

Minutes of CCSW Meeting-Nov. 3, 1982

Present: Fran Chaiken, Heidi Brieger, Jean Wassell, Joan Whitaker, Marilyn Zax, Judy Nathans, Thelma Woodson, Mary Rogier, Marjorie Bakken, Rochelle Hahn (Admin. Assis.), Nancy Ryan (Exec. Dir.)
Absent: Janet Diamond, Priscilla Lopes, Barbara Manley -- all unexcused
Catherine Queen, Judy Moll, Frances Wirata, Sybil Hendrickson --excused

Marjorie Bakken, CCSW vice-chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:40. She formally welcomed new member Thelma Woodson to the group; Rochelle Hahn, CCSW's newly hired staff member was also introduced and welcomed.

A. Director's Report Nancy Ryan discussed the following:

1) We have two months worth of unexpended budget funds in The salary category due to the lack of an administrative assistant since Maryann's departure. Options for its use: future overtime pay for existing staff or as a way to hire additional staff temporarily. Specific possibilities for personnel, and potential duties, were mentioned. General reaction to this second option was favorable, with all agreeing with Judy Nathan's suggestion to carefully develop a work plan of needed activities before doing any actual hiring. Nancy indicated that she would further study the question and report on her progress at the December meeting.

2) The December 2 meeting and swearing-in ceremony--briefly announced. It was suggested that local press be invited, a press release be written and distributed and a photographer requested (or hired). Judy Nathans asked that members receive a special reminder of this event.

3) Reproductive rights "philosophical reorientation"-- Nancy reported on the efforts of a group she is working with which is focusing on widening the concept of Reproductive Rights to include sterilization abuse and other issues of particular concern to low-income and third-world women. One planned activity is to bring Angela Davis to speak in Boston sometime after January.

B. Committee Reports

1--Executive Committee--Marjorie Bakken

The Executive Committee met in October to plan the November Commission meeting. The Committee also continued to request that all Commission Committees submit regular written reports to the full Commission. These reports should be presented at each full CCSW meeting. Volunteers were requested to join the Communications Committee, to be chaired by Mary Rogier. Thelma Woodson and Fran Chaiken agreed to serve on this committee.

2--Fundraising--Judy Nathans

Judy submitted her written report, and briefly reviewed current Fundraising Committee efforts to assist the Newtowne Court Women's Center to obtain funding.

Nancy Ryan then discussed the planned film event (Dec. 1) which the Commission was asked to co-sponsor with the Arts Council. The Commission would not receive any of the proceeds (expected to reach only about \$600). Judy Nathans moved that we co-sponsor the event as described by Nancy; Marilyn Zax seconded, and all voted in favor.

Nancy also reported that she has agreed to market the Jefferson Park Writing Center's book of poetry, "Flowers in a Field of Thorns." The Commission will distribute information about the book to its mailing list (the book is \$3.00). The book has been well-received, and was mentioned in the Polaroid annual report as a successful project partially sponsored by that corporation.

Also proposed by Nancy and Judy: that the Commission help Jefferson Park Writing Center to apply for a "City Arts" grant (maximum of \$3000) for a project to create a musical play. This play would tour other housing projects and possibly be performed at a Commission sponsored event in the spring or summer of 1983.

3--Personnel--Marilyn Zax

The Committed did not meet during October. It was announced that Jo Polk-Matthews has resigned from the Commission due to her other responsibilities.

4--Legislative Advocacy--Heidi Brieger

Heidi gave an update on the plan to sponsor a legislative lobbying workshop with the Cambridge YWCA. Planned for late winter or spring, the workshop may cover both state-wide lobbying tactics for the more experienced or professional person (the Y's interest) and more grass-roots, locally-oriented information about effecting change (the Commission's major concern). Still to be arranged are finances, tickets prices and other details.

5--Community Outreach--Joan Whitaker

Joan reported on the Committee's presentation of "Rosie the Riveter," attended by representatives of approximately twelve human services agencies. The event was judged to be an overall success, despite the late start and smaller attendance than expected. The Committee's next step--to respond to the agencies which requested that they show the film at their locations.

6--Ad Hoc Committees

a) Cable information--Judy Nathans and Nancy Ryan discussed the upcoming City-wide Cable Forum, for which the Commission sent out a special mailing to alert our "constituents."

b) Consciousness-raising--Jean Wassell recapped the last C-R event, featuring a discussion of classism with Anne Waterflow. There was much discussion about Commissioners' feelings about the session, including suggestions to devote additional time to this topic, and to a possible session on "leadership styles."

c) Take Back the Night group--Jean Wassell and Joan Whitaker will be attending the next meeting of this discussion group with Nancy Ryan.

d) Safety Committee-- It has completed the courses it ran for schoolgirls, and is now responding to a request to conduct a similiar class at the High School.

C. Old Business

Fran Chaiken requested information about the disposition of the personnel study which the City Council had requested from the Commission and/or the City's Affirmative Action Office. Nancy Ryan reported that it was decided (by Affirm. Action) not to pursue the study in light of the heavy Prop. 2½ personnel cutbacks.

D. New Business

Nancy Ryan again discussed the Angela Davis speech (see Directors's report), and asked the Commission to consider sponsoring this event.

Judy Nathans announced that she has a tape of the October debate between Barbara Ehrenreich and Betty Freidan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
M.A.R., Clerk

The Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women
Commissioners 1982-1983

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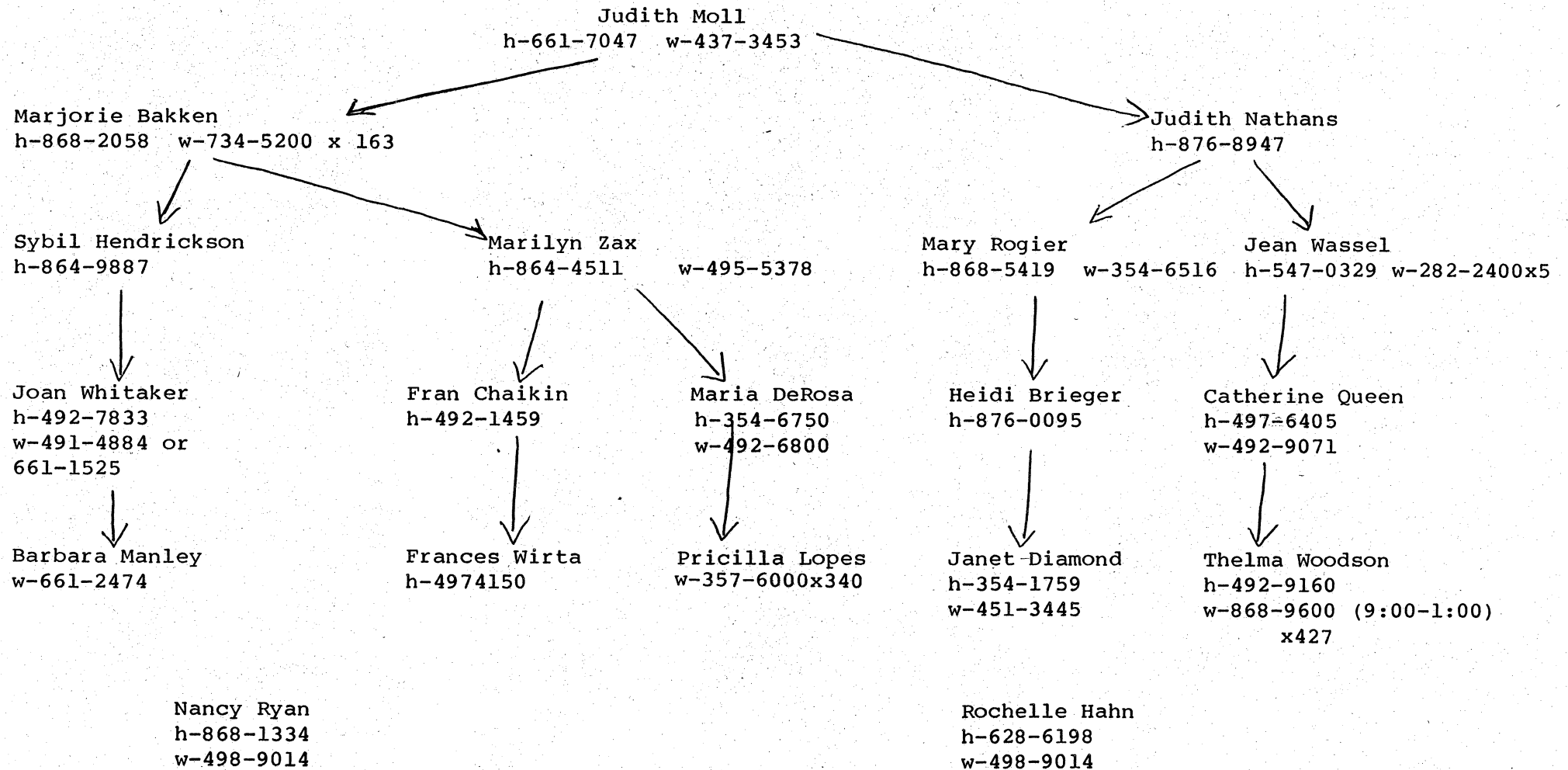
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THE CAMBRIDGE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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LS-754

Comm. from the Commission on the Status of
Women transmitting the minutes of a meeting
held by said Commission on November 3, 1982
regarding pending matters before the Commis-
sion.

In City Council,

December 13, 1982