



Spring is for Conferences April/May 2026



*Our Bodies Ourselves co-founder Judy Norsigian and executive director Amy Agigian, International Day of the Midwife celebration at Suffolk University, May 6, 2026.
Photo by Burt Granofsky/EDC*

A Note From Our Program Director

Dear Friends,

We know that joy is a powerful strategy of resistance; and joyful gatherings have kept sustaining us this spring.

The company of 400 reproductive justice activists — mostly young people, from across the U.S. — energized us at this year's amazing **Collective Power conference**. (Some of you may remember CP as CLPP, The Civil Liberties and Public Policy program. CLPP hatched at Hampshire College in 1981, later changed its name, and became an independent nonprofit.) We forged new connections with the lively audience at our session on generations of feminist health activism, where I presented alongside Marlene Fried and Lindsey Salek. Grace Koch and I caught up with Grace Toscano, who



interned with Our Bodies Ourselves last summer. And many, many people stopped to page through the newsprint OBOS from 1970 on our table in the exhibition hall. Some were drawn in because they recognized it, and others because it piqued their curiosity.

In May, we proudly hosted the first Massachusetts celebration of the International Day of the Midwife, in collaboration with the Bay State Birth Coalition, Birth Equity Justice Massachusetts, and the Community Birth & Doula Initiative. See [photos from this very special event](#) on our website. We don't just party together; Our Bodies Ourselves took part in [Midwife Advocacy Day at the Statehouse](#) as well. [Our Bodies Ourselves has long advocated for greater access to midwifery care](#). With growing support for birth centers, we are hopeful that the midwifery model of care will prevail against alarming maternal mortality rates, which are worst for Black birthing parents.

This newsletter also highlights some of the new resources we've added to the website, spanning from abortion bans to menopause misinformation, defining the manosphere and finding community as nonbinary parents. We report on the workshop we sponsored for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. And we share news of the **two** new adaptations of "Our Bodies, Ourselves" and "Ourselves and Our Children" recently published by Le collectif Nos enfants nous-mêmes in France.

We are especially excited to announce that, next spring, we will be holding an [International Conference on Women and Health!](#) Please save the date, and we will share details regularly as the planning continues, under the leadership of conference organizing chair Sarah Vox Swenson. Sarah is the daughter of Our Bodies Ourselves co-founder Norma Meras Swenson, who organized the 1975 Conference on Women and Health with OBOS co-founder Judy Norsigian.

Thank you as ever for accompanying us as we continue to work for health justice for women and gender-expansive people everywhere.

In solidarity,



Laura R. Prieto (she/her/ella)
Our Bodies Ourselves Program Director

Support Our Bodies Ourselves!

Public Programs and Events

In recent weeks, you may have seen us at the **Collective Power** conference, or at the screening of the documentary "**Living in Pryde**" that we co-sponsored with Ford Hall Forum at Suffolk University, or at the **International Day of the Midwife celebration** that we hosted!

We're busily planning more exciting programs for fall, including an Open House, a summit in collaboration with Mass NOW, and a sponsored event with Un|Hushed for World Sexual Health Day in September. More on those soon, but meanwhile:

SAVE THE DATE!

March 6–8, 2027

**International Conference on Women and Health
Suffolk University, Boston**

Our Bodies Ourselves and the Center for Women's Health and Human Rights at Suffolk University are proud to announce we will be hosting an International Conference on Women and Health in Boston, Massachusetts, over International Women's Day weekend, March 6, 7, and 8, 2027.

The conference theme, *Equity and Access*, honors the spirit of the historic **Conference on Women and Health in 1975**, which also met in Boston. Our Bodies Ourselves and several partners organized that conference to address numerous issues in women's health from a feminist perspective. A global women's health movement coalesced soon afterwards.

The 2027 International Women's Health Conference will bring together grassroots activists and experts, domestic and international speakers and attendees, to discuss current knowledge, share experiences, address the challenges of equity and access, and propose solutions to help guide the movement for the next 50 years.

Please save the date and visit the conference webpage for regular updates with additional information as it becomes available.

 **Bookmark the conference webpage!**

International Conference on Women & Health
EQUITY & ACCESS
Suffolk University, Boston, Massachusetts
March 6, 7, and 8, 2027

Speakers include

Byllye Avery
Black Women's Health Imperative

Codou Bop
Women and Law Research Group,
Senegal

Katsi Cook
Onkwehonweh traditional midwife

Mosoka Fallah
Africa CDC

Arline T. Geronimus
author, *Weathering*

Natalia Kanem
former Executive Director, UNFPA

More info:
ourbodiesourselves.org/2027-conference

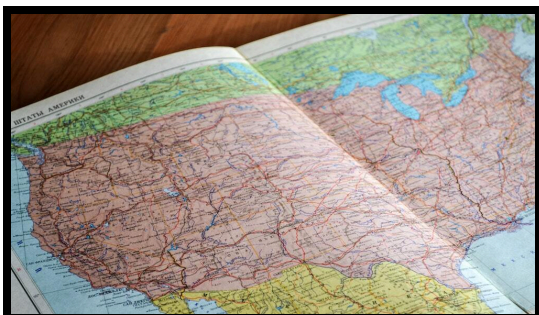
 **OUR BODIES OURSELVES**
AT SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

Other events:

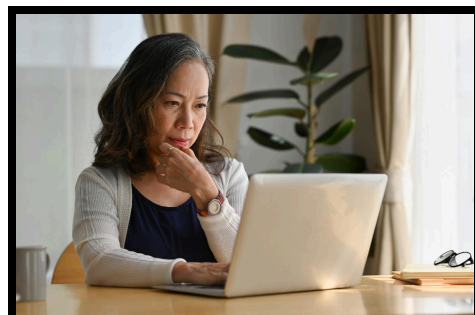
Our Bodies Ourselves mental health experts **Dior Vargas** and **Donna Castelblanco** will be panelists for a women's mental health event in New York City on **June 6**. For more information and program registration, follow [this link](#).

Explore Our Website: New Resources

We are always adding new resources to our website, reviewed by our content experts and put into context by the editorial team at Our Bodies Ourselves. Here's a sampling of our most recent content.



Abortion bans have left doctors on their own to navigate the ethical and legal landscape of providing abortion care. This article interviews medical providers who choose to remain in states with abortion bans



Today, many books, videos, websites, social media accounts, and ads about menopause are from self-proclaimed experts, not evidence-based sources. Unfortunately, bad actors can spread incorrect information, confuse people, and even cause harm.

[!\[\]\(a687e136caa4577106f3dd7ee20612b0_img.jpg\) Read "The Post-Roe Landscape"](#)



The COVID pandemic drastically affected the lives of working women over the age of forty. This infographic provides global facts and statistics about the economic challenges that women face as they grow older, especially since 2020.

[!\[\]\(dff16eb91fad07a22c76e16adcd431cc_img.jpg\) Read "Older Women"](#)



The power of masculinity influencers keeps growing online. UN Women explains what the mansphere is and how it harms us by leading to online harassment, damaging mental health, and contributing to extremist violence.

[!\[\]\(a1c1d4c26090f8855d099ee2e249df0e_img.jpg\) Read "What is the Mansphere?"](#)

[!\[\]\(d38d40db5bb31e2db2f3490804bde37d_img.jpg\) Read "How to Detect Menopause Misinformation"](#)



It's no coincidence that the most common mental health condition in women is depression. Amelia Risinit explains why mental health is -- and should be -- an intersectional feminist issue.

[!\[\]\(9f2db5f114305bb79d67a8373c30add3_img.jpg\) Read "Women's Mental Health Needs"](#)



**2013 - 2021
Tour**

- 4,000 families
- 8 countries
- 70+ cities
- A published book
- Gallery Shows
- Museum Installations
- Community Events
- Media Impact
- More still to come

with luna | Chicago, IL | 2013

After a traumatic birth experience, ash luna struggled to find support as a nonbinary parent of a child with a disability. So they set out to create their own community. This effort transformed into the 4th Trimester Bodies Project.

[!\[\]\(aed01fb9cddb5c5ff97f976c4581b7ec_img.jpg\) Explore "The 4th Trimester Bodies Project"](#)

Spotlight: Our Stories & Conversations



In this video, writer Fariha Róisín discusses her experience as a Muslim South Asian woman who has had an abortion.

[🔗 Watch the video](#)

Our Bodies Ourselves News



*Craig Norberg-Bohm and student attendees, "What's a Guy to Do?"
Photo by Reese Buckley / Suffolk Journal*

For Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, Our Bodies Ourselves welcomed activist Craig Norberg-Bohm, who led a workshop on how men can be allies in preventing sexual and domestic violence. Aimed at Suffolk University students, the program focused on how masculinity culture can lead to domestic and sexual violence, and how gender expectations can harm all of us. Attendees discussed concrete ways that men as allies can be part of the solution to prevent gender-based violence.

[🔗 Read more about the event](#)

Updates from Our Global Partners

Our Bodies Ourselves' **Global Projects Committee** has been hearing exciting updates from our global partners! Ever since the 1970s, feminist groups from around the world have been **translating and adapting "Our Bodies, Ourselves"** in dozens of different languages for women in their own countries.

The French adaptation of "Our Bodies Ourselves" from 1977 was one of the first global projects. Marie Hermann reports that OBOS global partner, Le collectif Notre corps, nous-mêmes, completely updated and published "**Notre corps, nous-mêmes**" in 2020, and continue to use that new edition. The Collectif's current priorities are to update content on trans identity and LGBT+ issues.

In 2024, the affiliated Le collectif Nos enfants nous-mêmes published a revised edition of "**Nos Enfants Nous-mêmes**" in France as well, and have generously shared excerpts with us, available on the Our Bodies Ourselves website. They originally adapted this book in 1980 from **Ourselves and Our Children**.

 [Read more from Le collectif Nos corps nous-mêmes](#)



Please share this newsletter with a friend!

**Your accurate *and* inclusive
guide to health, sexuality, *and*
reproductive justice**



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