

CALENDAR

February

special events

- 2▼** Ground Hog Day
- 4▼** Unitarian/Universalist Society AIDS Series: "Religious Response to AIDS." 7:30pm, see Resources for address.
- 12-14▼** The film "Maurice" will be shown nightly at 7pm (additional 9pm showing on 2/12 and 2/13) at the Catamount Arts Center, 60 Eastern Ave., St. Johnsbury. For more information, call 748-2600.
- 13▼** Split Britches, a Women's theater company presents "Beauty and the Beast." City Hall, Burlington. 8pm. Sponsored by Burlington Women's Council, Bad Girls Productions, and Gal.
- 14▼** Valentines Day
- 15▼** President's Day
- 23▼** "Leap Year Dance" at Pearls. Sponsored by GLBA. 9pm - closing. \$2.00 suggested donation.
- 3/1▼** Town Meeting Day.
▼ Vermont Presidential Primary



Lesbian Parenting *from page 13*

ist bus driver, getting a migraine headache instead of injecting her black voice into the "smug whiteness" of a women's studies class.

She writes, "what I remember most is that we were not just like all the other families...but we did not have to be just like all the rest in order to be valid. We were an interracial Lesbian family with radical parents in the most conservative borough of New York City. Exploring the meaning of those differences kept us all stretching and learning, and we used that exploration to get us from Friday to Thursday, from toothache through homework, to who was going to babysit when we both worked late and did Frances go to PTA meetings."

The editors, Sandra Pollack and Jeanne Vaughn, have done a good job pulling the stories into a framework big enough to hold them all, yet still give them a shape and structure. The stories overlap and common problems emerge but there is no sense of tedious repetition. What emerges instead are themes: unique family configurations, struggles with children, with families, the redemptive power of small communities.

I was struck by the breadth of experience these women have and the freshness of their voices. Pollack and Vaughn have drawn from real life experi-

ences, fictionalized accounts, and even poetry to create their portrait of lesbian motherhood.

They carefully avoid presenting any one view as correct, and indeed, present seemingly contradictory viewpoints and perspectives. Women who have chosen not to be mothers, and women who are not positive about their experience as lesbian mothers explain themselves.

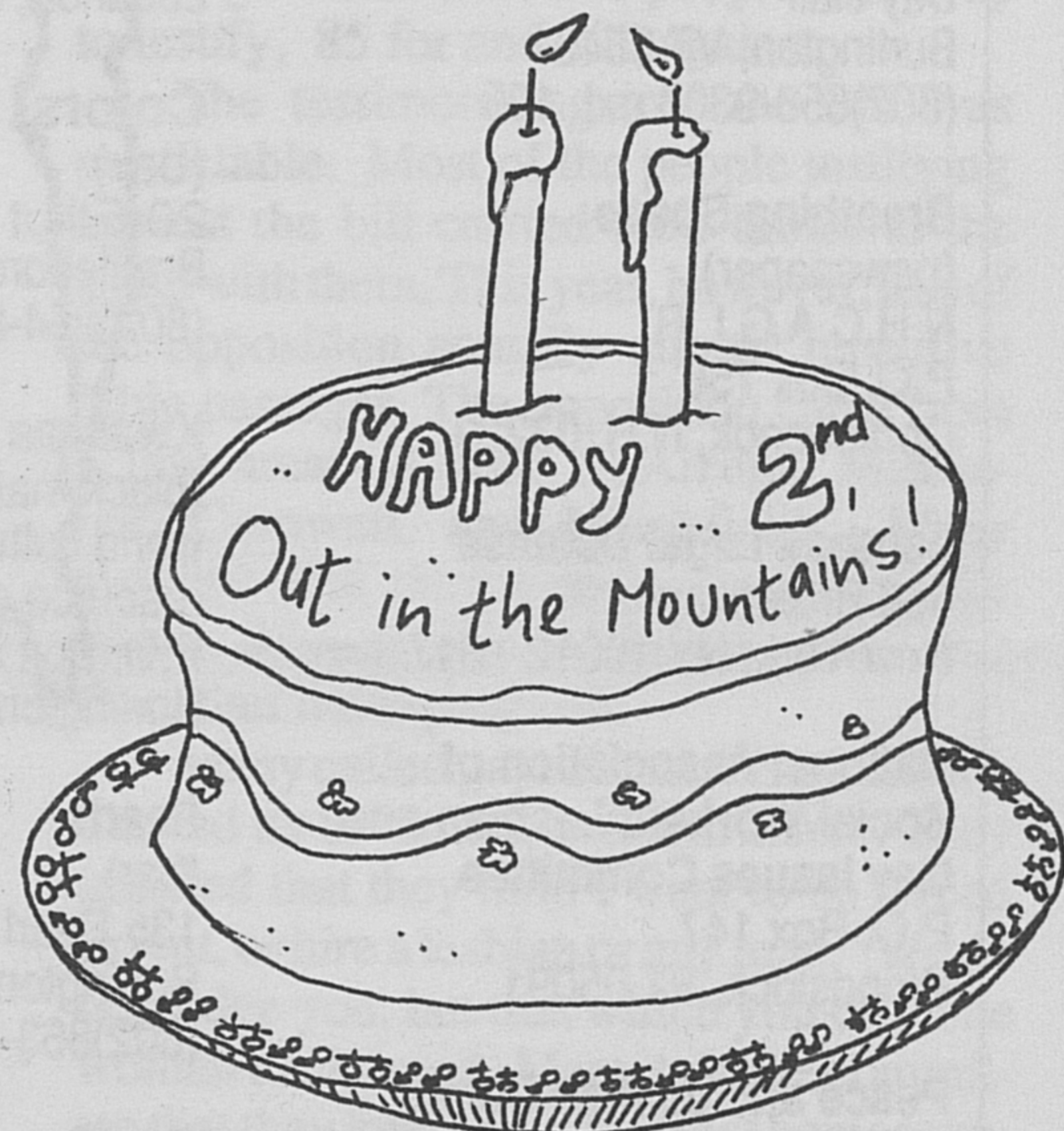
The editors explain their intention with a quote from Audre Lord, "...both Beth and Jonathan need to know what they can share, and what they cannot, how they are joined, and how they are not. And we, as grown women and lesbians coming more and more into our power, need to learn that difference does not have to be threatening." Pollack and Vaughn write, "we need to separate romanticism from reality, fact from myth, and to do this we must be able to hear ourselves and one another."

Of the title for the book, they say, "...we wanted one that would reflect the intricacies of the lesbian family...that would express, as Robyn Roberts says, how complicated...the theories and politics can be when they mix with matters of the heart."

This they have done, and it is a wonderful book for all to read, gay and straight, mother and non mother alike.

organizational meetings

- 6▼** Integrity - Discovering Integrity National Burlington Peace Coalition Board Meeting. 7pm. P&J Center, see Vermont area Resources.
- 10▼** U.U.L.G.C. 6:30pm. UULGC President, Chas Grindel speaking.(see resources)
- 15▼** OITM Content and Editing Meeting, 6:30pm P&J Center (see resources)
- 16▼** OITM Typing. 5:30pm
- 20▼** Integrity - "Revisiting the March on Washington" (see resources)
- 22▼** OITM General Meeting. 6:30pm. P&J Center (see resources)
- 24▼** UULGC (see resources)
▼ Lesbian & Gay Statewide Coalition Meeting. 10:30am So. Royalton House.



*Happy 2nd Anniversary
Ruth and Pam*

OITM Vital *from page 9*

we take shelter from the winter winds. OITM lets us know that there are gays and lesbians beyond our discrete circles of friendship, people in our own community thinking about and working on the problems that persist in our society despite all our efforts.

I would like to offer a loud round of applause for the editors and the other volunteers who have worked so hard to create and maintain this vital service. Three cheers for OITM and its wonderful staff!