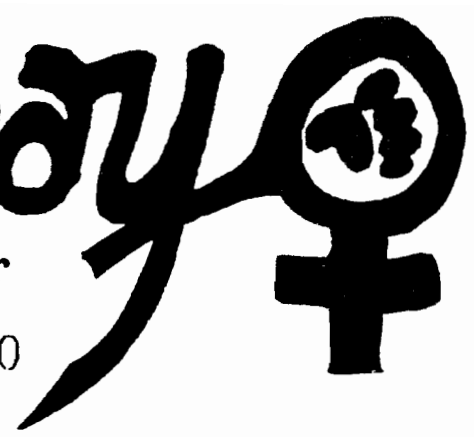


on our way

the women's center newsletter
8 november 71 volume, 1 no. 2
from 595 mass. ave. camb. 661-9650



about the women's center...

WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO TELL PEOPLE A LITTLE OF THE HISTORY BEHIND THIS STRUGGLE

It started the summer of 1970, when women at a Bread and Roses meeting voted to create a women's center which would be open to all women. It was announced in several Bread and Roses meetings, newsletters and at a conference, that any women could work on the project. The idea was to provide a place where new women could come, where certain services could be set up, and where existing women's groups could get together. By March 6, 1971 (the day Boston area women celebrated International Women's Day), \$4000 had been raised.

Many different women came up with the idea of seizing a building at different times during the year. About three weeks before International Women's Day a few of those women contacted other women from as many different groups as they knew of, as well as those working on the demonstration for International Women's Day, and had the first meeting specifically to discuss taking over a building. Some of the groups contacted were Gay Women's Liberation, 'Hysteria', the 'Mole' Women's Caucus, the women's health collectives, Hemenway Community Women, the child care action group, Bread and Roses orientation program, Women and Imperialism Group, the women's Law commune, feminist study group, as well as the original women's center group from Bread and Roses.

A lot of us didn't know each other, but one thing we had in common was all wanting to take a building - one that there was a possibility of keeping. We felt that such a struggle would make our movement larger, more unified, and more powerful.

Initially we divided up the labor so that some women were researching buildings and checking into how people would feel about a take-over in their community; others were working on setting up several minimal services (as health referral, child care, legal services, self defense); still others spent time looking into supplies etc. As the plans developed people volunteered for special tasks such as gathering the food, dealing with security, tactics, and negotiating, making banners and painting brigades, entering the building in the first group, and forming welcoming committees. We all saw this as the necessary amount of organization for a few days - a temporary responsibility until other women could get to know each other and sign up to share these responsibilities.

On March 6, while women were gathering on the Boston Common for the march to the Charles Street Jail, and eventually to the women's center, twenty women had entered the building in groups of five, and were making preparations for the arrival of the march.

The march arrived at the center, 888 Memorial Drive, at about 3:30 that afternoon. . . There was a welcoming committee, plenty of women's literature, and food and music and joy. We held the building for 10 days. During that time there were dances, dinners, women's skill classes, meetings, a 'lavender lounge' for gay women, and a really neat children's party for kids from the neighborhood that was a terrific success.

Women left the center with mixed feelings. On the whole it was felt that our energy would be better spent finding a new women's center than trying to bail ourselves out of jail.

Since then there have been some good dinner-meetings, dances, etc., but most of us feel that we have lost touch during the summer. Women have been working on the shitwork part of getting the center all summer. We're pretty close to moving in, and we have to start thinking about what exactly our women's center is going to be.

The house which we've agreed to buy was originally the only structure on that particular lot. Now there are two houses, both owned by the same person on the one lot. Also, since the houses were originally built, the street name has been changed. We must get these changes on the deed, and also get a zoning variance because the two structures are too close to each other as of a 1969 ordinance. The planning board (it grants zoning variances) meets only once a month. We have a hearing date for November 18. When our variance is granted, we have to wait 20 days to allow time for appeals. Then we can sign the bill of sale and move in! In the meantime we've decided to share an office with the Mass. Lawyers Guild and The Women's Law Commune (we're contributing \$15 monthly and sharing a phone bill). We're using the office for a temporary meeting place and information center.

← Special 25th Anniversary Issue! →

♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807 TTY and VOICE



Spring '96

We hope you enjoyed reading about the beginnings of the Women's Center in our 1971 newsletter! Now on to our Spring 1996 news:

"A PLACE OF OUR OWN FOR 25 YEARS"

1996 marks the Women's Center's **25th Anniversary Year**. As the oldest women's center in the country, we have much to celebrate! We invite you to join in activities in 1996 to commemorate this historic occasion. We began celebrating in March, Women's History Month. We hosted a special cable television program about the history of the Women's Center with Libby Bouvier, archivist and long-time Board member, who also gave a March talk as part of the W.I.T.C.H. feminist lecture series. Videotapes will be available for viewing at the Women's Center.

"A Place of Our Own for 25 Years" is our slogan for the year, reflecting the unique meaning and value the Women's Center has had for us all.

The **25th Anniversary Planning Committee** (with room for new members) has been meeting for several months. We hope to coordinate one main event to bring in needed funds to help the Women's Center forge ahead into our next quarter-century! For this event, we are seeking a well-known performer to guarantee a memorable evening. We are contacting performers who might do a benefit for us. If you have suggestions or connections, please let us know!

We hope to do several events which depends on WOMANPOWER! That means you! We would love your help with any part of the 25th Anniversary planning or production. There will be committees to join and tasks for women who do not have a lot of time and/or wish to bypass committee meetings. Call Jennifer at (617)354-8807 with your interests and activity preferences.

The committee has also been working with volunteer artists and graphic designers to create flyers, T-shirts, displays, invitations, and stationery letterhead. Thank you volunteers!

We would also like to ask you to share your stories/feelings about the Women's Center. Please

send us letters, poems, artwork, photographs, or other mementos about the Women's Center. We'd like to know what the Center means to you and how it has helped you (anonymously if you prefer). These pieces will be used in various inspirational ways: public readings, booklets, fundraising, etc. Drop off any submissions or send them to: 25th Anniversary Committee, The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. And keep your eye out for a Women's Center window display at Cambridge Trust bank in Harvard Square.

Let's all pull together and make the 25th a year to remember!

STAY TUNED...and remember, **call Jennifer at (617)354-8807 if you would like to help with any part of our event planning.**

WOMEN'S COUNSELING AND RESOURCE CENTER ALSO TURNS 25

The *Women's Counseling and Resource Center* is also celebrating its 25th anniversary this year! We are planning a reception for past and present members, but our archives are incomplete. If you were a therapist with WCRC, or know someone who was, please call us at (617)492-8568 and let us know your current address and phone number. We look forward to meeting all of the women who have kept WCRC going for 25 years!

NEW! WOMEN'S CABLE TV PROGRAM!

The Women's Center is delighted and proud to be part of *WomanSpeak*, a new weekly program on Cambridge Community Television (Channel 55) that explores women's issues. We will be hosting the program, which airs from 5:30 to 6pm, on the second Wednesday of each month. Please tune in! For our next show on April 10th, we will talk about "Recovering from Child Sexual Abuse" with Dr. Elaine Westerlund, founder of **Incest Resources**. On May 8th, our guest will be Rita Arditti from the **Women's Community Cancer Project**. Watch us at home if you get CCTV, or come to the Women's Center and watch it here.

INTERNATIONAL/ INTERCULTURAL WOMEN'S GROUP



It has certainly been an exciting year for the *International/Intercultural Women's Group*. We are expanding by leaps and bounds! We are having dynamic and interesting discussions! We are beginning to build our community in new ways! So far we have tackled the following topics: *Women's Spirituality*; *Women's Moods and Emotions*; *Women, War and Bosnia*; and *Prejudices in Our Lives*. All of these topics generated a great deal of discussion on global issues and allowed us to share personal experiences. As far as the rest of the year is concerned... On March 30th our topic will be *Women's International Health and/or Leadership*, on April 27th we plan to discuss the "*American Dream and What it Means to be an American*", and in May we will close out our year with our annual potluck dinner (call in April for date and time). All familiar faces and new members are welcome to attend our meetings, which take place on the last Saturday of each month from 1 to 3pm.

In addition to letting you know about our schedule of events, I would also like to share some of my personal experiences with the *International/Intercultural Women's Group*. When I first moved back to the Boston area I found myself caught in a painful search for community. I tried attending several women's groups in the Boston area. As a woman who is passionate about global issues and women's lives and experiences all over the world, I was constantly struggling to find a group that had a broad focus. I must say that I have found my home with this particular group.

In September, I became the group's new co-coordinator. Since then I have seen and experienced wonderful things. Together we've worked to expand our group not only in numbers, but also in the area of discussion topics. Most memorable in this regard is our discussion on *Women, War, and Bosnia*. Led by Victoria Poupko, a local activist and founder of the *Boston Group Against Ethnic Cleansing*, 15 of us discussed the war in Bosnia, the mass raping of women, the relationship between war and violence against women, and what we could do in our own lives to address what is going on in Bosnia. The discussion was SO dynamic and exciting!!! It is this kind of discussion, along with our new tradition of tea/snack/social time at the beginning of each meeting, that allows us to connect with one another and to share important information about what is going on in the world.

I want to thank all of the women who have and continue to attend our meetings for providing me (and one another!) with a sense of community and

connection. Lastly, I would like to thank my co-coordinator, Marina, for all of her support, friendship, and work throughout the year. It is Marina's energy and dedication to the group that allows us to do an incredible amount of outreach.

In the next several months we will be brainstorming ideas for next fall's schedule. Also, we are inviting women who are interested in volunteering to coordinate the group to attend a meeting and/or to speak with Marina and myself. Please feel free to join us.

In sisterhood and solidarity.

-Lisa

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS NETWORK (R2N2)

As part of the *Abortion Access Project*, R2N2 will be featuring the following forums at upcoming meetings. These forums will be held in the first floor conference room at 14 Beacon Street, Boston (across from the State House, one block from Park Street Station), and all begin at 7pm.

Wednesday, March 27: A discussion of late-term abortions featuring the video, *Legislating a Tragedy*, produced by the *Center for Reproductive Law and Policy*. The video analyzes the efforts of Congress and some state legislatures to ban a technique used in later abortions.

Wednesday, April 24: A screening of the film *Jane - An Abortion Service*, by Kate Kirtz and Nell Lundy, about a group of women in Chicago who performed safe, low-cost abortions for thousands of women before abortions were legalized.

Wednesday, May 22: A discussion of the Far Right and the Anti-Abortion Movement, featuring a guest speaker.

For more information, call (617)494-1161.

W.I.T.C.H. FEMINIST LECTURE SERIES

Since 1985, the W.I.T.C.H. feminist group has been presenting a spring lecture series in the Boston area. With speakers from as near as Boston and as far away as Australia, we have worked to bring discussion of feminist issues to women. Over the years, the series has had many homes. This year the lectures will take place on **Thursdays at 7:30pm** from March through May at the Women's Center. We are very pleased to be part of this 25th Anniversary year of the Women's Center, and are amazed at the quarter century of work it has accomplished. The topics of the series are diverse and we invite women to come and be part of our learning together.

To find out about upcoming topics and speakers, please call (617)666-0828.

ASÍ QUE AMAS A UN ALCOHÓLICO

El alcoholismo es una enfermedad. Lo primero que debes reconocer, creer y aceptar es que el alcoholismo es una enfermedad real, una enfermedad que afecta a todos los que mantienen una relación estrecha con él o ella.

La Asociación Médica Americana y muchas otras autoridades en todo el mundo declaran que el alcoholico padece de una enfermedad sobre la cual él o ella no tiene control.

Borra de tu pensamiento todo lo que creas que sabes acerca del alcoholismo. Entonces dedicate a un programa de aprendizaje. No esperes a que el alcoholico busque ayuda antes de tomar una decisión en tu propio beneficio. Los grupos de AL-ANON se componen de la familia y amigos de alcoholicos.

AL-ANON grupo familiar para las mujeres hispanas es en español y las reuniones son cada lunes, 6 a 7:30pm. Para más información o si necesitas cuidado para los niños, llames al (617)232-4916 (en español) o (617)354-8807 (en inglés).

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS GROUP

Vera S. Cohen, LICSW, will lead a 6-week **Post-Traumatic Stress Women's Group** beginning on Tuesday, April 9. The group is for women dealing with the aftermath of a traumatic experience and suffering from flashbacks, extreme anxiety or anger, nightmares, and/or fear of closeness. Women must register in advance. For more information or to register, call Vera at (617)354-2304 or the Women's Center at (617)354-8807.

NEW! CODA WOMEN'S GROUP

Codependents Anonymous (CODA) Women's Group will begin to meet on Fridays, from 6 to 7:30pm, starting April 12. CODA is a new, ongoing 12-step group which welcomes any woman who wants healthy, loving relationships in her life. Finally, a CODA group for women! See you there! For more information, call Christy at (617)628-1323.

RELATING BETTER GROUP

Psychotherapist Betsy Ross will run another **Relating Better Group** this spring. This 8-week workshop is designed to increase our awareness of how and why we relate the way we do. Issues include: examining current relationships (with friends, co-workers, lovers, family members, etc.), identifying effective vs. ineffective relating styles, and learning about obstacles to being closer.

A new group will begin on April 17, 6 to 7:30pm. To register, call (617)354-8807.

Also look for a ½ day **Relating Better** workshop in May.

ADVOCACY GROUP FOR THE HYPERSENSITIVE "MINORITY"

Just as cancer incidence is rising as the result of environmental pollution, so too are there increasing numbers of chemical-sensitive people (approximately 15% of the population, according to the National Academy of Sciences -- and expanding). Among those most vulnerable to chemical injury are women (including the fetuses of those who are pregnant), people with allergies or chronic illness, people who are poor or who work in high-risk occupations (like the chemical industry), the elderly, and the very young. *Hypersensitivity* is most under-reported in low-income communities.

That pesticides, solvents, adhesives, plasticizers, perfumed cosmetics, air "fresheners," and thousands of other toxic products damage cell membranes and cause sensitization and disease is undisputed; among the worst sensitizers are formaldehyde, isocyanates, and chlorine compounds, widespread in homes, retail stores, offices, and other public buildings, as well as in the air, water, and soil of heavy agricultural areas. Multiple chemical sensitivity can appear along with asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis, and especially with disorders of the neurological, immune, and digestive systems. When the syndrome is present, a person has reached a certain threshold of tolerance and is at risk from continued exposure. The degree of reactivity depends on the injury sustained, but even those who are not totally disabled must be vigilant to prevent their illness from worsening to the point where damage is irreversible. Our lives are defined by limitations around work, travel, and public gatherings.

The Women's Center offers a safe space for the **Chemical Injury Information Network** to meet. Political organizing -- preventing misuse of toxic chemicals -- is useful therapy. With environmental-justice coalitions in place, we can more effectively revise public policy on use of pesticides, carpeting, solvents, synthetic fragrances, etc.

Earth Day is coming -- a prime opportunity to raise awareness about the sick schools, hospitals, courthouses, and other sites where health problems are reported. Join the group on Thursday, April 5 -- and every first Thursday -- from 5:30 to 7pm to strategize.

- Judy Spear

WOMEN'S CENTER HOURS

Monday - Thursday 10am - 10pm

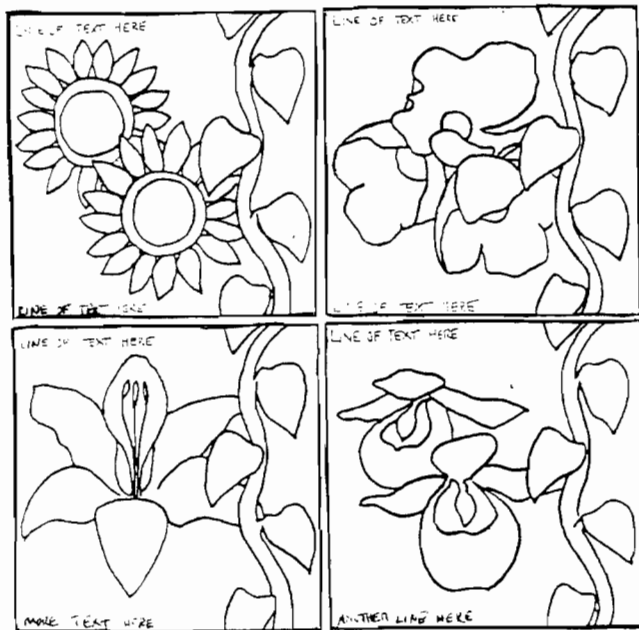
Friday 10am - 8pm

Saturday 11am - 4pm

UPDATE ON THE TILE CAMPAIGN

If you've dropped by the Women's Center this year, you may have noticed a transformation occurring in our kitchen! We are preparing one of the walls for the installation of the Women's Center's *Commemorative Tiles*. The tiles honor and remember women -- or in some cases, ideas -- which have had special meaning to a donor. The tiles "cost" \$250/each, to help fund the Women's Center's 40+ support groups, vital resources, referral information, and more.

Our artist, New England-based Bekah Perks, will be taking a one-year sabbatical starting Sept. 1, 1996. We hope to commission as many tiles as possible before Bekah takes a break. Thus far we have "sold" 24 tiles, and have room for 36 more. The campaign has turned out to be a great way for donors to honor women (or ideas) in a permanent way at the Women's Center, while providing needed funding to keep this place going. Please feel free to stop by and view the installation later this spring, or call Pamela at (617)354-8807 for more details about the *Commemorative Tile Campaign*. Thank you!



RYLES BENEFIT

The Women's Center had a fundraiser on Sunday, February 18, at Ryles nightclub from 4 to 7pm. Approximately \$600 was raised for the Women's Center and a much-needed fax machine was donated by a very kind individual.

The combination of strong community involvement, loud disco music, smiling beautiful women and great refreshments made the evening exceptionally successful. Thanks so much to the organizers of Ryles on Sunday nights!



FROM THE DESK OF OUR FUNDRAISER...

Last issue, I appealed to all of you to help the Women's Center balance our 1995 budget. We needed your help to raise \$21,186 (about ¼ of our annual budget) in the last two months of the year! As you can imagine, as the Development Coordinator, I had a stressful couple of months! But with your help, and a few grants, we did it! 1995 marked the **first time in 3 years** that the Women's Center closed its fiscal year without a deficit. *And we owe our thanks to you!* Your gifts, no matter what size, make a difference in women's lives. In fact, they are a key reason that the Women's Center is able to do so much for women -- *free* of charge. We couldn't do it without friends like you. So, from the Women's Center to all who made a contribution last year: ♀♀♂♂♥♣♠♣♠♣♠♣♠ ; **MUCHAS GRACIAS!** ...and we encourage you to make an additional donation to support the Women's Center in our **25th Anniversary Year**. We've included a clip-out coupon on the back of this issue of *On Our Way* for your convenience. Thanks again!!

-Pamela Goldstein

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

As you may know, sexual harassment violates the Civil Rights Act's prohibition against sex discrimination. There are two types: (1) "quid pro quo" harassment in which the employer makes employment decisions about you based on your submission to/rejection of unwelcome sexual advances or conduct.

The second, more common these days and harder to pinpoint, is "hostile working environment" (HWE). Examples include: sexual advances; gender-based baiting, ridicule, banter, hazing; use of crude or vulgar language; sexually oriented discussions; the presence of lewd, offensive, pornographic material; or ANY gender-based intimidation or hostility.

Whether a particular instance or series of events creates a hostile working environment depends on the severity. A single act or isolated incident has to be unusually severe to constitute a HWE.

What to do about it? If you are having problems with sexual harassment at work, it is essential to tell someone. (The **Sexual Harassment Support Group** next meets on Monday, April 15, and Thursday, May 30, 7 to 9pm.) It is also essential to document exactly what happened. For more information, come to the group, or call the facilitator, Loieuse Bonar, at (617)254-1729.

WOMEN WRITING

I came to this group about a year ago when I was desperate to get time to write. I was attracted by a description which sounded friendly, non-competitive, non-stressful, and open. I still didn't expect much, but decided to try it out. I wasn't able to write at home, so what could I lose?

I didn't read (out loud) anything I wrote that first time. (We share what we write but it isn't obligatory.) I felt unsure about what I had written, and was intimidated listening to the beautiful, clever, and well-crafted phrases of others. In comparison, I thought, my own work was too simple, infantile, even embarrassing – definitely not worth sharing.

Work obligations kept me from the next 2 sessions, and I missed 2 more after that because I was travelling. By then, I was reeling from a failed relationship, and I was an emotional mess, too vulnerable, I thought to come back and share my pain. Instead, I signed up for the AIDS Ride, and trained my body like crazy, to distract me from my loss and to ease the pain of others.

It was 6 months before I came back, and even then I marvelled at my courage. Once here, however, I was keenly aware of how easy it was for me to enter. (The group is very welcoming, and although some women have been a part of it for years, there is someone new almost every time.)

It took me about two more sessions before I was able to read anything aloud. I remember the day I took the plunge. It was an unusually large group that day. After the first writing exercise, the person sitting on my left volunteered to read what she had written. It was wonderful. Then the woman on her left read what she had written, and so on around the room. As I listened to each woman weave her words into whole cloth, filling the room with life's questions and answers, I was struck by how different each person's work was. Suddenly I saw that my writing wasn't any more different from everyone else's than each woman's work was from each other woman's work. I realized that each of us writes out of her own unique experiences and sensibilities, her own history and sense of self. It made no sense to think about this in comparative (read "competitive") terms. It was a revelation, and it worked. When it was my turn, I read my piece and felt the unexpected joy of sharing and giving a part of me back to the group – and it wasn't bad, either, receiving praise and helpful comments about my work!

I highly recommend *Women Writing* to anyone who likes to write. It is a safe and supportive space, and very welcoming to newcomers. The group meets every other Saturday from 12:30 to 2:30pm.

-Susan Freireich



NEW! WRITERS' CIRCLE

Writers' Circle is a new group (started in February) for experienced writers. Our purpose/mission is: to provide respectful and meaningful responses to one another's written work, to discuss the writing process, and to exchange information about publishing opportunities.

The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Writers should bring in 6 to 8 copies of written work to share with the group ("second" drafts and better are preferred). We read each other's work aloud and discuss it in the first 90 minutes of each meeting. The last 30 minutes are devoted to the writing process and the business of writing. A moderator starts us off each week, explains the format to newcomers, and keeps things moving.

For more information, please contact Cassandra Oxley at (617)494-2695.

FINDING & SURVIVING THE WORKPLACE

What do women who come to this support group have in common?

- Unemployment, underemployment, or unhappiness in their current job.
- Varied backgrounds and education.
- Many talents, experiences, concerns, and aspirations.
- A need to talk about work-related issues in a safe environment.
- A need to explore alternatives to traditional jobs.
- A need to regain their self-esteem and self-confidence.
- A need to find a breakthrough in their job search.
- A willingness to reach out and be supportive.

For 5 years, the Women's Center has provided a safe place for this support group. Participants find empathy, sympathy, and an opportunity to brainstorm on issues about the workplace.

If you need willing listeners, sympathetic friends, or even networking, then join us! If you need help with your resumé, join us! If you want to practice interviewing or negotiating, join us! Bring your ideas! Take away shared insights! Feel empowered!

Finding and Surviving the Workplace is an ongoing, free, drop-in group that meets twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Call the Women's Center at (617)354-8807 for more information.

INCEST SURVIVORS ANONYMOUS

We welcome women survivors (including teens) to our Friday evening meeting, from 6:30 to 8pm. At *Incest Survivors Anonymous* (I.S.A.), we share our experiences in a safe atmosphere, allowing us to find comfort, and to experience growth.

I.S.A. is based on the 12 steps and the 12 traditions, adapted from Alcoholics Anonymous. For three weeks of each month, we hold a "step meeting," discussing a step, a tradition, and/or other topics. On the second Friday of each month, a survivor tells her story, followed by group members' sharing. The meeting is well-structured, with rotating leadership and a time-keeper who signals after each person has shared for three, and then five minutes. Time is set aside especially for newcomers from 7:50 until 8pm to talk and/or ask questions, but new members are welcome to share throughout the meeting. Many of us are glad to answer questions, or simply to listen and give support.

By listening and talking, we identify with each other, and by coming out of isolation, we begin to love and accept ourselves. One of the I.S.A. slogans is "Don't forget the hope." We meet each week as a reminder to keep that hope alive. See you at the meeting!

LESBIANS CHOOSING CHILDREN

The *Lesbians Choosing Children* group is actually a reincarnation of a group which met for years at the Women's Center. The new group started meeting in December of 1995. All lesbians who are interested in parenting issues are welcome to come.

Typically, 8-10 women attend the meetings. Topics we have discussed include adoption vs. insemination, known vs. unknown donors, homophobia, children, and relationships. Single moms, partnered lesbians considering children, women adopting, women inseminating, moms with children, co-parents, pregnant and new moms have attended the group. Meetings are informal; the main objective is for women to receive information and support from each other.

In the future, we would like to have guest speakers visit our group. Topics we are interested in include legal issues regarding the adoption process, two parent adoption, alternative insemination, and dealing with homophobia in the community. We are especially eager to hear from women who have had successful adoption experiences and stories. Volunteer guest speakers are welcome!!! Please call Margaret at (617)461-5946.

Lesbians Choosing Children meets at the Women's Center on the third Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30pm.

AGING WELL

How Things Were for Women in 1995 and *How Things Were for You* was the subject for our December meeting. We talked of rape, domestic violence, the million man march, and equality. We came to no unanimous conclusion but most of us thought that, for women, conditions had not improved in 1995.

We met on a cold and snowy day in January to discuss *The Impact of the Media on the Elderly*. We agreed that we have to assess ourselves as individuals, and not pay attention to the way we are depicted in advertisements. We are not all like the models for HMO ads who are always happy and full of life. The media seldom looks at the elderly who are poor, sick, or depressed.

Managed Care, HMO's, and the Senior Citizen was our February topic. Barbara Ackermann, the former mayor of Cambridge and Chair of the Women's Task Force at the Cambridge Hospital was our speaker. Ms. Ackermann urged us all to sign a medical proxy. She described the pros and cons and differences between Medicare and HMO's. For instance, Medicare pays better but HMO's emphasize preventive care. Ms. Ackermann advised us to look carefully into both systems and decide which is best for us. She also told us that management and business are getting rich on U.S. health care to the tune of \$1 million a day.

Reclaiming Our History; the Crone as Wise Woman was our March topic. We talked about the time when women had tremendous power and how that power was taken from us.

For our next meeting, we will present a workshop for **Women's Health Day** on May 4. We hope all women interested in aging well will join us.

WOMEN OVER 45

Women Over 45 is an ongoing discussion group with a feminist perspective. We usually choose a topic for each meeting such as "relationships," "health," or "work," and take turns talking. This is not a drop-in group. We welcome new women who want to attend a group in an ongoing manner. If you are looking for this kind of discussion, join us! We meet every other Thursday from 7:30 to 9pm. Please call (617)354-8807 for more information and upcoming meeting dates.

PARENTING AND FAMILY ISSUES

The *Parenting and Family Issues Support Group* is seeking new members. The group meets on a weekday morning and is led by a facilitator. If you are interested in joining this group, please call the Women's Center at (617)354-8807.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION



LESBIAN RAP

Mondays, 7:30-9pm

- April 1 Video Night - *Celluloid Closet*.
- 8 Lesbians in Teaching.
- 15 Gays and Religion.
- 22 Dreams About Sexuality.
- 29 Finding Your Identity.

30+ LESBIAN RAP

Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm

- April 2 Running into Ex's.
- 9 Creative/Erotic Writing Activity.
- 16 What Does "being supportive" Mean?
- 23 Game Night - Bring Games.
- 30 Social Alternatives to the Bar Scene.

BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP

Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00pm

- April 2 Endings of Relationships.
- 9 Keeping the Bi Rap Going.
- 16 Dating Tips.
- 23 Removing Obstacles to Your Dreams.
- 30 Favorite Vacation Stories.

INTERNATIONAL/INTERCULTURAL WOMEN'S GROUP

Last Saturday/month, Sep. - May, 1-3pm

- April 27 The "American Dream."

INCEST RESOURCES' FACILITATED OPEN DISCUSSION FOR SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Last Friday/month, Sep. - June, 6-7:30pm

(please be on time to avoid disrupting the group)

- April 26 Control.
- May 31 Sexuality.
- June 28 Trust and Friendships.

INCEST SURVIVORS' THINKTANK

1st Wednesday/month, 7:15-9:15pm

- April 3 Survivors Brainstorm on Resources.
- May 1 Empowerment and the Mental Health Profession.
- June 5 Ritual Abuse.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, April 15, 7 - 9pm

Thursday, May 30, 7 - 9pm

NEW! WOMANSPEAK CABLE TV SHOW

2nd Wed./month, 5:30-6pm on Camb. Cable, Ch. 55

- April 10 **Incest** with Dr. Elaine Westerlund.
- May 8 **Women & Cancer** with Rita Arditti.

SOLVING PROBLEMS IN OUR GROUPS

Wednesday, April 10, 7 - 8:30pm.

Come brainstorm with others about ways to deal with difficulties you've encountered (related to size, inclusiveness, time-sharing, supportiveness, etc.)

ONGOING GROUPS

SUNDAY

- ♿ • Aging Well (*usually 1st Sunday/month*) 2-5pm

MONDAY

- Al-anon Grupo para Mujeres (*en español*). 6-7:30pm
- Battered Women's Support Group 7:30-9pm
- Lesbian Rap 7:30-9pm
- ♿ • Reproductive Rights Network (R2N2) (*usually 2nd & 4th Monday/month*). 6:30-9pm
- Women's NA 12 Step Group 7:30-8:30pm

TUESDAY

- Bisexual Women's Rap 7:30-9:00pm
- ♿ • 30+ Lesbian Rap 7-8:30pm
- Eating Awareness & Body Image Group 7-9pm
- Lesbian Partners & Ex-Partners of Incest Survivors (*3rd Tuesday/month*) 7-8:45pm
- Women with Disabilities and/or Chronic Illness Support Group (*2nd Tuesday/month*) 5:15-6:45pm
- Writers' Circle (*2nd & 4th Tuesday*) 6:30-8:30pm

WEDNESDAY

- Battered Women's Support Group (*weekly except 3rd Wednesday/month*) 7-9pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's Network (*2nd Wednesday, odd #'d months*) 7:30-9pm
- Incest Survivors' Thinktank (*1st Wed.*) 7:15-9:15pm
- ♿ • Lesbian Al-anon 6:30-8pm
- Women of Colors Rap (*newcomers 1st Wed.*) 7:30-9pm

THURSDAY

- ♿ • Cancer Support Group (*2nd/4th Thurs.*) 7-8:30pm
- Chemical Injury Info. Network (*1st Thurs.*) 5:30-7pm
- Feminist Reading Group (*2nd/4th Thurs.*) 7-9:30pm
- Incest Survivors Open Discussion 7:30-9:30pm
- Lesbians Choosing Children (*3rd Thursday*) 7-8:30pm
- ♿ • Women's Community Cancer Project, Open General Meeting (*1st Thursday/month*) 7-9pm
- Women Over 45 (*every other Thursday*) 7:30-9pm
- W.I.T.C.H. Feminist Lecture Series (*thru May*) 7:30pm

FRIDAY

- CODA Women's Group (*begins April 12*) 6-7:30pm
- Incest Resources' Facilitated Discussion for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse (*last Friday*) 6-7:30pm
- ♿ • Incest Survivors Anonymous 6:30-8pm

SATURDAY

- Broken Hearts/Broken Relationships: A Support Group for Lesbians (*3rd Saturday*) 2-4pm
- ♿ • Coming Out Discussion for Women of All Ages (*usually 1st Sat.; usually ASL interp'd*) 11am-1pm
- Finding & Surviving the Workplace (*2nd & 4th Saturdays*) 11:30am-1:30pm
- The Friendship Connection (*2nd Sat.*) 1:30-3:30pm
- ♿ • International/Intercultural Women's Group (*usually the last Sat./month, Sep. - May*) 1-3pm
- Women Writing (*biweekly*) 12:30-2:30pm

♀ WOMEN'S HEALTH DAY - MAY 4, 1996 ♀
♀ JOU SANTE POU FI - 4 MAI 1996 ♀
♀ EL DIA DE LA SALUD DE LA MUJER - ♀
EL 4 DE MAYO 1996

The third annual **Cambridge Women's Health Day** will be celebrated on **Saturday, May 4, 1996**. Once again, many community resources have come together to make Women's Health Day happen. The Women's Commission, CEOC, The Cambridge Hospital, the Women's Center, and many others have all participated in the 1996 plans.

Reserve the whole day from 10am to 4pm. There will be morning and afternoon workshops that address the many issues related to women's health. These workshops will be free and led by women who are knowledgeable about the topics. We will all come together at lunch for tasty, nutritious food and a keynote speaker. Workshops will be held at the new Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave., and the YWCA on Temple Street.

Women of all ages, incomes, and cultures are invited. There will be workshops offered in Haitian Creole, Spanish, and English. Confirmed workshop topics include: Living with Chronic Pain, Mejor Sola Que Mal Acompañada, Environmental Illness, How to Evaluate Your Therapist/Therapy, Cancer 101, Body Sense - Body Strong: Creating an Exercise Program, Native American Healing, Aging, Abortion Options, Giving Birth with Midwives, Breast Self-Exams, Living with Depression, and Coming Out to Your Health Care Provider. Flyers/schedules will be available at the Women's Center, or call Mary at the Women's Commission for more information: (617)349-4697.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BATTERED WOMEN'S GROUP

The *Battered Women's Support Group* wishes to thank a group of students from Emmanuel College for making a contribution in memory of Lisa Miller, the sister of one of the students, who was a victim of domestic violence. The Emmanuel students "join together with you and all women to resist men and their violence and to re-create ourselves in strength and sisterhood." Thank you.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT RIDES

The *Battered Women's Support Group* meets Wednesdays from 7 to 9pm, except for the third Wednesday of the month. Members of the group (and their children, in some cases) need rides home, to the nearest bus stop, or to the nearest subway. Can you give a woman attending this group a ride? Your help will be greatly appreciated. Call Jennifer at (617)354-8807 to volunteer.



FEMINIST READING GROUP

Join us for our April meetings as we read Evelyn Fox Keller's Reflections on Gender & Science followed by Rat Bohemia by Sarah Schulman. The *Feminist Reading Group* meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 7 to 9:30pm and warmly welcomes new members! For more information contact the Women's Center at (617)354-8807.

DYKE MARCH PLANS FOR '96

Come join us in planning the 2nd Annual **Boston Dyke March**. We are an independent group of individuals who are interested in working in coalition with other queer groups. We are dykes, out and proud, feminist, and progressive. We encourage everyone to make connections with the many issues that affect our community -- homophobia, racism, welfare, anti-semitism, violence, and immigration, to name a few. Please call (617)524-5895 for meeting times and dates. Meetings will be held at Jamaica Plain Community Center (formerly Curtis Hall), 20 South Street, Jamaica Plain. Wheelchair accessible.

FIGHT THE RIGHT MARCH

San Francisco, CA * Sunday, April 14, 1996

The purpose of the Fight the Right March is to bring together women, men and children from across the country to send a clear message to policy-makers: the majority of people denounce the divisive hate-mongering of the right-wing and will actively support affirmative action; economic justice; reproductive freedom; civil rights; lesbian, gay and bisexual rights; and efforts to end violence against women. The March is organized by NOW and endorsed by the Women's Center.

For more information contact FIGHT THE RIGHT MARCH at (415)436-9390.

FIFTY PLUS ONE

June 8-9, 1996: Fifty plus One will host a **beginner-level electoral campaign training** for pro-choice women at Simmons Institute for Leadership and Change at Simmons College, Boston, MA. Participants will learn from female elected officials and seasoned campaign professionals how to effectively manage an electoral campaign for local, state and national office. Cost is \$100 with scholarships available; \$35 student and senior citizen rate. For registration information, call Cindy at (301)587-8061.

THE WOMEN'S CENTER
46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: (617)354-8807 TTY/Voice

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Boston, MA
PERMIT NO. 59699

Address Correction Requested




**WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE
NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

The Women's Lunch Place serves the daytime needs of homeless women in the Boston area. The work of the Women's Lunch Place is based on respect, concern, and commitment to poor and homeless women. If you share this commitment and would like to volunteer to work in the kitchen and serving meals to the women, please call Tania at (617)267-1722. The shifts most needed at this time are Mondays 10am -2pm and Tuesdays 8am-12pm or 10am-2pm.

FEMINIST ROUNDTABLE

Would you be willing to discuss what feminism means to you and how you enact your beliefs in life? I am a doctoral student at MIT working on my thesis and am trying to organize roundtable discussions during the months of April and May. I am looking for participants for these 1½ to 2-hour sessions. Women of all races, sexual orientations, and backgrounds are encouraged to participate, as I am particularly interested in gaining various perspectives on this topic. If you are interested in participating, please contact me, Amy Segal at (617)253-3940 or asegal@mit.edu.

↓ ↓ **On Our Way readers/non-readers (that's you!)** ↓ ↓ 

HELP! *The Women's Center Mailing List has grown to over 4,000!*

In order to control distribution costs, we need to know who wants to stay on our mailing list. (We also need contributions toward the newsletter, if possible.) Please return this form to: *On Our Way* newsletter, *The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. Thank you!*

- YES**, keep me on the Women's Center's mailing list.
 - I'd like to become a regular **monthly sustainer**, with a pledge of \$ _____ /per month.
(we send a monthly calendar, info update, and a return envelope)
 - Enclosed is my **tax-deductible contribution** of \$100 \$50 \$25 other \$ _____
 - I can't make a donation at this time, but please keep me on the list.
- Please **remove** my name from the Women's Center mailing list.

Name (as it appears on your mailing label): _____

Code Number (on label): _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone #(s): _____ Thanks!