

НАШЕМО МЯД. НИЕ САМИМЕ
Our Body, Ourselves

УТЕЛІЕ ОІ УТЕР УУСУНІЛ
We And Our Bodies

우리의 몸은 우리 자신

私たちの体、自分自身

OUR BODIES, OUR FUTURE:

ADVANCING HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Naša Tela. Mi

TSAI PERFORMANCE CENTER,
 BOSTON UNIVERSITY
 OCTOBER 1, 2011

Nuestros Cuerpos. Nuestras Vidas

Notre Corps. Notre Santé



འཕྲོད་བསྐྱེན་བཟང་པོ། མི་ཚེ་བཟང་པོ།

Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

A GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
OF OUR BODIES, OURSELVES

НАШЕМО МЯД. НИЕ САМИМЕ

私たちの体、自分自身

우리의 몸은 우리 자신

Tu Si Curpul Tau Pentru un Nou Secol

Our Bodies, Our Health

Nasze ciała, nasze życie
Our Bodies, Our Life

Naša Tela. Mi

THE FORD FOUNDATION
IS PLEASED TO SUPPORT

Our Bodies Ourselves

*And its commitment to equality,
self-determination, and advancing health
and human rights for women and girls*

Congratulations on
40 Years of Progress.



FORDFOUNDATION

*Working with Visionaries on the
Frontlines of Social Change Worldwide*

WELCOME

Welcome to the 40th Anniversary Symposium for “Our Bodies, Ourselves.” Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it has taken hundreds – if not thousands – of people and organizations to midwife the nine editions of this landmark publication as well as four decades of educational and advocacy work. *OBOS* – as the book is affectionately called by many – is now in many corners of the world, and today we will hear from some of our global partners about how they have transformed this book to meet the needs of women and girls in their own regions.

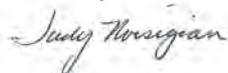
Our Bodies, Ourselves has always been more than just a book. It is emblematic of a women’s health movement committed to principles of feminism as well as social, economic, and racial justice for all. We can certainly point to many successes over the past few decades, but we also have new challenges and persistent obstacles that will keep us all busy for years to come.

As you listen to our speakers today, do think about what role YOU can play to further enhance the health and human rights of women and girls – and support organizations like *OBOS* and our global partners in our efforts to protect women and girls and promote gender equality and justice around the world.

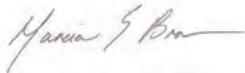
- Sign up today for *Our Bodies, Our Blog* and follow us on Facebook and Twitter, so that you can help others become better informed when to take important action.
- Join a group working on an issue that you care about.
- Make a financial contribution to *OBOS* and our global partners. You could also fundraise online or host a fundraising party for your colleagues and friends.

We look ahead now to our organization’s enormous challenges – surviving in tough economic times, “passing the torch” to new leadership, and making sure that we all have a voice in the public policies shaping our lives. We look forward to hearing from you and greatly appreciate your involvement and support.

Sincerely,



Judy Norsigian
Executive Director
Our Bodies Ourselves



Marcia Brown
Co-chair
Our Bodies Ourselves



Bea Bezmalinovic
Co-chair
Our Bodies Ourselves

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Mistress of Ceremonies: Jaclyn Friedman
Executive Director, Women, Action and the Media

Morning Session (9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)

Welcome and Greetings

The Honorable Deval Patrick

Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Robert Meenan

Dean, Boston University School of Public Health

Judy Norsigian

Executive Director, Our Bodies Ourselves

Zobeida Bonilla

Latina Health Initiative Coordinator, Our Bodies Ourselves

Our Bodies Ourselves: Shifting Consciousness, Shaping Lives

Testimonial

Byllye Avery

Black Women's Health Imperative

Our Bodies, Our Future: Challenges and Opportunities for Our Health and Human Rights

Adrienne Germain

President Emerita, International Women's Health Coalition

Answering the Call...

- **From Mother and Son...**

Sam Morgan Lilienfeld and Judah Rome

Sons of OBOS founders Pamela Morgan and Esther Rome

- **...To Global Partnerships for Knowledge, Action and Change**

Sally Whelan

Program Director, Our Bodies Ourselves Global Initiative

Ayesha Chatterjee

Program Manager, Our Bodies Ourselves Global Initiative

Special Appreciations, featuring OBOS Founder Jane Pincus and OBOS Global Partner Shamita Das DasGupta

Break (10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.)

Panel 1: Around the Kitchen Table (10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.)

This panel will explore the journeys of *Our Bodies Ourselves* and the organization's global partners – illustrating how women come together around the “*Our Bodies, Ourselves*” text to share stories; reclaim and change the language of women's bodies, sexuality and rights; and create and use culturally unique resources based on the book as tools for information and action in their own communities.

Moderators

Kathy Davis

Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Bonnie Shepard

Social Sectors Development Strategies Inc., USA

Panelists

Christine Cupaiuolo

Our Bodies Ourselves, USA

Asia Kapande

Tanzania Home Economics Association, Tanzania

Gamze Karadag

Mavi Kalem, Turkey

Miho Ogino

Doshisha University Graduate School, Japan

Lunch (12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.)

Panel 2: Fire in the Belly – Meeting Challenges to Autonomy and Activism (1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.)

This panel will focus on the challenges women face to individual rights and social activism, ranging from direct, systemic and overt forms of violence to practices that are more insidious and/or enjoy widespread social appeal or silence. It will illustrate the ways OBOS's global partners and domestic allies respond to the issues and the cultural, social and political context within which these issues operate.

Moderator

Anne Firth Murray

Founding President, Global Fund for Women, USA

Panelists

Dana Edell

SPARK and viBe Theater Experience, USA

Raghda Elnabilsy

Women and Their Bodies, Israel

Shamita Das Dasgupta

Sanlaap and Manavi, India and USA

Stanislava Otasevic

Women's Health Promotion Center, Serbia

Irina Todorova

Women's Health Initiative in Bulgaria, Bulgaria

Break (3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)

Panel 3: Building Power, Brokering Change (3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.)

This panel will identify the power-brokers who influence cultural, social, religious and political norms that impact the status and well-being of women and girls, ranging from men and matriarchs in the family to religious leaders, community elders, and heads of academic institutions and government. Panelists will demonstrate the grassroots and institutional activism of OBOS's global partners and domestic allies working to ensure human rights and equal participation of women and girls inside and outside the home.

Moderators

George Annas

Boston University School of Public Health, USA

Catherine Annas

Eastern Massachusetts Healthcare Initiative, USA

Panelists

Codou Bop

Groupe de Recherche sur les Femmes et les Lois au Sénégal, Senegal

Meri Khachikyan

“For Family And Health” Pan-Armenian Association, Armenia

Renu Rajbhandari

Women’s Rehabilitation Center, Nepal

Nirvana Gonzalez Rosa

*Latin American and Caribbean Women’s Health Network,
Puerto Rico*

Dana Weinberg

Women and Their Bodies, Israel

Afternoon Keynote (5 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

Loretta Ross

*National Coordinator, SisterSong Women of Color
Reproductive Justice Collective*

Evening Reception (5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

Tsai Performance Center Lobby

Please visit the visual display on the second floor prepared by OBOS Founder Joan Ditzion – *40 Years of “Our Bodies, Ourselves”* – as well as Joanne Mitchell’s installation on the first floor – *Our bodies, ourselves – the book, I mean.*

OBOS Board members Nancy Lyons Allen and Heather Nelson are also videotaping “OBOS Stories” in a small room next to the visual display. Please drop by and share your own story during the breaks or at the end of the day.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Catherine Annas

Catherine is Director of the Eastern Massachusetts Healthcare Initiative, where she oversees projects on patient safety, quality and cost in health care. She has been on the Our Bodies Ourselves Board of Directors since 2008 and chairs the Our Bodies Ourselves Policy and Global Initiative Committees. She received her law degree from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America in 1995.

George Annas

George is Chair of the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights at the Boston University School of Public Health, and Professor in the schools of medicine and law. He is co-founder of Global Lawyers and Physicians, a transnational association that promotes human rights and health, and author or editor of 16 books on health law and bioethics, the rights of patients, and American bioethics.

Byllye Avery

Byllye is the founder of the Avery Institute for Social Change and the Black Women's Health Imperative. She is also a co-founder of Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need. The winner of the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Genius award, she has dedicated the last 30 years to leading and inspiring action on the human and reproductive rights of women and girls.

Zobeida Bonilla

Zobeida is a medical anthropologist currently at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She has developed the Our Bodies Ourselves curriculum for *promotoras de salud* based on "Nuestros Cuerpos, Nuestras Vidas," coordinated efforts to train Latinas as *promotoras*, and prepared the Spanish translation and adaptation of "Journey to Parenthood" by Childbirth Connection.

Codou Bop

Codou is a S en egalese activist for women's human rights and democracy. Based in Dakar, she is the Coordinator for the Groupe de Recherche sur les Femmes et les Lois au

Sénégal and a member of the African Feminist Forum. She has published extensively on women's reproductive health, sexuality and access to land, as well as homophobia, gender-based violence, migration and citizenship.

Ayesha Chatterjee

Ayesha's leadership at Our Bodies Ourselves has facilitated the development and in-country use of 12 cultural adaptations of "Our Bodies, Ourselves." Prior to joining the team in 2006, she worked as a sexuality counselor in India and served briefly as a consultant to CARE in Tajikistan. She also serves on the Board of the Eastern Massachusetts Abortion Fund and is a DONA-trained postpartum doula.

Christine Cupaiuolo

Christine has been writing, editing and consulting for print and digital publications since 2000, following her award-winning work as a newspaper reporter. She is the Managing Editor of the 2011 edition of "Our Bodies, Ourselves" and has covered women's health and public policy for Our Bodies, Our Blog since 2006.

Shamita Das Dasgupta

Shamita is co-founder of Manavi, a New Jersey-based organization that focuses on violence against South Asian immigrant women and girls. She teaches at New York University Law School and is the author of four books - "The Demon Slayers and Other Stories" (1995), "A Patchwork Shawl" (1998), "Body Evidence" (2007), and "Mothers for Sale" (2009).

Kathy Davis

Kathy is a senior researcher at the Institute of History and Culture at Utrecht University in The Netherlands. A noted authority on feminist scholarship, her publications include, among others, "The Making of Our Bodies, Ourselves: How Feminism Travels Across Borders."

Dana Edell

Dana, an activist-scholar-artist, is the Director of SPARK (Sexualization Protest: Action, Resistance, Knowledge) and

founding Director of viBe Theater Experience, an arts education organization that empowers New York City teenage girls to create original theater about real-life issues. She has an MFA in theater directing from Columbia University and a PhD in education from New York University.

Raghda Elnabilsy

Raghda is a trained sex educator, lecturer and workshop facilitator. She manages projects implemented by Women and Their Bodies in Arab-Palestinian communities across Israel and is the editor of the Arabic adaptation of “Our Bodies, Ourselves.” She has a Master’s degree in social work from Tel Aviv University and is currently working on her PhD at the School of Social Work at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Jaclyn Friedman

Jaclyn is a founder and the Executive Director of Women, Action & the Media, a national organization working for gender justice in media. She edited the hit anthology “Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape,” and her new workbook, “What You Really Really Want: The Smart Girl’s Shame-Free Guide to Sex & Safety,” is due out November 2011.

Adrienne Germain

Adrienne is President Emerita of the International Women’s Health Coalition (IWHC) with over 40 years of experience in women’s health and human rights. Following 14 years with the Ford Foundation, she has led IWHC’s work for 26 years with the UN system, the US government and civil society, as well as IWHC’s work to strengthen women’s organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Asia Kapande

Asia joins us from Tanzania. She brings more than 40 years of leadership in food and environmental security, poverty reduction, health and gender equality. A professional home economist, she continues to make a difference through her work with the Tanzania Home Economics Association, the Nile Basin Discourse, the Tanzania Nile Discourse Forum, and several primary and secondary school committees.

Gamze Karadag

A native of Çanakkale in Turkey, Gamze joined Mavi Kalem as an intern in 2004 and became involved in the Turkish adaptation project in 2005. As the organization's General Coordinator, she continues to organize its volunteer and field teams, conduct health trainings for women in local communities, factories and shelters, and contribute to its monthly women's health magazine "Zuhre."

Meri Khachikyan

Meri is founder and Director of "For Family and Health" Pan-Armenian Association, which published an Armenian adaptation of "Our Bodies, Ourselves" in 2010. She has also served as Senior Researcher/Chief of Policlinic at the Armenian Research Center on Maternal and Child Health and Coordinator of the Global Comprehensive Abortion Care Initiative at the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network in Brussels.

Sam Morgan Lilienfeld

Sam grew up in Newton, Massachusetts, graduated from Wesleyan University with a double major in English and Economics, and is currently working for Analysis Group, an economic consulting firm in Boston. He enjoys skiing, family, and friends, and is incredibly proud to have the opportunity to honor his mother Pamela today.

Robert Meenan

Robert Meenan is Dean and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Boston University School of Public Health. He also serves as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Socio-Medical Sciences and Community Medicine and as Professor of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine. He is a Past President of the American College of Rheumatology.

Anne Firth Murray

Anne, a New Zealander, is founding President of the Global Fund for Women. She teaches on women's health and human rights at Stanford University and is author of "From Outrage to Courage: Women Taking Action for Health and Justice" and

“Paradigm Found: Leading and Managing for Positive Change.” She draws her activism primarily from the work of grassroots women’s groups worldwide.

Judy Norsigian

A co-founder of Our Bodies Ourselves and co-author of “Our Bodies, Ourselves,” Judy speaks and writes frequently on a wide range of women’s health concerns and has appeared on numerous television and radio programs. Her interests include health care reform, reproductive health and justice, genetic technologies and midwifery care. She is the Executive Director of Our Bodies Ourselves.

Miho Ogino

Miho is Professor of Gender History and Queer Studies at Doshisha University Graduate School in Kyoto, Japan. She is a published author, most recently “The Road to Family Planning: Reproductive Politics in Modern Japan” (2008). She was the chief translator/editor of the Japanese “Our Bodies, Ourselves” (1988) and is currently writing on the women’s health movement in Japan and the United States.

Stanislava Otasevic

Born in Belgrade, Stanislava has been a health and human rights activist for more than 18 years. Among other things, she has co-founded the Women’s Health Promotion Center, co-authored a Serbian “Our Bodies, Ourselves,” authored the only manual for health workers in the country, and lead a WHO multi-country study on violence. She also serves as an educator and lecturer upon invitation.

Jane Pincus

Jane is a co-founder of Our Bodies Ourselves and co-writer and co-editor of “Our Bodies, Ourselves.” She is also a women’s health activist, an artist, a writer, an editor, a singer, a horseback rider, Ed’s wife for 51 years, Sami and Ben’s mother, and Jordan, Caleb and Kai’s grandmother.

Renu Rajbhandari

Renu, a prominent women's rights activist from Nepal, founded the Women's Rehabilitation Centre in 1991. She has since led the organization's work on trafficking and HIV/AIDS and is the recipient of an Ashoka Fellowship. She has also served as Vice-Chairperson to the NGO Federation of Nepal and as National Rapporteur on Trafficking of Women and Children to the National Human Rights Commission.

Judah Rome

Judah is the son of Our Bodies Ourselves co-founder Esther Rome. He is an assistant coach for the Brown University Men's Crew Team and the Financial Operations Director for the Schocken Foundation. He lives in Barrington, Rhode Island, with his wife Jessica.

Nirvana Gonzalez Rosa

Born in Puerto Rico, Nirvana is co-founder of Taller Salud, the first feminist organization in the Caribbean and Coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network, based in Chile. She is also a member of the UNFPA International Advisory Committee on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and serves on the Board of Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights.

Loretta Ross

Loretta is a co-founder and the National Coordinator of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective. She has a 35+ year history in the feminist movement, from anti-rape organizing to human rights education and reproductive justice activism, and is the co-author of "Undivided Right: Women of Color Organizing for Reproductive Justice."

Bonnie Shepard

Bonnie is Senior Planning and Evaluation Specialist at Social Sectors Development Strategies, Inc. where she has served as a consultant to the Ford Foundation, UNFPA, and other international and US institutions. Her book "Running the Obstacle Course to Sexual and Reproductive Health: Lessons from Latin America" has also been published in Spanish.

Irina Todorova

Irina is a health psychologist and Professor at the Center for Population Health and Health Disparities at Northeastern University. She is also past President of the European Health Psychology Society (EHPS) and EHPS Representative to the United Nations. She co-founded the Women’s Health Initiative in Bulgaria, which published a Bulgarian adaptation of “Our Bodies, Ourselves” in 2001.

Dana Weinberg

Dana, the founder and Director of Women and Their Bodies, is an Israel Venture Network Social Entrepreneur Fellow. She has a Master’s degree in Anthropology from Hebrew University. She has also served as Director of the School for Political Leadership for Women at Wizo in Jerusalem and Coordinator of the Lafer Center for Women and Gender Studies.

Sally Whelan

A co-founder of Our Bodies Ourselves, Sally directs the organization’s Global Initiative, where her leadership and guidance has resulted in the development and in-country use of 17 cultural adaptations of “Our Bodies, Ourselves” around the world. In 2004, Sally received Public Citizen’s Public Interest Service Award, established to recognize ‘unsung heroes’ in the public interest movement.

OUR BODIES OURSELVES GLOBAL INITIATIVE

Welcome to our 40th Anniversary Symposium – an event celebrating 40 years of Our Bodies Ourselves (the organization and the book) and the Our Bodies Ourselves Global Network, a vibrant and growing international coalition of social change activists.

We have come a long way from our origin as a Boston-based collective talking around the kitchen table, to a thriving global presence with a place “at the table” – alongside other power-brokers – in countries around the world. Here is how it all started four decades ago.

In the 1970’s, as the “Our Bodies, Ourselves” book was becoming a best seller in the United States, publishers and women’s groups in Europe were the first to claim it as a resource for their countries.



This resulted in early editions of the book in Italy, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Sweden, Netherlands and Spain, followed by others in Russia, Egypt, South Africa, China, Japan and Israel. There was no looking back!

At the time, it was founding co-author Norma Swenson who led the global outreach, working on early editions in Europe, building relationships and exploring new opportunities in Latin America, Asia and Africa, and championing a program dedicated to our growing network and global vision. With the programmatic foundation and relationships Norma developed, projects well underway in Thailand, China and Senegal, and the transitional leadership provided by Jennifer Yanco, we created the Our Bodies Ourselves Global Initiative in 2001– then called the Global Translation/Adaptation Program.

Since then, we have partnered with women in Armenia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Poland, Moldova, Albania, South Korea, Russia, Israel, Nigeria, Tanzania, Turkey, India and Nepal, providing the technical assistance and support they need to translate and adapt “Our Bodies, Ourselves” into materials reflective of their unique social, political, and religious context and to bring evidence-based, culturally meaningful health resources to

women, girls and men in their country.

Materials based on “Our Bodies, Ourselves” are now available in over 25 languages and in different formats – from posters and badges, books and booklets to e-books and multilingual websites. Our global partners have distributed content to rural areas via motorbikes and created campaigns targeting young urbanites. They have led trainings with village hairdressers and workshops with policy movers and shakers. We are honored to collaborate with the tenacious and visionary women and men behind these transformative projects and delighted to have many of them here with us on this historic day.

Today, you will have an opportunity to listen to the extraordinary journeys of some of our partners – starting from when they first came together around “Our Bodies, Ourselves,” forged a new language for women’s bodies and sexuality, built networks and identified the pressing health needs of their communities, secured local buy-in for their vision, and developed creative ways to ensure widespread access to their resources.

Through their projects, they have reached millions with vital information and inspired social action in every geographic region, and they have engaged grassroots and institutional power-brokers to help move the health and human rights of women and girls off the back burner.

This is the Our Bodies Ourselves Global Network – a coalition of more than 22 groups that exemplifies movement building in the 21st Century.

We hope you will be inspired by their stories. We hope you will celebrate their successes. We hope you will join us to blaze a trail for another 40 years.

Sally Whelan
Program Director

Ayesha Chatterjee
Program Manager

2011 EDITION OF “OUR BODIES, OURSELVES”

It’s here!

The 9th edition of “Our Bodies, Ourselves” – in the works for over two years – has literally just been published, and as a symposium attendee, you’ll be among the first to see it.

The newly revised and updated edition, which focuses on women’s reproductive health and sexuality, includes dozens of personal stories and essential, up-to-date information about sexual orientation, gender identity, birth control, sexually transmitted infections, abortion, pregnancy and birth, perimenopause and menopause, health issues such as breast and ovarian cancers, and sexual health as we age. The book also addresses changes brought about by health care reform, the impact of toxics on reproductive health, and social networking strategies we can use to advocate for policies that improve women’s lives.



For the first time ever, an entire chapter, Relationships, is based mainly on women’s conversations. It is both an ode to OBOS’s roots and a reflection of today’s technologies: The text is a condensed version of a month-long, online dialogue involving more than three dozen women who asked and answered questions of each other with wisdom, encouragement and support.

Other firsts: the cover features headshots of 52 readers who submitted their photos along with reflections on what they learned from “Our Bodies, Ourselves” over the years. And this edition also includes profiles of our global network partners who have adapted “Our Bodies, Ourselves” for the own communities.

Creating a book of this size and scope, one that provides evidence-based information and addresses the political, economic and social forces that shape women’s health, takes an incredible amount of work and collaboration. More than

300 women and men shared their knowledge and expertise to ensure the book's accuracy and comprehensiveness. Special recognition is due to our extraordinary partners on the "Our Bodies, Ourselves" editorial team: Wendy Sanford, Amy Romano, Judy Norsigian, Ayesha Chatterjee and June Tsang. In addition, several expert contributors took on the lion's share of writing and revising at least one chapter: Susan Blank, Joan Ditzion, Marjorie Greenfield, Mara Kardas-Nelson, Heidi Moore, Lin Nelson, Marcie Richardson, Gary Richwald, Ellen Shaffer, Jocelyn Sims, Evelina Sterling, Kirsten Thompson, and Susan Yanow.

We are delighted to celebrate the release of the new book at today's symposium. We invite you to join us at book events in various cities, where you can meet contributors and discuss the state of women's health in the United States and worldwide. For event information, visit ourbodiesourselves.org/about/calendar.

Kiki Zeldes
Senior Editor

Christine Cupaiuolo
Managing Editor



NUESTROS CUERPOS OVER 40 YEARS: ALAS AND OTHER LATINA INITIATIVES

In its early years, the Boston Women's Health Book Collective (now known as Our Bodies Ourselves) collaborated with Leonor Taboada and Raquel Scherr Salgado to produce the first Spanish translation, "Nuestros Cuerpos, Nuestras Vidas" (1977, 1979). Foundation grants enabled the organization to self-publish about 50,000 copies that were distributed throughout the United States and Latin America. In 1982 Icaria Publishers produced an edition for Spain.

By the early 1980's in Boston, a group of Latinas – Elizabeth MacMahon-Herrera, Maria Lourdes Mattei and Loly Carrillo – formed ALAS- Amigas Latinas en Accion Pro-Salud (Latina Friends in Action for Health). ALAS worked alongside OBOS as a sister organization as it produced the first Spanish language educational AIDS video in the U.S. Throughout the 1980's and 1990's, ALAS was dedicated to innovative community outreach on health – using pamphlets, radio, and street theater – mainly for the Latino community of Boston and, in later years, New Mexico.

Over time, ALAS affiliated itself with OBOS and was incorporated as a major program area, while supporting work on an ambitious Latin American translation and cultural adaptation of "Our Bodies, Ourselves" involving organizations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Directors and other key leaders in this project – including Rosie Munoz-Lopez, Mayra Canetti, Maria Morison Aguiar, Veronica Nielsen-Vilar and Ester Shapiro Rok – succeeded in synthesizing the work of activists and translators from visionary feminist and women's health organizations throughout the region. Through a creative dialogue/trialogo between the U.S. text, collaboration with 19 women's health groups from 11 countries in Central, North and South America, and the Caribbean, and the Boston Latina editorial team, "Nuestros Cuerpos, Nuestras Vidas" (Seven Stories Press, 2000) became a transnational edition for women of Latin American and Caribbean descent, wherever in the world we might be living. Our comadre Nirvana Gonzalez, then at Puerto Rico's Taller Salud, now at Latin American Women's

Health Network/RSMLAC, offered critical guidance in getting to know the inspiring women, organizations, local and regional campaigns, Feminist Encuentros/Histories, and documents that informed and enriched an inviting activist text.

Following the publication of “Nuestros Cuerpos, Nuestras Vidas,” OBOS launched its Latina Health Initiative in 2001 under the direction of Zobeida Bonilla. The program’s focus was the development of a companion curriculum guide to “Nuestros Cuerpos, Nuestras Vidas” – *Promotoras de Salud* – now in use by peer health educators in training programs across the U.S. and Latin America. More recently, the aim of the program has been to distribute Spanish language materials through electronic and social media, including blog entries via www.ourbodiesourselves.org.

Throughout the decades, using formats from video and street theatre to print translation and cultural adaptation, these women – and other contributors listed below – have worked hard and passionately to address the health needs of Latinas in Boston and far beyond. We acknowledge them with deep respect and appreciation.

Additional contributors to ALAS, “Nuestros Cuerpos, Nuestras Vidas” and the Latina Health Initiative: Alba Bonilla, Marjorie Agosin, Gabriela Canepa, Iris Garcia, Elena Gascon, Maria Gonzales, Miriam Hernandez Jennings, Jill Kneerim, Caty Laignel, Claudia Lee, Judith Lennett, Mirza Lugardo, Antonia Marmo, Maria Marmo Skinner, Maggie Merced, Vicky Nunez, Lucia Ortiz Ortiz, Juana Ponce de Leon, Migdalia Rivera, Maria Rolof, Miriam Salome Havens, Raquel Shapiro, Alan West Duran.

OBOS 40th ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM CO-SPONSORS

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MIT Women's and Gender Studies	

Boston University congratulates
OBOS for focusing on women
and health for 40 years.

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY



Boston University School of Public Health celebrates 40 years of supporting the Boston Women's Health Book Collective.

sph.bu.edu



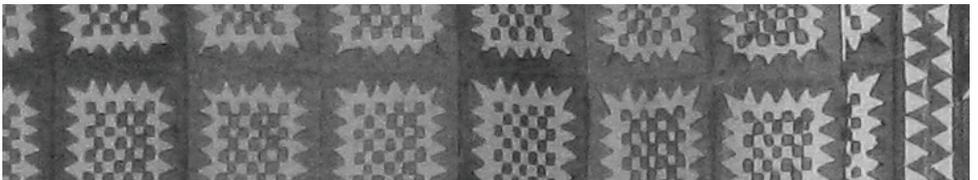
Boston University School of Public Health

The Center for Global Health and Development
at Boston University applauds OBOS for
expanding its efforts to women and families
around the world.

bu.edu/CGHD



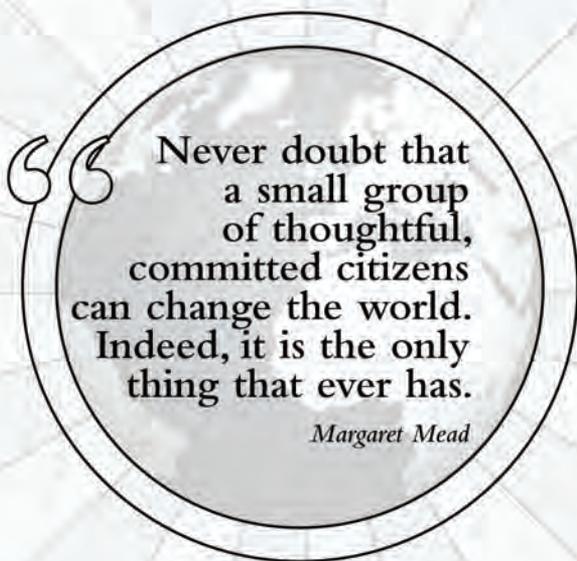
Boston University Center for Global Health & Development



PRIM&R

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY IN
MEDICINE AND RESEARCH

congratulates *Our Bodies, Ourselves*
on its 40th anniversary, with special thanks to
Judy Norsigian, PRIM&R's longtime Board Member,
for her extraordinary contributions
to the global women's health movement.



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in the heart of Boston,
Suffolk University congratulates
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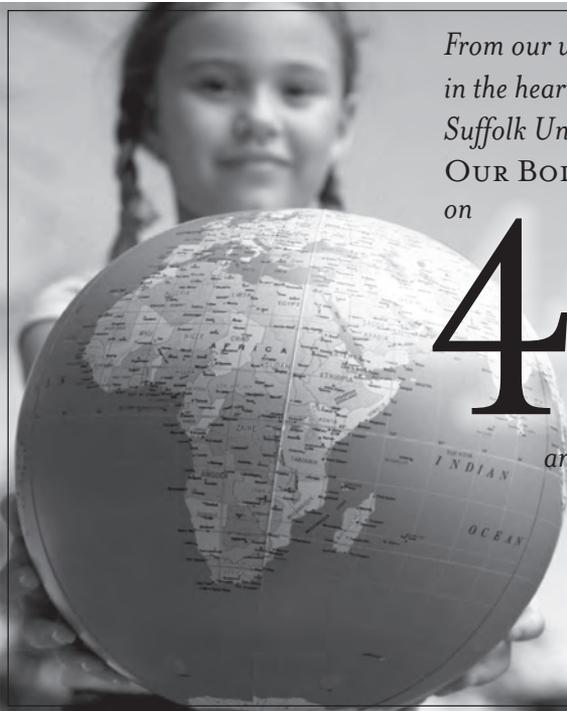
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*of advancing the health
and human rights of girls and
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It has been a blessing during these decades to work with and to love the women of our group, the founders of the BWHBC (Boston Women's Health Book Collective) – Esther, Vilunya, Miriam, Paula, Pamela, Norma, Sally, Elizabeth, Ruth, Pam, Joan and Judy. Below, we share excerpts from the very first newsprint booklet.

Thanks to all of you who bring the spirit of the book to life in so many powerful ways throughout the world.

--Wendy Sanford and Jane Pincus, BWHBC Co-founders

**EXCERPTS FROM THE PREFACE TO
WOMEN AND THEIR BODIES
(FIRST VERSION OF *OUR BODIES OURSELVES*,
NEW ENGLAND FREE PRESS, December 1970)**

Singly and in groups, we ...discussed the material...Sisters added their experiences, questions, fears, feelings, excitement. It was dynamic! We all learned together.

...the papers in and of themselves are not very important. They should be viewed as a tool which stimulates discussion and action, which allows for new ideas and for change...It was more important that we...were challenged by others' experiences (often we came from very different situations), raised our questions, expressed our feelings, were challenged to act, than that we learned any specific body of material.

It was exciting to learn new facts about our bodies, but it was even more exciting to talk about how we felt about our bodies, how we felt about ourselves, how we could become more autonomous human beings, how we could act together on our collective knowledge to change the health care system for women and for all people. We hope this will be true for you too.

We want all your ideas, comments, suggestions, criticisms, etc.

Power to our sisters!

Congratulations on 40 years of continuously pathbreaking and courageous service to women around the world!

The Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University is proud to be the repository for the records of the Boston Women's Health Book Collective and *Our Bodies, Ourselves*.

An exhibit of materials tracing the global journey of *Our Bodies, Ourselves* is on view at the library, 3 James St., Cambridge, until October 12, 2011.



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OTHER MESSAGES FROM OUR SPONSORS

Forty years. Millions of lives changed. **Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center** congratulates Our Bodies Ourselves for four decades of work advancing the health and human rights of girls and women around the world. We are pleased that our support will make the new OBOS edition available to many of our community health center patients.



Wendy: Congratulations to my favorite sister. You have made us all so proud. —**Copey, Susan, and Peter**



Congratulations and thank you, amazing women, Judy and Dr. Mary – the dream came true - twice - through your vision and life-long dedication to helping women ! What an honor to support OBOS in Armenia, our ancestral homeland, with Armenian women’s music! —**Margot Dilmaghani, New York**



Congratulations, Felicidades and Mazel Tov to my OBOS-Founder-Sisters who for 40 years have passionately and tirelessly worked to improve women’s lives here and around the world. With admiration and affection, **Vilunya Diskin**



Eastern Bank sincerely congratulates Our Bodies Ourselves on the 40th anniversary of its landmark book, which continues to provide valuable information to millions of readers about women’s health, reproduction and sexuality.



When “Our Bodies Ourselves” exploded on to the scene 40 years ago it was like a body map, mirroring and guiding women through their deepest selves and choices. It was as if women’s bodies finally existed. 40 years later it is just as relevant. —**Eve Ensler, Author of The Vagina Monologues and Founder of V-Day**



The **First Unitarian Society in Newton (FUSN)** is proud to co-

sponsor this Symposium and to recognize an organization that has informed, reassured and empowered women for 40 years. We make this contribution in special honor of the late Pamela Morgan, a FUSN member who worked for OBOS over several decades.



Gynuity Health Projects is a research and technical assistance organization that works globally to ensure that reproductive health technologies are widely available at reasonable cost, provided in the context of high-quality services, and offered in a way that recognizes the dignity and autonomy of each individual. We share with OBOS a commitment to the health and human rights of women and girls everywhere. —**Beverly Winikoff, MD**



The **Women and Health Initiative** at the Harvard School of Public Health congratulates Our Bodies Ourselves on its 40th anniversary, with special thanks to its founders, current leaders, and global partners for their undaunted commitment to improving women’s health worldwide. As a Latin American woman and reproductive health professional, I can’t emphasize enough how strongly your book influenced my career and personal life! —**Ana Langer, MD, Women and Health Initiative, Harvard School of Public Health**



From my youth in the Boston area and its very earliest versions, the book “Our Bodies Ourselves” has meant a great deal to me personally. In addition, the work of the Collective/ OBOS, particularly internationally, has inspired me professionally. Congratulations and best wishes to everyone involved for 40 more years of success in changing knowledge, attitudes, and lives! —**Judith Helzner**



Ipas is an international NGO working in more than 30 countries around the world to increase women’s ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights, especially the right to safe

abortion. We proudly collaborate with Our Bodies Ourselves to ensure that no woman should have to risk her life, her health, her fertility, her well-being or the well-being of her family because she lacks reproductive health care.



Thank You! Our Bodies Ourselves for pioneering the way forward for women's health and well-being. Our democracy is more vibrant when women's voices are heard. —**Barbara Lee**



MIT Medical is proud to support the fortieth anniversary of the groundbreaking book, "Our Bodies Ourselves." We recognize the significance of knowledge as power and salute the importance of this phenomenally comprehensive book on women's health.



MIT Women's and Gender Studies congratulates Our Bodies Ourselves for all you have accomplished. From your local beginnings to your global initiatives, we support you.



The Ms. Foundation for Women salutes Our Bodies Ourselves on the celebration of forty years advancing women's health and human rights. We wish you the best in continuing your legacy and serving today's and tomorrow's generations of women and their communities.



The Nation, a progressive publication since 1865, salutes OBOS on the historic occasion of its 40th anniversary! Your legacy of activism, outreach and community building established a firm foundation upon which we're all standing today.



Our Bodies Ourselves is the sourcebook for women's health, wellbeing and self-care. It is accessible, comprehensive, well written, and smart. Population Council staff members around the world are delighted to celebrate the many contributions that

this book—which is brilliant in its content and its approach—has made to millions of women’s and girls’ lives. —**Peter J. Donaldson, President, The Population Council**



Congratulations and thanks to Our Bodies Ourselves for working tirelessly and effectively on women’s health issues for over four decades. You are women of vision and action, and the impact you’ve had on women’s health, health care more broadly, and social change, is incalculable and inspiring. Special congratulations to our dear friend, Judy Norsigian, for her leadership and incomparable advocacy. With much admiration and appreciation for all that OBOS does and for all that is yet to come. —**Joan Rachlin and Seymour Small**



We honor Judy Norsigian, the staff – past and present, and the global partners of OBOS for maintaining the belief that information is power. OBOS has been the most essential health guide in our work and to woman all over the world. Where would we have been without it? —**Deborah and Vassilios Raptopoulos**



Ester Shapiro Rok and Alan West-Durán wishing OBOS and NCVN many decades more transforming women’s health and lives. Gracias for all you do.



The University of Michigan Health System, including the Women’s Health Program and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, is grateful for OBOS’ 40 years of educational and service leadership for women (and men) and will continue to be proud to use OBOS in its clinical and educational programs. —**Timothy R.B. Johnson, MD, Department Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology**



In memory of Lilly Weitz. —**Rose Weitz**

The Women's Studies Research Center (WSRC) at Brandeis University congratulates OBOS on 40 years of visionary women and health advocacy. WSRC is an innovative, interdisciplinary research facility where scholars study, create art, and conduct activist projects focused on gender issues and women's lives. Its collegial environment welcomes international scholars and fosters unexpected collaborations that often combine research, art, and activism.



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Ourselves for forty years of
empowering and inspiring
women around the world.**



In loving memory of Cynthia K. McLachlan, founder of Girl's Best Friend Foundation, and a passionate advocate and philanthropic leader for girls and women. Known for her grit and grace, she opened doors and raised some eyebrows. Her work lives on in those she touched.

—Gary Tabasinske



Milbank Memorial Fund

The Milbank Memorial Fund congratulates
Our Bodies Ourselves on its 40th year of enhancing
the health and well-being of women and girls
across the globe.

www.milbank.org

**Congratulations on
40 years of advancing
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Attempts to Ban Our Bodies, Ourselves

BELFAST REPUBLICAN JOURNAL 5/29/77

'Our Bodies, Ourselves' Will Stay On BAHs Shelves With 7-3 Vote

By Jeff Shula
Approximately 300 local residents, including several BAHs students and representatives of the clergy, showed up at East Belfast School Tuesday evening to voice their opinions concerning the unsuccessful attempt by the Rev. James Evans, to have the book "Our Bodies, Ourselves" banned from the BAHs library.

The board of SUD 34 voted overwhelmingly 7-3, with Duane Warren, Nancy

Hannington and Phyllis Thorne opposed in favor of reinstating the controversial book on women's sexuality to the shelves. The action supports a resolution by a specially appointed review committee to allow the book in the school.

Rev. Evans, Swanville pastor, initiated the action when he checked out the book some weeks ago and objected to St. Richard Marx regarding what the pastor calls its highly objectionable content. Evans started things off Tuesday with

presentation in which...

Parental signature required to get book

Book were removed it could mark the first step in similar censorship challenges.

BOOK BURNING Boston collective organizes to fight would-be censors

Phyllis Schaffly are trying to ban



Controversy stirs book sales

By SAUNDERS
A little controversy. And

ing is on the rise. Nine hundred letters in 1982, three times more than last year. Last year's figures are dominated by fiction.

At Great Falls High the book has been in the school's professional (restricted book section) library for three years and its placement there "has not been questioned" until the debate two weeks ago, said GCH librarian, Alice Pierce.

Parents may read the book if they so desire, she added that teachers often successful, many intimidation.

for health, home economics and family living courses.

"Our Bodies, Ourselves" comes highly recommended," said Pierce. "It got good reviews and received top awards from the American Library Association."

The book also has been on the seller list for 34 weeks, according to Bob Hicks, owner and Reader's World, who in 1971 and

Sales have increased much Hicks isn't sure track; he been in Tiffany's news. 77 for

NOW upset by moves to remove book

By David I. Bednarek
Journal Education Reporter

An attempt by two groups from Muskegon from New Bedford women's their

She said she knew of no other such requests. There had been reports that the campaign to remove the book was widespread.

Keppin said Muskego's procedure to consider the request to remove the book denied the public to speak about the book against it.

She said

ply thro

9/15/78

'Our Bodies, Ourselves' ad to criminal violation

Political or scientific value, anyone can pick it up to read or check the library policy for its parents, not children's need.

over the books' action where

anyone can pick it up to read or check the library policy for its parents, not children's need.

over the books' action where

anyone can pick it up to read or check the library policy for its parents, not children's need.

Schools feel pressure to ban book on women

By David I. Bednarek
Journal Education Reporter

A campaign is being waged to get a book on women's health moved from high schools of the Milwaukee

rol, abortion, pregnancy, and health care

A book under fire in Belfast, Maine

By Nancy Griffin
Special to The Globe

SWANVILLE, Maine — In a town listed on the old clatter in Boston with a book published from Belfast's District High School of a grass roots movement of many that have been in need of a social service

self-admitted form... a feature story profiling the Boston Women's Health Book Collective (Sept. 1976). We felt then, and still feel, that the women in the 11 members of BWBC... give women information, resources and counsel as they can take control over their bodies and their lives. Today, the 12-year-old collective—and its best selling book, Our Bodies, Ourselves (more than two million copies sold; translated in 13 languages)—are the...

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Body book 'shocking'

Trishie Cavell-Brown
HELENA — Sen. John Melcher says it is "shocking" to have a book on women's health in the Montana library. The book, "Our Bodies, Ourselves," is available in response to the Chapter of Helena. The book is a two-page copy of the book from the Montana public library.

Editor's Note: Two years ago New Books was a feature story profiling the Boston Women's Health Book Collective (Sept. 1976). We felt then, and still feel, that the women in the 11 members of BWBC... give women information, resources and counsel as they can take control over their bodies and their lives. Today, the 12-year-old collective—and its best selling book, Our Bodies, Ourselves (more than two million copies sold; translated in 13 languages)—are the...

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The Moral Majority Is Neither



clinics from purchasing Our Bodies, Ourselves.

The right wing's censorship attack and attacks on sexual freedom go hand in hand with an overall assault on feminism, the ERA, and women's economic world of work.

Sex Text Stirs Parental Furor

By KEN BALL
TOWNSHIP

and text on bodily functions and sexual activity in a manner which was called "obscene" by school, parents charged, and were read by other, younger

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Helena's 'trashy books'

as woman felt it should be held up as a book "trashy due to a version

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SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS

- First Unitarian Society of Newton, for hosting a special event for our global partners
- Jules Catering, for catering a special event with our global partners
- Joan Ditzion, for her timeline display: “40 Years of Our Bodies Ourselves: A Visual Timeline”
- Heather Nelson, Nancy Lyons Allen, and 33 talented performance artists for a marvelous 40th anniversary Cabaret at Oberon on September 22, 2011
- Karen Norberg, for the program book cover design
- Jane Pincus, for the “welcome bags” for our global partners
- Deborah and Vassilios Raptopoulos, for hosting a special event for our global partners
- Catherine Rogers, for program book layout
- Kayla Small, for the “Banning OBOS” collage
- Vicki Lee’s and Vicki Lee Boyajian, for a special OBOS 40th anniversary birthday cake
- Other volunteers: Jill Baker, Diane Dion, Estelle Disch, Mary Dore and her film crew, Mary Fillmore, Marjorie Newman, Rob Okun and Voice Male magazine, Kayla Rachlin-Small, Catherine Rogers, Ellen Shub, and Sanjani Varky
- Joanne Mitchell, for her *Our bodies, ourselves– the book, I mean* installation
- Joanne Barker, for her “Women’s Health Milestones” in the visual display

WE REMEMBER OBOS COLLEAGUES WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US

Pamela Morgan (1949-2008) and Esther Rome (1945-1995), co-founders of the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective

Also: Rita Arditti, Jose Barzelatto, Charlotte Ellertson, Rachel Fruchter, Mary Raugust Howell, Rose Kushner, Rita Raj, Rosetta Reitz, Helen Rodriguez-Trias, Allan Rosenfield, Miriam Schocken, Barbara Seaman, and Peggy Wegman



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