

Out in the World: International Lesbian Organizing, Shelly Anderson, Firebrand Books.



A STRONG VOICE WHERE IT COUNTS

- Civil rights — protection for lesbians, gays, minorities, women
- Pro-choice — reproductive freedom
- Health care — universal access

Speaker at Vermont
 Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebrations

PLEASE VOTE NOVEMBER 3

For more information call
 863-4848

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Sandy Baird
 Beth Sachs, Treasurer

Maira

Election year stirs up even the most dispassionate of us. Somehow we all start talking issues and eagerly watching the polls raise and fall like our erratic November temperatures. For lesbians and gays this year perhaps more than any other has brought many of us into the town clerk's offices, registration halls and voting booths. We are voting for our agendas. For many this has also been a time of looking beyond our borders. Looking to our sisters all over the globe for support, inspiration and a sense of continuity brings us to *Out in the World*.

In her opening Ms. Anderson says, "I hope this pamphlet will inspire other women to work for a world where no lesbian will be denied her right to love and live as she chooses. I also hope it may generate respect and attention for the unsung work many lesbians around the world are engaged in, often at great risk to their lives." With over fifty countries represented, one obtains a broad view of lesbian organizing. The pamphlet is organized by continent, with careful attention given to lesbian history and the establishment of lesbian organizations.

Reading through, one notes the sharp contrast between the denial of rights and acceptance of them. In Sweden "Lesbian couples have the same inheritance and property rights as unmarried heterosexual couples who live together." In the Netherlands, "Same-sex couples can

draw up what is called *samenwoning* (living together) contracts, that give partners many of the same rights in regard to taxes, hospital visiting, and property rights as heterosexual married couples."

While I was traveling in Ireland a few summers ago I spoke with women in the gay pubs, the small women's press (Attic Press), and at the monthly women's dance. I discovered many commonalities. It greatly underlined for me the fact that we are everywhere.

Ms. Anderson points out that "Lesbians outside the U.S. are often amazed at why American dykes aren't involved in international organizing. They will point out that Americans have a lot to offer. Two very practical examples are grassroots fundraising experience and the American tradition of civil disobedience."

Out in the World lists all the necessary to contact the various lesbian groups and organizations. There is much that could be achieved by mutual contact. Our lobbying can affect lesbians in less fortunate situations and by helping them we can become more inspired in our own political causes. This pamphlet is well worth seeking out simply because it speaks of drawing together, helping to break down the barriers that keep us separated. Perhaps more importantly it urges us to speak up, to learn about each other, to make our collective vision known to the world around us. ▼

Where to Find OITM

Bennington Free Library
 Brattleboro Food Coop
 Cahoots
 Common Ground
 Everyone's Books
 Burlington College
 Chassman & Bem
 Fletcher Free Library
 Partners in Recovery & Growth
 Peace & Justice Center
 Pearls
 Planned Parenthood
 STEP Learning Center
 Craftsbury Public Library
 Rutland Area Gay/Lesbian Connection
 Innwood Manor
 Greenhope Farm
 Fair Haven Free Library
 Buffalo Mountain Coop
 Galaxy Books
 Jon's Automotive

Bennington
 Brattleboro
 Brattleboro
 Brattleboro
 Brattleboro
 Burlington
 Burlington
 Burlington
 Burlington
 Burlington
 Burlington
 Burlington
 Castleton
 Craftsbury
 Center Rutland
 East Barnet
 East Hardwick
 Fair Haven
 Hardwick
 Hardwick
 Lyndonville

Project EXCEL, Lyndon State College
 Northshire Bookstore
 Middlebury Natural Food Coop
 Bear Pond Books
 Horn of the Moon Cafe
 Woman Centered
 Morristown Centennial Library
 Moore Free Library
 Northeast Kingdom AIDS Coalition
 Brown Public Library
 Social Alternatives for Gay Men
 Woman's Study Program
 Putney Library
 Kimball Public Library
 PFLAG
 Rutland Free Library
 LUNA/NEVGALR c/o Umbrella
 Natural Provisions
 Regional Library
 St. Johnsbury Athenaeum
 Food for Thought
 WRJ Books
 Upper Valley Coop

Lyndonville
 Manchester Center
 Middlebury
 Montpelier
 Montpelier
 Montpelier
 Morrisville
 Newfane
 Newport
 Northfield
 Norwich
 Plainfield
 Putney
 Randolph
 Rutland
 Rutland
 St. Johnsbury
 St. Johnsbury
 St. Johnsbury
 St. Johnsbury
 Stowe
 White River Junction
 White River Junction