



**20TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL
FOR THE MONTREAL MASSACRE**

**A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION
ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Saturday, December 5th, 2009

10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Vancouver Public Library

350 West Georgia Street

Learn and engage through a series of
activities:

Dialogue Among Feminist Activists

Monologues by Feminist Speakers

Feminist Films Old and New

A Feminist "Walk in Her Shoes"

The Montreal Massacre

1989 – A lone man walked into an engineering class at L'École Polytechnique at the University of Montréal. He separated the men from the women and told the men to leave. After the male students complied, the man declared his hatred of feminists and began to shoot the women with a semi-automatic rifle. While police forces stood outside, Marc Lépine went on a rampage, shooting and stabbing the women at the school. He then shot himself.

He left behind a note that included a list of prominent Canadian feminists whom he planned to kill. It was clear that these women engineering students symbolized the progress of women's equality. Lépine's actions could have pushed back women's demands for increased equality through social change. However, women organized in defiance of his attack.

Women rose up to demonstrate in towns and cities across the country. They connected Lépine's acts of violence to the everyday sexism to which women are subjected. Women dedicated themselves to feminist organizing to bring into reality their expectations of freedom for the present and the future.

The 14 women who were killed as feminists:

Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maud Haviernick, Barbara Klucznik Widajewicz, Maryse Laganière, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard, Annie St-Arneault, Annie Turcotte.

Among his list of 19 feminists he planned to kill were: A freelance journalist, the first woman firefighter in Quebec, a television host, the vice-president of the Confederation of National Trade Unions, the Quebec Immigration Minister, the first woman police captain in Quebec, the Canadian champion of the 1988 Chartered Accountant Exams, the former vice-president of Montreal Trust, a radio sports show host, and a transition house worker.

Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter

Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter (VRRWS) offers a 24-hour rape crisis line and transition house for women escaping male violence. Annually, we answer over 1,400 calls from women in crisis and house over 120 women and their children. We provide women with emotional support; peer counselling; a support and action group for women who have experienced male violence; and advocacy & accompaniment to the hospital, police and court.

VRRWS is available to attend your organization to speak on any topic concerning violence against women. As a volunteer-run organization, VRRWS is always seeking volunteers to assist in operating our transition house and 24-hour crisis line, to fundraise, and to maintain the transition house.

Volunteering begins now, call 604-872-8212 to sign up.

Yes, I want to support Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____Prov_____PC_____

Telephone_____

Email_____

Please accept my enclosed donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other_____

Ongoing Pledge of \$_____(enclose 12 post-dated cheques)

Please send me a tax receipt

I would like more information about making an Ongoing Pledge

I would like to receive the Friends of Rape Relief Newsletter

I want to get involved, please have someone contact me

Thank you for sending your donation to:

Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter

c/o PO Box 21562

1424 Commercial Drive

Vancouver, BC V5L 5G2

To donate online go to www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca

LEARN, EXCHANGE, ACT: INTERACTIONS AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Roundtables: DIALOGUE AMONG FEMINIST ACTIVISTS



10:00 am
Reinforcing our Resistance: Fighting the normalization of patriarchy in the forms of cultural relativism, prostitution and religion

12:00 pm
Red Lights and Stop Signs: Fighting racism through ending the trafficking and prostitution of women

2:00 pm
Freedoms of Her Own: Fighting for political, social, economic, physical autonomy for women

4:00 pm
Feminists resist capitalism, state power and prostitution in the 2010 Olympics

Join us to hear the expertise of these women and observe community development around key issues on male violence against women. Feminist activists, local and international, will be in attendance including: Betty Krawczyk (Author, Environmentalist Activist), Pardeep Sahota (Progressive Intercultural Society - PICS), Annabel Webb and Asia Czapska (Justice for Girls), Sargie Kaler, Farida Hussain (South Asian Women Against Male Violence), Daisy Kler, Fazeela Jiwa, Jacqueline Guillion, Alice Lee, Jean Fong, Van Le, Tamar Eylon, Hilla Kerner & other collective members (Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter - VRRWS), Aboriginal Women's Action Network - AWAN, Asian Women's Coalition Ending Prostitution - AWCEP, Miriam Palacios (OXFAM), Joan Merrifield & Julia Macrae (British Columbia Teacher's Federation - BCTF), Daphne Bramham (Author and Vancouver Sun Columnist), Clea Brown (University Women's Club), Sharon McIvor (The Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action - FAFIA), Professor Janine Benedet (University of Law - UBC), Norma Ramos (Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women - CATW), Lali Pawa (WeCan End Violence Against women), Linda Shuto (Community Advocates for Little Mountain - CALM), Gale Tyler (Raging Women), Grassroots Women, Shelagh Day (Poverty & Human Rights Center), Susan Harney (Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC), Pamela Cross (National Association of Women and the Law), Kasari Govender (Legal Director, West Coast Women's Legal Education & Action Fund) Trisha Baptie (Exploited Voices Educating) Margo Young (BC CEDAW), Lisa Rupert (YWCA Munroe House), Angela MacDougall (Battered Women's Support Services), Christine Boyle (UBC Faculty of Law Professor), Erica Del Carmen Fuchs (Justicia for Migrant Workers BC, & The Organizing Centre for Social & Economic Justice), women who have lived in our transition house in the past.

Lectures: MONOLOGUES BY FEMINIST SPEAKERS



10:00 am
Was it Really "Rape Rape?"

TBA;
 Courtney-Rose Bentham (VRRWS)

11:00 am
Tap Dancing on Prison Walls

Betty Krawczyk (Author, Environmentalist Activist);
 Aurea Flynn (VRRWS)

12:00 pm
Mothers on Trial

Pamela Cross (National Association of Women and the Law);
 Hilla Kerner (VRRWS)

1:00 pm
Holding the State Accountable on Violence vs. Women

Dawn Dougherty (WATCH: Bringing a public eye to justice);
 Louisa Russell (VRRWS)

2:00 pm
Trafficking, Prostitution and Mega-Tourism

Norma Ramos (Executive Director Coalition Against Trafficking Women Intl.);
 Laura Holland (VRRWS)

3:00 pm
Feminist Media: Changing the Message, Remembering the Motive

Daphne Bramham (Vancouver Sun Columnist, Author);
 Daisy Kler (VRRWS)

4:00 pm
Asian Women Say NO to Prostitution

Suzanne Jay (Asian Womens Coalition Ending Prostitution);
 Samantha Grey (VRRWS)

5:00 pm
Aboriginal Women Fight the Indian Act

Sharon McIvor (Canadian Feminist Alliance for Intl. Action);
 Jessica St. Jean (VRRWS)

Films: FEMINIST FILMS WITH DISCUSSION



10:00 am
Taking the Heat: The First Women Firefighters of New York City (2006)

A group of dedicated female firefighters struggle for the right to battle blazes alongside the most macho firemen in the entire country. Directed by Bann Roy (60 min)

11:30 am
The Children We Sacrifice (2000)

Insights into the psychological, social and cultural consequences of incestuous sexual abuse of the South Asian girl child and thoughtful assessments of strategies that have helped adult women cope with childhood trauma. Directed by Grace Poore (61 min)

1:00 pm
Hookers (2008)

This documentary talks to five Native women who once worked the streets of Saskatoon about their struggles to deal with the past and go on with the future. Directed by Marcel Petit (53 min)

3:00 pm
A Killer's Paradise (2007)

Since 1999 over two thousand women have been murdered in Guatemala, yet lawmakers and government officials continue to turn a blind eye. Directed by Giselle Portenier (83 min)

4:30 pm
Sin by Silence (2009)

From behind prison walls, Sin by Silence reveals the lives of extraordinary women who advocate for a future free from wife battery. Directed by Olivia Klaus (43 minutes)

Interactive Activity: A FEMINIST "WALK IN HER SHOES"



10:00 am. A new walk begins every half hour.

You can't really understand another person's experience until you've walked in her shoes. Walk in Her Shoes is an interactive learning experience that lets men and women take a walk in the shoes of a woman currently trying to escape a violent man in B.C. Today you will learn about the barriers she faces in getting away.

To participate, call in advance and register at 604.872.8212 or you can simply go to the main concourse and sign up on the day. Allow 30 minutes to comfortably complete the exercise and encourage friends and family to join you to maximize the opportunities for an interactive group learning experience.

Make sure you catch our feminist art installation in the library concourse!