

CAESARINA:

AN INTERVIEW.....

Caesarina Kona Makhoere, the South African author of "No Child's Play: In Prison under Apartheid" (Women's Press, 1988. To be reviewed in Women's Space no. 5. Nov/Dec.) visited Cork in August, both to promote her book and to try and tell as many people as possible about her own struggle against apartheid.

During her visit she was able to spend some time in the Women's Place. Caesarina is an extremely quiet woman, not given to making speeches. However, what she does say is worth listening to. She began by asking why we did not allow men in the Women's Place. Was this not discrimination? She described how the ANC, when it developed the "Freedom Charter" in the 1950's, also decided to include coloured and white people in the struggle... "we do not see a free South Africa as being black only. We seek unity between all people in freedom," she said.

south african women

We had a discussion about the reasons why we have created and maintained a women-only place in Cork, based on a concept of positive discrimination. Caesarina then went on to speak about her own experience of organising women in Mamelodi ("place of music") which is the town she comes from. She has found that the difficulties involved in organising women largely stem from their numerous daily tasks and responsibilities, working and feeding children, etc.. Second to the lack of time is fear -- fear for their families. But Caesarina would say to her neighbour women -- "do you expect your children to fight for you? Do we bring children into the world to pay for a coffin for them when they are killed by some trigger-happy apartheid monster? We must fight. First they kill me, not my children."

Caesarina believes that women, particularly mothers, when they do join the movement, give it great strength. "Everybody, even the head of government, has a mother -- if all mothers got together to tell their children to stop this regime of apartheid -- it would be gone overnight!" She says the involvement of mothers in the struggle is now growing at an unprecedented rate in the history of the struggle for South African liberation.

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women and resistance in south africa

Women's oppression has always militated against their taking an active role in political events. Sole responsibility for home and children continues to be a great burden and handicap to women.

Even where women have been politically active, they are often ignored -- due to prejudice, indifference, ignorance and, indeed, active suppression of information.

Even within the National Liberation Movement in South Africa, there is hostility towards specific focus on women's activities. But genuine socialists recognise the commitment of the Women's Movement to the common struggle and the intimate links between the two struggles.

The following is a brief tribute to women's contribution to resistance in South Africa. The earliest specific reference to women's role is to the 1940's. Trade Union activists included Bettie du Toit and Ray Alexander and many other women whose names are now, unfortunately, lost. This was a time of numerous strikes, boycotts and the growth of active squatter movements -- all with major support from women.

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HELPING ORGANISATIONS IN CORK: THE RAPE CRISIS CENTRE.

This is the beginning of a regular item in Women's Space which will be looking at the services available in Cork for women. What organisations can one turn to for help in a crisis or with a specific problem? What do these groups offer? Where can you find them and how much do they cost? We hope to answer these questions. This issue focuses on the Cork Rape Crisis Service. In future issues we hope to focus on the mental health services, physical health services, family planning, legal and information services.

Cork Rape Crisis Service:
I talked with a member of the Cork Rape Crisis Service collective who told me about their group and their work. The service operates as a collective. This means that the 12 members jointly share the responsibilities of running things. They have an administrator and a fundraiser who are on Social Employment Schemes. They also get a grant every year from the Southern Health Board to help pay the rent. Other than that they get no state funding and work voluntarily (i.e. for no pay). They rely on fund-raising activities to pay for the running costs.

The counsellors are involved in an initial training and information course when they join the group and are involved in on-going training from time-to-time. The basic pre-requisite of any member joining the group is a sympathetic approach and an understanding of what rape and sexual abuse are about.

They offer information, support and counselling to women and girls who have been raped or sexually abused in any way.

Their centre is at 27A McCurtain Street and you can call in for information or to make an appointment to talk to someone. You can also telephone 968086, and get the information or help you need over the phone. They have an answering machine when there's no-one there which gives the times a counsellor will be there and can take messages.

LETTERS



Dear Editor,
We in the Cork Lesbian Line Collective would like to take the opportunity to say that our members fully support Ms Penny Norris of Amazonia Guest House for allowing minority groups such as ourselves, to

partake fully of the facilities offered therein.

Further we were appalled, but not surprised at the treatment of such advertising by the press, local and national. It is a continuing annoyance to us as a collective, the lack of "positive press", i.e. in allowing the number of our service to be printed; and the "bandwagon" attitude of titillating gossip which surrounds any mention of our sexuality and that of gay men. Thank you Ms Norris for being so strong in your convictions, thank you Women's Place for printing the advertisement and as for gossip and muckrakers; Let she/he without sin cast the first stone.

Yours in sisterhood

Cork Lesbian Line Collective

NOTICEBOARD

WOMEN'S PLACE EVENTS SEPT/OCT.

Women's Writers Group

All aspiring writers welcome.
Wed. 21st Sept and 19th Oct.
8.00 pm. Women's Place.

1st Tuesday Craic. Tues. 6th Sept: "60's night", and 4th October: "Surprise". 8.30 - 11.30 pm, THREE ONES PUB, Barrack Street.

DON'T MISS:

Women's Video Club - details will be available from the Women's Place. Subject to amount of interest.

Women's Car Mechanics Course. Details from Women's Place. Subject to amount of interest.

BEACH W/END

For a beautiful beach, games, campfires, music, tarot, tennis court, pubs and swimming pool and great women's company, come to CASTLEFREKE outside Clonakilty, West Cork, Sept. 9-11. Be self-sufficient for a camping weekend.

For details contact:
Castlefreke Planning Group
c/o the Women's Place
24 Sullivan's Quay, Cork
(021) 317660

The counselling can involve a once-off meeting or a series of meetings depending on what you want. They hope that in providing the space for you to talk about your experiences, past and present, in total confidentiality, that

WOMEN'S POVERTY TRIBUNAL

Cork Planning group.
Meets Wednesday 7th Sept.
8.00 pm. Unemployed Centre, North Mall.
Women in Poverty, open day, 11 - 4, 17 Sept. Details of venue from Unemployed Centre.

WOMEN'S MINIMARATHON

WANTED: Runners to raise sponsorship for the Rape Crisis Centre (tel. 968086) and for the Women's Place (tel. 317660) URGENT CALL!

Have you ever wanted to learn German?

Now is your chance!
Beginner's course German commencing mid-September women-only relaxed atmosphere reasonable rates

contact: Bärbel & Moni
Tel. (021) 50 30 43

WANTED: volunteers for a collective to run CORK FREE PRESS. Campaign groups, etc. contact the Resources Centre. Tel. 317660.

situations might be eased and problems clarified. The service is free of charge.

Deirdre

Next issue: focus on mental health help.

PREHISTORIC POLITICS...

Tyrannosaurus Rex. An extremely large ponderous creature with a tiny brain and a lot of distance between the head and tail. Unable to adapt to changing circumstances it rapidly became extinct when the climate cooled.

Its modern descendant is Tyrannosaurus Political-systemus Rex

Politicus for short. This has many of the characteristics of its ancestor, plus a few interesting mutations. It is tyrannical, carnivorous, armour-plated, and its tiny brain cannot concentrate on more than one idea at a time. Sometimes the tail contains a brain, but as that end cannot see where it is going, this does not help much. Its left and right legs frequently go off in opposite directions and the creature splits down the middle and bleeds to death.

Frequently one leg will tear off another, with similar results. Alternatively its left and right hemispheres get into such a state of confusion that its simply stands still, frequently for years, its systems atrophy, and it starves to death. Or it brains itself with its own tail. The only hope it has of the continuation of life in these circumstances is that it might

have laid an egg, or contain one. But usually another Politicus comes along and gobbles up the remains, trampling any spiny or inedible bits into the ground.

Obviously it is a stupid, clumsy and quarrelsome creature, and when there are a lot of them charging about in the undergrowth they make a fearsome mess of it and each other.

Apparently small furry creatures of a brighter and more co-operative disposition

exist in the same swamp. They would be well advised to take to good strong trees and help each other avoid swamp living altogether until the creatures below become extinct, as they must in time, given their self-destructive habits. It would be a great loss to the ecosystem if the small furry creatures were destroyed along with Politicus, as this prehistorian feels that they have a very positive contribution to make towards the future of this planet.

Jo



SOUTH AFRICAN ♀ IN RESISTANCE... Cont'd from p.1

The Anti-Pass campaign erupted again in October 1955. It culminated in a mass demonstration of over 20,000 women in Pretoria on August 9th, 1956 (South Africa's Women's Day). Conflict was bitter in some districts. Women (and children) were shot, whipped and beaten in Cato Manor in 1959. In September '59 the ANC called a special conference with a large banner proclaiming 'Makoabongwe Amakosikazi' - 'We thank the women'. Chief Luthuli (the then ANC leader), his male pride obviously wounded, exhorted the men not to be outdone by 'mere' women.

Women continued to play a major role in the following decades. Trade Unionist, Rita Ndzanga; Lilian Ngoyi and Helen Joseph (Federation of South African Women) and Winnie Mandela and Albertina Sisulu (ANC Women's League) have all endured endless harassment, imprisonment and

prolonged periods of solitary confinement. So have countless other, lesser-known women.

But 'ordinary' women all over South Africa display extraordinary strength and courage every day, in caring, often single-handedly, for their families. And after endless hours of travelling to

and from work, they somehow find time for trade union work. The spirit and will of these women is truly indomitable. Women's resistance to Apartheid deserves our acknowledgement and our respect.

Margaret Daly
(P.R.O. Cork Anti-Apartheid)

CAESARINA INTERVIEW... Cont'd from page 1

She told about an occasion in 1985, on a Monday, when 12,000 mothers in Mamelodi met to see what could be done about recent rent increases, the presence of soldiers in the township and continual harassment of their children. They made a decision to organise a "stay away" from work on the Wednesday. Not only was the "stay away" almost 100% effective, but about 50,000 people marched peacefully from East to West

Mamelodi. However, the march was attacked that day by the armed forces of the apartheid regime, and a large number of people were killed.

Caesarina places great hope in the mothers of South Africa, for "no nation can claim it's free until the women are free." But, she added, "I am happy that our women are so enlightened in South Africa."

(PHOTO: FOR THEIR TRIUMPHS AND THEIR TEARS)
HILDA BERNSTEIN

GALWAY ♀s CAMP

As we arrived in Castle Ellen on a Thursday afternoon a woman clown crossed our path on a monocycle and the atmosphere of festivity was set. Welcomes abounded from old friends not seen for years and the same wonderful faces seen at all these women's gatherings. There were women learning juggling, sitting around the campfire chatting, deciding to extend the large bender because women just kept arriving. The orchard was beautiful and there were women everywhere, Irish, English, German, Danish, French and more, I'm sure. I loved it the minute I arrived and had to tear myself away when I finally left at 5 o'clock on Monday morning.

Within about an hour of arriving I was in a sweat lodge with about 12 other naked women. It was absolutely amazing, hot, sweaty, soft, humming, singing cleaning us out. Afterwards we splashed each other with cold water in a child's swimming pool and poured buckets of water over one another. 12 naked screaming women much to the delight of the women with the camera standing to the side. Pictures which have been promised on the cover of a prominent women's magazine.

The campfire was the central gathering point of the camp and women stayed there till dawn and often these who stayed up all night would go to bed for a few hours when the morning brought out the early risers.

During the day there was massage, Tarot reading, badminton, juggling lessons, music sessions, workshops on lesbians in East-Germany, chat... Volleyball games usually happened after dinner and it was looking very professional by the end of the week.



The cabaret on Friday night was inspiring because the wealth of women's talent that was visible. Gathered under the big bender with a covered in grass area for the stage we got hours of performances. Women got really into the spirit of it. Varied from fun 'never performed before' acts, acrobatics from Louise & Gay, to a spectacular juggling act performed by Jackie, Maria, Rachel and Jossie. The fire-swirling held the audience enthralled, especially a solo number by Rachel while singing a song to the Goddesses which remembers the 9 million European women burned as witches. Women's experiences were shared thro' songs and poetry. One of Kyde's poems describing the rage of a woman harassed in the street by some lads, her wish to be able to kill them when they shout at her 'When's the next bus cunt' and yet she replies 'Oh I dunno should be along any minute'.

What wild night was the disco in the orchards with lights and everything. Many thanks to the disco crew. Watching women being free and wild and expressing love for one another that night made you want to stay in Castle Ellen forever and forget about the rest of the world.

But Sunday came and goodbyes and sadness but a renewed knowledge of our power and a pride in what we are achieving together. A thunderous applause for all those involved in giving us a wonderful Galway Women's Camp '88.

COLETTE

DUBLIN ♀s BALL

I was delighted that something was organized this summer in Dublin for Women, especially seeing as it's that city's thousandth birthday. Thanks to Mary Mc. and all the others who helped organize it. A Women's event in the eastern part of the country completed for me a geographical tour of Ireland with international women's day in Belfast, in March, Women's fun weekend in Cork in May and the Women's Summer Camp in Galway in July. The Ball was held at the Cathedral Club, which was a suitable grand venue for such an event. Unfortunately only about half the women who came got dressed up for the occasion, which for me was half the fun of the night. The style of those who did dress up was incredible, imaginative, beautiful and gorgeous and I think we all had a great time swanning around in our adopted, borrowed and bought garb for the evening. My fantasy of waltzing around to the strains of Strauss Music was pleasantly replaced by the reality of Isabel and Mary O'Sullivan playing some lovely tunes. Jackie and Maria from Belfast were hilarious - love the dress and head gear, Jackie! - Even with Jackie's Juggler's wrist which prevented her from juggling she was a hit and Maria's magic was just that - Magic! The ball and scarf number really cracks me up. The music ensemble that followed with sax and trombone was the start of the dancing. The musical highlight of the evening was Mary Stokes who thrilled us with her incredible voice. The disco followed where I, for one, had a great time dancing with all the women who had signed my dance card! As with all great evenings this one ended too early.

Deirdre

SUMMER TIME

DINGLE ♀s W/END

Margret had organized a weekend in Dingle to see the famous dolphin. We would be staying in a women's house, which is run during the summer as a Women's Summer Camp.

Well, so we set off, four of us and a 4 year old girl, to Dingle to see the dolphin. It was getting rather late because we stopped in Killarney for a coffee and it took a bit longer than expected - so it was quite dark when we approached our destination - some small hidden away place called Ballydavid or Baile nGall. It took some U-turns when we just passed the right turn or when we poor foreigners weren't sure how to interpret those signs in Irish. Nevertheless we found the place and arrived at the arranged meeting place - a local pub - and indeed, what a pub it was! It was the weirdest place I've ever been to. You felt stripped the moment you entered. There were those men all lined up at the counter looking at us and uttering - I'm sure it wasn't a hearty welcome - something in Irish. We were asked into the back room where some of the other women had already gathered. I must say we didn't feel that our hostess was too glad to see us. She acted quite cold, not permitting hugs to her. Her reaction was understandable, given the situation and her being in her parent's house but it left an awkward feeling.

The house was o.k. but not suitable for the number of women and children who were staying there for the weekend. We were lucky and the weather was nice and sunny most of the time. Some of us went off to see the dolphin. You have to go on a boat trip and they

stay out for about an hour - the dolphin was amazing. I'd never been so close to one - he was playful and had us running from one side of the boat to the other hoping to catch a glance of him.

After a giggly night we spent Sunday at the beach. The beach is beautiful and I was once again amazed about the intensity of the colours when the sun is shining. We left rather late for Cork because between cooking, eating and cleaning out the rooms, time just flew.

It was an enjoyable weekend, although I would like to make some comments: I felt that our hostess wasn't really interested in the whole thing because the only time she was seen in the house was Sunday morning to collect the money. If she is running the house as a women's summer camp, which is a great idea and certainly needed, she must be prepared to see women hugging and kissing - and if she feels that the villagers won't accept it she should re-think the idea or tell the locals we're not aliens and we won't bite them either.

Finally I would like to thank

FULL MOON CIRCLES

Last summer I went to my first full moon circle in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. I sat around the medicine wheel with about 30 - 40 other women. A woman opened the circle by calling in the elements of the North, South, East and West and calling in the Goddesses. Incense was passed around and each of the women there brought themselves into the circle by saying their names and something about themselves or how they were feeling. Then we meditated, sang songs, chanted and lit candles. Then we divided into groups to have a sweat lodge, an ancient American Indian spiritual sweat. I crawled into a circular tent like shape with

Margret for organizing the weekend, for all the work and time she spend in getting it together.

Bärbel

In addition to what Bärbel has written, I feel obliged to make some further comments as I was at our hostess's house again on the following Wednesday and experienced a total difference. First of all, there were only three women and their kids staying, as well as our hostess's lover, which gave a more relaxed atmosphere from the start. She was very eager to show us around as she is doing some archaeological research in the region and was able to give a good insight in women-orientated sights. Further, our hostess herself was very apologetic about the weekend and explained that she had personal problems to deal with and was herself more than disgusted with those mummies she had to deal with in the pub. We were invited by her to a lovely dinner afterwards and all in all I left then with a very positive feeling. I agree with Bärbel that Ballydavid is certainly not the place for lesbians, (and our hostess knows it as well, but has no other opportunity than that place) but I am also very grateful that some of us try to create a women-only space even in such an area; and this deserves our respect and support.

Moni

about 10 other women. We sat on the earth in a circle and the hot stones from the fire were brought in, the flap closed, and we were in the dark womb of the mother earth. We threw water on the stones and the sweat began. It got hotter and hotter and sweat was rolling down every part on me and the wet and nakedness and warmth and connected feeling with the other women was very beautiful. We laughed, shouted, sang, chanted, spoke openly about ourselves, some women making wishes, others affirmations, others prayers. We stayed there for maybe 30 minutes and then crawled out dripping and gleaming from the light of the

cont'd, last page...

SOME FISHING

AND THE LIVIN'

WAS EASY



REVIEWS

Charting the journey. black women's writing in Britain.
sheba '88

To read this book was pleasure laced with pain. In spite of its unevenness, the beauty, savagery and honesty of much of the writing jumps at you, particularly the poetry. It is torn straight from the heart and makes no apologies. And the feeling for place, the descriptions of 'home', that place which for a Black woman living in Britain is not where she physically lives, but where she lives in her memory and soul, are full and rich.

The writing is also bitter, angry, pained, contemptuous. No one escapes the lash, whether it is Black Panther brothers patronising and oppressing their own women, or white liberal feminists exposed as just as racist and condescending as any other privileged group. Our inability to 'be there' to see the black woman as she is, not as we would like her to be is remorselessly set down.

But the pain for me lay not so much in having my own prejudices exposed, but in the widening divisions between women that these writings record, the sorrow and hurt of those suddenly told they are not black enough, (and have

EDS. S. GRIMAL, T. KONG, L. LAUDER, G. LEWIS, P. MARMAR.



never been white enough!) I (white, middle class with a black husband and son), once lived in a huge rambling house in Ladbroke Grove, full of friends of many races and mixtures of races. We fought for (often literally) and defended each other desperately in a viciously racist area. We looked out for each others kids and dragged them off the street if there was trouble. 'Our' people got beaten up in the local police station, we did whip-rounds to raise bail or legal fees, or to send someone home who'd cracked up, or for the family of someone you knew of who'd been knifed. And we swore that the racists, whatever else they did, would not break or divide us. But this book charts widening gaps between women of different race, like earthquake chasms in a broken country. And on which unstable

colour/class defined island are each of my friends now? That's my pain.

And although to me the divisions are a pattern set long ago by the white Patriarchy, the slave-holders and colonialists, a trap that all women are in danger of falling into, the rage, the pain and the determination of these writers is real and powerful. It is as much part of their reality as the beauty of their children, the strength of their grandmothers and the sweet smell of the earth of Jamaica or Sierra Leone. There is a feeling of new ground being broken, of old wisdom being rescued and given its rightful place. Charting the journey deserves to be read, both for its anger and its beauty and the hope that springs from both.

Jo



To School Through The Fields
Alice Taylor

Evocative, sensual, joyful and free; these are some of the words I would use to describe this book. The stories came alive for me, leading me through places, to meet people, partake in events and realize the joy and sadness of the time. It is an intensely personal book, and very unlike the usual style of autobiographical accounts, which for me was a bonus.

Each story had its own finale but all of them blend well together. They have within them a childlike quality, ahere and now perfection, as if written by the child while in contrast her poems are retrospective and emotive. "Back to Simplicity" touched me deeply with lines like

"But could it be He is not within
These walls so thick, with love so thin?"
It is hard questioning look at the institution of religion and churches in contrast to a life lived close to the earth, partaking in its abundance and in its care being closer to our 'God'.

The poem "Healing Place" was special for me, as I know I have places to go which bring me peace in my dreams;

"Oh, to hold these thoughts
And this place forever
In my mind
This beloved place
So much part of me."
And of course the poem "Togetherness" is dynamic in its simplicity of phrase,

telling of love and bonding between family and people.

The stories are educational, historical, telling tales of the long gone Thresher and another way of living, thinking, feeling. Today where one can often feel the pressure of a "norm", this book by its range of characters, Nell, Paul, Dan brings to mind that nature by its own diversity has room for everyone.

For me this book is very special, for me who grew up in the country and knows its freedom this book is a joy; for me, no longer a child this book is a memory and for everyone this book is one to read.

Geraldine

MORE REVIEWS

Women in Focus
 Pat Murphy, Nell McCafferty
 1987, Attic Press

This is a very enjoyable book, pleasant to the eye as well as to the mind. Yet, I found it a hard one to review because it mainly consists of photographs - which are difficult to describe - and intertwined with the fotos is the text. Sensible, warm and witty - just to give the fotos that extra twinge, that extra bit of information or story to make it special.

The book looks at women's lives in Ireland with an eye for the detail, the little bits and pieces which were never before considered as worth photographing. e.g. one foto showing women in a housing estate pushing their children in pushchairs, titled "Heavy Traffic".

Many areas of our lives are covered: from daily live events, the fight for women's rights, women artists, portraits of women, women at work... to a section on art work by women.

The fotos are extremely different, some are self-explanatory, some need text more than others. All in all, the fotos and the text blend in nicely together and give you an insight and recognition into contemporary Irish women's life.

Bärbel



"You've got to have something to eat and a little love in your life before you can hold still for any damn body's sermon on how to behave."

Billie Holiday

"The function of freedom is to free somebody else."

Toni Morrison

"The especial genius of women I believe to be electrical in movement, intuitive in freedom, spiritual tendency."

Margaret Fuller

QUOTES DISCOVERED BY JILL



MORE EDUCATION: the 2nd TIME AROUND

"Do not follow where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail".

Marie is the eldest child in a family of four. She was not studious at National School nor recognised as having brains. She left school at thirteen and qualified as a hairdresser. She is happily married with two sons. When she began helping them with their homework she became aware of her own lack of education.

She was always on the look out for an opening for further education. She was an avid reader and while reading MAYFIELD COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT by Fr. Donal Linehan, C.C. she came upon the idea of self help groups for education. Marie spoke to Fr. Donal about these groups. Contact was made through Sr. Enda with Mr.

two/three, which would be much more encouraging.

Marie went back to school in Sept. '86 and studied English, History, Geography, Biology and Business Organization from 9.40 a.m. to 12.50 p.m. daily. Cost £45.00p. Creche facilities were also available. Staff at the school were extremely supportive. She often stayed up until two or three in the morning to study. She was constantly haunted with fear of failure not knowing whether she could do it. Did people take her seriously? Reactions generally were "The REAL? Living Cert!" However, Marie sat the exam in Summer '87 and passed with flying colours. Congratulations Marie!

Benefits included a boost in confidence, meeting like minded and motivated people, equality with others on an educational level, a new



Murphy, Remedial Teacher and Mrs. Kay Ryan of the Altrusa Club who were willing to run a ten week remedial course. A class was formed but fell through because of lack of numbers.

Marie was not discouraged. She learned through the Altrusa Club that an adult leaving certificate course is held in the School of Commerce and decided she would try two subjects. Her husband was eager for her success and suggested that she take the five subjects and maybe get

understanding of the pressures on children to-day, and encouragement to do other things.

She still does hairdressing one day a week and having completed counselling training has been accepted to work as a voluntary counsellor. She is hoping to obtain a Diploma in Social work when finances permit. No doubt she will be successful. We have every confidence in her success and wish her well.

Phil O'Regan

Can't from p. 5....

fire. We ran to the cold pond and splashed and shrieked and swam. I remember floating in the water and looking up into the face of the full moon and feeling the clearest I had for a long time. I'd had a spiritual, emotional and physical clear out. I felt very connected with the energy and power of the moon, other women and especially I felt grounded with the mother earth in a very powerful way.

I went to the full moon circles every month for the next few months. It varied each time as the energy and ideas of us women differed. But always I felt re-energized and strong.

When I came back to Ireland I really wanted to have something like it happen here, with women in Cork. I had my first full moon circle in Ireland in December in West Cork with about 15 other women. We didn't have a sweat, it pissed rain and we circled outside for a few minutes in rain in coats and jumpers. Then we continued the circle inside with meditations, s, incense, candles. We made wishes and ended with a spiral dance. It was gentle and lovely and at last I saw it happening for here in Cork.

Since then there are a few women who get together every full moon. We do different things depending on the weather and our feelings at the time. Sometimes we light a fire in a field and dance and sing and celebrate the moon. Other times we sit in a circle in one or other of our houses. We light candles, bring crystals, flowers, incense, anything we like. Sometimes we have guided meditations, or we talk what's happening for us and try to get some focus and inspiration for our lives. We create different things each time. We are flexible and we always enjoy ourselves and get energy, strength from the circle. We are creating our own ways to visualise the world we want.

If you would like to be part of a full moon circle for women keep an eye out in the calendar for the full moon and then ring us at the Women's Place. Ask for Scottie, Jo, Colette, Deirdre or Niamh. The bring yourself, your ideas and any precious objects you'd like to. Next full moon is Sunday 25th Sept.

Colette

Contacts

CENTRE FOR COUNSELLING, EDUCATION AND PSYCHOTHERAPY, 6, Cornmarket St., Cork.

Tel: (021) 274950.

CHILDBIRTH TRUST, 'Glor na Glouse', Upper Clogher, Co. Cork (ante-natal, post-natal and breast-feeding education).

Tel: (023) 862243.

CORK LESBIAN LINE. Thur. 8-10.

Tel: (021) 317026.

CORK PREGNANCY COUNSELLING HB LPLINE. (Information on abortion). Mon-Thur: 8-10.

Tel: (021) 502848.

CORK RAPE CRISIS CENTRE, 27A, MacCurtain St., Cork.

Tel: (021) 968086.

C.N.D. c/o Adi Roche, 8, Sidneyville, Bellevue Pk, St. Luke's.

Tel: (021) 506411.

CUANLEE, (Women's Refuge) Kyril St, Cork.

Tel: (021) 509800.

CURA, Paul St., Cork (Free pregnancy testing).

Tel: (021) 501444.

EARTHWATCH, Harbour View, Bantry, Co. Cork. (environmental pressure group).

Tel: (027) 50968/51283.

EDEL HOUSE, 14, Dyke Parade, Cork.

Tel: (021) 272075.

QUAY CO-OP. PRE-SCHOOL, Wallerco, Old Blackrock Road, Cork.

Tel: (021) 311581.

S.T.D. CLINIC, Victoria Hospital, Cork. Free smear testing Wed. 10-12noon (woman doctor)

Mon. 5.30-7.30 (male doctor)
Tel: (021) 966844.

WOMEN'S ACTION GROUP, 5, Churchfield Ave., Cork.
Tel: (021) 307969.

WOMEN'S PLACE & LIBRARY, c/o Quay Co-op., 24, Sullivan's Quay, Cork.

Tel: (021) 317660

WOMEN'S POETRY CIRCLE, c/o

Maire Bradshaw, 22, Mt. Oval Rochestown, Co. Cork.

Tel: (021) 895046

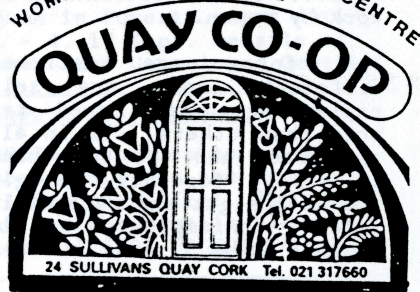
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