns down at "none" or "not applicable" then looks up, eyes set wide with solicitous yet authoritarian concern, and says, "Are you not having intercourse right now?" (Which you'd think they might be able to see for themselves.) So I prefer being straightforward from the start. Another entertaining blank, in the yes/no/explain section said simply: "Female problems." I thought about filling in Medina's name, but decided against it.

Medina told me about getting chicken pox in high school, and I showed her the chicken pox scar under my right breast. I have one on my forehead, too, but why would I show her that one. We laughed a lot, Medina and I. I think she felt it her duty to keep me laughing, and I appreciated it. The women in dresses and eyeliner and pursed lips appreciated it less, I'm sure, but they were so correct they never even glanced our way with annoyed looks. Some of them were so proper, I wondered if they actually had vaginas, then I decided that maybe they just didn't use them much. My final theory was that they were just pretending not to have them to compensate for the exaggerated attention that body part would soon be subjected to.

I was called to the back and introduced to the doctor, a small woman with warm, dark eyes and a firm handshake. She sat down and

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December, 1989

Wild Women Don't Have the Blues

"Wild Women Don't Have the Blues" shows how the economic and social transformations of African-American life early in this century gave birth to the blues. It recaptures the lives and times of Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Ida Cox, Alberta Hunter, Ethel Waters and the other legendary women who made the blues a vital part of American culture. The film compiles for the first time dozens of rare, classic renditions of the early blues.

What we now call the blues can be traced back to the work songs of generations of black fieldhands. Ma Rainey, "Mother of the Blues," first put this folk idiom on stage in 1902. Others, like Ida Cox and Bessie Smith, took songs like "Downhearted Blues" and "Jailhouse Blues" on the road with traveling vaudeville and minstrel shows.

The blues performers provided a comforting cultural continuity for the millions of blacks who migrated from the rural South to the industrial cities of the North at the end of World War I. Mamie Smith broke new ground in the 1920s when she shouted out "Crazy Blues" — the first blues recording by a black woman and one that opened up the recording industry to black artists. Bessie Smith brought black music to a national audience in the groundbreaking early talkie "St. Louis Blues."

Survivors of the blues era, however, remind us that celebrity status offered little protection against segregation and economic exploitation. Few of these women received much financial reward from their popularity.

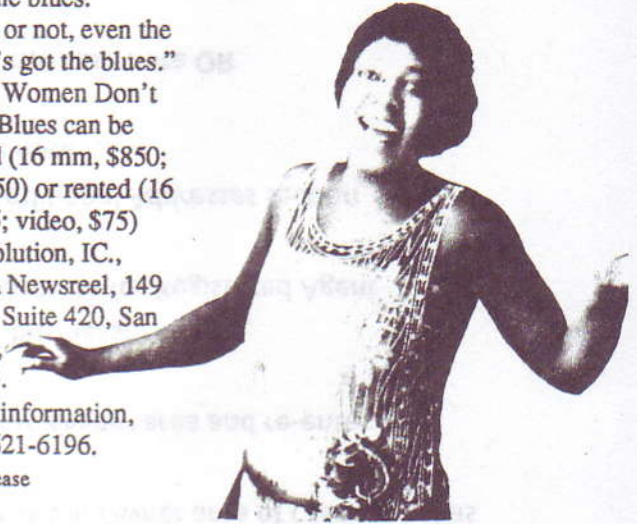
With the coming of the Depression, American musical taste shifted toward the upbeat sound of swing, and the blues died out. Yet as contemporary Chicago blues artist Koko Taylor reminds us, the blues and their legacy continue today. "You get up in the morning and go to work and your boss tell you you been laid off.

You got the blues. Believe it or not, even the President's got the blues."

Wild Women Don't Have the Blues can be purchased (16 mm, \$850; video, \$250) or rented (16 mm, \$125; video, \$75) from Resolution, IC., California Newsreel, 149 Ninth St., Suite 420, San Francisco, CA 94103.

For more information, call 415/621-6196.

— press release



Our Own Place Update

Our Jan. 20 meeting generated some good discussion. A major topic was racism in the context of Our Own Place. Other issues discussed were alcohol, tobacco, men, use of space, leadership, visibility, and connections to other institutions. Thanks to all who attended.

Upcoming events:

- Fri. Feb. 2 & 16: Women's happy hour, 6p.m.-9. (Call Donna, 929-6114, or Mandy, 682-6374)
- Fri. Feb. 9 & 23: Women's coffee house (chem-free) (Call Laurel, 682-3616)
- Sat. Feb. 3: OOP monthly potluck/discussion (like TALF), Topic: Our Own Place progress, 7 p.m. (Call Lissa, 967-7616 or Laurel 682-3616)
- Sat. March 3: OOP monthly potluck/discussion. Topic: The Newsletter. 7 p.m. (Call Laurel, 682-3616)
- Sat. March 10: OOP Grand Opening Gala! 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. Look for schedule of performers, other details on our flyer in The Newsletter February midmonth calendar.

Other stuff:

We have a pool table now!

Our phone is now in the place: 688-0223. If you want information about OOP or any OOP event, please leave a message and we'll call you back.

The Newsletter has moved in, and we look forward to

working alongside the coordinators and friends.

If you were used to having a meal during Fri. night gatherings at Eddies, come to OOP and bring dinner from Zelda's Gourmet takeout on Guess Rd. behind Burger King, and/or dessert from Francesca's Gelato Caffè on Perry St. near 9th—both lesbian-owned businesses with great food!

We still need items to furnish the place: rugs, end tables, another couch/stuffed chairs, dishes, file cabinet, computer, art for walls that includes images of diverse women. [Please don't drop things off on the porch; call Laurel to arrange a time: 682-3616.] We're planning a yard sale for anything we don't need; we hope this will enable us to buy things that are not donated. So if you have something you think we might not be able to use—consider giving it anyway!

Members are one of our biggest needs, so please take a minute to think about joining. Mail this form with your check to OOP, or join on a Friday night, at a potluck, or at the grand opening. \$52 a year—a dollar a week! —OOP

YES! I want to join OUR OWN PLACE, INC.

- Enclosed is my \$52 Membership Fee (Membership begins upon opening)
- Enclosed is my \$_____ Donation
- I would like to help with the following committees:
 - House Meetings
 - Ongoing Fundraising
 - Building Search
 - Accounts & Finances
 - Fundraisers
 - Public Relations
 - Advertising
 - Events & Programming
 - Membership Coordination

Name _____ Phone: Day _____ Evenings _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

- Please add me to your mailing list. Already on your mailing list
- Please contact me about hosting or attending a House Meeting

Detach and mail to:
OUR OWN PLACE, INC.
P.O. Box 11732
Durham, NC 27703

A Very Grand OOPening!

The Triangle area lesbian communities were midwives recently to a wonderful birth. Into our open arms we received the results of five years of labor (!) by many women — Our Own Place was born! And what a birth day party she had! On March 10, hundreds of women gathered to celebrate this happy event with song, dance, story, libation, and community. Here are a few of the highlights as I experienced them.

The festivities started for me when I arrived early to help set up. After a bout with the popcorn maker, two Raleigh women and I collaborated on festooning the front of this beautiful Watts Street home with crepe paper. When we were finished (having gotten to know each other a little bit), we remarked that the pink, blue, and white streamers made it look as if someone had just had a baby. I'm now realizing how appropriate our spontaneous decorations were.

Louise Kessel began the afternoon entertainment with several wonderful stories of women and frogs and toads (ever notice how when she tells stories, the distinctions between humans and other animals seem non-existent?). As usual, her entertaining and moving storytelling kept the audience enthralled, even those who arrived during the stories.

After a break, which gave the celebrators a chance to mingle and get comfortable, Loli Oates came on to treat us to some very strong singing and guitar playing à la Ferron/Rickie Lee, etc. I'd never heard Loli before, and I (and most of the crowd) was quite impressed by the skill and emotion in her performance, not to mention the diversity of her repertoire. Keep a lookout for this woman, or invite her to play at your next party. When she makes it big like Melissa and the Indigo Girls, you can say you knew her way back when!

After Loli finished her set, I needed a break from sitting, and luckily, there were many other diversions to choose from. In the kitchen, a vast assortment of nourishing (and not-so-nourishing, but yummy) snacks was laid out, provided by the Our Own Place Grand Opening Committee. Thanks to their hard work and willingness to be "out there," various businesses in town also contributed food and supplies (including famous dyke hangouts Kroger and Harris Teeter!!).

In another room was the pool table, donated by a very generous supporter. I hadn't played pool since 5th grade, and so intended to only be an observer of the game currently being played. But these women were having so much fun (and, it turned out, weren't the pool sharks I assumed they were) that I couldn't resist joining in on the next round.

During the course of the evening I played about five games with women whose talents and lifestyles were quite diverse. One thing we had in common, though, was a desire to have fun, and that we did.

I have to admit that by the time Roxanne Seagraves began telling her erotic stories, I was having such a good time with old and new friends that I really didn't hear much of her tales. They seemed pretty hot, though, judging from the audience's rapt attention. Interspersed into the evening's entertainment lineup were announcements of T-shirt and cap sales and raffle winners. Some very nice prizes were donated by area business, and I'm just sorry I didn't buy 10 tickets like Becky did. She won 2 prizes, which goes to show that when you support Lesbian endeavors, you get results! Other entertainers (which I also experienced only peripherally) were Triangle musicians Tracy Drach and the band Trillium, and Asheville's Ellen Hines.

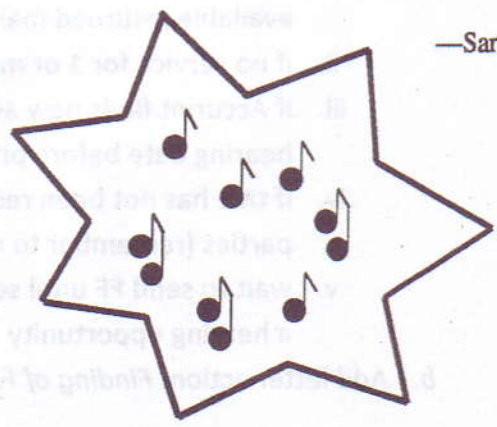
By this time in the evening, I'd wandered outside (thanks to the goddess for perfect weather and the planning committee for selecting a night of a full moon) and was struck by the number of women who had come to celebrate together. The front porch, with its homey swing and large pillars just right for sitting, was brimming full of women. The newly-built ramp (thanks to all the women who insist on accessibility) served as an extension of the porch, sort of like a dock to dangle your legs off and have a carefree conversation.

As a friend and I observed the house from the street, I realized that it looked like a big (forgive me) fraternity party, but, of course, without the negative connotations. I work on Duke campus, and often find myself envious of the social scene which includes regular parties that you can just drop into (provided you fit in and follow the rules, which most of us don't). What Our Own Place became that night was an open party to every lesbian in the area. To be sure, we've still got our cliques and prejudices that may keep many lesbians from considering OOP a welcoming, safe space for them.

We as communities need to work (and we have been laying the foundation) to break barriers between us so that Our Own Place can truly become everyone's place.

Congratulations to the Board, the Grand Opening Committee, and all of us who helped get OOP off to a healthy start. Let's continue to support her so she and we can grow and prosper.

—Sarah Lauren Palmer



Our Own Place to Co-sponsor Pride '90 Post-Pride Party



Saturday, June 30, Chapel Hill: Join Our Own Place and NC Senate Vote 90 PAC at the annual Post-Pride Party immediately following the Pride March and Rally. The Party will take place at the Community Church, 106 Purefoy Rd., from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., and will include food, beverages, and television viewing of the March coverage!

Current developments at OOP: The Lesbians of Color **potluck/social** has happened twice now. The women who participated have decided to hold potlucks once a month, on the third Saturday of each month, 7 p.m. at OOP (1411 Watts St., Durham). All lesbians of color welcome. (Info: Mandy Carter, 682-6374.)

Friday night drop-in hours continue. April 27 was terrific, with **Loli Oates** singing to an enthusiastic audience at the coffee house. We hope to entice Loli back for another Friday night—watch the calendars and don't miss her—you'll be happy you went!

OOP needs women to open & close for the second Friday of each month (unlock, be there from 6 p.m. to about 10 p.m., lock up). This is a "coffee house," or chem-free night. Might include showing a video, hosting a performance, or other activity. To volunteer, call OOP, 688-0223. The first & third Fridays of each month are "happy hour" (alcohol OK; bring your own); the second & fourth Fridays are "coffee house" (no alcohol). Thank you to Pat & Andi for volunteering to open & close on fourth Fridays, and to Donna and Mandy, who have been handling the first & third.

We would like to begin offering simple suppers on Friday nights—maybe spaghetti, salad, iced tea—because most women are hungry during the hours that we are open! Watch the Newsletter calendars for details. If you would like to help with this, please call OOP.

On Thursday, June 7, **Paula Craige** will offer a polarity workshop at OOP. See details in this issue's flyer and calendar.

The OOP board would like to implement a **work exchange program** for women who would like to support the space with a non-money-based membership. OOP needs your energy! Proposals for a work-exchange plan will be discussed at the next membership meeting, to which all women are invited, non-members and members alike (in July). At the same meeting, discussions will likely take place on a proposal for **installment payments** of membership fees, the issue of **men** in the space, and the issue of **children** in the space. Watch the *Newsletter* calendar for announcement of the meeting.

On April 22, a meeting was scheduled at OOP to try to make a decision about men in the space. It was the third such meeting. Only nine women attended, and because of the small number, they did not make a decision. Remember, all women are welcome at all membership meetings, regardless of whether

they are members. If you have opinions one way or the other about this issue, please try to attend the next meeting to give other women the benefit of your views (again, watch calendar for date).

OOP needs more board members! All new board members will be women of color. Board membership involves meeting about once a month and discussing current/future conditions/programs/plans, and working to implement decisions. (One of the things OOP desperately needs in a board member is interest in coordinating volunteers.) If you are interested in being a part of the board, please call OOP (688-0223) or Laurel (682-3616). If you know someone who might be interested, please tell her about this notice.

You might notice in the calendar that I am trying to recruit women who want to get together and talk about **racism**—in our lives, ourselves, our community, the world—to try to deal with this painful and destructive aspect of our being. Anyone who's interested, call Laurel (682-3616) to talk about dates/format possibilities for meetings.

Correction: In thanking the merchants who donated raffle prizes for the OOP grand opening in March, we left **Vaguely Reminiscent** off the list. Vaguely, as it is affectionately known by the many women who frequent it, is a natural fiber women's clothing shop on Ninth St. in Durham. The proprietors have been very supportive of community events. OOP extends a sincere thank-you to Vaguely for donating a beautiful shirt, won by a lucky woman at the grand opening gala.

We would like to **thank all of the women** who attended our recent fundraisers—the movie night in March, the yard sale in April, and the dance in May—and all of the women who worked to bring them off: **movie night:** Ronna, Judy, Carmen, Elizabeth, Lissa, Kelly, Patti, Judith, Hanne, Kim, Amanda, Deb, Sherri. **Yard sale:** Kim, Karen, Kelly, Becky, Lissa, Amy, Elizabeth, Andi, Pat, Judith, Hanne, Carmen, Judy. **Dance:** Annie, Patti, Judith, Hanne, Paula, Reed, Dana, JuliAnna, Beth, Juanita, Donna, Phyllis, Kelly, Pam, Nancy, Heather, Judy, Carmen, Sherri, Mandy, Lucy, Babs, Deb, Lissa, Pat, Sue, Kim. Sorry if I've overlooked anyone!

Fundraisers are a necessity for OOP to pay the rent & utilities. Women who attend them are doing something nice for everyone, and we hope having a good time, too! Please let us know your ideas for the kinds of fundraising activities you would like to attend and/or work on. We also want to hear from anyone who has an idea for a workshop or other good use of OOP space—including anyone who would like to facilitate something! (688-0223, or write to OOP, P.O. Box 11732, Durham 27703). THANKS!

—Laurel Ferejohn

respected the director, and found the play personally meaningful. "Because of both the content of the play and my process for approaching it, I experienced a sort of turning point. It was the first time I knew I was acting *right*— it was working." The play was well received, and Kitty achieved her first bit of notoriety. "I felt like a cult favorite for three years or so," she said with a look of mock modesty. She would go into the bank or a record store and find that someone was staring at her. Then he or she would say, "Hey, weren't you in that play?" — thus alleviating her initial bewilderment at being ogled by a stranger.

During the mid to late seventies and the early eighties, Kitty acted with Pocket Theatre, a small company based in downtown Durham. The female characters were sometimes straight, sometimes lesbian, but in any case the women's roles were good ones. One show, "Desperados," was particularly successful. They put it on twice, taking it the second time to New York. (Here Kitty waved her hand to chase away any over-inflated ideas I might be formulating. "It was an off-, off-, off-, off-Broadway production, out in Noho.") Despite some success, the company hardly thrived. It had no financial backing and often performed for free in correctional institutions — "Tough audiences," said Kitty. Notwithstanding its drawbacks, Pocket Theatre served an important function for Kitty. Her connection with the group coincided with a period of great turmoil in her personal life, and rehearsal and performance times seemed to provide the only respite. "In 'Desperados,'" she told me, "I was playing out one aspect of the life situation I was in — only, interestingly, my role onstage corresponded with my lover's role in life." (She grimaced as she said this to let me know that the strange reversal truly was the hell I might imagine it to be.)

Before "This Brooding Sky," Kitty hadn't worked on a lesbian show in a while, aside from a play by Leslea Newman that was performed in Chapel Hill about two years ago. Most recently, Kitty acted with the Arts Center in Carrboro and the Actors' Co-op. "I got to play a man, and he was sort of a buffoon," she said — then added, "Redundant?" in a playful aside. The gender-crossing was novel for her, and she had a lot of fun with the role.

Kitty had been wanting to direct again but was waiting for the right play and the right time. When the Lesbian Thespians came into existence last fall, those two criteria were fulfilled. Kitty loved the script of "This Brooding Sky," and some job-related problems she'd been struggling with had been worked through to her satisfaction, giving her time and energy for an outside project that would require a lot of both. But before she agreed to direct the show, she made sure her services were wanted. "I asked, 'Do you want a director or a consensus?' My style isn't autocratic, but I wanted to know that the director's decisions would be final." There was unanimous consensus that the women wanted a director.

As it turned out, some of the performers might have wished Kitty to have a heavier hand. Those who hadn't acted much before — and some who had — expected to be told

—continued on page 10—

OOP Welcomes The Newsletter Back

Greetings women! Isn't it nice to have *The Newsletter* back? Because this issue is so full of other good things, there's not enough space for us to say everything we'd like, so we won't be able to name all of the women who've volunteered at our events since June.

Consider this a general heartfelt thank-you to everyone who worked on or attended the Post-Pride Party (thanks also to NC Senate Vote '90, our co-sponsors), the "Daughter of Grand Opening" (wasn't it fun? We can't wait for "Sister of"), the OOP raffle (congratulations to the winner, who will enjoy a weekend at Lightkeeper's Inn on Ocracoke), the painting parties (the place looks *great!*), the Lesbians of color potluck & party (these will resume soon!), all of the Friday nights at the space as well as various classes, meetings, workshops, etc. Hope we haven't forgotten anything.

The most recent membership meeting (July 13) was well attended and accomplished everything on the agenda. We now have a work exchange plan and a flexible payment plan as alternative membership exchanges. Also, OOP would welcome donations for a "scholarship fund" for memberships. So if you've wanted to support the space, but coming up with \$52 is about as easy as getting Jesse Helms to put on pantyhose, there are alternatives. As always, women are welcome at OOP and at all OOP events regardless of membership.

The burning issue of men/no men was decided— by consensus, even though it took us four meetings in all! The decision was to keep OOP a woman-only space, with the exception of boy children. The children decision is that girls and boys 12 and under may attend whenever the activity is announced as "children welcome." All adult-only activities will also be announced as such. A related decision was that childcare would become a priority, so if you are interested in participating in childcare for events, please call OOP (688-0223).

Another new development is that Lucy Harris is beginning as full-time OOP executive director. Lucy will spearhead fundraising and programming, with support from the board of directors. Mandy Carter, who was also considering this, has decided that her other commitments, including NC Senate Vote '90 and the Lesbian Agenda Conference, prohibit full-time involvement with OOP. Lucy begins Oct. 1, so give her a call at OOP to welcome her and discuss your ideas for workshops, classes, community events, etc.

Continuing needs at OOP: (it looks like we've found a TV!) We need more books for our budding library, bookshelves, a popcorn maker, a sound system for performers (no harm asking!), folding chairs, music tapes, and a chimney sweep. Please call OOP!

We have several events planned for the fall and winter, including the Dec. 6 Ferron concert! And we are finalizing plans for others. Check *The Newsletter* calendar & spread the word among women you know who don't get *The Newsletter*. Again—welcome back, *Newsletter!*

—Laurel for OOP

OF COORDINATORS NEW AND OLD

The Newsletter is very happy to introduce the new coordinators who have signed on after our call for help. Two of these very generous women were founding mothers of The Newsletter in 1981: Joanne Abel and Sherri Zann Rosenthal. After several years doing other work, Joanne and Sherri heard our pleas and decided to dust off their old Newsletter hats and re-join.

The new-new coordinators are: Sarah Palmer, who has been a Newsletter friend for a long time; Terri Melman, who has taken over the computer work of subscriptions and mailing labels from the departed Sarah Carroll; Juanita Horton, who has lately been coordinating collating (whew!); Sandi White, who will take over the books from the departing Jo; and Susan Perry, who vows to take minutes and generally enhance our organizedness. Farewell, Women!

All of the current coordinators wish the departing women the best. Sarah Carroll, with The Newsletter since 1985, has gone on to grad school in Berkeley; Lisa Krehbiel, whose humor made our meetings more fun, has gone to concentrate more time on her career in massage; Jo, who has worked so hard for four years keeping the books and picking up and sorting the mail, will be concentrating on her psychotherapy practice; and Nancy Blood, stalwart founder and inspiration for all ten of The Newsletter's years, is taking a much-deserved retirement from active duty. Our thanks to all of the departing coordinators for their hard work and dedication.

Nancy, our special thanks and affection for your ten years of dedication and work on "the publication in search of a name," and for your calm, patient, and generous support of all the coordinators who have come, gone, or stayed on in the past 10 years. We and the community owe you much.

—the coordinators

NEWS FROM THE LESBIAN THESBIANS

You may be wondering what your favorite local lesbian theatre troupe is up to these days. Well, we've been valiently looking for a good script—to no avail! So it looks like no play this winter (but never fear, we will do a play during Pride Month). We do hope to bring a very wonderful womyn's improv company to the area, and perhaps sponsor some of our own improv sessions with Thesbian Cholena Erickson. We'll keep you posted. Also, anyone who has or knows of a good script (preferably by and about lesbians), please let us know. You can call me (688-0381) and I'll pass on the information to the group. And, by the way,

NEWS FROM OUR OWN PLACE

Hi from the new Executive Director of OOP—Golly, am I thrilled to be here—this is honestly the job of my dreams! Please come by to chat and hang out—my guaranteed office hours are Monday and Wednesday 9-1:30 and Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9-12 and 1:30-4. The rest of the time I'm in and out, so leave a message.

For all of you who have been looking for a cozy place to eat lunch, check out OOP on Mondays and Wednesdays 12-1:30—bring your lunch and a friend or a book (or read one of ours).

We're going to be offering a lot of new classes and workshops over the next year: stress reduction, massage workshops, women's health series, bridge lessons, undoing racism workshops, older women's series, yoga for lunch, internalized homophobia workshop, partners of mothers support group, American sign language, women's spirituality, creating rituals, guided meditation—to name a few... If you are interested in these or any other programs, PLEASE CALL 688-0223.

ALSO coming up is Ferron in concert December 6, JoAnn Loulan January 26 and 27, and we have high hopes for a real biggie like k.d. lang, Indigo Girls, or Tracy Chapman.

OOP's last membership meeting of the year will be Friday, November 30 at 6 p.m. at OOP. All women welcome—and a great time to join! Check November mid-month for agenda.

Finally, we're looking to triple our membership by December 15 (we're at 100 now). Remember, it's only \$52/year (that's just \$1 a week) or 20 hours of work exchange (call for info on work exchange or installment payments!) Our membership drive is October 15 through December 15. Anyone who joins or renews her membership during this time will receive a free OOP t-shirt AND her name will automatically be entered in a drawing for 2 front row Ferron tix. PLUS, the member who recruits the most new members will receive 2 front row Ferron tickets (member must put her name on the members' applications). The winners will be announced November 16 during Happy Hour at OOP. Stay tuned for additional membership benefits.

—Lucy Harris for OOP

thanks for all your wonderful support during our first season! I can't begin to tell you how much it meant to all of us to feel so loved.

—Sarah Lauren Palmer, for the Lesbian Thesbians

A MESSAGE FROM THIS MONTH'S EDITOR

As I write this message, voter registration has just closed. Reports tell us that 6,000 new voters were registered in Durham County, many of them Black voters. I personally registered 293 voters at Duke, most of them Democrats and unaffiliated; only about 10% Republican (and some of those I know will vote for Gantt). Polls for the first week in October show a dead heat; who knows what it looks like as you read this. What I do know is that, regardless of the outcome, I will be so glad when November 6 is over. One more note: voters should be aware that a dangerous person is running for the State House—Victoria Peterson. This woman is a leader of the anti-choice movement in the area, and she and other activists were arrested in the summer of 1989 for trespassing (several times) on the grounds of Medical Care Center at Durham, a women's clinic which performs abortions. She and her troupes harassed both the staff of the clinic and patients coming for abortions. If you think this kind of activity doesn't happen around here, think again. And if Victoria Peterson is elected to the State House, you can bet she will have something to say about the State Abortion Fund, which has already been severely reduced. Please make sure everyone you know is aware of her agenda, and vote for someone who will look out for women, rather than attacking them! (I would recommend following the endorsements of The People's Alliance).

—Sarah Lauren Palmer

Don't forget: votevotevotevotevote!

Here's a little song from K. C. Frogge that seems relevant at this time.

TO THE TUNE OF "MRS. ROBINSON"
BY SIMON AND GARFUNKEL:

No cheers for you, Jesse Helms, you scum;
Phillip Morris loves you with their dough,
we all know.

Our art is sleaze that you confiscate;
You sterilize our lives through NEA
so they won't pay
unless we pray.

How many storage lockers do you have to keep our files? How
many PACs to help yourself?
When you look, you only see with homophobic eyes.
No one counts if there's no wife and kids at home.

It's clear to you, Mr. Helms, you've won,
but never underestimate our show
you don't know.

You've pissed us off, Jesse Helms, you bum;
while B-1s steal our social funds away.
That's no way
to spend our pay.

Georgie was your go-fer on that wasted afternoon
stumping for the candidate of hate.
Laugh about us, think you'll clout us,
But we've got some news:
Harvey Gantt will fill your Senate shoes!

So while you wretch on fellatio
our stomachs churn as Ollie lies to you.
Get a clue!

Fat cats today, all your pals and chums
holding all our millions locked away.
Election day,
We'll make YOU pay!

— by K.C. Frogge

BLAST at OOP

BLAST—Bisexual, Lesbian, and Straight women Together is a discussion group which meets monthly at Our Own Place. We hope to explore the issues which potentially divide—and untie us, such as: How much do lesbians and straight women have in common? What is different and similar about being involved with a man or a woman? If straight communities provide the social "glue" which keeps heterosexual couples together, should the lesbian community do the same for our long-term relationships? Are issues of nonmonogamy different for bisexual women? Can you be a lesbian and occasionally (want to) sleep with a man? What do we think about men anyway? Are straight women the real "manhaters"? Is it easier for lesbians to like men

without sex in the way? Are we all really bisexual? Does that mean we can choose our preference or are we born with it? Why do so many lesbians distrust bisexuals? Are bisexuals homophobic? Or are lesbians hetero-phobic? What about the heterosexual pasts of many lesbians—and their children? Are men just sperm donors? The questions are endless.

On November 11 we will start by discussing "where do bisexuals and straight women fit into the 'women's community'?" and see where we go from there. All women are welcome: straight, lesbian, bisexual, or just plain confused. Call 688-0223 for more information.

—Anna

Winter Solstice

continued from page 1.

The "dark qualities" attributed to women have been much maligned and feared by men, also minimized and belittled as weaknesses or drawbacks. [Draw back, damned feminine! Be little (in power)].

It is time to claim our power. We affirm our womanhood when we recognize these Dark Qualities as jewels of wisdom to which we have easier access. I'm not saying that our bodies predestine us to be limited to certain careers or abilities. Rather, that men and women are different in some basic inner ways which gives each sex an edge towards different behaviors. Men have a knack for aggression, and shortsighted selfishness. Women tend to have a better ability to listen (sometimes!) and to connect to the needs of Mother Earth. These are the seeds of Womanhood that I wish to honor and nurture.

Winter Solstice has been traditionally celebrated in many cultures as a solar holiday, focusing on the return of the sun. It is indeed a solar event. But my favorite focus for this Holy Day is the culmination of Darkness (symbolizing the feminine) on this longest night. Whether you prefer a private candlelit meditation or an all night party, I think it is healing to celebrate Winter Solstice as a reaffirmation of our fine feminine selves.

—Susan Baylies

The illustration is an excerpt from my Wheel of the Year calendar which is available from Snake & Snake Productions, Rt 3 Box 165, Durham NC 27713. \$7.00.

Virginia Gibbons, Attorney

P.O. Box 985, Pittsboro, NC 27312

542-3661

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Simple will | \$75.00 |
| Power of Attorney | \$25.00 |
| Living Will* | \$20.00 |

Conferences may be arranged in Chapel Hill or Durham

*Declaration of Desire for a Natural Death



Note from a Depressed Voter

It's November 7 as I write this. Many in our communities are mourning the defeat of Harvey Gantt and thinking about what it means.

Part of it is that Helms remains. North Carolina had a golden opportunity to eliminate from public "service" one of the biggest bastions of bigotry in the country. This was made ever clearer in the final days of the campaign, when Helms pulled out his racist trump card, airing his openly racist "quotas" commercial. It's the same thing Bush did in 1988 with his Willie Horton commercial. They know they can depend on the racism of the American people. I was naive enough to have real confidence that we would reject this stuff this time. What is to be made of the situation?

One of the questions I need to answer for myself out of all this is why does it take such a high-stakes event for me to really feel the sickness so obviously at the core of my own society? Racism doesn't just suddenly spring up when Jesse Helms is campaigning for re-election. Racism, sexism, homophobia, and all oppressions are all there all the time, defining the power of those who have it—along with everything they build—and the oppressions of those who don't.

Another part of what happened is that we had the opportunity to elect a candidate who has a positive, constructive, inclusive vision, and the courage to stand up for it. Harvey Gantt isn't just a warm body to stick on the ticket because no one else had the guts it would take to oppose Senator Sleaze. Gantt is probably the finest candidate voters have ever been privileged to hear in this state on any ticket. So it is another blow to realize that the majority of registered voters rejected him.

I'm planning to move out of NC in mid-1991—not because of this election; I think there is a good, active struggle here; but it did cross my mind last night that I might be more comfortable elsewhere. How much different can it get, though? when I move to California, I'll still be part of a racist society, a sexist society, a homophobic society. The best I can try for is my own part in change, starting with myself.

In this spirit, I want to try again to get a discussion group going at Our Own Place. Do you think you could learn something from talking with other lesbians about racism and change? Let's not just talk about those Helmsists; let's take some responsibility for our own education, our own contributions to keeping things the same—or to creating change. Why not start in the lesbian communities? The best we can do is our own part.

I have set the date of Monday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. at OOP; if you have questions, please call me: 682-3616.

—Laurel Ferejohn



Dykes To Watch Out For:

The Slideshow



COME HEAR ALISON BECHDEL TALK ABOUT HER CHILDHOOD DRAWINGS, HER FRUSTRATED ADOLESCENCE, & HER ACTION-PACKED CAREER AS A LESBIAN CARTOONIST!

- * SATURDAY 9 MARCH
 - * COMMUNITY CHURCH -- Purefoy Rd in Chapel Hill
 - * 8:00 PM -- doors open at 7:30
 - * TICKETS : \$6.00 advance, \$8.00 at the door
- OUR OWN PLACE -- 688.0223 --

FEBRUARY at Our Own Place

1411 Watts Street Durham, NC 27701 * 688-0223 * Wheelchair accessible * Smoking on back patio

SPECIAL EVENTS

RAFFLE!!



WIN a Weekend for two at Bear's Cabin in Pisgah National Forest (outside Asheville).
 WIN 2 tix to 2 Nice Girls (March 1).
 WIN 2 tix to Alison Bechdel (March 9).
 WIN 1-year membership to OOP.
 Cost: \$1.00
 Tickets on sale at OOP and at all events.

DRAWING Saturday, Feb. 22 at Membership Meeting

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

please preregister for all classes and workshops by phone or mail.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

6-week class for women wanting to learn the basics in ASL. (We hope to have an Intermediate/Advanced class soon--please call if interested).

- * Saturdays, Feb. 9 through March 16
- * 10am-12 noon
- * cost: \$20/OOP members
\$30/non-members

* Instructor: Meghan Goodhand, graduate of Gallaudette University and ASL instructor at Durham Tech for 3 years.

WOMEN CREATING SACRED SPACE

A 6-week series of classes for women exploring the concept of sacred space and the ritual as a tool for self-empowerment and transformation.

- * Mondays, Feb. 11 through March 18
- * 7-8:30 pm
- * cost: \$50-60 sliding. *Financial assistance available.*

* Facilitated by Terri Spence, a singer, healer, and witch, who teaches ritual and has organized small and large community rituals.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

You are invited to join a 4-week series of meetings at OOP. Please bring a book or idea for group discussion.

- * Tuesdays, Feb. 12 through March 26
- * 7:30-9 pm
- * cost: \$10/OOP members
\$15/non-members

* Discussion leader: Gillian C. Grannum, who is interested in feminism, lesbianism, spirituality, and metaphysics.

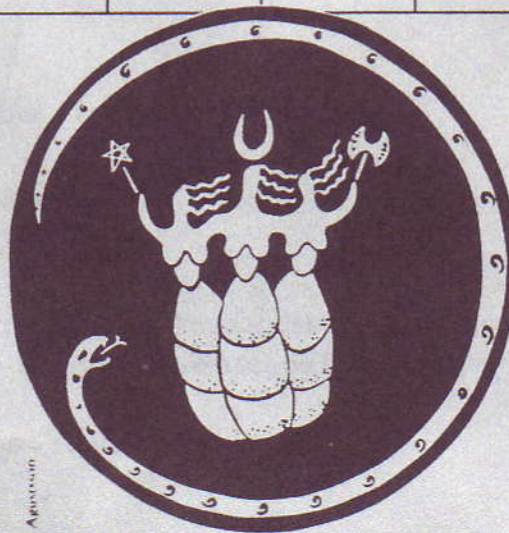
FRIDAY NIGHTS

6-10 pm. Coffee House nights are no-alcohol. Happy Hours are BYO. Children are welcome 1st and 2nd Fridays (boys 12 and under); 3rd and 4th are for adult women only. Coffee, tea, and Sohos are available. Donation: \$1/OOP members; \$2/non-members. Pass the hat for performers.
 1st ADA performs at 8 pm
 8th Pizza and Games Return. Bring your favorite topping and cheese, AND games.
 15th Video night--bring your faves!

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6:30 pm
 Please join OOP and come to the meeting to help make this YOUR OWN PLACE. For packet of info and agenda to prepare for meeting, call Lucy at 688-0223.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 HAPPY HOUR ADA performs 8 pm | 2 |
| 3 Guided Meditation 5-6 pm Lesbian Support Group 7 pm | 4 Lesbian Lunch 12-1:30 | 5 | 6 Lesbian Lunch 12-1:30 Massage to Share 7:30-9:30 pm | 7 OOP Special Events Committee 7 pm Lesbian AA 8 pm | 8 COFFEE HOUSE 6-10 pm Pizza and Game Night | 9 ASL first class 10 am-12 pm Newsletter Valentine's Dance |
| 10 Guided Meditation 5-6 pm Newsletter Collating 6 pm | 11 Lesbian Lunch Women Creating Sacred Space 7-8:30 pm OOP Board Mtg 8 pm | 12 Book Discussion Group first mtg. 7:30 pm | 13 Lesbian Lunch 12-1:30 | 14 Lesbian AA 8 pm | 15 HAPPY HOUR 6-10 pm Video Night--bring your favorite! | 16 ASL 10am-12 pm Pastabilities 5 pm |
| 17 Guided Meditation 5-6 pm BLAST 5-7 pm Lesbian Support Group 7 pm | 18 Lesbian Lunch 12-1:30 Women Creating Sacred Space 7-8:30 pm | 19 | 20 Lesbian Lunch 12-1:30 | 21 Lesbian AA 8 pm | 22 OOP MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6:30 pm | 23 ASL 10 am-12 pm |
| 24 Guided Meditation 5-6 pm Newsletter Collating 6 pm | 25 Lesbian Lunch Women Creating Sacred Space 7-8:30 pm OOP Board Mtg 8 pm | 26 Book Discussion Group 7:30 pm | 27 Lesbian Lunch 12-1:30 Career Counseling Workshop 6:30-8:30 pm | 28 Lesbian AA 8 pm | | |



TRIPLE GODDESS

MASSAGE TO SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND LOVERS

Bring a sleeping bag, blanket and pillow.
 * Wednesday, Feb. 6
 * 7:30-9:30 pm
 * cost: \$5/OOP members
\$7/non-members
 * Instructor: Barbara Culbertson of Sandalwood Massage, 596-4862.

CAREER COUNSELING WORKSHOP

Learn about the career development process; gain insight about how to begin working on your career development plan.
 * Wednesday, Feb. 27
 * 6:30-8:30 pm
 * cost: \$2/OOP members
\$4/non-members
 * Led by June Merlino, M. Ed.

GROUPS

GUIDED MEDITATION

PASTRIES

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PASTABILITIES

Join the Lesbian Gourmet for an evening of Pastabilities--learn how to make 4 flavored pastas and 4 quick alternatives to traditional spaghetti sauce. Served with garlic bread and antipasto.

- * Saturday, Feb. 16
- * 5-8 pm
- * cost: \$15/OOP members
\$20/non-members
- * PLEASE PRE-REGISTER--LIMITED TO 15 PEOPLE

* Bring an apron and an appetite
* Instructor: Louise Owen, who has a reputation for DELICIOUS FOOD wherever she goes. In addition to being an accomplished cook, Louise also creates a weekly culinary cartoon strip (sorry, not yet in NC). Louise believes that a good frolic in the kitchen with friends is pure joy, a celebration of sensual delights.



GROUPS

GUIDED MEDITATION

A weekly group using Margot Adair's

Working Inside Out.

- * Sundays, 5 pm
- * donation to OOP
- * facilitator: Elizabeth Freeman

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

A therapist-facilitated group for women dealing with coming out issues and women looking for connection with the community.

- * Sundays, Feb. 3 and 17
- * 7-9 pm
- * please pre-register

BLAST

Bisexual, Lesbian, and Straight Women Together--discussion group

- * Sunday, February 17
- * 5-7 pm

OUR OWN PLACE: November 1989 to November 1991

Two years ago Our Own Place held its first membership meeting, elected a board of eight directors, and opened its doors in the community as the Triangle Area Lesbian Center. As the three remaining, outgoing board members, we want to share a financial and membership report, along with our historical perspective of the past two years.

Financial Information

These last two years have been active ones financially for Our Own Place. Beginning 1990 with nearly \$5,800 in our cash accounts, the fact that we were averaging slightly more than \$725 monthly on rent, utilities, and telephone meant that fundraising was crucial to keep us afloat. As a result, we were pleased in April when, for the first time since opening our doors, we brought in more income than we paid out in bills. Later in the year when we began paying a staff person, both our expenses and income increased dramatically. By the end of December we had spent almost \$2900 more than we had earned for the year. Although we grossed \$3042 in memberships, \$11,159.52 in fundraisers, \$1288.08 in rental income, \$890.76 in the sale of refreshments, and \$783.17 on programs at OOP, at the same time we spent \$7950 on rent, \$996.34 on utilities, \$616.70 for telephone, \$1521.90 on printing, \$3418.62 on performers, and \$2702.61 in salary and salary-related taxes.

Because of a tremendous response in donations to our financial crisis in February/March of 1991 (see perspective concerning "shortfall"), we were able to recover to the point that our cash accounts levelled off at about \$4500 and have maintained steadily at that point for the remainder of this year. Major sources of income so far this year have been: memberships, \$3653.50; donations, \$5321.98; fundraisers, \$15,735.67; rental income, \$937.04; and programs, \$1197.47. Major expenses have been: refreshments, \$1208.03; rent, \$6500; utilities, \$859.62; telephone, \$673.47; printing, \$1219.17; postage, \$819.98; expenses for events, \$1688.37; performers, \$8013.09; rent for events, \$1145; and salary and salary-related taxes, \$5224.47. Inflation and the addition of liability and property insurance have increased our present monthly operating expenses to just over \$900. For six months so far this year we have succeeded in having an excess of revenues over expenses so that, as of the end of October, our overall yearly expenses exceed our revenues by only \$947.67.

Membership Report

Membership in Our Own Place has increased substantially since our grand opening:

Total Membership in January 1990--76
Total Membership in January 1991--104
Total Membership in November 1991--163

The number of member increased by 37% the first year and has increased by 57% since January 1991. We've had a high rate of membership renewal, 61%, as well as a large number of new "recruits". The largest numbers of new members and renewals occurred in the first part of this year.

Members live in a wide range of locales, as far south as Blythewood, South Carolina; as far east as Lumberton; and as far west as High Point. Forty-eight percent (48%) of the members live in Durham, 20% in Chapel Hill/Carrboro, 13% in Raleigh area, and 19% in other locations.

Membership fees can be paid in a variety of ways. Just over half (54%) of the members chose to pay the annual membership fee (\$52) in one payment; 9% in two \$26 installments; and 13% in four \$13 installments. Fourteen percent (14%) have paid their fees entirely through work exchange, while 10% received their membership as a gift. If you would like more information on how to join, contact our new membership coordinator, Terri Murphy, at Our Own Place, 1411 Watts St., Durham, NC 27701, telephone 688-0223.

Our Perspective

A great deal has happened since our first membership meeting in November 1989. While the board was hammering out logistical details of having the space open, the membership made its first policies: Our Own Place is a chem free/alcohol free space unless otherwise advertised for a particular event. Friday nights rotate between Happy Hour (bring your own) and Coffee House nights. It was decided that one half of the board positions would be held for women of color. Although we are not in violation of policy with a board consisting of 5 women, none of whom are women of color (because technically 9 positions remain open) we remain painfully aware that we have not been able to fulfill this policy. We encourage all of us, members and potential members alike to work actively toward realization of this policy.

In March of 1990 the wheelchair ramp was completed in time for our first major event - The Grand Opening. Other events during that spring and summer included our first annual yard sale, Daughter of Grand Opening, and co-sponsorship (with NCSV90) of The Post Pride Party. During that time over 150 volunteer

hours were spent painting the interior of the space. Also the membership established and implemented the time payment and work exchange membership policy, and reached the consensus decision which makes Our Own Place one of the six Women-Only Lesbian Centers in the nation. In further defining the space, members decided that children were welcome (including boys 12 and under) to events so advertised.

After 10 months of operation, volunteer support was not materializing to the extent needed for committee development, general operations, and continuing growth of OOP. In addition, board member energies were waning. (At this point 2 board members had resigned their positions because of other commitments, and 3 others would be leaving within the next 3 months. By the end of November '90 there would be 3 board members left.) In August the board met with Lucy H. and discussed her working at OOP, volunteering 40 hours a week from Sept. through mid-November and then continuing as a full-time paid staff person developing fund-raising for OOP, which would include raising her own salary. During the following months it was brought to the attention of the board that hiring a staff person was a policy decision which could only be made by the membership. At the membership meeting in November it was decided that a committee would develop a 6 months contract for Lucy, giving the membership time to answer questions regarding need, feasibility and role of a staff person at OOP.

During her tenure at OOP, Lucy scheduled evening classes, workshops (such as ASL, massage therapy), programs (such as Friday night performers), major fundraisers and community events (Ferron, Holiday Extravaganza's OOP Cafe, New Year's Eve Dance '90, Joann Loulan, Two Nice Girls and Allison Bechdel), all of which netted money for OOP.

In addition Lucy spent innumerable hours on the telephone and in the space networking for and publicizing OOP. As a direct result of her efforts and the large number of highly visible events she organized, many new members joined OOP at the beginning of 1991.

In mid-February it became clear that in spite of the fact that events were making money, the strain of nearly doubling our yearly budget was too taxing financially for Our Own Place to stay afloat. "Shortfall" was the point at which Lucy's contract would be terminated. "Shortfall" was defined as the point at which our resources dropped to \$2000, and in fact occurred with little warning because we received less income than projected as a result of a recessed economy.

Calls went out to the membership to lend support by donating money, recruiting new memberships and recommitting to the philosophy of a membership-run organization. The response by old and new members

alike was gratifying and allowed the doors of OOP to remain open.

With the near loss of OOP it became clearer than ever that we could not meet our yearly budget by community fundraisers alone. We had been working for over a year toward receiving a (501C3) non-profit, tax-exempt status enabling us to apply for grants, offering incentive for those wishing to make donations to OOP (including contributions through payroll deducted United Way Campaign), along with providing us tax-exempt status. In June '91 we received approval of our application. Also in that month we sponsored The Post Pride Party '91, and were the beneficiary of a generous contribution from The Annual Stonewall Spaghetti Supper.

This fall has been a period of healing and gradual growth. We weekly see new women in the community becoming involved with the space. We hear from these women that part of their reason for moving to the area was because Our Own Place is here. Our fundraising committee has successfully produced a yard sale, Halloween Dance and The OOP Cafe at The Ladyslipper Holiday Sale, as well as preparing for a storytelling event with Louise Kessel and friends at OOP in January 1992.

A new board of directors was elected by the membership in September and a retreat day for planning 1992 at Our Own Place was held in November '91. At that time we as old board members began putting closure on our roles. Excited for the future of OOP, but not in Utopia by any means, we still have a vision. We now have 163 members, 2 years of growth behind us, and a membership that has proven that they are willing to be part of not only the good times ... but of the hard times of their space.

Of course we continue to encourage all women to check out OOP, membership meetings, and events and see where they might be able to influence what OOP can be. Our Own Place is always looking for ideas for programs and events - women who want to lead a class or workshop. All support groups are welcome to use space in a closed or open area of their preference and/or needs.

Many, many thank-yous are in order: Tonya H., Donna M., Juanita H., Andi E., The OOP Angels, Nancy K., Cara B., Susan C., Laurel F. and all the women out there who have been a part of this incredible reality of Our Own Place.

For, whenever times have looked dim, it has been your hearts, minds, labor, money and hugs that have kept us going and the doors of Our Own Place open!

-- Kim S., Judy W., Patty M.

JANUARY at OUR OWN PLACE

1411 Watts St., Durham, NC 27701 ∇ 688-0223 ∇ Wheelchair Accessible ∇ Smoking on the back porch only

Lesbian Health Night

Topic: "Sensual, Slippery & Safe." Safer sex workshop for lesbians. Hot videos. Bring a cushion or a face to sit on.

Tuesday, January 21, 7 pm

Exploring Friendship Workshops

12 weeks beginning January 28: A women's therapy group to facilitate improving the quality of our friendships and thus the level of support in our lives. Guided exercises as well as group-generated issues will be included. Group will be led by Judith Powell, Ph.D., and Tricia Rickenbaker, M.A.

Tuesdays, starting January 28, 6-7:30 pm

Women Over 40

Test Meeting for new social group. Contact Joan Stiven 942-5621.

Sunday, January 12, 4pm

LABIATAE - the Lesbians of Lavandula Society

welcome all Lesbians interested in gardening and horticulture to a slide show (Amazonia Arboreta) and potluck. We will also make plans for future programs and field trips. For more information, call Joanne 682-9196.

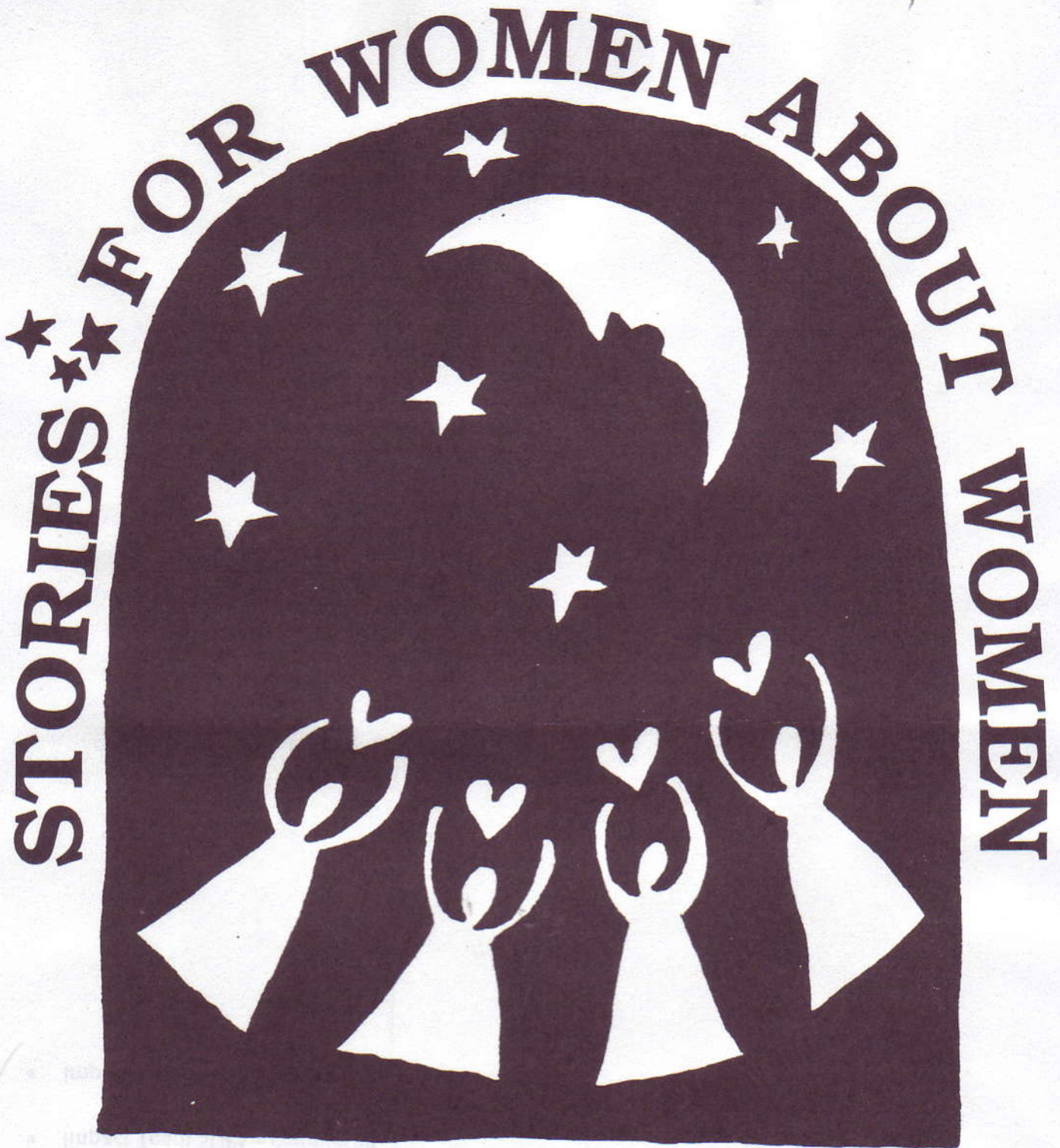
Sunday, January 19, 6:30 pm

Friday Nights

6:30 - 10 pm. Coffee House nights are no-alcohol. Happy Hours are BYO. Children are welcome the 1st and 2nd Fridays (boys 12 and under); 3rd, 4th & 5th Fridays are adult women only. Coffee, tea, and Sohos are available. Donation: \$1/OOP members; \$2/non-members. Pass the hat for performers.

PLEASE JOIN! Only \$52 per year or 20 hours work exchange (or a combo of these).

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---|-----------|--------------------------|--|----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 8 pm Lesbian AA | 3 6:30-10 pm Happy Hour | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 7:30 pm Independent Readers Forum | 8 | 9 8 pm Lesbian AA | 10 6:30-10 pm Coffee House Chem-Free | 11 |
| 12 4pm "Women Over 40" Test meet- ing of new social group | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 8 pm Lesbian AA | 17 6:30-10 pm Happy Hour | 18 |
| 19 6:30-9:00 pm Horticulture & Gardening Slide Show & Workshop | 20 | 21 7 pm Lesbian Health Night Safer Sex Workshop | 22 | 23 8 pm Lesbian AA | 24 6:30-10 pm Coffee House | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 6-7:30 pm Exploring Importance of Friendship Workshop | 29 | 30 8 pm Lesbian AA | 31 6:30- 10 pm Happy Hour | |



Louise Kessel ★ Toni Constant,
Roxanne Seagraves ★ Janet Hurley

Saturday, January 25 ★ 8:00pm ★ \$4-\$6
Our Own Place, 14411 Watts Street, Durham

To benefit Our Own Place. Call 688-0223 for more information.

MARCH at OUR OWN PLACE

1411 Watts St., Durham, NC 27701 ∇ 688-0223 ∇ Wheelchair Accessible ∇ Smoking on the back porch only

Lesbian Health Night

Call the OOP office for topic and further information.
Tuesday, March 17, 7:30 pm

Drumming Workshop

Drumming workshop for women by Beverly Botsford.
\$10-20 sliding scale. Contact Beverly at 544-4471 or Kathy at 688-0053.
Sunday, March 15, 7 pm

Women Over 40

New social group for women over 40. Second Sunday of the month until further notice. Contact Joan Stiven 942-5621. Discussion group March 29.
Sunday, March 8, 4pm

Mark your calendars for meetings!

OOP Membership Meeting, Friday, March 13, 7 pm
OOP Board Meeting, Monday, March 16, 7 pm
OOP Fundraising Committee, March 12 & 26, 6:45-7:30

PLEASE JOIN! Only \$52 per year or 20 hours work exchange (or a combo of these).

NOTICES

\$52 has been donated for an OOP membership. If you want to be an OOP member, but don't have the money or time for work exchange, call OOP. First come, first served.

NEEDED for OOP: a working VCR, a cable-ready color TV, working tape player, and Christmas lights. Please call OOP if you can donate any of these items.

Jazz Coming in April

A to-be-named exciting, jazz trio will be performing in April. With Lou Sawyer on sax, Pat Polanski on piano, & Gayle Kenny on bass, you won't wanna miss this. Donation for OOP at the door.

Friday, April 3, 8:00 pm

Friday Nights

6:30 - 10 pm. Coffee House nights are no-alcohol. Happy Hours are BYO. Children are welcome the 1st and 2nd Fridays (boys 12 and under); 3rd & 4th Fridays are adult women only. Coffee, tea, and Sohos are available. Donation: \$1/OOP members; \$2/non-members. Pass the hat for performers.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 6-7:30 pm Exploring Friendship workshop | 4 8 pm Incest Survivors | 5 8 pm Lesbian AA | 6 6:30-10 pm Happy Hour | 7 |
| 8 4 pm Women Over 40 social group | 9 | 10 6-7:30 pm Exploring Friendship workshop | 11 8 pm Incest Survivors | 12 6:45-7:30 Fundraising Committee 8 pm Lesbian AA | 13 6:30-10 pm Coffee House Chem-Free 7:30 pm Mem. Meeting | 14 |
| 15 5-6:30 pm Bisexual women's grp. 7 pm Drumming | 16 7 pm Board Meeting | 17 6-7:30 pm Friendship 7:30 pm Lesbian Health Night | 18 8 pm Incest Survivors | 19 8 pm Lesbian AA | 20 6:30-10 pm Happy Hour | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 6-7:30 pm Exploring Friendship workshop | 25 8 pm Incest Survivors | 26 6:45-7:30 Fundraising Committee 8 pm Lesbian AA | 27 6:30-10 pm Coffee House | 28 |
| 29 4-6 pm Women Over 40 Discussion Group | 30 | 31 6-7:30 pm Friendship 7:30 pm Women's Land Mtg. | April 1 8 pm Incest Survivors | 2 8 pm Lesbian AA | 3 8-10 pm Jazz Trio | 4 |

APRIL at OUR OWN PLACE

1411 Watts St., Durham, NC 27701 ∇ 688-0223 ∇ Wheelchair Accessible ∇ Smoking on the back porch only

Lesbian Health Night

Cholena Erickson will lead discussion on treatment of women's health disorders by traditional Chinese medicine. For more info, call LGHP at 286-4107.
Tuesday, April 21, 7:30 pm

Call for ... Writers!

New women's writing group is meeting every other week to share pieces of writing (fiction, non-fiction, humor, poetry, journal-keeping, etc.). Please come to share, inspire, be inspired, or soak in women's words. Published, non-published and/or any self-identified writers welcome!
Mondays, April 6 & 20, 7:30 pm

Come Spend the Night

OOP Friday night event: Video/slumber party. You bring the videos, we'll watch 'em!. Please bring munchies and gear. Alcohol allowed at this event.
Friday, April 17, 6:30 - ???

Listen to the Music!

With Lou Sawyer on sax, Pat Polanski on piano, & Gayle Kenny on bass, you won't wanna miss this exciting jazz trio. Donation for OOP at the door.
Friday, April 3, 8:00 pm

IN CONCERT: Local fav Tracy Drach and Massachusetts-based singer/songwriter Jaimé Morton join voices for a warm evening of acoustic magic. \$4-8 sliding scale. Saturday, April 25, 8:00 pm

Mark your calendars for meetings!

OOP Board Meeting, Monday, April 13, 7 pm
OOP Fundraising Committee, April 9 & 23, 6:45-7:30
Newsletter Coordinators', Tues., April 21, 7:30 pm

Friday Nights

6:30 - 10 pm. Coffee House nights are no alcohol. Happy Hours are BYO. Children are welcome the 1st and 2nd Fridays (boys 12 and under); 3rd & 4th Fridays are adult women only. Jazz on 4/3 and the slumber party will be BYOB. Coffee, tea, and Sohos are available. Donation: \$1/OOP members; \$2/non-members. Pass the hat for performers.

PLEASE JOIN! Only \$52 per year or 20 hours work exchange (or a combo of these).

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | | 1 8 pm Incest Survivors | 2 8 pm Lesbian AA | 3 8-10 pm Jazz Trio | 4 12 n-4 pm Women's Book Exchange |
| 5 | 6 7:30 - 9:30 Women Writers' Group | 7 6-7:30 pm Exploring Friendship workshop | 8 4:20 - 5:50 Group 8 pm Incest Survivors | 9 6:45-7:30 Fundraising Committee 8 pm Lesbian AA | 10 6:30-10 pm Coffee House 6:45 pm Program Committee | 11 12 n-4 pm Women's Book Exchange |
| 12 4 pm Women Over 40 Meeting | 13 7 pm Board Meeting | 14 6-7:30 pm Friendship 7:30 pm Women's Land Mtg. | 15 8 pm Incest Survivors | 16 8 pm Lesbian AA | 17 6:30 pm - ? Video Slumber Party | 18 12 n-4 pm Women's Book Exchange |
| 19 5-6:30 pm Bisexual women's support group | 20 7:30 - 9:30 Women Writers' Group | 21 7:30 pm Lesbian Health Night 7:30 pm Newsletter Coord.'s | 22 4:20 - 5:50 Group 8 pm Incest Survivors | 23 6:45-7:30 Fundraising Committee 8 pm Lesbian AA | 24 6:30-10 pm Coffee House Chem-Free | 25 12 n-4 pm WBE 8 pm Tracy Drach/ Jaimé Morton IN CONCERT |
| 26 4-6 pm Newsletter Friends Dinner 6 pm Collating | 27 | 28 | 29 8 pm Incest Survivors | 30 8 pm Lesbian AA | Coming up...May 3, Women Outdoor Adventurers -- Potluck at 6 pm, Meeting at 7. Call JoJo 682-6531. | |

Full Circle Farm

Sixteen women came together at OOP March 31 to share ideas and feelings about creating community. Many questions arose about philosophical and life-sharing issues. Several women expressed interest in visiting the farm to continue the dialogue just begun. Two dates were set for farm gatherings: Sunday April 19 for an afternoon of socializing, farm exploration, sharing a meal and maybe a little farm work; and an overnight camp out the weekend of May 30. For more information about upcoming meetings/events please call Lauren at 968-4708.

The following issues/topics were raised during the discussion:

- community development: discussing ideas/doing it
- building relationships
- craft fair and other events: fundraising and creating connections
- where do children fit in?
- non-resident community
- boy children, adult males: how do they fit in?
- create a mechanism for easy farm access-
- create an information sheet with expectations/as sumptions for farm visits
- patriarchy issues: gov't, taxes
- response of local community to lesbian farm community
- income sharing: debts
- set up ongoing process to deal with all of these issues
- set up camp on land: tourists
- intentional healing: empowerment
- bioregional connections
- spirituality
- workshops: healing/spirituality
- role of technology
- lifestyle issues
- individual/group needs

If you would like to connect with Full Circle Farm community and cannot attend the scheduled events, please write or call Lynn or Jane at FCF, Rt. 1, Box 427, Siler City, NC 27344; 919-742-5959, or Marion at 688-0051.

By Jane Kniffin 4/1/92

Former Newsletter Coordinator Joins Community Connections in Asheville



The following article is reprinted from *Community Connections*, March 1992, Asheville, NC.

Laurel Ferejohn has joined the staff of *Community Connections* as executive editor. She came to Asheville recently from Durham, where she had worked for five years on *The Newsletter*, an 11-year-old lesbian feminist monthly publication, and on a statewide medical publication.

Laurel's work on the paper will include editing, layout, and electronic production ("desktop publishing"), as well as special projects, such as the "PRIDEGuide" for this June's statewide march and rally in Asheville. She also hopes to contribute to efforts to increase circulation--subscriptions and newsstand distribution--and advertising revenues.

Having moved to Asheville in November for the natural beauty as well as the lesbian/gay community, Laurel and Deb, her partner of four years, are pleased with their choice. They are in the process of completing their computer/laser printer system and plan to seek freelance work in desktop publishing.

"I'm pleased to be working on *Community Connections*, in the context of a lesbian and gay community," says Laurel. "I believe in the printed word as a powerful community-building tool, and would like to be part of producing a paper that diverse people and organizations can use."

Editor Cynthia Janes commented, "Laurel is a goddess-send. We read about her in a fond farewell tribute written by *The Newsletter* women in Durham. Being inundated by my responsibilities with *Community Connections* and my full-time job, I tracked Laurel down even before she'd actually left Durham. Laurel is a wonderful addition to *Community Connections*. If you think the paper looks and reads better, Laurel is the reason. The Triangle's loss is our gain.

JULY at OUR OWN PLACE

1411 Watts St., Durham, NC 27701 ∇ 688-0223 ∇ Wheelchair Accessible ∇ Smoking on the back porch only

USE OF OOP SPACE NOTICE

Attention event/group/concert/workshop organizers: Starting in May, a new fee scale was in effect for the use of OOP space:

Revenues

- < \$25: \$1/person per session
- \$25 - \$50: \$2/person per session
- \$50 - \$100: \$25 + 10% of revenue balance
- > \$100: \$25 + 20% of revenue balance

In addition, all meetings require a \$1 or \$2 donation at the door.

CALL FOR ... LESBIAN WRITERS

The writers' group meeting at OOP on Mondays is always seeking members to join, share writing, share responses, and enjoy the words of womyn! Published or un-, lesbian or straight women, shy or outgoing -- this group is for anyone who calls herself a writer...because she writes!

Mondays, July 6 and 20, 7:30 pm

FRIDAY NIGHTS

6:30 - 10 pm. Coffee House nights are **no alcohol**. Happy Hours are **BYO**. Children are welcome the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Fridays (boys 12 and under); 4th & 5th Fridays are adult women only. Coffee, tea, and Sohos are available. Donation: \$1/OOP members; \$2/non-members. Pass the hat for performers.

PLEASE JOIN! Only \$52 per year or 20 hours work exchange (or a combo of these).

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---------|-----------|---|---|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 6:45-7:30 Fundraising Committee | 3 6:30-10 pm Coffee House Chem-Free | 4 12 n-4 pm Women's Book Exchange |
| 5 | 6 7:30 - 9:30 Lesbian Writers' Group | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 6:30-10 pm Happy Hour | 11 12 n-4 pm Women's Book Exchange |
| 12 4 pm Women >40 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 6:45 - 7:30 Fundraising Committee | 17 6:30-10 pm Coffee House Chem-Free | 18 12 n-4 pm Women's Book Exchange |
| 19 5-6:30 Bisexual Support Grp. | 20 7:30 - 9:30 Lesbian Writers' Group | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 6:30-10 pm Happy Hour | 25 12 n-4 pm Women's Book Exchange |
| 26 5:45 Newsletter Collating | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 6:30-10 pm Coffee House | |



is getting in gear for fall

Friday, SEPT. 11th - 7:00pm - Oop Membership Meeting
following - Post Meeting Pizza Party

Saturday, SEPT. 12th - 6:30 - Oop Pictionary / Games Night

Monday, SEPT. 14th - 7:00 - Oop Board Meeting -- All members welcome!

Friday, SEPT. 18th - 6:30 - Oop Video Night #2 members #5 non-me

Appetizer k.d. lang "Harvest of Seven Years"

7:30 Main dish "The Children's Hour" written by Lillian Hellman & first produced in 1934.

This version (1961) stars Audrey Hepburn & Shirley MacLain. "The landmark drama that shattered a screen taboo!" The first mainstream American film that addressed lesbianism.

Two women who run a girls' boarding school are accused of being lesbians.

9:30 Dessert "Fried Green Tomatoes"

Sunday, SEPT. 20th - 5-7pm - Bisexual Support Group invites all comers to a Potluck fundraiser benefit for Oop #2.

Phriday, SEPT. 25th - 6:30 - Booth preparation for Centerfest at "Audiophile Phriday" - bring your favorite cassette - categories include (but not limited to):
Women's Music Rock-n-Roll
Local Artists Dance Music
Jazz Country

Saturday, SEPT. 26th - 10-6 - ** Centerfest (downtown Durham)
* Workers needed to sit at table

Sunday, SEPT. 27th - noon-6 - ** Centerfest - workers needed!
* to sign up - call Marian at 286-7801

** Baked Goods needed -- Durham - bring Friday night or call 688-0223,
Raleigh - call Kenda 286-1570, Chapel Hill - call Alyce 942-5359

Friday, OCT. 2nd - 6:30 - Potluck & Pricing for Yard Sale

Saturday, OCT. 3rd - 8am-1pm - Yard Sale - see flyer for drop-off

Saturday, Oct. 17th - 8-1 - Optional Yard Sale - Rain date

Friday, Oct. 30th - 9pm-1am - Halloween Dance

Friday, Nov. 20th - 7pm - Oop Elections

Thursday, Nov. 26th - - Thanksgiving Dinner ??

OCTOBER 5th is last day to Register to vote in public elections.

Vote on Nov. 3rd

Calling all
Witches & Warlocks, Queens & Queers,
Lipstick Lesbians, Bull-dykes, & Bi's

EVENT SPONSORED BY
OUR OWN PLACE
A SPACE BY & FOR WOMEN
(MEN ARE WELCOME AT THIS EVENT)

It's the biggest,
It's the Ugliest...

It's
the
Best!

HALLOWEEN DANCE

FRIDAY NITE 9-12:30
OCTOBER 30th

9-10
Come early &
mingle while listening
to the Jazz of
IMPROMTWO!

OUR OWN PLACE MEMBERS PAY JUST \$5.00
Non-members \$8.00.

BYOB; SOFT DRINKS,
ICE, CUPS, & SNACKS PROVIDED

I'll be there
for the CASH
PRIZES!!

COSTUME
CONTEST
JUDGING 11pm

CARVED PUMPKIN CONTEST
JUDGING 10:30pm



DANCE WILL BE HELD AT ~~END RIVER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP~~
at 4907 Garrett Road (Just off 15-501) in Durham; for more info call OOP at 688-0223

OCTOBER AT OUR OWN PLACE

The Newsletter
OCT. 1992
Vol. 11, No 10

1411 WATTS ST. DURHAM, NC 27701 ▼ 688-0223 ▼ WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE ▼▼▼▼▼

- FRI OCT 2 POTLUCK AND YARDSALE PRICING 6:30-10:00pm
- SAT OCT 3 **YARDSALE** 8-1 COME TO HELP AND TO BUY!
WOMEN'S BOOK EXCHANGE 12-4
- SUN OCT 4 INTERESTED IN A TRIP TO THE ZOO? CALL LORETTA 220-3319
- MON OCT 5 LESBIAN WRITERS GROUP 7:30-9:30 PM
- FRI OCT 9 **HORS D'OEUVRES POTLUCK** 6:30-10 PM
BRING YOUR FAVORITE TO MUNCH AND TO SHARE!
- SAT OCT 10 **DRUM WORKSHOP** 7-9 PM SLIDING SCALE \$12-25
WITH NY PERCUSSIONIST ROBIN BURROUGHS. FOR INFO CALL VALERIE 493-3329
WOMEN'S BOOK EXCHANGE 12-4 PM
- SUN OCT 11 **KIDS DAY** CRAFTS, GAMES, SNACKS AND MORE!
12-4pm AGES 3-8yr \$5-8. CALL OOP FOR MORE INFO
- THURS OCT 15 LESBIAN PARENTS AND FRIENDS 7:15-9:30 PM
CALL OOP FOR MORE INFO
- FRI OCT 16 **JIGSAW PUZZLES AND SCHMOOZING** 6:30-10 PM
BRING YOUR PUZZLES OR DO OURS!
- SAT OCT 17 WOMEN'S BOOK EXCHANGE 12-4 PM
KARAOKE NIGHT 8-11 PM SING OR LIP SYNC TO YOUR
FAVORITE SONG OR OURS. LIVE OUT YOUR WILDEST FANTASY.
COSTUMES OPTIONAL PRIZE TO AUDIENCE FAVORITE! BYOB. \$4-8
- MON OCT 19 LESBIAN WRITERS GROUP 7:30-9:30 PM
- FRI OCT 23 LEARN ORIGAMI 6:30-10 PM SMALL FEE FOR SUPPLIES
- SAT OCT 24 **ALL HALLOW'EEN** 10 AM - 12 PM
WOMEN'S BOOK EXCHANGE 12-4 PM
- SUN OCT 25 NEWSLETTER COLLATING 5:45 PM
- TUES OCT 27 **LESBIAN HEALTH NITE** 7:30 PM COME MEET THE
WOMEN OF GLHP. CALL OOP FOR MORE INFO.
- FRI OCT 30 **HALLOWEEN DANCE** OOP FUNDRAISER 9-12:30 PM
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND - JAZZ FROM 9-10 PM
PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST, COSTUME CONTEST SEE FLYER FOR DETAILS
- SAT OCT 31 WOMEN'S BOOK EXCHANGE 12-4 PM
- MON NOV 2 LESBIAN WRITERS GROUP 7:30-9:30 PM
- FRI NOV 6 **POST-ELECTION ICE CREAM SOCIAL** 6:30-10 PM
COME CELEBRATE OR COMMISERATE! WE PROVIDE ICE CREAM,
YOU BRING THE TOPPING.
- SAT NOV 7 **SOUTH OF THE BORDER POTLUCK** 7-10 PM
BRING YOUR FAVORITE MEXICAN DISH! BYOB

ALL FRIDAY OR SATURDAY NITE EVENTS AT OOP ARE \$2 FOR MEMBERS AND \$5 FOR NON MEMBERS. 10/2, 10/17 AND 11/6 ARE BYOB. 10/23 AND 10/9 ARE CHEM FREE. ALL OTHER EVENTS ARE CHEM FREE UNLESS INDICATED. SMOKING PERMITTED ON BACK PORCH ONLY. CALL FOR MORE INFO 688-0223. HAVE AN EVENT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE AT OOP? PLEASE CALL US! CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM WELCOME AS WELL.

Thanksgiving Dinner at **OOP**

If you'd like to share food & fun
call 688-6198 to let us know

What you can bring from among:

- * Salad: Vegetarian or NonV
- * Vegetable or Starch dish: Vegetarian or w/meat
- * Cranberry Sauce
- * Bread & Spread
- * Drinks (non-alcoholic, please)
- * Dessert
- Turkey & Gravy will be Provided -

Where: OOP, 1411 Watts St.

When: Thurs., Nov. 26

Time: 10-2pm - Prep. in OOP Kitchen
2-4pm - EATS!!!
4-6pm - DROP IN

NOVEMBER AT OUR OWN PLACE

▼▼1411 WATTS ST DURHAM, NC 27701 ▼ 688-0223 ▼ WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE ▼▼▼▼

- MON NOV 2 LESBIAN WRITERS GROUP 7:30-9:30 PM
- FRI NOV 6 POST-ELECTION ICE CREAM SOCIAL 6:30-10 PM
COME CELEBRATE OR COMMISERATE! WE PROVIDE ICE CREAM,
YOU BRING YOUR FAVORITE TOPPING.
- SAT NOV 7 SOUTH OF THE BORDER POTLUCK 7-10 PM
BRING YOUR FAVORITE MEXICAN DISH! BYOB
WOMEN'S BOOK EXCHANGE 12-4 PM
- FRI NOV 13 GAMES NIGHT - DICTIONARY, SCRABBLE, AND JENGA
COME AND TRY YOUR LUCK! 6:30-10 PM
- SAT NOV 14 WOMEN'S BOOK EXCHANGE 12-4 PM
- SUN NOV 15 BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP 5-7 PM
- MON NOV 16 LESBIAN WRITERS GROUP 7:30-9:30 PM
- TUES NOV 17 NEWSLETTER MEETING 7:30 PM

FRI NOV 20 **OUR OWN PLACE ELECTIONS** 7 PM
COME OUT AND VOTE! WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND
SAY GOODBYE AND THANKS TO THE OLD! CHAMPAGNE (ALCOHOL
AND NON ALCOHOL) CELEBRATION TO FOLLOW! MUNCHIES, TOO.

SAT NOV 21 "LESBIAN WOMEN" IN SCIENCE POTLUCK 7 PM
COME MEET AREA SCIENTISTS! FIRST IN A SERIES -
LOOK FOR ARTISTS, LAWYERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.
WOMEN'S BOOK EXCHANGE 12-4 PM

SUN NOV 22 NEWSLETTER COLLATING 5:45 PM

* THURS NOV 26 **THANKSGIVING DINNER** 10-6 PM DINNER *
* AT 2 PM. CALL 688-6198 FOR INFO ABOUT PLANS *

FRI NOV 27 VIDEO NIGHT AND "CREATIVE LEFTOVERS" POTLUCK
EAT AT 6:30 PM; MOVIE AT 7:30 PM \$2-5
CALL OOP FOR MOVIE TITLE

SAT NOV 28 **HOLIDAY CRAFTS** 6:30-10 PM \$3-5
BRING A POTATOE, KNIFE AND BROWN MAILING PAPER = WRAPPING PAPER
ORNAMENTS AND OTHER CRAFTS. SUPPLIES PROVIDED
WOMEN'S BOOK EXCHANGE 12-4 PM

FRI DEC 4 **HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA PREPARATION** 6:30-10 PM
COME HELP US GET READY FOR THE "OOP CAFE"
COOKING AND LOTS OF FUN!

SAT DEC 5 **HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA**

SAT NOV 7 **PLANNING MEETING** 6 PM COME HELP US
PLAN EVENTS FOR DECEMBER BEFORE THE POTLUCK! BYOB

SPECIAL EVENTS: FALL RIVER HIKE - SUNDAY
MORNINGS - NOV 8 + 22 AND DEC 6. MEET AT OOP BY 8 AM + CARPOOL TO
TRAIL - HIKE 1-2 HRS. ENJOY CRISP MORNINGS, CHANGED LEAVES + RIVER WILDLIFE.
OPTIONAL: BRUNCH AFTER HIKE. CALL 220-5068 FOR MORE INFO.

ALL FRIDAY OR SATURDAY EVENTS AT OOP ARE \$1-2 FOR MEMBERS AND \$3 FOR
NON MEMBERS UNLESS INDICATED. 11/6, 11/13 AND 12/4 ARE CHEM FREE. 11/20 AND 11/27
ARE ALCOHOL NIGHTS. ALL OTHER EVENTS CHEM FREE UNLESS INDICATED. SMOKING PERMITTED
ON BACK PORCH ONLY. CALL 688-022 FOR MORE INFO. COFFEE, TEA AND SODAS
AVAILABLE. HAVE AN EVENT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE AT OOP? PLEASE CALL US!
CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM WELCOME AS WELL.

PLEASE JOIN! ONLY \$52/YR OR 20 HRS WORK EXCHANGE (OR COMBINATION)

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