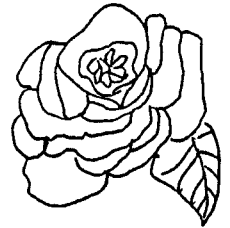


♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE



Summer '88

RALLY!

On July 13 over 80 people gathered at the State House to put pressure on the legislature to extend the time allowed (statute of limitations) to sue child sexual abusers. Powerful and eloquent speeches were given by 9 survivors, Sen. Carol Amick, Rep. Barbara Gray, (sponsors of the bills), and Beth Herr (Virginia LaLonde's lawyer). It was televised and broadcast on radio. The rally, organized by Incest Survivors Network, was influential in freeing one bill from the Judiciary Committee where it had been captive for 6 months.

Presently women can only sue between the ages of 18-21. For most survivors, that is essentially impossible, because they don't have the security, financial resources, or strength to face their abusers and to go through an adversarial court proceeding and because many survivors of abuse repress the memory for a very long time. For these reasons, the statute must be extended. Resistance comes from several angles: lawyers are concerned that one's capacity to accurately remember the abuse, and to obtain evidence which substantiates the claim, diminishes with time. With the high prevalence of abuse, there must be perpetrators in the legislature who would have strong resistance to increasing the avenues for survivors to publically talk about the incest. Additionally, others are concerned the courts will be flooded with cases!

Senate bill 691 will be debated on the Senate floor when the legislature reconvenes after summer recess.

CONTACT YOUR STATE (NOT U.S.) SENATOR & URGE SUPPORT FOR S.691 TO EXTEND THE STATUTE FOR FILING CIVIL SUITS UNTIL AGE 28. Call 722-2000 to find out who your senator is.

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY

There are so many women of all ages whose lives are silently, or in cries that go unheard, being damaged or destroyed by alcoholism. The disease is often unrecognized by the women themselves or by those around them. Treatment is often costly and not conducive to emotional and spiritual growth.

On Tuesday evenings at the Women's Center, women are taking their recovery into their own hands. The women meet each week to provide each other with the support and compassion that are needed to heal from this addiction. The group is part of Women for Sobriety, a nationwide self-help program founded by Jean Kirkpatrick, author of "Goodbye Hangovers, Hello Life".

Recovery is an ongoing process of growth and learning that continues even after an alcoholic takes her last drink. Group discussions focus on such issues as rebuilding self-esteem, experiencing our emotions rather than numbing them, recognizing our vulnerabilities and our strengths, taking care of ourselves, and discovering healthier ways to deal with anxieties and anger.

If you are beginning or continuing to recover from alcoholism, we hope you will join us at the Women's Center on Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30pm. The group meets on an ongoing, drop-in basis and is led by a women who has a year of sobriety.

HOUSING

HELP WOMEN FIND HOUSING

If you know of a vacant apartment which could be rented to someone with a Section 8 voucher, please contact Kekelwa Dall or Steve Meacham at 868-2900. (\$50 reward if apt. is rented by Section 8 recipient.)

UPCOMING TOPICS



ARE YOU NEW?



♀♀♀ FEMINIST DISCUSSION GROUP ♀♀♀

Wednesdays 8-10pm

- Aug 3 How TV Portrays Women's Lives
- 10 Women Hating Women
- 17 Building Our Self-Esteem
- 24 Derogatory Language
- 31 Our Mothers, Our Selves

♥♥♥ LESBIAN RAP ♥♥♥

Mondays 8-10pm

- Aug 1 Lesbian Passion
- 8 Mother Transference in Relationships
- 15 Sexual Vulnerability
- 22 Body Image & Self Esteem
- 29 Being Gay & Families

)))) COFFEEHOUSE (((((

Fridays 8pm-Midnite

- Aug 5 "MINE 2" - Open reading on women's sexuality.
- 12 Women's Video Collective - a showing of works
- 19 Celebration of Life - Fern Weiss & friends read Gena Glicklich's erotic writing
- 26 Women's Coffeehouse Benefit - Location to be announced.
- Sept 2 Open Visual Arts Display - call if you would like to display your work

POLITICS OF FAT

Politics of Fat welcomes new members. We are an ongoing group that meets every other Wed., 7:30-9:30pm. Our goal is to create a supportive and trusting space where women can feel comfortable about their size (no matter what their size) and discuss their common experiences as women being oppressed by unattainable standards of beauty.

Scheduled discussion topics include:

- Aug 3 What is Sizeism? What is Lookism?
- Aug 17 To Diet or Not to Diet
- Aug 31 Clothing

Possible future topics include: The Politics of Eating Disorders, Educating the Feminist Community about Lookism, Keeping Your Sanity in a Sizeist World.

The next NEWOMAN potluck supper will be Sunday, August 21 at 6:30pm, with a movie at 8pm. All women new (and not so new) to Boston or to the Center are welcome, (children, too). Come learn more about the Center and meet other women.

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
- Boston Bisexual Women's. . . 7:30-9:45pm Network-Intro (1st Mon., even #'d months)
- All-Center Meeting 6-8pm (biweekly)

TUESDAY

- Former Nun Lesbian Support . . . 7pm-9pm Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)
- Discussion Group for Deaf . 7:30-9:30pm Incest Survivors (3rd Tuesday, monthly)
- Women for Sobriety 7-8:30pm
- Women Who Have Been Sexually Harassed at Work 6:30-8pm
- *For Crying Out Loud. 6:30-9pm

WEDNESDAY

- Feminist Discussion Group 8-10pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare) . . . 6:30-8pm
- Writer's Support 7:30-9:30pm
- Politics of Fat (biweekly) . 7:30-9:30pm
- Lesbian Partners of Incest . 8:15-9:15pm Survivors (biweekly)
- Healing Through Art for. 7-10pm Incest Survivors (1st Wed., monthly)

THURSDAY

- Women Who Have Surrendered . 7:30-8:30pm Children for Adoption
- Discussion for Incest. . . . 7:30-9:30pm Survivors
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm Network (second Thursday, monthly)
- *Women's School 7:30-10pm

SATURDAY

- Writer's Support Group . . . noon-1:30pm (biweekly)
- * means group is not currently open



INCEST SURVIVORS NETWORK

Incest Survivors Network is a dynamic, new organization comprised of survivors who are working together to create appropriate resources and services for ourselves and other survivors. (As previously mentioned, Incest Resources Inc. has cut back on its services.) See below for information about new groups forming. New members welcome!

COMMITTEES FORMING

Organizational: Compiling a resource book

Legislative: Currently working on S. 691

Speaker Bureau: Public speaking

Fundraising: Grant writing, etc.

For more information call 354-8807

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Possible rally/demonstration in Sept. to support of S.691. Letter writing, more!

* Facilitated, drop-in incest survivor discussion groups on the 3rd Thurs. of the month 7:30-9:15pm

Sept 15: Self-esteem

Oct 13: Fear

Nov 17: Self-destructive behavior:

Self-mutilation & substance abuse

Dec 15: Taking Care of Ourselves:

Nurturing & Self-protection

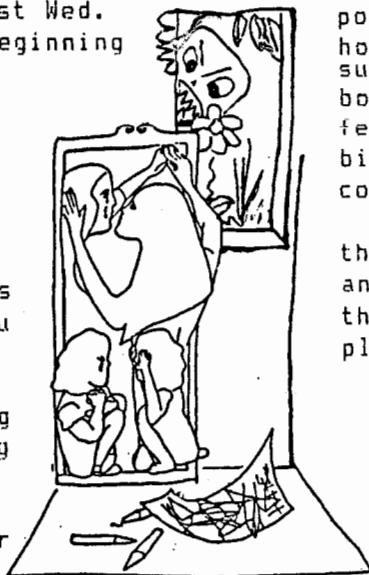
As usual, unfacilitated drop-in discussion groups meet each Thursdays, 7:30-9:15 pm, when a facilitated group does not. These groups are open only to women incest survivors. Women without clear memories are welcome. Please arrive on time, doors will close soon after 7:30 to avoid interruption.

HEALING THRU ART

FDR: Incest Survivors (Non-Abusers)

The Healing Through Art Group

At the Women's Center, the 1st Wed. of each month from 7-10pm, beginning Aug 3rd. Non-artists are encouraged, not discouraged. We will share visual art and art to be heard in hopes of gaining insight from one another. We will share different formats and different expressions. We will discuss how each one of us heals thru our own art. Through art we can gain a greater awareness of self and a greater healing ability. For the 1st meeting bring in a T-shirt. Following a discussion on expression, we will be painting our own T-shirts.



BIRTHMOTHERS

Many women who have surrendered a child to adoption have come to term themselves "birthmother". This term has evolved over the years so that labels to both the women who surrender and the women who adopt are less dichotomous, i.e. the term "natural mother" gives the adoptive woman a "unnatural" assignment and "biological mother" turns the adoption into a laboratory exchange. So in giving a positive value to women who give birth and surrender they become the birthmother and the woman who adopts and raises the child is the child's mother.

Each Thursday evening, the Birthmothers' Support Group meets to share feelings, explore ideas, and address issues that become part of a birthmother's life. The only criteria for the group is being a birthmother and participation in the group is kept confidential. The group addresses a specific issue each week, i.e., anger, birth experiences, and also each woman has a space to share her personal feelings. Also a reading list is being put together to share with each other regarding the adoption experience. Women are encouraged to share personal poems, and prose they have written but we also offer a safe space to the women who just need to be with other birthmothers and are not yet ready to talk about their experience.

On July 8, Terri Trafas (a group member) and I appeared on the Good Day Show to briefly talk about our experience of being birthmothers. This was an opportunity to show that being a birthmother is an ongoing part of a woman's life and it also offered adoptive parents the chance to hear what birthmothers feel about their position in the adoption experience, and how they feel toward the child they surrendered. It was a good experience for both of us and I have had some excellent feedback and inquiries not only from other birthmothers but from those in the counseling and adoption professions.

If you want further information about the group you may call the Women's Center, and if you want to talk to someone about the group before coming to a meeting, please call dian webber at 662-0417.

CENTER HOURS

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

COMPOSER WANTED

WANTED: A musician/composer to write a musical piece that would be reflective of several of the many cultures represented in Cambridge (e.g. Haitian, Portuguese, Caribbean, Greek, etc.). The music would be used as a theme song on a weekly women's program on CCTV (Cambridge Community TV), slated for fall production. If you're interested, call Mary at 868-7397.

FALL SCHOOL TERM

The Women's School will be holding our fall term in October. If you have an idea for a class or workshop that you would like to offer, contact us by August 4th at 354-8807. Also, if you would like to help us organize our fall term, call or leave a note at the Center.

REFERRAL UPDATES

Lately, Namita and Mary have been a great help in updating and organizing our referral info. Would you like to help too? Take a section and make a masterpiece! Housing, Parenting, Support Groups, Arts & Entertainment, Holistic Health, Self-Defense, Youth, Addictions, Eating Disorders . . . Call Judy at 354-8807 if you are interested.

OUTREACH

Lori Stewart, after a short stint as Outreach/Staff Coordinator, has resigned. We regret that it did not work out, and wish her well.

We still have a strong commitment to reach out to women who are unfamiliar with the Center and are looking at various ways to connect with communities of women who might not currently come to the Center. Our plans are still in the formative stage, but may involve community-based events focusing on recovering from and preventing abuse of women and children.

PLEASE NOTE

The Battered Women's Support Group on Wednesdays at noon has moved from the Center to the Cambridge Public Library. The group on Monday evenings, 7:30-9pm, still meets at the Center.

STATE YOUR CASE

Some of us at the Women's Center are interested in starting a monthly letter writing night to write letters to legislators, newspapers, etc. expressing "our" political and personal opinions (whatever they may be). The first one is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27th at 7pm. We'll supply paper, envelopes, stamps, and if you want, addresses of legislators and newspapers, and info on selected legislative struggles. Just bring your ideas, energy and words.

ARTISTS EXHIBIT

Women in Visual Arts Exhibit

This is an open exhibit for all women who wish to exhibit their art, especially those women who have not exhibited their art because of the difficulties in getting into the "mainstream". All women are encouraged to participate. All visual art mediums, photography, oil paint, pastels, collage, charcoal, pen & ink, cartooning, realism, surrealism, etc., will be there!! Please call Deanne Taylor at 341-2551 (leave message) to reserve space to exhibit your artwork. The show is free and will be held at the Women's Center on Sept. 2, 1988, 8 pm to midnight. Sponsored by the Women's Coffeehouse.

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD

For Crying Out Loud, a newsletter by and for women survivors of child sexual abuse, is published quarterly out of the Women's Center. We appreciate the Women's Center providing us with such a safe, convenient and comfortable meeting place. Subscriptions to our newsletter are available by sending a check for \$10 made out to 'Survivors' Newsletter Collective' to us at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St, Cambridge, MA 02139.

THERAPIST VOLUNTEERS

The Women's Counseling & Resource Center, a volunteer organization, is looking for feminist therapists to join us in providing referrals and counseling to women. We are seeking new members who have a master's level degree in counseling or social work and can commit four hours/week to the group. If you are interested, call 492-8568.

DIRECTIONS TO SUCCESS

The Deaf Women's Community Project (DWCP) is sponsoring the 3rd Deaf Women United (DWU) Conference, "Directions to Success" during the summer of 1989. The conference will be held in Mass. and the exact location will be announced later. DWU, a national organization of deaf women with diverse backgrounds, ethnic identities, ages and occupations was founded in 1985 at a national meeting of Deaf Women in Los Angeles. The 2nd DWU meeting was held in 1987 at George Mason Univ. in VA.

The conference will provide an opportunity for deaf women from across the country to meet and share ideas and experiences. Workshop topics will revolve around personal enrichment, self-awareness, and differences among deaf women themselves. The conference will also feature deaf women's culture and herstory, support groups, exhibits, and entertainment by deaf women.

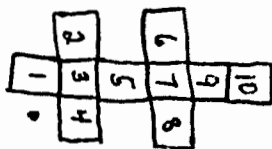
For more info on the 1989 DWU Conference, contact: Suzan Bedrosian, Coordinating Chairperson, c/o The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA, 02139. TTY/V (617) 354-8807 (messages only). Home TTY (617) 666-8457 (eve.). Mass. Relay Service: TTY/V (617) 254-4160, TTY 1-800-262-3323, 7am-11pm

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

If sexual harassment on the job is or has been happening to you, come talk with others who have been in the same situation, Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm, at the Women's Center. By sharing experiences, brainstorming solutions to current situations & just being together, we can see that we're not alone and can give & get support.

LESBIANS & CHILDREN

Lesbians Choosing Children Network would like to welcome all women with children to our meeting on October 13th, 7:30-10pm. Those of us without children are interested in hearing from parents and co-parents about: how it feels to give birth, what it is like having a baby/child in your life, how a child affects relationships. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Childcare will be provided.



TITUBA

As discussed in our May edition, we have been trying figure out how to be accessible to women with severe allergies to cats, when the Center is also Tituba's home. All of us feel a strong loyalty to Tituba, and great distaste for moving her from her home of 15 years. On the other hand, we know that a primary goal of the Center, to be accessible to all women, is not being met.

As a temporary solution, we ask that Tituba and other animals be kept out of the 1st floor living room so there will be an "animal-free" space. However, there are problems with this: at times women forget to close the door and, as an allergic woman noted, dander will still be tracked into the room from the rest of the house.

After much discussion, we have concluded that the best solution is to find Tituba a new home. We believe that she could be quite content in a more consistent, less hectic environment. We will select a home for her very carefully. There will be a trial period during which we will visit her and she will only stay if she is happy there. We have prepared a questionnaire for potential caretakers which is available by calling or visiting the Center. As yet, no one has shown interest in adopting her.

We wish every one of you would agree with this decision, but we know that is impossible. Much anger and hostility has been expressed by women who are for or against keeping Tituba. We hope we can look beyond our differences and work together to make our Center a welcoming place to women with allergies, and to find a great new home for our dear cat-friend.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Women visiting the U.S. from other countries, some prominent in political, labor or women's movements in their home countries, sometimes ask to visit the Center and speak to a small group of interested women about conditions in their country and to find out about women's lives in the U.S. Would you like to join other women in greeting and speaking with these international visitors? If you would like to participate, please call the Center and leave your name, number and the times you would be available.

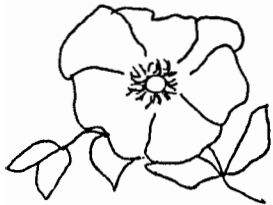
THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.
46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Phone: (617) 354-8807

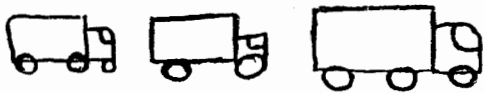
NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Boston, MA
PERMIT NO. 59699



L. Bouvier \A. Devine
24 Tufts St.
Cambridge, MA 02139



MOVING AROUND?

Thanks very much to those of you who have sent us change of address cards when moving around town or out of town. This really helps us keep our mailing list up-to-date and saves us 25 cents extra postage on newsletters returned by the post office. Our current policy is to drop people from the mailing list when the newsletter is returned. (The post office will not forward bulk mail.) Those who notify us of their new addresses will get uninterrupted delivery of ON OUR WAY. If you think we may have dropped you somewhere along the way, just call or write and let us know your new address. We'll be glad to put you back on our list.

PARKING NEWS

We now have a marked parking space in front of the Center for people with disabilities. Please respect this space and leave it open for those who need to use it. Parking near the Center during the day has been more of a challenge than usual lately. In addition to resident-only parking, watch out for the signs listing street cleaning days when you park. They vary by street, side of street, and block and they tow FAST! There are parking lots at Green & Pleasant St., only 4 blocks away from the Center. We are also only a few minutes walk from the Central Sq. stop on the Red Line. NOTE: If you have one of the Center's Visitor Parking Permits -- PLEASE RETURN IT so others can avoid those nasty parking tickets.

Your contribution helps the Women's Center to accomplish a great deal for women.
EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!! MANY THANKS

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

___ Rather than contribute now I would like to pledge \$ _____ per month for ___ months.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

We sometimes gives our mailing list to other groups for special mailings of interest to women. Please check below if you do not want to receive these mailings.

___ Please do not give out my name to other organizations.