

## END THE SILENCE; STOP THE VIOLENCE!

by Sandra Harrell

*A spaniel, a woman and a hickory tree, the more ye beat them, the better they be. – Old English Proverb*

*All I ask of our brethren is that they will take their feet from off our necks, and permit us to stand upright on the ground which God has designed us to occupy. – Sarah Grimke, Suffragette*

In October 1981 the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) challenged battered women's advocates and their allies to coordinate awareness activities for the first Monday in October. The intent was simple: by connecting and unifying the voices, a single call for action could be heard loudly and clearly. At the time of their challenge, the battered women's movement had already accomplished a great deal: battered women's shelters were emerging in every state, coalitions against domestic violence were forming and people were finally talking about a problem that had historically been considered "private." Yet advocates and battered women knew that there was much more to be done.

In the 21 years since that first "Day of Unity," the battered women's movement has accomplished many victories: Police protocols for domestic violence have been created, a National Domestic Violence Hotline has been established, Congress has passed the Violence Against Women Act, and the single day of awareness has grown into Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The movement has changed as well: we are looking more closely at the intersection of race, class, gender and sexuality; we are becoming more aware of the issues facing immigrant women, women of color and lesbians; and more men are becoming our allies in the struggle. In recent years the

### DVAM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### MONTH-LONG EVENTS:

Wear a purple ribbon every day during October to show your support for battered women and your opposition to violence. Purple ribbons will be distributed around campus or can be picked up at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center. Call Vicky Basra at 322-3774 for more information.

**OCTOBER 1:** Work to End Domestic Violence Day symbolizes the efforts of the business community to support victims of domestic violence. In an effort to bring resources to the business community surrounding Vanderbilt, we are asking all of the businesses to display the Hand in Hand cling sheets in their windows or bathrooms. Call Sandra Harrell at 322-1333 for more information.

**OCTOBER 2 – 8:** Come visit the Project Safe table at the Safety Fair and meet our Faculty/Staff Educator, Vicky Basra and other Project Safe staff and volunteers. You can also pick up lots of resource information and Project Safe "giveaways."

**OCTOBER 7:** The Day of Unity is celebrated on the first Monday in October to commemorate the first national effort to bring awareness to domestic violence. Project Safe will be assisting the Soroptimist International of Music City and of Nashville bring attention to the issue of domestic violence through a candlelight vigil to be held in Madison at the Shepherd Center. We will be organizing transportation for those who would like to attend. Call Sandra Harrell at 322-1333 for more information.

**OCTOBER 9:** Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day. Check out the displays at the Medical Center!

**OCTOBER 14:** Sandra Harrell, Coordinator of Project Safe, will provide a training about domestic violence in the workplace. The presentation, titled *The Threat of Domestic Violence*, will be held in Light Hall from 12:30 pm to 1:15 pm.

**OCTOBER 16:** World on Wednesdays presents "MACHO: Nicaraguan Men Against Domestic Violence." Learn about the men who successfully organized to combat violence against women in Nicaragua. Hear testimonials from the men and find out about similar work being done in the U.S. Sponsored by Project Safe; presented by Sandra Harrell at 12:00 noon in Sarratt 189.

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**OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

movement to end domestic violence has met with a growing backlash with claims abounding that battered women's advocates exaggerate the incidence of abuse and ignore abuse of men by women. We need only to look around us to know that there is much more to do.

So throughout October Project Safe and its partners will sponsor a variety of Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities. We have chosen as our theme, "End the Silence, Stop the Violence" as a tribute to the outspoken women and men who daily raise their voices against the injustice of violence. While we have attempted to provide a variety of opportunities for involvement, all of the events will be connected by common themes: mourning those who died as a result of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived domestic violence and recommitting ourselves to ending domestic violence. We hope you will join us and together we can stop the violence. 

Women's Shelter. In 1979, she developed "Alternatives to Violence," one of the first programs in the country to work with men who abuse women in intimate relationships, and also one of the first men's programs to originate as a shelter program. Her Vanderbilt visit is sponsored by the Opportunity Development Center, Project Safe and the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center. For more information, contact Sandra Harrell at 322-1333.

**OCTOBER 30:** World on Wednesdays presents "Domestic Violence in the Immigrant and Refugee Community" Issues impacting immigrant victims of domestic violence and the resources available to them. Sponsored by Project Safe; presented by Vicky Basra at 12:00 noon in Sar-ratt 189.

You are invited to visit the Clothesline Project Display at the Women's Center from October 28 through November 2.

**OCTOBER 24:** Join Women and Gender Studies professor Sarah Projansky in a conversation about her new book, *Watching Rape: Film and Television in Postfeminist Culture*. Projansky explores the ways in which rape is depicted on TV and in film and exposes the limited ways in which these programs define feminism. Among the films and TV shows that Projansky will discuss are *Thelma and Louise*, *Rob Roy*, *The Accused* and *ER*. For venue and registration information, please call Sandra Harrell at 322-1333.

**OCTOBER 28:** Please join Project Safe, the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Belmont University, and the YWCA of Nashville for an evening of healing and empowerment. Our fourth annual Take Back the Night march will begin at 7:00 pm at Belmont University. Shuttle services will be provided. Please contact Sandra Harrell at 322-1333.

**OCTOBER 29:** Alyce LaViolette, author of *It Could Happen to Anyone*, will speak to the Vanderbilt community about her career as a pioneer in the battered women's movement. LaViolette has worked with battered women since 1978, with six of those years at the Long Beach

## You Know Me...

*written by a survivor*



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I am a spouse, significant  
other, or child.

I am your neighbor, friend,  
parent, co-worker, or maybe  
even you.

I am a professional – lawyer, doctor,  
nurse, teacher,  
a worker, homemaker, or  
student.

I am hiding in the background  
(you may not even see me)

I am quiet, lonely, fearful  
and ashamed

I am slow to trust

I am the keeper of secrets of  
My abusive relationship

I try to hide bruises, burns,  
cuts, and emotional trauma.

I make excuses for my abuser

I am afraid of my abuser –  
afraid to leave, to tell, to find  
help (NO ONE WILL BELIEVE  
ME!)

I am dependent on my abuser for  
food, shelter, money, compan-  
ionship,  
self-worth, and social outings.

I am hurting emotionally and  
physically.

I do not believe I can leave the  
relationship for many reasons

I am crying in silence for  
help to end this abuse.

## Missing in History: Marguerite Higgins (1920-1966)



In 1951 Marguerite Higgins became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for war correspondence. She was awarded the prize for her coverage of the Korean War.

Higgins was highly educated, first attending the University of California at Berkeley and then Columbia; nevertheless, it was only after she went above the heads of male superiors, directly to the female publisher of the *New York Herald Tribune*, that she was sent to cover the WWII European invasion in 1944. For her coverage of the war, she won the New York Women's Newspaper Award for Best Foreign Correspondent, her first professional award.

In 1950 she went on to become the *Herald Tribune's* bureau chief for the Far East and was headquartered in Tokyo. U.S. military intelligence demanded that she leave the city, citing her gender as putting her in a position of great danger. Male counterparts, of course, were not ousted similarly. After General Douglas MacArthur overrode this discriminatory decision, Higgins was permitted to stay at her post.

Because Higgins was considered "attractive" by conventional standards, many of her detractors attributed her success to her appearance and her use of it. But virtually all professional accounts by contemporaries and peers support Higgins' talent, drive and dedication. She continued traveling and writing throughout her life and published an array of books including *War in Korea: The Report of a Woman War Correspondent* (1951); *Our Vietnam Nightmare* (1965); and *News is a Singular Thing* (1955), a career retrospective.

Marguerite Higgins died at age 45 as a direct result of her work, contracting a tropical disease after a tour of Vietnam, India and Pakistan. She left behind a family including two young children. She also left behind a legacy of excellence and dedication, paving the way for future women reporters. She is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, and will be honored, along with Nelly Bly, Ethel L. Payne and Ida M. Tarbull, on a new set of U.S. postage stamps.

## Are YOU a Feminist?

Yes, I am a feminist and I am raising my 12-year-old daughter as a feminist. I'm not sure I could do what I do unless I was a feminist.

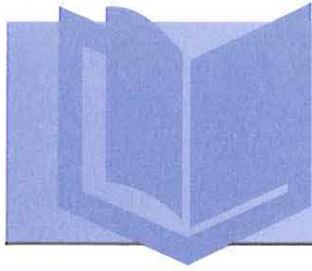
*Latisha Lochabay MSN, Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)*

Yes, I claim the identity of "feminist" loud and proud. I'm a feminist because it doesn't make sense to eliminate all of the racism in this country if half of it is still only making a fraction of every man's dollar. I'm a feminist because there's still sexism within my own ethnic community. I'm a feminist because there are still way too many men who are confused when I don't see "I love Oriental women" as a compliment. I'm a feminist because I think that a God who cares about risking 99 sheep to find that lost soul is a God who cares about the women who died from illegal abortions. I'm a feminist because I'm not just mad that Asian American men are seen as weak and feminine, but I'm mad that someone is equating the female identity with weakness in the first place. Anyway, as bell hooks says, feminism is for everyone, and that just so happens to include me.

*Julie Jinwon Park, VU Undergraduate*

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*Women's VU* seeks contributors and contributing ideas on an ongoing basis. If you have ideas, suggestions or input of any kind, we want to know. Send comments and inquiries to [womenctr@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:womenctr@vanderbilt.edu). We look forward to hearing from you.



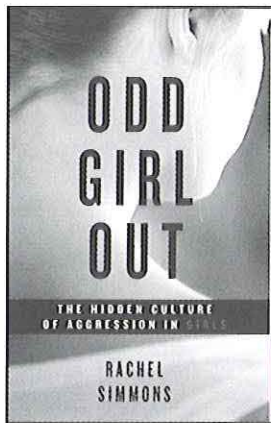
## IN THE LIBRARY

**BARBARA CLARKE**  
Women's Center librarian



### AGGRESSION IN WOMEN: SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL

As a child Rachel Simmons was victimized by other girls and as an adult discovered that many of her friends had similar experiences, which most still found puzzling and upsetting. Simmons is now a trainer for the Ophelia Project, which seeks to create a safe culture for girls. She set out to examine aggressiveness among young girls, particularly those in the 10 to 14 age group, where it seems to be most prevalent. In *Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls* (Harcourt, 2002) she declares that "Now is the time to end another silence: There is a hidden culture of girls' aggression in which bullying is epidemic, distinctive and destructive."



Boys' aggression is usually obvious as it tends to take the form of physical fighting and bullying. Girls' aggression usually manifests itself as emotional abuse of peers, and it is often subtle and may be invisible to teachers and even to parents. Girls prefer indirect conflict to open hostility. They gossip and spread rumors about other girls, and may ridicule, manipulate and ostracize them. The victims are often devastated; sometimes they refuse to attend school and occasionally even become suicidal. Frequently parents and teachers dismiss the complaints of these young victims and assume that girls just act that way and that the conflicts are minor and will soon be forgotten.

The writer studied girls of different backgrounds at ten schools in three areas of the country. She also interviewed many women who recounted

distressing incidents of victimization during their youth. Girls are socialized to feel that relationships and social identities are of paramount importance in their lives. From infancy girls are encouraged to be nice and to suppress anger.

Simmons had expected that girls who stand out in some way—who are overweight, loners, poor, different or handicapped—would be obvious targets for their peers and frequently this is the case. Jealousy, envy and competition also play roles as young girls frequently attack others who appear to think they are "all that." Such girls are often pretty and popular with boys and girls. It is not uncommon for girls to target their closest friends.

Relational aggression is more common among white, middle-class girls who conform to society's expectations about proper behavior. Direct conflict and assertiveness in girls are valued in some communities, and African-American, Latina and working-class white girls are more likely to be overtly aggressive and to feel free to express their hostility in physical ways.

The writer suggests how parents and teachers might help to prevent alternative aggressions. She also believes that it would be better for all girls to act more like their male peers and to express their aggression and hostility more openly. However, some critics feel that Simmons is considering masculine behavior to be the norm and

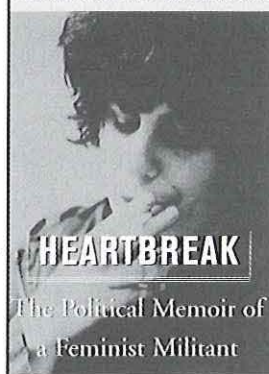
that more violence and aggression in society would not be desirable.


Controversial feminist Andrea Dworkin has penned a memoir, *Heartbreak: The Political Memoir of a Feminist Militant* (Basic Books, 2002). In many very short chapters she presents vignettes of her unusual and somewhat tumultuous life in a frank and blunt manner.

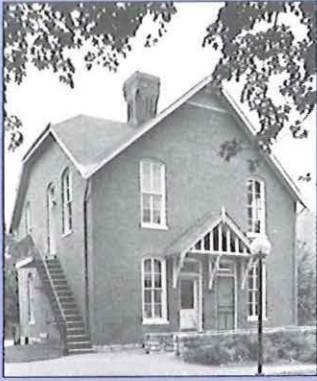
By the time Andrea was ten she was already showing signs of the militant woman she was to become: she was Jewish and she would not sing "Silent Night" at school. An early interest in literature and reading led to a strong concern about social issues and human rights. At the age of 18, Dworkin was arrested after an anti-war demonstration and locked up in a notorious women's prison in New York. Her testimony before a grand jury was a factor in the closing of the prison some years later.

As a young adult she spent some time living and writing in Europe, where she prostituted herself when she needed money. Later she endured battering from her husband. In the 1970s she became an advocate for rape victims and is well-known as a passionate and outspoken opponent of pornography.

Andrea Dworkin



Other new acquisitions include: *Death by Fire: Sati, Dowry Death, and Female Infanticide in Modern India* by Mala Sen and *A Law of Her Own: The Reasonable Woman as a Measure of Man* by Caroline A. Forell and Donna M. Matthews. 



## Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

# Calendar of Events

# OCTOBER

TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

### *Creative Life Planning Group.*

A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Topics to be determined.

TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

### *WEBS: Women Empowered By Sports.*

At Natchez Field. Co-Sponsored by Student Recreation and the Wellness Center, this program is open to ALL WOMEN in the Vanderbilt Community—you do not need to be a member of the Rec Center to participate. This is a new program that will run periodically throughout the year involving hands-on learning. This program is especially for women who are at a basic skill level who want to learn sports in a safe, non-competitive environment. Opportunities will be made to connect with others at your same skill level after each section of WEBS is finished. Our first sport is soccer. Come in sneakers and dressed for fun! Future sports: in February we will teach volleyball in time for the beaches of spring break, In March we will teach basketball in time for March Madness, and possibly a May-mester to get you ready for summer tennis. For more info contact [jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu) or 322-6518.

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 7:00 PM

### *Vanderbilt Feminists (Vandy Fems).*

A feminist group specifically for undergraduate students (women and men) but open to all. This group is concerned about women's issues on campus and promoting equality between the sexes. For more information contact [stacy.r.furia@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stacy.r.furia@vanderbilt.edu) or [justin.f.keith@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:justin.f.keith@vanderbilt.edu).

FRIDAY – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 – 6

### *Hand in Hand Training.*

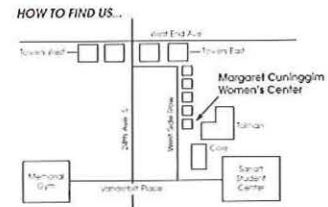
At the Community Partnership House Annex. Hand in Hand trains students, staff and faculty about the dynamics of violence against women and how to help students make informed decisions about services and options available to them related to dating/domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Space is limited; contact Sandra Harrell at 322-1333 or at [sandra.harrell@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sandra.harrell@vanderbilt.edu) to register.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

### *Consciousness Raising Group.*

For graduate students, faculty, staff, and community members. October topic: The Nitty Gritty of Relationships. Bring \$3 for pizza, snacks and drinks. Contact Sarah Walton at [sarah.a.walton@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sarah.a.walton@vanderbilt.edu) for more information.

## How to find us . . .



*The Cuninggim Center is located in the Franklin Building at 316 West Side Row.*

### PLEASE SAVE AND POST.

*Unless otherwise stated, all programs are held at the Cuninggim Center, Franklin Building, 316 West Side Row and are open to newcomers at any time. For more information on the events listed, call 322-4843.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 5:15 PM – 6:15 PM

*Women, Spirit and Poetry.*

A group for all who are interested in poetry and the spirit. This group meets the second Tuesday of each month. Eva Touster (professor emerita) presenting this month.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 5:15 PM

*Book Group.*

A group reading women authors—for all who love to read. Discussing *Dear Shameless Death* by Latife Tekin. Discussion will be led by Deborah Riat.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

*Nurse-Midwifery Month Reception.*

Please come to the Women's Center for this reception to celebrate Nurse-Midwifery Month! Learn more about the School of Nursing Nurse-Midwifery practice, which focuses on women's care including regular gynecological, as well as pregnancy and obstetrical, care. For more information about the Vanderbilt midwifery program, go to <http://www.vanderbiltnursemidwives.org/>.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 12:00 NOON – 1:00 PM

*Reading Sisters.*

A book group for everyone interested in reading African-American authors. The group will be discussing *The Justus Girls* by Slim Lambright.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 7:00 PM

*Take Back The Night.*

At Belmont University. This night is celebrated nationwide to support women who are survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and to educate about prevention of these crimes. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. For more information about where to meet, contact Jennifer Hackett at 322-6518 or [jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 6:00 PM – 7 :00 PM

*Safety Tactics for Women on Campus.*

In the Gillette Hall TV room (Peabody Campus). This event, co-sponsored by Housing and VUPD, will present Andrew Atwood of VUPD who will be giving basic techniques for safety. Come and learn new safety tips and try out some self-defense techniques. Free and open to the public.

ONGOING:

Elizabeth Garlington's exhibit, "Healing Story, Healing Quilt" will remain on display at the Women's Center gallery through October 22. Free and open to the public.

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Midwifery, continued from page 7

births. I believe and work with the mother to believe that she delivers her baby. I don't deliver her baby. I watchfully wait and catch the baby." It seems midwives are putting the care back into the term health care.

If you are interested learning more about midwifery and the Vanderbilt practice, the Women's Center is hosting a reception to celebrate Nurse-Midwifery Month. Please join us October 16 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm to meet and talk with some of Vanderbilt's amazing CNMs.



## THE RESURGENCE OF MIDWIFERY

by Maureen Duffy

As our culture becomes more interested in alternative approaches to health, and as people become increasingly dissatisfied with the current state of mainstream health care, midwifery is enjoying resurgence among many forward-thinking women.

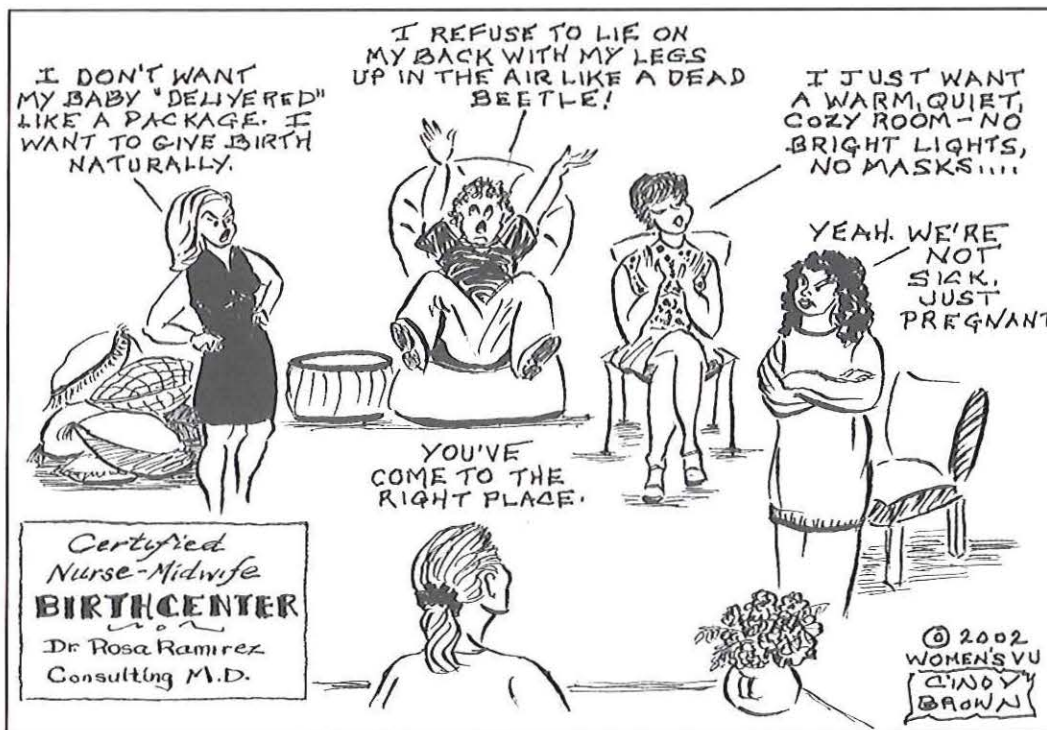
Based in a holistic approach that stresses the naturalness of both women's bodies and cycles as well as the birthing process, midwifery focuses on empowering women, returning to them ownership of their miraculous ability to give life. Latisha Lochabay, a certified nurse-midwife (CNM), in practice with Vanderbilt Nurse-Midwives, explains, "To me, midwifery is the act of encouraging women to reach their potential and develop an internal locus of control, which allows them to act from a more actualized position."

The term midwife literally means "with woman," and CNMs take that very seriously. In fact, the slogan for the professional CNM association, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, is "With women, for a lifetime"; Vanderbilt Nurse-Midwives slogan is "We're with you all the way.

And then some." It's obvious that CNMs are huge supporters of women. In addition, they are highly educated professionals; in the Vanderbilt practice, all of the CNMs hold masters degrees in nursing or public health with emphases in midwifery. They work hard to dispel outdated stereotypes that surround their profession. And while it is true that midwives are recognized for encouraging natural birthing procedures, they do utilize all the tools that contemporary medicine provides. "We use technology selectively," says Lochabay, "we use it appropriately. I try to meet the woman's expectations for her labor and delivery and support her decisions while watchfully waiting. That doesn't mean I don't use pain medication or epidural anesthesia—but that I support a woman's decisions and act as an advocate."

Because of the current mainstream, managed health care system, and also because of the high cost of malpractice insurance, today's physician has no choice but to conduct her practice like a business. According to the consulting physician for the Vanderbilt midwives, obstetricians simply do not have the time nor—possibly—the inclination to spend extra time with a laboring woman. Midwives, on the other hand, can and do.

Latisha asserts that research indicates midwives consistently spend more time with women during prenatal care, labor, delivery and during yearly checkups. She shares her perspective on witnessing births: "I like passages. There is something very special about the passage to motherhood and the passage of birth. It is very spiritual and growth promoting. It is a privilege to attend



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### OCTOBER IS NURSE-MIDWIFERY MONTH

# A N N O U N C E M E N T S

## HOLOCAUST LECTURE SERIES

The University Chaplain's office is sponsoring its annual Holocaust Lecture Series, "Living On...a Tradition of Reflection." The series will explore "what it means to be living on...fifty-seven years after the liberation of Auschwitz." Films and lectures take place throughout October and November. For more information and a schedule of events visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/holocaust](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/holocaust).

## OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

In recognition the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center has announced its yearly Breast Cancer Forum, comprised of informational brown bag luncheons, lectures and a day-long retreat. Deadline for related reservations is October 9. For more information, go to [www.vicc.org](http://www.vicc.org) or call 936-5855.

## RACE FOR THE CURE

This annual 5K run/walk in support of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation happens on November 3, commencing at Metro Center. To register, call 936-5855.

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Student (specify school & year) \_\_\_\_\_

Staff  Faculty  Administrator  Other

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