*Feminists Who Changed America 1963- ­1975*, edited by Barbara J. Love

"**Chesler, Phyllis​ (1940­-)** is a feminist author, professor emerita and activist. Active in the Northern Student Movement civil rights movement and anti­Vietnam War movement, Chesler began attending NOW meeting in 1967. She lectured about and taught courses on women's studies at a number of Free Schools; helped women get abortions; and supported one of the country's first women's crisis centers, on Dean Street in Brooklyn. She is a co­founder (1969) of the Association for Women in Psychology. That same year, Chesler received a Ph.D. in psychology from the New School of Social Research (New York City) and began teaching at Richmond College, a branch of City University of New York (CUNY) on Staten Island, as the only female member of the psychology faculty. She turned the women's course first into a minor and later a major at Richmond College. In 1971, Chesler and others at CUNY began a class action suit on behalf of women against CUNY, which was won 17 years later. With Vivian Gornick, Chesler created an early feminist salon (1970­1971). She was involved in the formation and on the board of Women's Action Alliance. By late 1971­1972 she was also dealing with racism and anti­Semitism among feminists. In 1975 she co-led one of the first feminist Passover seders and continued to do so for 18 years. In 1974­1975 she co­founded the National Women's Health Network. Despite her groundbreaking feminist work, Chesler had to fight hard for tenure and to keep it, and investigated several times for (presumably) teaching "man­hating," "witchcraft" and "lesbianism." She did not become a full professor for 22 years. From 1987­1999 she served as editor at large for On the Issues magazine. Chesler is the author Women and Madness (Doubleday and Company, 1972); Women, Money and Power, with Emily Jane Goodman (William Morrow & Company, 1976),About Men (Simon & Schuster, 1978), With Child: A Diary of Motherhood (Lippincott & Crowell, 1979), Mothers on Trial: The Battle for Children and Custody (McGraw­Hill, 1986), Sacred Bond: The Legacy of Baby M. (Times Books/Random House, 1988), Patriarchy: Notes of an Expert Witness (Common Courage Press, 1994), Letters to a Young Feminist (Four Walls Eight Windows, 1998), Woman's Inhumanity to Woman (Nation Books, 2002), Women of the Wall: Claiming Sacred Ground at Judaism's Holy Site, with Rivka Haut (Jewish Lights, 2003), and The New Anti­Semitism: The Current Crisis and What We Must Do ABout It (Jossey­Bass/John Wiley, 2003). Archives: Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture, Duke University, Durham, NC."