

♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807

WINTER 1986

TTY and VOICE



BIRTHDAY PARTY

It's our 14th birthday!! Come celebrate the Women's Center anniversary on Sunday, January 26 from noon to 4 PM. There will be food, music, films, discussions and idle chatter throughout the afternoon. If you're interested in joining a Center project or a support group, you can sign up or find our meeting days and times. Women who've never visited the Center are especially encouraged to come by. We'd also like to see those old friends of the Center who haven't been by for a while. A good time will be had by all!!

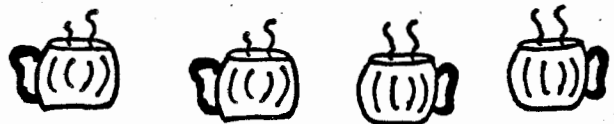
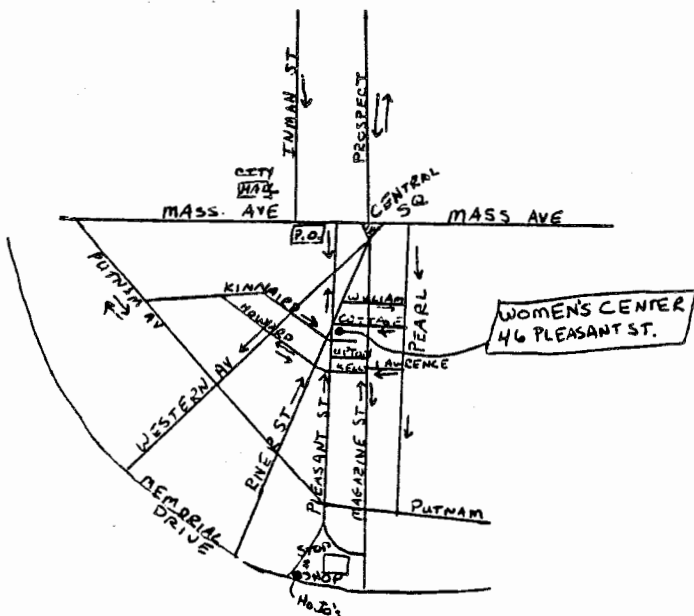
JOB COUNSELLING DAY

Have you been wanting to get a good resume together? Or perfect your interviewing skills for your next job interview? Do you know what kind of job you want, or do you need help in making that decision? Do you know how to go about finding the job you want? These are just some of the topics which will be covered at the Job Counseling Day For Women to be held at the Women's Center, Saturday, January 25 from 10 AM to 2 PM, followed by "Motivating Yourself: Next Steps" session from 2 to 3PM. Professional job counselors will volunteer their time for this event and it is free to all women. Manual, skilled trades, clerical and professional job listings will also be available. Don't miss this opportunity!! All women are welcome. Refreshments will be served. For more info call 354-8807.

WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE

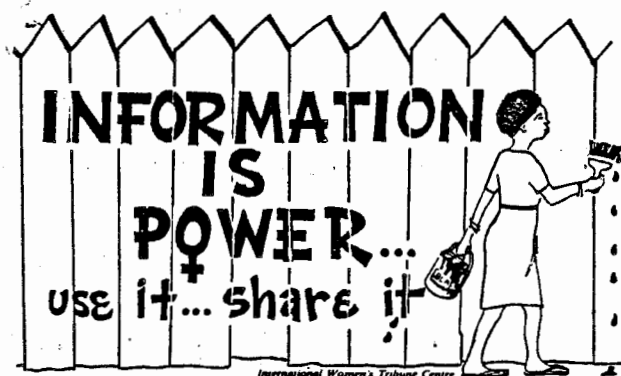
Beginning Friday January 17 the Women's Center will be open from 7pm to midnight as a free women-only Coffeehouse. Coffee and tea will be available. Food, games & entertainment are B.Y.O. (unless otherwise donated). Come to socialize or to be antisocial in a social space.

If interested in working with the coffeehouse, making donations (food, games,...) sharing ideas about it, call 354-8807, and leave message for Sky.



WOMEN'S SCHOOL

A weekend of workshops was held this fall by the Women's School on November 15, 16 and 17. Both participants and facilitators felt that the weekend was a success. The Friday night Utopia workshop was thought provoking, despite the fact that both the facilitator and the participants were exhausted after a long work week. The massage workshop was very well attended and there may be a full weekend of massage in the future. Both the graffiti workshop and the writing workshop led to outside activity by the participants. Several women who attended the graffiti group have begun a stop rape graffiti campaign in Watertown Square, the site of several recent assaults. In the case of the writing workshop, a regular writer's group was discussed for the future. If you would like to help organize future Women's School events, or are interested in teaching a workshop in the future, the collective meets from 7:30 to 9:30 PM on Wednesday nights at the Women's Center. Please feel free to attend or call the Center and leave a message for the Women's School



LESBIAN MOTHERS

The Lesbian Mothers Group is disbanding temporarily. Twenty-five women have participated in the group over the past year and a half. However, the core group who organizes the group has dwindled to two. Perhaps it is the nature of lesbian motherhood that makes it difficult to commit some consistent time and energy to a group. The two women who have kept the support group alive are willing to help a new group get started, share resources and so forth. New ideas and energy are needed for the group to continue. If interested, call or leave a message for Libby through the Women's Center, 354-8807.

NEW WOMEN'S CHORUS

If you've been at the Center on Monday evenings, you may have wondered about the singing voices filtering up from the basement. They belong to the New Women's Chorus, which has been practicing here at the Center for the past couple of months. The Chorus is open to new members by audition only. Watch for notices at the Center about the next auditions. For more info call Jennifer at 524-8664.

ASPECTS OF AGING GROUP

The "Aspects of Aging" group is open to any woman who wishes to consider the impact of aging on the lives of women. We meet on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. (bring your own supper if you wish) The group asks for a 6 week commitment and will accept new members until Jan. 19, 1986. For info call Eve at 926-9778.

COMING OUT GROUP

The Coming Out Support Group seems to be fizzling out these days (Tuesdays 7:30-9:30) If you'd like to be involved and would be willing to help get the group going at full steam again, please call Sharon at 354-8807. In the meantime, a room is available for women who want to talk about coming out issues on Tuesdays at 7:30pm.

GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP

General Women's Support Group meets each Tuesday from 8 to 9:30 PM in the large basement. In an open forum format weekly emphasis is placed on goal setting and discussion of progress towards these goals. Interest points include family, career, relationships, and personal development. Currently scheduled for each Tuesday in January, further scheduling depends on membership. For more info call Autumn 782-1280 or Milly 492-9079.



DECISIONS, DECISIONS

How do we help a fading group to survive and grow? Should we give space at the Center to a "Ladies for Reagan" group? Who do we approach for funds and why?

How are the decisions made that affect the Women's Center as a whole. Until now, there was a biweekly meeting, Staff and Projects, for that purpose. Representations from every Center project (eg. RCC, Women's School, staff) were supposed to attend the meetings and return to their projects with the details of each meeting. Each project was supposed to discuss any issues that were brought up and send someone to the next Staff and Projects meeting with their recommendations for decisions. If there was disagreement at the Staff and Projects meeting, since we operate by consensus, the issue went back to the projects for further discussion. Poor attendance at meetings and the drawn out nature of the process resulted in very bogged down decision-making. Controversial issues would either plunge us into months of indecision and internal antagonism or simmer on a back burner endlessly.

At the last Staff and Projects, a New Decision-Making Structure was agreed upon! Instead of Staff and Projects the Center will have bi-weekly "All Center" meetings. Project members and other women who work at the Center will have the authority to make decisions at the meeting, then and there. Major changes in Center policy may be required to be approved at 2 consecutive meetings. We will continue to operate by consensus. Women who are not currently working at the Center or a member of a Center project but who would like to attend, are welcome to provide input but decision-making will reside with project members and women who work at the Center. There are details to be worked out but the concept is that those who want a role in the decision-making process are responsible to attend the meetings.

At any given All-Center meeting, major topics to be discussed at the next meeting would be decided upon and posted. Other items can be added to the agenda before the next meeting. All Center meetings happen every other Monday from 6 to 8 PM at the Women's Center.

OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Wondering what happened to the Introductory Group? Well, the group is now called the Feminist Discussion Group. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 8-10pm. All women are invited to attend. Upcoming topics include:

- Jan 15 - Women's Energy
- Jan 22 - Pornography
- Jan 29 - Coming Out
- Feb 5 - Having Fun
- Feb 12 - Sexual Stereotypes
- Feb 19 - Homophobia
- Feb 26 - Sexism in the Workplace

If you have any suggestions for topics or would like further information, call Deb at 576-1931.

LESBIANS CHOOSING CHILDREN

The Lesbians Choosing Children Network is an information & support network for lesbians deciding to have children biologically, by adoption, foster parenting & co-parenting.. In addition to our monthly meetings, we put out a newsletter 10 times/year. Also, we are planning a day long conference in April and we need women to help us plan it. For more information, leave a message for us at the Center.

LESBIAN LIBERATION

Lesbian Liberation is alive and well and meeting every Thursday 8-10pm at the Women's Center. Over the last three months the group met and discussed a variety of topics including our relationships with our parents, lesbians & the workplace, being lesbian & married, and stereotypes within the lesbian community -- to name a few. Suggestions for topics are always welcome. The group is open to all women of all ages -- those who identify as lesbians and those who are unsure of their identity. For more info, please call Elizabeth at 776-5675.

MENOPAUSE COLLECTIVE

The Menopause Collective meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Center. Women of all ages are welcome for self-help discussions on issues of mid-life women's health. Contact Davi at 244-0330 for info.

ONGOING GROUPS AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER

MONDAY

- Support Group for Battered Women 6:30-8pm
 Self-Help Group for Drug Addicts 7:30-9pm
 All-Center Meeting 6-8pm
 biweekly

TUESDAY

- Rape Crisis Center 7-10pm
 Women's General Support Group 8-10pm
 Former Nun Lesbian Support Group 7pm
 monthly

WEDNESDAY

- Support Group for Battered Women Noon-1pm
 Women's School 7-9:30pm
 Menopause Collective 5:30pm
 monthly
 Feminist Discussion Group 8-10pm
 Lesbian Al-Anon 6:30-8pm
 Lesbian Teachers 7-9pm
 biweekly

THURSDAY

- Lesbian Liberation 8-10pm
 Incest Resources 7:30-9:30pm
 monthly
 Lesbians Choosing Children Network 7:30pm

SUPPORT GROUP FOR BATTERED WOMEN

The support group offers help to women free of charge in an informal setting. Battered women can find new directions for their lives by sharing their concerns with others in the same situation and by exploring new ways of dealing with this all too common problem.

Come to the Women's Center any Monday at 6:30pm or Wednesday at noon. For more info call 661-7203 or 354-8807.

INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources is a non-profit counseling and educational organization founded in January 1981 by women with incest histories. On the third Thursday of every month we offer a drop-in discussion group for women with incest histories (Sept.-June). The group meets 7:30-9:30pm at the Women's Center. Upcoming meeting topics include:

- Feb 20 - Substance abuse
- March 20 - Control
- April 17 - Relationships
- May 15 - Sexuality

Networking for the formation of self-help groups is encouraged at the discussion group. Members of Incest Resources are no longer available for phone inquiries. Resource information and referrals for individual/group therapy are presently being provided by Boston Area Rape Crisis Center. If interested, call 492-RAPE weekdays between 9am and 5pm. A referral and resource book maintained by Incest Resources is also available at the Women's Center. Your feedback on referrals is important to Incest Resources so please feel free to utilize the comments section of the resources book.

FORMER NUNS

Former Nun Lesbian Support Group

This is a discussion group for women who are or were nuns. The group held it's first meeting in October, 1985 and wishes to invite new women to come to meetings. The purpose of the group is to provide a forum where current and former nuns can share their experiences about religious life, the impact that the convent has had on their lives and various ways they can cope with that powerful past experience today. Several women from the group met with Rosemary Curb, co-editor of Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence, during her speaking engagement at Boston University in December.

If you are a lesbian nun or former nun and wish to network with others with the same experience, the meetings are held at the Women's Center on the first Tuesday of each month at 7PM.



PROCHOICE RALLY

Prochoice Rally - January 22, 1986

The prochoice community will gather on Jan. 22 to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Speakers at the event will highlight the broad base of support for the prochoice position, and will address recent actions taken by the Reagan administration and the Massachusetts legislature to undermine women's right to choose.

Speakers at the rally will include:

Gayle Brooks - State Coordinator, Conn. NOW.

Dr. Kenneth Edelin - Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Boston City Hospital.

Mary Hunt - Member, Board of Directors, Catholics for a Free Choice.

Joyce Miller - National President, Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Juanita Wade - Member Boston School Committee
Please join us in our commemoration of 13 years of safe, legal abortion. The event will be held on Jan. 22 at 7 PM at the Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury Street, Boston. The event is sponsored by the Coalition for Choice, representing nearly 40 social service, community, civic and health organizations committed to preserving reproductive freedom. To help with planning or for further info call Rboin Witten Smith at 492-0518.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Anti-Apartheid Movement : Looking Back and Looking Forward

In an effort to assess the progress of the anti-apartheid movement and plan strategy for the future, Cassandra Bryan (staffperson for the Southern Africa Support Committee of Mass.) and Sake Macozoma (South African activist) will be featured in an educational forum and discussion. This happens on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 PM at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. in Cambridge. This event is sponsored by Mobilization for Survival. A \$2 donation is requested. Call 354-0008 for further info.

Picket against Henry Hyde, Sunday, Jan 19, 1pm, Fanuil Hall, Boston at the Mass. Citizens for Life Campaign Kick-off to curtail abortion rights.

Forum on Reproductive Technology, Feb 22, Park Sq. Campus, U. Mass/Boston. Planning committee contact - Elizabeth, 524-6631

Rosie's Snowball: A Women's Dance to Benefit Rosie's Place. Fri. Jan 24, 8:30pm, Boston YWCA (Clarendon & Stuart St.) Admission \$5. Dance contests, door prizes, raffle! Proceeds toward construction of new shelter for poor and homeless women.

The Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women and the Massachusetts Jobs with Peace Campaign are planning a public response to the Reagan administration's Federal Budget. These groups are planning to speak out on the inequities of the Federal Budget through press conferences and protests in the days immediately following the release of the Budget in late January or early February. Planning for these actions is going on now. If you would like to help, call 498-9014.

MARCH 9th MARCH

Boston NOW plans to mobilize 1,000's of people to participate in NOW's March 9th march for women's lives in Washington D.C. The national march will unite more than 200,000 pro-choice advocates.

The presence of a large Mass. delegation at the march is particularly crucial in the face of a proposed anti-abortion amendment to the Mass. State Constitution. The amendment would give the state legislature power to prohibit both public and private funds for abortion, despite the fact that the majority of people in Mass. are pro-choice.

Round trip bus fare is \$35. Buses leave Boston at 10PM Saturday, March 8 and return at midnight, Sunday March 9. Reservations for buses: Call Boston NOW at 661-6015.

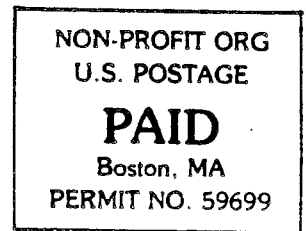
Carol Hill, lifelong Cambridge resident and activist, is in prison for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury. She needs our support. For further info and to assist Carol and her family:

Carol Hill Defense Committee
P.O. Box 481
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617-492-8460)

Carol can be written at:

Carol Hill
Adult Correctional Institute
Cranston, RI 02920

THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.
46 Pleasant street
Cambridge, MA 02139



Address correction requested

THANKS!

For Your Support

With it, the Women's Center has existed for fourteen years already.

Without it, there would be no Womens' Center

Please continue to strengthen the Women's Liberation Movement with your presence, energy, ideas, comments and financial assistance!!

THE CENTER IS OPEN

Monday-Thursday 10am - 10pm
Friday 10am - 5pm
Saturday 10am - 1pm
(Saturday hours may be changing soon.
Call before coming.)

MARCH ON

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 1986 - MARCH 8

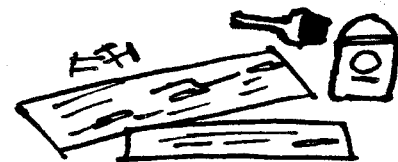
--dedicated to Winnie Mandela--

NOON: Rally at Copley Square and march to Mass College of Art for speakers (Saundra Graham and others), entertainment, food, literature and info tables.

Sponsored by a coalition of Boston Area Women's Groups. Info: Louise Vrande, 491-6050.

ACCESSIBILITY

The wheelchair lift is now operating. The first floor bathroom is being moved to a better location, which involves electrical work, plumbing, enlarging a doorway, laying a new floor, plastering and painting. Any woman who would like to help with this project, please call Judy at 354-8807. Work is moving along at a decent clip, and hopefully the bathroom will be usable within a few weeks.



BOSTON WOMEN'S FUND

Join the Fight for Social and Economic Justice
The Boston Women's Fund, a 3 year old foundation which offers financial and technical assistance to community-based women's projects, is seeking volunteers. If you are interested in fundraising, media outreach, the BWF newsletter or clerical support work, please come to our Volunteer Open House on Feb. 4th at 7:30 PM on the 9th floor of the Park Square Building, 31 St. James Ave., Boston. There will be wine, cheese, and an informal introduction to the activities of the Fund. For more info, call Stephanie Borns at 542-5955.

♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807

spring '86

TTY and VOICE



WOMEN'S SCHOOL

The school's current term is going very well, having drawn a large and diverse population for its classes. Classes held outside the Women's Center, "Women and Prison" (at the Aid to Incarcerated Mothers Office) and "Self Defense Workshop" (at Sanchin Women's School of Karate) were very well attended. At the Center, the "Lesbian Herstory Slide Show" drew a huge crowd, and the "Quit It" (stopping smoking for long-term smokers) is demonstrating that it can be done.

Anyone who is interested in teaching a class, giving a workshop, or joining the school collective in planning the next term (probably to take place in fall '86), please call 354-8807 and leave a message for the Women's School.

STAFFING THE CENTER

Ever wonder who that person is who grabs the phone on the first ring with one hand and directs women to their meeting rooms, the housing-to-share books and the bathrooms with the other? Of course! That's the Super Staffer!! The staff at the Women's Center answer the phone, giving out information on events in the Boston area, group meeting times and dates, directions to the Center, referrals to shelters, doctors, counselors, other women's organizations, . . . you name it. They open the Center in the morning and lock up at night. They are responsible for directing women arriving for group meetings to the right rooms, and just talking with women who come to the Center. They stuff, stamp and seal envelopes for mailings when needed. They help women find information on the bulletin boards and leaflet tables. Staffers have piles and piles of info at their fingertips, sometimes too much. (If you call or come to the Center looking for info and the staffer can't seem to come up with it, please leave your name & number. Sometimes the next staffer knows it or can find it.)

Staffing is lots of fun!! Meet new people, be up on all the latest events and groups in Boston, help out the Center!

Our coordinator, Sharon Stonekey, is responsible for, among many other things, finding and training new staff to fill empty slots. Staff slots are 2 hours long in the evening (Mon-Thurs, 6 to 8pm or 8 to 10pm), and 2 to 4 hours during the day and on Saturday. We ask for a 3-month commitment from new staffers. Slots are constantly opening up as people's schedules and energies change, so if you are interested in staffing at the Center, call Sharon at 354-8807.

BIG YARD SALE

SATURDAY MAY 3

11AM - 4PM

At the Women's Center
46 Pleasant St.
Cambridge

HUNDREDS OF ITEMS FOR SALE
(including a motor bike)

Benefit for the Women's School
(rain date, May 10)

THE CENTER IS OPEN

Monday-Thursday	10am - 10pm
Friday	10am - 5pm
Saturday	11am - 2pm

OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Every Wednesday, 8-10pm at the Center

- May 7 Setting up a cooperative house
- May 14 Women in politics
- May 21 Feeling oppressed
- May 28 The juggling act: work, others and the self

All women are welcome. If you would be interested in choosing topics and facilitating some discussions (no experience necessary), call 354-8807 and leave a message for the Feminist Discussion Group.



BOSTON BISEXUAL WOMEN'S NETWORK

Boston Bisexual Women's Network continues to grow by leaps and bounds. We are collectively run and open to all non-biophobic women without regard to your personal sexual identification. Here are some of upcoming events of interest:

Watch "People are Talking" on Ch. 4, Apr. 28 12:30pm, for a show discussing bisexuality

June 9th - BBWN Intro Meeting, 7:30pm at the Women's Center.

June 14th - BBWN's Pre-Pride Brunch, First Community Church, 565 Boylston St., 2nd Floor, \$3, open to all women, 10AM.

LESBIAN LIBERATION

Lesbian liberation meetings (every Thursday evening at the Women's Center) will begin at 7:30 as of now. Women of all ages who identify as lesbians or are unsure of their sexual identities are welcome. Lately, as few as 3 or as many as 11 women have come. We talk about anything! For more info, call Elizabeth at 776-5675.

LESBIAN ALANON

A new group is meeting at the Center to support partners of lesbians with the problem of alcohol addiction. Women share their experiences and ways of dealing with the issues and problems of an alcoholic partner. All interested women are welcome on Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8pm.

INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources sponsors a drop-in discussion group for women with incest histories on the third Thursday of every month (Sept. - June). The group meets at 7:30-9:30pm at the Women's Center. Upcoming meetings are:

- May 15 - Sexuality
- June 19 - Letting Go

Meetings are not scheduled for July or August, but will begin again in September. A referral and resource book maintained by Incest Resources is available at the Women's Center. Phone inquiries for resources and therapy referrals are being handled by Rape Crisis Center on their hotline: 492-RAPE, 9am to 5pm weekdays.

ONGOING GROUPS AT THE CENTER

MONDAY

- Support Group for Battered . . . 6:30-8pm Women
- Self-Help Group for Drug . . . 7:30-9pm Addicts
- New Women's Chorus 7-10pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's 7:30-10pm Network -Intro Mtg. (bimonthly)
- All-Center Meeting6-8pm (biweekly)

TUESDAY

- Rape Crisis Center 7-10pm
- Former Nun Lesbian Support . . 7pm Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)
- Writing Workshop 7-9pm

WEDNESDAY

- Support Group for Battered . . Noon-1pm Women
- Women's School 7-9:30pm
- Menopause Collective 7pm (monthly)
- Feminist Discussion Group. . . 8-10pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon. 6:30-8pm

THURSDAY

- Lesbian Liberation 7:30-9:30pm
- Ceres Grove (Spirituality) . . 7-9pm (biweekly)
- Incest Resources 7:30-9:30pm (third Thurs., monthly)
- Job Support Group. 6:30-8:30pm
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm Network (second Thurs., monthly)

HELP KEEP THE LINES OPEN

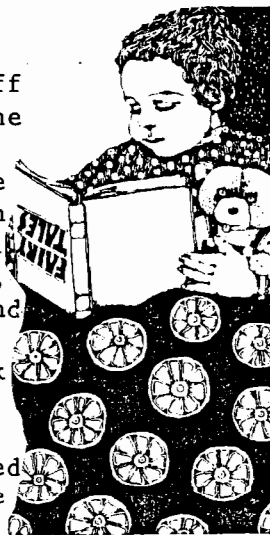
The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center has been a project of the Women's Center since 1972. Since we opened we have received almost 20,000 calls for counseling, information, advocacy and referrals. But because we only have one phone line many more women who need help can't get through. Our goal is to purchase a 2-line system, costing about \$1000. We need your help; your donations will help us raise the money to keep the lines open!

Donations can be sent to:
Rape Crisis Center
c/o The Women's Center
46 Pleasant St.
Cambridge, MA 01239

If you'd like to volunteer your time to help RCC, please write, or call the Center and leave your name and number so we can contact you.

all booked up

Looking for that special book for spring or summer reading? Want to work with other women on a history of Boston women's groups? Itching to help file two years worth of Sojourner, Off Our Backs, GCN and more? The Women's Center library archives needs you! We have had a tremendous increase in use this past year, as well as acquiring loads of books, newsletters, periodicals, and clippings. We desperately need women who can help work on our collections to make them accessible. If you think you might be interested and/or want more info, leave a message for the Library Collective at 354-8807.



ASPECTS OF AGING

The "Aspects of Aging" group (open to all women over 35) will meet on Monday, May 5, 1986 from 6:30 - 8:30pm at the Women's Center. Bring supper if you wish. Until now, we have used guidelines for consciousness-raising provided us by Greater Boston Older Women's League Awareness Task Force. Many thanks to the Women's Center for making space available to us. For more information, call Eve, 926-9778.

WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE

The Women's Coffeehouse is now open from 8pm to Midnight instead of 7pm to Midnight, Friday nights at the Women's Center. Coffee and tea are provided. FREE! Your children are welcome. Donations of beverages, food, games, money are always appreciated.

Some future highlights:

- Fri., May 2nd, 8pm-12

"To Be Seen & Not Heard"; A night of young women's writing. For young women to read from recent journals, poems & essays. For older women (21 to 120) to read words from years ago. Themes: pleasure, anger, alienation, sex, ageism, future visions.

- Fri., May 9th, 8pm-12

Come join us! Forget the 'no-place-to-go-&-just-wanna-be-in-a-women's-space-blues'!

- Fri., May 16th, 8pm-12

Open reading for poetry & short stories.

- Fri., May 30th, 8pm-12

Readings by Kate Rushin & Rosario Morales

OUTREACH

The Women's Center is open to all women, but is used by some groups much more than others. How we should go about broadening the base of women who feel connected to the Center is a question we have addressed many times, without reaching agreement. We have decided to form an outreach committee to come up with concrete proposals, which would be brought to a future All-Center meeting. If you would like to join this committee, or have suggestions, call Sharon at 354-8807.

CERES' GROVE

Ceres' Grove is an open goddess study/women's ritual group which has recently begun meeting at the Center. The group meets at 7pm on alternate Thursdays (next meeting, May 1). Ceres is the Roman name of the grain or earth goddess, the counterpart of the Greek goddess, Demeter. Grove is a word meaning an open women's group of unspecified number. The group ranges from 5 to 20 women. The group meets to learn about spirituality and to celebrate holidays like the Spring Equinox. The May 1st meeting will celebrate the Goddess' coming of age. Other topics recently: Tarot readings, music and color healings.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE

Last fall, a regular visitor to the Center pointed out that there really was no smoke-free sitting area designated at the Center. Except for the third floor library, women sensitive to cigarette smoke had no place to go within the Center where smoking was not allowed. There was sort of an unwritten rule that only one smoker should light up at a time. But, we felt a clearer statement was needed and possibly some division of areas into smoking and non-smoking.

At an All-Center meeting, we decided to ask the opinion of the groups and visitors to the Center, to help formulate a smoking policy. We sent out questionnaires and put up a 'graffitti sheet' with many different options for designating smoking and no-smoking areas among our sitting and meeting rooms and asked for votes both for and against. The debate raged both on the graffiti sheet and at Center meetings for several months. The results, however, were inconclusive. No clear policy was able to be agreed on. Finally, as of February 10, 1986, the following policy was accepted at an All-Center meeting for a trial period of six months. The smoking policy will be re-evaluated in August at an All-Center meeting and either continued or adjusted.

No Smoking In:

1st floor sitting room
1st floor phone/staff room
3rd floor (all rooms and hall)

Smoking is discouraged in the 2nd floor Children's Room. Smoking is permitted elsewhere.

Let's hope the whole controversy goes up in a puff of smoke!



ALL CENTER MEETINGS

It is through All-Center meetings (every other Monday 6-8 pm) that the Women's Center makes the decisions that keep it running and connect it to the larger community. All women are invited to attend. Prior to the meeting agenda items are written on a sheet posted outside the staff office. At the meeting, agenda items are written on a blackboard, someone consents to chair the meeting, and someone consents to record minutes. Notes of the meetings are kept on a clipboard on a bulletin board next to the staff office.

Requests for space and donations are frequent. In March, the issue of Center maintenance was explored. Many women use the meeting spaces and the Center needs to be cleaned more often than ever before. Volunteers and paid staff have been cleaning the Center for many years. Wages for housework has been a politicizing issue in the Women's Movement for fifteen years, as has the issue of volunteerism. The Center operates on a small budget. All these factors needed to be considered. A decision was made to hire a house cleaner to work one day twice a month to take some of the burden off of staff. Groups are still urged to leave rooms neat and ready.

An All-Center Meeting is an opportunity to see problem solving and consensual decision making in action. Meetings are open to all women from 6-8 pm on every other Monday, next meeting, May 5, 1986.

ACCESSIBILITY AND RENOVATIONS

Unfortunately, the wheelchair lift stopped working in early March. It has been taken back to the factory for repairs. We have been assured that it will be reinstalled as soon as possible, but we do not know when that will be.

The new wheelchair-accessible bathroom on the first floor is almost finished. A committee, which would welcome new members, is figuring out how to make the small staff office, the sitting room, and the large basement office more functional and pleasant. Making the children's room more attractive to children as well as comfortable for meetings is another current project that needs more input.

If you would like to participate in any way (including physical work!), on any of the above projects, please call Judy at 354-8807.

OUR BODIES

An amendment to prohibit both public and private funds for abortion has been proposed to our state constitution. If passed, it will be on the November 1986 ballot. Although the bill passed the legislature by a 2-1 margin in 1984, in order for it to be placed on the ballot, the legislature must pass it a second time. Mass Choice and Coalition for Choice are lobbying to defeat the amendment at the next constitutional convention. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. Write or call your legislator, asking her/him to vote "NO". Write c/o State House, Boston, MA 02133. Call for the number of your legislators at 722-1455(Sen.) and 722-2000(Reps). If you can help distribute and collect lobbying postcards, call the Mass Choice office at 720-1880.

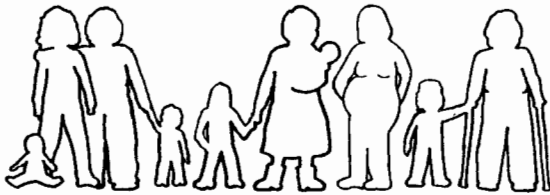
MAKE MUSIC

The Lesbian and Gay Freedom Trail band rehearses every Tuesday night, 7:15pm at the YWCA on Clarendon St. Get your instruments out of the closet and come join us to harmoniously and gayly make music together.

Lesbians and Children:

The Community We Create

A Day-Long Conference For All Women



SATURDAY, MAY 3

9am-6pm

SIMMONS COLLEGE

300 The Fenway, Boston

- Wheelchair accessible
 - Vegetarian food available for purchase
- FEE \$10: More-if-you-can, less-if-you-can't**

Co-Sponsored by: The Lesbians Choosing Children Network
The Feminist Union of Simmons College

info 522-3918, 868-6922

LIFELINE CONCERT

Lifeline Concert, labor/feminist musical trio from Washington, D.C. perform May 1st, 7-9pm at Downtown UMASS College of Public and Community Service, 100 Arlington St., 1st floor. (2 blocks from Arlington T stop) \$2 suggested donation. Free with UMASS ID. Concert is in celebration of Socialist Labor Day (May Day), sponsored by Social Events Committee and the Women's Center. Wheelchair accessible and ASL interpreter Penny Gill. For info, call 956-1025 or 497-9555.



GAY PRIDE

The Gay Pride march will probably start from Copley Square on Saturday, June 14 at around noon. Operating on a no-budget basis, the flavor of the march will be determined by the input of the community. If you want a booth, can donate some time or money (especially for child care), please contact Robbin at 776-8307.

WOMEN, HEALTH AND AGE

A conference by and for women

Saturday, June 14, 9AM - 5PM

Lesley College, Cambridge

\$10 fee (more if/less if) includes lunch and refreshments. Speakers - Joyce King, Jane Porcino; Workshops - including "Menopause; a Woman's Point of View" by The Menopause Collective; Entertainment. For more info. call Catherine DeLorey, 868-9600 ext 468.

GAY GAMES II

Come play for ten days in San Francisco, August 9-16. Watch our Lesbian and Gay athletes compete for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in various athletic events and marvel at the sound of all the Lesbian and Gay bands throughout the country playing together in one huge and never to be forgotten concert proclaiming our national pride. Call 497-9555 for more info about plane reservations.



THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.

46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Phone: (617) 354-8807

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Boston, MA
PERMIT NO. 59699



SOUTH AFRICA

Naomi Tutu-Seavers, daughter of Bishop Desmond Tutu, will be speaking at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge on Saturday, May 3, at 7pm. Her subject will be "South Africa: Generations of Resistance" a look at some of the tensions among generations as youth play an increasingly central role in the struggle against the white minority government. The Episcopal Divinity School is at 99 Brattle St., two blocks from Harvard Sq. \$3.00 donation requested. Sponsored by the Feminist Task Force of Mobilization for Survival and the Women's Theological Center. Call 354-0008 for info.

BOSTON WOMEN'S FUND WORKSHOPS

The Boston Women's Fund is sponsoring a series of Saturday morning workshops designed to aid non-profit women's organizations, their staff and interested individuals in program and organizational skills. The workshops are held from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Women's Fund Office, Park Square Building, Suite 902, 31 St. James St., Boston, right at the Arlington T Stop. Upcoming workshops:

May 3 -- Media Outreach. How to handle the press so that you can get your message across, press-conferences and what is newsworthy.

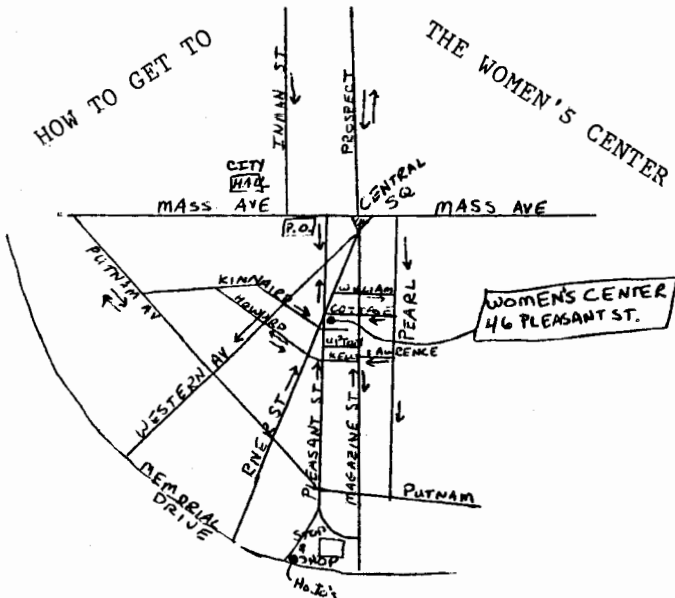
May 10 -- Fundraising Strategy and Planning How to identify funding sources and their interests and how to develop your own case statements.

May 17 -- Fiscal Management. Budgeting, cash-flow management, record-keeping, reporting and controls.

Fees: Sliding scale, \$7 per session requested. For more information and to register, call 542-5955.

CENTRO PRESENTE

Centro Presente, Inc., a non-profit organization serving Boston's Central American refugee community is looking for volunteers. Help is needed in: legal services, social work, teaching both English and Spanish, and administration. Centro Presente is located at 10 Essex St., Cambridge. If you can help, call Carlos at 497-9080.



♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE

summer 86



SUPPORT WOMEN

A women's right to choose a safe, legal abortion is in critical danger in Massachusetts. A constitutional amendment which would severely limit abortion access in this state is pending. Furthermore, should the Supreme Court overturn Roe vs. Wade, the landmark case legalizing abortion, the constitutional amendment would open the door to outlawing abortion altogether. The amendment will appear on the November 1986 ballot.

Under the existing law, the amendment would empower the legislature to:

- stop Medicaid benefits for abortions in Massachusetts. Each year, nearly 7000 needy women would be forced to bear unwanted children or sacrifice meager food and shelter allowances to pay for abortions.

- prohibit private insurers from covering abortion. The state has already outlawed state-funded health insurance for abortion for state, municipal, and county employees.

- restrict medical facilities from providing abortions by denying them tax-exempt bonding, certificates of need and charitable contributions.

!!! Your vote is crucial to repelling this attack on the right to choose. !!!

WHEELCHAIR LIFT

The lift is back in place, after a trip to California for repairs. We're glad it's finally working again, and apologize to those women who were inconvenienced because of it's absence.

PLEDGE A PICKETER CAMPAIGN

A campaign to support abortion rights and undermine the picketers who harass women at abortion clinics has been started by the Reproductive Rights National Network, Boston chapter (Boston R2N2) in conjunction with several other groups. This campaign encourages pro-choice supporters to pledge money for each picketer who appears at the Preter Clinic in Brookline during designated weeks. The pledges ensure that each time a picketer comes to harass a clinic patient, a contribution is made to the fight for women's reproductive rights. In other states, "Pledge A Picketer" campaigns have actually caused the pickets to stop coming! A flyer is enclosed with this newsletter -
MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY!

VIOLENCE SURVEY

Violence against gay men and lesbians is a serious problem and a growing concern within the gay community. Debbie Potter is doing research on verbal and physical violence against gays and lesbians. If you have been harassed or attacked in the past year because someone thought you were gay, please fill out a confidential survey. The information will be used for a thesis and to write articles for the gay community. Your answers will be kept confidential and there is no reason for us to know your identity. Call 776-5708 for a phone interview if you do not want to give out your name and address. Or, write Violence Survey, P.O. Box 236, Somerville, MA 02143 for a copy of the survey. Any identifying information will be destroyed as soon as a survey is mailed to you.

WOMEN'S SCHOOL

At this time last year, the Women's School was in limbo. The collective that has carried it through several semesters felt that they had to move on and turned the school over to the community. Out of several large community meetings, a band of four women remained and set up a weekend of workshops in Fall '85 and a larger calendar of workshops, slideshows, classes and an on-going writing group this past spring.

This fall semester will bring more classes and workshops beginning in October. A summer of successful fundraising, including a \$200 grant from the Boston/Cambridge Ministry in Higher Education, will enable the school to do wider outreach and to hold classes in areas outside of Cambridge.

What the school needs now are teachers, facilitators and discussion group leaders. Teachers do not need to be "experts". They do need to be committed to sharing their knowledge and interest in a particular area with other women. Collective members can help you turn interest and enthusiasm into a class or workshop. The school would like to offer classes, workshops and discussion groups on topics dealing with classism, racism, creating families, money issues, women's health, feminism, international women, lesbianism, arts and literature and disability issues. If you can think of anything else, let us know.

Past classes and workshops have included Marxism, Lesbian Literature, Wheelchair Repair, Older Women's Lives, Workplace Support Groups, Politics of Mental Health, and Women in the Middle East.

The collective itself, that small band of four, also needs a hand. They not only have a lot of ideas but they actually have some money to work with. What they need now are some women who are committed to real "alternative" education for women to work with them in getting a big fall semester rolling. If you think you might be interested, leave a message for the Women's School at the Center.



OPEN DISCUSSIONS

All women are invited to the Feminist Discussion Group, Wednesday evenings from 8 to 10pm.

UPCOMING TOPICS

- 7/16 - Single Parenting - Joys & Stresses
- 7/23 - Being Good to Yourself
- 7/30 - Women & Class
- 8/6 - Having a negative experience with a feminist therapist
- 8/13 - Debate & unity in the Women's Movement
- 8/20 - Independence and Intimacy
- 8/27 - Sexual Harassment

Facilitators are always needed, no experience necessary. For more information, call the Center at 354-8807 & leave a message.

RAPE CRISIS CENTER

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center will offer a 12-week support group for rape survivors this fall. The group will allow women who have been sexually assaulted to share feelings, experiences, information and support. It is designed for women who were raped a year or more ago.

The group will be co-facilitated by Maria Altamore and Franny Green, two experienced rape crisis counselors. Meetings will be once a week on a weekday evening (to be determined), starting the week of September 15. They will be held at the Women's Center and there is no charge for participation. To set up an interview, or for more information, call 492-7273.

FAT IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

The Fat is a Feminist Issue support group is an anti-diet group which works on developing a positive body image, accepting yourself as you are and liking your body. We encourage women to remove the obsessional concern about dieting and their bodies from their lives. The group is open to all interested women and meets every other Wednesday, 7:30-9:30pm.

SUPPORT

The Back Support Group is an ongoing support group for women with chronic back pain. There are 7 of us in the group and currently we are a closed group. We have been meeting since March, every other week, to talk about our experiences and to share ideas, info and support.

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK

In March 1971, a spirited International Women's Day march and rally culminated in the takeover and ten day occupation of a Harvard University building at 888 Memorial Drive, Cambridge. Harvard (along with MIT) symbolized the erosion of affordable housing in Cambridge. (As a response to the publicity around the occupation and the issue of housing, Harvard promised that housing would be built at the 888 Memorial Drive site. Fifteen years later that promise has not yet been fulfilled. The building was torn down and the land is now a tree and shrub lot of Grower's Market, a commercial garden supply store.)

The Women's Center was the direct result of the energy of the hundreds of women who occupied the building in shifts for classes, support groups, and meetings. As a result of the publicity generated by the occupation, money was raised to purchase a building. In late 1971, the present 3-story house at 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge became the Women's Center. The doors opened in January 1972.

In the past 15 years, the Center has been involved in a wide range of activities and issues. The Center has long been involved in the struggle to insure reproductive freedom for all women. In the first few years of the Center's existence one of the projects at the Center was the Pregnancy and Abortion Counseling Project which provided referrals and support to women before the Supreme Court gave its Roe vs Wade decision. The Center has championed the right of women and children to just and equitable welfare benefits, the right of lesbians and gay men to full civil, political and legal rights, the labor rights of women in the workplace, and opposed the Dukakis administration's homophobic foster care policy. The Center has housed support groups for older women, women of color, single mothers, women recovering from alcohol and drug dependency as well as providing support for survivors of rape, battering, and incest.

The Women's School held its first term in early 1971 and has been offering a wide range of classes and workshops at the Center and in surrounding communities ever since. The Center is a resource for information and referrals ranging from current events and meetings, to health referrals, housing, jobs, childcare and much more. Decisions

about the Center are made collectively and by consensus.

The Women's Center is committed to being supportive to all women and to working in coalition with other individuals and groups toward creating a world of justice and peace, free of discrimination. We welcome all women who want to join the struggle with your energy and ideas.

THE CENTER IS OPEN

Monday-Thursday	10am - 10pm
Friday	10am - 5pm
Friday Coffeehouse	8pm-Midnite
Saturday	11am - 2pm

MEETINGS AT THE CENTER

MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women . . . 6:30-8pm
- New Women's Chorus 7-10pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's 7:30-9:45pm
Network -Intro Mtg. (bimonthly)
- All-Center Meeting 6-8pm
(biweekly)

TUESDAY

- Rape Crisis Center 7-10pm
- Former Nun Lesbian Support . . 7pm
Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)
- Writing Workshop 7-9pm

WEDNESDAY

- Support for Battered Women. . . Noon-1pm
- Women's School 7-9:30pm
- Menopause Collective 7pm
(monthly, starting in Sept.)
- Feminist Discussion Group. . . 8-10pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon. 6:30-8pm
- Fat is a Feminist Issue. . . . 7:30-9:30
(biweekly)
- Bad Back Support Group 7:30-9:45
(biweekly)

THURSDAY

- Lesbian Liberation 7:30-9:30pm
- Ceres Grove (Spirituality) . . 7-9pm
(biweekly)
- Incest Resources 7:30-9:30pm
(resumes in Sept., third Thurs., monthly)
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm
Network (resumes Sep. 2nd Thurs., monthly)

SATURDAY

- Searching for housing support. 11:30am-1pm

A HOUSE > A HOME

The Search for Housing/Roommate Support Group meets Saturdays, 11:30am to 1pm. The agenda is based on the needs of the participants. Overall, the group is a place to:

- Meet potential roommates
 - Share resource information about the housing/roommate search
 - Get support for the search process
 - Share your concerns about finding "the right situation"
 - Brainstorm about how to build the kind of living situation you want.
- For more info, call the Center, 354-8807.

SUPPORT THE CENTER

Last year, it cost over \$30,000 to keep the Center operating. This money comes mostly from corporate and foundation grants and donations from individuals. We have no guaranteed amounts of income, so fund-raising goes on from scratch each year. That is why your contribution is so important!

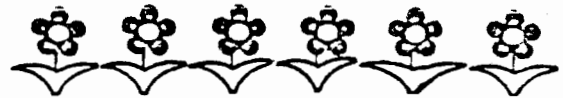
We need your help to keep the Center going and also to help us fulfill our obligation to foundations and corporations which require that their grants be matched dollar-for-dollar by private individuals. Please donate as much as you can.

Other ways you can help:

- Ask your employer if he or she will match a contribution you make to the Center. Many employers have done this to date and it doubles the value of your contribution.
- If you belong to a women's group or women's business or professional organization, please ask if the Center can use your organization's mailing list. Many Boston area women's organizations are already helping us to contact their members so we can tell them about the Center and ask for support.

WOMEN'S COUNSELING AND RESOURCE CENTER

The Women's Counseling and Resource Center has moved to the Women's Center!! WCRC offers women referrals to various services in the area and also offers counseling to low-income women. We're using office space in the basement of the Center and various other rooms for counseling sessions. WCRC hopes to eventually be able to offer consultation and training around crisis intervention and mental health issues to all Women's Center staff. We're glad to have become part of the Center!



WHAT'S IN BLOOM

Thanks to a Cambridge corporation which let us empty its greenhouse once again this year, the Women's Center's yard has been transformed by a wonderful array of geraniums and begonias, subtle shade of impatiens and the decorative foliage of coleus. The flowers were planted by volunteers in beds and above ground in pots. The Center's perennial garden is also in bloom. Right now, it features true and day lilies, just two of the many types of flowers which bloom here from March right through November each year.

All of this makes for an outdoor space that is a pleasant respite from the asphalt of the city. Next time you are at the Center, take a garden break or hold your meeting outdoors rather than spending a long summer evening indoors!

.....
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

_____ Rather than contribute now I would like to pledge \$ _____ per month for _____ months.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

LESBIAN FORMER NUNS

The former nun lesbian support group continues to meet at the Center on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. We are grateful to the Center for providing a space where women from varied religious orders and denominations can meet and share their feelings about their life experiences.

During this past spring, Rosemary Curb, one of the editors of Lesbians Nuns: Breaking Silence and Elizabeth Malloy, a contributor to that anthology, joined us for several meetings. Hopefully, they will return when they are in the area. It was a real delight to have them with us.


We encourage any lesbian who has been involved in a religious community to join us.

COFFEEHOUSE

The Coffeehouse was organized this past winter, first & foremost to be a not-for-profit-women-only-space, a free 'hang-out' space where women can come to kick off our shoes, relax, meet one another, . . . or just sit and read feminist periodicals or a book in our own community center. The Coffeehouse has evolved to being more event-oriented over the past few months. Right now, it is heating up for a "Night of Older Women's Writing" (July 18th) and a variety of cultural events this summer.

Whether or not an 'event' is scheduled, women should feel free to come and bring your own entertainment. (Bring a musical instrument to jam, a friend to chat with, a favorite game to play).

Keep your eyes out for flyers and notices in calendars about the Coffeehouse. Or call the Center anytime to inquire. If you would be interested in working with the Coffeehouse in any capacity, or would like to schedule a performance or event of some kind - please leave a message for Sky or LaVon. P.S. Donations of coffee, tea, money, a music system, games, etc. are very welcome.



Fridays 8pm = 12

PLEASURE PALACE

SATURDAY JULY 26

7:30pm-midnight

to benefit the
SAINTS COLLECTIVE

Massage, games, food
\$5 (more or less)

At the WOMEN'S CENTER

46 Pleasant St. (by River St.)
426-4469 (Kim) or the Center for info.

Sponsored by Positively Revolting
Affinity Group

"FROM BOOKS TO CLIPPINGS"

The Archives of the Contemporary Boston Area Women's Movement started in 1981 as a result of a small foundation grant awarded to the Center to organize the records of local feminist groups. The Center has been entrusted with the records of:

NO MORE FUN AND GAMES (a radical feminist journal), 1968-74

The Abortion Action Coalition

The Boston Women's Music Collective

SISTER COURAGE, an early women's paper
Bread & Roses (1968-70)

Bread & Roses was an early socialist-feminist group in Boston which was instrumental in organizing dozens of women's groups and coordinating activity around a range of issues including opposition to the Vietnam War, welfare cutbacks, and sexist portrayals of women in the media. The archives also retains records of many of the Center's projects and groups.

The Library and Archives are used regularly by many women from both the Boston area and by women from other areas doing research on the early roots of the contemporary Women's Movement. As a result, the Archives and Library requires constant work to just maintain it.

We need an on-going group to coordinate the work involved in maintaining the Library and Archives as well as to hopefully initiate new projects. There is a lot of exciting and valuable material to work with and a clear need for women power! If you are interested, please leave a note at the Center for Libby.

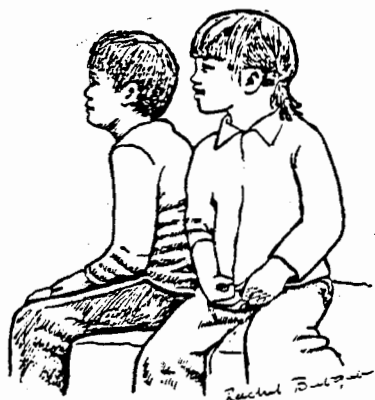
THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.
46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Phone: (617) 354-8807

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

BUILDING BLOCKS

The Children's Room at the Center cries out for consideration. Imaginative (but practical) suggestions about how to create a more appealing children's space (all ages) that can double as a comfortable meeting space are what's needed. Anyone who would like to contribute ideas, information, time or toys, please call Judy at 354-8807.



Meanwhile, work continues on the first floor, widening doorways, lowering thresholds, moving the refrigerator and stove, etc., as the wheelchair accessibility project nears completion. Some volunteer help would be wonderful, and any info about a good licensed woman electrician! Call Judy at 354-8807.



SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY

On August 9, 1956, over 20,000 women of all races demonstrated in Pretoria, South Africa in defiance of the pass system. In commemoration of this important day the South African Women's Day coalition will hold a day-long celebration on August 9th at the Blackstone Community School in Boston.

A week prior to this celebration, on Aug. 2nd, leafletting will be organized at area supermarkets to raise public awareness of corporate boycotts targetting Shell oil household products and Beatrice Food products as well as other South African goods.

For further info, call Free South Africa, 437-0228, or Women for Racial and Economic Equality, 522-4648.

NEWSLETTER

'ON OUR WAY' comes out four times a year. If you have not received it before, and would like to keep getting it, fill out (legibly) the form below. Bring it or send it to the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge, MA 02139. There is no charge for the newsletter; donations are always appreciated.

I'd like to be on the Women's Center mailing list:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip Code _____

♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807

TTY and VOICE

autumn '86



Women's Lives Are On the Line

On the November 4th ballot, we face a serious threat to our reproductive rights. If enacted, the anti-abortion amendment, Question #1, would amend the state constitution to allow the state legislature to regulate all activities related to abortion services within the state. This would include terminating Medicaid funding of abortions, prohibiting private insurance coverage for abortions, regulating clinics and hospitals which provide abortion services and making abortion illegal if federal laws change. Remember, the U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld a woman's right to choose by only one vote.

If federal protection is lost, the state could, under this amendment prohibit all abortions even in cases of rape or incest. Abortions to prevent the death of the mother are the only exception.

The legislature has recently demonstrated its lack of support for women needing abortions. By voting 88 to 60, in December 1985, to deny public reimbursement to rape victims for abortions or abortion counseling, the Massachusetts House has sent a strong

message to the women of this state. Don't count on Massachusetts' image as a liberal state if federal protection for the right to choose an abortion is lost.

Question #1 is very confusingly worded, making it difficult to decipher which direction is a "pro-choice" vote. Although a majority of Massachusetts voters are "pro-choice", polls indicate

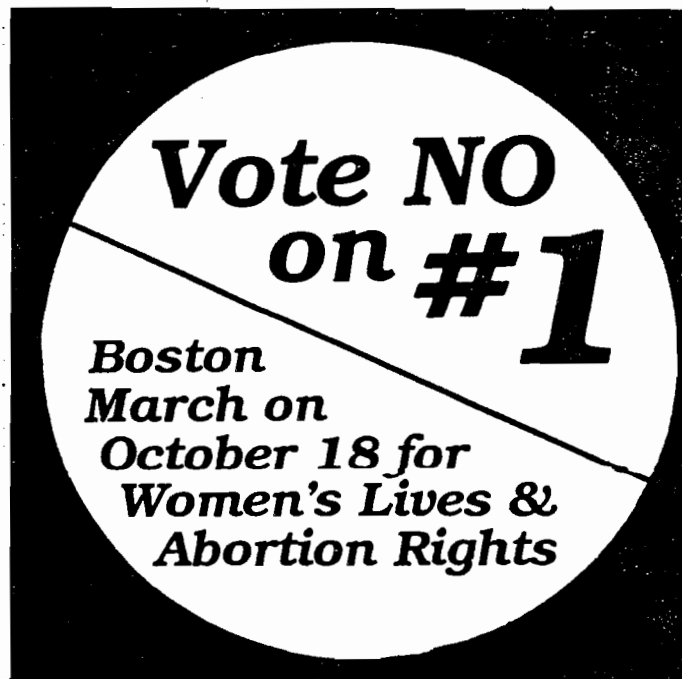
that the referendum stands a chance of passing because of its unclear wording. Extensive mobilization is needed to educate voters that a pro-choice vote is a "no" vote on Question #1. Help to ensure that every woman retains the right to make this extremely personal and difficult choice for herself. VOTE NO ON #1 TO DEFEND WOMEN'S RIGHT TO ABORTION!

&

RALLY!

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER
18TH, ROSIE JIMENEZ

DAY, THERE WILL BE A MAJOR MARCH AND RALLY IN BOSTON TO KICK OFF THE FINAL WEEKS OF THE CAMPAIGN. Rosie Jimenez was the first woman known to die from a back alley abortion after federal funds for abortions were cut off in 1977. As this amendment would hit poor women and women



RALLY

Continued from page 1.

of color hardest, it is appropriate that we commemorate her death with a rally demanding that no more women die needlessly from illegal abortions.

The march will assemble at Copley Square at 11:30 am and leave at 12:00 noon, with a rally at Government Center at 1:00pm. An exciting array of speakers will address reproductive freedoms -- Eleanor Smeal, Rhonda Copelon, Carol Doherty, Iris Garcia, Carter Heyward, Lee Levin, and Gaye Williams. There will be entertainment by Ronnie Gilbert, The Batucada Belles, The Girlillas, Semenya McCord, and Wanetta Jackson. The march and rally are wheelchair accessible and there will be an ASL interpreter.

The Rosie Jimenez Day Committee, organizers of the rally, is an ad-hoc committee of groups and individuals that includes the Alliance Against Women's Oppresion, Boston NOW, the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, Mobilization for Survival, and the Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2). If you have alot of time or a little, please call 782-1056. There is much work to be done to ensure the defeat of Question #1, and the Rosie Jimenez Committee welcomes your support. We are leafletting and tabling both before and after the rally, and need many women to work as peacekeepers and marshals on the day of the march. We welcome donations -- checks can be made out to B.W.H.B.C./R2N2 and sent to us c/o R2N2, Box 686, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, COME MARCH WITH US ON OCTOBER 18, AND VOTE NO ON QUESTION #1.



WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE

EVERY FRIDAY, 8PM TO 12AM

- October 17 featuring music by Luz Elena Baltran
- October 24 A group reading by the Jefferson Park writing group
- November & December events to be announced. Call the Center for more info.

THINKING AHEAD

With unprecedented tenacity, those present at the Sept. 22 All-Center meeting churned out a list of short term goals for the Women's Center. YOU ARE INVITED to come to All Center Meetings (alternate Mondays, 6-8pm) to participate in discussions on these goals:

How to get more women to come to All Center meetings.

Outreach strategy, including setting some concrete goals, beginning work on some specific projects.

Financial strategy re-evaluation, including where we look for funding, how we go about it, and where we invest.

The Newsletter: what changes, large or small, should be made and why.

The Center, an evaluation of what goes on at the Center, and what changes would increase it's value.

How can the Women's Center be more effectively connected to other organizations with similar goals.

The first hour of each All Center Meeting is for discussing these or other topics, which are listed on the agenda. The agenda for the next meeting is always posted next to the staff office. Any woman can come to the meeting; decision-making authority rests with the women present who work at the Center or its projects, in any capacity. If you'd like to get more involved, here are some specific areas where we need your energy.

- Help raise funds
- Join the outreach committee
- Help complete the wheelchair accessibility project
- Help update and track down referrals
- Join the library team
- Volunteer your services as an interpreter, coming to meetings as needed

And so on... if you think of another project for the Center that needs doing, you can build your own niche with your skills and energy.

**THIS IS YOUR WOMEN'S CENTER
WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**

If you have ideas (and some energy to materialize them wouldn't hurt) call or come by to an All Center Meeting.



POLITICAL ACTION HOTLINE

The Women's Political Action Hotline is now accepting calls at the Women's Center. Call 354-6394 and you will hear a recording of upcoming demonstrations, marches and political events as well as information on pending legislation which affects women. Many of us are deeply committed to women's issues, but find our energies for political action are limited to voting for appropriate candidates, a march now and then and occasional consciousness raising with a co-worker or neighbor when the opportunity arises. One thing you could add to your repertoire which isn't too time consuming or expensive is buying a stack of postcards, calling the Women's Political Action Hotline often and writing to your representatives on a regular basis. Representatives do pay attention to the content of their mail. They assume that, for every piece of correspondence they receive, 75 other citizens who did not write, have the same opinion. It doesn't take much time and it's an inexpensive way to let your voice be heard often. If you need to know your representatives and their addresses, contact the League of Women Voters at 357-5880, 9-2 M-F.

-----Clip and Save-----

Women's Political Action Hotline

354-6394

COUNSELING GROUP EXPANDS

The Women's Counseling and Resource Center is pleased to announce that two more therapists have joined the collective. This gives the collective a total of seven therapists and one supervisor. WCRC, housed at the Women's Center, provides women referrals to services and low-cost counseling. Two members of the WCRC recently lead training sessions on crisis calls for the Women's Center staff. In early December, a follow-up session will be offered.

POLITICS OF FAT

A new group has formed to focus on learning self-acceptance, to discuss societal pressures to be thin and the perspective that dieting is self-abuse. The group meets every Wednesday, 7:30-9:30pm at the Center.

FOSTER EQUALITY FOR GOVERNOR

Thomas R. Morse Jr., the Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court, attacked the new state policy that essentially forbids placement of foster children in lesbian and gay homes. This clears the way for the lawsuit challenging the policy to proceed to trial.

Referring to the children that were placed with Donald Babets and David Jean by the Dept. of Social Services, and then abruptly removed from their home two weeks later, Morse noted that the state acknowledged that the children's emotional and physical condition "improved dramatically" because of the "exceptional" care given by the gay couple. He also stated that "it is the children's interests that are paramount and . . . foster parents should be selected on the basis of their ability to provide temporary care and support for the children, not on the basis of an arbitrary factor such as marital status."

The Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee asks voters to protest Dukakis' foster care policy by not voting for Dukakis (since he's virtually assured to win anyway). Instead write in "Foster Equality" on your November ballot. This will send the Governor a clear message regarding his foster care policy.



MENOPAUSE

The Menopause Collective is now in its 7th year. Members of the collective encourage women of any age to come and meet with them, for support and information on menopause. The collective meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, from 7 to 9pm at the Women's Center.

FEMINISTS DISCUSS!

All women are invited to come join in open discussions, Wednesday evenings from 8 to 10pm at the Women's Center.

Upcoming Topics

October 15	Homophobia
October 22	Fear of Women
October 29	Witchcraft, Myths Legends

FAT IS A FEMINIST ISSUE

Every other Wednesday, 7:30-9:30pm, a support group for women dealing with issues around food, body image, and self acceptance meets at the Center. We work on making peace with food and becoming aware of how we use it. We're seeking new members! All women are welcome!

SPIRITUALITY IN MOTION

Ceres Grove (spirituality group) no longer meets at the Center. The group continues to meet elsewhere every other Thursday. Call 497-6809 for more info.

THE CENTER IS OPEN

Monday-Thursday 10am - 10pm
Friday 10am - 5pm
Friday Coffeehouse 8pm-Midnite
Saturday 11am - 2pm

ONGOING GROUPS AT THE CENTER

MONDAY

- Support for Battered Women . 6:30-8pm
- New Women's Chorus 7-10pm
- Boston Bisexual Women's . . . 7:30-9:45pm
Network -Intro Mtg. (bimonthly)
- All-Center Meeting 6-8pm
(biweekly)

TUESDAY

- Rape Crisis Center 7-10pm
- Former Nun Lesbian Support . 7pm
Group (1st Tuesday, monthly)
- Search for Housing/Roommates 6-7:30pm
Support Group (biweekly)

WEDNESDAY

- Support for Battered Women . Noon-1pm
- Menopause Collective 7pm
(second Wed. monthly)
- Feminist Discussion Group. . 8-10pm
- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare). 6:30-8pm
- Politics of Fat. 7:30-9:30pm
- Fat is a Feminist Issue. . . 7:30-9:30pm
(biweekly)
- Bad 'Back Support Group . . . 7:30-9:45pm
(biweekly)

THURSDAY

- Lesbian Liberation 7:30-9:30pm
- Incest Resources 7:30-9:30pm
(third Thurs., monthly)
- Lesbians Choosing Children . . 7:30-10pm
Network (second Thurs., monthly)

LESBIANS CHOOSING CHILDREN

The Lesbians Choosing Children Network has been awarded a community recognition award from the Boston Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance. We are thrilled and touched to be publicly appreciated for our work of the past few years in creating a support and information network for lesbians considering parenthood and for our Spring conference, "Lesbians and Children." The awards dinner is being held on Nov. 2nd. Watch the papers for more info.

Meanwhile, we have been having a difficult time gathering enough energy to have meetings. The coordinating committee has gotten little response to our requests for new members. We haven't had regular monthly meetings since our conference. We know that there are alot of women out there who could benefit from the Network's support. Please help us to continue to provide it. If you are interested in joining the coordinating committee, messages can be left for us at the Women's Center.

SUPPORT GROUP NOTE

The Search for Housing/Roommates Support Group is a place for women to talk about issues and concerns related to changing living situations. Each meeting is tailored to the needs of the participants. The group is a place to:

- Meet potential roommates
- Get support for your search process
- Share your concerns about finding the 'right' situation
- Network towards developing the living situation you desire

We will be meeting from 6 to 7:30 pm (you can stay for all or part of the time) on Tuesday, Oct. 21, and on the first and third Tuesdays of November and December.

BBWN

BBWN holds Introductory meetings at the Women's Center on Mondays of every other month. All women are welcome to attend any and all network activities; one does not need to be sure of a bisexual identity in order to participate! For more info., call Laura at 566-1567 or Mary-Charlotte at 776-6692.

TAKE NOTE!

The Women's School is pleased to announce its workshops and classes for November 1986.

- Nov. 1 Putting the Demo back in
1-3pm Democracy: Grassroots Organizing
- Nov. 1 Demystifying the Mystical: An
1-4pm Introduction to Wicca
- Nov. 7 The Writing on the Wall - Women's
7:30pm Graffiti Slideshow and Discussion
- Nov. 8 Making it in the Workworld:
10am-noon Overcoming Workplace Politics
& Nov 13 6-7pm (Two sessions)
- Nov. 15 How Selfish Can You Get?
1-3pm Getting Love in the '80s
- Nov. 15 Women and Nutrition - or You Are
1-3pm What You Eat
- Nov. 15 c.R.A.S.h. course: A workshop
1-4pm with Rock Against Sexism
AT: Femme Corps Space, 464 Harrison Ave.
(near Dover Station on the Orange Line)
- Nov. 16 "Our Boston Heritage" - Lesbian
noon-3pm History slideshow & discussion
- Nov. 22 Friendship Networks: Alternative
1-4pm Family
- Nov. 22 Non-Violence and Civil
1-4pm Disobedience: Politics of the 80s

All workshops and classes (except as noted) will be held at the Women's Center. To register, please arrive fifteen minutes before the workshop or first class meeting. If you need childcare, you must call the Women's School (354-8807) to make arrangements in advance. Women with special needs are encouraged to call the Women's School in advance.

The Women's School offers classes and workshops free of charge to all women. The facilitators, child care workers and other staff are volunteers. However, we do need money for postage, printing, supplies and other operating expenses. There will be an opportunity to make a donation when you register.

P.S. CALL 354-8807 FOR REMAINING
OCTOBER WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES.

INCEST RESOURCES

Incest Resources is a non-profit counseling and educational organization committed to promoting public information about incest and adequate services for incest victims and survivors. We sponsor and facilitate a monthly drop-in discussion group for women with histories of incest. This meets on the third Thursday of every month (Sept-June) from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Women's Center. To insure confidentiality and safety, meetings are not open to friends/support people. Upcoming topics are:

October 16 Memories
November 20 Self-Esteem
December 18 Reclaiming Our Bodies

Incest Resources has recently updated our referral and resource book which is available for public use at the Center. The book contains info about individual therapists and therapy groups concerned with incest issues. The format is questionnaires completed by therapists and agencies regarding their services, fees, theoretical approach to incest, therapeutic style and specialized training around incest. This book also contains a networking section to assist in the formation of self-help groups. Referral information is also available from the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, weekdays from 9-5, by calling 492-RAPE.

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.

FEMINIST CLUSTER

Members of the Feminist Cluster affinity group will be peacekeeping at the October 19th MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES AND ABORTION RIGHTS. Meet at 11:30am at Copley Square.

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

Phone: (617) 354-8807

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Boston, MA
PERMIT NO. 59699



NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

Public Forum: "Central American Update" with Sister Jeanne Gallo. Thursday, October 23, 7pm at the Central Sq. Cambridge Library (45 Pearl St.) Free admission. Info: 354-0008. Sponsor: Mobilization for Survival.



From Hoes to the Global Assembly Line:
Women and Technology in the Third World

A film and lecture series sponsored by the M.I.T. Anthropology/Archaeology Program and the Women's Studies Program.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Fri., Oct 24 | Women in Post-Revolutionary China. |
| Thurs., Nov 6 | Women in the Nicaraguan Economy: The Revolution and After |
| Thurs., Nov 13 | African Women and Ironworking Technology |
| Thurs., Nov 20 | Third World Women and High Tech Industries |

Location: M.I.T., Room 2-136, Time: 4-6pm. All events will consist of a film and a speaker on the selected topic. Info: Joni Seager, 253-8844.



Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, a film about the mothers of the Disappeared in Argentina.

Sunday, Nov. 23, 7pm. M.I.T. Room 2-190. Donation requested.

WOMEN'S CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

WANTED: Women builders, masons, electricians, carpenters, to build a school in Nicaragua. (Organizational work is now beginning. Serious fundraising could provide travel money for those otherwise unable to go.) Other skills needed: Fundraisers, organizers, spanish speakers, health workers, skilled consultants. Please call: Bonnie (413) 586-1125 (work) or 586-7094 (home) or Sandy, 584-4969. Sponsored by Masaya Women's Construction Brigade.

NEWSLETTER

'ON OUR WAY' comes out four times a year. If you have not received it before, and would like to keep getting it, fill out (legibly) the form below. Bring it or send it to the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge, MA 02139. There is no charge for the newsletter; donations are always appreciated.

I'd like to be on the Women's Center mailing list:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip Code _____