



# Cronecle

Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Women's Centre

Te Whiringa a Rangi 2012 Vol.20 No 4



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## Women's Centre Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday 10am – 5pm

Friday 9am – 5pm

Ph: 04 569 2711 Fax: 04 570 2820

Email: [info@lhwc.org.nz](mailto:info@lhwc.org.nz)

186 Knights Road, Waterloo

Lower Hutt 5011



**Thanks to** all the women that helped put the newsletter together, and to the women that donate the graphics to Isis International Manilla.

## Friendship Group

We are a facilitated group who meet weekly for discussions and occasionally an outing.

Our focus is on learning about friendship, maintaining, developing and exploring the ideas.

Friendships are a vital source of emotional sustenance. As well as providing the pleasure of companionship, your friendship network offers you a sense of support and belonging.

The outings are on the last thursday of

the month. We often leave early.

This group is open to all women and you can join the group by turning up to the Women's Centre on Thursdays from 10am to 12noon.

***Our ability to make and sustain friendships is influenced by our ability to develop and maintain a nurturing relationships with ourselves.***

**Facilitator:** Yvonne Broadley

If you are interested please phone or come along.

All women welcome.

## **Free 1-1 Computer Lessons @the Lower Hutt Women's Centre**

### **Learn how to....**

- ***surf the net, keep yourself safe online, send email and connect with your family and friends on Facebook or with SKYPE, edit your photos and share them online.***
- ***use Word of Open Office, update your CV and cover letter, or do what you want.***
- ***Excel to manage your budget, Power point to present your work, smart presentation and branding - first impressions and look good,***
- ***maintain your computer, organise your photos and documents, avoid losing your work, keep those viruses and worms out, troubleshoot when it all goes wrong, and much more ...***

**When?** Thursdays (9-3.30pm)

**Appointments with computer tutor 30 or 60 min**

**How?** Phone 569-2711 for an appointment

Lower Hutt Women's Centre | 186 Knights Road | Waterloo

### **Free Access computer**

The Women's Centre has a free public access computer available for all women to use during our opening hours. Phone to book your time.

## WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Women's Support Group is for

- support or
- if you are having a hard time coping with stress,
- day to day hassles,
- depression,
- grief
- or oppression.

Do you want to unload, are you getting stressed out?

If you are feeling out of touch with yourself and other people around, or feeling isolated .. then the group is a time to get support in a caring environment while you work on looking at yourself, your feelings and how you are in life.

The group is open to all women and you can join the group by turning up to the Women's Centre on Wednesdays at 1pm. The group goes from 1pm to 2.30pm.

**You don't need to book, just turn up.**

Every Wednesday at 1pm - 2.30pm

**Facilitator:** Stephanie Brockman

## Mosaics

*If you want to learn how to mosaic and meet other women doing the same come along anytime from 10am to 2.00pm every Tuesday, Stephanie can show you what to do. We normally start with a paver, after you have made a paving stone you can progress on to a variety of projects. We do charge for materials - it does cost \$5 for a completed paver. If you want to work on your own projects you need to pay for materials.*

*This is an open workshop and costs are for materials used only.*



Sandra Torrijos/ Isis International Manila

## ***Drop-in Meditation Classes***



Meditation is a simple technique for calming and refreshing the mind and body. Research has shown that it can bring about relief for a number of stress related ailments. It can also help us to develop mindfulness which supports us to live fuller, more vibrant lives.

Ruth Pink will be facilitating a series of meditation evenings on Thursday nights from 7- 8.30pm, starting on Thursday 1 November.

These evenings are ideal for women who have already attended meditation classes and who know how to meditate, but tuition will also be given to beginners.

There is no need to book – please just drop in. The dates for these evenings are:

Thursday 1 November, Thursday 8 November, Thursday 15 November, Thursday 29 November, Thursday 6 December, Thursday 13 December.

(Please note we will not meet on Thursday 22 November).

Costs: Koha for the women's centre and koha for Ruth.

Please wear warm loose clothing and bring a cushion to sit on if you would prefer. We will meet in the crèche of the women's centre.

***Ruth Pink is a writer, poet, counsellor and celebrant. She has been meditating and studying meditation for more than 17 years. A stressful job brought her to meditation and a serious illness helped her really practice it. Ruth is connected to the Wangapeka Study and Retreat Centre in Nelson, and has studied with the Venerable Tarchin Hearn, the Venerable Namgyal Rinpoche, Leander Kane and many other teachers whose wisdom has enriched her life. Ruth weaves together teachings from the Buddha and other spiritual traditions with art, science, ecology and poetry. While seeking to inspire others to change their lives and change their minds, she is also open-hearted, and down to earth.***

# ***Self Care versus Burn Out***

***Part of self care is understanding that the relationship between belief systems and feelings is an essential step to stop self defeating behaviour.***

***Burn out is a community hazard which people contract when they forget to remember themselves.***

***This workshop is designed to develop an ethos of caring, support and empowerment for the participants when facing present day pressures and stress. There is opportunity to identify the differences in social stress and personal stress and how both of these impact on daily lives, often in an unconscious way.***

***This workshop is skill based where physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being will be explored, drawing on the experience of the facilitator and the participants together.***

***Safe, firm boundaries will be named and regained throughout the workshop.***

**Facilitator:** Ally Andersun

**Date:** Friday 9th November 2012, Saturday 10th November 2012 and Sunday 11th November 2012.

**Cost:** \$40/\$20 Waged/Unwaged

**Time:** Frid, 7pm-9.30pm, Saturday 10-5pm and Sunday 10-4.30pm.

**Enrolment** by contacting the Women's Centre and making payment.

***Participants are expected to attend all sessions.***



Sandra Torrijos/ Isis International Manila

# Self Esteem Workshops For Women

Lower Hutt Women's Centre  
186 Knights Road  
Lower Hutt  
5692 711

**Now is the time for all good women to stand up and say who we will be**

## Self Esteem Workshops on a Friday morning and a Tuesday Evening.

Each workshop is separate. You may attend one or as many as you like. Creche is provided for **pre-school children only** without extra charge only on Friday morning. Please make enquiries about babies because they need a lot of attention and we have one creche worker. The workshop is for women only so try to avoid planning on taking your children into the workshop.

**Time:** Friday morning 9.45 - 12noon and Tuesday evening 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

The workshop starts right on time at 10am and 6.30pm and late comers can't go into the morning workshop.

If you have children you need to arrive about 20 minutes early to settle them in.

**Cost:** Friday \$2.00 and Tuesday \$5.00  
All women welcome.

You don't need to enrol, just turn up.

Facilitators:

Friday Morning Stephanie Brockman  
Tuesday Evening Julie Smart



### Friday Morning

2012

- Aug 3 Developing Self Knowledge
- Aug 10 Self Love
- August 17 Acknowledging Self
- August 24 Enhancing self in terms of awareness
- August 31 Acceptance and use of strengths
- Sept 7 Positive thought and talk
- Sept 14 Messages about self
- Sept 21 Accepting responsibility about self
- Sept 28 Coming to grips with feelings
- Oct 5 Talking About Ourselves
- Oct 12 Beliefs About Self
- Oct 19 Expressing Pride in Self
- Oct 26 Letting Go of the Past
- Nov 2 Respecting Self and Others
- November 9 Striving for pure motives
- Nov 16 Putting Yourself in Neutral
- Nov 23 Having the Courage to be Imperfect
- Nov 30 Developing Courage
- Dec 7 Willpower
- Dec 14 Anger as a Strength
- Dec 21 Developing Self Knowledge

### Tuesday Evening

2012

- Aug 7 Respecting Self and Others
- Aug 14 Striving for Pure Motives
- Aug 21 Putting Yourself in Neutral
- Aug 28 Having the Courage to be Imperfect
- Sep 4 Developing Courage
- Sep 11 Willpower
- Sep 18 Anger as a Strength
- Sep 25 Developing Self Knowledge
- Oct 2 Self Love
- Oct 9 Acknowledging Self
- Oct 16 Enhancing self in terms of awareness
- Oct 23 Acceptance and use of strengths
- Oct 30 Positive thought and talk
- Nov 6 Messages about Self
- Nov 13 Accepting responsibility for self
- Nov 20 Coming to grips with feelings
- Dec 4 Talking About Ourselves
- Dec 11 Beliefs About Self
- Dec 18 Expressing Pride in Self
- 2013 Letting Go of the Past

## Therapeutic Massage & Relaxation

### Massage

*When muscles are overworked, waste products such as lactic acid can accumulate in the muscle, causing soreness, stiffness, and even muscle spasm.*

Massage improves circulation, which increases blood flow, bringing fresh oxygen and nutrients to body tissues. This can assist the lymphatic system in the elimination of waste products, speed healing after injury, and enhance recovery from disease. It eases tense and knotted muscles and stiff joints, improving mobility and flexibility.

Therapeutic massage can be used to promote general well-being and enhance self-esteem, while boosting the circulatory and immune systems to benefit blood pressure, circulation, muscle tone, digestion, and skin tone.

And it feels great!

**Book a session at The Women's Centre with Rachel on: 0226988090 or email: [therapeuticmassage@gmx.com](mailto:therapeuticmassage@gmx.com)**

**I take appointments at the Women's Centre on a Monday.**

**Price: 45 minute session for only \$30**

I also treat clients at Aurora Medical Centre in 39 Pretoria Street, Lower Hutt which I charge professional rates. If you come to Aurora Centre as a result of referral from Women's Centre I will donate 10% to the Women's Centre.

## Weaving with Harakeke (Attend one or both of the workshops)

**Tutor:** Makere Love

**Dates:**

**Course One:** 23rd September 2012 Kono

**Course Two:** 24th and 25th November 2012. Whiri bottom kete For this course you need to have attended course one or two at some stage previously. One place left for this November workshop.

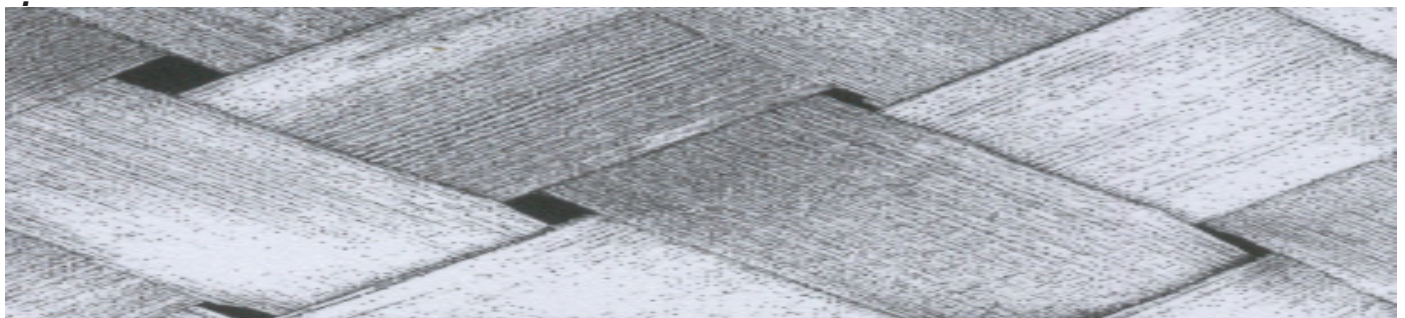
**Time:** 10-4pm

**Cost:** \$12 for the one day courses /\$24 for two day course

**Venue:** Lower Hutt Women's Centre

**Enrol:** By payment or deposit

*Learn how to make a kono and a kono, and how to prepare the harakeke using correct protocol, e.g. with cutting harakeke and the significance of karakia. We will also sing waiata*



# Support Group for Women who have experienced childhood Sexual Abuse and Rape

A monthly 3 hour support group for women who have experienced childhood sexual abuse and rape is being offered at the Lower Hutt Women's Centre. These will be held on the first Sunday of the month at 1pm to 4pm and are for women at any stage of their journey through abuse and recovery.

The group will be facilitated by an ACC accredited counsellor who is skilled in therapeutic group work.

*"The traumatised child doesn't have the luxury of self reflection."* (John Briere).

This group offers an opportunity for women to develop self awareness and self reflection at their own pace and in their own style, an opportunity to reclaim and retrieve split off hurt parts of themselves and allow them to heal.

Healing is not only possible but essential.

## **Facilitator:**

Ally Andersun

**Time:** 1-4pm

**Attendance:** Enrolment not necessary, you can just turn up.

**Inquiries:** Ally Andersun or Stephanie Brockman Phone 5692711

## **Dates for the next 5 months**

Sunday 4th November 2012

Sunday 2nd December 2012

Sunday 3rd February 2013

Simdau 3rd March 2013

**Venue:** Lower Hutt Women's Centre,  
186 Knights Road, Waterloo. Lower  
Hutt 5011



Sandra Torrijos/ Isis International Manila



## Self Development Using the Psychodramatic Method

This weekend will give participants opportunity to explore personal issues using the psychodramatic method. This workshop will be useful for women wanting to expand and develop their experience of life and the issues that hold them back. Women new to the psychodramatic method are welcome.

### Participants are expected to attend the full course

**Dates:** Frid 7th December, Saturday 8th December and Sunday 9th December 2012

**Time:** Frid: 7-9.30pm 10-5pm Saturday and 10-4.30pm Sunday

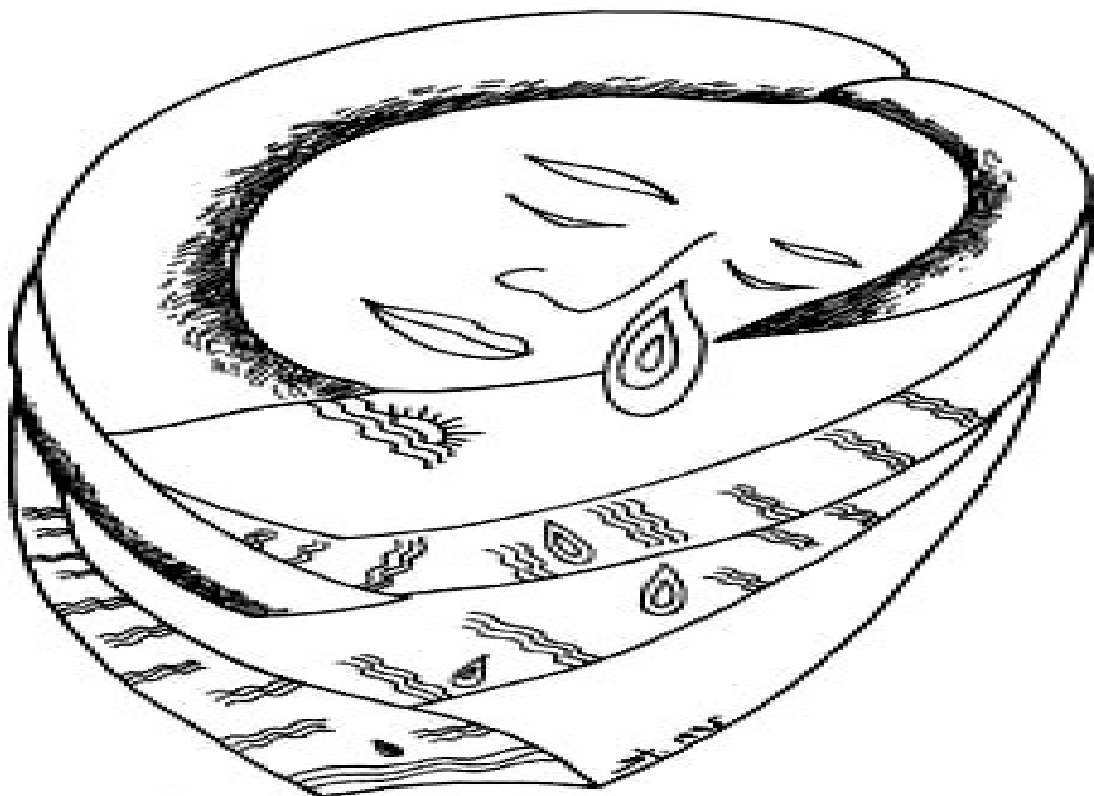
**Venue:** Women's Centre

**Enrol:** Only by payment or deposit

**Cost:** Waged \$40 /Low or Unwaged \$20

Facilitator: Ally Andersun

5 Minimum and 7 Maximum for course to commence



Sandra Tomijes / Isis International-Mania

## **Subject: STANFORD UNIVERSITY... MUST READ FOR GIRLS**

### ***They Teach It at Stanford***

***In an evening class at Stanford the last lecture was on the mind-body connection - the relationship between stress and disease. The speaker (head of psychiatry at Stanford) said, among other things, that one of the best things that a man could do for his health is to be married to a woman whereas for a woman, one of the best things she could do for her health was to nurture her relationships with her girlfriends. At first everyone laughed, but he was serious.***

***Women connect with each other differently and provide support systems that help each other to deal with stress and difficult life experiences. Physically this quality "girlfriend time" helps is to create more serotonin - a neurotransmitter that helps combat depression and can create a general feeling of well-being. Women share feelings whereas men often form relationships around activities. We share from our souls with our "sisters", and evidently that is very GOOD for our health. He said that spending time with a friend is just as important to our general health as jogging or working out at a gym.***

***There's a tendency to think that when we are "exercising" we are doing something good for our bodies, but when we are hanging out with friends, we are wasting our time and should be more productively engaged - not true. In fact, he said that failure to create and maintain quality personal relationships with other humans is as dangerous to our physical health as smoking !***

***So every time you hang out to schmooze with a gal pal, just pat yourself on the back and congratulate yourself for doing something good for your health! We are indeed very, very lucky. Sooooo let's toast to our friendship with our girlfriends. Evidently it's very good for our health.***



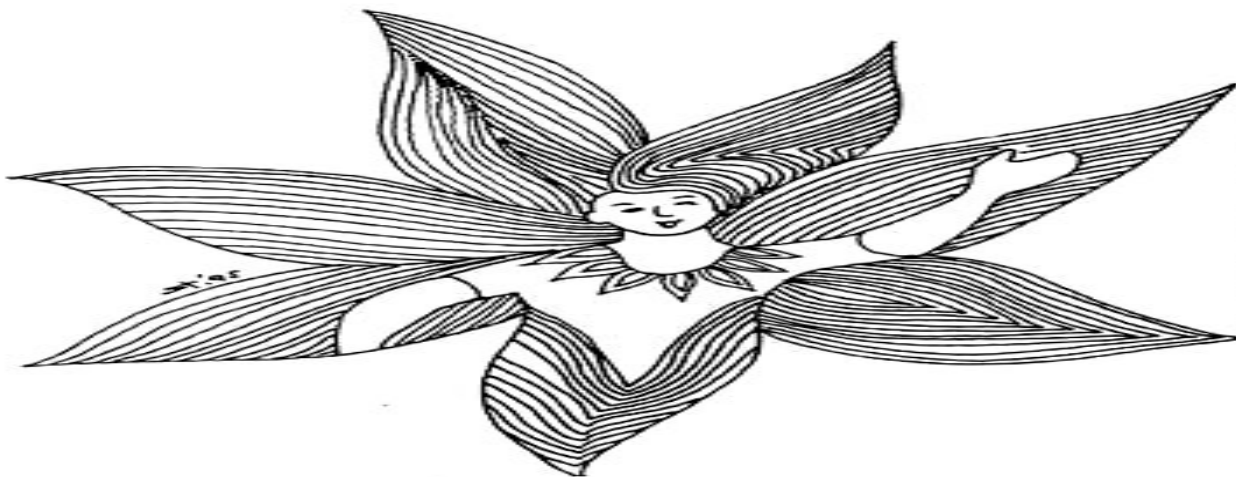
## Shulamith Firestone



**Shulamith Firestone was one of the early US radical women's liberationists who provided the theoretical foundation for a second wave of feminism. Along with Kate Millett's *Sexual Politics*, Betty Friedan's *The Second Stage* and Jill Johnston's *Lesbian Nation*, Firestone's *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution* (1970) contributed to a theory of women's oppression and male supremacy that is as relevant today as it was at the time of publication. She has been found dead in her apartment in Manhattan, New York, at the age of 67.**

Firestone, who was only 25 when the book was published, adapted the theories of Marx and Freud to an analysis of women's oppression. She argued that women occupy a sexual class below that of men, and that gender inequality originates in social structures imposed upon women through their biology – pregnancy, childbirth, childrearing and so on. Advocating the abolition of the nuclear family in favour of community units in a socialist society, and the abolition of the cultural importance of gender, she challenged the assumption that biology is destiny.

Firestone wrote in *The Dialectic of Sex*: "The 'natural' is not necessarily a 'human' value. Humanity



has begun to transcend nature: we can no longer justify the maintenance of a discriminatory sex class system on grounds of its origins in nature. Indeed, for pragmatic reasons alone it is beginning to look as if we must get rid of it."

One of six children, she was born Shulamith Bath Shmuel Ben Ari Feuerstein in Ottawa, the capital of Canada, to orthodox Jewish parents. Firestone grew up in St Louis and Kansas City, both in Missouri, and went to Washington University in St Louis.

While studying for a fine arts degree at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, Firestone, along with Jo Freeman, founded the Westside Group, the predecessor to Chicago Women's Liberation Union. In 1967, at the National Conference for New Politics, members of the women's caucus were refused a platform, and Firestone and feminist comrades who rushed the podium were told: "Cool down, little girl, we have more important things to talk about than women's problems." This prompted her departure from the left.

After graduating in 1967, Firestone moved to New York and co-founded New York Radical Women, the city's first women's liberation group. During this time she wrote essays such as *Women and the Radical Movement*, and *The Jeanette Rankin Brigade: Woman Power?* (both 1968). Firestone believed the suffrage movement to be a conservative one, and wrote in her 1968 essay *The Women's Rights Movement in the USA: New View*: "For what is the vote worth finally if the voter is manipulated? Every husband knows he's not losing a vote, but gaining one."

In *Notes from the First Year New York: The New York Radical Women* (1968) she wrote: "Contrary to what most historians would have us believe, women's rights were never won ... As for sex itself, I would argue that any changes were as a result of male interests and not female. Any benefits for women were accidental."

In 1969 she founded Redstockings with Ellen Willis and set up the New York Radical Feminists with Anne Koedt.

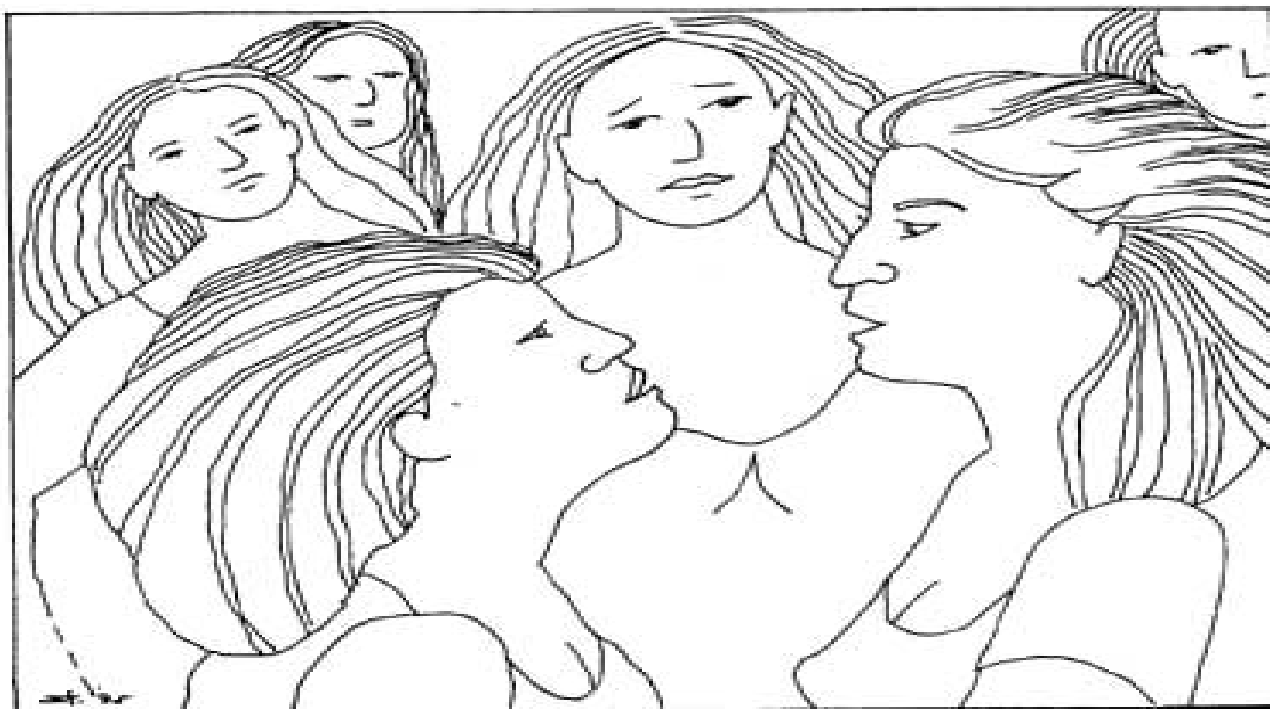
Firestone had a knack for being ahead of her time, and in *The Dialectic of Sex* she predicted that the technologies of IVF and foetal sex selection would result in further oppression and control of women via their reproductive biology.

She withdrew from politics in the early 70s, and moved to New York's East Village, where she concentrated on painting. Firestone was known to have been suffering from mental health problems in the late 80s and did not publish anything until her collection of short stories on poverty, mental illness and psychiatric hospitals, *Airless Spaces* (1998).

Firestone's legacy is her challenge to the left in her refusal to accept that women's liberation should be shelved until after the revolution. "We shall need a sexual revolution much larger than – inclusive of – a socialist one to truly eradicate all class systems." Firestone is survived by four of her siblings and her mother.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/sep/06/shulamith-firestone>





## ***Lady Gaga Embodies a New Model of Feminism***

***By Judith Jack Halberstam  
WeNews guest author  
Sunday, October 14, 2012***

(WOMENSENEWS)--I first floated my idea of Gaga feminism at a conference at the New School in New York City in which a host of feminists, young and old, participated.

Gaga feminism is a politics that brings together meditations on fame and visibility with a lashing critique of the fixity of roles for males and females. It is a scavenger feminism that borrows promiscuously, steals from everywhere and inhabits the ground of stereotype and cliché all at the same time. Gaga feminism is also a feminism made up of stutter steps and hiccups.

While I am not proposing that there is some kind of clear feminist program for social change in the world of Lady Gaga, activists of all stripes and queer activists in particular have always looked to popular culture for inspiration and have refused facile distinctions between culture and reality. The Lady Gaga piece of my talk was an attempt to connect contemporary feminism to young people, and students in particular, by building upon the popular iconography in which many of them had already invested considerable hope. But, more than just a humorous ending to a lecture, the term "gaga" for me represented a set of wholesale changes that may be most obvious in the realm of

gender norms but that also stretch to many other realms of everyday experience and that call for an improvisational feminism that keeps pace with the winds of political change. Student Connection At the conference, the students connected with the version of feminism that I linked to Lady Gaga, while old-school feminists like Susan Faludi wanted to brush this same version aside. And Faludi has not been the only feminist who is wary of the rush to find the political energy channeled by Lady Gaga.

Madonna acolyte and 1990s feminist icon Camille Paglia also shrugged off Lady Gaga's appeal in a widely read op-ed in the London Sunday Times Magazine in 2010. In her piece, Paglia asserts that Lady Gaga is simply the "diva of deja-vu" and a copycat who latches onto a generation of glazed-eyed Internet clones and exploits its incapacity to think or know anything without an iPhone app or Twitter feed at hand. Gaga, for Paglia, represents the end of culture, the end of civilization, the end of truth, values and meaning, the end of sex and the triumph of a robotic age emptied of human sentiment.

While some feminists, like Donna Haraway, have advocated for new forms of feminism capable of keeping up with technological innovation, Paglia argues that we have lost touch with what is real, true and good in our mania for media manipulation, video games and cell phones. If Haraway recognizes an interpenetration of humanity and technology in the digital age that is exciting and wondrous (even as it is also exploitative and dangerous), Paglia sees, predictably, a manufactured public realm populated by media puppets and their passive and stupid fans. If Lady Gaga's supporters have recognized in her a newish formula of femininity, phones and desire, Paglia sees only same-old, same-old or, in her words, "the exhausted end of the sexual revolution."

Why are feminists like Paglia and Faludi so wary of new figures of feminist fantasy, women like Lady Gaga or Lil' Kim or Rihanna or Nicki Minaj or Jenni Rivera or even Ke\$ha, women who use sex boldly in their music, who flaunt their bodies but who also remain insistently in charge of their mass media images? Women who, like Ke\$ha, sing songs with titles like "Party at a Rich Dude's House" and rap about being young, drunk, lost and loving it? (My friend, theorist Micha Cardenas, is countering Gaga feminism with her own Ke\$ha feminism!) While it is easy to dismiss some of this material as just mindless pop, at the same time, we might want to look again at singers who, after all, appeal to large numbers of young female fans.

Why can't these women be new figures of feminism? In the end, feminists like Faludi are committed to a reform model of feminism, to the idea of feminism as a politics built around stable definitions of (white) womanhood and as a ladies' club of influence and moral dignity. Finally, the mother-daughter bond, which for Faludi is most successfully studied in the dynamic between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her daughter Harriet, allows, according to Faludi, for the gains of one age to be passed on to the next. But never does Faludi question whether the gains of white women in one era actually benefit women of color in the next, or whether the goals of white middle-class women reflect anything beyond their race and class interests.

***Judith Jack Halberstam is a professor of English and gender studies at USC where he teaches classes in queer theory, cultural studies, film and the arts. Halberstam also writes a blog at [bullybloggers.com](http://bullybloggers.com), has published four books and is a writer for outlets including *The Nation* and *Bitch*. When not writing and reading, Halberstam can be found in LA, complaining about the endless sunshine.***

# **REPORT ON REVIEW OF BREAST BIOPSY ERRORS.**

*At the beginning of September 2012 the review of breast biopsy errors report was released. The review was instigated after a number of women had unnecessary surgery as a result of an error in the laboratory diagnosis of a biopsy specimen.*

Four of the errors involved biopsy specimens being mixed up with that of another woman, and they occurred in several different laboratories. The report notes that there is little standardisation of processes and systems between laboratories and “each laboratory seems to need to learn the same lessons for itself.” One of the recommendations in the report is that the report should be used to drive improved systems in all of New Zealand’s laboratories.

## The errors

The errors occurred over a two-year period. Four involved mix ups with the biopsy tissues and one resulted from a misread. Two of the breast biopsy specimens were from patients taking part in the breast cancer screening programme and two were a result of the specimens taken for diagnostic purposes.

The errors occurred in both hospital and community laboratories.

Four women had mastectomies that subsequent examination of the mastectomy specimen showed to be unnecessary as there was no evidence of cancer. The fifth woman underwent a partial removal of her upper jaw bone and the subsequent examination of the surgical specimen showed no evidence of malignancy.

## False negatives

Four other women were also involved in these mix ups – these were the women whose biopsy results came back clear when they did in fact have cancer. However in these four false negative cases, further biopsies were done because the original negative result was totally unexpected, and a multi disciplinary meeting decided a second biopsy was needed.

The report notes that while an unexpected negative result prompted clinicians to order a second biopsy, an unexpected positive result did not produce a similar response – the ordering of another biopsy that would have identified the false positive result. Major surgery was carried out despite the mismatch between the laboratory findings and other clinical and imaging data.

## The women

The most moving section of the report is the description of the impact of these errors on the women. A member of the review panel and a Ministry of Health representative visited four of the women who had been affected by the errors and who were prepared to meet and reported: “When reflecting on their experience and discussing their ordeal with different professionals and services most women felt there were ‘warning bells’ of which more notice should have

been taken. At the time of assessment there were things that didn't quite match up, yet the treatment continued. In one case none of the scans showed any sign of cancer, "Yet they still went ahead with it," (based on the biopsy results). When two of the women queried aspects of their results they didn't understand (prior to surgery) they were told, 'It was just terminology and how they write things,' and, 'It was explained.' One woman was told on physical examination that she definitely had breast cancer; then the biopsy came back negative."

Unsurprisingly, the panel found that "as a result of these responses the women have lost faith in the health system summed up in this comment. 'Gone are the days when you believe everything your doctor tells you'" and the report recommended "If the picture doesn't match up, the clinician needs to take a step back in the process and 'consider' a laboratory/pathology error."

#### Emotional and financial impact

Family members reported that the women who were misdiagnosed with cancer suffered depression, a loss of confidence, withdrawal and different levels of frustration. Some of the women noted that their partners had difficulty coping, getting time away from work to support them and were distressed.

There were also financial problems as a result of time off work. One woman lost her business and another was unable to seek employment. The support from the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) was described as "variable."

#### Compensation

Given the enormity of the impact of these errors on the women, the lack of financial compensation is totally unacceptable and simply adds insult to injury. The women quite rightly believe they are entitled to monetary compensation to make up for the hardship and loss they have suffered. They are not going to get that from ACC which has so far only provided payments for two of the women. ACC is not in the business of making realistic compensation payments to those who as a result of laboratory stuff-ups undergo grossly disfiguring treatment they do not need.

#### A life sentence

The report acknowledges the life sentence each of the women must now come to terms with: "The collective narratives paint a picture of emotions ranging from despair and anger to reconciliation and acceptance. The impact of these biopsy errors will remain with these women for the rest of their lives. Their disfigurement will be a constant reminder of their pain and anguish which will surface in their daily interactions with family/whanau, friends and partners as they struggle to come to terms with why this has happened and hope it never happens to anyone else again."

The tragedy is that this has happened before and it will happen again because both the public and private health systems will not be resourced or monitored to ensure that the much needed improvements are implemented and sustained. Nor are clinicians and other health professionals likely to suddenly start listening to the patient.

The report also makes for very disturbing reading when addressing the issue of how errors are managed:

"There are no standardised processes across laboratories for identifying, managing and reporting critical incidents involving loss, transposition or misinterpretation of anatomical pathology speci-



mens. Accordingly there is no way of measuring the prevalence of these events or of establishing whether the current cluster represents an emergent trend.”

Noting that private laboratories are not required to report serious sentinel events to the Health Quality and Safety Commission, the panel recommends that all laboratories be required to formally report such events and that nationally consistent processes be developed.

Compliance with standards for internal identification, reporting and monitoring of critical incidents should be audited by IANZ (International Accreditation New Zealand).

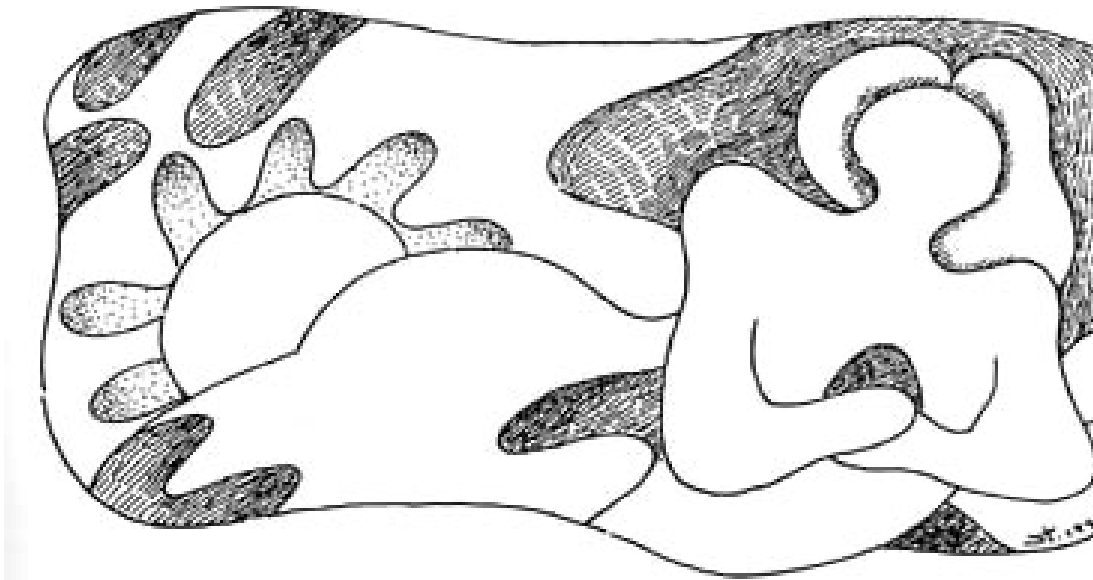
Other factors identified by the Panel as contributing to the risk of laboratories losing or mixing up specimens include tight reporting time frames, workforce pressures in the face of increasing demand, and a culture that does not support collaboration between laboratories.

The final section of the report contains a list of recommendations for providers, the Ministry of Health, the Laboratory Roundtable, and for ACC.

The Panel recommended that ACC consider its policies in regard to lump sum compensation for patients affected by biopsy errors, as well as its processes for responding to such claims. They must be dreaming – or living on another planet.

***<http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/report-national-panel-review-breast-biopsy-errors>***

***This report is taken from AUCKLAND WOMEN'S HEALTH COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012  
[www.womenshealthcouncil.org.nz](http://www.womenshealthcouncil.org.nz)***



# ***Paid parental leave bill deserves full consideration by Parliament***

***Media release: 26 for Babies. Wednesday October 17, 2012***

*A bill extending paid parental leave deserves careful consideration by Parliament, including over the costing of the bill, the 26 for Babies coalition said today.*

A Parliamentary select committee has today begun hearing evidence on Sue Moroney's bill to extend paid parental leave to 26 weeks.

26 for Babies spokesperson Deborah Morris-Travers said the only criticism that has been levelled against the bill so far has been affordability, but today new evidence was presented to Parliament that the likely cost of the bill was substantially lower than earlier reports.

"At today's hearing, committee members were given new analysis by Infometrics that showed the cost over three years for extending paid parental leave to 26 weeks would be \$166 million. This is just over a third of what was suggested by the Finance Minister back in April."

"This bill has attracted strong support from members of the public and community organisations, who understand the benefits of ensuring that parents have more time to invest in the health, wellbeing and secure attachment of their infant in the early months."

"The costs of extending paid parental leave needed to be weighed against these benefits."

"Investing in the early years promotes productivity in the economy and in society at large with a much higher rate of return than later interventions in remedial services. The OECD and others have found parental leave is a cost effective method in improving child health."

"If affordability is the only criticism levelled against this initiative, then Parliament needs to carefully consider accurate costings of the bill, and weight it up against the social gains of parents having more support to care and nurture their children in the early weeks and months of their life," Deborah Morris-Travers said.

## ***Comments by supporters.***

*I support this whole-heartedly!! I am from Canada where we get 52 weeks, when I lived there I felt confident in starting a family. I was in total disbelief at the thought of three months only!! I literally thought people were having a laugh and it couldn't possibly be true. how can any mother go back to work after only three months of nursing your baby?!?!?! I'm preparing myself to lose my job when I have children because I couldn't bear that.*

*I have a 23 month-old and can't think of anything worse than placing her into childcare. She is still breast-fed and will be until she self-settles and self-weans. Research indicates higher levels of cortisol (stress-hormone) in children under 3 in childcare settings in the afternoons compared to those not in care, despite no outward signs of stress. Cortisol impacts negatively on brain development. In the just release issue of The*

*Natural Parent, I see WHO (World Health Organization) suggests the average worldwide age for weaning is actually 4.2 years, which supports my belief that our policies absolutely don't support the Mother-child relationship. Our Westernized culture has caused us to become unresponsive to babies/toddlers. In the past, the rest of our culture has thought 'crying-it-out' is a 'normal' way to respond to a baby. It absolutely is not. As Daniel explains indigenous cultures worldwide usually have a family member always at the ready to respond to a baby. It's Westernization that has forced early independence onto babies. Women's natural instinct is to respond and we should be supporting that. When we start to look at the emotional problems in our society, I think we need to start at where they originate. Get that right first. Address the needs of those most vulnerable in our society before ourselves – our babies/youth and our elderly! I think we need to learn not to be so selfish*

## **Sue Moroney Thursday, October 25, 2012**

***The first day of public submissions on the Paid Parental Leave Bill showed the importance of flushing out the facts, with tried and tested democratic process, says Labour MP Sue Moroney.***

***The Government and Administration Select Committee received five submissions today, four supporting the Bill and one against.***

“Open debate and accurate costings will make it obvious that extending paid parental leave is in New Zealand’s best interests. The taxpayer deserves value for money and there is a strong business case for this Bill. “I was personally surprised to hear Business New Zealand’s views. I don’t think the points put forward were representative of most employers.

“They even suggested that women of ‘child bearing age’ – those aged between 15 and 45 - might be disadvantaged by the extension of paid parental leave as employers might be reluctant to take them on.

“Not only do these women make up a reasonable chunk of the workforce, female participation in the paid workforce has actually increased since paid parental leave was introduced. “I find it difficult to entertain that idea as being a serious roadblock given that paid parental leave is taxpayer funded and is a huge benefit to employers with virtually no cost.

“Other submitters had very valid suggestions for cost savings. “The Kindergartens’ Association supported the Bill as a simple measure to improve our children’s development. Their inclusion of cost savings from the ECE subsidy was the first look at the measure, suggesting it could save up to a third of the predicted costs of 26 weeks paid parental leave at full implementation.

“The National Council of Women rebutted claims that staff returning from parental leave would need up-skilling or retraining. “NCW said that a constantly changing workplace would be up-skilling all staff as a matter of course. Singling those on parental leave out as needing special treatment is just wrong. In fact one submitter argued that women took new skills, as well as their existing ones, back into the workplace when they returned from leave.

“Meanwhile the Council of Trade Unions urged the Committee to look into the cost savings that could be made when temporary vacancies are filled by people moving off benefits.

“I think today’s submissions indicate most New Zealanders support extending paid parental leave,” Sue Moroney said

## Newsletter Collective Statement

We would like this newsletter to be:

- ✂ a creative outlook for writers and artists and that means you
- ✂ a publication that provides information relative to women
- ✂ a publication that informs women on Women's Centre activities and other activities for women in the region.

We know we will make mistakes but hope we can learn from these and be open to criticism and change, and to sharing skills and resources with other groups.

The newsletter collective reserves the right not to publish letters which conflict with Women's Centre philosophy. We may not agree with the views expressed in letters. Some letters are edited in consultation with the writer. We do not publish personal attacks. Letter addressed to the newsletter collective are assumed to be intended for publication. Please indicate clearly if they are not.

## Women's Centre philosophy

The Women's centre:

- i) recognise and work in the spirit of the Tiriti O Waitangi;
- ii) confront women's oppression and empower women to take control of their own lives
- iii) oppose discrimination by those who have power against those who do not. This includes discrimination against women, especially Maori women, Pacific Island women, women of colour, lesbians, those who are differently abled, young, old, working class and those with different spiritual beliefs.
- iv) promote a safe supportive environment for all women and children;
- v) promote the sharing of power and resources;
- vi) act as a resource and information centre for the community.

The news letter is free to Women's Centre members and women's organisations. To join the Lower Hutt Women's Centre, send \$27 waged, \$15 unwaged, \$10 teenage, \$5 children to 186 Knights Road Lower Hutt. Membership also entitles you to borrow books, magazines, tapes, videos etc from the library for up to one month.

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	Email: _____
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Subscription:	
Waged/Unwages/Teenagers/Children	\$27/\$15/\$10/\$5