

♀ ON OUR WAY

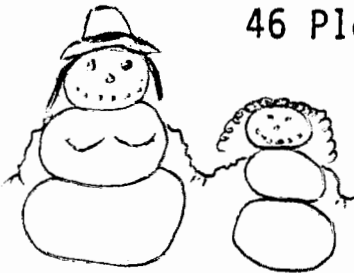
Newsletter of the Women's Center
46 Pleasant Street Cambridge Massachusetts 02139

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE

1st Floor - Wheelchair Accessible

FEB '88



HEALTH CARE FOR ALL THE NAMES PROJECT

In Massachusetts, 665,000 people, one-third of them children, have no health insurance. These individuals, mostly the working poor and their dependents will benefit from the Health Care For All proposal-as will disabled workers, parents with disabled children, low-income elderly, and parents on AFDC who can't get jobs without giving up their health care benefits.

The Health Care For All proposal guarantees access to affordable health care and basic health care services for all Massachusetts residents either through their employers or through a new state agency. A recent statewide poll showed 89% of people in Massachusetts feel that "access to health care is a basic human right to which everyone is entitled".

Despite this overwhelming support, the legislation lacks the leadership support it needs to pass through the House of Representatives. In December, a Health Care For All bill passed the State Senate but died in the House. You now have the opportunity to help pass this important Health Care legislation by writing to State Rep. Sandra Graham, to urge her to be a leader in the House on this issue. She has been supportive of the issue and now we need to ask her to make Health Care For All her priority this year. Her address is : Honorable Sandra Graham, State House, Rm. 156, Boston, MA, 02133.

The Names Project, also known as the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be coming to Boston the weekend of June 18.

If you saw the quilt at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, we know you'll agree that it is incredibly moving and a profound affirmation of life from our community, in the face of grief and loss.

The New England Chapter of the Names Project has recently formed to bring the quilt to Boston as part of its national tour. We believe that there is no better way to convey to people throughout New England the human tragedy of AIDS. We hope it will encourage people to begin to ask themselves critical questions about how this society can most effectively put its skills and resources to finding a cure, finding treatments and doing effective preventive education. We hope that the quilt will offer the gay community a chance to join in a communal process of healing and finding strength in ourselves and one another. We are convinced that the Names Project is a masterful piece of community art that all of New England should see.

Panels are continuously being added to the quilt. Our Quilting Committee is hosting a series of quilting bees throughout New England so people can gather together while making quilt panels. The Quilting Bee Calendar Hotline (617-451-9003) has a tape recorded message of the dates and locations of upcoming quilting bees.

If you would like to have a quilting bee in your home or at your organization, or if you would like more information about the Names Project, contact: Janet Woodcock 824-5007.



CENTER	HOURS
Monday-Thursday	10am - 10pm
Friday	10am - 8pm
Coffeehouse	8pm - Midnite
Saturday	11am - 2pm



CHILDREN IN OUR LIVES

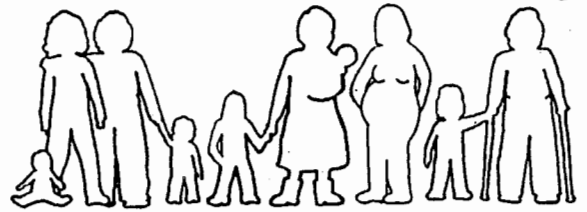
Over 700 lesbians and over 100 children (including lots of babies) converged at UMass-Boston harbor campus on January 30. Women and children came from all parts of Boston, all New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C. and Canada. We came to be with other lesbians who have, or are considering having, children, to be somewhere where we could talk openly, to get and give insights on how to cope with difficult situations, to make connections, to get information. For many of us, just being at a public place overflowing with lesbians and children was a tremendously validating experience.

A highlight of the day-long conference was the keynote speech by Angela Bowen, who is a black lesbian, feminist, writer, mother, foster mother, stepmother and grandmother. She talked of reasons not to choose to have children: motherhood is nothing like its portrayal in the media/society; the entrapment of parenting ("we're forever waiting for the other shoe to drop, all the while trying to have a life"); how being a parent consumes our energy ("do women of color, poor and disabled women have your support, or are you too busy having children?"), etc. She concluded that if she had it to do over, she would do it differently, helping to raise others' children rather than being a primary or biological parent.

The conference also included workshops on co-parenting, schools, childrens' feelings about having lesbian mothers, so your lover has a kid, raising male children, and pregnancy options. Caucuses were held for women of color, lesbians with disabilities, working class/poor women/women on welfare, and women living apart from their children. Many women commented on how well organized the conference was. Others lamented about too many choices (panels, workshops, caucuses, films) and fantasized about a two-day conference.

IF YOU ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE AND WANT TO JOIN IN EVALUATING IT OR WANT TO START PLANNING FUTURE EVENTS -- COME TO THE WOMEN'S CENTER ON:

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 7 PM or call 354-8807 and leave a message.



LESBIANS CHOOSING CHILDREN

The Lesbians Choosing Children Network meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. We welcome single women, women in couples, and women in all stages of parenting, from considering motherhood to women with older children. Childcare is provided. Our next meeting will be Thursday March 10.

If you are interested in being on the coordinating committee or helping with the newsletter, please call Michelle at 648-1170 (w) or 641-3407 (h). Also, let us know if there is a topic you would like to hear discussed.

TALK, TALK, TALK

FEMINIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesdays, 8-10pm

	<u>Upcoming Topics</u>
February 24	Raising Feminist Children
March 2	Feminism and the Primaries
9	Fathers
16	Addictive Relationships
23	Food
30	Monogamy and Nonmonogamy

This month there has been much warmth emanating from the Wednesday night Feminist Discussion Group. People have been gathering weekly for a combination of heated discussion, friendly conversation and good fun. However, after a year-and-a-half the group has reached a time of transition. Sherrie and Shannon are both leaving their positions as facilitators and group coordinators. They are sad to be leaving, but feel ready to channel their energies in other areas.

A new round of group facilitators is now forming. The group is always in need of your energy, enthusiasm and support. If you are interested in taking part in coordinating the group, please contact Judy at 354-8807. If you don't want to facilitate, please come anyway. There are always new people to meet and, as usual, the group welcomes all women.



WELCOME LORI !!!

Lori Stewart is the new Outreach Coordinator at the Center. Lori graduated from college in June 1987, concentrating in Latin American Studies. She speaks fluent Spanish and has spent time working in Mexico, including volunteering at the Mexico City Women's Center. She also researched and wrote a proposal and training materials to make the Museum of Science more accessible to people with disabilities. Lori will be coordinating our efforts to reach out to more women, particularly women of color, women with disabilities, teenage women, older women and low income women.

Since Lori speaks Spanish, she is currently working towards making the Center more accessible and welcoming to Hispanic women (see accompanying article on the Outreach Committee).

We are very excited to have Lori working here. Already, we feel new energy and progress towards making the Center truly a place for all women.



REACHING OUT

Within the last weeks, the Women's Center has begun to implement its Community Outreach plan. Our main goal is to focus attention on reaching out to disabled women, women of color, older/younger women, and mothers.

So far outreach has mainly consisted of planning, but several steps have already been taken. The recently-formed Newoman Committee will contact women who are new to the Center and encourage them to become active, answer their questions and refer them to other women at the Center who share their interests. We will also hold a monthly potluck for new women as a way for them to connect with other new women and Women's Center staff members and support/discussion groups.

The Outreach Committee has expanded its membership and is open to new members. Members can help with ongoing projects (expanding our list of groups to contact, helping with the anniversary party), get support and ideas for starting your own project, plan special events designed to create communication and discussion between women of different communities, etc. We are still formulating an agenda and are looking for more brilliant ideas. If you are interested in participating, the next meeting of the Outreach Committee will be on **March 22nd, 6-8pm**. New ideas are always welcome.

We have just finished translating the Women Center's brochure into Spanish and are currently creating one in large print and one in cassette form for visually impaired women.

We began networking with The Project on Women and Disability (housed in the Office of Handicapped Affairs in Boston) to let more disabled women know about the Women's Center and its services, and to strengthen the ties between the women's movement and the disabled people's movement. In the next few weeks we hope to begin networking with other women's groups as well.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Come celebrate the 17th anniversary of the incorporation of the Center !!

The party will be held from 12-5pm on March 19th here at the Women's Center. We're planning a wonderful event with lots of delicious food, great live music by **Claudia Sheftel, Linda Sheets, Helen Kohane and Pat Humphries**, videos, children's events, open discussions on "Surviving Motherhood", "Separation-/Divorce", "Coming Out" and more... Childcare will be provided for the event. If you are planning to attend and have a special need (ASL or other), please inform us as early as possible.

We're still in the planning stages, so if you have any ideas or would like to help, don't hesitate (we need lots of help!). Call Lori or Judy at 354-8807 and/or come to a planning meeting on February 24th at 6pm at the Center.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

LEARNING TOGETHER

The Women's School is offering classes and workshops for Spring '88. Come and wise up with your friends! All classes and workshops are held at the Women's Center-except for Rock Against Sexism, which will be at Femme Core Space, 464 Harrison Ave., South End, Boston.

Herbal Medicine

Apr 2, 11-2pm; Apr 5, 7-9:30pm

Age: Our Legacy & the Possibility

Apr 5, 12, 19 7-9pm

Contemporary Women's Fiction

Starts Apr 5, 7-9pm (8-wk. course)

Lesbian Culture Apr 6, 7-9pm

Women & Disabilities Apr 9, 10-4pm

Chinese Medicine Apr 9, 11-12:30pm

Money is a 4-Letter Word

Apr 12, 7:30-9:30pm

Menopause: A Self-Help Approach for Women of All Ages Apr 13, 7-8:30pm

Writing in Our Own Voices

[limited to 8 women-please pre-register]

Apr 13, 20 & 27, 7-9pm

Polarity Therapy Apr 16, 11-12 noon

U.S. Policy and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Apr 16, 11-3pm

Rock Against Sexism

April 17, 1-5pm at Femme Core Space

Intro. to Swing/Jitterbug [each time slot limited to 16 women, please pre-register]

Apr 23, 11-12:30pm and 12:30-2pm

Where are the Women in Your Family Tree?

Apr 30, 10-1pm

Staying on Track During Change

[limited to 8 women - please pre-register]

May 11, 18 & 25, 7-9pm

Victims of Fashion time/date TBA

Writers Support Group (ongoing)

Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm

¡Atención!

El Centro de mujeres en Cambridge ofrece una persona bilingüe, la cual habla Inglés y Español.

Para más información lláme al 354-8807 y hable con Lori.

SISTERS, PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

(BRING OR MAIL THIS TO THE WOMEN'S CENTER,
46 PLEASANT ST., CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139)

RACISM? IN CAMBRIDGE?

A public hearing on racism in Cambridge will be held on Saturday, April 30 at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School.

The Cambridge Human Rights Commission is organizing this event to:

- * Increase public awareness
- * Encourage people to talk about their experiences in Cambridge
- * Let the community know that the Commission is a city agency concerned with issues of discrimination
- * Provide a basis for action and encourage community involvement

If you are willing to testify or know of someone who is, please call 498-9049.

WOMEN AND AIDS

"Our Communities Respond"

Saturday April 9, 1988

All day conference sponsored by Fenway Community Health Center and Suffolk University at 55 Temple St., Boston. There is a sliding scale admission price. For more information call 267-1538.

WRITERS SUPPORT GROUP

This open, ongoing group meets weekly to talk about writing, to share each other's work and give feedback and support. All skill and experience levels are welcome; all kinds of writing can be shared. We meet every Wednesday night from 7:30-9:30pm. For more information call Sylvan at 547-6766 (h) 491-4110 (w).



ONGOING GROUPS

SUNDAY

- *Deaf Women's Community . . . 2-4pm
Project (3rd Sunday, monthly)
- Women's International Support 12 noon
Network (4th Sunday, monthly)

MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women . 7:30-9pm
- *New Women's Chorus 7-10pm
- Lesbian Rap 8-10pm
- Narcotics Anonymous. 7:30-9pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's. . . 7:30-9:45pm
Network-Intro (1st Mon., even #'d months)
- I.R. Volunteers (3rd Monday) 7:30-9:30pm
- All-Center Meeting 6-8pm
(biweekly)

TUESDAY

- Former Nun Lesbian Support . 7pm
Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)
- Discussion Group for Deaf 7:30-9:30pm
Incest Survivors (3rd Tuesday, monthly)
- Women for Sobriety 7-8pm
- Partners of Incest Survivors 8:15-9:15pm
- *For Crying Out Loud. 6:30-9pm

WEDNESDAY

- Support for Battered Women . Noon-1:30pm
- 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)

THURSDAY

- Discussion for Incest. . . . 7:30-9:30pm
Survivors (1st & 3rd Thurs., monthly)
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm
Network (second Thurs., monthly)
- Women's School 7:30-10pm

* means group is not currently open to new members

INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources sponsors a drop-in discussion group for women with incest histories. It meets on the third Thursday of every month, from 7:30-9:30 and is free of charge.

Next month's topic is:

March 17.....Sexuality

An open discussion group for women with incest histories also meets on the first Thursday of the month, 7:30-9:30 pm.

To ensure confidentiality and safety, meetings are not open to friends/support people.

))) COFFEEHOUSE ((((

Fridays 8pm-Midnite

		<u>Upcoming Events</u>
February	26	Oral History: to pass on our history & culture
March	4	Open night-share in relaxed conversation
	11	Feature Performer to be announced
	18	Open Jam-Bring Your Instruments
	25	CASA Film Series: "When the Mountains Tremble"

Many women would like to become involved in the Women's Center but don't know where to start. The WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE (Friday nights, 8-12, at the Women's Center) brings free, diverse cultural and social experiences to all women and provides a comfortable space for us to create our own community. For four hours each week, the Women's Center is ours to sing, talk, watch films, make friends, and to learn about our sisters. Volunteer performers and speakers share their time and energy. The Coffeehouse is always FREE and solves those what-to-do-on-Friday-night blues.

We welcome the involvement of any and all women: as a volunteer if you'd like to get involved in making things happen, as a performer if you'd like to be with a supportive audience, or as a participant in the history-making, free, Women's Coffeehouse.

We want to grow, and we want your help! Potential collective members are invited to call Sky Rose at 776-8514, or Christine Johnson at 327-2035 to learn more and to share your ideas. The Coffeehouse reflects the interests and goals of the participants and can only gain from your involvement! Call now!

◆◆◆ LESBIAN RAP ◆◆◆

Mondays 8-10pm

		<u>Upcoming Topics</u>
February	29	How, Where, When Lesbians Play
March	7	Dating
	14	Safe Sex Can Be Fun
	21	Dealing with Differences in Partnerships
	28	Being Gay and Shy

THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.
46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Phone: (617) 354-8807

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INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S
DAY



11'th Annual Dorchester Celebration of
International Women's Day
MARCH 5, 9am-3pm

11 Charles St., Grover Cleveland School
[at the Fields Corner stop of the MBTA Red
Line, Ashmont train] Free parking available

On March 5th, women will gather together for the Dorchester celebration of International Women's Day. The theme this year is "**Women - Something Inside So Strong**". There will be workshops on incest, support for lesbian mothers, South Africa, desegregation in public housing, practical and political ways of surviving the economic depression, teenagers and violence, etc. and a consciousness raising session with the Disabled People's Liberation Front.

In addition, the celebration will feature a movie about AIDS (in Spanish), entertainment and speeches, and a cultural fair.

The event begins with registration at 9:00-9:30am (there is **no charge** for admission), a welcoming speech at 9:30 and workshops from 10-11:30am. Lunch will be provided (donations accepted). ASL and Spanish translators will be available. The space is wheelchair accessible.

All women and children are welcome.
For more information, call 354-8807.

♀ ' S R A D I O M A R A T H O N

Celebrate International Women's Day
with Music, Politics,
Poetry and Culture on

♫ ♫ WMBR 88.1 FM ♫ ♫

Boston Women's Community Radio presents 24 hours of programming, starting at Midnight on Saturday, March 7th and going to midnight on Sunday, March 8th. Tune in to your sisters !!

Celebrate International Women's Day
FRIDAY, MARCH 11

Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston
(near Arlington St. Station, Green Line)

- 5 pm -- Workshops, Videos, Panels
- * Palestinian Women under Occupation
 - * Women/Family/Economic Issues
 - * Update on Struggle in South Africa
- 7 pm -- Song, Dance & Speeches
- * Speakers: Jean McGuire & a Soviet Woman Visitor
 - * Emcee: Rosaria Salerno

Hunger appeased by "Food Not Bombs. Wheelchair accessible, Childcare. Donation \$3.
Call 364-3013 for more info.