



For immediate release:
Press Contact:

March 24, 2008
Jo Ann Driscoll
(510) 663-1473

**PROMINENT WEST COAST FEMINIST,
AUTHOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF PACIFIC INSTITUTE,
DR. DORIS BERSING,
FEATURED AT AMERICAN SOCIETY ON AGING CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON DC – MARCH 26-30, 2008**

**Aging Women from Crone to Mentor – Feminists’ Role in Later Life
Going Beyond Tolerance – Embracing vs Accepting LGBT – Training for Caregivers**

(San Francisco, CA) Dr. Doris Bersing, Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Institute, one of the West Coast’s most innovative non-profit educational organizations dedicated to offering new perspectives in the field of mental health, gerontology, and the education of future caregivers, will be a featured speaker at American Society on Aging’s National Conference March 26 – 30, 2008 in Washington, DC. Pacific Institute’s multi-faceted approach includes its AgeSong Institute of Elder Wellness, Awakenings Institute of Mental Wellness, and its Elders Academy Press.

Dr. Bersing will offer her perspectives on what has happened to feminism and the now aging Baby Boomers who led the feminist effort over the past decades, asking and providing her perspectives on provocative questions including, “Is the fight over? Did we win?” Dr. Bersing will focus on the role of feminists, feminist psychologists, and others, along with current studies in this area, synthesizing over 450 interviews she has conducted with leading scholars and activists.

The plight of older women in contemporary American society is also examined by Dr. Bersing in a presentation as she explores and presents data collected on thousands of “Boomer women.” In examining a society that worships youth, older women can and do find new significant roles to play in their later years.

Equally compelling is Dr. Bersing's research and observations of today's aging lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) populations. Her research and efforts highlight the need for a basic attitudinal shift from acceptance to a model of care going beyond tolerance and the necessity of providing sensitivity training for care providers so that they may become embracing of LGBT elders.

Pacific Institute is acclaimed for its cutting-edge research and supportive treatment of elders with non-ordinary states of consciousness through its gero-psychology program focused mainly on dementia. The organization provides services within an existential, humanistic, and transpersonal model of care. This philosophy is the centerpiece of the organization's services and educational training programs for undergraduate, doctoral, and post-doctoral students.

Dr. Bersing received her doctorate from L'Universite de Toulouse-Mirail in France. Dr. Bersing has taught and led therapeutic groups and academic circles in Europe, South America, Central America, the Caribbean, and now in the United States. She has served as a women's advocate and mental health provider for community-based programs and clinics in different countries – especially for clients presenting gender, cross-cultural and mental health issues. She is the author of "Self-Esteem for Women: Utopia or Truth in the New Age" (1995) and "Living: A Fragile Equilibrium. A Theoretical Approach in Gestalt Therapy and Personalization (1996)."

For more information call Pacific Institute at 415-861-3455 or visit the website at www.pacificinstitute.org

AT ASA – DR. BERSING'S PRESENTATIONS
PLEASE REFER TO THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS

Friday, March 28, 12 – 1pm	Older Women
Saturday, March 29, 2:45 – 3:45pm	Aging Women: From Crone to Mentor
Saturday, March 29, 4 – 5pm	Embracing LGBT: An Existential Training Model