

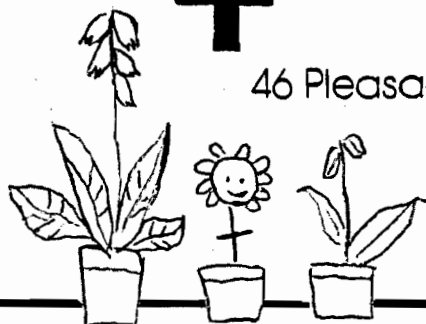
♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE

spring '89



MEETING OF THE MINDS

The Meeting of the Minds on April 22nd was an exploration of how groups at the Women's Center are alienating to women of different cultures, and what we can do to rectify that. Women from different cultural backgrounds came to the meeting.

Sometimes a woman will come to a group and no one talks to her or responds to things she says to the group as a whole. While such experiences are alienating to everybody, women of color and women with disabilities may well attribute group members' collective failure to interact with them to prejudice. Comments conveying understanding or asking for clarification let the speaker know she's been heard and that her perspective is valued, and provide an opportunity to have discussions that lead to a more meaningful and inclusive understanding. We believe taking steps to insure that all the groups are welcoming to all women will result in a much more receptive environment for women from diverse backgrounds as well as an overall improvement in the Women's Center.

We talked about groups we have attended and felt the following were key questions: Does the group begin with a greeting of newcomers? Does the group have a facilitator and if so, does she make sure everyone has opportunities to express her own perspective? If there is no facilitator, do group members play that role? Do old group members pay special attention to newer members, or do they mainly talk among themselves? Does the group structure invite equal participation? Are women asked to say hello to the women next to them? At the

end of a meeting, do people ask if everyone has a way home, or someone to walk with to the subway?

Women who attended the meeting are putting together a questionnaire to get feedback on how women attending meetings here feel about them. We are also writing up suggestions for good ways to facilitate or conduct meetings, which will be distributed to all Women's Center groups for their feedback, and then general guidelines will be drawn up. Our goal is to make our groups more comfortable for newcomers, and thus more accountable to all women who want to participate.



FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE

Sunday June 4th

JOIN THE ANNUAL 10-KILOMETER PLEDGE WALK
TO RAISE \$\$ FOR AIDS CARE AND RESEARCH

-- or --

SPONSOR A WALKER - PLEDGE WHATEVER AMOUNT
OF MONEY YOU WANT PER KILOMETER
(Call 354-8807 if you need a walker to
sponsor).

Come walk by the Women Center's banner!
Registration: 8:30-10am on Boston Common
Walk: 10am to 1 pm; Free Picnic Lunch for
registered walkers: 1 to 3:30pm.
Info: Liz or Richard, 437-6200 x214 or 251

SPROUTING GROUPS

Perhaps you've got an idea for a group that you'd like to be in. You can't find such a group anywhere. You wish someone else would get it going, but they don't. How about doing it yourself?. Every group that is here at the Women's Center began because some woman or women wanted it to happen and took responsibility for getting it started! Nothing happens unless someone comes forth.

To start a group at the Women's Center, you fill out a space request form which will be discussed at the next All Center Meeting (every other Monday). Space is available for support groups and for women's projects. There is no charge. We'd be glad to talk with you about how to go about it, or any other concerns you have. Call Judy or Alice at 354-8807



BIRTHMOTHERS

The birthmother support group, now meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thurs. of each month, is celebrating its first year at the Women's Center.

As a group, we are made up of lesbian, straight and bisexual women. We have, from the beginning, been supportive of each others differences, encouraged growth and change in each other's lives, and we continue to offer this fellowship to all birthmothers.

The first meeting in May was held at my home with dinner, dessert, and an extended evening of support and laughter. This longer version of our group was quite successful and I see that we may continue this additional format during the summer.

The group has been talking about putting together a pamphlet about the group, and perhaps doing some outreach lectures. If anyone is interested in having a speaker regarding the issue of surrendering a child, please call dian at 662-0417.

Additionally, I am writing a book on the birthmother experience using oral histories of other birthmothers. If you find that you do not want to come to the group but would like to share your experience as part of a collective voice please let me know.

For more info about the group call dian or the Center at 354-8807.

EVERYWOMAN'S GROUP

Wednesday evenings, 7-9pm

As women, we are constantly confronted with the reality that we live in a world that places a far greater value on men than on women. Whenever we talk about anything regarding money and/or power, we are talking about a male monopoly and a minority of women, be that Wall Street, the Judiciary, Congress, the Executive Office of the government, salaries, job opportunities, family units, etc. It is often difficult to cope and to maintain any level of sanity, given such an insane set of circumstances.

Talking is still recognized as the best therapy; women talking to women about issues that impact our lives is one good method for dealing with the insanity that surrounds us. Such a forum is essential and available at the Center on Weds nights, 7-9pm. The group is open to all women, and presents a great opportunity to introduce your own topic and to facilitate its discussion. Or if you prefer, you may just sit and listen and/or participate.

Women need women. We need to do for each other what we have always done for men and children, by way of support and nurturance. Come and share your thoughts and feelings. Bring your issues with you. Let us hear what you have to say. We can agree, disagree, and respectfully agree to disagree, while we share and validate ourselves and our common experience. See you there!

-- Terri

BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUPS

Offering 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. The groups meet every Monday, 7:30-9pm and 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 7 to 8pm at the Women's Center.

WRITER'S GROUP

Tired of writing in isolation? The Writers' Support Group meets every Wednesday from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Women's Center. Women may bring poems, stories, essays or other writing for encouragement and criticism.

Newcomers welcome !!

MOVIE MAKING

On Thursday, May 18th, the Women's Center metamorphosed into a chaotic mixture of males, machinery & a few women. This shocking turn of events occurred because a homey place was needed for a film about the life of a battered woman who now volunteers at Transition House. The shelter's address had to remain secret (did you know the Women's Center is their 'public' address?), so we were asked to let the Center masquerade as a shelter for one day.

The woman who was featured in the film endured frequent and brutal attacks by her husband, a prominent and respected member of the community. The most extreme incidents were: the batterer locked his wife in a bathroom for three days; pushed her out of his speeding car and then returned to run over her; locked her in the garage with the car running and the doors locked; and tied her to a chair while he cut her with a razor blade. She went to court to get restraining orders against him and was told to go back and make their marriage work. Her family also told her to stay with him.

The film is about her successful flight from violence. She was 61 when she managed to escape, buy a bus ticket from New York to Boston with money she had hidden in the lining of her purse, call information and ask for a battered women's hotline. She now has built a new life here and spends a lot of time doing public speaking on battering. Filming which occurred from 7:30am-7:30pm included a volunteer answering the crisis hotline the first time the woman called the shelter, and a battered women's support group, with children in the background.

The film is being made by United Way, and will be distributed across the country. Workplaces will agree to show it, and require their employees to attend. Thus, both battered women and batterers will be exposed to it.

AMNESTY WEEK

Return those books!!

Anyone who has overdue library books from the Women's Center library can return them the week of June 12 - 17 without fear of repercussions!! Please place in specially marked library box in front hall or in return box on library desk. ALL WILL BE FORGIVEN!

DON'T DELAY - RETURN THEM NOW!

SPECTACULAR BOOK SALE TREMENDOUS INVENTORY EVERYTHING MUST GO!

On Saturday, June 17th, from 11am - 2pm the Women's Center Library is having a gigantic book sale. Hundreds of feminist books and periodicals will be on sale for 25 cents to a dollar. Come, browse & buy! Donations for the sale may be made no later than Tuesday, June 13th -- leave books on the front porch of the Center and mark them for the Library. Proceeds will go to the Library/Archives Fund and to the GCN Prison Book Program.



LIBRARY/ARCHIVES UPDATE

Over the past few months, the library has undergone major reorganization -- obsolete materials have been weeded out of the collection and several small sections have been combined and/or reorganized. We hope the result will make using the library a little easier. We have also been discussing in what directions the library should move and have been setting some priorities for the collection. Our first priority once we have finished the basic weeding and reorganization is to concentrate on acquiring more books and other materials that document the lives and struggles of women of color in the U.S. and internationally. We also want to develop and build collections of materials for and about differently-abled women. We welcome your suggestions of materials for the library (please include info on where the materials can be obtained).

The Library/Archives Collective is very much in need of more women to join us in our work. We need committed women who can work on their own, are willing to do repetitive tasks and who above all enjoy working with books, periodicals and paper! We have many projects that need doing to make the library and Archives collections more accessible. The Archives is particularly looking for assistance in documenting the history of the Women's Liberation Movement in the Boston Area.

If you are able to make a minimum three month commitment to this work, please leave us a note at the Center.

--Libby & Elizabeth, Library/Archives
Collective

**ONGOING GROUPS
AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER**

MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women.....7:30-9pm
- Disabled Women Survivors
of Child Sexual Abuse.....6-7:30pm
- Women's NA 12 step.....7:30-9pm
- Lesbian Rap.....8-10pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's Network-Intro
(1st Mon, even #'d months)..7:30-9:45pm
- All Center Meeting(biweekly).....6-8pm

TUESDAY

- Facilitated Discussion Group for Deaf
and Hard of Hearing Incest Survivors
(4th Tues, Sept.-June).....7:30-9:30pm
- Women for Sobriety.....8-9:30pm
- Bisexual Rap.....7:30-10pm
- 30+ Lesbian Rap.....7-8:30pm

WEDNESDAY

- Everywoman's Discussion Group.....7-9pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare).....6:30-8pm
- Writer's Support.....7:30-9:30pm
- Lesbian Survivors of Childhood
Sexual Abuse (1st, 3rd Weds.).....7pm
- Lesbian Partners of Incest
Survivors (2nd, 4th Weds.).....8-9:30pm
- Healing Through Art for Incest Survivors
(1st Wed., monthly).....7-10pm
- Battered Women's Support
(2nd, 4th Wednesdays).....7-8pm

THURSDAY

- Birthmothers (1st,3rd Thur)..7:30-9:30pm
- Open Discussion for Incest
Survivors (weekly).....7:30-9:30pm
(facilitated 3rd Thursday, Sept.-June)
- Lesbians Choosing Children Network
(2nd Thursday, monthly).....7:30-10pm

FRIDAY

- Women's Coffeehouse.....8pm-midnight

SATURDAY

- Writer's Support Group
(biweekly).....noon-2pm

**INCEST SURVIVORS
NETWORK**

FACILITATED DISCUSSION GROUP
3rd Thursday of month, 7:30-9:30pm
June 15 'Boundaries'

There are no facilitated discussions in July or August, but they will start again in Sept. Unfacilitated drop-in group will meet every Thursday in July and August.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

LESBIAN RAP

- Mondays, 8-10pm
- June 5 Lesbian Pride/Herstories
 - 12 Families
 - 19 Lesbian Sex
 - 26 Discussing the Rap

**EVERYWOMANS
DISCUSSION GROUP**

- Wednesdays, 7-9pm
- June 7 Feminism and Men
 - 14 Arguing
 - 21 Shyness
 - 28 Dependency

BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP

- Tuesdays, 7:30-10pm
- June 6 The Workplace
 - 13 S/M
 - 20 Age Difference
 - 27 Lovers/Pets/Solitude

30+ LESBIAN RAP

- Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm
- June 6 Partnering
 - 13 Anger
 - 20 Body Image
 - 27 Social Night

COMING OUT

Open discussion on COMING OUT for women of all ages -- Saturday, June 3rd, 11am-1pm at the Women's Center.



WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE

- Fridays, 8pm-12 midnight
- June 2 Deb Schwartz, a young Jewish lesbian reads her poetry & prose
 - June 9 Catie Curtis, new to town songwriter, plays original and popular women's music
 - June 16 Mary Knapp, often heard on WERS/WUMB radio, sings original folk ballads about the big ways little people affect each other
 - June 23 Eve Goldman, often heard on alternative radio, performs her own unique feminist music
 - June 30 Robin Field, daughter of country & western musicians, sings blues, country & eclectic mix

EXPOSING THE FATHERS

There will be a unique Father's Day demonstration to protest patriarchal violence against women and children. Boston Common (State House side) June 18th, noon.

LESBIAN/GAY PRIDE Saturday June 10

LEAVES FROM BOSTON CITY HALL

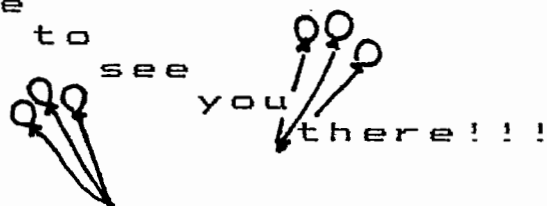
Gather from 8-11am

Festivities begin 10:50am

Parade begins at noon

FESTIVAL/RALLY - BOSTON COMMON - 2PM

Hope



SANCHIN

WOMEN'S SCHOOL OF KARATE AND SELF-DEFENSE

Presents

KARATE DEMONSTRATION AND BENEFIT DANCE

Saturday, June 3rd

8:30pm - demonstration

9:30pm-midnight - dance

Old Cambridge Baptist Church

1151 Mass. Ave (Harvard Sq. T)

\$5 admission to dance (more/less)

Karate demonstration free

!! SUPPORT SANCHIN !!

DISABLED SURVIVORS GROUP

If you are a women, define yourself as disabled, and are a survivor of child sexual abuse, we invite you to attend an open discussion group held every Monday night (except holiday Mondays) at the Women's Center from 6-7:30pm. Each discussion focuses on a topic, usually chosen 1 or 2 weeks in advance by participants. Some topics we've discussed are: 'body image', 'family issues', 'workplace issues', 'sexuality', 'the child within'. You are welcome to come and join the discussions and suggest topics that you'd like to discuss. Call the Women's Center at 354-8807 and leave a message for a contact person from the group if you have any questions.

SINGLE MOTHERS BY CHOICE

Single Mothers by Choice is an informal, loosely structured group of about 50 women. We are a diverse group with respect to lifestyles and sexual orientations, all deeply committed to meeting the varying needs of single women in every stage of the decision-making process until they become a parent or they decide that single parenting is not right for them. Women in our group have adopted children internationally, become pregnant "by accident", used known and unknown donors, etc.

We meet the 2nd Sunday of the month (Sept. - June) from 4:30-7:30pm at the Unitarian Church, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton to talk and enjoy a pot luck dinner. New members can try the group out for a few months before becoming dues paying members (\$20/year). Children are welcome at all meetings. We have an annual picnic in June and then take the summer off. We will be back to our regular schedule in September. For info: Carol, 641-3095

WOMEN'S SCHOOL

Next October, The Women's School will be offering courses and workshops stressing the theme of political change in our lives and changes in the women's community. We especially welcome women who wish to offer classes or workshops and are not "professionals" in their fields. We welcome women of all ages, races and backgrounds. Call 354-8807 and leave a message for the Women's School. Let's start planning now !

WCRC

The Women's Counseling and Resource Center is recruiting volunteer therapists for our feminist mental health collective. Members must have a Master's Degree, experience and a commitment to a feminist perspective. Please call us at 492-8568 for more info.

BOSTON BISEXUAL WOMEN'S NETWORK

Introductory Meeting - Mon., June 5th, 7:30 pm at the Women's Center. Come learn about activities, support groups, etc. Free. Call 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE) for more info. All women welcome.

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

Phone: (617) 354-8807

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FOOD PANTRY SITE

The Food Pantry on the Common is seeking a new site. The current pantry is in a small basement at the Red Cross Chapter House, 9 Waterhouse St., Cambridge. A 200% increase in demand for the pantry services has made this space inadequate.

The Pantry needs approx. 800 to 1000 square feet of space including storage, access to running water, handicapped access, and ability to meet state and local sanitary and fire codes. Other desirable features are: private counselling/intake space, private entrance, N. Cambridge location, and proximity to public transportation. Anyone with info on possible sites should contact Therese Wright at 354-7800.

CENTER HOURS

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

SUMMERTIME PROJECTS

- Making the back yard usable
- Washing windows
- Finding & hiring exterior house painters
- Revamping the Children's Room
- Getting organized
- Interior painting
- Having enough volunteer staff to talk with callers & visitors

If you'd like to help with any of the above, or another project you think is needed, please call Judy at 354-8807.

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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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

We sometimes give 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.