

# WOMEN'S VU

March 1986

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## Women's Week 1986: "Women and Art"

*Nancy Ransom*

Director of the Women's Center

Women's Week is ten years old. When the Women's Center opened in the fall of 1978, Women's Week already was an established program on campus. Started by two students who enlisted the help of a University chaplain, Women's Week originally was planned as a weekend event. But in the first year, spring 1976, the weekend turned into a week.

When I came to the Women's Center I was invited to work with the student committee, which called itself the Women's Week Group. The name was significant, because Women's Week was managed by women (and occasionally a man or two) who self-consciously wanted to function by consensus. No officers are elected; the entire Group serves as a committee of the whole, with subcommittees taking responsibility for specific tasks.

This year's Women's Week Group consists of 15 undergraduates from all four classes. Two of the members have worked on Women's Week before; the others are new this year. These students began last fall to plan this year's Women's Week. They chose as the theme, "Women and Art." Then they contacted campus organizations and departments to recruit sponsors for special programs during Women's Week. They also contacted faculty members in Arts and Science, Peabody, and selected other schools, inviting them to give one class during Women's Week that addresses women's concerns, feminist themes, or gender issues.

In the seven years that I have been associated with Women's Week, I have watched the program develop into one of the most substantive student projects on the campus. Most gratifying to me are the commitment on the part of the student planners and the growing participation on the part of the university community. For example, this year the English Department is bringing poet and playwright Ntosake Shange to read from her works. Blair School of Music is sponsoring the

distinguished biographer of Clara Schumann, Nancy Reich, who will give a public lecture and lead a forum on Clara and Robert Schumann. As in the past, the Undergraduate Intramural Board will cosponsor a Women's Week Run. The Divinity School holds its annual Antoinette Brown Lectureship during Women's Week. This year's lecturer is feminist theologian Sister Joan Chittister. All of the events, including some of the classes, concerts, art exhibits, are listed in the Women's Week brochure which is available in many residence halls, at Sarratt, at the Law School, the Divinity School, and the management school, and at the Women's Center.

What Women's Week intends for the community is to offer education and entertainment, calling attention to women's achievements, contributions, and persistent disadvantage in societies which continue to give preference to the male and the masculine. Women's Week offers students a chance to learn, both as participants and as observers. Like all student projects, Women's Week does not capture the interest of everyone. But for those who want a glimpse of what women are up to these days, Women's Week provides a critical, informative, joyous opportunity ■

*Songwriter Judy Eron*



## Schedule of Events

A brochure with a complete listing of Women's Week events will be available at the Women's Center, E-2 West Side Row, and other campus locations. Below are some highlights from the week's activities. Unless otherwise specified, all events are free and open to the community.

### 23 Sunday

7:30 and 9:00 p.m. — Sarratt film: "Puberty Blues," Sarratt Cinema, \$2.25.

### 24 Monday

10:00 a.m. — Forum: Sister Joan Chittister, Antoinette Brown Lecturer, Divinity Commons Room.

12:00 noon — Lunch and discussion: Sister Joan Chittister, Divinity Faculty Dining Room.

12:00 noon — Songs: Original Cast, Rand Terrace.

6:00 p.m. — Modern Dance Performance: Vanderbilt Dance Group, Claudia Edwards, Director, Sarratt Lobby.

8:00 p.m. — Antoinette Brown Lecture:

*(continued on next page)*

## Songwriting Workshop

*"... when I want to make a point, deliver a message, give a gift, I write a song. Music helps people to hear things they might not listen to if merely spoken—there's just something about a melody and a rhyme."*

—Judy Eron

The Women's Week Group is sponsoring a songwriting workshop by Judy Eron, Nashville-based songwriter and performer. She has two albums out and is working on a third—all using backup from Music City's finest.

The workshop is for those who are thinking about writing songs, as well as those who already are writing. Included in the session will be

- Why write songs?
- Tools for songwriting
- Getting ideas
- Not censoring yourself until the rewrite
- Creating a cohesive image in a song
- Selling songs

Wednesday, March 26, 4:30-6:00 p.m.  
in room 205 Sarratt. Free ■

Sister Joan Chittister, "The Role of Women in Church and Ministry: A Call to the Churches Today," Benton Chapel.  
7:30 and 9:00 p.m. — Sarratt film: "Chilly Scenes of Winter," Sarratt Cinema, \$2.25.

## 25 Tuesday

10:00 a.m. — Worship Service: Sister Joan Chittister, Benton Chapel.  
1:30 p.m. — Colloquium: Nancy Reich, "Robert and Clara Schumann: A Creative Partnership," Blair Auditorium.  
4:00-6:00 p.m. — Opening and Reception: Student Art Exhibit, Sarratt Gallery.  
8:00 p.m. — Lecture: Nancy Reich, "Women Performers of the Nineteenth Century," reception to follow, 114 Furman.  
7:30 and 9:00 p.m. — Sarratt film: "A Question of Silence," discussion in 123 Sarratt to follow first screening, Sarratt Cinema, \$2.25.

## 26 Wednesday

12:00 noon — Piano Recital: Enid Katahn, Sarratt Cinema.  
4:30 p.m. — Songwriting Workshop: Judy Eron, 205 Sarratt.  
7:30 p.m. — Film: "Small Happiness," discussion to follow, 220 Garland.  
7:30 and 9:00 p.m. — Sarratt Film: "Sheer Madness," discussion in 123 Sarratt to follow 7:30 screening, Sarratt Cinema, \$2.25.

## 27 Thursday

7:30 a.m. — Women's Center Dutch Treat Breakfast: Shirley Hallblade, Associate Director, Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Women's Center.  
12:15 p.m. — Women's Center Lunchtime Seminar: Helen Baldwin, "The Cast-off Shoe: Eroticism in Shoe and Foot Symbolism," 118 Sarratt.  
3:00 p.m. — Lecture: Cynthia Fuchs Epstein, "The New Women Lawyers: Trials, Tribulations, and Triumphs," Law School.  
4:00 p.m. — Forum: June O'Neill and Paula England, "Closing the Wage Gap: Is Comparable Worth the Answer?" Reception to follow., 114 Furman.  
8:00 p.m. — Reading: Poet/playwright Ntozake Shange, reception to follow, 114 Furman.  
9:30 p.m. — Concert: Ann Magnuson, Sarratt Cinema.

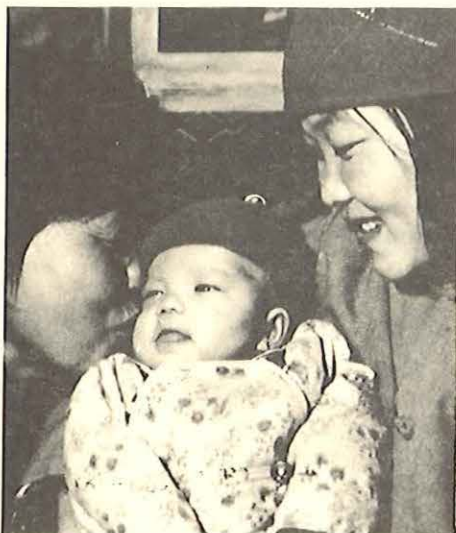
## 28 Friday

8:00 p.m. — Dramatic reading from two Franca Rame plays: Robin J. Mitchell, "A Woman Alone" and "I Don't Move, I Don't Scream, My Voice is Gone," McTyeire Living Room.  
7:30 and 9:00 p.m. — Sarratt film: "Sweet

Dreams," Sarratt Cinema, \$2.25.

## 29 Saturday

10:00 a.m. — 5-K Run, Vanderbilt Track ■



"To give birth to a boy is considered a big happiness. To give birth to a girl is a small happiness."

## Let's Go to the Movies

Grab some popcorn and a drink, find a seat with friends, and settle in to watch some special films during Women's Week:

*A Question of Silence* (1983). Director: Marleen Gorris. This highly controversial Dutch film brings a woman psychiatrist into contact with three women accused of murdering a male shopkeeper in a spontaneous, silent conspiracy. Dutch with English subtitles. 92 minutes. Sarratt Cinema, Tuesday, March 25, 7:30 and 9:20 p.m. \$2.25. A discussion in room 123 Sarratt will follow the first screening.

*Small Happiness* (1984). Directors: Carma Hinton and Richard Gordon. A documentary on women in a contemporary Chinese village, relating the continuities and discontinuities in the lives of rural Chinese women since the establishment of the People's Republic of China. Interviews with older and younger women are alternated to provide us with concrete instances of the kinds of changes that have occurred in courtship, family, and work life. 58 minutes.

*Simplemente Jenny* (1980). Director: Helena Solberg-Ladd. A film about women in Latin America and the cultural values that shape their lives. It focuses on three adolescent girls in a Bolivian reformatory. Jenny, Marli and Patricia tell their stories of rape and forced prostitution, and their fantasies of wealth, marriage and happiness in a society that has no place for them. 33 minutes. Spanish with English subtitles.

Both films will be shown Wednesday, March 26, at 220 Garland, at 7:30 p.m. Free. A discussion will follow the films. Cosponsored by the Dept. of History and Women's Week.

*Sheer madness* (1985). Director: Margarethe von Trotta. Starring Hanna Schygulla, Angela Wishler. The obsessive friendship and tangled relationships of two women echo themes of *Marianne 7 Julianne*, von Trotta's last film, as she continues to confront the complexities and contradictions of sisterhood, feminism, and male-female relationships. Self-confident, successful Olga befriends a deeply withdrawn, neurotic woman whose dependence on her husband Olga disapproves of. A controversial film from the director Andrew Sarris calls "the most underrated filmmaker, male or female." German with English subtitles. Cosponsored by Sarratt Cinema and the Nashville Film Society. 105 minutes. Sarratt Cinema, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. \$2.25. A discussion in 123 Sarratt will follow 7:30 screening ■



Franca Rame on stage in Italy.

## On Stage at McTyeire

On Tuesday, March 18 and on Friday, March 28 at 8:00 p.m. in McTyeire Lounge there will be a dramatic reading followed by discussion of two one-act plays by Italian playwright Franca Rame. The plays are "A Woman Alone," a comic interpretation of a woman locked up at home by her possessive husband, and "I Don't Move, I Don't Scream, My Voice is Gone," a serious monologue by a woman talking about the implications of a physical abuse situation.

Robin J. Mitchell (actress, Nashville) will act; Michael G. Joyce (musician, Director, Nashville) will direct; Jenny S. Spencer (Asst. Prof. of English, Vanderbilt) will lead the discussion. Sponsored by International Services, McTyeire International House, International Programs, Women's Week, and the Dept. of French and Italian ■



## Ntozake Shange

Poet, playwright and author, Ntozake Shange (n-toe-ZAH-kay SHAN-gay) is one of America's young and talented writers. Her work has captivated audiences ever since the Broadway and international success of *For Colored Girls, Who Have Considered Suicide/When The Rainbow is Enuf*, which became a best-selling book and then won critical acclaim in a television version for PBS. Ms. Shange is the author of other plays and, most recently, of a novel, *Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo*. Her collection of poetry, *nappy edges*, won *The Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for a work of poetry.

Ms. Shange will be reading from her work Thursday, March 27 at 8:00 p.m. in 114 Furman. A reception will follow. Co-sponsored by the English Department and Women's Week Group ■

## The Struggle for Money

The issue of comparable worth—equal pay for dissimilar jobs requiring equivalent amounts of effort and responsibility (truck driver and secretary?)—is a hot issue. Former EEOC Chairman Eleanor Holmes Norton has called it 'the civil rights issue of the 1980s.'

The Department of Economics & Business Administration at Vanderbilt is cosponsoring with Women's Week a forum, "Closing the Wage Gap: Is Comparable Worth the Answer?" on Thursday, March 27, at 4:00 p.m. in Furman 114. This forum brings together two nationally known scholars to discuss the roots of the wage gap between men and women, the feasibility of determining sex-level wage discrimination in the market place, and the practicality of implementing comparable worth.

June O'Neill, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, will argue against the stated question; Paula England, University of Texas, will argue for it.

June O'Neill is director of the Program

of Policy Research on Women and Families at the Urban Institute and a senior researcher for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She has testified extensively before Congress regarding fair treatment of women in the marketplace.

Paula S. England is an associate professor of sociology and political economy at the University of Texas at Dallas, having received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Her research has concentrated on occupational sex segregation and gender inequality ■

## Clara Schumann: The Artist and the Woman

by Nancy B. Reich

Musicologist Nancy Reich, in her book on Clara Schumann, uses previously untouched primary sources, including diaries, letters and concert programs, in exploring Clara Schumann's life. We learn

about her early years as a child prodigy, her marriage to Robert, and about the forty years after his death when she maintained her extraordinary career while supporting a household of seven children. A second part of the book covers her relationship with Brahms (and other friends and contemporaries), her creative work, concert career, and great success as a teacher. It reveals Clara Schumann as a consummate artist.

The book, published by Cornell University Press, and widely acclaimed was the main selection of the Performing Arts Book Club for June. Publishers Weekly called it "Outstanding."

Nancy Reich lectures frequently in the U.S. and abroad (including Australia). She will give a colloquium, "Robert and Clara Schumann: A Creative Partnership," Tuesday, March 25 at 1:30 p.m. in the Blair Auditorium ■

# Women's Center Programs

"THE CAST-OFF SHOE: EROTICISM IN SHOE AND FOOT SYMBOLISM" is the title of a Lunchtime Seminar by Helen Dickinson Baldwin, art historian. Feet are traditionally considered erotic, and kicked-off shoes can thus be sexually provocative. This lecture, with slides, will show some symbolic uses of shoes can thus be sexually provocative. This lecture, with slides, will show some symbolic uses of shoes and feet to carry sensual messages in advertisements and traditional images of women. Sample slides are drawn from a variety of sources and provide an opportunity for us to step outside ourselves and learn a new way of seeing behavior and response in our culture. Thursday, March 27, Sarratt room 118, 12:15-1:15 p.m. Bring a bag lunch if you like.

The UNIVERSITY NETWORK LUNCH is an opportunity for all women faculty and staff to meet and eat together once a month. **For the remainder of the semester we will be gathering at the Women's Center in the conference room.** All women faculty and staff are welcome. Bring a bag lunch (you can pick up something at nearby Rand). The Women's Center, Wednesday, March 29, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

"DISSERTATION DOLDRUMS" is a program for the Graduate Students' Group. It will feature a panel of recently degreed Vanderbilt graduates talking about how they made it through the dis-

sertation experience with emphasis on motivational factors which helped them. This program is open to all women graduate students. Friday, March 21, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Women's Center.

THE DUTCH TREAT BREAKFAST CLUB will meet Thursday, March 27, in the Rand Faculty Room at 7:30 p.m. for breakfast. At 8:00 a.m. Shirley Hallblade, Assoc. Dir. of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, will speak and then answer questions. Open to all women faculty and staff.

"FANNY WRIGHT: THE WOMAN BEHIND THE MYTH" is a seminar by Celia Eckhardt, scholar and author of the well-received book, *Critical Comment on Fanny Wright: Rebel in America*. "Mrs. Eckhardt's biography makes a good story as well as good history," wrote David Reynolds in *The New York Times Book Review*.

Who was Fanny Wright? She was a wealthy English woman who came under the influence of Utopian Socialist Robert Owen in the early 19th century and decided to found a community in which freed slaves could be educated for independent lives. She bought land in Tennessee near Memphis, and founded "Nashoba" in 1825. That's the beginning of a colorful life in the U.S. Come and hear more from Celia Eckhardt Monday, April 7, at 4:30 p.m. in 114 Furman. A reception for Ms. Eckhardt will follow the seminar. This event will be cosponsored by several other campus offices ■

# ANNOUNCEMENTS ET CETERA

In cooperation with the Vanderbilt Women's Studies Committee, the Central Library women's studies bibliographer, Marillyn Craig, will send to anyone interested a copy of "WOMEN'S STUDIES: SELECTED LIST OF ACQUISITIONS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH BY THE CENTRAL LIBRARY." Inaugural issue: January. Call 322-2407.

- **MARCH INTRAMURAL REGISTRATION DATES:** Bicycle Races, 10-14; Ultimate Frisbee, 17-21; Track & Field, 24-31; Outdoor Volleyball, 24-31; Whiffle Ball, Tennis Doubles, & Softball Extravaganza, 31-Apr. 4; Horseshoe Contest, Apr. 7-11.
- **LADY COMMODORES TENNIS** matches with Univ. of Florida March 15 at 10 a.m., and Miss. State March 22 at 11 a.m. at the tennis courts. Free.

Y.W.C.A. programs:

- **SEEING IS BELIEVING:** Wardrobe/color seminar March 19, 6:45 p.m.
- **FINANCIAL/LEGAL ASPECTS OF PREPARING FOR DIVORCE,** March 26, 6:45 p.m.
- **LIVING WITH SINUSES IN MIDDLE TENN.,** April 2, 6:45 p.m.
- **BRIDGE BASIC I,** 8 Mondays beginning March 31, 6:30 p.m.
- **BRIDGE BASIC II,** 8 Wednesdays beginning April 2, 6:30 p.m.
- **COOKING WITH TOFU,** March 24, 7 p.m.
- **HOME REPAIR,** 2 Fridays beginning April 4, 6:30 p.m.
- **YOGA,** 6 Wednesdays beginning March 12, 5:15 p.m.

• **THURSDAY NIGHTER'S CLUB:** A dinner club for employed women. Meets 4th Thursday of the month for fun and program.

Most programs above meet at the YWCA on Woodmont Blvd. Call 269-9922 for fees, etc.

**YWCA SHELTER AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM—1986 BENEFIT** with 200 artists donating their works for silent auction: paintings, photography, pottery, etc. All this in a spirited party setting with Judy Eron, Neopolitan, and others providing entertainment. April 5 at the Women's Building, the Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.-midnight. \$10 for adults. Children 10 and under free. For tickets call Diane Neighbors at 322-8074.

"**CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT: RAPE, INCEST, AND MOLESTATION,** the Psychology of the Offender, Assessment and Treatment." A seminar, sponsored by the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center and Vanderbilt Univ. School of Nursing. April 10 & 11, Godchaux Hall. Fee: \$100 before March 23, \$125 after. For information call 352-1716.

"**WOMEN AND LANGUAGE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY,**" part of an interdisciplinary lecture series about female creativity and power. Dr. April Snyder, Assoc. Dean for Academic Services, Vanderbilt. At MTSU in Keathley Univ. Center, room 305, 3 p.m. April 8. Free.

For information on the following conferences and institutes, call the Women's Center, 322-4843.

- **"THE LIFE & WORK OF EMILY DICKINSON,"** April 17-19, UNC Chapel Hill.
- **CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND LITERATURE,** May 23-25, UNC Asheville.
- **WORKSHOP ON WOMEN IN THE CURRICULUM,"** May 28-30, Memphis State Univ.
- **"WOMEN WORKING FOR CHANGE: HEALTH, CULTURES & SOCIETIES,"** the National Women's Studies Assn. 8th annual convention, June 11-15, Univ. of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign).
- **SUMMER INSTITUTE ON RACE & GENDER,** June 23-29, Memphis State Univ.
- **SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION,** July 6-31, Bryn Mawr College.

**Waltersalters**  
by Connie M. Knight  
Vice President and Controller  
Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Recently, Barbara Walters was a featured speaker for the chamber of commerce in Minneapolis. The members, which include many businesswomen from the Twin Cities, had been looking forward to the event, but the evening got off to a bad start. Walters drew gasps from the crowd by saying, "How nice it is you brought your wives and girlfriends. It's nice to see all the women." —*Savvy*, March 1986

*Edited by Joan Anderson*

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Monthly newsletters, excluding July and August, are sent to all students free. For non-student, off-campus addresses there is a \$3.00 fee for one year. Please make checks payable to Vanderbilt University Women's Center.

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**Vanderbilt Women's Center**  
E-2 West Side Row  
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