



Up Against the Wall

Carol Garrison

Faye Dambrot, co-director of the Institute for Life-Span Development and Gerontology at The University of Akron, never gave up on the idea of a recognized, independent Women's Studies program. She and others planned and campaigned until they found a connection. The University of Akron's new provost, Frank Marini, was married to Dr. Elsie Adams, the feminist and author of *Up Against the Wall Mother*. Seizing on this connection, Faye and her band of feminist faculty and students—by this time including me—threatened to organize a sit-in in the women's restroom in Buchtel Hall, the building housing the offices of the president and provost.

We didn't have to carry out our threat. Instead, we were able to invite Dr. Adams to visit campus to lecture about her book and discuss other feminist writers. It was exhilarating, and it was also the impetus that brought about the Women's Studies Program at The University of Akron, which was approved in the spring of 1986. I, by mandate of Faye, became its founding director.

Faye Dambrot never stopped being the wind beneath the wings that propelled the Women's Studies Program to expand, creating a vibrant town and gown for Akron's academic and community women. She is the reason that the University still has a Women's Studies program today and the Women's & Gender Resource Center, where students can find their voices and discover their futures.