

*Celebrate*

**THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
PUBLIC LAUNCHING IN 1968 OF THE**

# **Women's Liberation Movement**

**WITH**

**Carol Hanisch**

**AN ORIGINAL "BRA-BURNER"  
& A FOUNDER OF THE WLM**



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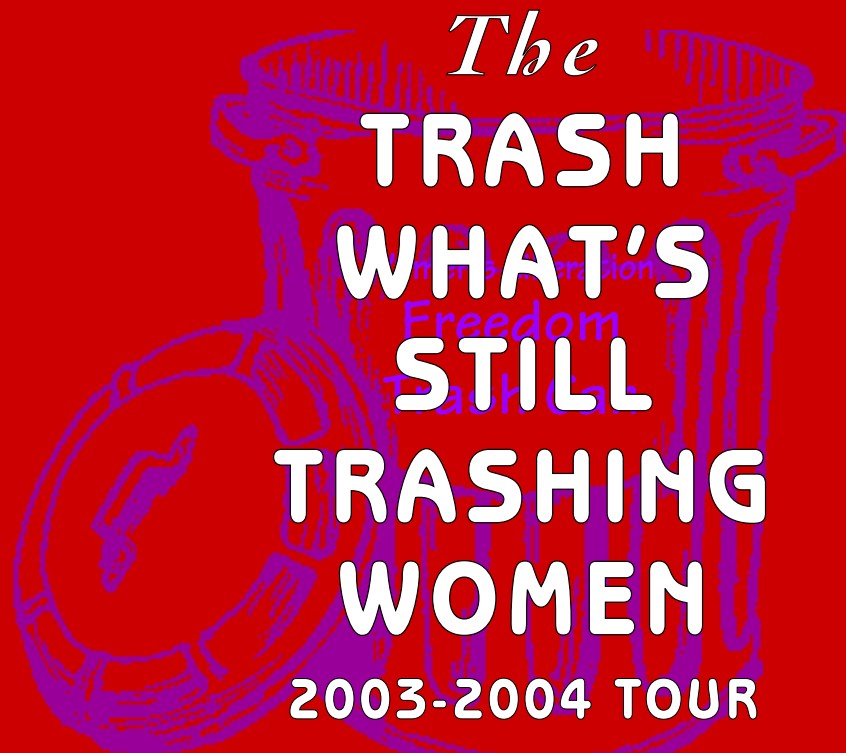
*Carol Hanisch and three other women hang the Women's Liberation banner to disrupt live TV coverage at the 1968 Miss America Pageant.*

*The*

**TRASH  
WHAT'S  
STILL**

**TRASHING  
WOMEN**

**2003-2004 TOUR**



# BUILDING ON WHAT'S BEEN WON

## Invite Carol Hanisch

to your campus to tell her story of the Women's Liberation Movement's beginnings, including the 1968 protest of the Miss America Pageant.

## Participate

in an updated re-creation of a portion of that milestone event by inviting women to bring what they feel most trashed by today and toss it into the "Freedom Trash Can."



**IN A KEYNOTE SPEECH**, Carol will give her personal account of the historic Miss America Pageant Protest. She will discuss the actions and theory of the early WLM and what can be learned from them for the ongoing struggle.

**A FREEDOM TRASH CAN** was used on September 7, 1968, when a group of more than 150 feminists protested the Pageant in daring defiance of both beauty contests and women's limited place in society.

The women set up a picket line on the Atlantic City Boardwalk, carrying home-made signs with such messages as, "Can Make-Up Hide the Wounds of Our Oppression?" They also did street theater: crowning a live sheep Miss America, chaining themselves to a large red, white and blue puppet of Miss America, and throwing "instruments of female torture" into a Freedom Trash Can. Among the items they tossed were girdles, high heels, nylons and garter belts, false eyelashes, hair curlers, dishrags, *Playboy* and *Good Housekeeping* magazines—and yes, several bras, though none were burned, contrary to popular myth.

The protesters had been called to action by New York Radical Women after Carol, one of its founding members, proposed the idea as a way to protest the uncomfortable emphasis on women's appearance and to get out the message that women were organizing a new movement for their own liberation. After doing consciousness-raising about how the Pageant and beauty standards affected their own lives, they came to the conclusion that, as Ros Baxandall later put it, "Every day in a woman's life is a walking Miss America Contest."

**TRASH WHAT'S STILL TRASHING WOMEN 2003-2004** is an invitation to re-create and update the historic Miss America Protest by gathering women to do some consciousness-raising on what they feel most oppressed by today and then tossing it into the Freedom Trash Can. (Since some items would be too large, a photograph, drawing, symbol, or something written on a postcard size card will do.) Those willing to do so are encouraged to say a few words about what they want to be free of.

The hosting group is encouraged to document and make a display of these items (perhaps with the help of some art students) and/or a video to raise more consciousness and to share with other women's groups.



**If the media had called us "girdle-burners" instead of "bra-burners," nearly every woman in the country would have rushed to join us!**

— Keynote speech in 1997 at the 149th Anniversary of the 1848 Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention

**CAROL HANISCH** was a founding member of New York Radical Women in 1968 when she conceived the group's protest of the Miss America Pageant, an action that launched the Women's Liberation Movement into public consciousness. She was one of four women who hung a banner proclaiming "Women's Liberation" over a balcony to disrupt the live TV coverage of the pageant.

An ardent advocate of women's liberation consciousness-raising, her widely published early writings also helped spread such concepts as "The Personal Is Political," "The Pro-Woman Line," and "Women of the World, Unite!"

Carol was managing editor of the Redstockings book *Feminist Revolution* (Random House, 1978), which analyzed the successes and failures of the WLM. She founded the feminist journal *Meeting Ground* in 1977 and her "Frankly Feminist" column enlivened the *Hudson Valley Woman* from 1991-95. She created, published, and performs a dramatic reading, *Promise & Betrayal: Voices from the Struggle for Women's Emancipation, 1776-1920*, with a local troupe.

Born on a small Iowa farm, Carol graduated from Drake University and worked for United Press International (UPI) for nearly a year as the first woman reporter in the Des Moines Bureau before heading south in the spring of 1965 to join the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. She currently lives in New York's Mid-Hudson Valley.



## UNITING GENERATIONS...

**I'm not trying to hold up the '60s here as some kind of ideal that you can never attain. Quite the opposite. I'm here to tell you about your heritage because I believe you can use it to make history even better than we did.**

— Women's History Month keynote address at the University of Florida at Gainesville, March 27, 1996

### BOOKING / INFORMATION

please e-mail

**truthtellers@hvi.net**

or call

**845-236-7409**

**BASIC FEE: \$2,500**

(includes travel expenses)

Keynote Speech by Carol Hanisch  
plus the

Trash What's Still Trashing Women event  
to be planned with your organization.

Additional speaking engagements, either on or off campus, can be arranged for a nominal fee.

Arrange for another campus in your area to host this program on a date immediately preceding or following your event, and a fee reduction beneficial to all may be negotiated.