

# the Red Shawl

In Dedication to Susan B. Anthony's Badge of Visibility

Volume I Issue 4

December 1976

## SERVICE BEGINS

# RAPE CRISIS CENTER

The Saginaw County Rape Crisis Center begins full services on January 1st at its new location, 1626 N. Michigan. L.E.A.A. ( Law Enforcement Assistance Administration ) has approved a grant submitted by the Center and the monies become available the first of January. The grant allows salaries for two full time and two half time positions. Center Coordinator and Head of Counseling have been filled by the Center's Board of Advisors and applications are being taken for a bilingual counselor and secretary/bookkeeper.

The Center will offer 24 hour counselor/advocate telephone service. Outreach workers will also be available on a 24 hour basis. Rape victims and persons closely involved with victims are encouraged to call the Center's emergency phone line, 755-6565. Walk-in hours will be from 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM Monday through Friday, and noon to 1:00AM Saturday and Sunday.

Presently a small group of volunteers is staff-

ing the Center as counselor/advocates. To maintain full services, many more volunteers are needed. Counselor training is executed by the Center volunteers and the Head of Counseling. Anyone interested in receiving training and becoming a counselor/advocate can call the Center at 755-6568 and ask for the Head of Counseling.

The Center also offers a Rape Awareness Program. Groups interested in receiving this presentation, or individuals interested in training for the Speakers Bureau are asked to call the Center at 755-6568 and ask for the Coordinator.

The women who have been working for the past two and one half years creating the Rape Crisis Center wish to thank the individuals and organizations who, through monetary and/or moral support, have helped make the Center a reality.

## AN ALTERNATIVE

# Fayette St. House

by Barbara Wilson

National attention has been focusing on alcoholism and the problem drinker. All alcoholics have certain things in common; however there are certain groups of alcoholics that have particular problems.

One of these groups is women alcoholics. Unlike their male counterparts, women alcoholics generally are more secretive about their drinking, experience more guilt and shame, and suffer more from society's contempt.

Men, and even teenage boys, can display positive virtues of masculinity through their drinking, while society views the woman alcoholic as without virtue.

Often women admit to alcoholism with more difficulty than men, and seeking treatment sometimes is not a positive act; it is often a negative admission. This is part of the reason for alcoholism treatment facilities having about a 20 per cent female population, even though it is estimated that women comprise 50 per cent of all alcoholics.

Concerned women can help the woman alcoholic to face her problem intelligently and without fear.

EDITORS' NOTE: This is the second in a series about the Fayette St. House written by Mrs. Wilson, who is on staff at the House.

EDITORS NOTE: In the next issue of the Red Shawl an article will appear detailing the herstory of the Saginaw County Rape Crisis Center.

# Womansong II

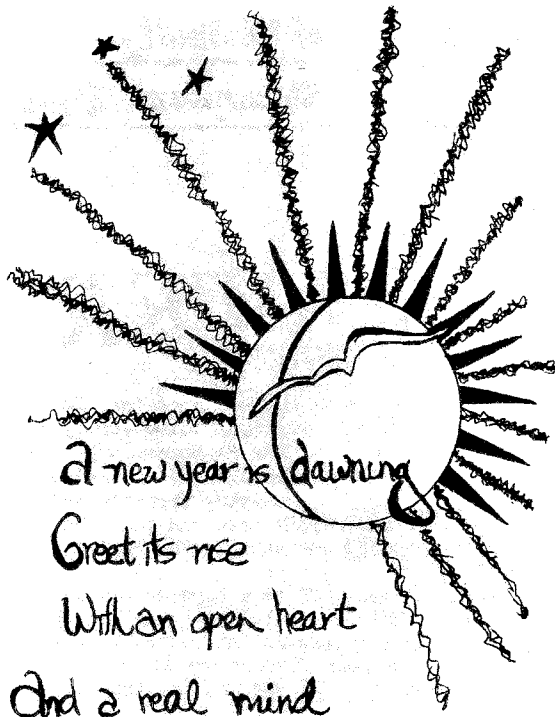
Womansong II, the second annual celebration of women's talents, will be held on February 18, at 8:00pm at St. John's Episcopal Church. Womansong is a project sponsored by F.U.S.E., with proceeds to be donated to the Saginaw County Rape Crisis Center. There is a donation of \$1.50 for adults and \$.50 for children and tickets may be obtained from the Rape Crisis Center, 1626 N. Michigan, from F.U.S.E. members or at the door the night of the event.

The evening is dedicated to many kinds of women's talents such as photography, art, crafts and poetry, as well as performing skills displayed in the program. This year the hope is that men, who have supported the program in the past, will also share their talents for this benefit.

Anyone interested in being a part of Womansong II either by performing or displaying, is asked to call Diane Rehak ( 754-0748 ) or Maria Tanner ( 799-0314 ) for more information.

# Opinion

by Linda Prohaska



Being real and open begins with awareness, honesty with oneself, and getting needs met; thus forming a sound basis for true communication. By allowing ourselves to be and utilizing this power, we can be free to share, understand, and relate to others, realizing, although we have different realities, another person is someone - feeling, thinking and deserving of recognition. In freeing ourselves, we can allow others to be real and free.

## The Critique

by Linda Hunt

A funny thing happened to women in the movies in the 70's-- they disappeared from view. Rather than deal with the changing roles of women, Hollywood chose to strike back with a vengeance. When women were present, their image was representative of that backlash. Supremist MCF director Sam Peckinpah told audiences that women really ask for and dig gang rape in "Straw Dogs". "Godfather" let loose with macho revelations that it's o.k. to beat the little woman--even if she's pregnant.

Some positive images did slip through, such as in "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore". But, current films show Alice to be a fluke. "Marathon Man" is an excellent film, but holds with the idea that a woman held against her will, while the "hero" tracks down Nazis, will eventually be turned on and move in with her abductor. "Network" is a film you'll love if you hate TV. And, while Faye Dunaway's role as a ruthless TV exec is an interesting diversion from most female

# HER- STORY

by Rosalie Riegler Troester

It is appropriate that one of today's New Left publications is named Mother Jones, after Mary Harris Jones, one of the most exciting of the early union organizers in the U.S.. Mother Jones' long and active life was dedicated to serving the oppressed; she spent many years criss-crossing across the country working for justice and a living wage for mine-workers in Utah, silk weavers in Pennsylvania, prisoners in West Virginia, dressmakers and housemaids in Chicago. Wherever people struggled against the iron hand of the moneyed class, Mother Jones was there, urging them to hold fast to their ideals, their unity and their courage. Her humor and unorthodox techniques resulted in striking union successes where the more timid and conventional methods of male organizers often failed.

As Clarence Darrow said, for her "right and wrong were forever distinct," and she had no patience with the squabbles of many of the men with whom she associated; her cause was with the workers in the mills and the mines and with their under-fed children.

After the death of her husband and children, she moved to Chicago and was soon engrossed in the burgeoning labor movement. From 1877 to 1924, she worked tirelessly to unionize America, often risking her life to aid the people. Her autobiography details her work for justice, which ranged from putting her hands over the loaded guns of vigilante groups to marching mill children from Pennsylvania to New York City. Her uncanny sense of media techniques seems most modern today. Jailed often, Mother Jones remained indefatigable, though many of the men were ready to compromise.

In 1910, she and a group of women, arrested while picketing for striking miners, received a 30 day jail sentence. They brought their babies to jail with them, explaining that miner's wives did not keep nursemaids. Mother Jones told the women to "sleep all day and sing all night and don't stop for anyone." After five days they were released from jail because "no one could muzzle those women." This one example serves to show Mother Jones' use of common sense, original organizing techniques and abiding idealism as tools in the fight for justice. Her life serves as a model for us as we continue her fight.

roles this season, she's not exactly a positive film image.

So, if you're looking for positive images this year, you'll have to look abroad. Swedish film exile, Ingmar Bergman, is at it again unleashing Liv Ullmann in "Face To Face". Bergmann's films and Ullmann's performances are musts to see for depth, characterization and non-stereotyped female characters.

Another film not to be missed is directed by the only successful woman director in the world. Lina Wertmüller's "Seven Beauties" is a box office smash in the U.S.. Her viewpoint is decidedly Italian leftist, not necessarily feminist, and her grotesque characters are used

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She has in the first place a devotion to the cause which is absolutely self-sacrificing. She has an indomitable will. She recognizes no obstacles. She has a clear, penetrating, analytic mind which cleaves straight to the heart of things...Her work has perpetual growth; it never stagnates; it is always branching out.

-Maud Younger, writing in 1913 of Alice Paul, who drafted the first Equal Rights Amendment in 1923

# ISSUES

politics

by Sister Ardeth Platte

Power is often regarded in negative terms, but while open to abuses, its rightful use is essential for the extension of justice and freedom to all. Power is manifested through acquiring or retaining some measure of control.

There are various aspects of power we must be conscious of and work toward if we are to affect society, our own immediate environment and directly our own lives. Some of the ways are; personal influence, administrative power, leadership power, technical power, political power, economic power and cultural realities.

The most striking abuse of power and resulting powerlessness is manifested in racism and sexism. With this abuse comes discrimination in employment, housing, education and nearly everywhere else. Whole groups of people become relegated to or subordinated to whole groups of others. The form it takes becomes a system of oppressive forces-economic exploitation, political subordination, cultural rejection, psychological violation, sexual degradation, verbal abuse.

In Saginaw, a number of women leaders have begun their quest for a just society with the positive use of their power. We commend them and encourage them. Below are but a few.

Mary Shepherd and Maria Tanner, who conscientized the public regarding the ills of redlining and its effects on neighborhood development.

Diane Craig and Louanne Smith who struggled to bring a Rape Crisis Center into existence, to challenge the police and the Courts regarding their treatment of the victims of rape.

The League of Women Voters, under the leadership of Mildred Katz, who probe the issues of our day and shed the light of truth upon the political process.

Barbara Klimaszewski and others for their support of battered women and their work toward creating a home for their shelter.

Pam Blondin Sommerfeld who has led the way on the County Commission to build just structures for health care, drug treatment and many humane services.

Myrtle Roby who continues the unification of women in Welfare Rights so that mothers may participate in their decisions for financial needs.

Louise Boyd, involved in Welfare Rights and providing legal support for women on the State and local levels.

# ACTIONS

Law

by Barb Klimaszewski

The "no-fault" divorce concept is now in effect in a number of states, and many others are considering it. It has frequently been hailed as an advance for women which frees them from unsuccessful or unwanted marriages.

"No-fault" divorce, however, can be, and often is, a mixed blessing for women. The liberalization of divorce laws has been accompanied by a general relaxation of attitude about divorce. As the number of divorced women increases, society has come to increase its acceptance of divorced women. When issues of property division, child support and alimony are determined by the courts women are often treated as independent, self-sufficient people who are capable of supporting themselves. Unfortunately, this ideal has only been realized in divorce courts. The economic changes brought about by divorce are staggering. A study published in Redbook earlier this year showed that after a divorce, the economic condition of men consistently improves, while that of women, especially women with children, substantially deteriorates. The most recent

Department of Labor figures show that the earnings gap between women and men has increased substantially over the past 10 years. It is the unusual women who can enter the labor market after a divorce and support herself the way her husband had supported her.

The dilemma is whether to acknowledge the economic facts and provide for women in divorce judgements in a way that will reflect the reality of her earning capacity, or to assume equality of the sexes in the hope that it will eventually occur. Many people argue that a woman who removed herself from the labor market for 20 years to raise a family cannot be expected to re-enter and be self-supporting. She suffers from lack of job skills, sex discrimination and age discrimination. She needs alimony to live on indefinitely, or at least to give her a transition period in which she can acquire skills. Fewer people see the injustice of a younger woman, married 5 years, who worked to put her husband through medical or law school, and then is divorced. Her labor has guaranteed his high income for the rest of his life. In most cases, she is reduced to a life on welfare, or an indefinite continuation of her existence as an underpaid unskilled laborer.

This is the second in a series on the No-Fault divorce law in the State of Michigan.

SUPPORT THE ERA

# A FRIEND ?

by Pam Blondin Sommerfeld

"The Friend of the Court is nobody's friend." That comment was made by a woman who has been divorced for several years. She was referring to the Saginaw County department whose function is to assist the District Court in making decisions concerning child support payments and custody of minor children in divorce cases.

Because it deals with the problems of divorce, the Friend of the Court's office has vast potential for being a scape-goat for the bitter and painful feelings that often accompany a divorce. However, when the same types of complaints occur time and again among women and men who are divorced, it becomes apparent that some things need to be changed.

One woman complained that although she had been divorced for several years, the child support payments she received from the father of her four children remained \$30.00 per week. Her former husbands' income had steadily risen over the years, but in order to receive an adjustment, she would have had to hire an attorney to represent her in Court. As in the case of most divorced mothers, she could not have afforded to hire an attorney. Therefore, the amount of support recommended by the Friend of the Court and mandated by the judge at the time of the divorce, will remain the same until the children are 18 and the father no longer is required to contribute to their support.

The Friend of the Court, Thomas Kaczmarek, says that his office is unable to handle adjustments of support payments any other way. He says the office is understaffed but with the addition of another attorney it would be possible to hold hearings with the parents to arrange an agreement on support payment adjustments. Unfortunately the Board of Commissioners denied Kaczmarek's request for another attorney when they established the 1977 Saginaw County budget.

This is the first in a series of articles on Saginaw's Friend of the Court office.)

## ISSUES con't.

Patricia Mays who has climbed from welfare to administrator and remains the heart of the St. Joseph Center in service to drop outs.

Maria Elena Castellanos who, realizing the inequities of education, fearlessly works for integration.

Vicki Miller who has brought her Indian brothers and sisters together to pursue justice in all phases of their lives.

These women, and many more, have grown in their understanding of power used to transform, used for systemic change, used to create a better Saginaw.

# Seer Center

by Linda Prohaska

The Seer Center of the Arts, 918 N. Water St., Bay City provides a vehicle for involvement with all the arts to any degree desired by the individual. Funded by a grant from the Bay City Housing Commission ( BCHC ), the Center is a warehouse of information and promotes education of the arts directly and provides an opportunity for communication and enrichment for both the artist and the general public in a comfortable gallery atmosphere.

Director-Coordinator Daniel Alberda displays and sells primarily Tri-City artworks, enabling both the artist and the public to discover each other and to establish a bond of familiarity and appreciation. Dan also co-ordinates the BCHC sponsored Youth Enrichment Services ( YES ) providing instruction in the arts to children ages 6 - 14 and New Games, a concept of play presently used at three different elementary schools. New Games, developed by Stuart Brand ( Whole Earth Catalog ), is an alternative to World War III; they are games which release tension by hard, fair play, without violence. YES is mainly geared to approximately 200 children who live in low income housing and provides classes through the Center for the enrichment and development of their interests in the Arts.

A true devotee of the Arts, Dan, a painter and poet, initially opened the Center ( as the Seer Gallery ) from an idea he conceived while talking with friends; he was forced to close the Gallery October 15th of that year for lack of funds. But as a believer in purity of the arts, ( focusing on creativity for self-discipline and a higher form of enrichment with pure effort to exist as a working artist ), Dan received support from BCHC to utilize his idea and provide a more encompassing service benefiting children as well as adults. Dan, also a Board member of Mid-Michigan Assoc. of Working Artists ( Red Shawl, November, 1976 ) and involved with the Michigan Poetry Resource Center at Grand Rapids, encourages contact with anyone interested in sharing ideas, work or information at the Seer Center which is open from 10am to 7pm Monday through Saturday with Monday and Friday having hours extended until 9pm. Visit the Center or call 892-5171 for it is truly a good space to be in.

## CRITIQUE con't.

to that political end. Here, the hero is the ultimate of Italian macho charm, who survives the Nazi camps by making love to the most grotesque image of woman ever brought to the screen-- a 6 foot, 300 pound female SS storm trooper clothed in men's jock shorts and shiny black gestapo boots. Wertmueller's talent lies in forcing you to like the hero and see humor in the horror.

Suggested reading: Marjorie Rosen's "Popcorn Venus: Women, Movies and the American Dream", an Avon paperback.

# Mrs. Who ?

It has become so much the fashion for women to call themselves and be known by their husbands' names and titles that a woman's Christian name is seldom heard or known. Why a woman as soon as she is married should be called Mrs. General, Mrs. Colonel, Mrs. Captain or Mrs. Judge I don't know except it be on the principle that husband and wife are one and that one the husband and the wife is his appendage and must be known by his title instead of having an individuality of her own.

But women are not alone to blame in the matter. The press does its part to keep up what the (Chicago) Tribune calls a vulgar custom. We have an instance at hand. Only a short time ago the daily press announced that "Mrs. Colonel C.S. Chase, of Omaha, is very ill." And again a short time after it announced "the death of Mrs. Colonel Chase," thus following the woman to the grave with her husband's name and title. She was not a colonel, had never been a colonel, and it surely would have been more proper to say Mary, the wife of Col. Chase.

Even since the world began all women of note have been known by their own Christian names. Adam named his wife Eve and we have no account of her ever being called Mrs. Adam. Victoria of England has never called herself Mrs. Albert Saxe-Coburg, nor has Eugenie been known as Mrs. Emperor Louis Napoleon.

And yet many women have gotten the idea that their husbands' names and titles in some way add to their dignity and importance and so appropriate them to their own use.

May the day soon come when all this will be done away with and women bear honored titles of their own, earned and conferred, but not borrowed!

Amelia Bloomer, in a letter to the Chicago Tribune, late 19th century

**CORRECTION:** In the last issue of the Red Shawl the notice of the Feminists United for Social Equality meeting gave the wrong date. It should have read December 1 not December 8. The meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month.

We regret any inconvenience the error may have caused.

## things to do

places to go...

- Jan. 4 Rape Presentation - Herig School. PTA, 7:30 pm
- Jan. 5 FUSE Mtng. 1626 N. Michigan 7:30pm  
General Membership Mtng.  
League of Women Voters  
51 E. Hannum 7:30pm
- Jan. 10 City Council Mtng. 7:30pm  
Council Chambers
- Jan. 11 ALICE PAUL'S BIRTHDAY - born 1885
- Jan. 14- Rape Crisis Center training  
16 1626 N. Michigan ( no more space - if interested call 755-6568 )
- Jan. 15 Martin Luther King's Birthday
- Jan. 17 RED SHAWL Mtng. (1st & 3rd Mon.)  
Schuch, 5pm  
City Council Mtng. 7:30pm  
Council Chambers
- Jan. 19 Rape Crisis Center Board Meeting , 1626 N. Michigan 7pm
- Jan. 20 Human Relations Commission Meeting, HRC office, noon
- Jan. 24 City Council Meeting, 7:30pm  
Council Chambers

If you have a meeting that you would like publicized in The Red Shawl, send the information to Places to go...etc., c/o 1403 Court #2, Saginaw, Mich., 48602

## Support The Red Shawl!

THE RED SHAWL is published monthly by Pat Parthe, Louanne Smith, Sheila Smith, Linda Prohaska, Connie Smith, Pam Blondin Sommerfeld, Barb Klimaszewski and Diane Craig. Artwork is done by Linda Prohaska of Picture This, Inc. THE RED SHAWL was developed for the purpose of providing a forum for the women in the Saginaw area so that we may come to know each other and, together, work toward solutions of the problems of society. Contributions, financial and informational may be sent to The Red Shawl, c/o 1839 N. Mich., Apt. 1, Saginaw, Michigan 48602.

IF YOU ( OR YOUR FRIENDS ) ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE RED SHAWL MONTHLY, THROUGH THE MAIL, PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW, ENCLOSE \$3.00 FOR A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION ( 25¢ per copy ) AND RETURN TO: THE RED SHAWL c/o CONNIE SMITH, 1839 N. MICHIGAN SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48602. THE MONEY WILL BE USED TO DEFRAY THE COSTS OF PRINTING AND MAILING.

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# BREAKING GROUND

by Diane Craig

Barb Klimaszewski

What a remarkable woman! From a marvelous career on Broadway ( a coloratura soprano ) to a successful livelihood in local real estate, Marion Newberry is a treat of a person.

Speaking with her in the home that houses not only her real estate office ( where she works from an old wooden desk once belonging to her father ); but also two cats, hundreds of photographs and a charm and warmth uniquely its own, we discovered a woman of wit, graciousness, keen intellect and a good sound business sense.

After inheriting her father's business in 1957, Ms. Newberry proceeded to utilize what she had learned about real estate from her father and make for herself a very successful second career.

Ms. Newberry was the talk of New York City following her appearance in " Pardon My English " which earned her critical acclaim. Asked if she had any regrets about leaving Broadway and coming back to Saginaw to stay with her then ailing father, Marion replied, " of course not! At first it was difficult, making the transition, but after I became more involved in my father's business I realized I had a talent for that sort of thing. After all, most people don't even have one successful career, I've had two!

Indeed! For what can be considered more successful than a first sale of the 60 acres of land that now houses Green Acres Plaza. Marion tells the story; " It was the late 50's and the property was an 18 hole golf course, where I golfed occasionally. Maude Wolfheil ( the owner ) called and asked that I meet with her that afternoon. Upon my arrival I was asked whether I wanted to list the property. Telling her I didn't even know she wanted to sell, 'Maudie' informed me it was for sale and she would give it to me because I was a woman! The whole process involved about 5 years of hard work, but what a pleasurable experience!"

Truly a remarkable woman. And perhaps, if she'll do it, Marion Newberry could lend her charm and voice to this year's Womansong. What a treat for the rest of us that would be.

ONCE AGAIN

## A Plea!

In a recent issue of The Red Shawl, an article appeared to encourage women in this area to communicate to the paper reactions to health care they have received in the Saginaw area.

We find it hard to believe that no-one in the community has had one less than perfect encounter with a doctor. We still have had no response. Those of us involved in the publishing of this paper have heard horror stories from women in the community who have been treated by their doctors and suffered because of either a lack of sensitivity or knowledge on the part of the doctors treating them.

We know it exists and we know that you know of at least one woman who has had a less than desirable encounter with a doctor.

We are committed to providing good and sensitive health care to the women in this community by providing a list of acceptable and non-acceptable doctors. Won't you help ?

Address your comments to the Red Shawl, c/o 1839 N. Michigan, Saginaw, Michigan 48602. All responses will be kept confidential.

The editorial staff of The Red Shawl asks that all articles submitted please contain non-sexist language.

*Delta*