



# WOODHULL INSTITUTE LEADER

*Where there's a WIL, there's a way!*

Spring 2006

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**Woodhull News**

Page 1

**Cinco de Mayo**

Page 1

**Snapshots:**

**On Her Shoulders**

Page 2

**Seeds of Change & Woodhull Aha! Moment**

Page 2

**Special for Mother's Day!**

**On Race - Woodhull Mothers Describe Their Own Strategies Toward Progress**

by Amanda Furness  
Page 3

**Special Section: Woodhull Women on Religion**

Pages 4-5

**Practicing Faith**

by Sara J. Wolcott

**Perspectives**

by Laura Muir & Sara J. Wolcott

**EastNabiBuddOver**

compiled by Jennifer Gandin

**Compassionate Leadership: Profiles of Ethical Corporations**

*Eileen Fisher*

by Courtney E. Martin

Page 6

**Practicing: Spotlight on Ayesha Malik Nasson, Woodhull Alumna**

*Never Fearing Her Potential*

by Cheryl Quintana

Leader  
Page 6

**Woodhull Women in the World**

- *Column of Abundance*
- *Celebrating Our Achievements*

Page 7



## Woodhull News

by Cindi Cook

### WOODHULL IN SAN ANTONIO

Once again, the Woodhull Institute, in partnership with the beauty brand Dove, visits another American city to do what it does best: empower women through ethical leadership retreats. From May 19th through the 21st, Woodhull will hold a women's retreat in San Antonio, Texas. When held in different cities, Woodhull expands its retreats to a wider age group, rather than focusing strictly on young women.

"This is our opportunity to go into a new community and reach out to as many people as possible, making it as open and as available we can," says Rachel Bloom (Woodhull 33), who is helping to launch and organize retreats around the country, with Miami and San Diego to be held later this year. "We're going to cities where no one has ever heard of us, asking them to participate, and trying to do broad outreach," she says.

Bloom has met with college students and professors alike throughout Austin and San Antonio, as well as the League of Women Voters, an

organization where the average age is 40 to 50, and the group Austin Women in Communications. Much of the focus of the San Antonio community is on Latin culture, and Bloom says that many women (and men) have no real central venue in which to meet and discuss issues. Bloom feels confident that the retreat will help immensely in this effort: "If we're able to bring these groups together it could have a great effect, especially for the women's community as a whole."

**Woodhull also continues its ongoing ethical leadership retreats for women in New York and San Francisco. Please visit [www.woodhull.org](http://www.woodhull.org) to view the current program calendar.**

## Cinco de Mayo

by Cheryl Quintana Leader

In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, many of us may have visited our local cantinas to partake in libations such as our favorite margarita, cerveza, or shots of Cuervo Gold. But on May 5th every year, do we really know what we are celebrating? Many of us might think that this day celebrates independence, much like our Fourth of July. But Mexico's official Independence Day is celebrated on September 15th.

Although not an official American holiday, Cinco de Mayo has been celebrated in the United States for over a hundred years. It commemorates the victory of a small, brave, and strategic group of Mexican soldiers led by General Ignacio Zaragoza over the French expeditionary forces in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

Though it ended in defeat for the French, the Battle of Puebla did not ultimately mean triumph for the Mexicans. The French eventually captured Puebla, marched on to Mexico City, and ruled until 1867.

Despite its brevity, the Cinco de Mayo battle has been memorialized for several reasons. The victory showed that ordinary Mexican citizens could resist superior fighting powers. It represented the continued courage of the Mexican people to overcome oppression. It instilled national pride, improved the international stature of its President Juarez, and discouraged further American and European invasions of Mexico and Latin America.

Much more than just a drinking holiday, Cinco de Mayo celebrates cultural pride and shows respect for the rights of people everywhere to enjoy the fruits of self-determination and personal fortitude.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Spring is here: time for warmer weather, lighter clothes, and lots of allergy medicine... Even though we're putting away our heavy coats, the Woodhull Institute Leader's pages aren't turning to flimsy fare. In this issue, we enter the complex discussion about religion.*

*April brought us major holidays from many of the world's religions, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Though the Woodhull Credo echoes core tenets of most major religions, religion is often only hinted at in conversations amongst Woodhull Women. We decided to delve further into our diverse experiences of religion and spirituality and talk with women about the specific ways that their spirituality guides their everyday lives.*

*We want to hear what you think about this topic – your comments and ideas are always welcome at [jgandin@woodhull.org](mailto:jgandin@woodhull.org).*

*Have a fantastic summer!*

*Cheers,*

*Jennifer Gandin, Editor*

## Seeds of Change

*In every issue, a Woodhull alumna reflects on a moment in her retreat experience that planted a seed, which later blossomed into a major life change.*

I'm the Director of the Partial Hospitalization and Intensive Outpatient Programs in the Eating Disorder Clinic at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. I attended the Woodhull / Renfrew partnership retreat, and there's one moment that comes back to me often.

Remembering Naomi Wolf as she pushed us to grab our power when we stated our goals, I often find myself trying to get some of these whispering women to push their voices out loudly in the groups. They all have the power to change, and Woodhull's training helps me encourage them to grab it.

**Martha Peaslee Levine**  
(Woodhull / Renfrew)

## Snapshots: On Her Shoulders

*Erica Jong's Book Party*

*by Nicole Lisa*

*Tuesday, April 18, 2006*

Erica Jong's blonde hair bounces as she talks enthusiastically about her life's work as a writer. Jong's energetic spirit matches the poster-sized photo of her youthful face on the cover of her new book. She stands at a podium in the Strand Bookstore, one of the independent bookstores about which she speaks passionately. She gestures largely with her hands, then stuffs them into the pockets of her black velvet blazer as she discusses her newest book, *Seducing the Demon: Writing for My Life*.



"Who is the muse for a woman artist?" she asks her audience, which is predominantly young, white, and female, but also highlighted by a few older women and men. Jong answers her own question, telling a story by Isaac Bashevis Singer, in which a woman takes as a lover a man who pretends to be a demon – an irresistible and inspiring being. "Afterward, you may find out that he's only a *nebbish*," she concludes, surprising a laugh out of the audience, "but you still have your book."

Her blue and green-framed glasses flash as she fields questions, her attention spotlighting the speaker. She is earnest as she recounts her mistakes, then humorous as she speaks about artists and age: "I enjoy getting old; I'm delighted not to be dead." When a woman asks why mentoring young women is so

important, Jong speaks about the progress that women have made in supporting each other, instead of tearing each other down, like they did when she was a young artist. "My greatest supporters were men," she confides.

Through her life and courageous work, Erica Jong has provided a template that younger women can look towards, and broad shoulders to stand on.



### Woodhull Aha! Moment

I was in the doctor's office for my yearly physical, and he asked about my massage training. I told him that I'm going to have a prenatal practice...but in that outer voice, I heard that lilt of dismissal and cutesiness. I hated the sound of it. Immediately I saw myself in front of my Woodhull retreat group, with Karla [public speaking teacher] telling me to OWN IT! and I changed my tone. I realigned myself and suddenly my voice was much more serious, deep, and stable. I could hear my inner voice saying clearly - this is it! Talk about it!

As I did this, my doctor stopped what he was doing and turned to give me his complete attention. By the time we finished the conversation, he had given me great advice about talking to area doctors, and told me that if I needed help getting a foot in the door, I could mention his name.

I was in awe of the palpable difference taking myself seriously made in my tone of voice and in the reaction of my listener.

**Sara Prieto** (Woodhull 46)

## On Race -

### *Woodhull Mothers Describe Their Own Strategies Toward Progress*

by Amanda Furness

Jane Castillo grew up not knowing her own ethnic make-up. "I had to discover my lineage on my own with individual research," this Woodhull alumna says. "My family never talked about it. I knew growing up that we were from Colombia, but I suspected other lineages. Some of us had kinky hair or Asian features. I asked for the oldest pictures family members had, and discovered that I had a great-grandfather who was half black." When she finally visited Colombia, Castillo says she began talking with her family members there about their ancestral lines. "Why are you asking these questions?" they asked, before telling her that she was also part Filipino.

"I'm actually the one who educated my parents on our heritage," Castillo says. Her sixteen year-old son has grown up with the luxury of knowing and integrating his various ethnic identities, unlike his mother and many others in today's world. Because of her early experiences, she made a vow to herself that her child would never have to wonder about such things. She would take on the responsibility of ensuring that he knew who he was and where he came from.

The process, though, hasn't always been easy.

"Where we used to live, people automatically assumed he was Latino," she says of her son, who identifies culturally as a Latino. "But in Beverly Hills, where we currently live, a lot of people think he's Persian, because there are so many Persians who live here." Castillo recalls an incident on the playground in earlier years, where her son was denied admission to a basketball court. "What's your name?" other children asked him. "What *are* you?" The mother was moved to hear that her son had run through all of his ethnicities for his inquisitors: Indigenous Colombian, African, Filipino, German. "I was surprised at his response," Castillo says. "It's pretty deep that

he can tell that story at such a young age; only as an adult am I able to say those things."

Race is a topic that the two discuss on a regular basis. Each week they watch the new FX series "Black.White." together, after which they discuss their own reactions to different events on the show. But it's not just this new show—or past discussions about family origins—that have helped to prepare Castillo's son for life in a school district where he is a minority. Over the years, the teenager's mother has also tried to arm him with the awareness that is necessary to combat racism and ignorance. Before the two took a trip to China, for instance, she explained to her son that they would be the minority there and that they would probably be gawked at upon their arrival, which indeed they were.

Because of Castillo's consistent preparation, her son now notices slights and injuries that she, at the same age, wouldn't have been attuned to. Recently, in the middle of doing his homework, he came to her and said, "Mom, my math book is racist."

One of the story problems in the book showed a well-dressed Latino man pushing a lawn mower, spreading the stereotypical identification of Latinos as landscapers and gardeners, and this bothered Castillo's son. "I was not that aware at his age," she notes with pride.

Mele Alusa (Woodhull 29) views the topic of race from a somewhat distanced viewpoint. She and her fourteen year-old daughter have rarely encountered racism in their San Franciscan neighborhood. Of Tongan descent and surrounded by a number of other Polynesians as well as Latinos, they find their community a welcoming and familiar one.

Alusa, as the child of Tongan immigrants, remembers that she did feel ostracized growing up, but mostly because of her family's income level. "Of course," she notes, "most of the kids who made fun of me for standing in the free lunch line were white."

Because of her experiences as a child, when she sees Latinos in her area pushing shopping carts full of groceries home, it's easy to empathize. Perhaps it's this empathy that has served her daughter most; she appears to have inherited her mother's heart and has a wide range of friends from diverse backgrounds.

"I always told her that she shouldn't judge others. That when you peel back the layers of a person, you might be surprised at what's inside. Some of the kids tease her for being friends with people who are not in the 'right' circles," Alusa says, "but she's fearless."

Mothers can address the issues surrounding race in a variety of ways. For me, in raising two young men -- ages 10 and 12 -- it's important that I ground them properly in history and in the realities that currently face young Black men in American society, despite the fact that they've got a mother of European descent. Be loving and forgiving, I teach them, but never forgetful.



The author and her sons Know that there may come a time when they will be tar-

getted by an unfair and racist system, and be prepared to confront any slights with dignity, self-respect and compassion for those less educated or more hate-filled.

Above all else, I want my sons to know, it is important to always talk about the issues, to hold on to their convictions and to the core of their inner selves.

Amanda Furness (Woodhull Atlanta) is a journalist, mother, author and student activist at Agnes Scott College. Her coverage as a reporter in Ohio, Georgia, and Louisiana has won two Associated Press Awards in Breaking News and Features. In 2004, Furness released her debut novel, *White Girl*, through PublishAmerica. Currently, Furness is working on a mental health series that examines the psychological effects of slavery on the American psyche.

Special Section:

# Woodhull Women on Religion

## Practicing Faith: *Living With Integrity*

by Sara J. Wolcott

Woven through the Woodhull Credo, though not explicitly stated, is the value that we as ethical leaders shall live our lives with integrity.

For many Woodhull women, our notions of integrity stem from our religious beliefs. Or, as Mormon Mele Alusa (Woodhull 29), said, "I know I am here on earth to walk upright before my Heavenly Father."

I asked several Woodhull women to tell me how their religious faith inspired them both in the present and for their dreams for the future. The responses to my questions were inspiring.

Regardless of their religion, Woodhull women echoed Leeat Granek's (Woodhull 2) sentiment that "The way I live my life is heavily influenced by my religious beliefs, but it is not a clear cut, 'I do this because I'm Jewish.'" Granek's mother's recent death helped lead her to Orthodox Judaism. Today, Granek makes "a concentrated effort to weave these values into my everyday decisions... from whom I date to my interactions with my students to where I publish my papers. [My faith] is my self-integrity and my core. There is a sense of believing that is deeply rooted that requires no transformation into practice."

For Monica Coleman (Woodhull 45), a large part of integrity means being faithful to what God calls her to do – which she says is often radical, and therefore rarely popular. A minister who is a progressive Christian with a strong African spirituality, she has been ministering about sexual violence against women to faith communities for years



Leeat Granek

through an organization she founded, called the Dinah Project.

More recently, God called her to write about what it means to live faithfully with bipolar disorder. "At first, I said 'No' to God. I make my living off my mind, and I don't want to go around talking about my mental illness. I finally asked God, 'Why do you want me to do this?' and the response was, 'Because you can.'" She describes how one of the horrors of deep depression is the feeling that no one can possibly understand you.

"For me what is important faithwise is the belief that God loves me and knows what I'm going through. It may not sound particularly radical, but in the midst of great pain, it really is."



Monica Coleman

All the Woodhull women I surveyed spoke about how living faithfully meant, essentially, following the Woodhull Credo's advice to "take the risk of speaking out against injustice," be that in the workplace, at home, or in the larger social system in which we live. Coleman has walked out of churches that preached against homosexuality. Alusa quit her job because she couldn't work in a situation that offered her so little respect. Mara E. van der Oord (Woodhull 28), a Catholic who is considering a career change that will allow her to use her financial skills for enhancing social justice, put it well: "My religious upbringing has instilled in me the necessity for social justice. It has made me aware of the need to be a voice for the socially marginalized in our society and throughout the world."

For these women, being faithful and living with integrity are two parts of the same whole.

## Perspectives

by Laura Muir & Sara J. Wolcott

America is one of the most religiously diverse countries in the world. Woodhull women continually interact with other faiths -- interactions that often challenge previous assumptions.

Sushma Joshi (Woodhull 7) speaks about her interaction with Christianity: "I realized Christianity was a much broader religion when I went to the U.S. and saw all different groups -- formerly, I had only seen evangelical types (and extremely liberal Jesuits) in Nepal, where I grew up." She respects America's ability to sustain such diversity of faith, and feels it enriches the country's cultural and social fabric. A Hindu who borrows from Buddhism, she says that she likes "syncretic faiths -- where two or three beliefs come together."

Like Joshi, Richanne Mankey (Woodhull / Daemen) enjoys developing a syncretic faith. Learning about different religious traditions has led her to incorporate different belief systems into her own.

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Sometimes, learning more about your own religion can feel like encountering a completely different faith.

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Other Woodhull women find that encountering other faiths leads to a deepening involvement with one particular faith -- including conversion.

Nicole Hart (Woodhull / Renfrew) is currently converting to Judaism. Hart grew up in a Christian family. While at college, she forged relationships with many "cultural" Jews. At first, their "rules" confused her -- how could they consider themselves Jews without "believing" in Judaism as a religion? As she slowly recognized the complex interplay of religion, culture, and community, she found herself attracted to the Jewish community. "As

## Perspectives (cont'd)

I convert to Judaism, I now view myself as part of a group with a common goal and a common belief system," she says.

Sometimes, learning more about your own religion can feel like encountering a completely different faith. When Leeat Granek (Woodhull 2) delved deeper into Orthodox Judaism, she found that "what first appeared to me to be chauvinist, male, patriarchal values and reasoning in Orthodox Judaism were actually logical, well thought out laws and teachings that in many ways protected and exalted women and had profound meaning. Whereas I have mostly shunned Orthodox Judaism most of my life due to my secular-Jewish background, when I begun to actually understand their meaning, I realized how profoundly wrong I had been in most of my ignorant assumptions about why they do things the way they do them."

Politics and ignorance often contribute to widespread misperceptions about other religions – or worse, use religion to create divisions and conflicts where they don't belong. Many alumnae felt that Muslims

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**"...I now understand *jihad* to be our own internal struggle to act on the things which we say we believe. I would call that integrity."**

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have borne the brunt of religious discrimination in America since September 11th. Mankey describes her process of realizing that the Islamic concept of "jihad" means far more than just "holy war." She says, "God would (never) want us...to kill each other. I was raised a Christian, but as I began to understand more about the religion of Islam, I learned about the word 'jihad.' As explained to me several times, I now understand *jihad* to be our own internal struggle to act on the things which we say we believe. I would call that integrity."

Rather than emphasize the violence that can grow out of fundamentalist interpretations of religious traditions, Granek, like many Woodhull alums, wishes that religion could reach its potential as a guide for people to make every day ethical decisions. "This is where I would most like to see religion taking hold, in society as a whole," she says.

## EastNabiBuddOver:

or, Major Religious Holidays in April

compiled by Jennifer Gandin

religion	holiday	date	meaning
<b>Buddhism</b>	Buddha's Birthday	Chinese Buddhists celebrate this on the eighth day of the fourth month in the Chinese calendar.  Japanese Buddhists celebrate it on April 8th.	Also called <i>Hana matsuri</i> in Japan, this day commemorates the birthday of the Gautama Buddha. Celebrations often include a parade of children carrying flowers, and the anointing of a small statue of the Buddha, with a sweet tea, made of hydrangea leaves.
<b>Christianity</b>	Easter	Between March 22 and April 25th (first Sunday after the first full moon on or following the vernal equinox)	Easter, the most important feast of the Christian year, celebrates the anniversary of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. (The name may have derived from Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility.) Christians celebrate this holiday with special church services, flowers (especially lilies), and music, including church bells that were silenced during Lent.
<b>Islam</b>	Mawlid al-Nabi	Sunni Muslims celebrate this on the twelfth day of the Islamic lunar month of Rabi al-Awwal (April 12, this year);  Shi'a Muslims celebrate it on the 17th of Rabi al-Awwal (April 17, this year).	Mawlid al-Nabi celebrates the birth of Muhammad, the founder of Islam. (Mawlid means birthday of a holy figure and al-Nabi means prophet.) Not all Muslims celebrate this holiday, but among those that do, the day is commemorated with recollections of Muhammad's life and significance. Festivities include processions, delicious feasts, and home decorations.
<b>Judaism</b>	Passover (or Pesach)	Begins between March 27 and April 24	Passover is an eight-day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. ("Passover" refers to the Angel of Death "passing over" the Jewish households in the final plague visited upon the Egyptians.) Jewish families celebrate by eating a ceremonial dinner (seder), where they recount the Exodus from Egypt and eat foods symbolic of the journey.
<b>Quaker</b>			Some religions, such as the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), hold that every day is sacred; for this reason they do not celebrate any religious holidays. While Quakers stem from Christian roots, from their founding they purposefully kept Christmas and Easter the same as every day holding that the Holy Spirit is born, dies, and rises again within human hearts - daily.

sources: *Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of the World Dictionary*, compiled by Sue Ellen Thompson and Barbara W. Carlson, 1994 edition & wikipedia.org

## Compassionate Leadership: Profiles of Ethical Corporations

### *Eileen Fisher*

by Courtney E. Martin

In 1984, with just \$350 in the bank, Eileen Fisher designed and introduced four basic pieces at a New York City fashion show. To her surprise, she immediately received \$3,000 in orders. From there, her company has grown into the fourth largest woman-owned business in the New York-area and named the 18th best place to work in the nation by *HR Magazine* last year.

In the Woodhull spirit of tithing time and income, the company has sponsored a variety of non-profit ventures designed to support women's

lives, such as the Women in Power series put on by Woodhull's neighbor, The Omega Institute, each year. Eileen Fisher's 400 plus employees share at least 10% of pretax profits, get a \$1,000 educational benefit, and a \$1,000 wellness benefit each year. In addition, the company hosts free yoga, tai chi, and stress reduction classes. After ten years on the job, workers get \$5,000 towards a trip of their choosing.

And to those who doubt that kindness can't be profitable: although women's apparel sales dipped by more than 6% last year, revenue at Eileen Fisher—which is privately held and profitable—was up 12%, to \$144 million.

#### **This Month in U.S. Women's History:**

May 10, 1872: Victoria Woodhull is nominated as the first woman candidate for United States president.



*Eileen Fisher*

## *Practicing* Empowering Yourself to Empower Others

Spotlight on Ayesha Malik Nasson, Woodhull Alumna

by Cheryl Quintana Leader

*"To be mindful of practicing honesty, compassion, and courage."*

An American of Pakistani Muslim descent, Ayesha Malik Nasson (Woodhull 29) was born in the Midwest and raised in Pakistan's capital of Islamabad and throughout both coasts of the United States. Her story takes place at the crossroads of East and West, "First" and "Third" worlds, local and global, and as both a minority and majority in faith, race, and gender depending on her location. She flows between three languages in any attempt to articulate her thoughts or analyze her dreams.

Ayesha once considered this fluid identity to be a weakness because she never quite felt fully a part of any one world. But one day, she realized the strength of being a part of, yet apart from, each culture. She has highly developed empathy combined with an outsider's perspective on different communities, classes, and countries. After finally achieving balance with her multiple labels, she confronted the most challenging label of all – "disabled."

In 2002, Ayesha got married, moved cross-country to begin her dream job, and awoke one morning unable to walk. Her symptoms mystified doctors for two years. She was finally diagnosed with Devic's disease (*neuromyelitis optica*), an autoimmune disorder that is a sub category of Multiple Sclerosis. This disorder causes spinal and optic inflammation, resulting in episodes of paralysis and blindness. Recovery can take months, sometimes years, and is often incomplete. Fortunately, with rest and intensive physical therapy, Ayesha has so far been able to return to an almost normal physical level between bouts.

The same year Ayesha became ill was also the year she attended Woodhull, which was a powerful experience for her. The most vital question Woodhull taught her to

ask herself was, "What would you dare to do if you knew you could not fail?"

Last year, her illness became severe: she was hospitalized seven times. In response, her parents uprooted themselves after 20 years in Pakistan and relocated to the U.S. to be near her, and her husband shouldered her responsibilities. She experienced repeated blindness and full waist-down paralysis; the episodes increased in frequency and could not be controlled by conventional treatment. She finally joined an experimental chemotherapy medical study last fall, which seems to have halted the attacks for now.

"Post-diagnosis, I had to leave my dream job, an eight-year long career in human rights – my life seemed over," Ayesha recalls. "However, when one door closes, many windows of opportunity open."

She now consults part-time for grassroots Muslim non-profits, and sits on two boards of nonprofits working with women and international development. In addition, she tutors children, and maintains her award-winning blog *Truth and Beauty* – interests she never had time to explore while working full-time.

"My illness is a blessing," Ayesha reveals. "It forced me to take a step back and truly think about my life and its direction. Rather than feeling the victim, I now have the opportunity to live the life I truly desire. Woodhull taught me to believe in myself, not to fear failure or doubt my potential, and each day, good or bad, I try to live up to that."

To learn more about Devic's:  
<http://www.mayoclinic.org/devics-disease/diagnosis.html>

Explore Ayesha's journey at:  
[www.rickshawdiaries.blogspot.com/2005/06/on-illness.html](http://www.rickshawdiaries.blogspot.com/2005/06/on-illness.html)

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*"A mother who radiates self-love and self-acceptance actually vaccinates her daughter against low self-esteem."*

--Naomi Wolf

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## Column of Abundance

edited by Sara J. Wolcott

*"To be grateful for what others have done for you."*

Thank you to **Woodhull**: I brought a girlfriend to the March 22nd dinner discussion, titled "Are You A Daring Female?" I had no idea that my friend was severely depressed, and on the verge of self-destruction. The lecture by Natasha inspired her to her very core, and brought about a sudden mindset shift to "resolute optimism." My friend later told me about the life changing experience she had, and I am ever so grateful to Woodhull for "inadvertently" saving my friend.

Alicia Thomas (Woodhull 3)

Many thanks to **Diane Kolack** (Woodhull 23) for her support during my recent interview process; I got the job at Joseph Abboud as the Director of Domestic Licensing!

Leigh Van Swall (Woodhull 20)

Thank you to **Woodhull** for alerting me to the book collection for the New Orleans Public Library. I took up a collection from my friends, colleagues and clients and have sent them three big boxes of books.

Diane Kolack (Woodhull 23)

Many thanks to the wonderful women who let me interview them for this issue! In particular, I thank **Leeat Granek** (Woodhull 2), **Monica Coleman** (Woodhull 45) and **Mara E. van der Oord** (Woodhull 28).

Sara Wolcott (Woodhull 42)

### Celebrating our Achievements

Benjamin (Ben) Ramsey was born February 13th at 1:09pm. He was 6 lbs, 14 oz and 20inches long. Jason, Ben, and I are doing great!

Lori Gerstein Ramsey (Woodhull 7)

My abstract was selected for presentation at The 5th East West Center International Graduate Student Conference, held in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 16-18. I was also selected as a Fulbright Scholar, and will be studying Uyghur in Xinjiang, China, this September.

Kristie Smith (Woodhull 29)

I was awarded a grant from the Puffin Foundation for my project, Poetic People Power.

Tara Bracco (Woodhull 1)

On Friday, April 28th, Dan asked me to marry him down by the river where we had our first date with the sun setting in the background. The wedding will be sometime this October!

Brooke Linville (Woodhull 39)

I defended my Master's practicum report/thesis and passed with flying colors! My work is entitled, "Building an Inclusive Movement: Young Women's Leadership and the Future of Reproductive Justice." I also recently published a piece in a scholarly journal, which you can read here:

<http://springerlink.metapress.com/link.asp?ID=T01132U4R2333U27>

Alyssa Best (Woodhull 45)

Brandon and I adopted a baby girl in November 2005. We were matched quickly and

were able to have Karana Anne placed with us when she was a couple of days old. She was born November 14, 2005; 7 lbs 4 oz. and healthy.

A. Rima Dael-Braxton (Woodhull 42)

I installed a new kitchen sink faucet completely by myself.

Jennifer Gandin (Woodhull 18)

I just received my acceptance letter and will begin the Executive Master of Public Policy and Administration (EMPA) program at The School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in Fall 2006.

Neyda Martinez (Woodhull 8)

I'm rocking out in the band, The 303s, and we have just released a debut album! Please support my band by purchasing the album at [www.the303s.com](http://www.the303s.com). And catch us in May and June on the promo tour with Cult Hero label-mates, Lismore! Dates are on the website.

Ingrid Dahl (Woodhull 45)

I recently published an article called "What's Love Got To Do With It? The Relational Nature of Depressive Experiences" in the Journal of Humanistic Psychology, based on research that came out of my master's work.

Leeat Granek (Woodhull 2)

My picture book, STOP THAT NOSE!, is now on sale in bookstores and online. It is a story eight years in the making, originally inspired by my children, who found sneezing so funny. It's about a dad who sneezes his nose off, which then, of course, starts running.

Martha Peaslee Levine (Woodhull / Renfrew)

**Woodhull thanks the following individuals for their contributions toward general operations:**

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