



# ♀ ON OUR WAY

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

summer '87

(617) 354-8807  
TTY and VOICE

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## Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are

On October 11th, 1987, the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights will bring hundreds of thousands of lesbians, gay men, and their supporters to the Capital. There we will demand basic civil rights for lesbians and gays and an end to the discrimination against people with AIDS. We will make it clear that the rising tide of bigotry against the gay community is an injustice that threatens basic freedoms for all of us. And we will do so with hundreds of thousands of others in what is expected to be the largest gay rights demonstration in our nation's history.

The events of the March weekend are designed to draw attention to the multi-faceted discrimination faced by the gay community and by victims of AIDS and ARC. The March and rally on Sunday is the centerpiece; other events, such as lobbying, civil disobedience and even a wedding express the variety of ways in which lesbians and gays are discriminated against and made invisible.

The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights may be the single most important act of protest for all of us this year. Whether we're gay or not, we have a vital interest in fighting for the rights of lesbians and gay men to live openly, in demanding an end to the discrimination against those the US Government and its conservative allies insist are not "normal," and in speaking out for massive increases in AIDS funding and research.

At a time when the attacks on lesbian and gay rights are escalating, those of us who are concerned about liberation must make our voices heard.

National organizing for the March is already in full swing, and support has been forthcoming from a broad spectrum of the gay community, including people of color, disabled people, and even conservative or a-political people who have been convinced that it's time to speak out for gay rights. The March is also being strongly supported by a number of multi-issue and feminist organizations. Mobilization for Survival, NOW, the War Resisters League, and the American Friends Service Committee all sit on the National Steering Committee and are providing financial and/or logistical backing for the March. Locally, a number of multi-issue and feminist groups have joined in the organizing for the Boston-area. The New England Steering Committee has been meeting for several months.

**come out** for yourself  
**come out** for your friends  
**come out** for Justice

NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON  
FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS  
OCTOBER 11, 1987

Boston March on Washington Committee,  
Suite 790, 104 Charles Street, Boston, MA 02114 442-9597

## LESBIANS & CHILDREN FALL CONFERENCE

We're planning a conference for Nov 14 & 15 at Simmons College. We would like the conference to be a safe and informative place for women to discuss such topics as: raising sons, teenagers, foster parenting policy, co-parenting, multi-racial families, artificial insemination, choosing not to have a child, differences between lesbian moms and the divisions within the lesbian community. We envision discussion groups for kids of lesbians, performances, panels, and time to be with kids as well as time apart. We intend to provide quality child-care (pre-registration will be necessary).

We want the conference to be accessible to all women. We want to be as representative & diverse a planning committee as possible. We are organizing outreach meetings and we have questionnaires to get more community input. For further info. or if you want to contribute ideas, time, skills or \$\$ (make checks payable to the Women's Center), call the Center and leave a message for the Lesbians & Children Conference Planners.



### INTIMACY GROUP

A new therapy group begins Aug 27th. The group will run for 6 weeks, until Oct. 8. Focus: building & maintaining more intimate relationships. The group is designed as a forum to discuss intimacy issues as a direct result of our early training and as a framework to explore intimacy issues through the group process. Meets 5:30-7pm, Thursdays, Aug 27th to Oct 8 at The Women's Center. Contact: Jane Hynes, psychotherapist, Women's Counseling & Resource Center. For more info. and to enroll, call 484-8517. As the group size is limited, pre-enrollment is necessary. Donations to the Center are welcome and negotiable.

ANOTHER INCREDIBLE  
YARD SALE  
FOR & BY THE WOMEN'S SCHOOL  
Saturday, September, 19  
10:00am-2:00pm  
at the Women's Center



### WISE UP

The Women's School is pleased to continue its 15th birthday with the Fall term series of workshops, which will be held here at the Center during October and November. Some topics are:

1. Mid-life issues including menopause.
2. Staying healthy as we age, Oct. 17, 10am-noon.
3. Self defense, Oct 29, 7:30-9:00.
4. Acupuncture as a treatment for pain Oct. 17, 11:30am-1:00pm.
5. Jitterbug.
6. Women and their experiences in the military services.
7. Women and our relationship to money.
8. Stress stretching & letting go, Oct. 17, 12-2:00.
9. Women & AIDS.
10. How Apartheid affects us.
11. Apartheid in South Africa and racism in the Boston area.
12. Report back on World Congress of Women in Moscow, Summer of '87.
13. Ageism in our community.
14. Heterosexual feminist discussion.
15. Writing workshop.
16. Finding the women in your family tree. Sat. Nov. 14, 10am-1pm.
17. Tips from the Gay and Lesbian Defense Comm. on campaign organizing.
18. Fat phobia and hatred within our community.
19. Lesbian culture, Nov. 10, 7:30-9:30.
20. Graffiti slide show, Oct. 27, 7:30-9:00pm.
21. How to cut through the red tape and get what you want.

And many more. Please look for a brochure or call 354-8807 to be put on the Women's School mailing list. If you would like to lend time for childcare, distribution or other necessary tasks, call us and leave a message. All classes are free but we need money for printing, postage and office expenses.

## ON THE MOVE

As of August 3, 1987, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center will be located at 99 Bishop Allen Dr., Cambridge, MA 02139 in the same building as Planned Parenthood). We are both saddened and excited at the prospect of moving. The Women's Center has been wonderfully supportive throughout our 15 years here, and we will miss the caring and easy-going atmosphere of the Center. Our new location will allow us to expand both in size and in services. We are still easily accessible to the T and our new counseling office is wheelchair accessible. In addition to our crisis number, 492-RAPE, we will now have a business number, 492-8306. We may continue to use the Women's Center for our Tuesday night meetings and would like to maintain our good contact and warm rapport with the Women's Center.

## DEAF WOMEN'S COUNSELING PROJECT

The Deaf Women's Counseling Project (DWCP) was founded in January of 1987 by representatives of the deaf community, the counseling community, and the feminist community. The goal of the DWCP is to facilitate the healing process for deaf women recovering from sexual, physical and psychological abuse by providing accessible counseling and support using ASL. Through the project, deaf women will have access to consciousness raising needed to overcome oppression, fear, guilt, and isolation perpetuated (caused and maintained) by the traditional patriarchal (male-dominated) social system. The group will be meeting at the Center and using Center space for meetings and for counseling.

## NEW TO THE CENTER

Discussion group in ASL (American Sign Language) for deaf women with incest histories meets on the third Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Women's Center. Free. Sponsored and facilitated by Incest Resources, Inc. Open only to deaf women with incest histories. For more information, call 354-8807 (Voice, TDD, TTY). Starting September 15.

## MY SISTER'S PLACE

Our warmest greetings go out to 'My Sister's Place', a brand new, badly needed drop-in/advocacy center for homeless women and children. Starting this week at 62 Berkeley Street in the South End, it will be open in the daytime on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays during the summer, with expanded hours in the fall. It has been transformed into a very comfortable space, including a community room, a children's area and a kitchen. Best wishes to a very important venture.

## COFFEEHOUSE NEWS

The Women's Coffeehouse is a non-profit volunteer run women's space open every Friday night, from 8pm-midnight at the Women's Center. Its object is to create a women's space which is affordable and accessible for all of us to develop our own culture, to interact with each other, or to just relax in a comfortable atmosphere. For 1 1/2 years now, the coffeehouse has been going with essentially 2 volunteers responsible for planning of events, publicity and staffing of the coffeehouse on Friday nights.

We wish to thank all of you who have performed music or read from their writing over this period. We wish we had been able to correspond, or maintain some contact after you came, but time and energy have been a bit of a problem.

We also wish to thank all of you who have supported or participated in the Coffeehouse. We wish we were able to get a mailing of our upcoming calendar of events to you, but time energy and money are a problem.

Herein lies some very important news -  
WE ARE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR WOMEN  
INTERESTED IN HELPING THE COFFEEHOUSE.

We are in search of six to ten women of various cultures and ages to plan, publicize, fundraise, M. C. and staff the Coffeehouse. We are also looking for financial support and supplies donated. We would like to expand the frequency and variety of events, to improve coordination, to produce more consistent and extensive publicity, and to make cafe-type food available. All of these goals relate to your support and or participation - please help!



## SOMETHING INTERESTING

If you'd like to do something useful and interesting, think about volunteering at the Women's Center. You would answer the phone giving information and support, talk with women who come in, and help with other Center work. We need you!

Right now, open slots include

Wednesdays 2:00-6:00pm; Thursdays 10:00am-2:00pm; Fridays 2:00-6:00pm; every other Friday 6:00-8:00pm and alternate (or so) Saturdays 11:00am-2:00pm.

We ask at least a three month commitment. Please call Judy at 354-8807.

## GROUPS AT THE CENTER

### MONDAY

-Support for Battered Women . 6:30-8pm  
\*New Women's Chorus . . . . . 7-10pm  
\*For Crying Out Loud. . . . . 7-9:30pm  
-Lesbian Rap . . . . . 8-10pm  
-Narcotics Anonymous. . . . . 7:30-9pm  
-Boston Bisexual Women's. . . 7:30-9:45pm  
  Network -Intro Mtg. . . . . (bimonthly)  
-All-Center Meeting . . . . . 6-8pm  
  . . . . . (biweekly)  
\*Women's School . . . . . 7:30-10pm

### TUESDAY

\*Rape Crisis Center . . . . . 7-10pm  
-Former Nun Lesbian Support . 7pm  
  Group . . . . . (1st Tuesday, monthly)  
-Discussion Group for Deaf 7:30-9:30pm  
  Incest Survivors  
  (starting Sept, 3rd Tuesday, monthly)

### WEDNESDAY

-Support for Battered Women . Noon-1pm  
-Feminist Discussion Group. . 8-10pm  
-Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare). 6:30-8pm  
-Writer's Support . . . . . 7:30-9:45pm  
-Politics of Fat. . . . . 7:30-9:30pm  
  . . . . . (biweekly)

### THURSDAY

-Discussion for Incest. . . . 7:30-9:30pm  
  Survivors . . . . . (third Thurs.,monthly)  
-Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm  
  Network . . . . . (second Thurs.,monthly)  
\*Support Group for Women. . . 7:45-9:45pm  
  with Chronic Back Pain . . . . (biweekly)  
\*Lesbians & Children Conference 7-9pm  
  Planners (childcare) . . . . . (biweekly)

\* means group is not currently open to new members

## IN YOUR WORDS

(comments from the bathroom graffiti sheets)

"The Women's Center is a place to make connections, find support and, on occasion, a great place for a nap! Thanks for being here."

"More, more! Not just raising consciousness, not just being supportive. If the Center isn't a place for people to learn how to change their lives and their society, what is it?"

"To remind people that 'Post-feminism' is simply not reality. To help us celebrate our strength as women."

"I still think we should have a women's Activist group. That means Action, not protest, not leaflets, not C.R. . . like theatre (why should the United Fruit Co. have all the fun?) Verbal protest, and the like . . we've gotten too compacent. The women's movement has already been divided. Let's unify & ignite!"

"Spread feminist consciousness to the younger generation (teenagers & younger). This is an unbelievably crucial, yet ignored task!!"

"I feel safe. I'm grateful to have found it."

"A very special place!"

## SPACING OUT

You probably are wondering what will become of the room the Rape Crisis Center has inhabited for so many years. First, some speedy sprucing up (cleaning & painting); then the computer, which was quite unhappy in the dampness of the basement office, will ascend to the second floor, accompanied by its pals the typewriter and the copier. What will happen next in the basement where we will suddenly have some space? Stay tuned. That story will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

## OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Participate in informal discussions about our common experiences as women.  
Wednesdays, 8-10 pm.

### UPCOMING TOPICS

Aug 12 Feminism and Fun--Bring your favorite game!!  
Aug 19 Women's Visions of the World  
Aug 26 Feminist Erotica

Call the Center for topics for September and beyond.

## NEW SPACE NEW NEEDS

Rape Crisis Center's new office needs donations of new or gently used items such as: nice furniture, chairs, tables, coffee tables, lamps, clocks, pictures, bedspreads, throw covers, throw pillows, sofas, etc. Call 492-7273.

## SUPPORT GROUP FOR BATTERED WOMEN

We welcome all battered women. Come and share this all too common problem and learn that you are not alone in what you are experiencing. We can explore options and alternatives and find ways to change the situation to allow you to grow and once again become your own person. The group meets Wednesday mornings at 11:45am and Monday evenings at 6:30pm at the Women's Center.



Upcoming Topics for the  
LESBIAN RAP  
Mondays, 8-10pm

Aug 10 Considering Therapy  
Aug 17 Power Dynamics in Relationships  
Aug 24 Adolescence & Lesbianism  
Aug 31 Isolation & Withdrawal

## IN-DECISION

These weeks, there have been lots of suggestions about what kinds of new things could be going on at the Center. Now comes the fun part: PRIORITIZING, and then figuring out HOW (and WHO).

We are feeling overwhelmed by the sheer volume of the (good) ideas, and know that to get more done we need more women-power. We are planning a project starting day this autumn. We'll supply the setting and the agenda, and hopefully you'll find the project of your dreams and help it become a reality. Check your favorite paper for the date and the details.

## BEST WISHES TO JEAN

Our best wishes go to Jean Rioux, the Women's Center's fundraiser and bookkeeper since 1975, who is taking an extended leave of absence from the Women's Center.

Jean is responsible for developing and implementing the fundraising strategy that has gotten the Center on solid financial ground. Not only has there been money to cover operating expenses, but also the mortgage on the house has been paid off, the first floor has been made wheelchair accessible, the wheelchair lift has been purchased and installed, many improvements have been made on the building, and other purchases (computer, couch, chairs, etc.) have helped make the Center more comfortable and efficient. The credit for this good fortune goes to Jean, and to all of you who have responded to the call.

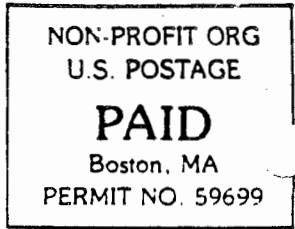
Jean has served as our 'face' to the outside world of charitable foundations and corporations, writing grant proposals and lobbying for contributions. She has succeeded in getting many local businesses interested in supporting the work of the Women's Center. She has also helped many new projects get off the ground by giving them fundraising information and assistance.

In other realms, she has organized day-long open houses on job hunting, has kept the flowers blooming almost year-round in the yard, and was on the committee to purchase a computer. She also kept accurate records of the finances, and, recently, worked with our new bookkeeper, Sasha Curran, in designing the procedure for transferring the books to the computer, as well as giving Sasha all the information she will need to do the bookkeeping and tax forms.

Thanks, Jean, for all you have done for the Women's Center. We wish you well.

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

Phone: (617) 354-8807



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### WRITERS SUPPORT GROUP

The Writers Support Group is an open, ongoing group that meets weekly at the Center, Wednesdays at 7:30pm. All skill/experience levels and forms of writing are welcome. If you want to share your writing with other writers, exchange ideas and criticism from a feminist perspective, and are willing to make a commitment to come regularly, come join us. Or call Sylvan for more info. at 547-6766 eves (491-4110 days).

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors:  
Coolidge Bank & Trust, Bread & Circus, Boston Globe, Firestone & Parson, IBM, Sheraton Commander, Hartford Insurance, and Cambridge Chemical.

### WOMEN'S CENTER HOURS

Monday-Thursday 10am - 10pm  
Friday 10am - 8pm  
(open Fri 5-8pm on a trial basis)  
Friday Coffeehouse 8pm-Midnite  
Saturday 11am - 2pm

### COFFEEHOUSE EVENTS

August 7: Indulgences with food (bring something)  
August 14: Open  
August 21: Improvisational comedy featuring Elizabeth Salkind  
August 28: Open

Add me to your mailing list  Change my address on your mailing list

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to help the Center. Here is my tax-deductible contribution  
\$5      \$10      \$25      \$50      \$100      \$500      other

I could help out other ways. Call me at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Staffing at the Center       Cleaning  
 Typing       Painting, maintenance  
 Helping with Mailings       Giving furniture, etc.  
 Updating Referrals       Fundraising  
 Organizing       Other \_\_\_\_\_