

# ♀ ON OUR WAY

Newsletter of the Women's Center  
46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139  
Telephone: (617) 354-8807

Fall, 1983

## Women's Center Open House



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>  
2-5p.m.

- Refreshments!
- Childcare provided
- Get involved with projects
- Start new groups!
- Meet, talk and share with other women

**All Women Welcome**

Many of the groups and projects at the Women's Center originated at an Open House held early in the Center's existence.

Women came, talked, and formed groups to address specific areas where women are oppressed.

We hope this fall's Open House can again be an opportunity for women to start new groups and for lots of women to become involved or reinvolved with the Center.

Many of the Center Projects would welcome the energy of women who'd like to join. For example, Women Against Violence Against Women, Introductory, The Battered Women's Directory, Women's Pentagon Action, The Library, and Core (administrative stuff) are some of the projects wanting new members. Current members of these and the other groups and projects associated with the Center will be on hand.

**PUMA presents**  
**The Hooker's Ball**  
all hallow's eve  
NARCISSUS CLUB, KENMORE SQUARE  
\$5 at the door

- Entertainment
  - Dancing
  - Prize for best costume
- Sponsored by PUMA and  
FINEX HOUSE, a refuge  
for battered prostitutes

# CENTER GROUPS

## THE MOTHER'S GROUP

The Mother's Group, which meets every other Thursday evening, exists to give support to all mothers. We originally began as a group for single mothers (and still find the bulk of our attendees to be single), but expanded our vision when we saw how this society gives lip service to the ideal of motherhood but has little desire to deal with the reality, with the nitty-gritty day to day problems of moms and kids.

Specifically, we schedule general raps, topic raps, and activities. The Women's Center provides us with the money to hire childcare, which has been a great help in holding uninterrupted meetings. The children's room is where the childcare is provided, and we've found it to be a good space.

We meet from 7-9p.m. at the Center. Our next meetings will be on November 3 and 17. Anyone interested can call the Center for meeting dates, or call Jan at 284-8537 or Sasha at 524-7507 for more info.

## BOSTON WOMEN'S PENTAGON ACTION

Our major project now is working with the Campaign to Stop the Euromissiles to protest the projected deployment of missiles in Europe this December. Our actions include participating in a civil disobedience protest at Avco Corporation in Wilmington, Mass, makers of the guidance systems for the Cruise and Pershing II missiles.

We now meet every other Thursday, 7-9:30p.m. at the Women's Center (next meetings are Nov. 10, 24). We are looking for new members. Call Ellie, 628-9395, for details.

DROP-IN DISCUSSION GROUP FOR WOMEN WITH INCEST HISTORIES will meet the third Thursday of every month, beginning in October. Topics: Nov. 17, Self-Image; Dec. 15, Trust. Meets 7:30-9:30p.m. Sponsored by Incest Resources, 492-1818.

YOUNGER LESBIANS, a support and discussion group open to women 22 and under, meets every Tuesday, 6-8p.m.

COMING OUT GROUP meets every Monday, 8-10p.m.

INTRODUCTORY, an open discussion group, meets every Wed. at 8p.m. at the Center. It's an opportunity to learn about the Center's resources and participate in informal discussions about our common experiences as women. Topics: Nov. 9, Incest Resources; Nov. 16, Ending Relationships; Nov. 23, Loneliness; Nov. 30, Rape Crisis.

THE JEWISH WOMEN'S OPEN DISCUSSION GROUP meets every other Friday from 7:30-10p.m. Nov. 4: Jewish women and class (we will break down into small facilitated groups of mixed class backgrounds); Nov. 18, feedback and evaluation session; Dec. 2, Chanukah celebration. For more info call the Center.

BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP is open to any battered woman. Mondays 6:30p.m. and/or Wednesdays 11:30a.m.

CO-PARENTING GROUP FOR LESBIANS will be starting soon. Keep in touch for dates and times

WOMEN OF COLOR, LESBIAN LIBERATION, AND LESBIAN MOTHERS are not meeting at present. We hope they will start up again. Call the Center or come to the Open House (Nov. 5, 2-5p.m.), to help get any of them started or to express your interest.

AND WHAT'S NEXT???? Come to the Open House with your ideas for new groups, especially if you're willing to put in some time to make them happen!

# Rape Crisis Center

Time has passed but our horror has not. As attention to the brutal rape of a New Bedford woman fades with time, it is easy to lose sight of our anger and outrage. That may be the goal of the judge who continued the case to a January court date. Perhaps the hope is that our memories will soften, our anger abate, and our attention be diverted.

We cannot allow that to happen. The New Bedford rape received unprecedented media attention, and deserves our continued awareness. One way to offer ongoing support is to continue the struggle to end the rape and harassment which occurs daily in our lives.

Over the past few months there have been some encouraging developments. The Lt. Governor's office sponsored a state-wide conference on "victims of violent crimes" in the spring. An outgrowth of this conference was the establishment of the "Rape Working Group", a group which includes prosecutors, rape investigators, victim/witness advocates, rape counselors, health care professionals, and others. The function of this group is to formulate and recommend to the Governor's Anti-Crime Council measures which the state government could adopt to help prevent sexual assault, aid the physical and emotional recovery of sexual assault survivors, and improve reporting, apprehension, prosecution, and conviction of offenders.

One bill which has already been signed into law is the extension of the rape shield law (first passed six years ago). This law exempts a rape victim's past sexual history

from being admissible in court. The new law extends this exemption to victims of sexual assault and attempted rape.

Hopefully, a law permitting rape counselor confidentiality will also be passed soon. Please call your representatives and senators in support of the bill.

Changes such as these represent progress in a culture which has failed to condemn rape and sexual violence. Our Governor is quoted as saying: "This society of ours is almost obsessed with sex". When will they hear us say that rape is not sex but violence, not passion but power.

For more information on what can be done, call 492-RAPE.

## March on Washington

Reagan's ability to increase our military presence there has been limited by deepening anti-war sentiment internationally and in the United States. However, recent Administration policy statements show that the only strategy envisioned by our government is a military solution to the conflicts.

The November 12 march on Washington will demonstrate the American people's desire for peace and non-intervention in Central America. Support for the march comes from a wide range of individuals and groups.

Ideas, energy, and financial support are needed. Please call 492-8699 for more information.

# Chairlift Drive

In August, the Women's Center received a \$1500 challenge grant from the Cambridge Commission on Handicapped Persons, to be applied toward the purchase price (\$5000) of a mechanized chairlift. The Chairlift Fund drive began in January, and was prompted by requests from physically-challenged women in the area who would like to participate in Women's Center activities.

In order to receive this grant, the Center was required to raise a matching sum of \$1500 from other sources prior to January 1, 1984. We are very happy to report that, thanks to the generosity of many, we have now received enough money to match the grant!

We now have \$3000 of the \$5000 required to purchase the lift. We need your help to raise the remaining \$2000. It's possible that the lift could be installed by the end of this year!

Please send your contribution to:

"The Chairlift Fund"  
Women's Center  
46 Pleasant Street  
Cambridge, MA. 02139

Checks should be made out to the Women's Center. Donations are tax deductible.

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

Phone: (617) 354-8807

# The Women's School

The fall term of the Women's School has started. There are still some unfilled workshops/classes. Call the Center if you'd like to register: it's not too late! (354-8807)

## Workshops:

Demystifying the Arms Race: A Feminist Perspective  
Saturday, Oct. 29, 1-5p.m.

## Breast Conditions

Sat., Nov. 12, 10a.m.-4p.m.  
(This workshop will present an overview of normal and abnormal breast conditions, along with traditional and alternative treatments.)

## Food and Hunger

Sat., Nov. 19, 10a.m.-4p.m.  
(We will explore our own perceptions of hunger and our relationship to food through images, exercises, and discussion. What does it mean to have enough; to not have enough?..... What is the connection between our sustenance and our survival?)

## Class:

Dialogue Between Lesbian and Heterosexual Women Through Literature

Tuesdays, 7-9p.m.. for 5 weeks, beginning Nov. 8.

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