# QN OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE





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THE WOMEN'S CENTER'S 15TH BIRTHDAY Saturday, January 24, 2 to 5pm

Featuring:

Women in prison at MCI-Framingham: an informal presentation of issues facing women in prison right now, a videotape about MCI-Framingham, and a time for questions.

A historical presentation about the Women's Center and the contemporary Boston area Women's Liberation Movement

The Women's School will talk about what it's doing, its history, and answer questions about joining the collective, giving a workshop, teaching a course or whatever.

Members of other groups, including 'For Crying Out Loud' will participate in discussions.

AND Live music by local women artists!

!!!!All women and children welcome!!!!

Women's Center Hours

Monday-Thursday 10am - 10pm Friday 10am - 5pm Friday Coffeehouse 8pm-Midnite Saturday 11am - 2pm 7 4 4

#### FOR CRYING OUT LOUD

In June of 1986, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, the newsletter for women survivors of child sexual abuse, passed from the founding members to the current collective, who are determined that this very special forum will continue to be published. We are grateful to the Women's Center for bringing us together, and for serving as our meeting place and mailing address. There is no other resource in our community with the Center's strength and commitment to women struggling to empower themselves.

For many survivors of incest and related horrors, FOR CRYING DUT LOUD is the only place where they can feel safe to share their personal histories, their frustrations, and their rage, the sum of which will lead to their ultimate healing.

After years of unnamed pain, enforced silence, private shame, and maddening isolation, together survivors of child sexual abuse can cry out loud!

What started as a powerful form of group therapy and support, inspired by Ellen Bass, is evolving into a genuine social movement, and FOR CRYING OUT LOUD is one of the major voices of that movement.

Survivors are welcome to send us their creative outpourings in pictures or words, in care of The Women's Center.

Look for the next issue in late winter. With love and healing power,

The Survivor's Newsletter Collective



#### WRITERS SUPPORT GROUP

The Writers Support Group is an open, ongoing group that meets weekly at the Center, Wednesdays at 7:30pm. All skill/experience levels and forms of writing are welcome. If you want to share your writing with other writers, exchange ideas and criticism from a feminist perspective, and are willing to make a commitment to come regularly, come join us. Or call Sylvan for more info. at 547-6766 eves (491-4110 days).

#### FORMER NUN LESBIANS

The former nun lesbian support group welcomes all women with current or past affiliation with a religious order. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Center, 7 to 9pm.

While most meetings involve discussion of our "issues", the group has viewed TV documentaries together and shared the group's first year anniversary potluck supper at the Center.

We look forward to welcoming new members! Please contact the Center for more info.



#### FAT IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

Every other Wednesday, 7:30-9:30pm, a support group for women dealing with issues around food, body image, and self acceptance meets at the Center. We work on making peace with food and becoming aware of how we use it. We're seeking new members! All women are welcome!

Help is needed with organization of leafleting campaigns and public actions on "The War for Women's Equality is Not Over", "Happy Father's Day--Incest Report", "Veterans of the War Against Women: Rape, Battery, and Murder", and similar actions. Sponsored by the Women's Center. Contact Sharon at 354-8807, days.

#### OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Come join us on Wednesday evenings, 8 to 10 pm for informal discussions about our common experiences as women.

UPCOMING TOPICS

Jan 28--Isolation in Contemporary Society Feb 4---Women of Color: Poetry, Readings, and Discussion

Feb 11--Feminist Humor

Feb 18--Coming Out as a Feminist

Feb 25--Women Taking a Stand in the Nuclear Age

#### 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:

February 19 Families March 19 Mourning

For more information, call the Center or 492-1818.

#### BATTERED WOMEN

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. The group meets Wednesday mornings at 11:45am and Monday evenings at 6:30pm at the Women's Center.

#### FINEX HOUSE

We at Finex House have much to rejoice about in this New Year, with the ecent opening of the first shelter for disabled battered women in the state! Our new shelter is wheelchair accessible, and has a special light signal system for our deaf guests to respond to door bells, baby cries and fire alarms. Finex House services battered women and their children who are not being serviced by the existing shelter network. We are able to shelter 35 people a day. This is twice as many women and children as we were able to accommodate in our previous rented site. Thanks to the contributions of time, money, beds, and other items donated by people like yourself, our dream has now become a reality, making our new building into a home.

This winter, we are desperately in need of financial contributions, which are tax deductible. We also need volunteers who are willing to commit a few hours of their time to ensure that Finex House can give the best support possible to our guests and to those who are still in violent homes. We bsolutely need help on evenings and \_\_eekends to staff our 24 hour hotline, assist quests in their search for housing, and help tutor quests who want to get their GED or assist children with their homework. We have a particular need for volunteers with Sign Language skills, but even if you don't know sign, we still need YOU! Call us at 436-2002 for further info or to volunteer.

> From all of us at Finex House, HAPPY WINTER AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

FINEX HOUSE needs 3 full-time staff members. Prefer women of color and/or Spanish speaking; formerly battered; disabled women. Call Chris, Gwen or Elsa at 436-2002.

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#### WOMEN'S SCHOOL

The collective is in the process of itting together the spring term (will probably start in April). Potential collective members, teachers, interested women, come to the Center's birthday party or call 354-8807.

#### CONDUITS

Conduit = Pipeline = Women's Center
Happily, the Women's Center is in a
position to provide technical assistance
to many women's projects. By setting up
a conduit arrangement with small or newly
formed groups, the Center has been able
to help many worthwhile services come
into being. In the next few issues of
this newsletter, we will discuss how
conduits work and describe some groups
the Center is currently helping. Under a
conduit agreement, groups can ask for
financial support for themselves to be
sent to the Women's Center, thus giving
the contributions tax-exempt status.

For example, Boston Women's Community Radio just asked for, and received, a grant of \$2500 from the Boston Women's Fund, which was channeled through the Center. This group of women is producing radio in the Boston area. There are two shows aired on WMBR, 88.1 Cambridge. International Women's Day Radio will be in its 9th year this March; 24 hours of poetry, music, interviews, and commentary celebrating our victories and examining our differences. "Say It Sister" is a weekly public-affairs show. Tuesdays, 7-8pm, with interviews, and audience call-ins. There is also a monthly news magazine covering local, national and international issues of concern to women.

#### HOORAY FOR FINEX HOUSE

The Women's Center would like to congratulate FINEX HOUSE on reaching their long awaited goal of opening a shelter for disabled battered women and their children. We commend their energy, determination and commitment to helping women and children in need. The Center was proud to help this dream become a reality by serving as a conduit for donations before Finex House achieved taxexempt status, providing a mail address and helping with bulk mailing, fundraising and providing other technical assistance. We wish Finex House a long, happy and healthy life.



## WOMEN'S COUNSELING AND RESOURCE CENTER

The Women's Counseling & Resource Center has grown to 9 therapists. In addition to providing counseling to low income women, we are currently working with staff from the Women's Center to update our referral file on feminist therapists in the area.

#### AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER

-Support for Battered Women . 6:30-8pm

-New Women's Chorus . . . . 7-10pm

MONDAY

-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
-Politics of Fat 7:30-9:30pm
-Fat is a Feminist Issue 7:30-9:30pm
•
(biweekly)
-Back Pain Support Group7:30-9:45pm
(biweekly)
THURSDAY
-Lesbian Liberation 7:30-9:30pm

#### WOMEN LOOKING FOR WORK

Network

-- Incest Resources . . . . . 7:30-9:30pm

-Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm

(third Thurs., monthly)

(second Thurs., monthly)

An ongoing support group for women looking for work is currently meeting outside the center. FREE. Call Abby at 491-8896 for more info.

#### SUPPORT GROUP

Women's Support and Visualization Group is forming in the Boston/Cambridge area. Use of relaxation, visualization and discussion to support member's goals and desire for changes in their lives will highlight this leaderless, peer support group for feminist women. FREE. Will probably meet Wednesday evenings. Call Brenda, 742-9460 for more info.

#### CELEBRATE OUR VICTORIES

Join us as we celebrate the defeat of Question #1 and reaffirm our commitment to reproductive freedom and t the continuing struggle to keep abortion safe, legal and funded.

Thursday, January 22
(14th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade)
7:30 PM
Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St,
Central Square

Featuring entertainment by Semenya McCord ASL -- Spanish translation -- Child care Wheelchair accessible

Sponsored by R2N2, Boston NOW, MOBE, GLDC, AAWO.

#### THINKING AHEAD

The Lesbian and Gay Pride Planning Committee invites the community to come find out what's happening with PRIDE '87. Open House will be held on Thursday, Jan 22, 7:30pm at 34 Edgerly Road, Boston near Fenway Community Health Center (use basement entrance around back). See our slide show, learn how to join us to make this year's Pride Week, Town Meeting, Pride March, and Rally the best ever! For info: 267-2150, Pride Celebrations, Inc., P.O. Box 8916, Boston, MA 02114.

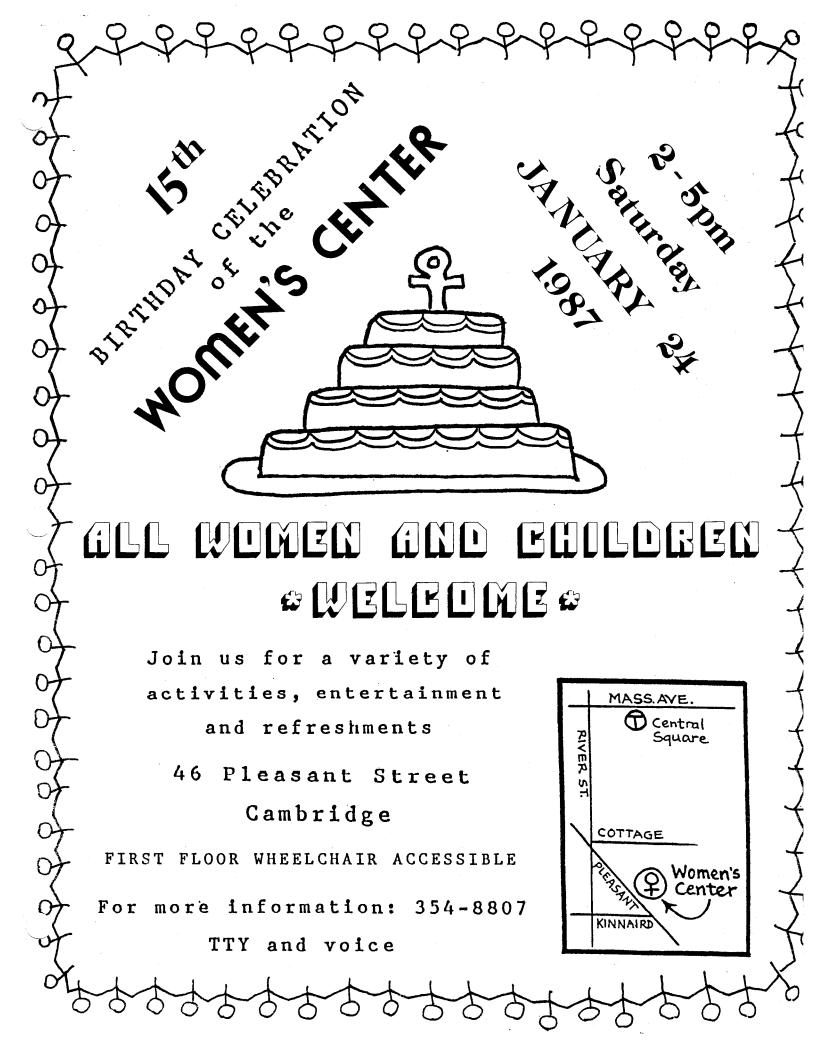
#### BATTERED LESBIANS

EDUCATION AND DIALOG ON LESBIAN BATTERING
Readings from Naming the Violence:
Speaking Out About Lesbian Battering
Sunday, January 25, 3-5pm, at
New Words Bookstore, 138 Hampshire
St., Cambridge. ASL interpreted.
Info: 561-0986, (354-8807 TTY)
Sponsored by Boston Working Group on
Lesbian Battering.

#### PAUSE

The Menopause Collective is no longer holding open support meetings every month at the Center. The collective is still active, and will continue to provide information and support to women through other avenues. Watch for announcements.





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### CONFERENCE ON ASIAN WOMEN

An impressive collection of day and evening programs, March 5-19. FREE. Films, panel discussions, theatrical performances, and workshops dealing with personal and global issues of concern to Asian women. All events held at MIT. Sponsored by MIT Women's Studies Program. Call 253-8844 for information, calendar of events.

#### PMS STUDY

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has initiated a comprehensive study of Premenstrual Syndrome. We provide precise hormonal measurement and therapeutic relief, at no charge, to women of all ages who suffer from PMS. For more information, please call Roni or Maureen at 253-3087 or -3077

I'd like to be list: Name:		Center	mailing
Address:			
City/State:	 <del></del>	<del></del>	
	Zip	Code	

#### THE COMPUTER

You may have noticed that the past few issues of ON OUR WAY have looked a little different. That's because we are now using a computer to type this newsletter. This has made our lives much easier and, we hope, made the newsletter easier to read. We have also recently put our mailing list on the computer. This has simplified the process of sending out over 900 copies of ON OUR WAY four times a year. Please let us know of any errors/changes in your name or address so we can keep the info coming your way.

The newsletter committee, Judy and Nancy, are always looking for help preparing the bulk mailing, writing articles, etc. Give the Center a call if you'd like to help.

