



Formerly known as the Women's Research and Resource Centre, the Feminist Library was set up in 1975 by a group of women to record and document the Women's Liberation Movement and safeguard its history.

2010 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Women's Liberation Movement conference at Ruskin College, Oxford, and also the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Feminist Library.

We are open every Saturday from 11 to 4:45, and at other times by appointment. Occasionally we are closed for special events, such as Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March for Million Women Rise, so do please check [www.feministlibrary.co.uk](http://www.feministlibrary.co.uk) before visiting.

The Feminist Library is delighted to announce that we have been awarded a Lottery grant under the Awards for All Programme.

This grant will fund the training of 15 volunteers in various aspects of radical librarianship using the Feminist Library as a teaching resource. Amongst other things, they will learn about cataloguing and the Feminist library's unique classification system, as well as helping to computerise our catalogue using KOHA, an open-source library management system. Alongside the hands-on experience, we will provide a programme of talks and presentations on various aspects of radical librarianship. The talks will start in mid-April, and will be open to other interested people for a small fee. Please email us for more information about this.

This project is extremely important to the Feminist Library, and we are extremely grateful to Awards for All for the funding. Not only will it provide volunteers with valuable skills, training and hands-on experience of working in a radical library, but by the end of the year-long project, the Feminist Library Catalogue will finally be on-line and accessible to anyone with internet access.

Currently the wealth of material that resides within the library is relatively inaccessible. Users must visit the library in person and then navigate the card-catalogue system in order to find what's available. The on-line catalogue, once completed, will allow all those interested in the Feminist Library collection to view the catalogue before making the journey to visit the library. The Feminist Library collection is huge, and is testament to the hard work of the many individual women and groups and the material they produced, as well as the countless women who have worked to ensure that this material is preserved for future generations. The on-line catalogue will open this material to the world and is an important project in terms of herstory, feminism and feminist activism.

*The Feminist Library is looking for volunteers who are either unemployed, or employed below their current skill level, or perhaps just seeking a new path in life. The free training offered by this programme will provide an excellent basis for going on to more formal training courses and for seeking librarianship posts. We can cover reasonable childcare and travel expenses for volunteers.*

*Anyone interested in the training project should contact the Library for more information; email [admin@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:admin@feministlibrary.co.uk) before Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March.*



## New Acquisitions in the Feminist Library



**The Rag Issue 4** – The RAG is a yearly anarchafeminist magazine produced and published by Revolutionary Anarchafeminist Group who are a publishing collective in Dublin, Ireland. This, their fourth issue, is jam packed with loads of great articles, rants, art and recommendations on a diverse range of topics, including prostitution in Ireland, single parenting, traveller women at the forefront of change, childhood obesity, women in engineering, interview with mothers involved in a Glasgow school occupation, smoking, women and rap and lots, lots more.

The Rag Issue 4 is available to buy from 56a Infoshop (56 Crampton St, SE17 3AE, [www.56a.org.uk](http://www.56a.org.uk)), Housmans Bookstore (5 Caledonian Road, N1 9DX, [www.housmans.com](http://www.housmans.com)) and Freedom Bookshop (Angel Alley, E1 7QX) as well as from the Feminist Library.

For more info on the Revolutionary Anarchafeminist Group, visit [www.ragdublin.blogspot.com](http://www.ragdublin.blogspot.com) or email [ragdublin@riseup.net](mailto:ragdublin@riseup.net).

## DO YOU REMEMBER OLIVE MORRIS?

In our last newsletter (October 2009) Sarah O' Mahoney wrote an article on the Remembering Olive Morris Collective who have been using the Feminist Library to research Olive Morris.

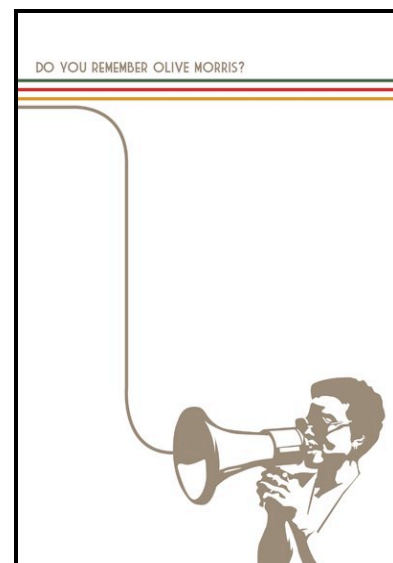
Since then the Remembering Olive Collective have produced a beautiful book about Olive Morris and the journey that the collective have gone on in their aim to discover, remember and draw attention to the inspirational life of Olive Morris.

This book is the story of the Remembering Olive Collective, as well as the story of Olive Morris. Through the use of oral history interviews, as well as photographs, letters and writing by Olive Morris, her friends and comrades, it provides us with the historical, social and political context of Olive's life, activism and the struggles she was involved in: racism, sexism, police repression, and so much more. She was an active member of the Brixton Black Panther Movement, a founding member of the Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent (OWAAD) and started, along with other women, the Brixton Black Women's Group, as well as being central to the squatter and housing campaigns of the 1970s in Brixton.

The book also provides the background and context of the Remembering Olive Collective

and their journey into creating a permanent memorial to Olive Morris.

This is a beautiful book with many illustrations and an important historical document. It documents the real life story of feminist activists seeking out, discovering and sharing the life of a feminist activist. There is a lovely chapter about the Feminist Library, and the collective's visit to research Olive Morris. For details on where to find the book and information about Olive Morris and the Remembering Olive Collective, visit [rememberolivemorris.wordpress.com](http://rememberolivemorris.wordpress.com)



Cover of *Do You Remember Olive Morris?* design by Inua Ellams.

## Listings

### International Women's Day 2010 events

Here are few of the many events happening across London and the UK on or around International Women's Day. For a full listing of events celebrating IWD visit [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com).

#### 6 March Million Women Rise

National women and children only demonstration against male violence. Meet 12pm at Park Lane, London (nearest tube Marble Arch) for march through central London to Trafalgar Square where there will be a rally and celebration from 3 – 4:30pm.

After March Celebration – The 52 Club, 52 Gower St, London WC1E 6EB (wheelchair accessible venue). Doors open 4:30pm to 1am. Films, food, performances, chill-out space, djs and swimming pool. Donation on the door - waged £10, low waged £5, unwaged donation.

For more information email [info@millionwomenrise.com](mailto:info@millionwomenrise.com), call 07727 419634 or visit [www.millionwomenrise.com](http://www.millionwomenrise.com).

#### Working Class Movement Library 51, The Crescent, Salford M5 4WX

##### 6 March 11am Living Libraries – where books come to life.

A range of women storytellers will share their experiences of life as active trade unionists.

**2.30pm Talks by Sarah Irving** about the life and politics of Palestinian activist Leila Khaled & **Linda Clair** will reflect on her own political involvement and activity over many years. For more information visit [www.wcml.org.uk](http://www.wcml.org.uk), or telephone: 0161 736 3601

#### 5 – 7 March London Freeschool, 195 Mare St, Hackney, E8 3QE

The fifth London freeschool since 2008 is organised around issues of gender oppression and emancipation and will feature lots of great workshops, including; diy radio, puppet making, Spanish, sexual consent, the politics of menstruation, free and open source software, costume / underwear making, bike repair, welding, and discussions on gender and mental health, charisma and authority, what are children for?, and lots more. For full details visit [londonfreeschool.wordpress.com](http://londonfreeschool.wordpress.com) or email: [londonfreeschool@riseup.net](mailto:londonfreeschool@riseup.net)

#### 10 March 7:30pm Natasha Walter Southbank Centre, London SE1 8XX

Part of the Writing From the Front Line Series, Natasha Walter will talk about what feminism means in 2010. For more information and tickets visit [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk). Tickets £7.50.

#### 7 MARCH IN LONDON – Reclaiming Birth March and Rally

**1pm** Assemble in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, Lambeth Road, London SE1 4EQ. The march will take a route from the Park to Whitehall via Westminster Bridge.

Called by AIMS, NCT, RCM, IMUK, Albany Mums and Midwifery Practice, in response to the sudden closure of the highly successful and loved Albany Midwifery Practice in south London and concerns about the state of maternity services and the lack of options available to women.

See website [www.aims.org.uk/reclaimingbirth.htm](http://www.aims.org.uk/reclaimingbirth.htm) for information about the Rally, background information and about letters of support.

#### *Glasgow Women's Library, 81 Parnie Street Glasgow, G1 5RH*

##### **Monday 8 March, 1pm A Way With Words**

A special exhibition for the launch of Glasgow Women's Aid publication "A Way With Words" from women who have left abusive men.

##### **Tuesday 9th March, 1pm: Learning about International Women's Day**

Learning event to celebrate International Women's Day. For more information go to [www.womenslibrary.org.uk](http://www.womenslibrary.org.uk)

#### **MONDAY 8 MARCH 7:30 pm - Free screening of "Hidden Herstories: Women of Change"**

Upstairs at the Ritzy Cinema, Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, SW2 1JG

Remembering Olive Collective presents the South London premier of a youth-led documentary film and heritage project which looks at four influential women who haven't had their rightful place in the history books.

#### **8 March 7:30 pm International Women's Day Benefit – free entry**

**Lansdowne Club, 195 Mare St, E8 3QE**  
All proceeds go to Global Women's Strike

#### **12 – 13 March Ruskin College, Oxford Women's Liberation Movement @ 40 conference.**

Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Women's Liberation Movement conference and exploring the intervening period, feminist work and changes in society. For full details and to book visit [www.wlm40conference.org.uk](http://www.wlm40conference.org.uk).

## Listings continued...

**Throughout March - Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX**

**Focus on Feminism** - To celebrate International Women's Day, Housmans Bookshop present a series of feminist and woman-positive events.

**Saturday 6th March - 5pm.** 'Feminism Today' with Nina Power and Lindsey German

**Wednesday 10th March - 7pm.** Zed Books present 'Glamour: Social History, Women and Feminism' with Carol Dyhouse

**Wednesday 24th March - 7pm.** 'Women and Activism' with Maya Evans and Tamsin Omond

**Wednesday 31st March - 7pm.** 'Dissenting Women of the Eighteenth Century' with Jennifer C. Kelsey.

Throughout the month there will also be photographs on display from Cynthia Cockburn and Alex Brew.

Full details are available at [www.housmans.com](http://www.housmans.com) or by ringing +44 (0)20 7837 447

**The Women's Library, Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT**

**Until 17 April 2010 - Ms Understood: Women's Liberation in 1970's Britain (entrance free)**

An exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of the country's first national Women's Liberation Conference at Ruskin College, Oxford.

**Friday 12 and Saturday 13 March 2pm - 10pm**

**Wisewords Book Fest** - Two days of thrilling, thoughtful, radical and humorous writing by women authors with their latest publications. £12 for one day, £20 for two days.

**Saturday 20th March 10am to 3.30pm - Self-Publishing and Liberation** £10 / £8 concessions  
Practical workshop about self-publishing with Gail Chester and Amanda Sebestyen. You can participate in creative exercises that will arm you with the inspiration and tools to start publishing your own material.

For more information visit [www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary)

### **Berta Freistadt: University of Bristol Theatre Collection**

The University of Bristol Theatre Collection ([www.bristol.ac.uk/theatreollection](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/theatreollection)) issued the following statement in Issue 22 of its newsletter:

"The Theatre Collection has always been proud to have amongst its collections the work of lesbian feminist playwright Berta Freistadt. At the end of 2009, following Berta's sad death from cancer earlier in the year at the age of 67, the remainder of her theatre archive was delivered to the Theatre Collection by the executors of her estate.

Berta was as well known as an actor, playwright, poet, teacher and short-story writer as she was as a performance poet on the London scene.

The archive held at the Theatre Collection contains her work as a playwright, including many scripts, research notes and books, as well as information about her teaching.

Berta also most generously left a bequest to support the cataloguing and care of her archives and others at the Theatre Collection."

Her poetry archive is held at the Women's Library [www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary).

A celebration of Berta's life will be held in London on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June. For more details please contact [will.mowat@queenspark.me.uk](mailto:will.mowat@queenspark.me.uk).

**The Feminist Library is able to provide meeting rooms for feminist groups for a small donation and subject to availability. We always welcome more volunteers to help run the library. For further information contact us at [admin@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:admin@feministlibrary.co.uk).**

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