

# Berkeley NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN NOW Newsletter

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News and Resources for UC Berkeley Feminists

January 2006

## Happy New Year!

Welcome back, fabulous feminists.

Thanks to all of us, fall semester was a huge success and this year is bound to be even bigger and better. Here is a preview of what to expect for spring 2006.

First, with our victory of defeating Proposition 73, we must continue our fight for reproductive justice by marching in San Francisco on January 21. Right to Life is marching in San Francisco to protest the decision that gave women the right to choose. Last year Right to Life had several thousand marchers and we pro-choicers also had thousands. This year the Bay Area Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights has organized the counter protest and Berkeley NOW is participating. It is widely predicted that Judge Samuel Alito will be confirmed in an appointment to the Supreme Court. If this happens the right to choose may disappear. So join us on Saturday, January 21 and show how much UC Berkeley women and men care about women's right to choose!

Also mark your calendars for the Vagina Monologues from February 11-13. With a talented cast and crew, this inspiring performance is one you don't want to miss. What would your vagina wear or say? What does your orgasm sound like? Why is your vagina angry? Found out at this year's Vagina Monologues!

March is Women's History Month and on March 8, we will celebrate International Women's Day to commemorate the achievements of women around the world. This special day was first celebrated in 1911. The symbols, adopted from the labor movements of the late

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, are bread to represent the fight for financial equality and roses to symbolize continuing struggles. Today women are divided on all continents by national boundaries, by language and cultural, economic, political, and religious differences. For this reason, International Women's Day is especially important. It is a day to come together for justice, peace, and equality. It is a day to celebrate all the beautiful women of the world and our diverse cultural dances, music, food, and traditions.

As Ecofeminists, we will find our inner Goddesses and celebrate Mother Earth on April 22, Earth Day. The Earth, like the womb, nurtures and gives life. Thus, women and nature are interconnected and we must work against the oppressions of gender, race, class, and nature. Ways that we can help the environment include: using environmentally friendly feminine products, recycling, buying hemp or organic cotton made clothing, eating organic foods, planting trees and flowers, carpooling, bicycling, cleaning up a local creek, donate to save the rainforest campaigns, and cutting down on our consumption of energy and paper.

On May 14, we will celebrate Mother's Day by honoring those who gave us life. Being a single mother of two, my mom taught me about what it means to be a feminist without even knowing what feminism was. She worked harder than anyone else I know. She demanded respect from her male employers and didn't take any of their crap. She taught me to be strong for those who are weak. She taught me to love with an open mind. Mother's Day is a

time to give back to all the women who have provided for us. Our sisters, grandmothers, friends, and all the remarkable women who have dedicated their lives to taking care of others such as caregivers, foster care and orphan providers, abortion clinic employees and so many more.

Wow, are you as excited as I am? Well, get excited then because by the end of the semester we will also have our own brand new website!!! The site should include copies of past and current newsletters like this one, an event calendar, contact information, resources, minutes from meetings, pictures, and an about us page outlining the mission statement of Berkeley NOW.

In addition, we also have the California NOW State Conference to look forward to, elections for fall semester, Consciousness Raising events, Relay for Life (to benefit the American Cancer Society), and of course...parties!!!

-Lani Lee

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# News Briefs

Activist News from around the State, Nation, and World

## Jan 21, 2006 Converge in SF to show your support for OUR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.

In response to the 2nd annual Walk for Life, an anti-choice demonstration in SF, the Bay Area Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights is hosting a counter demonstration to be held on the 33rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, JANUARY 21, 2006. See [www.bacorr.org](http://www.bacorr.org) and contact Kate [kdarling@berkeley.edu] for more information about how to get involved.

When: January 21st at 11am.

Where: Pier 1 at the Embarcadero (get off at embarcadero BART)

We're asking groups to be involved in various ways:

1. Be there!
2. Sponsor the coalitional effort by making a \$50-\$100 contribution
3. Spread the word by telling other organizations and your friends!



***"Feminism is the radical notion  
that women are people."***  
Cheris Kramarae

Martin Luther King Jr.,  
Happy Birthday!



To commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy of love and non-violent resistance, CODEPINK has created a flash movie. Check it out at [www.codepink4peace.org](http://www.codepink4peace.org).

### Quotes from Dr. King:

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

"Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

"Everything that we see is a shadow cast by that which we do not see."

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

**Shake things up with the  
NEW FemAction DECAL !**

FemAction provides an empowering community to support and cultivate your efforts to effect social change. FemAction is your opportunity to participate in a forum for your creative energy to change the world!

- FemAction is a 3-4 unit DeCal created by former students of FemSex
- Meets twice a week on Tuesdays & Thursdays 6-8pm
- Check out the DeCal website for info about application during first week of classes ([www.decal.org](http://www.decal.org)) or email [femaction@gmail.com](mailto:femaction@gmail.com).

### FemAction Mission Statement:

FemAction will be a multicultural, all gender-inclusive forum for people to work together, both on campus and in local community organizations, on projects focused on a diverse range of issues affecting women.

Class time will educate students through workshop-style lectures including sharing skills, 'herstory,' and learning mobilization strategies to empower everyone toward being more politically and socially active. Finally, FemAction aims to create a community of support for its members in working toward positive social change.

Class structure will consist of one lecture and one workshop-style class each week. In addition, each student will be required to further their education as they volunteer with an organization of their choice, or participate in local community organizing each week throughout the semester.

## Upcoming Events

### January 21- **MARCH!!!**

**January 22** - Celebrate the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of ROE VS. WADE

### January 26- **A Green Party for Peace in San Francisco**

A Green Party fundraiser to support its efforts on behalf of underprivileged people, the environment, animals, and peace. At studio Z, 314 11th Street at Folsom from 8 p.m. until closing. \$5 to \$500, no one turned away for lack of funds. [www.sfgreenparty.org](http://www.sfgreenparty.org)

### January 27 – **An evening with Alice Walker & Amy Goodman**

Pulitzer-Prize winning author Alice Walker will be in conversation with Democracy Now! Friday, Jan. 27th at 8:00 pm, First Congregational Church, 2501 Harrison St, Oakland. Admission \$15 advance, \$20 door. Tickets at independent bookstores or call 510-832-9000 X305. Benefits Media Alliance. Contact [www.media-alliance.org](http://www.media-alliance.org).

### Through January 29 – **San Francisco Art Museum displays Kiki Smith**

Best known for provocative depictions of the female body, Kiki Smith has explored a broad range of subjects, including religion, folklore, mythology, natural science, art history, and feminism. By turns intimate, universal, visceral, and fragile, Smith's art renders the figure in frank, nonheroic terms, expressing its dual aspects of vulnerability and strength.

Know about a February or March Event?  
Have suggestions about the Newsletter?  
Contact Lani at [kleebear@berkeley.edu](mailto:kleebear@berkeley.edu).

## Take Action!

### Easy Actions You Can Take for Women's Rights

### Visit Changemakers Books and Gifts –

6536 Telegraph Ave, Oakland, CA 94609 (2 blocks North of Alcatraz, 4 blocks South of Ashby @ the corner of 66th & Telegraph) Store Hours: Open Daily 11am-7pm ~ Closed TUESDAYS.



Healing Circle  
January 25,  
Open mic for  
women  
February 10,  
Full Moon  
Gathering  
February 12,  
and more!

Other events listed on:  
[www.changemakersforwomen.com](http://www.changemakersforwomen.com).



As we all know, violence against women and girls is a prevalent and persisting problem in the world we live in. According to [vday.org](http://vday.org), one in three women will experience violence in her lifetime. Eve Ensler began the V-day movement after hearing stories of violence from those who came to see her show, The Vagina Monologues. V-day is about bringing attention to these issues, as well as raising money for organizations which aid women.

UC Berkeley also has a part in the V-day movement. On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>, Berkeley students will be putting on performances of The Vagina Monologues to raise money for the Gender Equity Center on campus, Bay Area Women Against Rape and the Family Law Crisis Center. For more information on the V-day movement, check out [vday.org](http://vday.org).

-Katie Leary

### Meetings:

*Berkeley National  
Organization for Women  
meets Wednesdays at  
6pm in 54 Barrows.*

*Women's Rights  
Conference meets  
Tuesdays at 7pm in 125  
Dwinelle.*

**Women's Rights Conference is on February, 25, 2006.** We need help with: publicity, workshops, website, poetry slam, art, and just about everything! Workshops range from feminism 101, women and violence, how to be an ally, activism, myths, and more. Email [melschep@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:melschep@uclink.berkeley.edu).

### ▪ *Enraged about Alito? Tell Your Legislators:*

Senator Boxer can be reached in her DC office at (202) 224-3553 or her San Francisco office at (415) 403-0100. E-mail: [senator@boxer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov)

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Feinstein can be reached in her DC office at (202) 224-3841, or her San Francisco office at (415) 393-0707. Email: [senator@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov)

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
#331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Make the message to your senators clear: Our nation needs them to do more than vote no. They must support a filibuster in order to prevent Alito's confirmation to the Supreme Court!