

between a son and his father whose mother had disappeared.

The French magazine *Marie Clair* conducted a survey of the most important women in the world. "I was one of the women mentioned in this list. The entry in the magazine stated "Rosa Tarlovsky de Roisinblit, Vice President of the Abuelas de Mayo in Argentina. This dean of the Abuelas de Mayo who continues to pressure authorities..."

Well, as you can see our struggle continues to be arduous and long. I hope you are doing well. Thank you for your solidarity.

*Rosita Roisinblit
Argentina*

(Rosita was featured in WIA's first issue in 1995. We appreciate her continuing communications with us.-Ed.)

From the E-mail

ISRAEL: STAGNATION RATHER THAN CRACKDOWNS

From Israeli feminists, forwarded FYI.

Robin Morgan

"The election of right-wing Benjamin Netanyahu as the next prime minister of Israel is bad enough. The enormous gains of three religious fundamentalist parties (increasing their electoral strength by 50 percent in the Knesset) is much worse. Since Netanyahu's Likud party won only 32 seats, and the religious now collectively hold 23, the Likud will require the approval of the religious in every coalition move they make. For gays, this does not bode well.

"Gay rights in Israel had greatly improved in the last four years: In 1992, discrimination at work based on sexual orientation was made illegal. The next year, the army formally ended most discrimination against gay men and lesbians. In 1994, the Supreme Court recognized benefits to same-sex spouses

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employed by El-Al Airlines and Tel-Aviv University. And in 1995, the law was amended to grant pensions to same-sex partners of deceased civil servants. Even a number of public institutions have made concessions to same-sex spouses (blood banks, the census bureau, the names registry, etc.). And our nightlife was just beginning to get off the ground.

"In general, I do not believe that these achievements will be rolled back or even come under all-out attack by the new government. What is clear, however, is that the ascendancy of the religious spells the end of further gains during the lifetime of this government.

"Modern Israel had only

opposed to the Jewish-religious or Arab schools, which educate about half the children in Israel). In the secular system, the booklet had not yet gained wide exposure, but there was hope. Now that hope is gone.

"Where gays will feel the hot breath of the religious on our necks is the stigma, the delegitimization, and the demonization of our style of life. This will get worse, and fewer gays will feel comfortable coming out. The already-existing fear of losing jobs or clients—especially for teachers, medical personnel, social workers, psychologists, and the like—will get worse, despite the law that prohibits this. The vast majority of gays in Israel are still deep inside the closet, and the closet will become even deeper.

"I do not believe that our two active organizations will be outlawed: CLAF, the Community of Feminist Lesbians, or SPPR, the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights. But both will be handicapped in legislative lobbying and advocacy. And although the courts are ostensibly inde-

pendent of the legislature, they too are influenced by the *Zeitgeist*.

"Yes, some religious political leaders are renewing the language of "the abomination of homosexuality" and have threatened to enact legislation that would undermine previous gains. But I don't think they would be successful in persuading the secular component of the new government (Likud) to go along with it.

"Right now, there's a lot of posturing going on.

"You know what? I think the fundamentalists will be so busy introducing religious studies into the secular school system;

Netanyahu's
election does not
bode well for gays
in Israel.

recently begun to squeeze out of the vice-grip of the ultra-Orthodox, who still have a monopoly on life-cycle rituals (marriage, divorce, and burial) and dominate other key areas of family life (child custody). Progress in these areas will be hopeless-to-nil as long as the religious are running these shows.

"One glimmer of hope will certainly die out. In 1995, the Ministry of Education issued a booklet that describes homosexual and lesbian partnerships as an alternative kind of domestic arrangement, no disparagement in tone or content. This booklet had been prepared for the so-called "secular" school system in Israel (as

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Heard in a conference:
"Women in the South have made gains in their fight for rights, equality. But when the lesbian movement—which is more threatening to men—attached itself to the women's movement—it (the lesbian movement) eroded these gains." Do you agree?

If you have questions you wish to raise, send them to us also and let's ask our readers:

"What do you think?"

siphoning public funds into religious institutions, religious schools, and housing for the indigent religious; enforcing coercive laws that are on the books but only partially enforced (e.g., closing businesses and factories that are open on the Sabbath); and holding back further progress in the peace talks—that there will be very little time left for oppressing us as well. Maybe if they get re-elected in the year 2000, god-forbid.

"Jerusalem, 5 June 1996"

I received the latest publication of Isis and was impressed with your article on the media. It gave me much food for thought.

Elizabeth Lopez
U.S.A.

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