

Still Going Strong: Pioneers of the Second Wave Women's Movement

Suzanne Benton founded and organized the first CT Chapters of NOW, and the CT Feminists in the Arts in the 1960's. She's since shared her multi-faceted artwork for nearly 70 years in 32 countries. A recipient of the pioneer feminist award from the Veteran Feminists of America, she's listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in American Art*, and *Feminists Who Changed America, 1963-1975*. In 2017, having founded and co-organized the 25,000-people Women's Solidarity March, St. Petersburg, FL she received the Pinellas ACLU Civil Liberties Award for her efforts. Suzanne is currently writing the memoir, *Spirit of Hope*. www.suzannebentonartist.com.

Jeanne Hirsch Ingress, artist, author, and activist was swept into the second wave of feminism with her mother Lolly Hirsch when they took up the torch of gynecological-self-help and home-birth for women, booking themselves as "the first-feminist-mother-daughter-team since the Pankhursts." During the 1970's they founded a mother-daughter press called New Moon Communications, Inc. and published a pilot issue magazine, "Women: To, By, Of, For and About"; booklets, "The Witch's Os" and "Proceedings from The First International Childbirth Conference" and a newsletter, "The Monthly Extract: An Irregular Periodical." Jeanne then produced two organically-grown-home-born-babies. She's currently bringing her mother's unpublished manuscript, "The Breeders" up to date, with her own reflections on three generations of women.

Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree is an ordained United Church of Christ minister who has been a strong advocate for women throughout her life, starting with a letter to the editor of *Ingenue* magazine when she was barely a teenager. She founded the Prudence Crandall Center in New Britain in 1973, which created the first shelter for women subject to domestic violence east of CA. In 1996 she became the first woman to serve as Conference Minister of the UCC in CT, a position she held for 14 years, and subsequently the first woman in two other conferences as interim Conference Minister. Her archives are held at the Congregational Library in Boston.

Barbara Love is an activist feminist pioneer of the Second Wave Women's Movement, and of the Gay Movement. Early on, she'd been a loud and effective voice exhorting the women's movement to recognize lesbianism as a feminist issue. She steadily pushed the National Organization for Women to fight for gay rights. In 1971, she co-authored the first book depicting lesbianism as a positive lifestyle, *Sappho Was a Right-on Woman: A liberated View of Lesbian*. Barbara is also the editor of the groundbreaking compilation of over 2000 biographies of feminists, *Feminists Who Changed America: 1963-1975*, University of Illinois Press, Sep 22, 2006," and described as "...the first comprehensive directory to document many of the founders and leaders (including both well-known and grassroots organizers) of the second wave women's movement. It tells the stories of more than two thousand individual women and a few notable men who together reignited the women's movement and made permanent changes to entrenched customs and laws."

Lele Stephens has been a journalist of the Old School, writing columns, editorials, and lead stories when everyone read newspapers. Also editor, lyricist, and Second Wave Feminist, she supported Sisterhood as a moral cause. She compiled and edited the early feminist women's poetry books, *Omen*, and *Moonseed*. In 1976, she was named an Outstanding Woman of Connecticut by the United Nations Association and received an award from Governor Ella T. Grasso at the state capitol for her "contributions to culture, the development of women, and to the arts." Lele holds still to the concept that men and women of good will can prevail in the struggle for a just society.