

# ♀ ON OUR WAY

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

Telephone: (617) 354-8807  
TTY & VOICE

winter '89

## ***TO WASHINGTON WE GO***

March for Women's Equality & Women's Lives  
APRIL 9TH, WASHINGTON, D.C.

This historic national March will bring together people who believe that all individuals are entitled to civil rights and to the conditions that make these rights accessible, people who believe that women must have the right to choose safe, legal and funded birth control and abortion, and people who believe that women must be included in the Constitution through the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Roe v. Wade, the decision which recognized a woman's right to abortion, is in danger of repeal. The Supreme Court announced that--this spring--it will consider the Missouri law which seeks to restrict access to abortion severely. Judge Blackmun, author of the majority opinion which legalized abortion, stated that Roe v. Wade could easily be overturned--this year. He told people, "just count the votes".

Right wing justices and legislators, buoyed by extremist groups like "Operation Rescue", are already announcing victory. We need to tell the courts, the Congress and all those who do not represent us that we intend to frame our futures, that we will demand our rights and see to it that women's lives are not endangered. We hope that the March will show the nation just how many organizations and individuals support women's rights and are willing to come together to fight for all people's civil liberties. MARCH FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S LIVES ! !  
-Excerpts, letter from Boston NOW

100 buses will be going to Washington from Boston on April 8 (evening), leaving from the Boston Common! (Buses return Sunday and Monday nights). The fare is \$40, and if you want to go but can't afford \$40, you can send in the registration form and a note right away. How many people they will be able to send or help send depends on how much money is raised at a fundraiser for the march in early March. CALL 782-4859 or 782-1056 for registration forms, details)

Plane tickets - United Airlines (5% discount on restricted, 40% on unrestricted tickets) - GET Meeting Planners for plane, hotel reservations: 1-800-228-0861

## **GETTING WHAT YOU WANT**

Women's Center staff are constantly asked to locate resources on a wide range of topics. You can call and ask us about a specific support group, a job training program, a therapist, a woman electrician, a shelter . . . We are continually updating, expanding and organizing referral information. Currently, Lisa Jerge, an intern from Tufts, is dilligently calling places and checking information on employment agencies and training programs, shelters, rape crisis centers, hotlines, resources for youth, AIDS resources, birth control, reproductive clinics, and entering the changes on the computer.

We always need help with updating referrals. That includes receiving feedback on resources you've used that you felt were very good, unique, hard to find, (or very bad). Call Judy at 354-8807 if you'd like to help or have some info.

**MARCH HOTLINE  
782-4059**

## INCEST SURVIVORS NETWORK NEWS

Incest Survivors Network (ISN) is a group of women survivors of child sexual abuse, who have gathered together to provide services to survivors as well as education to the greater Boston community. ISN can be contacted by mail c/o the Women's Center, or by calling the Center and leaving a message.

**DROP-IN DISCUSSION GROUPS:** On the third Thursday of each month from 7:30-9:10pm ISN members facilitate open discussion groups at the Center. Since around 70 women attend each month, 2 rooms are used. Some women are new to groups, while others have attended for years. Any woman with a history of child sexual abuse is welcome. There is diversity in our ages, lifestyles and backgrounds, but we start from our common base of healing from child sexual abuse. Women vary in what abuse they experienced and how much they remember, and are at different places in their healing processes.

A typical discussion group begins promptly at 7:30pm. The facilitators present general guidelines for the safety of participants & the topic for discussion. Then the topic is opened up to the group. Women take turns sharing their thoughts, feelings and experiences. Women do not have to speak, but facilitators try to ensure that everyone who wants to talk has the opportunity to do so. We bring the discussion to a close at 9:10pm to allow time for announcements & networking. Upcoming topics: March 16: Anger  
April 20: Sexuality  
May 18: Abandonment  
June 15: Boundaries

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** ISN holds general business meetings each month before the drop-in groups from 6:15-7:15pm. We welcome all who are interested in learning more about ISN and joining us in our work.

**DEMONSTRATION:** Preparations are under way for a demonstration later this year for survivors and our friends.

**SPEAKERS:** If you are looking for survivors to speak on the topic of child sexual abuse, ISN has a speaker's bureau.

**RESOURCE BOOK:** A resource book is available at the Women's Center. It contains information on therapists, support groups (both facilitated and self-help), body work, and much more.

## SURVIVORS THEATRE

CALL FOR LETTERS from women interested in co-facilitating or participating in a performance art/theater group for survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Please specify your ideas and needs and how we can get in touch with you. Send letters to: Survivors Theater Group, c/o The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA 02139

## POLITICS OF FAT

Politics of Fat is an on-going group that meets every other Wednesday from 7:30-9:30 pm in the Women's Center. 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. Politics of Fat needs women who are interested in coming to this kind of group and in making a commitment to help with re-organizing the group. For more info and/or to help with re-organizing, call Cheryl, 266-9466.

## CONGRATS TO D.O.B.

Daughters of Bilitis, Boston, the oldest social/support organization for lesbians in the country is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year! We echo the appreciation so many lesbians feel for this organization which has been here, breaking down isolation, providing support, and being a reliable resource for all these years. THANKS ! !

## NEW ADDRESS

For the: Alliance of Massachusetts Asian Lesbians and Gay Men 499-9535  
AMALGM  
P.O. Box 543, Prudential Station  
Boston, MA 02199



## INCEST RESOURCES -- AN UPDATE

During the past year Incest Resources has gradually made many changes in the services it provides to the community. We continue to offer the following services which utilize the acquired experience, education and expertise of our members, all of whom are survivors who have become psychologists or social workers. Educational literature, pamphlets and audio tapes addressing the recovery needs of survivors and the training needs of professionals are available nationally and internationally. Training and consultation also remain available to professionals in mental health, medicine, education, law, the judiciary and the church. Through these continued services the hard-earned credibility that we have established over the past 9 years will be utilized to benefit survivors in the coming years.

Fortunately, a large number of survivors, many of whom have utilized I.R. programs over the years, have rallied to form Incest Survivors Network, which now provides some of the services that we were unable to continue. We hope that all newly involved survivors will be empowered by their direct participation as we have been by ours.

We continue to maintain our mailing address at the Women's Center (write for the new I.R. flier series!) and are grateful for the many years we have otherwise occupied space at the Women's Center. The members of Incest Resources, past and present, remain immensely appreciative of the supportive feminist community the Women's Center had created by 1980 that enabled Incest Resources to be among the pioneers of what has turned out to be a survivor movement. We thank the Women's Center for their acceptance of Incest Resources at a time when others were throwing our correspondence in the wastebasket (assuming a practical joke!), and we thank them for persevering all these years with a commitment we have aspired to match.



## 18 YEARS OF SCHOOL

If the Women's School were a person, she'd be old enough to vote. This spring marks the 18th anniversary of the Women's School.

The current collective consists of four hardworking, ice-cream loving women: Dawn, Diana, Mary and Mary. We meet once a week to schmooze and organize two semesters of workshops and classes every year; usually one month in the spring and one in the fall.

We are presently organizing our Spring 1989 school offerings for the month of April. We have some classes already scheduled. In addition, we are interested in offering workshops on the topics of racism, political activism, international feminism, and other politically-oriented subjects. If you are interested in offering a workshop on one of these topics, please contact one of us.

This year, we are especially interested in welcoming women on the collective. If you like ice cream and good times, call or visit the Center and leave a message for the Women's School.

## OUTREACH

The Women's Center exists for all women, yet participation by minority women is relatively small. We want to do what we can to make the Center more inclusive. In January, Ann Royce, Alexandra Laird and Sarah Buel gave two workshops for Center staff and group members on multicultural awareness and outreach strategies. Our next step will be to have a meeting of facilitators and other group members to discuss how to incorporate multicultural sensitivity into their groups. This meeting will be on a weekend afternoon in late March, and is open to anyone who wants to attend (354-8807 for date, time). We will have other special meetings to discuss making other changes, such as additional groups and/or services, more personal contact with community organizations, cosponsoring events, a different decision-making structure... We need to decide where to begin and how to enact those changes that are compatible with the Center's purpose and with our limited resources. We welcome your ideas and input in written form (addressed to the All-Center Meeting) and your participation in upcoming meetings.

## NEW GROUPS



### LESBIAN SURVIVORS

This group has evolved from the Thursday evening Incest Survivors Discussion Group. A group of women felt a need to establish a discussion group specifically for lesbian survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The group sees many issues which are unique to lesbian survivors, including the impact of childhood sexual abuse on lesbian sexuality and intimacy, the dynamics of being a lesbian survivor in a relationship with another lesbian survivor, and the many ways homophobia reinforces and intensifies problems stemming from sexual abuse. These are issues which may not be dealt with easily in groups of women with mixed sexual orientations. The group hopes that an all lesbian space will feel safer to lesbian survivors and will allow for deeper healing. New members are encouraged to attend an open discussion group on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7pm. Women interested in a closed group may want to attend a parallel group on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. The Friday group may become a closed group at some time in the future, but the Wednesday group will remain open. The upcoming meeting dates are February 24, March 1, 10, 15 and 24.

### COMING OUT

#### OPEN DISCUSSION FOR WOMEN OF ALL AGES

Saturday, March 11 - 11am to 1pm

In the two previous 'Coming Out' discussions, small groups of 4 to 6 women have explored the process of claiming our lesbian identities. We've spoken about; how & when & why we define ourselves as lesbians; the various courses this discovery takes and the barriers, confusions and freedoms we encounter; the desire to come out and the consequences in our differing families, work, school, social settings; the stereotypes we carry of lesbians and how they affect our perception and presentation of self and of other lesbians. Here, as in other discussions with women, I am struck by both the uniqueness of each woman's specific situation and the many similarities of experience that we share. Any interested woman is welcome.

### 30+ LESBIAN RAP

This group is 2 months young and going strong. Around 20 women, in our 30's, 40's and 50's (so far), gather each week. Some are 'regulars', some newcomers. Each meeting is facilitated by someone who is willing and interested in the topic the group has selected. Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm

### DISABLED SURVIVORS GROUP

Disability and child sexual abuse can be an excruciating combination: feelings of defectiveness and shame; isolation; denial of what's really happening; loss of bodily control; loss of family; physical and emotional violation; no protection; wondering when the horrors will end.

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. We have been meeting for 12 weeks and will continue for an indefinite period of time, depending on the needs of the participants. Each discussion focuses on a topic, usually chosen 1 or 2 weeks in advance by participants. Some topics we've discussed are: 'sexuality', 'body image', 'menstruation', 'family issues', 'workplace issues', 'the child within'. Of course there is an infinite number of possible topics, and you are welcome to come and suggest some and join the discussions. Call the Women's Center at 354-8807 and leave a message for a contact person from the group if you have any questions.

### WE APOLOGIZE

In our Fall newsletter, we inadvertently left Incest Resources out of our list of Women's Center resources for incest survivors. We did not mean to slight this group, for which we have great respect. Our lack of clarity about I.R.'s current services (see p. 3 for update) led to the error.

**CENTER HOURS**

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

**LESBIAN RAP**

Mondays, 8-10pm

February 27 Lesbian Parenting  
 March 6 Erotic Writing  
 13 Bisexuality  
 20 Coming Out Stories  
 27 Sharon Kowalski

**FEMINIST DISCUSSION GROUP**

Wednesdays, 8-10pm

March 1 Food in Our Lives  
 8 Women and Health  
 15 Music and Song  
 22 Mothers and Daughters  
 29 When Bad Things Happen

**BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP**

Tuesdays, 7:30-10pm

February 28 Breaking Up  
 March 7 Same vs. Opposite Sex Relationships  
 14 Psychologies of Sex & Self  
 21 Bi-phobia: How the gay & heterosexual communities perceive us  
 28 Safe Sex

**30+ LESBIAN RAP**

Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm

February 28 Shyness  
 March 7 Odd Couples/Mismatches  
 14 Open Relationships  
 21 Issues of Class  
 28 Spirituality

**WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE**

Fridays, 8pm-12 midnight

March 3 Music & comedy with Layla Stone & Eva Schlesinger  
 10 Coffeehouse's 3rd Birthday Party: Entertainment, music, cake & more  
 17 Original Irish music with Bridget Fitzgerald, Lindsay O'Donovan & Roxanne O'Connell  
 24 Feminist Film Night: Women in Film & Video show films  
 31 Early Women's Music & Culture with Deb Lempeke, Bluegrass Banjo Player, Berkeley's Women's Music Collective

**MONDAY**

-Support for Battered Women.....7:30-9pm  
 -Disabled Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse.....6-7:30pm  
 -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  
 \*Women's School.....7:30-10pm

**TUESDAY**

-Discussion Group for Deaf Incest Survivors (2nd,4th Tues)....7:30-9:30pm  
 -Women for Sobriety.....8-9:30pm  
 -For Crying Out Loud.....7pm  
 -Bisexual Rap.....7:30-10pm  
 -30+ Lesbian Rap.....7-8:30pm

**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 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

**THURSDAY**

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

**FRIDAY**

-Lesbian Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse (2nd, 4th Fridays).....7pm  
 -Coffeehouse.....8pm-midnight

**SATURDAY**

-Writer's Support Group.....noon-2pm

\* means group is not currently open



**THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.**

46 Pleasant Street

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Phone: (617) 354-8807

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### **IWD EVENT**

The Boston Women's Committee for International Women's Day will be sponsoring an event in celebration of working class women everywhere. They hope this year to focus on the exploitation of women's labor internationally, and how this enables the continuation of Imperialism. The program will feature U.S. and international women on the cutting edge of the struggles of working people. The event will be held on Saturday, March 11, 7:30pm-11:30pm in the cafeteria at Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., (near the Roxbury Crossing 'T' station). Wheelchair accessible and ASL interpreted.  
\$5 suggested donation.

### **NEOWOMAN POTLUCK**

Are you new to the Boston area or the Women's Center? Come to the **NEOWOMAN POTLUCK** and learn more about the Center, eat, meet other women & watch a movie. Sunday, March 5th, 6pm Potluck dinner (bring whatever you can), 8pm Movie - "Personal Best". All women welcome!

### **WOMEN'S RADIO DAY**

The 11th annual International Women's Radio Celebration will be on **WMBR 88.1 FM** on Sunday, March 12. Music, drama, news, documentary and call-in shows, plus a number of programs on AIDS. Sponsored by Boston Women's Community Radio. For more info, call 524-0857.

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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.