

♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE

Sept. '89



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Women have had, and will have abortions, regardless of their legality. Our struggle to make safe abortions accessible to all women is the most basic women's issue: will we be in charge of our own bodies, our own lives? We urge you to take a stand & make your voice heard. Some upcoming demos. and events:

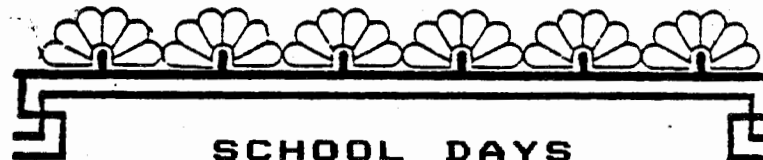
***A MAJOR PRO-CHOICE DEMONSTRATION ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2.** This event commemorates the death of Rosie Jimenez, the first woman known to die of an illegal abortion after federal Medicaid funds for abortion were cut off in 1977.

Join us in protesting cuts in health services and attacks on abortion rights. Vigil: 5:30-6:30pm at Boston City Hosp. then march to Copley Square at 6:30pm. Bring candles. Sponsored by Boston R2N2, Boston NOW, Alliance Against Women's Oppression, Puerto Rican Women's Committee (partial list). For more info, call 782-1056.

***PROCHOICE DEMONSTRATIONS AT ABORTION CLINICS TO COUNTER OPERATION RESCUE** Every Saturday, 7am-12noon, Preterm, 1842 Beacon St., Brookline (near Cleveland Circle) or Planned Parenthood, 1031 Beacon St., Brookline. Both can be reached by taking the "C" train, on the Green line. For more info. call NOW at 782-1056.

***TEACH-IN/SPEAK-OUT ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS** All day Sunday, October 22 at Brandeis University. There will be speak-outs, discussions and workshops. ASL interpreted; childcare available. Call 736-3740 for more information.

***MARCH ON WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 12: NATIONAL MOBILIZATION FOR WOMEN'S LIVES** Contact Boston NOW at 782-1056 to help build the Mobilization. Organizing meetings are held each Thursday. Call NOW Pro-Choice Hotline for details/locations (782-4059).



SCHOOL DAYS

The Women's School is back this October with a great selection of courses and workshops for Fall '89. This time around we're getting back to our feminist political roots, so if you've been looking for some useful information on gearing up for the 90's, show up for these:

- Anarcha-Feminism (Sat., Oct. 21, 1-4pm)
- Women and Political Theatre (Mondays, starting October 15, 6-8pm, 7 classes)
- Contemporary Women's Political Fiction (Thursdays, starting Oct. 12, 7-9pm)
- Writing Skills for Social Activists (Thursdays starting Oct. 12, 5 classes, 7:30-9:30pm)
- Women's Writing Group (Saturdays, October 7, 14, 21, noon-2pm)
- Consciousness Raising Group (Thursdays, starting Oct. 12, 7-9pm; 6 sessions)
- Menopause: A Self-Help Approach (Wednesday, Oct. 18, 7-8:30pm)
- Women and Disability (Thursday, October 26, 6-9pm)
- Building Links With Palestinian Women (Wednesday, Oct. 25, 7-9:30pm)
- Writer's Support Group (Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm, ongoing)

Call 354-8807 for more information.

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

MONDAY
 -Support for Battered Women.....7:30-9pm
 -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
 -Women for Sobriety.....8-9:30pm
 -Bisexual Women's Rap.....7:30-10pm
 -30+ Lesbian Rap.....7-8:30pm
 -Lesbian Partners of Incest
 Survivors7-8:30pm

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

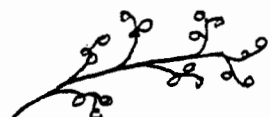
THURSDAY
 -Everywoman's Discussion Group.....7-9pm
 -Incest Survivors Discussion
 Group (weekly).....7:30-9:30pm
 (facilitated 3rd Thursday, Sept.-June)
 -Lesbians Choosing Children Network
 (2nd Thursday, monthly).....7:30-10pm

FRIDAY
 -Birthmothers (1st,3rd Fri)...7:00-9:30pm

SATURDAY
 -Writer's Support Group
 (biweekly).....noon-2pm
 -Open discussion on Coming Out for Women
 of All Ages (irregular, call for info)

WHO WILL ANSWER?

When the phone rings, a volunteer answers. What happens when several volunteer staff leave because of school, work or other reasons? We look to you, knowing some of you will want to spend time talking to women who want someone to hear them or are looking for therapists, support groups, abortions, a place to stay... If you're interested in staffing 2-4 hours/week, call Judy at 354-8807.



TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

LESBIAN RAP
 Mondays, 8-10pm
 Oct 2 Lesbian Rights & the Legal System
 9 HOLIDAY, NO RAP
 16 Lesbian Video Night
 23 Alcoholism
 30 Witchcraft

EVERYWOMAN'S DISCUSSION GROUP
 Wednesdays, 7-9pm
 Oct 5 Temporarily Able-bodied Views
 on Disability
 12 Raising Our Children for a
 Better Society
 19 Who we are/who the patriarchy
 says we are
 26 Families

BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP
 Tuesdays, 7:30-10pm
 Oct 3 Dealing with Lovers and Friends
 10 Are you "sitting on the fence?"
 17 Sexuality
 24 Women and Mental Health
 31 Halloween Party

30+ LESBIAN RAP
 Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm
 Oct 3 Gay Portrayal In Film
 10 Guilt
 17 Lesbian Social Etiquette
 24 Sexual Attraction in Friendships
 31 Self-Esteem

CENTER HOURS

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



COFFEEHOUSE NEWS

Unfortunately, the Coffeehouse has been discontinued until further notice due to a shortage of women-energy. Thanks for all the good times and the chance for women to share their performing talents in a friendly, supportive space.

INCEST SURVIVORS NETWORK: UPDATE

Incest Survivors Network (ISN) is proud to be entering our second year of existence as an organization. We are pleased to announce that the monthly, facilitated drop-in discussion groups for women survivors of child sexual abuse will begin again (after a summer hiatus) on the third Thursday of every month (7:30-9:15pm). These groups meet in two rooms due to the large number of women who attend. They are facilitated by women who are themselves survivors of child sexual abuse and who have received training in group facilitation. We welcome all women survivors to join us. Women without clear memories are welcome.

September 21: Little Girl Within

October 19: Self-Esteem

November 16: Anger

One room is ASL interpreted, wheelchair accessible, and cat-free.

Groups run from 7:30-9:15.

IMPORTANT: Please arrive on time; it is fine to arrive early. There is ample space to wait comfortably for the group to start; many women are here by 7:10. A woman's late entry not only interrupts someone who is talking, but also forces many women to relocate to make room for her. Unless it is someone's first or second time coming to the Women's Center, women cannot enter groups after 7:45.

ISN will continue to maintain the resource book which contains listings of therapists, groups and events; the book is kept in the sitting room of the Women's Center. ISN members also provide public speaking about child sexual abuse to schools and clinics.

BIRTHMOTHERS SUPPORT

The birthmothers support group has changed its meeting night to the first and third Fridays of each month. The new time is 7-9:30pm. The group has extended its time in order to be able to address each woman and give her space to talk. Some of our recent discussions have been about: feelings and behaviors when a birthmother has a reunion with her child; how to acknowledge your child's birthday; physical manifestations of emotions common to birthmothers.

If you would like more info about the group, or to talk to another birthmother, please call dian at 662-0417.

ISN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE: UPDATE

The ISN Political Action Committee has been meeting for many months to plan a major demonstration against child sexual abuse. We have decided to postpone the demonstration which had been publicized for October 28 to a later date. Our reason is a most important one: we are dismantling our committee in order to create a new, multi-racial, multi-cultural planning committee. This suggestion was made by Charlene Allen, a consultant we hired to talk with us about how to make the demonstration multi-racial and multi-cultural. Together we can create an event for all survivors and their supporters. We will keep you posted about plans for the demonstration.

The Political Action Committee wishes to thank the following donors:

Resist

Haymarket People's Fund

Boston Women's Fund

Community Works



LCCN NEEDS NEW ENERGY

In the past few years, Lesbians Choosing Children Network (LCCN) has touched the lives of hundreds of women. They have come for information, advice, and support. We have received calls and letters from all parts of the U.S. Now, LCCN is on the verge of extinction. At this time, one woman is running the meetings, answering phone calls and mail, updating the mailing list, and doing the bookkeeping. This is just too much for one person to handle. Unless more women step forward to help, LCCN will fold.

There is a definite need for LCCN to continue, if the mail and attendance at meetings is any indication. Please consider helping LCCN continue its valuable work in our community. Come to the next LCCN meeting Thursday, October 12 7:30-9:30pm or call Michelle at (508) 458-0740 (evenings). You may also write to LCCN at P.O. Box 393, Arlington, MA 02174, or contact the Women's Center.

FUNDRAISING REVIEW

We want to give you an update of our fundraising progress during the last fiscal year which ran from July 1, 1988 to June 30, 1989. During this time, the Women's Center received \$41,535 from foundations, corporations and small businesses: \$36,035 was for general operating expenses and \$5,500 was for community outreach. Additionally, we received \$7,483 from individual donations.

The Women's Center relies exclusively on private donations; we receive no government funding. The generosity of donors makes it possible for every woman to use of the Women's Center, regardless of her financial situation. This is crucial because many of the women who call or come to the Women's Center can not afford to pay for services.

The Women's Center is able to offer so much on such a low budget because over 100 women volunteer in various capacities, answering the phone, updating referrals, facilitating groups, working on projects, putting the newsletter together . . . We want to acknowledge their donation of time and energy. Without volunteers, there would be no Women's Center.



EXCITING RENOVATIONS

If you were to come to the Women's Center now you would see two women standing on tall ladders with scrapers in hand. The Women's Center is getting a fresh coat of paint! We are pleased to have Helena Ragone and Gail Hanlon on the job. (They want you all to know they give free estimates.)

And have you seen the new patio? The scrubby weeds in the back yard have been replaced with flagstones, carefully laid out on some of the hottest summer days by Judy and Diana. The patio is complete with chairs and flowerpots, a great place to meet and chat and enjoy the breeze.

Both the house painting and the flagstones were paid for with money contributed specifically for capital improvements.

Below is a list of corporations and foundations who gave grants to the Women's Center in the past fiscal year. Their generosity and thoughtfulness, and yours, keeps the doors of this Women's Center open for all women.

Bank of Boston Corporation
Bank of New England
Bioran Medical Lab
Boston Globe Foundation
Cambridge Community Foundation
Cambridge Trust Company
Camp Dresser & McKee
Central Surplus
Joyce Chen Restaurant
Lillian & Harry Cowan Foundation Corp
Digital Equipment Corporation
Dole Publishing Company
Alice Willard Dorr Foundation
East Cambridge Savings Bank
Evans Medical, Inc.
Fabreeka Products
First American Title Insurance Company
Gillette Company
Goldberg Charitable Trust
GTE Government Systems
GTE Laboratories
Hartford Insurance Group
Harvard Cooperative Society
Harvard University
Houghton Chemical Company
IBM Corporation
John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co.
Kirkland Construction Company
Arthur D. Little, Inc.
Loomis Sayles & Company
New Words Bookstore
New World Bank
Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund
Rabb Charitable Trust
Raytheon Company
Savitz & Wainger Medical Association
Standard Thomson
C.B. Stein Builders & Associates, Inc.
Superior Brands, Inc.
Tapestry, Inc.
University Bank and Trust Company
US Trust Middlesex
Watertown Eye Associates
Frederick E. Weber Charities Corporation
Women's Mental Health Collective

CHORUS PERFORMANCE

The New Women's Chorus is putting together its fall performance schedule. Anyone interested in having the chorus perform at a benefit or other event should contact Jennifer at 524-6295.

NEW & HUNGRY?

New to the Women's Center or the Boston Area? Or just want to get to know some new women? We have potluck dinner-and-movie night every six weeks or so, to introduce women to the Center and to each other. The next one is Nov. 5th. Dinner at 6pm and movie ("Therese and Isabelle") at 8pm.

Also, the Newoman committee is looking for women to help run and publicize these potlucks. Its a great way to get involved with the Center. If you're interested, come to the next potluck or leave a message for Beth at the Center.

FAT-POSITIVE SUPPORT

The Fat-Positive Support Group is a 12-step oriented group for women to give each other support in dealing with our issues about food in a fat positive environment. The first meeting will be Mon., Oct 16th, 6:30-8pm (and the 3rd Mon. of each month from then on).

SINGLE MOMS

The Women's Center would like to have a single mother's group with childcare that would meet monthly, on a Saturday morning, 11am-12:30pm. We often get calls from single mothers looking for a place they can get support and ease their isolation. The problem is that we need someone to help get the group started, agree to show up for each meeting and get women talking to one another. If you are interested, contact Judy, 354-8807.

GOODBYE SASHA

Sasha Curran has been the Women's Center's bookkeeper for nearly two years. We have appreciated her work keeping our books in order and completing necessary government forms. Sasha left the Women's Center for Provincetown. Thanks and best of luck!

MORE BOOKKEEPING

We are grateful to Nancy Kackley, who has been so steadfast and contributed so much time in so many different capacities. She has generously volunteered to keep the books on an interim basis until we hire a new bookkeeper. She's doing a great job! Thank you Nancy!

ALICE WOLF TRIBUTE

The women of Cambridge are planning a tribute to City Councillor Alice Wolf for her years of leadership on issues such as abortion rights, gay & lesbian rights, affirmative action, pay equity, affordable housing and support of non-traditional families. For more information, call 868-WOLF.

RAPE CRISIS VOLUNTEER

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center needs volunteer counselors!! BARCC is a group of women who have come together out of our commitment to assist rape survivors in finding help and support, and to change the attitudes in society which contribute to violence against women. We operate a 24-hour crisis hotline, run discussion and support groups, do speaking engagements and support legislative reform. Since 1972, women at BARCC have handled thousands of calls from survivors aged 6 to 84, ranging from victims of recent violence to those who were raped over 20 years ago. We are, above all, women helping each other - with information, sensitivity and strength. You can help!! No experience necessary. Complete hotline training program beginning September 22. Call 492-RAPE for more information.

RAPE SURVIVOR SUPPORT

A 14-week support group for sexual assault survivors will be starting soon. It is designed to serve the needs of women who have come through the initial crisis of being sexually assaulted and would like to work through the long-term effects. The group provides a space for sharing feelings, experiences, information and support with other women who have been raped. There is no fee.

Monthly drop-in discussion group for survivors of sexual assault meets at BARCC, 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Camb. (Central Sq. T stop), 7-8:30pm
Dates: Oct. 19 -- Body Image
Nov. 16 -- Anger
Dec. 14 -- Taking Care of Self
For more info. on either group, call BARCC at 492-7273.



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

Phone: (617) 354-8807

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Address Correction Requested

COME WRITE WITH US

On Oct. 7, 14 and 21 from 12-2pm, the Women's School offers a writer's support group facilitated by members of an on-going writing group. If you love to write and need encouraging feedback and fresh ideas, join us in a supportive and energy-filled environment. Sessions generally follow a loose structure of two 20-minute exercises, each followed by (optional) reading aloud and discussion. Starting points for past exercises have been: random sentences from a favorite book, objects from a grab bag, or single, charged words ("haircut"). If you need a break from writing alone, let your garret gather dust for awhile and join us as we write from our experience and imagination.

REFERRAL UPDATING

Thanks to Nancy, Rachele and Melanie for volunteering to update our referrals this summer. They have made countless phonecalls, sent out letters, and entered information on our computer to help us keep our referral information up to date.

THERAPISTS WANTED

The Women's Counseling and Resource Center is seeking volunteer therapists with Master's degrees and 2 years experience, to give 2-4 hours a week doing therapy with low & no-income women. For more information, call WCRC at 492-8568.

 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 _____