

Feb. 6, 1995

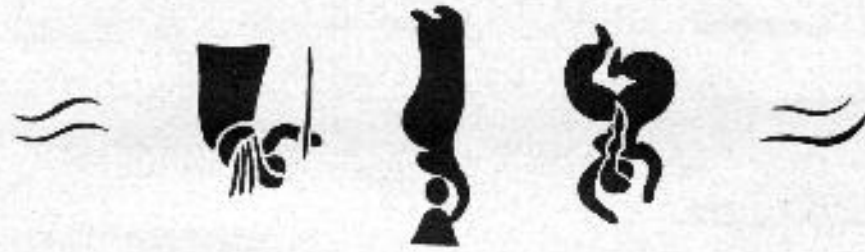
(P/100)

Dear Betty,

I was honoured and pleased by your invitation to me to attend the dedication of the new Women's Center House. It was one of the early initiatives in my life that has flowered so beautifully over the years and is a source of pride for me. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the dedication.

I've planned a trip to Florida with my sister, niece and parents around the same time. It is my sister's spring break from school and this trip is for all of us to rest, relax and just enjoy being together. Alison doesn't get to see her grandparents often enough! I gave much thought to try to work a trip in to B.C. as well, but it would involve a lot of expense (airfare for me + Ali) + energy to be able to stay for only a few days in the Kootenays. I'm looking forward to ~~a~~ visiting the house on my next trip to the Kootenays when I can plan to spend at least a couple of weeks there.

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I can't believe it's been 22 years since a group of us first started having women's meetings in Maureen Argatoff's living room. You asked who I see to be the founding mothers. Myself & Julie Curtis worked on a summer grant in 1972 to look at needs of women in the area. Out of that survey, I put together a proposal for a Women's Center & submitted it personally to Sec. of State in Vancouver. We received

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out first grant (I believe it was about \$7,600) in 1973 & opened a small office & drop-in center on Baker St. I was the first Coordinator & some of the women I remember who came to <sup>initial</sup> meetings & worked ~~on~~ at various levels were Maureen Argatoff, Julie Curtis, Donna MacDonald, Susie Barrett, Marcia Braundy.

I'd be happy to write a letter for you to read at the dedication and please convey to the organizing committee and all my Women's Center friends that I truly regret that I am unable to share in this wonderful celebration, but that I ~~will~~ be present in spirit. Also I've enclosed a donation for the house fund. Could you direct it to the appropriate person (I'll need a tax receipt).

In love & sisterhood,

Vita.

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