

# ♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807  
TTY and VOICE



April '90

## **NO MORE! March to stop child sexual abusers**

Come be a part of the first political march and demonstration to focus exclusively on child sexual abuse. It starts at noon on Saturday, April 28 at Boston City Hall Plaza. After some rousing speeches, demonstrators will march -- accompanied by the Batacuda Belles -- to the Boston Common (corner of Beacon and Charles) where there will be musicians, more speakers and an open mike speak-out.

Our vision for the event is to bring focused attention to the issue of child sexual abuse and to put energy and commitment into a movement dedicated to abuse-free lives for all children.

The invited speakers will focus on: sanctuary for children, a children's bill of rights, mothers protecting their children, the court system and other issues. A very important part of this event is the speak-out. We welcome survivors (children, women and men) and others who support an end to child sexual abuse to take this opportunity to speak at our open mike.

The demonstration is being organized by the Political Action Committee of Incest Survivors Network. It is being co-sponsored by the Boston Women's Commission and is endorsed by the Women's Center, N.O.W., R2N2, Mobilization for Survival, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center and many other organizations. We have received financial support from the Boston Women's Foundation, the Haymarket People's Fund, Community Works and Resist. Members of Moving Violations will serve as marshals. Organizations are welcome to bring their banners to publicly show their support for this event.

Come and give a clear message of support to survivors. Let legislators and judges know that everything possible must be done to stop child sexual abusers and to support child victims and adult survivors. WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH!

# NO MORE!



### **LALONDE LEGAL FUND**

The Virginia LaLonde Legal Fund announces that the appeal of the June 1989 custody decision giving full legal custody of 11-year-old Nicole to her father, Stephen LaLonde, will be heard later this spring. Nicole alleged that Stephen had sexually abused her. Her mother, Virginia, spent 7 months in jail rather than turn Nicole over to Stephen for unsupervised visits. Virginia is in need of legal funds. Donations can be made to VLLF- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, 99 Bishop Allen Dr., Cambridge, MA 02139. Virginia will be speaking at the "Stop Child Sexual Abuse Rally" on April 28th (see accompanying article).

# TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

## LESBIAN RAP

Mondays, 8-10pm

- Apr 16 Fat Oppression
- 23 Differences in Same Sex/  
Opposite Sex Communication
- 30 Sex
- May 7 S/M
- 14 Competition
- 21 Non-Monogomy

## BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP

Tuesdays, 7:30-10pm

- Apr 17 Obsessions
- 24 Censorship
- May 1 Erotic Writing
- 8 Religion
- 15 Role Models For Youth
- 22 Stereotyping
- 29 How Women are Portrayed  
in Popular Culture

## 30+ LESBIAN RAP

Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm

- Apr 17 Expressing Yourself Non-Verbally
- 24 Addiction to 12-Step Programs
- May 1 Lesbian: What's in a Label
- 8 Emotional Dependency in  
Relationships
- 15 Shyness
- 22 Stereotyping: Butch/Femme - Is it  
Back?
- 29 AIDS and Lesbians

## FACILITATED OPEN DISCUSSION FOR INCEST SURVIVORS

Third Thursdays, 7:30-9:15  
(wheelchair accessible)

- Apr 19 Intimate Relationships
- May 17 Boundaries
- June 21 Friendship

## THE GROUP THAT WASN'T

'Soulcial' Therapy, an open support group for lesbians of color, was announced in our last newsletter as a new group at the Center. However, the woman organizing the group was unable to continue, so the group is no longer meeting. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused. If anyone out there would be interested in starting a group for women of color, please call us. We'd love to talk to you.

# ONGOING GROUPS AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER

## MONDAY

- Take Back the Night Org. Comm....7:30-9pm
- 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 & Ex-Partners of Incest  
Survivors (1st & 3rd Tues.).....7-8:30pm
- Other Mothers (2nd Tues., monthly)...7-9pm  
(lesbian non-biological co-parents)

## 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, non-abusers)..7-10pm
- Battered Women's Support Group  
(Weekly except 3rd Wed. of month)..7-8pm

## THURSDAY

- Incest Survivors Discussion  
Group (weekly).....7:30-9:30pm  
(facilitated 3rd Thursday, Sept.-June)
- Women's Community Cancer Project  
(1st Thurs., monthly).....7-9pm
- Cancer Support Group  
(2nd & 4th Thurs,  
monthly).....7-9pm
- Lesbians Choosing Children Network  
(2nd Thurs, monthly).....7:30-10pm

## FRIDAY

- Birthmothers (1st,3rd Fri)....7:00-9:30pm
- Incest Survivors Anonymous.....6:30-8pm

## SATURDAY

- Writer's Support Group  
(biweekly).....noon-2pm
- Open discussion on Coming Out for Women  
of All Ages(monthly, 1st Sat)...11am-1pm
- Single Mothers Support Group (childcare  
provided) monthly, .....11am-12:30pm
- Support Group for Women with Chronic  
Illness (biweekly).....12-1:30pm



## TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

The organizing committee for TAKE BACK THE NIGHT 1990 is now meeting in the Women's Center every Monday evening at 7:30pm. All women are welcome to attend. Much help and input is needed.

There has not been a Take Back The Night march in Boston for nearly a decade, yet male violence against women and children has been escalating at an alarming rate. "TBTN" is an opportunity for women to show their unity in protesting such violence in our homes, as well as in our streets. The march will promote awareness of gender directed violent crimes and show our community's support of women who have experienced such violence. Please join us! For more information, call 787-1145.

### WOMEN'S SCHOOL SPRING TERM

Our Palestinian Women Friends

-Wednesday, May 2, 7-9pm

Menopause- A Self-Help Approach

-Wednesday, May 2, 7-9pm

Lesbian Families- Discussion

-Monday, May 7, 7:30-9pm

Reading for a Change

-Wednesday, May 9, 7-9pm

Anarcha-Feminism

-Saturday, May 19, 1-4pm

Graffiti- A Slide Show

-Wednesday, May 23, 7-8:30pm

Women & Disability

-Thursday, May 31, 7:30-9pm

All classes are at the Center and are free. Donations cover the expenses of the Women's School.

### IMPROMPTU WRITING GROUP

If writing alone gets lonely, join us every other Saturday, 12 noon to 2pm. This everchanging cast of characters has been meeting for over three years in a non-critical supportive environment. Our casual format usually includes two 20 minute writing exercises followed by optional reading aloud and discussion plus two annual excursions. Past topics have included: haircuts, pears, friends, summer, what to take to the end of the world, a sound word exercise and many more. Nothing too bizarre or trite for us. For more information, call Bee at 666-8118 or Clara at 666-2851.

## CHRONIC ILLNESS SUPPORT

A support group for women with chronic illness related to the immune system began meeting at the Women's Center in February of this year. Members include women living with environmental illness, candida, fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome as well as undiagnosed conditions. The focus of the group is feminist, environmental and holistic.

Since the group is so new, we have yet to settle on a specific format. However, we have had discussions on money, finding adequate health care, diet, anger and coping with guilt. Although the group's focus is not political activism, several of the women in the group are interested in organizing around environmental issues as they relate to their own health.

We chose to meet at the Women's Center because the building is wheelchair accessible. Furthermore, the room that we meet in is relatively free of toxic substances. Smoking and pets are not allowed in the space, and the furniture is fairly old, making the space relatively accessible to women with environmental illness. In order to ensure accessibility for a number of women, we request that women attending the meetings refrain from wearing perfumes or scented hair and body lotions. Attendees should also refrain from wearing clothing that has been exposed to these substances or to cigarette smoke or that has been recently dry cleaned or washed with scented products (fabric softeners are particularly nasty). We would also like to encourage all women going to the Women's Center to think about how their use of these substances limits access to the rest of the building and women's activities in general for women with environmental illness.

The group meets on alternate Saturdays from noon to 1:30pm. Meetings in April are on the 14th and 28th of the month. In addition to holding regular meetings, we have talked about setting up some sort of network to reach women who are physically unable to attend the meetings. For more info, call Joy at 265-4258 or Vanessa at 288-3843



## PEOPLE ARE TALKING - ABOUT INCEST -

When the media want to know more about topics affecting women, they often call the Women's Center. For instance, Secret Survivors: Uncovering Incest and Its Aftereffects in Women, by E. Sue Blume (1990, John Wiley & Sons) was the topic of a recent edition of the daytime talk show "People Are Talking". The book is about the repression of memories by survivors of child sexual abuse. Ms. Blume spoke about the physical and emotional symptoms exhibited by women who are not aware of this part of their history. Sometimes, these symptoms only begin to occur much later in life, many years after the abuse occurred. When the producers were looking for other panelists for this show, they called the Women's Center. We put them in touch with a Center staffer, Cathy Imbasciati, who agreed to be on the show and to share her history and experiences with the audience. Alice Roberge, also from the Center, was asked to be in the audience and participated in the show.

During the show, the Women's Center's phone number was advertised as a resource for incest survivors. Our phone was constantly busy that day and for several days afterwards, with survivors who had seen the program calling for information, support, and referrals to groups. As one of the few places in Boston where free drop-in support groups for survivors meet, the Center is a valuable resource to these women. We were glad to be able to meet the need and to be there to help.

In June, the problem of child abuse will get more media coverage in a three-part documentary. Again, the producers contacted the Women's Center in order to find women willing to share their experiences so that others may learn about and begin to heal from childhood abuse.

### CENTER HOURS

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

### WELCOME ANDREA

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Andrea Devine, the Center's new bookkeeper. Andrea is working part-time for us, keeping all our financial matters in order. She is looking forward to being kept very busy processing all of your generous donations and paying all the bills to keep the Center's doors open, lights on, and phones ringing.

## KEEP THE CLINICS OPEN

Although Operation Rescue has been handed some decisive defeats in recent weeks, the need for a pro-choice presence at the abortion clinics has not gone away. When Operation Rescue strikes, we need to be able to contact pro-choice supporters as quickly as possible to ask them to come to the targeted clinic and keep the clinic from being closed down by the O.R. terrorists. To put your name and phone number on a HOT LIST, so you will be called when Operation Rescue strikes again, call Boston N.O.W. at 782-1056 or Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2) at 524-6631 (Liz).

## STOP CHILD SEXUAL ABUSERS

# NO MORE!

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1990  
BOSTON CITY HALL PLAZA  
NOON

## MARCH, RALLY & SPEAK OUT

### A WELCOME CHANGE

The new Massachusetts foster care policy makes parenting experience, not marital status, the most important in determining foster placements. This means that lesbians and gay men, single or in couples, will no longer be excluded.

This change is part of an out of court settlement of a lawsuit against the state filed by the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, and the Civil Liberties Union. The lawsuit charged that the old policy discriminated against potential foster parents on the basis of their sexual orientation and marital status. This is a major step towards increasing children's options and their chances of getting a caring, supportive foster home placement.

## HOW TO START A GROUP

In a recent letter to Sojourner, a woman asked why there isn't a support group at the Center for women who have had abortions. The Center's staff coordinator, Judy Norris, wrote back to explain how groups get started at the Center. We would like to repeat that information here.

Support groups (and all other types of groups) exist based on need, topic and willingness of some woman or women to initiate and take responsibility for the group. Women interested in starting a group fill out a space request form. They give information on the nature of the group, why they think it should meet at the Center, and how it will be structured. Further, we need the assurance that someone will be present at each meeting to greet newcomers and initiate discussions. Decisions about the use of space at the Women's Center are made collectively at the All Center Meetings which are held on alternate Mondays.

We especially like to have groups here that fill an important need and do not exist elsewhere. Recently, a woman contacted us who is interested in starting a group for women over 65 who are survivors of incest. We have also had interest expressed in groups for women of color, for women who have experienced sexual harassment at work, and for a non-specific women's support group. If you or someone you know is interested in any of these groups, please call us. If you want to start a group, call or come by and ask for a 'space request form'.

## WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT

The Women's Community Cancer Project was created to facilitate changes in the current medical, social and political approaches to cancer, particularly as they affect women. We do not accept the "fact" that thousands of us must die each year. Our intention is to involve women whose lives are touched by cancer including women who have and/or had cancer themselves, care-givers, friends, lovers and family of those with cancer, and women concerned with the political and/or emotional implications of cancer.

A General Meeting is held on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm.

The Support Group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7pm. All meetings are at the Women's Center and are wheelchair accessible. For more info, call WCCP at 489-3806.

## JOB DAY SEPTEMBER 15

Saturday, ~~June 16~~ is JOB DAY at the Women's Center. From 9am to 5pm there will be employment related workshops, presentations and discussions in every room of the Center. In some rooms, representatives from different companies will be talking about all the different kinds of jobs and job training available at their workplaces. We hope to have women representing hospitals, computer companies, temporary agencies, human service agencies, business, training and vocational schools and many more. Each session will last an hour, with a short presentation and then time for questions and comments.

In other rooms, women will be talking about their experiences on the job, so you can hear what it's like being an electrician or midwife or taxi driver or lawyer. These women will tell us how they got into their current profession, why they chose it and how they like it.

There will also be a focus on the nitty-gritties with women coaching women on filling out job applications, resume writing and interviewing skills.

Childcare will be available. Please call ahead if you can so we can estimate how many kids will be coming. Also, if you would like to come and need ASL interpreting, please let us know as soon as possible.

We're still in the planning stages of the Job Day. If you have some suggestions, want to help organize the day, talk about the kind of work you do, or think your company would like to send a representative, call Alice at 354-8807.

## SINGLE MOTHERS GROUP

One Saturday a month, the Women's Center is unusually lively, thanks to the children of the mothers attending the Mother's Support Group. After a slow start, a good-sized group has materialized. The group consists of women who have come before and new women. Group members choose topics for future meetings (the topic was 'Having a Social Life' in the last two meetings). Infants, toddlers and grade school-age children have attended the childcare that is provided by Rosemary, a competent, experienced volunteer. We hope you'll check out this group if you're a single mom, or pass the word on to someone who is. Call 354-8807 for date and time of the next meeting.

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

Phone: (617) 354-8807

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**STUDENT HELP**

College interns and work-study students play a significant role in behind-the-scenes work at the Women's Center. Currently, three students are working on projects here. Alison Thompson is creating a notebook full of info on housing options. She designed a form to cover crucial info, has made endless calls and is organizing a housing notebook, which will be available in the sitting room at the Center. Liz Sullivan worked on a special questionnaire and sent it to therapists who see survivors of ritual abuse and women with multiple personalities. She is now updating information on support groups focusing on every imaginable issue. Susan Omarzu has written a letter to companies inviting them to participate in our upcoming 'Job Day' and has done a new Center brochure. Alison and Liz are from Smith and Susan is from Harvard.

We greatly appreciate the work of these women and other students. Contact Judy (354-8807) if you'd like to do an internship or work-study assignment here.

**HATS OFF TO STAFF**

When you call the Women's Center the phone is usually answered by a volunteer staffer. Staff find referral information, talk with women who are upset, and help out in lots of other ways. The Center depends on these volunteers, and they not only do what needs to be done, but often take extra time and effort to help women find the resources or support they need. If you are responsible, friendly, and would like to do volunteer staffing at the Women's Center, call Judy at 354-8807.

**GRAFFITI**

If you have access to TV set in Cambridge that gets CCTV, check out 'Cambridge Women in Cable' Wednesdays at 9pm on Channel 19. The April show, created by Mary Leno of the Women's School, is on graffiti. The May show will be on nursing.



WE DEPEND ON YOUR SUPPORT!! EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!! MANY THANKS!!  
Yes - I want to help the Center. Here is my tax-deductible contribution.  
\$5      \$10      \$25      \$50      \$100      other

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

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

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

We sometimes share our mailing list with other groups for special mailings of interest to women. Please check below if you do not want to receive these mailings.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Please do not give out my name to other organizations.

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OCT '90



## WOMEN'S SCHOOL

Many of you probably have had some connection with the Women's School. For nearly 20 years the School has offered women a connection to women's liberation through courses and workshops that are an alternative to traditional education. Are women still interested in sharing knowledge and having access to courses in a women-only space? The Women's School Collective is not sure that the community wants to keep the school going anymore, but we don't want to quietly go away without tossing up an emergency flare.

Women from the community came forward to offer classes and opportunities to discuss the politics of women's liberation, racism, women's health, women's history, class and feminism, the politics of lesbianism, women's literature, and marxism and feminism. Self-defense has been offered to empower women and provide a vehicle for discussing the nature of violence in our lives. At times in our history, we offered classes in Jamaica Plain and Dorchester as well as at the Women's Center in Cambridge.

The School made child-care available from the beginning as part of a political understanding of the needs of mothers and the desire to include all women. The cost of taking a class has been nominal. The costs of operating the school have been financed through donations and volunteer coordination and teaching.

From the beginning, women have volunteered to choose courses, pick teachers, put out the publicity and continue the tradition of working collectively, including discussions within the collective about power, class backgrounds, racism, ageism and anti-semitism. These issues were also addressed in the classes and workshops.

The present collective is feeling that the School has gotten a little bland and lost its radical bite. One of the most exciting things about the School has been the feeling of possibility that touched many of the women who came to take courses. Women would take a course one semester and teach it the next, which was revolutionary and completely undid the teacher/student dynamic. We haven't seen that happen in a while and attendance has dropped off as well.

We think the Women's School is unique and that we still need a women-only, non-traditional educational place. If you look around and notice that there's nothing like the Women's School and would like to keep it going, come to an open meeting October 17th at 7:30 at the Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge.

The Women's School Collective

## TWENTY YEARS AND GOING STRONG

The Women's Center's 20th birthday is fast approaching. We would like to plan a very special celebration to mark this event. But, we need your energy, thoughts, creative inspiration and commitment to do it. The event will be in March, 1991, commemorating the 10-day takeover of a Harvard-owned building at 888 Memorial Drive by women and the incorporation of The Women's Educational Center in March, 1971.

We need to form a celebration planning committee to start making plans and arrangements for the event. If the Center is or has been an important part of your life in the past twenty years, and you want to have a special day in her honor, please join the committee. The first meeting of the planning committee will be on Tuesday, November 20th at 7pm. Come pitch in and make it a great 20th birthday for the Center!

## TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

### LESBIAN RAP

Mondays, 8-10pm

- Oct 1 Storytelling Session: Bring a poem or story to share
- 8 NO RAP: HOLIDAY
- 15 Children?
- 22 Lesbians in the Media
- 29 Michigan Women's Music Festival

### BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP

Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30pm

- Oct 2 Sexual Harassment at Work
- 9 Being "Out": Personal or Political
- 16 Diversity in Our Community
- 23 Women's Spirituality
- 30 Halloween Party/Potluck

### 30+ LESBIAN RAP

Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm

- Oct 2 Age Differences & Relationships
- 9 Rap on the Rap
- 16 Obsessions
- 23 The Aging Lesbian
- 30 Lesbians & Politics

### SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORK SUPPORT GROUP

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm

- Oct 2 Guest Speaker Louise Eckert, former director of the Div. of Sex and Age Discrimination at Mass. Comm. Against Discrim..
- Oct 9 Assertiveness Training with Louise Bonar (special meeting)
- Oct 16 Regular meeting, no special topic

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

Open Reading of Women's Work: Poetry, Short Stories, Journal Excerpts, etc.  
Friday, October 12, 8:30-10:30pm.  
Sponsor: The Women's Writing Group.

Women's School Community Meeting  
Wednesday, October 17, 7:30-9:30pm  
Come be a part of keeping the Women's School going!

20th Birthday Planning Committee  
Tuesday, November 20, 7pm  
Come plan a celebration for the Women's Center's 20th anniversary.

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## 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
- R2N2 (Reproductive Rights National Network).....7-9:45pm
- Lesbian Partners & Ex-Partners of Incest Survivors (1st & 3rd Mon.).....7-8:30pm
- Coming Out As Disabled (3rd Mon).7:30-9pm

### TUESDAY

- Bisexual Women's Rap.....7:30-9:30pm
- 30+ Lesbian Rap.....7-8:30pm
- Other Mothers (2nd Tues., monthly)...7-9pm (lesbian non-biological co-parents)
- Sexual Harassment at Work Support Group (1st, 3rd Tues.) .....6:30-8pm

### WEDNESDAY

- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare).....6:30-8pm
- Writing Support Group.....7:30-9:30pm
- Battered Women's Support Group (Weekly except 3rd Wed. of month)..7-8pm

### THURSDAY

- Incest Survivors Discussion Group (weekly).....7:30-9:30pm (facilitated 3rd Thursday, Sept.-June)
- Women's Community Cancer Project (1st Thurs., monthly).....7-9pm
- Cancer Support Group (2nd & 4th Thurs monthly).....7-9pm
- Lesbians Choosing Children Network (2nd Thurs, monthly).....7:30-10pm

### FRIDAY

- Birthmothers (1st, 3rd Fri)..... 7-9:30pm
- Incest Survivors Anonymous.....6:30-8pm

### SATURDAY

- Women's Writing Group (biweekly).....noon-2pm
- Open discussion on Coming Out for Women of All Ages(monthly, 1st Sat)...11am-1pm
- Support Group for Women with Chronic Illness (3rd Sat).....12-1:30pm

## CANCER PROJECT

Feminists meet to discuss strategies for political action on cancer issues and to develop support and services for women who have cancer. Thurs., Oct. 4, 7-9pm.  
For information call 354-9888.



## **WOMEN COMING OUT AS DISABLED**

A new group is forming at the Center for women who are beginning to identify as disabled, including women with invisible disabilities and HIV-positive women. Toni Schiff and Alice Fisher have volunteered to facilitate the monthly group.

Toni Schiff, who has been blind for nine years, describes her first two years of visual impairment as a time she did not consider herself as disabled nor a part of the disability community. As her consciousness has grown, she feels she has become freer to be herself.

Alice Fisher is a life-long disabled person, who passed or had the illusion she was passing as not disabled. Her recent activism in the disability community has taught that being "Super-Crip" is not in her best interest after all.

Suggested topics for discussion will include: \* Fear of being labeled;  
\* Is there a hierarchy of disability?;  
\* The difficulties of hidden disabilities;  
\* Asking for & learning to receive help;  
\* and other topics as suggested by the participants.

This drop-in group will meet on the third Monday of the month, 7:30-9:00 pm. The first meeting will be October 15th, and meetings will continue at least through April 1991. The meeting room is wheelchair accessible. If you are interested, drop in, or call Toni at 924-5380 or The Project on Women and Disability at 277-5617. Please give us advance notice if you require an ASL interpreter.

## **DROP-IN DISCUSSION GROUPS FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN RAPED**

At the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge. (One block from Central Square, on the corner of Essex Street and Bishop Allen Drive)

Thursday, October 4th .....Trust  
Monday, October 15th .....Taking Risks  
Thursday, November 1st .....Relationships  
Monday, November 19th .....Self-Image  
Thursday, December 6th .....Fear & Safety  
Monday, December 17th .Keeping It Together  
Thursday, January 3rd .....Anger

Open to all women who are rape survivors. You are welcome to come and participate or simply listen. For more information on these or other groups call 492-RAPE.

## **MOTHER'S SUPPORT**

On Friday, October 26, a new mothers support group will begin at the Center. This group will be a guided support group for mothers who have to contend with difficulties such as being poor, single, young, having emotional problems, or recovering from drug or alcohol abuse. An important focus of the group will be on how to take care of ourselves. This often feels impossible as we try to take care of our children and cope with other pressures. In the group, we will have the opportunity to focus on our own needs, talk about difficulties with other women who understand, and celebrate our achievements. Laura Laster from New Wings Psychotherapy has volunteered to lead this group. Laura is a mother who has written articles for Boston Parents Magazine. Another mother will co-lead the group with Laura.

The group will meet on Fridays from 11am-12:30pm. Child care and lunch will be provided for the children. The group will run for 6 weeks. If the participants are interested, there might be some additional meetings.

There is no charge for this group. However, because the number of women in the group is limited, participants must pre-register. If you are interested, call 354-8807 and leave your name and number with Alice. The facilitator will call you back with information about the group. If you know of someone who might want such a group, please let them know about it.

## **GROUP SCOOP**

What are you getting into when you come to The Women's Center to attend a group? Each group is different, and group members (or facilitators) decide how to conduct their group.

This summer, Anne-Marie Kim, a work study student from Harvard, interviewed participants from 25 groups that meet at the Center and wrote descriptions of the groups based on those interviews.

So, now you can get the inside story! How does the Women's Writing Group differ from the Writer's Support Group? How do the two Battered Women's Support Groups compare? If you are coming out, will you feel welcome at the Lesbian or Bisexual Raps, or only at the Open Discussion on Coming Out? Is R2N2 for you?

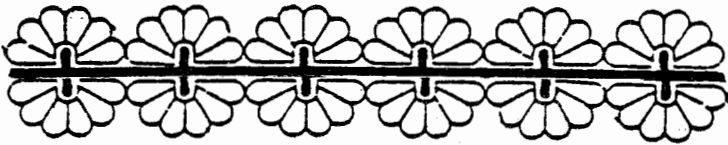
Excerpts of some of this information will be found in this and later newsletters. Feel free to call us for the lowdown on any of our groups!

## ISN SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Incest Survivors Network (ISN) urgently needs new members. We are an all-survivor organization which has been in existence for two years. During this time we have facilitated drop-in discussion groups on a monthly basis, maintained a resource book, organized a rally and a major demonstration, and spoken publicly to numerous audiences. Since its founding, many collective members have left the organization for personal reasons. If the organization is to continue thriving, new energy is needed.

Women are needed to facilitate the discussion groups and to maintain the resource book. And if you have an idea for a project which would benefit incest survivors, think about joining ISN and developing your ideas with others.

If you are interested in facilitating the monthly drop-in discussion group (no experience necessary), don't wait, call now -- there will be a facilitator training in mid-October!



## FLOUNDERING GROUPS

Groups sometimes lose energy, motivation, and attendance after a while. The women who originally started or attended the group may lose interest, become too busy or just move on to other issues in their lives. Periodically, you will see pleas for help from floundering groups in the newsletter. Other times, we aren't really aware that something is wrong until a newcomer arrives for a group and finds an empty room. A couple of groups are suffering from low attendance and low energy right now: the Cancer Support Group and Lesbians Choosing Children Network. As discussed in an accompanying article, Incest Survivors Network also needs more people. If you are interested in raising the energy level of any of these groups, please attend a meeting, or call and leave a message for the group contact person. Three other groups have stopped meeting all together: Women for Sobriety, Healing Through Art and Lesbian Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse. If there is anyone out there interested in reviving these groups, we need a serious commitment to attend every scheduled meeting and to be a facilitator or group contact person. Please call the Center and speak to Judy if you are interested.

## >> GROUP SPOTLIGHT << WRITING\*WRITERS\*WRITE

There are currently two groups for women writers at the Center. One group is for women of all levels of writing experience and does writing exercises on specific subjects at each meeting. The other group focuses on active writers striving to publish who read their work and receive feedback, but also welcomes beginners. We hope the descriptions of each group below will inspire you to dust off your pens & pencils and join in.

### WOMEN'S WRITING GROUP

Come Saturday morning, we'll gather at the Women's Center to inflame passions, share visions and be transported to other worlds. It's the Women's Writing Group and it's hot.

The Women's Writing Group meets every other Saturday from noon-2pm. If you come, bring paper and writing utensil. Everyone writes together on a topic chosen by group members. After the writing exercises, members have the opportunity to share what they've written and receive feedback. A unique feature of this group is that only positive feedback is given.

Beginners and all others are welcome. Some women who attend the group have been published, others have not; some have attended for years and there are always newcomers. Any genre is acceptable: journal writing, free form, poetry, non-fiction, essays, etc. There is a wide range of writing styles.

Because so much excellent writing comes out of the group, there will be an Open Reading on Friday, October 12 from 8:30-10:30pm which is being sponsored by the group. Anyone can come and read short pieces. Food will be available at intermission. The writing group is considering putting together an anthology of their work and this public reading is a first step in that direction.

### WRITING SUPPORT GROUP

The Writing Support Group saw many new faces this summer, from far away (England, California, New Orleans) as well as nearby. We are looking for writers interested in sending out their work for publication, although beginners can also benefit from the discussions. Your work, whether poetry, fiction or drama, will receive a respectful hearing. We welcome all women to our international salon. We meet each Wednesday, 7:30-9:30pm.



## INCEST SURVIVORS' GROUPS

Many people think that therapy is 'the way' to overcome the negative effects of incest. But many survivors attend support groups, either in conjunction with or instead of therapy. Listening and talking to other survivors in support groups can be extremely helpful. Support groups can help to lessen feelings of isolation and shame and infuse us with a sense of our community, resilience and courage.

There are several groups for incest survivors at the Women's Center. Some things are common to all of the incest survivor groups. Anyone who was sexually abused as a child by a family member, family friend, teacher, doctor, minister, or anyone else who was a part of your life, is welcome to attend. You do not need to have clear memories of the abuse. The abuse may or may not have included touching. You do not need to worry that your abuse seemed too insignificant, or too terrible. Women with a very wide range of experiences attend the groups. Confidentiality is respected in all the groups. No one has to speak unless she wants to. Anyone can leave the groups at any time. No record is kept of who attends any of the groups. Like other groups here, the support groups for incest survivors are free of charge.

The groups at the Women's Center differ from one another. The following descriptions are to help you decide which group to attend. However, each person's reaction to a particular group will be different. It depends on your needs, personality, what you are looking for in a group. Checking out different groups by attending a meeting may be the most effective way to find the best one for you.

\* Open Discussion for Incest Survivors (Structured) \* Thursdays (except the third Thursday of the month), 7:30-9:30pm

This group has some guidelines. A member says what she wants, and other do not respond to her with advice or other reactions. Participants limit the time they speak to a few minutes, so there is time for everyone who wants to speak. There are usually several newcomers. The ages range from 19 to 60's. Attendance ranges from 11 (in a snowstorm) to 30 women.

\* Open Discussion for Incest Survivors (Unstructured) \* Thursdays, 7:30-9:30pm

This group does not have guidelines, and has a more informal atmosphere. Women do respond to each other, giving accounts of similar experiences, suggestions, or other feedback. It is usually quite a bit smaller than the 'structured' group.

\* Facilitated Open Discussion for Incest Survivors \* Third Thursday, 7:30-9:15pm

These groups are big, taking up two large rooms. There is a topic, which has been chosen previously and advertised. The facilitators open up the meeting, by stating guidelines (accepting differences, maintaining confidentiality, suggested 3-minute time limit) and then talking a bit about the topic. Then participants talk about their thoughts or experiences. Near the end of the group, a facilitator will suggest that those who have not yet spoken do so, if they want to. Anyone can leave at any time. (If someone is upset, she can request that a facilitator leave the room with her and talk to her outside.)

\* Incest Survivors Anonymous \* Friday, 6:30-8pm. This is a 12-step group modeled after AA. Survivors of incest are welcome, and women pro-survivors (lovers, friends, non-abusing parents). The meeting opens with a reading of the 12 steps, and other member-written literature. There are ground rules for discussion: no responses to the comments of others, no judgements, 3-5 minute time limit. Each meeting focuses on a particular step. Participants share thoughts, feelings and experiences, which may be related to the step, or may be about anything they choose. Attendance fluctuates between 9 and 30 women.



### CENTER HOURS

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

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


Phone: (617) 354-8807

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### FUNDRAISING REPORT

Even though the Women's Center receives no government funding, we too have been significantly impacted by the state fiscal crisis. Many of the programs which have had budgets cut turned to foundations and corporations for support. Thus, the competition for funds dramatically increased. Several foundations and corporations which usually fund the Women's Center declined this year and wrote things like: "Due to the state fiscal crisis, the number of requests submitted to the Foundation has more than doubled;" "We wish we could fund all groups that come our way -- more than 1,000 this year -- but we simply cannot;" "It's wonderful to read your well-written grant proposals . . . Unfortunately, the trustees have voted not to continue support this year, primarily because of the overwhelming number of requests in the last few months."

In this last fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 1988 - June 30, 1989, the Women's Center received \$23,455 from foundations and corporations and \$10,837 from individual donations, totaling \$34,292. Our total operating expenses were \$35,059.

In comparison with the previous fiscal year, there was a significant decrease of foundation/corporation funding: in FY 88-89, we received \$41,535 compared to the \$23,455 in FY 89-90. On the brighter side, individual donations increased \$2,740, from \$8,097 in FY 88-89 to \$10,837 in FY 89-90.

Since the fiscal crisis in Massachusetts shows no signs of abating, the Women's Center will have to raise more money from individuals in the upcoming year. Last fiscal year, we received 193 contributions from the 1,424 individuals on our mailing list, a response rate of 13.5%. This is our Women's Center. It needs the support of each of us. All donations, large and small are appreciated and NEEDED. Thank you to all who have given. Please continue supporting the work of the Women's Center and, if you can, increase your donation. If you haven't given to the Women's Center yet, now is a fine time to demonstrate that you're glad that this Women's Center exists!

Yes - I want to help the Center. Here is my tax-deductible contribution.

\$10      \$25      \$50      \$100      other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

We sometimes give our mailing list to other groups for special mailings of interest to women. Please check below if you do not want to receive these mailings.

\_\_\_\_ Please do not give out my name to other organizations.

# ♀ ON OUR WAY

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

(617) 354-8807  
TTY and VOICE

December 1990



## DEAR FRIEND OF THE WOMEN'S CENTER

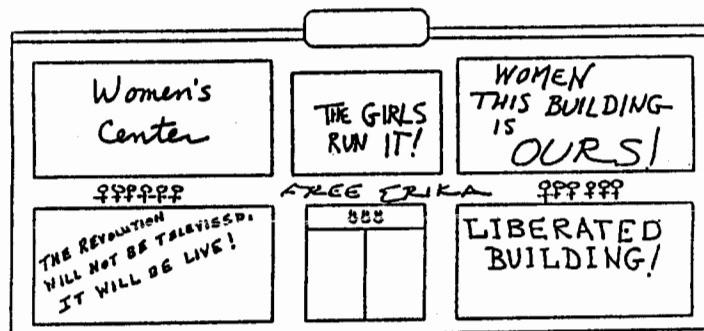
Every year I try to write something that will express the value of the Women's Center and motivate people to contribute. This year, realizing that the Center is about to celebrate its 20th birthday, I decided to look back on our history for inspiration. I'd like to share what I learned with you. I hope your belief in the Women's Center will inspire you to send whatever amount you can to support our work.

I carefully take down the box which holds the Women's Center's first editions of this newsletter, ON OUR WAY, and pour over the hand-typed pages. The idea for a Women's Center occurred to many different women in the area. In 1970, members of Bread and Roses, an early feminist group, wrote: "Many of us have spent long hours locating people and resources, arranging for places to meet and work -- such time might better have been spent on the projects themselves." Women began fundraising and househunting in the summer of 1970, but were unsuccessful in finding a suitable location for a women's center.

Shortly before International Women's Day in 1971, women from Bread and Roses and several other women's groups decided to coordinate their efforts and take over a building. After carefully examining several possible sites, they decided on 888 Memorial Drive, a former knitting mill and a barely-used Harvard-owned building.

Early in the day on March 6, 1971, a few women entered the building and announced that the building was being taken over. Later, hundreds of women participated in an International Women's Day March which proceeded to the building, and many of the participants walked right in. There, women held dances, dinners, consciousness raising groups, self-defense classes, a children's party for kids from the neighborhood, and frequent strategy meetings to discuss dealing with the police and with Harvard University.

Some women stayed the whole time, and hundreds of others came for all kinds of reasons, many bringing food and blankets and other supplies. The place was buzzing with women's exhilarated voices, and spirits were high even though Harvard had turned off the heat, electricity and water and the police glowered ominously outside.



SOME OF THE SLOGANS PAINTED ON 888 MEMORIAL DRIVE BY THE WOMEN WHO TOOK OVER THE BUILDING IN MARCH, 1971

After 10 days, a judge ordered that the police go into the building and arrest the women, using whatever force necessary, "and not listen to those do-gooders who say 'police brutality'. When a woman lawyer attempted to intervene on their behalf, the judge angrily quipped, "Get the bums out."

The women vacated the building before the police arrived, tacking a sign onto the front of the building which said, "Sorry MDC police, we could not wait." In a public statement, the women said that

they decided to leave so that the "love and energy generated" could be "used towards the further creation of a center for women, rather than in the courtroom with legal hassles." (Soon after, Harvard tore down the building, leaving the lot vacant for many years. Now our first Women's Center is the bush and shrub area of Grower's Market.) The building takeover so inspired Boston area feminists that enough money was raised for the downpayment on a building.

Maybe it is the starry-eyed nostalgia that comes over me when I hear a particularly good story, but right now, I would like to have been around then. I wonder what it would feel like to take over a building and paint boldly on the outside: THE GIRLS RUN IT! or WOMEN THIS BUILDING IS OURS! I wonder if I could believe that 10 days and nights of happy chaos, and the newfound sense of personal power and solidarity, would be a solid foundation for a lasting organization.



During the summer of 1971, the Women's Center established itself temporarily at 595 Massachusetts Ave., renting office space from the Women's Law Commune and putting out the first issues of ON OUR WAY.

As I read these early newsletters, I become poignantly aware that I am a generation apart from the women who founded the Center. Then, there were few resources existing for women. There was no rape crisis center, no battered women's shelters, no support groups for incest survivors, and few places for lesbians to go. Women were beginning to passionately challenge the many manifestations of patriarchy. Our early newsletters are sprinkled with articles on internalized oppression, economic inequality, women in prison, non-traditional jobs for women, and the connection between male violence at home and the war in Vietnam. They also have telltale signs that the new

organization was struggling to keep up with its ambitious beginnings, for example: "Office hours are erratic. Keep trying or come be the staff." At the very end of one of the first newsletters, appended as if an afterthought, "P.S. Financial assistance would be appreciated."

Finally, in January, 1972, the Women's Center moved into its present location at 46 Pleasant St. In preparation for this event, there was a 1 1/2 day long, open community meeting to decide how to run the Women's Center. The goal was to create an organization that was non-hierarchical and operated by consensus.

The first year in this building was especially rocky. While many women had participated in determining how decisions would be made, attendance at ongoing meetings was sparse. Sometimes, no one was here to answer the phone. Women who needed a place to "crash" started living here. Neighborhood youth harassed women entering the building. And after a fire was started by vandals, cutting off the gas and electricity, morale was especially low. At a general meeting on October 5, 1972, several women proposed that the building be sold.

But those women did pull the Center through its turbulent beginnings. An autumn, 1972 issue of ON OUR WAY reports that the house was getting painted, women were working together to fix up the building after the fire, and it was decided that someone should move in for stability and security. There were 'introductory meetings' (which helped new women learn about the Center), business meetings, and lesbian meetings. The Women's School, which began in April, 1971, was organizing their fall term. The Emotional Counseling Group and Women Against Rape would get started in the following months. The Women's Center was on its way.

I wouldn't want you to think that it was clear sailing from then on. Many women's centers have started; far fewer have survived. And the women who kept plugging on learned that the world was going to change not all at once, but one woman at a time.

If my peers and I missed out on some of the exuberance of starting a new organization, we also escaped the headaches. Unlike my sisters back then, I don't have to attend countless meetings to work out a system of governing a new organization. And, my peers and I can

benefit from the resources that hundreds of women worked to create. Some of these, like the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, started at the Women's Center, and several others started with the active assistance of the Center, including two shelters for battered women, Transition House and Finex House, and an alternative mental health organization, Elizabeth Stone House. Incest Resources, which facilitated drop in discussion groups for incest survivors beginning in 1983, was the first of many groups and organizations for survivors at the Center.

Throughout the years, thousands of women have worked to create what the Women's Center is today. What was erected with so many hands and so much care must never be taken for granted. If the Women's Center has touched your life in any way, please give to make sure it is here for the next woman who needs it. All contributions, large and small, are needed. It's up to all of us to keep the Women's Center alive. Remember, WOMEN, THIS BUILDING IS OURS!

Here's to the next 20 years!

*In Sisterhood, Alice Poberge*

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HOW TO BE 20  
MARCH 15, 1971 - MARCH 15, 1991

How to celebrate the Women's Center's 20th birthday is the question. Many answers were suggested at the first planning meeting: a party, skits enacting the building takeover, a panel discussion about our early history, or about what we've learned and what we want to do in the next 20 years, an open mike for women to say how/when they were connected to the Women's Center and what they are doing now. . .

We talked about making a short video celebrating the Women's Center, a time line of all the groups that have met at the Center, and a special newsletter.

Nothing is settled yet, including when and where the event(s) would happen. There will undoubtedly be committees for the skit, advertising, putting together a panel, finding a moderator, decorations, sound system, refreshments, finding a wheelchair accessible space, etc. If you want to help with any aspect, please call Judy or Alice at 354-8807.

Let's add another memorable event to our history!



BE IN A VIDEO

Would you like to talk a bit about what the Women's Center means or has meant to you as part of a short video celebrating the Center's 20th anniversary? Or do you have any suggestions about what to include in the video? If the answer is YES, call 354-8807 and leave a message for Kristin. Thanks!

CWIC VIDEO SHOWS

Cambridge Women in Cable, commonly referred to as CWIC, is a women's video production group that produces one TV show every month. In the two years that CWIC has been producing, they have created shows about self-defense, homophobia, midwifery, housing, and many other compelling women's issues. Their programs are cablecast every Wednesday at 9pm on channel 19 in Cambridge.

Now you can see CWIC's videos at the Women's Center! At 8:30pm, on the last Wednesday of every month, CWIC will show their previous month's production in the Center's living room. The show will be followed by a lively discussion.

This month, come see a show about local women politicians and hear about the personal side of running for and being in office on Wed, Dec. 26th, 8:30-10pm.

## DIFFERENT WAYS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE CENTER

There are many ways you could help out here at the Center. You could take on a staff position which involves talking to women who call and visit the Center, directing women to groups, tracking down referral information, etc. You could work on a project like the Women's Community Cancer Project, the Incest Survivors Network, or the Library.

You could start a group. Women tell us they would like to have groups for women who were physically and/or emotionally abused as children, for women who have had abortions, and for mothers. These groups don't exist at the Center because no one has come forward and volunteered to start the group, be there at each meeting, and hang in there even if no one shows up at first.

But there's plenty more you could do for the Center. We especially need people who can take responsibility for doing any of the following tasks, reliably and independently.

Pick up 100 copies of the new issue of Sojourner and bring it to the Center each month.

Purchase supplies like tea, coffee, garbage bags, toilet paper, tampons, cat food and cat litter, etc. (we would reimburse you if you want).

Volunteer to do child care for mothers attending groups at the Center (day or night times).

Revise referral information which involves taking a section (such as abortion, adoption, birth control, housing or employment) and expand, update and organize it.

Assimilate information we receive into relevant sections in our referral notebooks.

Recycle returnable cans & bottles.

Volunteer to be a "friend in need" for a woman who needs someone to talk to periodically, either to get through a hard time, or for a one-time event like a court appearance.

Type new information into our computer.

Offer to be on a phone list of women we can call for help when a woman needs services we can't provide, like a ride to the doctor or to court.

Come by and shovel the snow off the front walk.

Volunteer to make new curtains, do other sewing projects or repair furniture.

Xerox forms and flyers.

Help with spring, fall and winter cleaning such as washing windows and woodwork.

Be a person we could call when we need an extra hand, for whatever task comes up, such as errands, finding specialized services for a woman in need, or a newsletter mailing.

If you see something that needs doing at the Center, ask if you can take care of it yourself rather than waiting for someone else to do it.



## APPRECIATION

The Women's Center would like to thank the following foundations and corporations for their generous support in the past fiscal year. We wish we could list each and every individual donor, but the list would be much too long. We need and sincerely appreciate all donations, large and small.

### FOUNDATION/CORPORATION DONORS

Badger Engineers, Inc.  
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Charitable Trust  
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US Trust Middlesex



## CORRECTION

In our last newsletter, we said that the Women's Cancer Support Group was floundering. Happily, we were mistaken about this and we apologize to the group and to the Women's Community Cancer Project. Please read the attached article about the wonderful work being done by this group.

## WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT

The Women's Community Cancer Project was founded in September, 1989 and is a volunteer organization created to make changes in the current medical, social, and political approaches to cancer, particularly as they affect women. One of our main goals is to provide support services for women with cancer. During the past year we have had a general project meeting the first Thursday of every month. The support group for women with cancer or cancer histories, and lovers and friends of people with cancer has met the second and fourth Thursday of every month.

Several sub-committees have been meeting: Direct Service - created the Support Group and continues to work on other support services; Resource Directory Group - which has been working to create a directory; Political Action - has been meeting often and inspired us to do what the Boston Globe called an "informational picket" outside of the International Breast Disease Congress, held at the Hynes Auditorium. We also have a Co-ordinating Committee which meets one to two times a month. The Co-ordinating Committee's purpose is to know what is going on throughout the Project, within the sub-committees, to be a general clearinghouse, and to take care of everyday business.

We have had a lot of coverage; in Sojourner and the Boston Globe several times, as well as in Gay Community News, New Directions for Women, and the Boston Herald. We were consulted and mentioned on a Channel 5 newscast. Channel 7's Boston Common Show had members from the Project, MIT's WMBR "Say It Sister" did a show and Cambridge Cable did a video on the Project and women with cancer.

We participated in the Audre Lorde conference and recently members of the Project were in Washington, D.C. to attend the conference sponsored by the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship. While

there, they met with a representative of the National Institutes of Health. They also met with members from the Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer.

We have many things planned, including a Same Diagnosis Registry.

We actively encourage all interested women to participate in our Project. If you are interested, please call us at 354-9888. Please tell everyone you know about the Project. Our meetings are open to all women.

## MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES SUPPORT GROUP

Closed Support Group for Women with Multiple Personalities has openings for a few new members. The group, which has a self help model, meets every other Saturday at the Women's Center. For more information on how to join, leave your name with the Women's Center and a group member will contact you.

## EXPECTANT LESBIAN PARENTS

We are four months pregnant and are interested in a support group for expectant lesbian parents - couples and singles. Let's get together for mutual support now as well as for future friendships for our babies. Call Andrea or Libby at 491-8285.

## LESBIANS CHOOSING CHILDREN NETWORK

On December 13th, the final meeting of the Lesbians Choosing Children Network will be held - unless we get some help.

Hundreds of women have received information and support through the Network. But for those lesbians contemplating motherhood, and looking for answers to their questions, there will soon no longer be a Network to turn to.

The Network is in desperate need of someone to help facilitate meetings. There is still a great need to reach those lesbians "choosing children", but we need input from lesbian parents. We need to hear from women with experience in alternative insemination, adoption, or any phase of motherhood and parenting.

If you are a parent, or just thinking about parenting, and can help the Network continue, please contact the Women's Center, or call Michelle at 508-458-0740.

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)...7:30-9:30pm
- All Center Meeting (biweekly).....6-8pm
- Reproductive Rights National  
Network R2N2 (Dec 10 & 17th)....7-9:45pm
- Lesbian Partners & Ex-Partners of Incest  
Survivors (1st & 3rd Mon.).....7-8:30pm
- Coming Out As Disabled (3rd Mon).7:30-9pm

TUESDAY

- Bisexual Women's Rap.....7:30-9:30pm
- 30+ Lesbian Rap.....7-8:30pm
- Other Mothers (2nd Tues., monthly)...7-9pm  
(lesbian non-biological co-parents)

WEDNESDAY

- Lesbian Al-Anon (childcare).....6:30-8pm
- Writing Support Group.....7:30-9:30pm
- Battered Women's Support Group (Weekly  
except 3rd Wed. of month).....7-8:30pm
- Video show and discussion  
(last Wed., monthly).....8:30-10pm

THURSDAY

- Incest Survivors Discussion  
Group (weekly).....7:30-9:30pm  
(facilitated 3rd Thursday, Sept.-June)
- Women's Community Cancer Project  
(1st Thurs., monthly).....7-9pm
- Cancer Support Group  
(2nd & 4th Thurs monthly).....7-9pm
- Lesbians Choosing Children Network  
(2nd Thurs, monthly).....7:30-10pm

FRIDAY

- Birthmothers (1st & 3rd Fri).... 7-9:30pm
- Incest Survivors Anonymous.....6:30-8pm

SATURDAY

- Women's Writing Group  
(biweekly).....noon-2pm
- Open discussion on Coming Out for Women  
of All Ages(monthly, 1st Sat)...11am-1pm
- Support Group for Women with Chronic  
Illness (3rd Sat).....12 noon-1:30pm

CENTER HOURS

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

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

LESBIAN RAP

- Mondays, 8-10pm
- Dec 17 Women's Spirituality
  - 24 & 31 NO RAP
  - Jan 7 Being gay & suicide
  - 14 How to get re-established  
in a new place
  - 21 NO RAP
  - 28 Night Out (call for info)

BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP

- Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30pm
- Dec 18 Political Correctness
  - Dec 25 & Jan 1 NO RAP
  - Jan 8 Sex
  - 15 Family Relationships
  - 22 Erotic Writing
  - 29 '2 in 20' Film Showing  
(with potluck)

30+ LESBIAN RAP

- Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm
- Dec 18 Relocating Together
  - Dec 25 & Jan 1 NO RAP
  - Jan 8 Issues Around Food
  - 15 Women's Spirituality
  - 22 Lesbians with Disabilities
  - 29 Lesbian Sex Secrets  
(start at 6:30pm)

SPECIAL EVENT

Wednesday, December 26, 8:30-10pm -- Come watch a video, "Local Women Politicians: The personal side of running for office and being in office," followed by discussion. Produced by Cambridge Women in Cable.

FACILITATED OPEN DISCUSSION  
FOR INCEST SURVIVORS

- Third Thursday, 7:30-9:15pm
- Dec 20 The Little Girl/s Within
  - Jan 17 Anger
  - Feb 21 Taking Care of Ourselves
  - March 21 Sexuality

