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Spring 3-31-1994

## Maine NOW Times (Spring 1994)

National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter Staff

*National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter*

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# Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

The Second Session of the  
116th Maine Legislature is now in session.

Scores and scores of bills are being heard this session that directly affect our daily lives. I know the temptation is there to turn a deaf ear to all the political hoopla but I beg you to resist. Below you will read information on "welfare reform" and on PAGE 2 are listed additional bills of importance to women and feminists — your families and communities.

## Choose one or two bills to follow up on.

Get a copy of the bill by calling the Document Room at 287-1408; find out the status of a bill (public hearing date, committee hearing the bill, date of vote in House & Senate etc.) by calling 287-1692; to get a list of the committees and their members call 287-1400. To call Representatives 1-800-423-2900; Senators 1-800-423-6900. Leave your message.

**LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD! ACT SOON!** Committee and floor votes are heaviest right NOW! Write to committee members. The easiest way is by sending at least 13 copies to the clerk of the committee hearing the bill to distribute. Write your own legislators expressing your views. Not sure who they are?—call your town/city hall. **Letters-to-the-editor in local/state papers are valuable.** If you have any questions or need help figuring out how the Legislature works, call Chris 873-0878 or JoAnne 989-3306.

## **"IF IT SACRIFICES POOR CHILDREN, IT'S NOT WELFARE REFORM"**

Marion Wright Edelman, Pres., Children's Defense Fund

Throughout the nation and in Maine, we are constantly being barraged by "welfare reform" talk. Most of this is based on myths and is racist, sexist, and classist. AFDC provides assistance to families with children—1 in 10 Maine children receive AFDC in the course of a year. It is a safety net, albeit a meager one, not a way of life.

**Governor McKernan's, "Project Opportunity" initiative includes: Lowering benefits to AFDC families who have another child.** This would not apply to women pregnant at the time of application or providing "documentation of participation in a family planning plan."

## **FACTS:**

\* Average AFDC family size is 1.8 children. Maine and Vermont have the lowest % of AFDC families with 4 or more children. Two to 6% of women receiving assistance have a new child.

\* Failure rate of the most reliable contraceptives range from 6-16%. Should a woman want to choose abortion, Medicaid will not provide this service except for rape, incest or to preserve the health of the woman. Caseworkers would become "family planning police."

\* A cap means each family member lives on less and deprives newborns as well as other children.

*continued on page 2*



# MAINE

# NOW

# TIMES

# SPRING 1994

## **WOMEN'S HEALTH EQUITY DAY**

## **MARCH 8, 1994**

**STATE CAPITOL BLDG.  
AUGUSTA  
8am-1pm**

**LEARN! SHARE! LOBBY! ACTIVATE! EDUCATE!** Breakfast forum with national and state speakers on women in health care reform - stories from multi-generational women - lunch with &/or talk to legislators Buses available for a \$5 fee (more if you can, less if you can't) from Bangor and Portland. Call Planned Parenthood 874-1100, ask for Denise. **If you can't make this day, be sure to write your legislators!**

**Force 20 hours of work, training or education (ASPIRE-JOBS Program) on all recipients. Eliminates current exemptions—illness or incapacity of a family member requiring home care; participating in a self-initiated training; caring for a child under three or a special needs child; second parent in a two-parent unemployed family).** Businesses would receive substantial subsidies for hiring recipients.

#### **FACTS:**

\* 70% of families receive assistance for less than two years at a time.

\* The low-wage unstable job market for less educated women—not a character flaw of “dependency”—is a major cause of revolving door welfare receipt. Minimum wage jobs can not pay for child care, medical care, transportation ...

\* Subsidies to businesses do not help. Evidence shows that these workers were discriminated against—too disadvantaged to perform the work—when seeking future jobs. It was tried in the 70's and 80's and abandoned because it was too costly and did not help in securing permanent adequate jobs.

**Transfer to the ASPIRE-JOBS account up to twelve months of “cost savings” due to participants obtaining employment.**

\* In the last several years similar premature deappropriations required large supplemental appropriations to the AFDC account.

\* If there are any savings, how about raising the AFDC grant that took an 8% cut last year—\$312 per month for a family of two isn't living high on the hog.

## **WHAT KIND OF “WELFARE REFORM” DOES WORK?**

### **PROVIDE EDUCATION AND TRAINING:**

Families headed by people with less than a high school diploma are 3 times more likely than those with a diploma, and 15 times more likely than those with one year of college to receive AFDC for two full years. More education will provide a better chance to raise their families above the poverty level and no longer need assistance. Use the proposed \$3780 business subsidy to increase the education level of families on AFDC.

Excerpted from fact sheets by Judy Guay, pres. Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods and Chris Hastedt/Kit St. John, Pine Tree Legal.

*In this lousy economy, we know how tough it is to find work—even if we have diplomas, training, & work experience—to keep our families sheltered, fed, and clothed. Most of us are a pay check or two away from needing assistance should we lose our jobs. Imagine what it would be like to be a parent with a child or two, barely scraping by, trying to deal with the welfare system, and trying to keep hope, courage and faith alive to work yourself out of poverty.*

*We need real reform that puts an end to poverty not welfare. Reform that honors the work mothers do raising their children, provides benefits above the poverty line, rewards those who can find work by not cutting their benefits and maintains medical and child care supports while they work their way out of poverty.*

- Ed. note

L.D. 1285 An Act To Provide Family Security Through Quality, Affordable Health Care. Sponsors: Sen. Dale McCormick & Rep. Charlene Rydell. Proposes to establish a universal health care system with access for all citizens, working or not. Cost controls, quality assurance and administered by a single, publicly-accountable, non-profit agency. Banking and Insurance Committee.

L.D. 999 An Act To Establish The Child Assistance Demonstration Program. Sponsor: Rep. Mary Cathcart. Requires the DHS to establish a “Child Support Assurance” demo project in 3 counties. Voluntary program to allow working families, with child support orders, to move out of poverty by providing a monthly “child assistance” payment until their combined earnings & child support exceeds 125% of the federal poverty level (\$14,862 for family of 3). Also provides 2 extra years of health & child care benefits to increase chances of a success.

L.D. 1407 An Act Concerning Primary Care and Parental Rights and Responsibilities in Cases of Domestic Abuse. Sponsor: Rep. Mary Cathcart.

L.D. 1436 An Act To Eliminate The Statute of Limitation in Child Molestation Cases. Sponsor: Rep. Pat Paradis.

L.D. 1727 An Act to Affect the Credit of People Who Are in Default of Child Support Payments. Sponsor: Rep. Jane Saxl. This bill would also repeal a new law that suspends the licenses (driver, professional, business) of parents 90 days in arrears of court ordered child support. (Maine NOW believes there is adequate due process in this new law, others disagree. Check it out. Public Law 1993, Ch. 410, Part V)

L.D. 1185 An Act to Define Nurses in Advanced Practice

L.D. 1718 An Act to Protect Maine Children from Child Pornography Contraband

L.D. 1109 An Act to Amend the Sexual Assault Laws: with amendment to be added by the Criminal Law Advisory Committee.

L.D. 1647 An Act to Have Mandatory HIV Testing for Assailants of Law Enforcement Officers \* we strongly appose this bill

# WILL ABORTION BE SACRIFICED?

**The cost of abortion services is such a small piece of the overall health care package, dollar-wise, but it's availability has such a tremendous, far-reaching effect on women's lives.**

Abortion is legal but not accessible to many women because of age, income or residence. Misinformation, lack of transportation, & support, family violence, fear of clinic violence also block access to this choice. We don't always have a choice as to whether or not we get pregnant (birth control failure, coercion or violence, mistakes). It is therefore imperative that we have a choice as to whether or not we remain pregnant. If we controlled our bodies, it could mean...

- enough food, clothing, shelter, time, love ... for the children we have now
- children who are wanted, loved and cherished not neglected, abused, or burdened with physical or spiritual poverty
- enabling us to complete our education, fulfill our dreams, maintain our independence, contribute in the way we choose
- leaving the door open to escape an abusive relationship
- protecting our children from an abusive situation
- being able to choose an appropriate life-partner, not one by default
- avoiding life-damaging physical or mental disability
- preventing children from raising children

If we make the choices then our children have access to better choices, better lives.

**If we are not prepared to demand, to fight for, the full-range of reproductive choices including abortion, then we are almost guaranteed not to get them.**

Our elected officials have been very up-front in stating their willingness, almost eagerness, to throw this bone of compromise to those who oppose mean-

ingful health care reform. They say, if backing off on abortion means being able to pass a health care reform package, we are ready to compromise.

They just don't get it... why abortion coverage is so vital. If it doesn't personally affect us, often we don't understand. They need to hear our personal stories.

And it's not just elected official who don't get it. Many advocates and many of you are saying the same thing - compromise on abortion in order to get health care reform. How can our needs be met if we don't expect them to be met? Starting from a position of "oh, well, something is better than nothing" will get us nothing.

**Unless we scream and shout, demand and organize to make our voice strong, to make the pro-choice majority heard, we will be tossed aside with ease.**

Votes are what count to politician and votes are what we have. Every pro-choice individual must take the time to write their state representative and senator as well as the members of our congressional delegation. Demand a health care reform package that contains the full-range of reproductive health care services for women including abortion. Urge them to vote down any package that does not.

We must be firm in order for our leaders to be firm in their resolve to be equitable to women. They will only stick their necks out if we demand it and if we stand with them.



**SO GO TO YOUR WINDOW, THROW OPEN YOUR SASH AND YELL I'M MAD AS HELL AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANY MORE!!!**

**Write today!** "As a woman I expect to be treated equitably in any universal health care reform package. I expect the full-range of reproductive health care services to be available to women including abortion. Women's services should not be compromised. Sexuality education, contraception, abortion, maternity care, voluntary sterilization, mammography, PAP, STD, mid-life and post-menopausal services should be adequately covered under a decent plan. Any compromise on these services should not be tolerated. Women's lives and the well-being of our families demand that we be treated fairly." Adding a personal story (and/or rewording), if possible, increases the value of this message.

## Church Dictates Hospital Policy

The three hospitals in Portland, Maine Medical Center, Brighton Medical Center and Mercy Hospital are discussing consolidating their services. **Mercy, a Catholic hospital, states that they will not tolerate the performance of abortion services at any of the three hospitals if this consolidation occurs.** Maine Med an Ob/Gyn teaching hospital currently provides this service at the hospital through its Ob/Gyn clinic and as an in-patient service. It appears that they are willing to bow to Mercy's demands. They are considering moving abortion services off site. What kind of nonsense is this? Since when should the medical profession take orders from Rome or any other religious seat? What about patient needs, safety, and availability? What other services will be interfered with... sterilization? forced C-sections or denial of? not honoring living wills?

**To combat this consolidation, WE need to write letters to:**

Donald McDowell, President  
Maine Medical Center  
22 Bramhall, Portland, ME 04101

**Another concern is anti-trust law.** This tight little group would be calling all the shots on availability of medical services and their cost, leaving you and me with very limited choices. We need to ask the AG to call for an anti-trust review. There is pending legislation to exempt them from this review. Consolidation may not be in the communities best interest, medically or otherwise. Write:

Michael Carpenter, Attorney General  
State House Sta. #6, Augusta, ME 04333

## Maine NOW Makes History

by JoAnne Dauphinee

I'm wondering how to reduce 23 years of NOW activism and five file cabinets full (and overflowing)... to two pages!? Maybe really teeny print? As an archivist I gratefully welcome any additions, corrections, or recollections! Spotlight on the early years...

### THOSE WACKY WIMMINS LIBBERS

In 1971 a handful of feminists met to form **Southern Maine NOW**, our state's first NOW chapter. Among the pioneers: Lois Reckitt, Eleanor Robbins, Nancy Dibner, Fran Harriman...

That first year or two, Maine NOW activists picketed Guy Gannett News protesting **sex segregated want ads**, rallied for **abortion**, invaded the **males only tavern** at Scarborough Downs, organized an August 26 parade and celebration of **51 years of U.S. women's right to vote**, and won inclusion of several planks in the state Democratic platform including a call for liberalized **abortion laws**! NOW acted on **women's rights** issues from Presque Isle to Kennebunkport.

To orient us a bit, it was the following year, 1972, when Congress finally passed the federal **Equal Rights Amendment** and sent it to the states for ratification; when a new magazine called *Ms.* sold out its first issue in record time; when Shirley Chisholm was among those running for President of the U.S.; when **Title IX** passed Congress prohibiting sex-discrimination in education and the Women-Were-Never-Meant-to-Play-Football debate began. It was two years later in 1973 when the Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v Wade*.

In 1972, **Kennebunk NOW** formed. Nat'l NOW President Wilma Scott Heidi helped Bangor to organize **Heart of Maine NOW**. Northern Maine pioneers included Doris & Irv Stevens, Dorothy Doyle, JoAnn Fritsche, Susan Nichols, Diann Henderson, Gerri Merola, Paulette Dodge and me.

In 1973, NOW's first statewide

conference, moderated by Bobbie St Jean, was complete with a "**Myth America**" contest. We elected a **Maine NOW steering committee**. We picketed frequently to support the **Farah boycott** over sweatshops, cheered when Billie Jean King beat Bobby Riggs, watched 28 states ratify the ERA, and initiated the formation of **Maine Coalition for ERA**. There were eight active chapters, and Volume One of "**Mainely NOW**", the official state newsletter, rolled off the press.

### STATE COORDINATORS

1973-75 Lois Reckitt\*  
1975 Lois & Sheila Karajin  
1976 Lucy Harrington  
1977 (June) Janet Beaulieu  
1978 (Jan) JoAnne Dauphinee  
1980 (May) Janice Lowe  
1980 (Oct) Marilyn Kirby  
1984 (part of) Jo Dauphinee  
1984 (Sept) Marge Clark  
1986 (Sept) Beth Edmonds\*  
1989 (Oct) Cynthia Phinney  
\*also served at National level, as did Christine Torraca

On **January 19, 1974**, Maine ratified the federal ERA. (*Only six more states needed!*) Other state legislative work included passing the first of many **AFDC increases**-ah, the good old days in *some* ways at least- & a bill to make **credit discrimination** illegal. We lobbied for changes in the **rape laws** and funding for the **Portland Rape Crisis Center**, a center that existed due to NOW's Fran & Bobbie.

Maine NOW pursued several **court cases** over the years, including a case to allow women to keep or return to their "**maiden**" name if married. Also, NOW was a plaintiff in a case to force **EMMC** to allow mid-trimester **abortions** & opposing 1st tri restrictions.

Activists worked on promoting compliance with **Title IX**, and **Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act for equal employment rights** for women and minorities, understanding and **confronting racism**, pushing for some justice in the **Karen Silkwood** court case, and education on **incest, battering, and rape**. NOW actively

supported the new **battered women's shelters** in Bangor and Portland, as well as numerous **lesbian and gay rights** efforts, including a conference at UMO.

Until 1974 there was a **Legislative Committee**. Early members included: Jane Holmes, Jadine O'Brien, Eleanor Robbins, Barbara Warner, Betty Beane, Barbara Hansen and me. Also common were *chapter* Legislative Coordinators and I have worked "the third floor" with many unsung NOW citizen lobbyists since the early 1970s.

### PAC UP YOUR TROUBLES

**Maine NOW PAC**, formed in 1978, was the first **Political Action Committee** to require endorsed candidates to be pro-choice, pro-lesbian and gay rights, pro-ERA, and non-racist. Just one year earlier National NOW PAC was created. Seasoned political analysts and lobbyists by then, Maine NOW created **MNP** because lobbying some legislators was hopeless. We had to replace them with feminists!

**Election analysis**, and eventually **MNP**, have been key NOW projects over the years. **MNP** founders included Jane Holmes, Becky Sarna, Lois & me. **Leader of the PAC** is usually the State Coordinator, with Christine Torraca also serving a term.

**NEEDED: WOMEN & MINORITY CANDIDATES TO RUN FOR Maine Legislature!**  
Filing deadline is April 1, 1994!  
Contact JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306.

### CHOICE YEARS

As soon as *Roe v Wade* was handed down in '73, anti-choice activity went ballistic everywhere. Some of us had followed choice issues from the first bill in the **Maine legislature** back in 1967, and worked with **Rep. Dorothy Doyle of Bangor** on a **repeal bill** in 1971. We got the first pro-choice plank in the 1972 Democratic platform.

Maine NOW may be the only organization in Maine that has offered **uninterrupted action on choice** as a top priority since 1971! In 1974 we supported **Maine Right to Choose**, a NARAL affiliate, and received its assets when it folded in 1980. We organized an annual picket of the Anti-Choice Convention. We were & are the movers & leaders in many Maine Choice groups over two decades including:

- **1977 Coalition to End Medicaid Discrimination** (later calling itself **Coalition for Choice**) formed to restore abortion funding. In August of '77 the court injunction against the Congressional ban on funding was lifted.
- **1982 Alliance to Preserve Reproductive Choice**
- **1987 CAGI Campaign Against Government Intrusion** defeated attempt to get parental consent on ballot
- **1988 SAFE Fund committee, Safe Abortions For Everyone** to establish a private abortion fund.
- **1989 Maine NARAL**, 2nd National Abortion Rights Action League affiliate
- **1989 HART Coalition** evolves into **ME Choice Coalition**
- **1992 Voices for Choice**

**IF YOU GIVE LESBIANS RIGHTS, EVERYONE WILL WANT THEM**

In the mid-seventies, Maine NOW activists were key in organizing **Maine Coalition for Human Rights**. MCHR and Maine NOW were the only groups to play an active role in introducing and lobbying for the **first Lesbian/Gay Rights bill in 1977**. Among groups listed as supporters: Democratic party (platform) & MCLU.

From **1977-85 Maine NOW took the lead** on organizing sponsors, testimony, lobbying, publicity, education, coalitions, and a successful election "**Senate Strategy**", with the bill first **winning in the Senate in 1983**.

In **1985**, with help from Maine NOW activists, **MLGPA, Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance formed**. NOW activists have since worked within and beside MLGPA, **Northern Lambda Nord, Equal Protection Portland & Lewiston** and all groups striving for human rights.

**MAINE NOW TIMES EDITORS**

Pre-Newsletter Notes Lois Reckitt  
1973 Fran Harriman  
1973-4 Nancy Cushman Dibner & Anne Hazelwood Brady  
1975 Janet Beaulieu  
1976 JoAnne Dauphinee  
1984 Christine Torraca  
1989 Chris Rusnov

**MORE FUN WITH FEMINISM**

Among Maine NOW's other activities in the '70s and early '80s...

- **"FUN"** Feminist Underground Network had our own LOGO & Tees. I can't say what we did, but it was FUN!
- **"SOW"** Society of Outraged Women delivered "Turkey awards" in greater Bangor & also had fun!
- **PAC Women Pot Lucks** to raise money & women's political interest.
- **NOW Consciousness Raising - "CR" groups** were numerous, as were **Feminist Leadership Trainings**
- **"Rural Women and Isolation"** workshop and network organized
- supported a lawsuit giving the parent the **right to name her child** (other than father's surname)
- 21 took part in the **1975 "Day of Outrage"** for choice at the **Vatican embassy in D.C.**
- **minority recruitment & fundraising** for Maine's **International Women's Year 1975** Conference delegates
- participated in the **1976 ERA White House Vigil**, and rode the **1976 Illinois Freedom Train**
- organized **Speak Outs** on rape, incest, sexual harassment...
- coordinated **"Alice Doesn't Day"** Women strike activities on 10-29-75
- coordinated Bangor's **Mother's Day Rally for Choice in '77**
- protested the treatment of the Maine's **1975 Miss Jubilee Pageant** contestants, inspiring three contestants to withdraw and join the NOW protest!
- established a defense fund for a local **lesbian** involved in a **child custody case**, favorably resolved
- initiated liaisons with Maine

NAACP in Bangor & Portland, and **Maine Indian women**

•beginning in 1977, sponsored **annual Walk-a-thons for ERA**

•**1981 Walk Across the State for ERA** starting in Washington county & ending with huge celebration in Portland

•**Lights for Equal Rights Day** (happily it was foggy, adding significantly no doubt to those showing support for ERA with headlights on!)

•spearheaded many efforts for an **extension on ERA's time limited expiration**, including Bangor's snowbank demonstration at a "fireside chat" & prompting Pres Carter's first publicly supportive comments

•**1982 State House Festivities** complete with legislators declaring **"ERA Day"** commemorating the Maine legislature's ratification day

•**NOW defeated** an anti-choice **"Akron" type ordinance in Portland**

•active in labor, **J.P. Stevens boycott**

•outreach to **Maine immigrants** & annual workshops on minority issues

•organized **Candlelight Vigils for Choice** at (then anti-choice Governor) **Brennan Town meetings**

•**Working Women Symposium**

•**Rape Crisis Center** started in **Farmington** area due to NOW concerns

•in **1978** several NOW activists were elected to the first Board of a new group, **Maine Women's Lobby**

•**NOW Truth Squad** on Reagan

•**Well Baby Clinic** services saved in Brunswick

•organized numerous car, bus and plane loads of Mainers to D.C., N.Y., **Cherry Hill, L.A.** or wherever the action was on women's rights, minority rights, choice, poverty, ERA, L/G rights

**NOW NUMBERS**

In 1971 National NOW, only 5 years old, had a membership of 15,000. By 1975, NOW had 30,000 members, 150 in Maine. In 1978, Maine had almost 200 members. By 1980 Maine NOW had close to 400 members, and 6 active chapters of about 1000 nationwide. National NOW had over 110,000 members. Today National has 280,000 members. Maine has 1700, & growing!



## MNT CREDITS

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue - JoAnne Dauphinee, Rachel Lowe, Lois Reckitt and Chris Rusnov. Also thanks to Debora McLaggan for layout and design. We encourage all of our readers to contribute to your newsletter with articles, poems, letters-to-the-editor, cartoons, & notices. Send to: Chris Rusnov, 11 Bolduc St., Winslow, ME 04901, 873-0878. Deadline for next issue: MAY 1, 1994.

## Kudos

to **Merrie Allen and Annie Lunt** for spearheading the Catie Curtis concert in commemoration of Roe v. Wade on January 22. The near capacity crowd was treated to great entertainment! Check out her music! Funds raise at this event allow for the publication of this newsletter and other grassroots communication about legislation and action. If you have fundraising ideas and/or want to work on this committee, call Annie Lunt 883-1195.

**ADDRESS CORRECTION**  
from last MNT: ABC, 77 W. 66th  
St., New York, NY 10023  
(212)456-7777

Maine NOW receives call weekly from women seeking legal help or advice. We would like to develop a **referral list of feminist lawyers**. If you are one (or know one), write to Maine NOW to let us know if you'd like to be on this list.

## Real Women: A Festival of Film

The **Portland Museum of Art** is pleased to collaborate with the Maine Women's Fund and USM Women's Studies Dept. for Maine's first-ever Festival of Women in Film. Celebrate Women's History month with the museum on **SAT., MARCH 5, 10 AM - 5 PM**. Admission will be charged. For more info call the museum at 775-6148.

**Holly Near**  
**March 23rd**

Maine Center for the Arts (UMO)

## Reckitt's Priority: End Violence Against Women

Lois Reckitt, long-time Maine NOW activist is seeking election to the National Board. Lois served as the 1st Maine NOW coordinator, NE Regional Director in the late 70's/early 80's; and National NOW VP Executive, 1984-87. "I believe that I can bring an important perspective to the Board as a long-time activist on many issues, but especially those related to the pressing problems of increasing violence against women. NOW should take a leadership role and my ten years of experience in the battered women's movement can help bring that about". Lois also promises to keep us informed through the MNT.

Maine NOW members are needed to attend the conference and vote for her. She would voice our priorities in Washington and speak to our needs as a rural state.

Northeast Regional NOW Conference  
April 16, 1994  
8:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Berkshire County Community College  
Pittsfield, MA

Day-long conference with workshops, speakers and election. Some of us are going down Friday evening. Want to share a room, call Maine NOW 797-8508. Or call: Pittsfield Hilton DBL.RMS. \$82 (413)499-2000, or Heart of Berkshire DBL.RMS. \$42 (413)443-1255. For information on registration contact Beth Edmonds 865-3869.

## Regarding the Self

Drawings and Paintings  
by Margaret Libby

Colby College Museum of Art  
Waterville  
March 4 - April 3

A series of self-portraits, nearly life-size in scale, documenting the onset and development of her pregnancy in 1992. "I wanted to change the passive way the female figure is traditionally shown by making the figure more active and unidealized....I felt it was important to document the physical and psychological changes in my effort to combine artistic and parental identity..."

## MAINE BREAST CANCER COALITION

51 Sandy Hill Rd.,  
South Portland 04106  
Laurel Bezanson 874-0943  
*Doing support, education,  
and advocacy.*

**Libby Roderick**  
**April 16th**  
Hauck Auditorium (UMO)

**Annie DeFranco**  
**March 12th**  
UMA

## Maine Women's History Poster

The Maine Women's Lobby and Women's Development Institute 1994 Women's History poster is now available! It features seven prominent Maine women and their accomplishments. You may never have had the pleasure of learning about the contributions of Molly Spotted Elk, Fly Rod Crosby or Lillian Nordica but you can help assure that mistake is no longer made! Buy one for your local school/public library/office or home. They're inspirational, beautiful and affordable. A great and easy way to celebrate Women's History Month!!! \$5/one, \$3/additional posters - for postage & handling. Make checks to: MWL, P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347.

# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN



Maine's Leading Feminist Grassroots Organization  
Phone Number: 797-8508



Maine State Coordinator - Cynthia Phinney 778-9506  
Assistant State Coordinator - Merrie Allen 874-2899  
Recorder - Marilyn Hackett 933-4070  
Treasurer - Kathryn Dunn 626-3554

## Task Force/Coalition Contacts

Affirmative Action Task Force - Valerie Howard 877-7627  
Computer Wizards - JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306  
Consumers For Affordable Health Care-Mary Donnelly 729-5843  
Dirigo Alliance - Beth Edmonds 865-3869  
Lesbian Rights Task Force - Bettina Blanchard 737-2822  
Maine Choice Coalition - Chris Rusnov 873-0878  
Maine NOW Phone Coordinator - Annie Lunt 883-1195  
Maine NOW PAC Treasurer - JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306  
Maine NOW Times - Chris Rusnov 873-0878  
Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition - Rachel Lowe 737-2329

## NORTHEAST REGIONAL NOW BOARD MEMBERS

Beth Edmonds, 9 Guptill Ave., Freeport, ME 04032, 865-3869  
Ellen Convisser, 89 Dover St., Somerville, MA 02144, (617)625-9786  
Pat Murphy, 210 Wadsworth St., Avon, NY 14414, (716)243-0637  
Ruth Laws, 31 Wimpleton Lane, W. Seneca, NY 14224, (716)675-7437  
Erima Vaughan, 37 Manor Ct., Hempstead, NY 11550, (516)489-7262  
Clarice Pollack, 1853 Central Park Ave., Yonkers, NY 10710, (914)337-7159

**GREATER BANGOR NOW**  
P.O.Box 2672, Bangor, ME 04401  
Coordinator - Joyce Blakney 825-3962  
Meets second Monday of each month

**GREATER FARMINGTON NOW**  
P.O.Box 375, Farmington, ME 04938  
Coordinator - Peggy Stubbs- 778-5609

**KENNEBEC VALLEY NOW**  
P.O.Box 503, Augusta, ME 04330  
Contact-Sandy Friedman 623-4784  
Meets second Wednesday of the month

**BRUNSWICK AREA NOW**  
P.O.Box 133, Brunswick, ME 04011  
Contact - Mary Garvey-Donnelly 729-5843  
Meets first Wednesday of each month

**GREATER PORTLAND NOW**  
P.O.Box 4012, Portland, ME 04101  
Coordinator Jennifer Halm-Perazone 871-0618  
Meets fourth Tuesday of each month

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**COUNT ME IN!** I wish to join NOW and commit myself to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men. **MAINE NOW, P.O. BOX 4012, Portland, ME 04101. Make check payable to MAINE NOW.**

NAME (Please PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ to help us analyze our organization's diversity.

CHAPTER (see above) \_\_\_\_\_ If there isn't a chapter near you, leave this space blank and we will enroll you as an at-large member.

Dues rate includes membership at the national, state & local level.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ dues enclosed. \$35 Regular Dues. A sliding scale of \$20 - 34 is available, if you need it.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ additional contribution enclosed. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Political Action Committee contribution. Payable to Maine NOW PAC.

☐ PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT MAINE NOW TO SHARE YOUR NAME WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. (see Maine NOW policy below)

☐ Please check here if you do not want National NOW to share your name with other groups.

**NAME SHARING POLICY:** Maine NOW shares our member list for coalition work, in which we are active (see list above). We also occasionally, on a case-by-case basis, will share the list with progressive groups who are advertising events or sharing information.



## March is Women's History Month! Celebrate!

The Maine NOW Board invites you to a

### BIRTHDAY CANDLELIGHT BREAKFAST

A celebration of women's lives  
- the famous and not so famous -



**Saturday, MARCH 5 - 10 am**



Winthrop St. UU Church - Augusta

*This is the first in a series of birthday breakfast gatherings to celebrate women's lives. This month we will highlight women born in January, February and March!*

*Come prepared to share a story of a significant woman in your life - family member, teacher, author, friend, celebrity....  
Feminist fun, yummy breakfast, birthday cake, sisterhood!!!*

We encourage you to pre-register with the form below, but will be delighted to see you at the door.

\$5 - \$10 (more or less, depending on what you can afford)

Questions, call Chris 873-0878, Merrie 874-2899, JoAnne 989-3306

Following the breakfast, the Maine NOW Board will meet from noon to 4 pm. You are welcome to stay and participate, if you wish.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



I can



I can not attend

A donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Send to: C. Rusnov, 11 Bolduc St., Winslow, ME 04901

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MAINE NOW  
P.O. BOX 4012  
PORTLAND, ME 04101

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concerts, women's film festival, art  
Maine women's history poster  
NOW Conference/Reckitt Runs



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