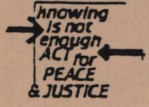


Victoria Voice of Women

HQ 1154
V53

Box 8026, 712 Yates St. Victoria BC . V8W 3R2 .
***** Please note our new address.*****



FALL 1991 NEWSLETTER

As we go into a fall period of activity we are constantly re-assessing our directions and in the aftermath of the Gulf War we need to examine and clarify policies that will lead to the end of war and violence.

We plan this newsletter for Victoria VOW about 3 times a year. We hope members will contribute news, information and ideas . Your help is wanted. The next issue will probably be in Jan. 92. The world is changing so quickly we cannot know what new crisis the world will face then. We do know that citizens' groups like VOW are needed more than ever.

As the German writer, Christa Wolf says, " You can tell when a war starts, but when does the prewar start?" VOW members know that we live in a prewar state and there is work to be done.

Summer 1991. We had 3 membership gatherings and important discussions. The events for this fall are based on the suggestions made by members. We endorsed and attended Hiroshima Day events. In August VOW had an information table at a Gulf Environmental meeting.

Telephone Tree. Between newsletters we contact members via our telephone tree. If you would like to help make calls or if you don't get them please call Linda at 598-5662.

Steering Committee. The main organizing of Vic VOW's activities is carried out by the steering committee, we are all volunteers and fit VOW into busy lives. All members are eligible to serve on the committee. We have monthly meeting and informal sub-meetings as needed to plan our actions. We also need representatives on community alliances- such as International Women's Day, environment groups, BC VOW, Victoria group on UN declaration on rights of children and other ad hoc groups that form. Call us if you can serve!

We welcome new steering committee members Daphne Dunbar, a longtime peace activist in Victoria and an ardent hiker!
- and Alison Acker, a journalist and recently retired English Literature instructor from Toronto, long active in Central American solidarity work and author of 3 books, Children of the Volcano, Honduras and Exodus,

*****COMING EVENTS AND ACTIONS*****

Sept. 30. FAMILY VIOLENCE with anthropologist Dr. Chris Bradley who made a video on violence against women in Papua New Guinea. This video is used widely including by native women's groups in Canada. Leaflets are enclosed. if you need more please call Beth at 380-6420.

OCTOBER 18 to 20 ABC VOW MEETING at TWIN ISLANDS NEAR SHUSWAP LAKE. The registration form for this Alberta-BC VOW meeting was in the last BC newsletter. The program is exciting- sessions on; Creating our own New World Order, grassroots development, creativity workshop, branch reports, skits, songs, video fair(bring videos of interest), ceremony of rededication (bring photos, words etc. about children) closing ceremony of treeplanting.

CARPOOL - we need to leave here Friday 18, early morning, and return by last ferry Sunday night. If we miss ferry we will be billeted by Vancouver VOW members.

* IF YOU NEED A RIDE OR CAN DRIVE PLEASE CALL DAPHNE AT 381-7648.

over for more on ABC VOW

..... ABC VOW

- * BURSARIES - As registration is \$145 including bed and board, Victoria VOW is offering bursaries of \$100 to members who could not attend without financial help. Call Terry/595-7519 or Maria/ 3825298. We hope no member will be prevented from going by financial considerations.

ART for PEACE. We are planning a one day workshop with a well known Victoria artist, in November. This will be a chance to make our posters, placards, stationary etc. with peace and style. More details later.

WARTOYS. The importance of children learning to value peace and creativity, rather than death and destruction, is never so apparent as at Christmas time. Several members have expressed interest in committee that would revise our previous leaflets, make buttons and organize a colourful street event in November. If you can participate. call Terry /5957519.

Canadian Arms Sales Brief to Parliamentary Committee in October. Victoria VOW is preparing a brief on this issue. If you have information or wish to help please call Terry/595-7519, Maria 382-5298.

We will also ask members to write individual letters to MPs when we have details of the committee hearings.

BOYCOTT/GIRLCOTT Our dollars and shopping habits do make a difference! Val MacDermot/478-7486 and Linda Siegel/598-5662 are preparing a leaflet on products, businesses and companies to avoid and to favour.

If you can help ,please call them. And remember to boycott GE - check latest national Voices.

VIDEOS We have for loan excellent videos on the GE boycott, continental free trade and other issues. We can also arrange a video viewing event if enough members are interested. Call Linda/Terry/or Maria.

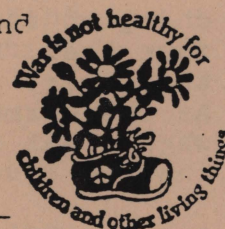
USSR/Yugoslavia. We are all disturbed by events in these countries, Isobel Heaman has proposed we write to women and women's groups in those countries ,sending them information and support. We have 2 recent requests from the USSR to respond to and need other contacts. If you can help call Terry or Maria.

- * Ursula Franklin- one of VOWs' most distinguished members had to postpone her visit here in January because of illness; we hope she will be here soon. Details when we know. Her book, "The Real World of Technology" is available at Hawthorne Books - a friendly and helpful local business we girlcott.

REDUCE.....REUSE.....RECYCLE

Important ways to save the world. Mary Cox has recommended we get and read the "Recycling Information Package" distributed by the Capital Region. Call 360-3030 for information. VOW has been involved in several local environmental groups. As a result of pressure from VOW and other groups a committee on Atmospheric Change has been formed by the Capital Region.

- * L.E.T.S. a local goods and services barter and exchange organization. New members are welcome. Call VOWs' Linda Siegel 598-5662. She is also on L.E.T.S. steering committee.





WOMEN AGAINST THE IRON FIST Alternatives to Militarism 1900-1989
by Sybil Oldfield. Published by Basil Blackwell Ltd. UK and USA. 1989
(in Victoria Public library- after VOW requested it, also at UVIC
library and available in paperback.)

When we feel alone, powerless, few and scattered in history and
place, this is the book to read to gain the wisdom and inspiration
to go on.

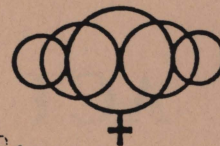
Sybil Oldfield, an English activist and academic, discovered three
generations of her own families' commitment to peace as she
researched this work. In an interview this summer she told me
she learned that her German grandmother was a resister to
Nazism and after the war was a state deputy (MLA) who introduced
the first conscientious objector legislation in Germany. Her mother
was sent to England so that one member of the family would be likely
to survive Nazism, after the women had destroyed documents and lists
of WILPF in which they were active. In England Sybil's father lost
his job for labour activities and the family moved to New Zealand.
Sybil teaches at the University of Sussex and lives in Lewes, UK.
This spring she tried to charge UK Prime Minister John Major with
breaking Geneva accords and the Nuremburg conventions.

Women Against the Iron Fist analyzes lovingly the life and works of
such famous women as Virginia Woolf, Simone Weil and Helen Keller
and introduces us (at least, me) to wonderful women like the German
contemporary writer, Christa Wolf and the young heroine of the White
Rose movement, Sophie Scholl, early English activists, Kate
Courtney and Maude Royden and present day activists in
Europe and USA.

In her conclusion she reminds us, " But it will demand strong minds
and stout hearts if we are to succeed in resisting the authoritarian
militarism of the iron-fisted ones still in power today....as Sophie
Scholl reminded Hartnegel in 1943, " A tough spirit and a tender
heart". And we also need, in our extremity, all the inspiration that
we can summon from our most humane dead. Hence this book."

I recommend that ever VOW reads this book. My ambition this winter is
to adapt excerpts from this and other books for a dramatized reading
at a VOW event.

Sybil has also written "Spinsters of this Parish" Virago Press, the
story of two remarkable and courageous English women and is working
on a history of the UK women who signed the Hague peace declaration
but were prevented by their government from attending the first
international conference of women trying to prevent war(WW 1).TP



This year is the tenth anniversary of Greenham Women's Peace Camp.
The steering committee has sent our congratulations to them.
Individuals can send them cards and donations at: Greenham Common
Women's Peace Camp, Blue Gate, Bury Road, near Newbury, Berks,
RG15 8DD, ENGLAND. While in England I visited the camp and
have a report on it as well as news of Kim Besly, who came to
Victoria 6 years ago and spoke to VOW. She sends her greeting to all
VOWs and may visit us again soon. Terry/595-7519

*****VOW BIOGRAPHIES*****

Victoria VOW members are asked to send one page biographies and a photo to Beth Hill, 613 Avalon Rd. Victoria BC V8V 1N8. Many have come but others are wanted. We are a fascinating bunch of women! The information about Alison Acker(above) comes from her biography.

*****VOW MEMBERS news.*****

- * Maria Abbott, our treasurer, is a new grandmother, and goes to Toronto soon to represent VOW at a NGO Commonwealth Women's Conference.
- * Kealey Pringle, steering committee member on leave for four months, is in Grenada with Canadian Crossroads International.
- * Dorothy Livesay's "Journey with My Selves" pub. Douglas and MacIntyre, is getting great reviews. Dorothy was on Galiano Island this summer reading poetry to save trees.
- * Marianne Livant is teaching dance and movement for seniors this fall.
- * Margaret Dymont, a long time peace worker in Ottawa, teaches a series of writing classes in Victoria and recently one of her short stories won a prize and place in a Canadian anthology.
- * Elizabeth Cull and Gretchen Brewin are candidates in the soon to be held BC election. We wish them both well. Although VOW itself is non-partisan, we know some individual members will be working on their campaigns.
- * Naomi Johnson has just returned from French immersion studies in Aix-en-Provence.
- * Oona Padgham is this year's chairperson of the University of Victoria Student's Society.
- * Paddy Tsurumi, at UVIC, won the Canada-Japan Book Award of the Canadian Council for her book "Factory Girls" about Japanese workers, available from Princeton University Press.
- * Kate Stevens told Chinese folk stories at the Hornby Island Festival of Myth in June.
- * Lynn Hunter M.P. has been travelling Canada as a member of the Canada Constitution Committee.
- * And welcome to our newest member, Elaine Powers, who came to us after she read a story on our Gulf War medical Aid. She send a donation and then joined us!
- * We are a fascinating group! Please submit more news for next issue.

ACT FOR PEACE!

