

# Continuum

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*When Paulina Allen de Smith ended her work as Executive Director of La Leche League International in mid-September 2000, she closed a unique chapter in the history of LLLI leadership.*

*Not only was she the first Leader to serve as both Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of LLLI, she was also the first from outside the US to hold either of these positions.*

*These two "firsts" are not surprising for LLL. One exemplifies the broad group of highly committed, exceptionally competent women who've dedicated so much of their lives to LLL. The other speaks to LLLI's ongoing efforts to create a truly international organization.*

*This issue of CONTINUUM offers a synchronistic collection of articles that reinforce these wonderful assets of La Leche League.*

## Life at the helm of La Leche League

**A**n LLL Leader since 1977, Paulina Allen de Smith served as the coordinator of La Casa de la Liga de la Leche de Mexico (the home office for LLL in Mexico) and the President of LLL Mexico before joining the LLLI Board of Directors in 1992. For the past five years, Paulina has played a critical role at the helm of LLLI, first as Chairman of the Board (1995-97) and then as Executive Director (1996-97 acting, 1997-2000). In this CONTINUUM interview, she talks about her family and her start in LLL, reflects upon her different experiences at the head of this international organization, and shares her thoughts about the future.

**You've referred to yourself as a "citizen of the world" because your family has ties to so many countries. What does your "world map" look like?**

My mother is Argentine born of Danish parents. She lives with us here in Mexico. My father was British born. My sister and I were born in Argentina. I am married to Christopher, who is Chilean born. We have two girls, Vania (25) and Natalia (23) both Mexican born. Christopher has two children from his former marriage, Jerome (39), born in England and living in Chile, and Odette (37), born in Chile and living in Mexico. My sister now lives in Brazil. Christopher has a brother living in Denmark, married to a Dane, and a sister living in Spain, married to an Englishman.

Just among brothers, sisters, and all of our children, we live in seven countries and speak seven languages! To add to the internationality of the family, Vania's boyfriend of four years is from Pune, India. And Natalia has lived in France and Zimbabwe.

**How did you get started in LLL?**

I first heard about LLL in my natural childbirth course. The instructor mentioned an upcoming meeting. So, I thought to myself, what a good opportunity to meet other pregnant moms. I had not been in Mexico all that long and had very few friends. To tell you the truth, I was more interested in the making friends aspect than in the breastfeeding information! None of my friends in Argentina had breastfed, nor my sister, so I did not think I was

going to breastfeed either. Wow, was I wrong!

I loved the meeting.

What impressed me the most was seeing so many babies and toddlers who were content and enjoying life—not a whimper out of any of them! This was not what I had seen among my friends back home. This struck me to the extent that I bought up all the books available for sale

(the blue manual, Karen Pryor's *Nursing Your Baby*, and one other I can't remember the name of now). When I left, I called my husband to say how fascinated and amazed I was with the meeting I had just attended. I knew there and then that my life had changed!

Vania, my first daughter, was born two weeks later and within a few hours after her birth, I'd already made contact with the LLL Group Leader, Mari Carmen Mariscal. From then on, I did not miss a meeting—for years and years!

**What compelled you to stay in LLL?**

What I saw, which was a strong respect for others. Also, what I experienced, which was a feeling of humbleness, realizing the power we have to help families and children and to

*What a whirlwind  
of boundless energy,  
ideas, cheerfulness,  
optimism—  
and love for LLL!*

Paulina Allen de Smith *continued*

contribute to a healthier world community. Once I became a Leader, there was always work to do, challenges to meet, new doors opening, and opportunities to serve that kept me energized and involved.

What were your biggest challenges as Chairman of the LLLI Board? as the LLLI Executive Director (ED)?

As Chairman of the Board:

- ❖ Uniting a very split Board and dealing with internal organizational politics which were getting in the way of decision making and action taking.
- ❖ Opening up communications in all areas of LLLI—increasing the dialogue between Board, staff and volunteers; making the Board more tangible and approachable; getting important issues on the discussion table.
- ❖ Coping with the emotional turmoil in LLLI that was present at that time and having the ability to inspire confidence, trust, and encouragement.
- ❖ Being the first non-US Chairman of the Board (not only a challenge for me

but also for the organization).

- ❖ Learning how to use Robert's Rules!

As Executive Director:

- ❖ Broadening my management skills.
- ❖ Working to reverse the financial status of LLLI from a deficit to a surplus.
- ❖ Dealing with low morale at the LLLI office—creating good teamwork and good internal communication, getting staff to have fun aside from hard work.
- ❖ Setting in place improved planning, strategic thinking, and tighter implementation methods to increase productivity and efficiency.
- ❖ Getting the staff to trust me.
- ❖ Adapting solutions to the diversity of LLL cultures in the Divisions.
- ❖ Working in the US, which is quite different from working in Mexico!

How did you manage the logistics of living in one country and working in another? What kind of adjustments did you and your family need to make?

We are a family that is used to traveling and my husband travels often with his work. He and I have a very special respect for one another and an accepting relationship, so he was highly supportive of my LLL involvement.

Working in the Chicago area actually put me very close to my two daughters, who were attending Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. So in a way, you could say

that I was keeping home running smoothly away from home. I considered it one of the perks of my job to be so close to them and one of the primary reasons for taking on the ED position.

At first, I was simply fulfilling the executive director responsibilities as Chairman of the Board, since the position was vacant. I then became Acting Executive Director, thinking that an ED was going to be found! During this time I worked voluntarily and stayed with Rebecca Magalhães, LLLI Action and Development Director. I went according to LLL work needs and my own personal availability.

After a year and dedicating more and more time to the job, I proposed to the Board that I be hired for the position. Once offered the job (in October 1997), I resigned from the Board and became a salaried LLLI staff member until September 2000.

Once I knew I would be going to the LLLI office with certain regularity (the contract called for me to be in Chicago for 10 working days in a month), I decided to look for an apartment and found just what I was looking for—a small studio just the perfect size to keep organized and clean! It was great fun decorating to make it

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*"What a whirlwind of boundless energy, ideas, cheerfulness, optimism—and love for LLL! Paulina always worked longer, harder, and with more focus than anyone else I'd ever known!*

*She approached whatever she was doing with the sheer joy of a child—singing, dancing, sharing words of inspiration, infusing the day with color and gifts. I learned so much from her, but nothing more valuable than that important, difficult work could and should be done with joy and celebration!"*

—Alice Edwards

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*"At the USWD Coordinators' meeting in Texas recently, Paulina introduced us to the idea of packing a shawl instead of a sweater or jacket when traveling to various LLL events. A shawl lies flat in a suitcase and takes up much less room than a sweater. Each time I wear my shawl now, I think of Paulina."*

—Karen Gausman

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*"I always thought it interesting that Paulina's name was pronounced POW-lina, rather than Paul-ina. There is a 'pow' about this lady.*

*Pow as in powerful!*

*Everyone knew when Paulina had arrived at the office for her biweekly visits. Excitement seemed to be her constant companion!*

*She visited briefly with everyone, bringing good cheer and warm wishes. The warm atmosphere, however, never meant there was a slacking in work!"*

—Carol Huotari



Paulina Allen de Smith

feel very much mine. I was visited often by family members and it was hard to dismantle when the time came.

Usually I would leave Mexico on a Monday and return the Friday of the following week. My weekends were often spent with my daughters.

**What learnings do you take away from your work on the Board and as Executive Director?**

One of the beautiful learning experiences which I gained while on the LLLI Board is that La Leche League is made up of a number of diverse elements, each as important as the next: different cultures, different languages,

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*"I had the privilege of sharing a room with Paulina in Florida. I learned the value of what HOT means to someone from Mexico as opposed to what HOT means to someone from New England! It is worlds apart!"*

—Helene Scheff

different ways of mothering, different ways of looking at the same issue, different ways of thinking. Each element has its own value and each calls for respect. One of LLLI's strongest assets is its unity through diversity.

I leave my Executive Director position taking satisfaction in the knowledge that we have a talent-filled organization. From LLL Leaders to Area volunteers to Division and LLLI staff, there are great skills and experience that exist throughout La Leche League!

**As you reflect on your plans for the future, are there things that are tugging at you? that you love to do?**

I am savoring this opportunity to take the time to reflect—and to find a new path for my energy. The things that tug at me the most are those which see concrete results. I enjoy challenges and am a hard worker. Very little scares me! Knowing the challenges, I like mapping out different paths to follow to turn the challenges into actions that result in reaching the goal or the purpose.

I see my future involvement in La Leche League through the Alumnae Association. I enjoy giving people a helping hand and encouraging others through support and guidance. I also

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*"Paulina really turned things around at the office...."*

*In what seemed like no time at all, Paulina almost single-handedly (but with strong support from the Board and the expert assistance of Hugh Switzer) pulled the staff together. ... Paulina's uniquely positive attitude (no matter what the circumstances) was contagious. Those of us who saw firsthand the incredible transformation that took place were almost speechless!"*

—Mary Ann Kerwin

like administrative work, including planning, organizing, and—most important of all—following through with the plan!

**You spoke of the challenges that you faced on the Board and as ED. What do you see as the challenges that face LLLI in the next decade?**

Today's world, through national and international programs, is fortunately more oriented to the value of breastfeeding. Therefore, there will be competing forces in both the business and the not-for-profit arenas. One of the challenges for LLLI will be its ability to keep abreast of the times with so many other organizations dealing with breastfeeding issues. La Leche League needs to keep "ahead of the game" with a unique niche or it needs to join forces with others who have similar missions, so that the end result is what LLLI has always sought—improving the health of babies through breastfeeding and the development of sound and profound family bonds. Planning needs to be a constant so that the sails are always set for what lies ahead.

There are also administrative challenges that need to be analyzed and addressed to ensure that the work of the Leader continues to be creative, enjoyable, productive, satisfying, and empowering for her and those she works with, as well to fulfill the LLLI mission.

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*"Now, everyone knows that Paulina is an unusual manager and organizer.*

*How many of you know she is also a musical star? This Paulina is a superb dancer, good singer, and has all around acting talent! In our Board farewell extravaganzas, she goes down in posterity as a dynamite jingle-jangle dancer and an extraordinary Fred Astaire."*

—Welda Hoertz

## Establishing worldwide Alumnae connections, person-to-person

In August 2000 I had the privilege of attending the LLL Europe Conference in Nottingham, Great Britain, representing the LLLI Alumnae Association and the LLLI Conference Team. What a wonderful experience this was, networking with women from 28 countries in a group the size of an Area conference in the USA.

Perhaps it was...

- ❖ the experience of having no conference responsibilities, so that I actually attended sessions;
- ❖ the wonderful hospitality from LLL women throughout Europe;
- ❖ the opportunity to hear speakers that I have never heard;
- ❖ enjoying the beautiful slides in "Breastfeeding in the Arts," one of my favorite sessions;
- ❖ the charm of Nottingham, including a medieval banquet, complete with Robin Hood, Maid Marian, and much merriment;
- ❖ the wonderful gathering with Great Britain Alums as we enjoyed pizza, conversation, and talk of plans for collaboration in the future.

Perhaps it was *all* the above that left me filled with LLL warmth and wonderful feelings.

The informal gathering with 11 Great Britain Alums was an opportunity for me to hear all about the growth of their Alumnae Association and their plans for the future.

This gathering also afforded me the opportunity to share all the LLLI Alumnae Association has planned for the 2001 LLLI conference in Chicago.

Several Great Britain Alums joined the LLLI Alumnae Association. I was able to collect their dues in Sterling, thus eliminating the hassle of sending American dollars. We were also able to talk about creating and maintaining links with one another. I look forward to articles from Great Britain in future issues of CONTINUUM.

Barbara Sheppard, a Great Britain Alum, shared in a post-conference note, "This was a happy meeting for me. The conference was a wonderful event all around, but this cosy gathering of Alumnae members was special and left me with the warm glow of recognition that the loving philosophy of LLL is remaining at the heart of families worldwide!" And I couldn't agree more!

Pam Oselka, LLLI Alumnae Coordinator



Pam Oselka, back left, Anne Jobling, back right, Anne Sladen, LLLGB Alumnae Coordinator, front right, and other LLLGB Alumnae members.

## LLLGB Alumnae Association is growing strong

For the last few years we have had a session at our conferences and Leader days specifically named as "Alumnae sessions." These have always been oversubscribed and we have had no difficulties getting people to contribute.

Our first sessions were focused on discussions about whether an Alumnae Association was something we wanted for LLL of Great Britain (LLLGB). The consensus was that it we did. The next sessions were more like business meetings. We talked about how our ideas could be developed. We didn't want to detract from LLL's focus on breastfeeding, but we did want to continue the idea of mutual respect and support for individual choices beyond breastfeeding. Our newsletter, *SateLLite*, was developed to help accomplish this and is sent to approximately 80 members.

We also wanted a "bottom-up" structure so that any work needed was shared and not just offered as a service. If anyone wants to organise a gathering locally, we have a contact list to help them. About half of our alumnae members choose to be on the list and by implication would welcome contacts from other members for mutual support.

Our recent gatherings have moved

away from business and onto other—more interesting—topics. Attendance has been strong, with as many as 25 at a session. We don't have a problem getting people to talk, rather, getting people to *stop* is more of an issue!

Maybe it is the safe and nurturing atmosphere at an LLL function that helps. We have covered subjects such as living with teenagers, caring for elderly relatives, coping with changes in expectations as children become adults, how we meet our own needs, and how our involvement with LLL may have changed or influenced our lives. These sessions, whatever the title, often have a way of merging because all parts of our lives seem so interrelated.

Through Alumnae memberships, we are slowly accumulating funds that will be put back into LLLGB, either in the form of a piece of equipment or a specific project designated as a direct contribution from the LLLGB Alumnae. Long term, we hope to continue attracting retiring Leaders and members to keep a contribution flowing into the organisation from women with whom we would otherwise have lost touch.

Anne Jobling, editor, *LLLGB SateLLite*

## Research information now available on LLLI site

The LLLI Web site is now linked to the entire Center for Breastfeeding Information database. This means that over 15,000 bibliographic entries can now be accessed by anyone wanting research

information on breastfeeding.

This massive project was a collaborative effort between CBI manager Carol Huotari, research librarian Chris Barber, Web site manager Sue Ann Kendall, and others.

The main page of the site is located at: <<http://www.lalecheleague.org/cbi/CBI.html>>

## December

The last days of autumn  
Slide deep into December.

Dark rolling clouds  
Move the hours across the sky.

No more caramel colored leaves  
Scattered and catching the waning light.

The sun now shrouded  
In gray muslin.

As the pink frosty mornings  
Slip away into night.

—Mary Lofton, Illinois USA

## Talent call!

If you are planning to attend the 2001 LLLI Conference in Chicago, there may be a special place for you.

If you are an accomplished singer, musician, dancer, performance artist, or if your spouse or almost adult offspring is one of the above, we welcome you all to contribute your expertise and become a part of the dream team called Pizzazz.

Contact Helene Scheff by e-mail: <[eddy37@earthlink.net](mailto:eddy37@earthlink.net)> or by mail: 210 Brookhaven Rd., North Kingstown RI 02852 or by phone: 401/885-6073 and let her know what you can do.

## Are you an author?

The Alumnae Association maintains a growing list of current and former LLL Leaders who are published authors.

The list will be published on the Alum web pages and shared at next year's LLLI Conference.

If you are an author, or know of someone who is, please send the following information:

- ❖ author's name
- ❖ LLL Leader status, when & where accredited
- ❖ book title, publisher, date
- ❖ fiction or nonfiction
- ❖ topic, 1-2 sentence description
- ❖ purchasing info, if available
- ❖ web link, if available

to Edna Kelly, 3319 Georgetown, Houston TX 77005 or e-mail: <[EEKelly@tenet.edu](mailto:EEKelly@tenet.edu)>

## It's not too late to nominate!

The LLLI Alumnae Association is seeking nominations for its biennial award to be presented at the LLLI Conference in Chicago July 2001. The award is given to an active or retired Leader who has demonstrated excellence in her personal, professional, or volunteer accomplishments and who is a recognized leader in her field of endeavor. These accomplishments do not need to be related to La Leche League or the field of lactation.

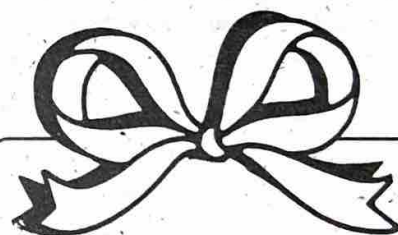
You may or may not know the nominee personally, but she must have been an active LLL Leader at one time.

No self-nominations will be accepted.

Please include the following information about your nominee:

- ❖ Describe her personal, professional, and/or volunteer accomplishment(s).
- ❖ Explain what makes this person a recognized leader in her field.
- ❖ State how long you have known the person and/or how you know about her.

**Nominations are due on or before February 15, 2001.** Send your nomination to: Kathy Hays, PR Co-chair, LLLI Alumnae Association, 806 Ruxshire Drive, Arnold MD 21012-1355, USA or e-mail to: <[lllalumnae@hotmail.com](mailto:lllalumnae@hotmail.com)>




Looking  
for a great gift?

As the holidays draw near  
—or any time of the year—  
consider an LLLI Alumnae  
membership & subscription  
to CONTINUUM for the active or  
retired LLL friends in your life.

## In remembrance...

*La Leche League* lost two well-beloved former Leaders recently. Roberta Bishop Johnson Esq. died in July 2000 at the age of 69 from complications arising from breast cancer and Eleanor Randall died in September 2000.

 Roberta Bishop Johnson was one of the earliest La Leche League Leaders after the Founders began our organization and she started the first LLL Group in south Chicago. She once recalled her first meeting in her small home. A well-meaning physician from Indiana sent a bus full of women to the meeting, and Roberta had only attended one meeting prior to becoming a Leader! She survived using her characteristic pluck and optimism. She also wrote hundreds of letters to breastfeeding mothers, back when there was a system that assigned Leaders to correspond with mothers in different states.

Roberta continued to work with La Leche League through the years, and in the 1960s she undertook a cookbook project for LLL, *MOTHER'S IN THE KITCHEN*. This cookbook was so popular that in the late 1970s she began work on LLL's beloved *WHOLE FOODS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY*, which she edited, organized, and indexed long before the advent of word processors.

Roberta was an incredibly intelligent, stubborn, funny and opinionated woman who survived many family and personal challenges thanks to her attitude toward life.

After her two children were grown, she returned to school at the University of Illinois and became a family lawyer. She had seen so many women badly treated in divorces that she decided she could continue to help others in this way. After obtaining her law degree, she was instrumental in the formation of the LLLI Legal Advisory Council and

continued as a member until her death.


She was a frequent speaker at Area and International LLL conferences and she received the LLLI Award of Appreciation from the Board of Directors at the 1999 LLLI Conference.

Roberta continued growing and learning throughout her life. I first met her in 1987 in a computer user group; she was the only member over 40! She was instrumental in getting me involved in web site development and pushed to get the LLLI web site launched.

When she faced cancer, we all learned from her positive attitude and watched as she educated herself until she knew as much as many of the doctors. Through her ups and downs, she always said, "Life is a gift; that's why they call it the present."

Roberta was a friend and mentor to many women. Many LLL Leaders and Members have been influenced by her, so her legacy of love will live on and on.

—Adapted from a tribute to Roberta by Sue Ann Kendall on the LLLI web site at: [www.lalecheleague.org/rbj.html](http://www.lalecheleague.org/rbj.html)

 Eleanor Randall became a La Leche League Leader in 1967. Throughout the years of her involvement in the organization, she worked in many different capacities and was a major force behind many LLLI endeavors.

As a Leader, she enjoyed her work with breastfeeding mothers in the Group, where she was a source of inspiration and encouragement.

Later, she worked on the 1971 International Conference in Chicago handling educational exhibits. In 1974 Eleanor and her husband D'Arcy (Randy) were co-treasurers for the LLLI Conference.

In 1973 she was appointed Director of the Information Service Centers. This program grew and flourished under

Eleanor's guidance and later became the Breastfeeding Resource Centers.

Because she was fluent in three languages, Eleanor was often called upon to translate LLL materials for the increasing numbers of members from countries outside the US. She was instrumental in the founding of LLL of Austria and the growth of La Leche League in Europe.


She was elected to the LLLI Board of Directors in 1981 and served as Chairman of the Board from 1985 to 1988.

In 1992, along with Marian Tompson and Catherine Marquis, she was appointed co-chairman of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee and held that position until 1997. The work of this group resulted in the purchase of the Schaumburg facility, the first permanent home for La Leche League International.

In addition to her husband, Eleanor is survived by two sons and a daughter. She will be greatly missed by her many friends in La Leche League.

—Mary Lofton

## A tradition begins

 The LLLI Alumnae Association will be introducing a new tradition at the 2001 LLLI Conference by commemorating LLL Leaders who have died. A simple and meaningful visual tribute will be held prior to the Alumnae Tea.

If you know of an LLL Leader who has died, please send her name, the city, state and country where this Leader served LLL, and her year of death to Nancy Franklin, 7918 Valley Trails, San Antonio, TX 78250, or e-mail Nancy at: [NBFL77@aol.com](mailto:NBFL77@aol.com).

## Reflections upon returning to the LLL fold

As my children grew, I kept involved in their activities and gradually, like their weaning, moved on from La Leche League—or so I thought. Actually, being an elementary school teacher, I often incorporated much of LLL philosophy into each day, meeting individual needs in an increasingly changing educational system and always striving for strong home/school connections.

Then, four years ago, my first grandchild was born. Suddenly, my earlier experiences with LLL came flooding back. I realized how lucky I was to have a grandchild nurtured so warmly at the breast.

I found myself drawn to the most recent LLLI Conference and, once there, realized I had never left Mother League's lap! I wasn't a nursing mom, didn't even have a toddler, but I realized there was a place for former Leaders like me. I not only had two free hands, I had experience and wisdom that I could share with the new mothers.

Now, as a member of the newly formed LLL Grievance Committee, I am completing my Leader reactivation. I've just finished attending a series of meetings and it has been delightful and exciting.

First I noticed the differences since my involvement of one score and 10 years ago: more meetings are now held in public places instead of homes, almost everyone uses disposables and wipes (no wet washcloths in plastic baggies), Groups have copious lending libraries, mothers represent more diverse families.

So many are familiar with breast pumps and more mothers who come to meetings are working outside the home. There's a great

new treatment for sore nipples (and I hear it's good for tired feet, too!)

It seems like there are more allergies around, but also more information available for guidance. Some mothers have tattoos and/or body piercings; they wear slings instead of Snugglis. Mothers frequently are in touch via e-mail with League mothers around the world. Former Leaders attend meetings with their own daughters and grandbabies.

What hasn't changed is the bond between mother and child and the support and encouragement that LLL Leaders provide. I delighted in seeing once again a nursing baby's eyes as she gazes at her mother; the support between mothers as they share what works; the growth in confidence that all mothers experience; encouragement to educate less-than-aware health care professionals; the continued creativity expressed as moms figure out how to give the most time and best nutrition to their child, especially if they have to leave them during the day; the all-too-familiar lack-of-libido during this time; and the needed support for encouragement and validation from calmer, wiser, and experienced knowing sources.

As an Alum, I recommend that you find a group near you and drop in occasionally. Just sit, listen, be, learn, and share. Many of these young mothers do not have any other older mentors. Some of their moms may be far away, non supportive or not alive. And you can almost always find a baby to hold whether or not you have grandchildren!

I experienced a myriad of feelings. At one meeting, I sat next to a new, exhausted mother. Her baby had a very frustrating and challenging nursing pattern. Even the Leader did not have easy answers. I wanted to be helpful, but not knowing exactly how, said quietly, "I know this must be frustrating, but I do want to say, it will change. It will not

always stay this way." Nothing profound or new, just true.

She looked at me with tears in her eyes and said, "That is what I needed to hear." My words and feelings came from a place not yet developed when I had my own little ones and was too deep in to be able to see the forest for the trees.

Maybe we experienced moms know the real answer is within each person. Through our own experience, we can say with confidence that we know they will make it through also. For it is in this whole process of going through the maze of motherhood that we come out changed, we come out mothers.

—Louise Cox, Connecticut USA

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## Join the Alumnae!

YES, I want to keep in touch and support LLLI. My Alumnae membership category is checked below. Enclosed is:

- \$6 for CONTINUUM (I am currently an LLL Leader or member)
- \$19 for an LLLI Alumnae Membership (includes CONTINUUM)
- \$36 for CONTINUUM and an LLLI Individual Membership
- \$50 for a 3-year LLLI Alumnae Membership (includes CONTINUUM)
- \$75 for a 5-year LLLI Alumnae Membership (includes CONTINUUM)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Current LLL status: \_\_\_\_\_

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4079 Schaumburg IL 60168-4079 USA

# Continuum

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Join us in Chicago, July 7-10, 2001!

1319371824



## LLLI and Alumnae update

❖ **Have you retired recently?** Due to the many challenges inherent with the change to an entirely new computer system at LLLI, many Leaders who retired from September 1999 through September 2000 did not receive the mailing from the LLLI Alumnae Association (due to cost, this mailing is currently only sent to retiring Leaders in the USA). For the last several years, the Alum Association has acknowledged a Leader's retirement with a certificate and sent a Retired Leader Update form for current personal, family, and career information; a Retiring Leader Survey; and an issue of CONTINUUM if that Leader is not already receiving it. If you retired during this time period and would like to receive this mailing, please contact Pam Oselka.

❖ **Is your neighborhood hospital baby-friendly?** An updated action folder by WABA is available from LLLI. *Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative Action Folder 2000*, #843-17, \$1.50 ea.

❖ **The best kept secret in LLLI?** The Alumnae Association got a big boost at the 2000 Texas Area Conference, thanks to the encouragement of ACS Cathy Stephen and the enthusiasm of Alumnae members Nancy Franklin and Edna Kelly. If you'd like to find out more about how the Alumnae Association was promoted at the conference (and the fun they had!), contact Nancy via e-mail: <Nbflll77@aol.com>

❖ **LLLI goes corporate.** La Leche League has developed a variety of Corporate Lactation Room Packages designed to provide breastfeeding information to nursing mothers at the workplace. Each package offers a combination of books, pamphlets, and videos plus LLL Group and membership information, catalogues, and more. For more information or a brochure to share with your workplace, contact Schielany Bautista at LLLI, 847-519-7730, extension 206.