

♀ ON OUR WAY

Newsletter of the Women's Center
46 Pleasant Street Cambridge Massachusetts 02139

(617) 354-8807

WINTER 1986

TTY and VOICE



BIRTHDAY PARTY

It's our 14th birthday!! Come celebrate the Women's Center anniversary on Sunday, January 26 from noon to 4 PM. There will be food, music, films, discussions and idle chatter throughout the afternoon. If you're interested in joining a Center project or a support group, you can sign up or find our meeting days and times. Women who've never visited the Center are especially encouraged to come by. We'd also like to see those old friends of the Center who haven't been by for a while. A good time will be had by all!!

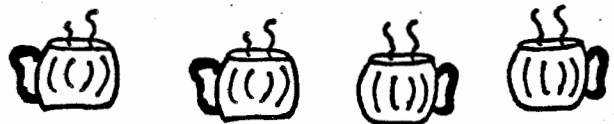
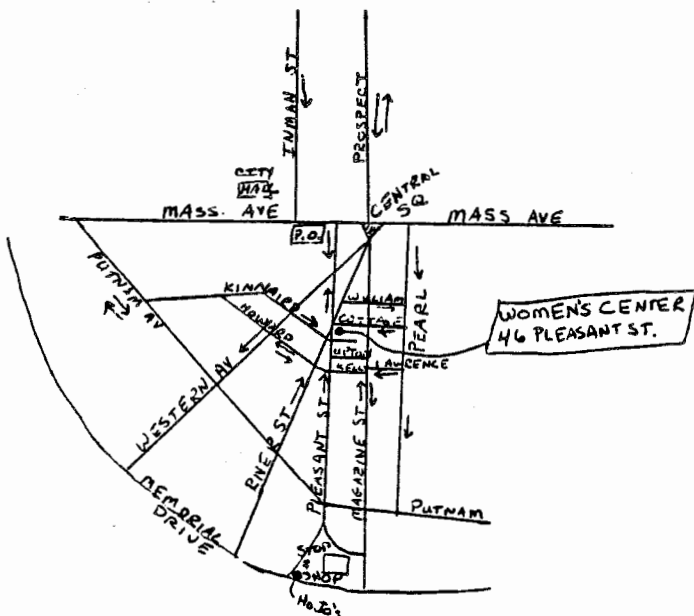
JOB COUNSELLING DAY

Have you been wanting to get a good resume together? Or perfect your interviewing skills for your next job interview? Do you know what kind of job you want, or do you need help in making that decision? Do you know how to go about finding the job you want? These are just some of the topics which will be covered at the Job Counseling Day For Women to be held at the Women's Center, Saturday, January 25 from 10 AM to 2 PM, followed by "Motivating Yourself: Next Steps" session from 2 to 3PM. Professional job counselors will volunteer their time for this event and it is free to all women. Manual, skilled trades, clerical and professional job listings will also be available. Don't miss this opportunity!! All women are welcome. Refreshments will be served. For more info call 354-8807.

WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE

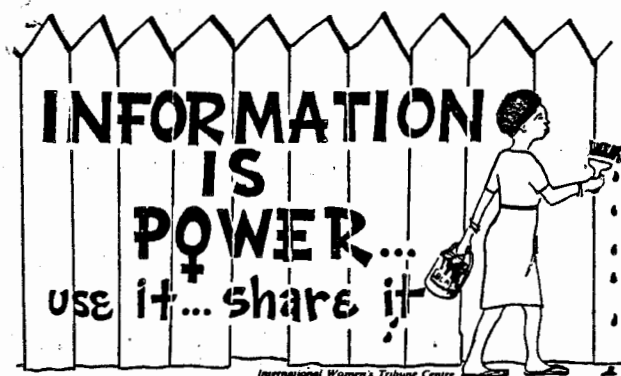
Beginning Friday January 17 the Women's Center will be open from 7pm to midnight as a free women-only Coffeehouse. Coffee and tea will be available. Food, games & entertainment are B.Y.O. (unless otherwise donated). Come to socialize or to be antisocial in a social space.

If interested in working with the coffeehouse, making donations (food, games,...) sharing ideas about it, call 354-8807, and leave message for Sky.



WOMEN'S SCHOOL

A weekend of workshops was held this fall by the Women's School on November 15, 16 and 17. Both participants and facilitators felt that the weekend was a success. The Friday night Utopia workshop was thought provoking, despite the fact that both the facilitator and the participants were exhausted after a long work week. The massage workshop was very well attended and there may be a full weekend of massage in the future. Both the graffiti workshop and the writing workshop led to outside activity by the participants. Several women who attended the graffiti group have begun a stop rape graffiti campaign in Watertown Square, the site of several recent assaults. In the case of the writing workshop, a regular writer's group was discussed for the future. If you would like to help organize future Women's School events, or are interested in teaching a workshop in the future, the collective meets from 7:30 to 9:30 PM on Wednesday nights at the Women's Center. Please feel free to attend or call the Center and leave a message for the Women's School



LESBIAN MOTHERS

The Lesbian Mothers Group is disbanding temporarily. Twenty-five women have participated in the group over the past year and a half. However, the core group who organizes the group has dwindled to two. Perhaps it is the nature of lesbian motherhood that makes it difficult to commit some consistent time and energy to a group. The two women who have kept the support group alive are willing to help a new group get started, share resources and so forth. New ideas and energy are needed for the group to continue. If interested, call or leave a message for Libby through the Women's Center, 354-8807.

NEW WOMEN'S CHORUS

If you've been at the Center on Monday evenings, you may have wondered about the singing voices filtering up from the basement. They belong to the New Women's Chorus, which has been practicing here at the Center for the past couple of months. The Chorus is open to new members by audition only. Watch for notices at the Center about the next auditions. For more info call Jennifer at 524-8664.

ASPECTS OF AGING GROUP

The "Aspects of Aging" group is open to any woman who wishes to consider the impact of aging on the lives of women. We meet on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. (bring your own supper if you wish) The group asks for a 6 week commitment and will accept new members until Jan. 19, 1986. For info call Eve at 926-9778.

COMING OUT GROUP

The Coming Out Support Group seems to be fizzling out these days (Tuesdays 7:30-9:30) If you'd like to be involved and would be willing to help get the group going at full steam again, please call Sharon at 354-8807. In the meantime, a room is available for women who want to talk about coming out issues on Tuesdays at 7:30pm.

GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP

General Women's Support Group meets each Tuesday from 8 to 9:30 PM in the large basement. In an open forum format weekly emphasis is placed on goal setting and discussion of progress towards these goals. Interest points include family, career, relationships, and personal development. Currently scheduled for each Tuesday in January, further scheduling depends on membership. For more info call Autumn 782-1280 or Milly 492-9079.



DECISIONS, DECISIONS

How do we help a fading group to survive and grow? Should we give space at the Center to a "Ladies for Reagan" group? Who do we approach for funds and why?

How are the decisions made that affect the Women's Center as a whole. Until now, there was a biweekly meeting, Staff and Projects, for that purpose. Representations from every Center project (eg. RCC, Women's School, staff) were supposed to attend the meetings and return to their projects with the details of each meeting. Each project was supposed to discuss any issues that were brought up and send someone to the next Staff and Projects meeting with their recommendations for decisions. If there was disagreement at the Staff and Projects meeting, since we operate by consensus, the issue went back to the projects for further discussion. Poor attendance at meetings and the drawn out nature of the process resulted in very bogged down decision-making. Controversial issues would either plunge us into months of indecision and internal antagonism or simmer on a back burner endlessly.

At the last Staff and Projects, a New Decision-Making Structure was agreed upon! Instead of Staff and Projects the Center will have bi-weekly "All Center" meetings. Project members and other women who work at the Center will have the authority to make decisions at the meeting, then and there. Major changes in Center policy may be required to be approved at 2 consecutive meetings. We will continue to operate by consensus. Women who are not currently working at the Center or a member of a Center project but who would like to attend, are welcome to provide input but decision-making will reside with project members and women who work at the Center. There are details to be worked out but the concept is that those who want a role in the decision-making process are responsible to attend the meetings.

At any given All-Center meeting, major topics to be discussed at the next meeting would be decided upon and posted. Other items can be added to the agenda before the next meeting. All Center meetings happen every other Monday from 6 to 8 PM at the Women's Center.

OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Wondering what happened to the Introductory Group? Well, the group is now called the Feminist Discussion Group. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 8-10pm. All women are invited to attend. Upcoming topics include:

- Jan 15 - Women's Energy
- Jan 22 - Pornography
- Jan 29 - Coming Out
- Feb 5 - Having Fun
- Feb 12 - Sexual Stereotypes
- Feb 19 - Homophobia
- Feb 26 - Sexism in the Workplace

If you have any suggestions for topics or would like further information, call Deb at 576-1931.

LESBIANS CHOOSING CHILDREN

The Lesbians Choosing Children Network is an information & support network for lesbians deciding to have children biologically, by adoption, foster parenting & co-parenting.. In addition to our monthly meetings, we put out a newsletter 10 times/year. Also, we are planning a day long conference in April and we need women to help us plan it. For more information, leave a message for us at the Center.

LESBIAN LIBERATION

Lesbian Liberation is alive and well and meeting every Thursday 8-10pm at the Women's Center. Over the last three months the group met and discussed a variety of topics including our relationships with our parents, lesbians & the workplace, being lesbian & married, and stereotypes within the lesbian community -- to name a few. Suggestions for topics are always welcome. The group is open to all women of all ages -- those who identify as lesbians and those who are unsure of their identity. For more info, please call Elizabeth at 776-5675.

MENOPAUSE COLLECTIVE

The Menopause Collective meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Center. Women of all ages are welcome for self-help discussions on issues of mid-life women's health. Contact Davi at 244-0330 for info.

ONGOING GROUPS AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER

MONDAY

- Support Group for Battered Women 6:30-8pm
 Self-Help Group for Drug Addicts 7:30-9pm
 All-Center Meeting 6-8pm
 biweekly

TUESDAY

- Rape Crisis Center 7-10pm
 Women's General Support Group 8-10pm
 Former Nun Lesbian Support Group 7pm
 monthly

WEDNESDAY

- Support Group for Battered Women Noon-1pm
 Women's School 7-9:30pm
 Menopause Collective 5:30pm
 monthly
 Feminist Discussion Group 8-10pm
 Lesbian Al-Anon 6:30-8pm
 Lesbian Teachers 7-9pm
 biweekly

THURSDAY

- Lesbian Liberation 8-10pm
 Incest Resources 7:30-9:30pm
 monthly
 Lesbians Choosing Children Network 7:30pm

SUPPORT GROUP FOR BATTERED WOMEN

The support group offers help to women free of charge in an informal setting. Battered women can find new directions for their lives by sharing their concerns with others in the same situation and by exploring new ways of dealing with this all too common problem.

Come to the Women's Center any Monday at 6:30pm or Wednesday at noon. For more info call 661-7203 or 354-8807.

INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources is a non-profit counseling and educational organization founded in January 1981 by women with incest histories. On the third Thursday of every month we offer a drop-in discussion group for women with incest histories (Sept.-June). The group meets 7:30-9:30pm at the Women's Center. Upcoming meeting topics include:

- Feb 20 - Substance abuse
- March 20 - Control
- April 17 - Relationships
- May 15 - Sexuality

Networking for the formation of self-help groups is encouraged at the discussion group. Members of Incest Resources are no longer available for phone inquiries. Resource information and referrals for individual/group therapy are presently being provided by Boston Area Rape Crisis Center. If interested, call 492-RAPE weekdays between 9am and 5pm. A referral and resource book maintained by Incest Resources is also available at the Women's Center. Your feedback on referrals is important to Incest Resources so please feel free to utilize the comments section of the resources book.

FORMER NUNS

Former Nun Lesbian Support Group

This is a discussion group for women who are or were nuns. The group held it's first meeting in October, 1985 and wishes to invite new women to come to meetings. The purpose of the group is to provide a forum where current and former nuns can share their experiences about religious life, the impact that the convent has had on their lives and various ways they can cope with that powerful past experience today. Several women from the group met with Rosemary Curb, co-editor of Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence, during her speaking engagement at Boston University in December.

If you are a lesbian nun or former nun and wish to network with others with the same experience, the meetings are held at the Women's Center on the first Tuesday of each month at 7PM.



PROCHOICE RALLY

Prochoice Rally - January 22, 1986

The prochoice community will gather on Jan. 22 to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Speakers at the event will highlight the broad base of support for the prochoice position, and will address recent actions taken by the Reagan administration and the Massachusetts legislature to undermine women's right to choose.

Speakers at the rally will include:

Gayle Brooks - State Coordinator, Conn. NOW.

Dr. Kenneth Edelin - Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Boston City Hospital.

Mary Hunt - Member, Board of Directors, Catholics for a Free Choice.

Joyce Miller - National President, Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Juanita Wade - Member Boston School Committee
Please join us in our commemoration of 13 years of safe, legal abortion. The event will be held on Jan. 22 at 7 PM at the Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury Street, Boston. The event is sponsored by the Coalition for Choice, representing nearly 40 social service, community, civic and health organizations committed to preserving reproductive freedom. To help with planning or for further info call Rboin Witten Smith at 492-0518.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Anti-Apartheid Movement : Looking Back and Looking Forward

In an effort to assess the progress of the anti-apartheid movement and plan strategy for the future, Cassandra Bryan (staffperson for the Southern Africa Support Committee of Mass.) and Sake Macozoma (South African activist) will be featured in an educational forum and discussion. This happens on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 PM at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. in Cambridge. This event is sponsored by Mobilization for Survival. A \$2 donation is requested. Call 354-0008 for further info.

Picket against Henry Hyde, Sunday, Jan 19, 1pm, Fanuil Hall, Boston at the Mass. Citizens for Life Campaign Kick-off to curtail abortion rights.

Forum on Reproductive Technology, Feb 22, Park Sq. Campus, U. Mass/Boston. Planning committee contact - Elizabeth, 524-6631

Rosie's Snowball: A Women's Dance to Benefit Rosie's Place. Fri. Jan 24, 8:30pm, Boston YWCA (Clarendon & Stuart St.) Admission \$5. Dance contests, door prizes, raffle! Proceeds toward construction of new shelter for poor and homeless women.

The Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women and the Massachusetts Jobs with Peace Campaign are planning a public response to the Reagan administration's Federal Budget. These groups are planning to speak out on the inequities of the Federal Budget through press conferences and protests in the days immediately following the release of the Budget in late January or early February. Planning for these actions is going on now. If you would like to help, call 498-9014.

MARCH 9th MARCH

Boston NOW plans to mobilize 1,000's of people to participate in NOW's March 9th march for women's lives in Washington D.C. The national march will unite more than 200,000 pro-choice advocates.

The presence of a large Mass. delegation at the march is particularly crucial in the face of a proposed anti-abortion amendment to the Mass. State Constitution. The amendment would give the state legislature power to prohibit both public and private funds for abortion, despite the fact that the majority of people in Mass. are pro-choice.

Round trip bus fare is \$35. Buses leave Boston at 10PM Saturday, March 8 and return at midnight, Sunday March 9. Reservations for buses: Call Boston NOW at 661-6015.

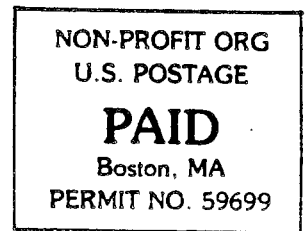
Carol Hill, lifelong Cambridge resident and activist, is in prison for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury. She needs our support. For further info and to assist Carol and her family:

Carol Hill Defense Committee
P.O. Box 481
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617-492-8460)

Carol can be written at:

Carol Hill
Adult Correctional Institute
Cranston, RI 02920

THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.
46 Pleasant street
Cambridge, MA 02139



Address correction requested

THANKS!

For Your Support

With it, the Women's Center has existed for fourteen years already.

Without it, there would be no Womens' Center

Please continue to strengthen the Women's Liberation Movement with your presence, energy, ideas, comments and financial assistance!!

THE CENTER IS OPEN

Monday-Thursday 10am - 10pm
Friday 10am - 5pm
Saturday 10am - 1pm
(Saturday hours may be changing soon.
Call before coming.)

MARCH ON

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 1986 - MARCH 8

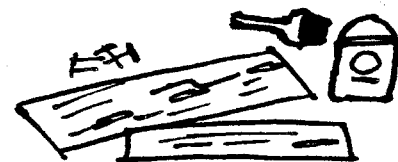
--dedicated to Winnie Mandela--

NOON: Rally at Copley Square and march to Mass College of Art for speakers (Saundra Graham and others), entertainment, food, literature and info tables.

Sponsored by a coalition of Boston Area Women's Groups. Info: Louise Vrande, 491-6050.

ACCESSIBILITY

The wheelchair lift is now operating. The first floor bathroom is being moved to a better location, which involves electrical work, plumbing, enlarging a doorway, laying a new floor, plastering and painting. Any woman who would like to help with this project, please call Judy at 354-8807. Work is moving along at a decent clip, and hopefully the bathroom will be usable within a few weeks.



BOSTON WOMEN'S FUND

Join the Fight for Social and Economic Justice
The Boston Women's Fund, a 3 year old foundation which offers financial and technical assistance to community-based women's projects, is seeking volunteers. If you are interested in fundraising, media outreach, the BWF newsletter or clerical support work, please come to our Volunteer Open House on Feb. 4th at 7:30 PM on the 9th floor of the Park Square Building, 31 St. James Ave., Boston. There will be wine, cheese, and an informal introduction to the activities of the Fund. For more info, call Stephanie Borns at 542-5955.