

Dear Friends at Isis,

Your *Women in Action* (WIA) does a fine job of telling stories from across a wide range of lifeways, and each issue gives me both joy and challenge.

However, your issue on Older Women, No. 3, 2000 needs to be followed up by an issue on the Last Decades and how these can be lived creatively. Most of the women in the current issue are in their sixties and early seventies. That covers only the young old. You need the stories of those 75 and older. Those in their 80s and 90s can testify that there is a real change when you reach 80. Life becomes a new experience with more limitations, diminishing physical energies but new mental and spiritual energies, new perspectives, new learnings. Joining a retirement community also brought me new insights.

And then there are other issues—how long should we stay around, when most capacities become diminished? Here at North Hill I watch one of my dear friends, who is 103, gradually moving toward her moment of transition. Life expectancy is rising rapidly, many people are living into the “old-old” category. Should we take responsibility for leaving? As the old move toward outnumbering the young, how will society be able to manage that burden? And those of us who are widowed may begin to long to join our beloveds on the other side.

And yet—being part of the living breathing Earth is a magical experience at any age!

Thank you, Isis, for being Isis!

Loving greetings,
Elise Boulding

(Note on the letter-sender: Elise Boulding is a renowned sociologist who authored the book *Cultures of Peace: The Hidden Side of History*, which was published recently by Syracuse University Press. She is professor emerita of sociology of Dartmouth College and former secretary-general of the International Peace Research Association.)

Dear Elise,

We will be considering your suggestions. Thank you for continuing to inspire us. -Ed

Hello,

I just wanted to express my pleasure at seeing the review of my book, *Women of Okinawa: Nine Voices from a Garrison Island*, on your website. Kathy Clarin did a wonderful job of capturing the sentiment presented in the women's stories and in deciphering the island's history for readers unfamiliar with Okinawa.

It made my day to see such a fine, well-written review.

Thank you, Kathy! And keep up the good work.

Regards,
Ruth Keyso-Vail

Hello there,

I read with interest the online articles from *Women in Action*, and am interested in obtaining a copy of the NO. 2, 1999 issue in particular.

I am currently involved in post graduate studies on the impacts of globalisation on the lives of women, with particular interest in the multinational forestry organisations in Indonesia.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Bronwyn Austin

Dear Bronwyn,

A copy of the WIA No. 2, 1999 issue on Women and Work and Globalization has been sent to you. Thank you for your interest in our publication. -Ed

I am thankful to you for sending us your publication *Women in Action*, issue on Older Women, by airmail.

Our organisation is running many projects in the field of education, environment, income generation and women and development in Rawalpindi (Pakistan). We shall be thankful to you if you could include our organisation on your mailing list. Please also provide us more information about your organisation.

Thanking you.

Arshad Mahmood
General Secretary
Anjuman Falah-o-Behbood
Pakistan