



**The Center for Research on Women and
Gender**

Building Research Connections

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**CRWG Gala Event, March 27, 2002
Mark Your Calendars!**

To cap the 10th anniversary celebration of the Center for Research on Women and Gender send off retiring Center director Alice Dan, the CRWG will hold a symposium and reception on Wednesday, March 27, 2002, 2:30 - 6:00 pm in the Illinois Room, Chicago

Circle Center.

The keynote speaker for the symposium is Jane Evelyn Atwood, an award-winning photojournalist. Born in New York in 1947, Atwood has lived in Paris since 1971. She works in the tradition of documentary photography, deeply involved with her subjects over long periods of time. Author of five books, Atwood will present her recent work, *Too Much Time: Women in Prison*. A faculty panel will respond to spark discussion with audience participation. A break for refreshments and networking at 4:30 will be followed by the presentation of the first annual CRWG Dissertation Research Award at 5:00 pm. (see cover story below). The celebration is open to the public. For more information call the Center for Research on Women and Gender at 312-413-1924.

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Initiating the First CRWG Dissertation Research Award: Call for Applications

The Center for Research on Women and Gender announces its First Annual Dissertation Research Award for Spring 2002. The amount of the award is from \$500 to \$1000. The purpose of CRWG's Dissertation Research Award is to encourage original and significant research about gender and/or women by UIC students. The award is open to UIC doctoral students in any field who have completed the requirements for candidacy, and have an approved dissertation proposal by March 1, 2002. Applications will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Originality and significance to the field
- Scholarly validity
- Potential for contribution to research on women/gender
- Applicant's academic preparation and ability to accomplish the work
- Feasibility of completion of research within a reasonable time period

Applications are due March 1, 2002. The winner(s) will be announced at the CRWG reception on March 27, 2002 (see cover

story above). For information and application forms, visit the CRWG website at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/crwg/disspage.html>.

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NCRW Report on Women and Girls in Science, Engineering and Technology

A new report from the National Council for Research on Women was presented at a public forum at Loyola University in Chicago on October 25, 2001. The report, entitled "Balancing the Equation: Where are the Women and Girls in Science, Engineering, and Technology?", identifies gains made in science, engineering, and technology, lessons learned, key challenges remain, and new issues that must be addressed.

The report was presented by Linda Basch, Executive Director at the National Council for Research on Women and Sue Rosser, Dean at the Ivan Allen College at Georgia Institute of Technology. National Science Foundation data highlighted gender disparities in science, engineering, and technology. Although women comprise 46% of the U.S. labor force, they make up only 28% of its scientists and engineers. As the report states, "the challenge to ensure equity and fairness in scientific inquiry has never been more critical." A panel of respondents discussed the current state of women in science, engineering, and technology here in the greater Chicagoland area. The panelists included: Erica Barraz, representing the Young Women's Leadership Charter School; Diana Conley representing the Association of Women Business Owners; Arlene Juracek, representing Commonwealth Edison, Sydney Loveless representing the Young Women's Leadership Charter School; Judy McGoogan representing Lucent Technologies and GEM-SET mentors; and Ruth Sweetser representing the AAUW and the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The report includes a Resource Guide containing material to pursue further research about successful programs, many of which were established by NCRW member centers including UIC's Center for Research on Women and Gender. The report also includes a Recommendations section, which emphasizes that an increase in women and girls' participation in all levels of science, engineering and technology requires strong leadership, changes in cultural

values and practices, and systemic reform. For more information, or to order a copy of the report, go to www.ncrw.org.

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New CRWG Projects Target Health, Work and Culture

Several new projects are underway at the CRWG that extend the Center's focus on research in the areas of health, work, and culture. Monorama Khare, Nancy Bates and Nihal Hassan are beginning the evaluation of a cardiovascular disease program for women sponsored by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Office of Women's Health. The program, which includes physical activity and nutrition components, will be offered to those already receiving breast and cervical cancer screening through IDPH.

Mary Kleinman will be joining the Center again to direct "Osteoporosis in African American Women," a new project for the CRWG and the CoE. This program is a case based, computer-assisted one-hour educational program for primary care physicians. Programs will be presented at various sites throughout Illinois. The project is funded by a grant from the IDPH Office of Women's Health.

Sarah Shirk is the project coordinator for the new Girls' E-Mentoring in Science, Engineering, and Technology, or GEM-SET, project. The GEM-SET project is a one-year national Women's Bureau program that connects girls ages 13-18, with women mentors in science, engineering and technology (SET) fields. Through the GEM-SET listserv girls and women mentors receive a daily digest to exchange ideas on a variety of topics relating to Science, Engineering and Technology.

Janise Hurtig (CRWG) and Marcia Farr (English Dept., UIC) received support from the Spencer Foundation to conduct a participatory ethnographic study of "Parents Write Their Worlds," a parent writing and publication project that Hal Adams (College of Education, UIC) and Janise run in inner city Chicago public schools. The research, which will include a group of mothers as co-ethnographers, examines the cultural and social impact of the

workshop and publication in an elementary school in Chicago's Little Village Neighborhood.

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GEM-SET Resources

The Girls' Electronic Mentoring in Science, Engineering, and Technology (GEM-SET) program (see previous story) now has its own web site, located at www.gem-set.org. Check out the latest resources for science, engineering, and technology initiatives throughout the country. Learn about program mentors, partners, and activities that aim to encourage high school women to pursue their interests in science, engineering, and technology. To join the GEM-SET program contact Sarah Shirk, project coordinator, at sshirk1@uic.edu.

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UIC's National Center of Excellence in Women's Health

Taking Steps and Making Choices

On November 19, 2001 Brandeis University's National Center on Women and Aging, in partnership with UIC's National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, held a unique interactive conference for midlife and older women entitled "Taking Steps and Making Choices: A Look at Research on Women's Health After 50." The conference brought together health professionals, leaders of aging women's organizations, and healthcare consumers.

The opening speaker, Vivian Pinn, MD, Director, Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health addressed critical issues in aging women's health. Dr. Pinn highlighted the implications of diversity for the aging population, discussing how race, income, and culture affect healthcare access

and some women's ability to take steps and make choices. Audience members also participated in a survey that examined exposure to advertisements for prescription drugs. In addition, complimentary bone density screenings and healing touch therapies were provided by UIC volunteers.

The UIC Spirit of Women initiative co-sponsored this event. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the conference a success.

CoE Evaluation Available On-line

The CoE Evaluation Team will be conducting a survey to help evaluate the impact of CoE programs on the UIC campus and in neighboring communities. Directions on how to complete the web-based survey will be mailed in mid-January to all UIC personnel who have been involved in CoE programs. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and offer feedback. Your input will help us plan future CoE programs.

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Opportunities to Participate in Research

The COE has placed a link on the COE website for anyone wishing additional information on participation in research studies. The page provides a list of research studies that are currently recruiting participants. There is also information on the project, purpose of the study, and criteria to participate. If you are interested in joining a study, please refer to the contact person for that study.

First Annual Regional Spirit of Women Awards: Dream Catchers

The Spirit of Women awards program honors women who have had a positive impact on their communities and the lives of others through their contributions to issues women face in the areas of work, family and health. The award categories are: the Spirit of Women Youth Category for living women only ages 14-21; the Spirit of Women Community Category for living women only, ages 22 and over; and the Spirit of Women Healthcare Provider Category (no age restriction). The three regional winners in each

category were announced November 1, 2001 at the UIC Women's Leadership Symposium.

Marianna Bulanda from Tinley Park, Illinois was the top award winner in the Community Category. With no special financial means Marianna began a chapter of a volunteer organization called Newborns in Need which is dedicated to making clothes for newborns.

Alexandra Roetzer from Botavia, Illinois, was the top youth winner. Alex, a seventeen year old survivor of a rare form of cervical cancer, has decided to begin a support group for young cancer survivors in her neighborhood and a website for young cancer survivors worldwide.

Kim Riordan from Oak Park, Illinois won the healthcare provider award. Kim is the Co-Director of the Hospital Crisis Intervention Project at Cook County Hospital, an on-site domestic violence training and advocacy program.

Regional winners will be flown to Scottsdale, Arizona on April 19, 2002 for the Spirit of Women National Awards Celebration, sponsored by the Spirit of Women Foundation, along with partners and members and national corporate sponsors. Three national winners will be announced at this gala celebration, which also recognizes the extraordinary spirit and energy of all the regional winners.

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A Brief Biographical History of Alice Dan, Director Center for Research on Women and Gender

As BRC readers know, Alice Dan has been the director of the Center since 1991. The breadth of Alice's experience and interest in women's issues and her scholarly and political visions have been at the heart of the Center's activities and have guided its growth while sustaining its collegial spirit. At the end of March, 2002, Alice will be stepping down as director of the CRWG, and formally retiring. As part of the CRWG's tribute to Alice upon her retirement, the feature story of this BRC is an excerpt from an interview that Alice held with BRC's editor.

Q: What were the events in your life that led your involvement in research on women and gender?

I started graduate school in 1964 and finished in 1976. During that time the women's movement happened, starting in Chicago around 1969, 1970. As a graduate student my consciousness became raised about what it is to be a woman trying to be a professional. My own work really grew from that consciousness. I had been involved in activities in college such as ban the bomb and other antiwar and civil rights activities. In graduate school I was a member of a local group that was affiliated with a national group called Psychologists for Social Action. We were all graduate students in psychology, about half men and half women. One of things they wanted do was to maintain a radical consciousness through the course of graduate school, rather than be co-opted. As the women's movement became more visible and active, the women in this group wanted to have discussions around some of these issues but the men did not want to talk about it. The women started meeting separately, which eventually turned into a consciousness-raising group that started in 1970 and lasted for a couple of years.

Over that period of time I was developing my final dissertation proposal. This is a story about how consciousness was absolutely not there for women. My first dissertation idea had grown out of some work I did for my internship around weight loss and methods of weight loss, contrasting an exercise group with a support group. I had also done some pilot work during my internship. But when I went back to the University and tried to discuss this proposal with my advisor, he said "what do you want to study fat women for?" These days, no one would say such a thing in that way! It was very much an issue. Some of the women graduate students in my department began meeting to talk about the kinds of things that they wanted to study and how their experiences as women might relate to that. My research on the menstrual cycle really came out of discussions in that group.

Before directing my research towards women, I was a psychologist. My interest was in developmental issues in adults. I saw the menstrual cycle, and later menopause, as important developmentally. I was interested in trying to look at the variability that might be a consequence of menstrual cycle changes, like hormonal changes, and put that into a broader context of human variability. That was really my aim in the dissertation.

As I was completing my dissertation, I heard about the possibility of a job here at UIC in the College of Nursing. At that time, in 1975, Nursing was about to open a Ph.D. Program, one of a few in the country. They were looking for people who could teach research from an interdisciplinary point of view because nursing involves different research methodologies -- biological, behavioral, social and historical. After coming to the College of Nursing the focus of my research became health psychology.

After coming to teach in the college of nursing, my whole view of my research shifted. When I would give talks, I was interested in demonstrating that the psychological change experienced by women over the menstrual cycle was largely explainable not by the hormonal changes of the cycle but more by the social meaning of gender, for instance by women being socialized to express feelings, whereas men weren't. The behavioral changes over the menstrual cycle tended to have the same variability as they did for men. I would be giving this particular message that had a feminist underpinning. But when I spoke to groups of women they would come up to me and talk about their menstrual cramps, PMS, and the symptoms that they were experiencing. That refocused my research toward understanding menstrual cycle change from the point of view of management issues -- health problems that women have with the menstrual cycle.

I have to say that coming to the College of Nursing was an extremely fortunate event for me. I think it's a wonderful, creative, multidisciplinary profession. It's just been a tremendous privilege for me to have been associated with the profession of nursing over my career in academia -- just being in the company of so many great women over the years and of course a few good men also. There were a number of colleagues in nursing who were interested in topics related to women's health. One of my first mentors in nursing was Harriet Werley, a psychologist who played a tremendous role in the development of nursing research. She was truly a woman with vision. She encouraged a couple of us who had an interest in menstrual cycle research, and in 1977 we held the first interdisciplinary research conference on menstrual cycle research. It resulted in future conferences and in the establishment of the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research, a national research society that still holds conferences and publishes research on the menstrual cycle. Right about that time Peg Strobel came as director

of Women Studies -- in 1978. She was immediately interested in building courses for the Women's Studies Program. When she talked to people in the Psychology Department there was no one interested at that time in teaching a psychology of women course. She and I had met and she knew I was a psychologist and asked if I would be willing to develop such a course which I did with a colleague of mine, Denny Webster. That course is still offered today; it's called Women and Mental Health.

Q: Did you expect early that you would work in an applied field?

When I started graduate school, I had in mind to be a Clinical Psychologist but at the University of Chicago everything revolves around research and I got bitten by that research bug. I've taken a lot of joy over the years in understanding the whole production of evidence, what makes evidence credible, and so on -- issues related to the courses I taught in the doctoral program in Nursing. But as my interests developed and women's health became such a primary commitment for me, the College of Nursing environment was much more nourishing for me than if I'd been in a more standard academic psychology department.

Q: In the last issue of Building Research Connections (Fall 2001), you described the foundation of the Center. Could you talk about how the Center developed?

We had begun to work on projects [related to women and gender] even before the center was established. For example, we had funding from the Johnson Foundation that runs the Wingspread Conference Center in Wisconsin for a regional Midwest conference on increasing access to careers in science and engineering for women. We called it informally "Changing Women, Changing Science." The "changing women" piece referred to how women are changing, taking on new roles; and the "changing science" part referred to how science had to respond. It was a very successful conference. That became the first official event of CRWG. It was at the end of September in 1991.

It became clear to me very early on that an important role of the center was to serve as a kind of focal point, so that people would know where to go if they were interested in research related to women and gender. We had spent a lot of time to try to carefully develop the goals of the center. One, of course, is to stimulate research, and that's our primary objective here. Another one is to disseminate the research. The third objective is to evaluate policies.

That particular goal came partly out of some of the work that was done by the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women. For instance, Kate Barany, a professor of physiology in the medical school who is retired now, worked very hard on the proposal to establish a tenure roll-back policy for pregnant women. After the policy was announced we wondered how it's used. (And I still don't know if this has ever been evaluated.) There are a lot of policies that came out of women's advocacy, like no fault divorce, that have not always worked to women's benefit. So you have to not only push for policies, but then look at what happens because it's not always predictable what's really going to happen.

Evaluating policy was an important choice as one of our objectives, as well as building alliances with outside organizations. I think having the visibility and being a research center that can offer something to people off campus as well as on campus was an important thing to develop. One of the things that I brought to the center initially was a history in Chicago with organizations. I had been active since the early '70's in a number of different ways with different women's organizations; so when the center was founded we began to work with some of those same people but around joint projects. We did joint projects on Women's Health with the Chicago Foundation for Women, the MacArthur Foundation and other organizations around the city and still do.

Q: What direction would you like to see the Center take in the future?

I think that the Center needs to be rounded out. We have some areas that are very strong that we've built up and that is great, but I think that we need to relate better to other units that are engaged in research around campus. I think that we have begun to do that with our participation in the Great Cities Neighborhoods Initiative and other kinds of connections like that. I think that is something the new director can do to strengthen the Center: to be represented, to encourage gender awareness and sensitivity and proficiency in the other research units around campus. And another thing I think we can do is to serve graduate students better. That's one of the reasons I want to offer this award [the CRWG Dissertation Research Fellowship].

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NEW DATA RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN AND GENDER

Data Set Addressing Health Status and Risks of Lesbians in Cities

Dr. Tonda Hughes (Nursing, UIC) is a co-author of The Multi-site Women's Health Survey, a study initiated by the Chicago Lesbian Community Cancer Project (LCCP) to collect data on general health status and the behavioral and environmental health risks of lesbians in Chicago. The survey was designed to address several common methodological weaknesses that characterize research on lesbian health, such as small homogeneous samples, lack of heterosexual comparison groups, and inconsistent or absent definitions of sexual orientation.

To obtain as diverse a sample as possible, a broad range of formal and informal recruitment methods and sources were used in the study. Comparison groups of heterosexual women were obtained by asking lesbians who completed the survey to give a second copy (a color-coded duplicate of the original) to a female friend, acquaintance, or colleague with a job (or in the case of students, homemakers, or retirees, a role) as similar as possible to the lesbians' own. Data were collected in Chicago, Minneapolis/St. Paul and New York City in 1994-1996 with a total of over 800 respondents. Response rate is estimated at 48%. The survey instrument covers a broad range of areas that impact women's health, including: personal health history, health-related practices, mental health, access to and use of health services, relationships and supports, and background demographic information.

For more information or permission to utilize the dataset, contact Dr. Hughes at 312-413-5106 or thughes@uic.edu.

Illinois Acute Care Hospital Data

The Illinois Health Care Cost Containment Council (IHCCCC), a state agency, has discharge summaries for all Illinois acute care hospitals. This data can be retrieved by principal diagnosis and procedure, by gender, by age group, by hospital, by zip code and by payer type. IHCCCC is looking for research partners to use the

data. See their web site at www.state.il.us/agency/hcccc/ or call Roger Ricketts at 217-782-1624.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

As part of the CRWG's mission to disseminate research on gender and women, each Winter issue of Building Research Connections now includes a selective listing of recent and forthcoming publications by UIC researchers. If you would like to list a publication, please send the information to Janise Hurtig, BRC editor, at jhurtig@uic.edu.

Foley, Douglas, Bradley Levinson and Janise Hurtig, 2001. "Anthropology goes inside: The new educational ethnography of ethnicity and gender." *Review of Research in Education* vol. 25:27-98.

Hurtig, Janise, Rosario Montoya de Solar and Lessie Jo Frazier, eds. (forthcoming 2002). *Gender's Place: Feminist Anthropologies of Latin America*. New York & London: St. Martin's/Palgrave.

Peacock NP, Kelley MA, Carpenter C, Davis M, Burnett G, Chavez N, Aranda A, and members of the Chicago Social Networks Project, 2001. Pregnancy discovery and acceptance among low income primiparous women: a multicultural exploration. *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 5(2):109-118.

Riger, S., Bennett, L., Frohmann, L., Wasco, S. M., Camacho, J., Schewe, P., & Campbell, R. (in 2002). *Evaluating Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Riger, S. Raja, S, & Camacho, J. (forthcoming, 2002). The radiating impact of intimate partner violence on women's lives. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 17, 184-205.

Vatuk, Sylvia (2002). "Where Will She Go? What Will She Do? Paternalism Toward Women in the Administration of Muslim Personal Law in Contemporary India." In Religion and Personal Law in India: A Call to Judgment. G. Larson, ed. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Vatuk, Sylvia (in press). "Muslim Women in the Indian Family Courts: A Report from Chennai." In Divorce among Muslims. I. Ahmad, ed. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

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Latina Mothers Write their Worlds

For over two years, CRWG researcher Janise Hurtig, in collaboration with the Community Writing Project (College of Education, UIC), has been leading writing groups with parents in Chicago's Latino communities, and publishing their writing in the bilingual magazine *realconditions*. The "Parents Write Their Worlds" series of *realconditions* features writing by parents and relatives of students who attend Chicago Public Schools. The purpose of the series is to bring parents into the schools as equal participants in the educational process. Not surprisingly, most parents who participate in the writing projects are mothers and grandmothers. Through their stories and the discussions that follow, the workshop members show the importance of personal experience in understanding history, language and social change. Below is a story written by Eva Calderón, the parent coordinator at Mozart Elementary School in Logan Square.

Mi abuela Lucinda

Mi abuela fue una indita valiente y cariñosa que desafió la sociedad de los años sesentas, cuando en pueblos pequeños en México se creía que la meta principal de una mujer era el matrimonio y no necesitaba ir a la escuela. Gracias a mi abuela, quien creyó que la educación y preparación en la mujer eran muy importantes. Ella nos proporcionó a mi hermana y a mí los medios para prepararnos

y educarnos para un futuro mejor lleno de satisfacciones. Mi abuela tuvo que ver la forma de mudarnos de la aldea para la ciudad donde no fue nada fácil conseguir vivienda. Ya una vez acomodados en la ciudad, mi abuela se ganó el cariño de los vecinos por su gran corazón para ayudar al que más lo necesitaban. Ella se quitaba el bocado de la boca para dárselo al vecino enfermo, o lavarle la ropa al vecinito huérfano que vivía a lado, o llevarle las niñas a la escuela cuando a ella le tocaba trabajar. Todo el mundo la admiraba. Y yo, entre todos ellos, me sentía tan orgullosa de mi abuela.

My Grandmother Lucina

My grandmother was a courageous and loving Indian woman, who defied the society of the sixties. At that time in small villages it was thought that the main objective for a women was to get married, and that schooling was not necessary. I thank my grandmother who believed that education and training were very important for women. She provided my sister and I the means to prepare ourselves and educate ourselves for a better future filled with much satisfaction.

My grandmother had to find a way for us to move from the village to the city, where it was next to impossible to find housing. Once we were settled in the city, my grandmother gained the love of our neighbors for her loving heart and desire to help those who most needed it. She would take the food from her own mouth to give it to an ailing neighbor, or wash the clothes of the orphaned child who lived next door, or take the neighbor girls to school whenever the mom had to work. Everyone admired her. And I, more than anyone else, felt very proud of my grandmother.

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CRWG Welcomes New Staff

The CRWG is pleased to announce that Dr. Stacie Geller, a faculty member in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, and adjunct faculty in the School of Public Health, will become the new director of the

UIC Center of Excellence in Women's Health (CoE), replacing Alice Dan upon her retirement April 1, 2002. Dr. Geller, who has served as research director for the CoE over the past year, is a health services researcher with expertise in maternal and women's health issues as well as health policy, health evaluation, and medical decision-making and has published extensively in these areas.

Dr. Tonda Hughes, Associate Professor in the College of Nursing, will become the CoE's research director. Dr. Hughes is well known for her research focusing on chemically dependent nurses and on lesbians' use of alcohol. She teaches Women and Mental Health, and other courses in the Women's Health Graduate Concentration in the College of Nursing.

The CRWG would also like to welcome **Denise Harbert**, a visiting project coordinator who is working with the "Girls' E-Mentoring in Science, Engineering, and Technology" (GEM-SET) project and consulting on several evaluation projects. Denise has a master's degree in statistics and has worked as a volunteer on many women's issues.

Several graduate assistants have joined the CRWG staff over the past few months. **Nihal Hassan, R.D.**, a graduate of UIC in Nutrition, is a first year graduate student in Anthropology. **Darcell Sutika** and **Gopika Chandra** are graduate students in the School of Public Health and **Erin Small** is a first year student in the Art Therapy Program. Finally, **Mary Kleinman**, a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh, has rejoined our staff to coordinate continuing medical education programs for physicians in women's health.

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FYI

March 1st is International Women of Color Day

The International Association of Women of Color Day is a private, non-membership organization operating in the public interest. The organization was established with the sole goal of promoting the

commemoration of Women of Color Day, annually and world wide. For more information on the organization, its Commemoration Kits and the exhibit "Spirit of Women of Color," visit their website at <http://www.womenofcolorday.com>.