

# ♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE

SPRING 87



It's very easy, here at the Women's Center, to get immersed in reacting to the day-to-day requests and pressures that stream in, and in the mechanics of maintaining the Center. If we just try to be what people expect of us, we are kept completely busy, and still there's always much more to do than can be done.

The challenge for the Women's Center, now, is to become more deliberate, to focus on what we are doing and why, and what changes we can make to become a place that more clearly, steadily and cohesively moves forward.

You are encouraged to join us at the following upcoming All-Center meetings for, hopefully, thought-provoking discussions and momentous decisions. Written proposals, including suggestions for change, why the change would be good, and how it could be accomplished, are most welcome.

Monday, May 4, 6-8pm: Where is the Women's Liberation Movement now, where do we think it's going and how does the Women's Center want to connect, reflect, uphold, help? (how does the Women's Center fit into the picture?)

Monday, May 18, 6-7pm: We have more and more 'support' groups at the Center lately, and fewer 'action'-oriented groups. Why? What do they accomplish? Are there problems? What, if any, changes should we make in what groups use the Center, or how the groups function?

Monday, June 1, 6-7pm: 'Outreach' - specific plans for what we want to do in relation to the women who do not know about or use the Women's Center. There are lots & lots of options. Considering that we have limited time and money, what should we take on? And how do we best go about it?

Monday, June 15, 6-7pm: Fundraising issues - How do we do fundraising? Do we want to do new things, or old things differently? What and how?

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!  
HELP MAKE THE CENTER BETTER!!

## FUNDING CRISIS

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center is funded through a Federal Block Grant (the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant). Due to cuts in Federal funding, the Block Grant will be cut by \$500,000. This could mean a 24% cut in BARCC's funding. We currently receive \$40,000/year from the Block Grant, and our total budget is only \$46,000. The one other Rape Crisis Center on the Block Grant is CPASA, the Community Program Against Sexual Assault (in Roxbury) which serves black and Hispanic women. All other RCC's are funded with state money.

We are asking the legislature to offset this cut by allocating state funds for us. To do this, they would need to increase our line item in the budget (line item 4513-1000) by \$20,000 (to cover the costs of two RCC's). Please show your support by writing your state legislators at The State House, Boston, MA 02133.

## EXPANDED HOURS

Monday-Thursday 10am - 10pm  
Friday 10am - 8pm  
(open Fri 5-8pm on a trial basis)  
Friday Coffeehouse 8pm-Midnite  
Saturday 11am - 2pm

## GOOD-BYE, GOOD LUCK TO SHARON

Sharon Stonekey, the Center coordinator, is no longer working at the Women's Center. Sharon began working here in October, 1985. She was able to recruit and train enough women to staff the Women's Center so that, for the first time, volunteers are covering the Center virtually all the time, freeing paid staff to do other work. She participated in the outreach committee and the finance committee. Sharon maintained the Political Action Hotline and was an organizer of the Political Action Group. She attended several local and state meetings as the Center representative including Up From Poverty Campaign and Women's Legislative Network. We would like to thank Sharon for devoting her energy and ideas to Center and wish her well in whatever new directions her life may take.

## NEW THERAPY GROUP AT THE CENTER

A new therapy group begins May 14th. The group will run for 7 weeks, until June 25. Focus: building & maintaining more intimate relationships. The group is designed as a forum to discuss intimacy issues as a direct result of our early training and as a framework to explore intimacy issues through the group process.

Meets 5:30-7pm, Thursdays, May 14th to June 25, at The Women's Center. Contact: Jane Hynes, psychotherapist, Women's Counseling & Resource Center. For more info. and to enroll, 484-8517. As the group size is limited, pre-enrollment is necessary. No charge, but donations to the Center are welcome.

## BOOK ON OVER

### BOOK SALE Extravaganza

The Women's Center Library is having a gigantic BOOK SALE, Saturday, May 30th, 11am to 3pm, at the Center. Hundreds of wonderful books on sale for 25 to 50 cents. Terrific Buys! Prepare now for your summer reading!

The proceeds will go toward the purchase of new books and subscriptions for the Library. We are still accepting donations of books for the sale (up to Monday, May 26th). Bring them to the Center.

## DO YOU STILL THINK YOU'RE TOO FAT?

A tremendous number of women do, no matter what their size. Even though the American Medical Assoc., known for being conservative, tells us that 90-98% of all diets ultimately fail, we women continue to damage our bodies and our psyches by starving, stuffing and guilt-tripping. A year ago, some women who were exhausted and angry from trying to conform to the impossible standard of thinness joined a group at the Women's Center called Fat is a Feminist Issue. The group eventually evolved into the Politics of Fat group and is made up of 5-8 women of differing sizes, classes and races. We are joyfully and angrily exploring fat oppression and societal pressures to be thin. We believe dieting is self-abuse and we are learning to love and accept ourselves as we are now. We encourage women who share these concerns to join us! We meet every other Wednesday, 7:30-9:30 pm at the Women's Center. Call 354-8807 or Judy at 321-8636 for information. The next meeting is April 29th.

!! WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE !!

## WELCOME SASHA

Sasha Curran, who has volunteered at the Women's Center in many different ways over the last nine years, has just been hired to do the Center's bookkeeping. We greatly appreciate all she has done and are excited that she has agreed to take the job.

The bookkeeping has been done, for the most part, by Jean Rioux, who also does fundraising for the Center. In our recent efforts to get on top of the financial picture at the Center, we decided we should have different people doing the bookkeeping and the fundraising. In addition, the Center books will now be maintained on our computer. Jean has agreed to help train Sasha during this transition period. We look forward to working with Sasha and thank Jean for her work over the years in this area.

## EXPANDED HOURS

!!!! FRIDAYS 5 to 8 pm !!!!

For the next few months, the Women's Center will be open FRIDAYS, 5 to 8 pm.





# MAY LESSONS



\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* !!! THE WOMEN'S SCHOOL PRESENTS !!! \*  
 \* Yet another wondrous \*  
 \* **yard sale** \*  
 \* Saturday, May 9 -- 10 AM to 2 PM \*  
 \* 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge \*  
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If you have items to donate (clothes, kitchen stuff, books, pictures, TV's ...) PLEASE bring them to the Women's Center when you come to the yard sale. The Center doesn't have any storage space to collect items beforehand. THANKS.

## ONGOING GROUPS AT THE CENTER

### MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women . 6:30-8pm
- \*New Women's Chorus . . . . . 7-10pm
- Lesbian Liberation . . . . . 8-10pm
- Narcotics Anonymous. . . . . 7:30-9pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's. . . 7:30-9:45pm  
Network -Intro Mtg. (bimonthly)
- All-Center Meeting . . . . . 6-8pm  
(biweekly)

### TUESDAY

- \*Rape Crisis Center . . . . . 7-10pm
- Former Nun Lesbian Support . 7pm  
Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)

### WEDNESDAY

- Support for Battered Women . Noon-1pm
- Feminist Discussion Group. . 8-10pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare). 6:30-8pm
- Writer's Support . . . . . 7:30-9:45pm
- Politics of Fat. . . . . 7:30-9:30pm  
(biweekly)
- \*Back Pain Support Group . . . 7:30-9:45pm  
(biweekly)

### THURSDAY

- Incest Resources . . . . . 7:30-9:30pm  
(third Thurs., monthly)
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm  
Network (second Thurs., monthly)
- \*Support Group for Lesbians . 7:45-9:45pm  
with Chronic Back Pain (biweekly)
- \*Women's School . . . . . 7-9:30pm

\* means group is not open to new members

## BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT

We welcome all battered women. Come and share this all too common problem and learn that you are not alone in what you are experiencing. We can explore options and alternatives and find ways to change the situation to allow you to grow and once again become your own person.

Discussing the Unmentionable - Urinary Incontinence -- May 2, 2-4pm

Sun Tides/Moon Tides: Cycles of Life -- May 2, 2-4:30pm

"Our Boston Heritage" - Lesbian History Slideshow and Discussion -- May 8, 8-10pm

Women's Storytelling: Telling the Story of Our Lives -- May 9 & 16, 11am-1pm

Writer's Support Group -- Ongoing, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm

c.R.A.S.H. course: A Workshop with Rock Against Sexism -- May 9, 1-4pm at FemmeCore Space, 464 Harrison Ave. (near Dover Station on the Orange Line)

A Self-Defense Workshop for Women Over 40 -- May 12, 7-9:30pm

The Writing on the Wall - Women's Graffiti Slideshow and Discussion -- May 15, 8-10pm

All events (except as noted) will be at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge (Red-line to Central Square). Childcare will be provided ONLY if you request it in advance.

Registration forms can be obtained by calling or visiting the Center.

The Women's School has been offering free classes and workshops by and for women for 15 years. Facilitators, childcare workers and other staff are all volunteers, but we rely on contributions to cover postage, printing and other expenses. Please contribute what you can afford for your classes and workshops. Donations are tax-deductible.

## INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources sponsors and facilitates a monthly drop-in discussion group for women with histories of incest. This meets on the third Thursday of every month (Sept-June) from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Women's Center. To insure confidentiality and safety, meetings are not open to friends/support people. Upcoming topics are:

- May 21 Healing
- June 18 Letting Go



THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.  
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Phone: (617) 354-8807

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RETURN TO SENDER



Our mailing list, made up of individuals and organizations, now totals about 1000. Every so often, we attempt to update our list by putting 'Address correction requested' on our newsletter. If people have moved, the post office returns the newsletter to us with a forwarding address (if available), at a cost of 22 cents for each piece. So, if you have moved and didn't tell us your new address, it cost us nearly 30 cents to send out a newsletter and have it returned by the post office. Plus, you never even received it.

We have been doing our best to keep track of our friends and supporters, but it is just getting too expensive! If you want to keep receiving ON OUR WAY after you move, PLEASE send in your new address, or just call and let us know. If you, for any reason, don't want to continue to receive ON OUR WAY, we'd be incredibly grateful if you'd let us know so we can save our funds for other projects. We do not charge for the newsletter, but of course, donations of any amount are appreciated. (Tax-deductible, to The Women's Center)

\_\_\_ Add me to the Center's mailing list

\_\_\_ Change my address on your mailing list

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I want to help the Center. Here is my tax-deductible contribution  
\$5      \$10      \$25      \$50      \$100      \$500      other

\_\_\_ I could help out other ways. Call me at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Staffing at the Center  
\_\_\_ Typing  
\_\_\_ Helping with Mailings  
\_\_\_ Updating Referrals

\_\_\_ Spring Cleaning  
\_\_\_ Repotting Plants  
\_\_\_ Digging up the yard  
\_\_\_ Giving furniture, etc.