

THE WOMAN'S BUILDING 1727 NO. SPRING ST. LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

contact: Leslie Labowitz

ARIADNE coordin. 399-2494 or

Nancy Taylor

GCSC 464-7400

## "INCEST" THE CRIME NOBODY TALKS ABOUT

EXCEPT ARIADNE AND THE GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER....

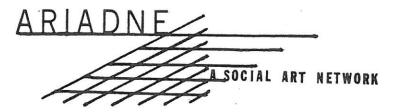
ARIADNE and The Gay Community Services Center are cosponsoring an "INCEST AWARENESS PROJECT", a national campaign to make the realities of sexual abuse against children, mostly girls, public. Statistics say 1 out of 4 girls under the age of 18 are sexually abused.

The "INCEST AWARENESS PROJECT" involves a year long series of activities. The goals of the project are to make incest a public issue, provide images of women moving out of victimization and having power over their lives, and effect social change.

ARIADNE is providing media outreach, art therapy workshops for children in the County's Sexual Abuse Program, community dialogues, an art and information exhibition, a video production, and visual presentations.

GCSC is providing a referral service for incest survivors to professional therapists, counseling for youth and adults and support groups in their Youth Services Dept., and a speakers bureau intended to serve the community, the schools, the police dept. and training centers for social workers, therapists, and counselors.

ARIADNE is opening the project with the first art and information exhibition dealing publicly with incest on October 18, 179 at The Woman's Building. The show is entitled; BEDTIME STORIES: Women Speak-Cut About Incest. All work displayed will be by children and adult women incest survivors. It will include performances, video, books, writings, paintings, and creations from artists solicited nationally. The children's work will be from the art therapy workshops conducted by Evelyn Virshup with teenage girls at the County Sexual Abuse Program.



THE WOMAN'S BUILDING 1727 NO. SPRING ST. LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012

June 16, 1979

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: contact: Leslie Labowitz

221-6161 399-2494

DATE: Friday, June 22, 1979

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Church in Ocean Park

235 Hill St.

Santa Monica, Calif.

# NEVER SAY A WORD ABOUT IT TO ANYONE.....

"Sexual abuse can only happen in secrecy. It can only continue if it continues to be silent."

from KISS DADDY GOODNIGHT by Louise Armstrong

ARIADNE: A Social Art Network and "Making It Safe", a project of COMMUNITAS are co-sponsoring an open dialogue on "incest", Friday, June 22nd at 7:30 p.m. at The Church In Ocean Park in Santa Monica. The speakers will be: Kay Beving, MA, family counselor with the Sexual Abuse Program at the Los Angeles County Dept. of Public and Social Services; Lori Brown, counselor from Victims Anonymous, San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center; Nancy Angelo and Leslie Labowitz, coordinators of the ARIADNE project, "BEDTIME STORIES-women speak-out about "incest".

The open dialogue is the first effort of it's kind in Los Angeles. It will look at "incestous assault" in the family from the point of view of the child victim, primarily female.

The National Center on Child Abuse estimates that in 1976 12% of the over 1 million reported child abuse cases were cases of sexual abuse. Most of the children abused were girls. Estimates suggest that there are 25 million women in this country who have been sexually abused by their fathers.

ARIADNE INCEST AWAREMESS PROJECT - Los Angeles with national scope '79-80

This project is co-sponsored with Gay Community Services Center and is coordinated by Leslie Labowitz and Nancy Angelo, ARIADNE and Nancy Taylor, GCSC.

The year long project has these goals:

- make "incest" a public issue by informing and educating a broad public through mass media
- 2) provide images of women moving out of victimization and having power over their lives
- 3) effect social change through prevention and recovery programs

Components of the project provided for by ARIADNE:

- 1) ART THERAPY WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN; conducted by Evelyn Virshup, M.A., A.T.R. in an ongoing group of teenage victims/survivors of incest. The group has been run by the Child Abuse Program of the County Dept. of Public Social Services and led by Kay Beving, M.S.W., a consultant on project
- 2) BEDTIME STORIES: Wemen Speak-out about Incest an art and information exhibition at The Woman's Building; included are video, performance, readings, rap groups, children's art from art therapy workshops, drawings, painting, books, graphics, writings; all by adult women who have experienced incest: a part of the show will contain resource material, hand-outs of information about incest and what is available to help adults and children in L.A.
- 3) MEDIA CAMPAIGN involves press conferences, articles written on icest by participants solicited nation-wide, features in national press, TV news specials, public service announcements
- 4) OPEN DIALOGUES community outreach, discussion specialists, therapists on subject of incest with community; first dialogue took place in June'79 with social workers and Santa Monica community at Church in Ocean Park(first dialogue on incest in L.A.)
- directed by Nancy Angelo; a community video project on women's experience of incest. First public presentation of incest created by women about women. The production will be an interactive experience and multiple system video installation

Components of the project provided for by Gay Community Services Center are in the area of Prevention and Recovery:

- 1) <u>ASFERRAL SERVICE</u> provides names and telephone numbers of professional therapists who have experience dealing with incest victims/survivors
- 2) COUNSELING Youth Services division provides counseling for youth and adult victims of sexual abuse, support groups are being formed for male and female survivors; this division also is respnsible for runaways in the Hollywood area, many of whom come from abusive environments

- 3) SPEAKERS BUREAU. formation of a speakers bureau and slide presentation that will sensitize and educate the community at large and will be used in programs in the schools, in training sessions for social workers, counselors, and therapists, and in the police dept.
- 4) COORDINATE WORK WITH AFFILIATE ORSANIZATION C.A.T. C.A.T. (Children of the Night) is starting a shelter for runaways; runaways that often find their way into prostitution

SPONSORS: ARIADNE, Gay Community Services Center
FUNDING SQUECES: Private Donation, GCSC (postage, mailings)
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS, CONSULTANTS, INDIVIDUALS:

The Woman's Building, Los Angelea County Sexual Abuse Program, Victims Anonymus, Pacific Coast Media Center, C.A.T., L.A. city's International Year of the Child Task orce, Sandra Butler, writer of Conspiracy of Silence; Kay Beving, social worker; Betty Brooks, ph.d Human Sexuality; Grace Davis, Deputy Mayor; Evelyn Virshup, M.A., Art Therapist Martin Schwartz, Dept. of Criminal Justice-Univ. of Cincinnatti

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

A SOCIAL ART NETWORK

1213 North Highland Avenue P.O. Box 38777 Hollywood, California 90038

THE WOMAN'S BUILDING 1727 NO. SPRING ST. LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012

September 23, 1979

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

contact: Leslie Labowitz, ARIADNE

399-2494 or Nancy Taylor,

GCSC 464-7400 X201

## BEDTIME STORIES: WOMEN SPEAK-OUT ABOUT INCEST

ARIADNE is sponsoring the first public exhibition dealing openly with incest, the ultimate taboo. It will take place from October 18 to November 15, 1979 at The Woman's Building, 1727 N. Spring St., Los Angeles.

The exhibition is curated by Paula Lumbard and Leslie Belt, members of the "INCEST AWARENESS PROJECT" co-sponsored by ARIADNE and The Gay Community Services Center, a national year long campaign to make incest a public issue.

The gallery installation will include art works of women artists from all over the country, examples of work by children who have taken part in art therapy workshops conducted by Evelyn Virshup, art therapist, at the L.A. County's Sexual Abuse Program, and prevention and recovery information about incest; what is available in this city and how the problem is being handled.

All the work displayed in BEDTIME STORIES has been created by women and girls who have experienced incest Included will be performances, video, books, writing, paintings, and graphics. The works were selected by a committee made up of the curators Lumbard and Belt, artists; Leslie Labowitz, artist-co-founder of ARIADNE; Faith Wilding, recognized painter and teacher; Nancy Angelo, performance/video artist and feminist educator; Merle Fishman, artist; Linda Macalusa, writer; and Sandra Butler, author of Conspiracy of Silence.

The intention of BEDTIME STORIES is to talk openly about women's experience of incest, a subject steeped in secrecy and pain. Rather than focusing on victimization in itself, the exhibition will present a feminist perspective on the complex aspects of sexual abuse in the family. It will show images by women who have experienced the trauma of incest and are taking control of their lives in a positive way. Sandra Butler, author of Conspiracy of Silence; Trauma of Incest will speak Opening Night. Activities taking place throughout the month include a press conference, rap sessions, dialogues, and Closing Events; performance, video, poetry.

# GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

1213 North Highland Avenue P.O. Box 38777 Hollywood, California 90038 Phone: (213) 464-7400

THE WOMAN'S BUILDING 1727 NO. SPRING ST. LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012

October 27, 1979

# PRESS CONFERENCE:

DATE: November 1, 1979

TIME: 9:45 a.m.

PLACE: The Woman's Building

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

contact: Leslie Labowitz, ARIADNE 399-2494 or 221-6161 or Nancy Taylor, GCSC

464-7400 x 201

# "CITY NAMES MONTH OF NOVEMBER "CHILDREN'S DEFENSE MONTH" IN SUPPORT OF "INCEST AWARENESS PROJECT"

"I remember years of not sleeping and nights upon nights of socking myself in the stomach to prevent pregnancy. Incest is not erotic, or exciting, or a fantasy for a child. It is a nightmare."

This is a statement taken from a work by an adult incest survivor in the exhibition BEDTIME STORIES: Women Speak-Out About Incest, a part of the "INCEST AWARENESS PROJECT"-a one year campaign to make incest a public issue sponsored by ARIADNE: A Social Art Network and the Gay Community Services Center.

The exhibition and a live performance "In Silence Secrets Turn To Lies/Secrets Shared Become Sacred Truths" by Terry Wolverton, drawn from painful memories of molestation by her stepfather between the ages of 5 and 11, will be the backdrop for a press conference on Thursday, November 1st at 9:45 a.m. at The Woman's Building, 1727 N. Spring St.

Deputy Mayor Grace Davis, chairperson for the city's International Year of the Child Task Force will present a proclamation by Mayor Bradley to ARIADNE and GCSC in support of the "INCEST AWARENESS PROJECT" and naming the month of November "CHILDREN'S DEFENSE MONTH. Taking part in the press conference with Ms. Davis are Leslie Labowitz, ARIADNE, coordinator of incest project, Terry De Crescenzo, M.S.W., vice-president Board of Directors GCSC, Lois Lee, director of C.A.T. (Children of the Night) who is starting a shelter for runaways, and Kay Beving, M.A., Dept. of Social Services Sexual Abuse Program, works in family therapy of sexual abuse cases, leads groups; Daughters United and Parents United.

The "INCEST AWARENESS PROJECT" intends in their campaign to make incest a public issue by speaking out, providing information on prevention and recovery, and most important countering media images of women as "victims" or as "bad mothers" by portraying women who have experienced sexual abuse in their families as incest "survivors" who have taken control of their lives and focusing the responsibility of the incest away from the mother and on to the father or real offender.

ARIADNE

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CONTACT: Leslie Labowitz, ARIADNE

399-2494

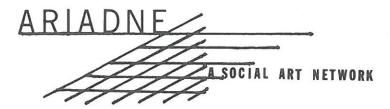
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

STARTING DATE: NOVEMBER 3-15 or 7-15

SCBA 826-80-261 P1

SOCIAL ART NETWORK

INCEST THE CRIME NOBODY TALKS ABOUT EXCEPT
THE WOMEN ARTISTS AND TEENAGE INCEST SURVIVORS
IN THE EXHIBITION BEDTIME STORIES: WOMEN SPEAKOUT ABOUT INCEST AT THE WOMAN'S BUILDING, 1727
N. SPRING ST. SPONSORED BY ARIADNE: A SOCIAL ART
NETWORK THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC EXHIBITION
TO EXAMINE THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF GIRLS IN THEIR
FAMILIES. DON'T MISS THIS MOVING BUT DISTURBING
EXPERIENCE BY COMING TO THE CLOSING GATHERING ON
NOV. 15TH 7-10 P.M. FOR AN EVENING OF VIDEO,
PERFORMANCE, AND POETRY. BEDTIME STORIES IS
PART OF A YEAR LONG INCEST AWARENESS PROJECT
SPONSORED BY ARIADNE AND GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER.
CALL 221-6161 or 399-2494 for information.



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#### BEDTIME STORIES: Women Speak-Out About Incest

### Program

- 8:15 "In Silence Secrets Turn To Lies/
  Secrets Shared Become Sacred Truths"

  performance by Terry Wolverton
  (inner gallery space)
- 9:00 "Feminist Perspective of the personal and political implications of speaking-out about incest"-presentation by Sandra Butler, author Conspiracy of Silence: The Trauma of Incest

NOTE: We are sensitive to the controversial and possibly upsetting nature of this show. From 8:00 to 10:00 there will be a therapist in attendance to give emotional support to anyone who might need it. The core committee of ARIADNE will be wearing white name tags. Please feel free to come up to us and we will direct you to a support person or a quiet space. We also have made a referral list to professional therapists screened by Gay Community Services Center available for the taking on the information table.

Upon request it is possible to set up special showings of this exhibition to groups that would like to dialogue with project members in a more personalized format. Contact: Leslie Labowitz

### OTHER ACTIVITIES....

Nov. 3 - rap session led by Paula Lumbard

Nov. 15 - Closing Gathering of video, performance, and readings. 7-10 p.m.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

controt: Lealie Labowitz, ARIADNE 399-2494 or Nancy Taylor, SGSC 464-7400 X201

### ART THERAPY AIDS IN STOPPING THE SILENCE ABOUT INCEST

Evelyn Virshup M.A., A.T.R., art therapist and author of Right Brain People in A Left Brain World is conducting a workshop doing art therapy with a group of teenage victims/survivors of incest. The ongoing group is led by Kay Beving, M.S.W. and run by the Los Angeles County Department of Social Service, Child Abuse Project. The group is called Daughters United.

Ms. Virshup has been doing this as a part of the "INCEST AWARENESS PROJECT" co-sponsored by ARIADNE and The Gay Community Services Center, a year long national campaign to make incest a public issue. The art work created by the teenage girls will be on display in an exhibit entitled: BEDTIME STORIES: Women Speak-Out About Incest from Oct. 18 to Nov. 15 '79 at The Woman's Building at 1727 N. Spring St., Los Angeles.

Estimates suggest that there are 25 million women in this country who have been sexually abused by their fathers. One girl out of every four will be sexually abused in some way before she reaches 18. Ms. Virshup has this to say;

"My experience with these relatively non-verbal young girls was very moving for me. Although a few of them do relate well to each other and the leaders about mundane affairs, generally they all remained mute about the subject which was their commen bond. However, after working in the art medium, and finding it easier to talk and write about their drawings, they were able to reveal their feelings of rage and isolation. They found themselves accepted and supported even after revealing what they had considered shameful secrets for which they felt responsible and guilty. The social workers who had worked with the girls for months were impressed with the depth of expression reached through the process of art."

NOTE: Ms. Virshup is available to comment on her experiences as are photos of the work by the teenage girls.

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September 27, 1979

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

[140 words] STARTING DATE: October 10 through October 31st

INCEST: THE CRIME NOBODY TALKS ABOUT EXCEPT ARIADNE: A SOCIAL ART NETWORK AND THE GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER in an exhibit entitled; BEDTIME STORIES: Women Speak-Out About Incest, from Oct. 18th to Nov. 15th at the Woman's Building, 1727 N. Spring St. Mon-Sat. 10-5. Estimates say one girl out of every four will be sexually abused in some way before she reaches 18. This is the first public art and information exhibition to examine the sexual abuse of girls in the family. Included are art works of all media by women artists and children incest survivors. (add if goes on the air before the 18th) Opening Reception: Thunsday Oct. 18th 8:00 p.m. with Sandra Butler, author of Conspiracy of Silence: Trauma of Incest as guest speaker and a performance by Terry Wolverton. 2.00 donation Call 399-2494 or 464-7400 X210 for information.