

# D.E.W. DROP IN

## DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

April 1999

Free



*Spring Dinner*

*April 9*     **Starting at noon**

Tickets available Monday April 5

No tickets required but those with  
tickets will be seated first

Please note that on Thursday April 8 we will be serving  
soup and sandwiches instead of a full meal because the  
kitchen will be busy with Spring Dinner preparations

## A REPORT FROM THE WRAP UP MEETING

### FOR THE FEB 14TH WOMEN'S MEMORIAL MARCH COMMITTEE - 1999

Some Thoughts, ideas and feelings, so that we can do things better next time

On Friday March 5th the Women's Memorial March committee met at the Women's Centre to discuss some issues that came up during the march. The meeting was attended by community organizers and women of the Centre about 35 in all. We began with a smudge of the Centre from Reta Blind and at 5:00 PM drumming began from Tom Oleman, Mable Nipshank and company. We had a delicious meal provided to us by the hard work of Julie Cyr and the Kitchen staff and of course the wonderful volunteers of the Women's Centre, especially Bunsy Jir. The meeting got under way at 6:30 after the men excused themselves. We sat in a circle, Pauline Johnson did the opening prayer and we proceeded with a round of introductions. There was much discussion around the role the Women's Centre should play in organizing the march.

- **Many agreed that the Women's Centre should still continue to help in the organizing of the march because many women in DTES are murdered.**
- **We should advertise the march sooner so people will have the opportunity to plan to attend.**
- **The meetings should be moved around and not just held at the Women's Centre to involve more participants from the community.**
- **Concerns that women with male**

**children were asked to march at the end of the march.**

- **An aboriginal focus and theme should be instilled and respected because of the historical reasons for holding the annual march. IE: Cheryl Ann Joe.**
- **Discussed nationality of women remembered and it was decided that all women need to be included and remembered who are victims of violence. Women of all races are murdered each year.**
- **Educational workshops around FN issues was identified as a need in this community.**
- **Anti racism workshops was identified as another need in DTES around historical treatment of FN people.**
- **Elders in the DTES community are interested in participating and should be invited to attend organizing meetings.**
- **At Carnegie there is an insert for women's focus issues in the newsletter.**

There was much discussion around the race issues within the DTES community. Some of the concerns identified about the march were:

- **Anti racism - concerns around non native people co opting the ways of FN people.**

· Awareness of FN issues such as residential school, Indian act etc and it is hoped that through this process we can unite people.

· Media coverage of the march was misinterpreted or misconstrued.

· Acknowledgment of FN people and land is essential.

· Some thought the march was powerful and that FN women made positive statements.

· Supper at the hall was great and it was good to see the eagles fly overhead.

· Co opting of FN traditions.

· March itself was good and a lot of work was put in to the organizing.

· Unity was evident.

· Neighbourhood safety office was not forthcoming with information.

· Why do men have to march at the back even through they have lost sisters, wives, aunties, daughters, etc. they see it as hurtful and disrespectful.

· Jenny Lee Hope Centre wants to know why they cannot carry a banner.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO SHARE THEIR VISION  
NEXT YEAR WE WILL TAKE THESE WORDS AND TRY TO PRACTISE THE WISDOM  
THAT HAVE BEEN SHARED AND TO INCLUDE NEW VOICES**



## Calling All Women Young and Old

Consensus says we are having a women's softball team.

The truth is we are! If you are a woman who is bored of the same ole routine, well, this is for you! It's challenging and fun. It's physically healing and a good way to meet new friends and rekindle old ones.

Oppenheimer Park staff, Steve Johnson, has so graciously given the okay and the booking for the whole month of April. This is to begin April 4, 1999, between 1 PM - 5 PM which is every Sunday. So, ladies, if you have any spare gloves please bring them out. And don't forget to put your name on it.

Remember, we are here to have fun and respecting one another is part of it too. No drugs or alcohol, please!

Your new coaches are Dianne B. and Bernie W. So, come out and support the women. The sign up sheet will be posted, please check at the front desk or talk to Bernie. P.S. A big thank you to Cynthia and the staff at the D.E.W.C. for their support.

How'A'A Dianne and Bernie

## **SOFTBALL FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

**EVERY SUNDAY IN APRIL  
FROM 1 PM TO 5 PM**

**FIRST GAME SUNDAY APRIL 4TH**

Memories of the 90's

Joy, Loss, Pain, & Sorrow

One sweet day we will meet again  
They have wandered into an unknown  
land  
and left me dreaming, How very fair it  
must be, as they linger there.

So think of them faring on  
In the love of there  
As the love of here

Think of them still I say!!  
They are not dead,  
They are just away!!

missed by daughter, mother,  
grandmother, & friend

Sherrie

Grandfather,

Look at our brokenness  
We know that in all creation  
Only the human family  
Has strayed from the sacred way.  
We know that we are the ones  
Who are divided  
And we are the ones  
Who must come back together  
to walk in the sacred way.

Grandfather,

Sacred one  
Teach us love, compassion and honor  
That we may heal the earth  
And heal each other.

By Bonnie Peters



# DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

44 East Cordova St., Vancouver

681 - 8480

APRIL 1999

**LUNCH SERVED  
DAILY AT 12:30**

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	<b>CENTRE HOURS</b>			1 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 Women Surviving Together	2 10:30 Sewing and Alterations 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 5:00 Anti-violence Discussion Grp.	3 1:30 Dreamc atchers
Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday	12 - 5 10 - 5 11 - 5 10 - 5	Thursday Friday Saturday	10 - 5 10 - 5 12 - 5			
4 1:00 Softball 2:00 Video	5 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	6 2:00 Science World and IMAX 5:00 Battered Women Support Services	7 12:00 Shiatsu Massage 5:00 Alcohol and Drug Support Group	8 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST Group	9 SPRING DINNER Seatings start at 12:00 - Those with no tickets may have to wait	10 1:30 Dreamc atchers
11 9:00 First Aid 1 1:00 SB 2:00 Video	12 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	13 2:00 Swimming 5:00 BWSS	14 Lunch from 11:30 to 12:30 <b>Centre Meeting for all Women</b>	15 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST Group	16 10:30 S + A 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 5:00 A-V Group	17 1:30 Dreamc atchers
18 1:00 SB 2:00 Video	19 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	20 2:00 Pitch and Putt - Golfing 5:00 BWSS	21 12:00 Shiatsu Massage 5:00 A + D Group	22 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST Group	23 10:30 S + A 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 5:00 A-V Group	24 1:30 Dreamc atchers
25 9:00 Food Safe 2 1:00 SB 2:00 Video	26 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	27 2:00 Aquarium 5:00 BWSS	28 <b>CENTRE CLOSED</b>	29 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST Group	30 10:30 S + A 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 5:00 A-V Group	

## REGULAR PROGRAMMING

**Learning Group** - Every Monday at 5pm. Exploring different ways of Learning with First Nations Elder.

**Battered Women Support Services** on Tuesday nights at 5pm, support for women affected by violence.

**Shiatsu Massages** at 12pm first come first massaged. Get pampered and feel energized.

**Alcohol and Drug Support Group** - Wednesday at 5pm, do you have or had a drug and/or alcohol issues. This may be the place to get some support.

**Women's Voice** - Thurs. 1:30pm. Let us know what you think about the Centre. Your opinions and ideas are needed.

**Women Surviving Together** - Thurs. 5:00pm Healing Circle and support group for women. Led by Elder.

**Raffles** - Fridays at 1:30 or 2:00. Items which are not clothing items that have been donated to the Centre.

**Anti-Violence Discussion Group** - Every other Friday night Gathering to share stories and strategies to keep ourselves safe.

## CRAFTY WORKSHOPS - Materials provided

**Beading with Leona** - Every Monday, 1:30 pm. Learn how to bead, expand your skills or just share ideas.

**Ceramic and Tile Painting** - Every Thursday, 2:00pm. Make something that you can use everyday.

**Fabric Arts with Freeda** - Every Friday morning, 10:30pm. Learn to do your own sewing and alterations.

**Dreamcatchers** - Every Saturday at 1:30pm. Learn different styles or work on your own projects.

## OUTINGS - Watch the Outing Board for RUSH tickets.

Tuesday April 6 at 2:00 to **Science World** to see the IMAX movie about Wolves in their natural habitat.

Tuesday April 13 at 2:00 we are going to the **Eileen Daly Pool** in Burnaby to enjoy the excellent facilities.

Tuesday April 20 at 2:00 it is off to **Queen Elizabeth Park** for a round of Pitch and Putt - FORE.

Tuesday April 27 at 2:00 a Spring trip to visit our Marine friends at the **Aquarium**.

# Volunteer News

There is some really great news, we have a new Volunteer Coordinator. The bad news is that she will not be starting until May the 3, but she will be here - promise. It was a very difficult decision for the hiring committee because of the wonderful women who applied, we really enjoyed meeting all of them. Thank you to all the committee members who made it possible. The new coordinators name is Denise Tang and you will be hearing more about her in the May Newsletter - Stay tuned.

There were two meetings last month and if you are interested in the minutes of the meetings please inquire for copies at the front desk. Here are the highlights;

- We need more volunteers on the weekend, staff will be advised to share duties with the volunteers. Also staff will be given adequate bus tickets for the weekend, it is very frustrating for volunteers not to get their bus tickets.
- No more gift certificates from Army and Navy because they rip us off instead we will be getting gift certs. from London Drugs.
- The Volunteer Coordinator will compile a list of volunteers and what training they have received.
- Volunteers are encouraged to take leaves when they need it, do not get stressed out, we should be having fun and enjoying ourselves here.
- We would like new storage lockers as soon as possible.
- A reminder not to boss another volun-



teer around, especially if you are not working.

- Volunteers are responsible for their own jobs.
- Staff need to confirm that volunteers actually did start and end on the times that are indicated on the time sheet; if you work in the kitchen the kitchen staff signs your time sheet - NOT the staff floor worker or anyone else.

There will be an indepth report on the Volunteer Retreat (March 29, 30, 31) next month.



So Much

I love you, daughter so much  
your in my heart everyday  
That's one thing the system can't  
take away from us.

I miss you, daughter, very much.  
you're in my mind constantly

they may separate us, but I have a  
part of you with me and no one can  
take that from me

Dedicated to the Women's Centre

I refuse to and will no longer suffer  
anymore Pain and hurt will no longer  
be the sole emotions that  
make me know I'm still alive. Instead  
good feelings and prosperity will  
replace them by me knowing a brighter  
day lies just ahead.

Love & best wishes to all that come in  
and out the door of the D.E.W.C..

From Shannon Boyd

For all the beautiful women and their families  
that I've come to know at the fantastic  
Women's Centre.

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**SUNDAY APRIL 11**

**9:00 - 5:00**

**First Aid Level 1**

There are two workshops offered to all  
Centre members this month please see  
Cynthia if you would like more information  
or would like to sign up for either work-  
shop. These are both certificate courses  
presented by instructors from  
Vancouver Community College and  
St John's Ambulance.

**SUNDAY APRIL 25**

**9:00 - 5:00**

**Food Safe Level 2**

The information offered in these courses  
will help in getting employment but more  
importantly this information will help  
you in your daily life.

Both classes will be held in the basement  
next door to the Centre.

Please meet at the Centre at 8:45.



# A Special Reminder to everyone who comes into the Centre

## Violence in the Centre

Some of you may have noticed that the increasing level of violence in the neighbourhood is sometimes making its way into the Women's Centre. We are very crowded here in the Centre, and the noise levels and lack of personal space can be very stressful. However, when our stress is not handled in a safe way, anger can result and lead to aggression. This is very troubling for everyone who comes to the Centre to get a break from the chaos of the streets. The Centre is meant to be a safe place for each woman who comes through its doors. In order to make sure we all experience a feeling of safety in the Centre, the staff have recently discussed their responsibility in strictly enforcing the barring guidelines when an assault takes place.

## What is an assault?

There are different types of assault. Verbal harassment and intimidation should be brought to the attention of a staff member right away. They will intervene and try to cool things down. If the behavior continues, the Women's Centre barring policy calls for a **one day barring** if a woman refuses to stop:

- Verbal fighting
- Discrimination
- Disruptive behavior

Verbal threats and other threatening behavior like property damage is NOT okay in the Centre. The barring policy calls for a **one week barring** for:

- Threats of violence
- Property destruction

Lately, there have been some incidents of physical assault against staff and other women. We will strictly enforce our barring policy when assaults take place. A physical assault may be in the form of pushing, slapping, punching, hitting, kicking, spitting, or any other form of physical contact meant to intimidate or harm another person.

Our barring policy calls for a **six month barring for assault**. Police will be called when there is violence or when a woman refuses to leave. This is the Centre policy and it is not up to the discretion of staff.

Please remember that the staff are here to help you in any way they can. If you are stressed, having a rough day, or feeling angry, go to see one of them to help you get through it in a good way. When we all take responsibility to recognize our "boiling points," and we choose healthy ways to cope, it makes it possible for us to get along better.

# WOMEN'S VOICES

## Meeting for Women of the Downtown Eastside

If you have been to the Women's Centre lately you will have noticed that it is busier and more chaotic than ever. The numbers of women using the centre continues to increase but the space and resources available at the centre remains the same. Some days the centre is so crowded you can barely move. This results in more stressed out women, angry outbursts, and incidents of violence. The Women's Centre is needed as a "safe" and supportive place for women not a place that is too overcrowded, noisy, and chaotic.

Given the limited resources (staff/volunteers/money) and the extremely limited space, we need to think about prioritizing what we can do as a Women's Centre and how to best use the resources we have. To have this discussion we will be having a

### **Women's Centre Meeting open to Women in the Downtown Eastside on Wednesday April 14, from 1 pm - 4 pm.**

Lunch will be served early (11:30 am - 12:30 pm) then the Centre will be closed to all except those who want to participate in the discussion.

From Amalia  
Re: Spanish Classes

I want to apologize to my sisters of the Centre for not being able to teach Spanish.

I miscalculated, terribly, the time I have available right now - so I cannot live up to this commitment.

However, the project that I'm working on will come to completion by May 15.

At that time I would like to do Spanish. So I hope there will be interest then!!!

Please. pass my apologies to my sisters!

Thank you

Amalia Dorigoni





**Marlise Wester**

Greetings Women!

I have already had the opportunity to meet with some of you, but for those who have not yet met me, I am the new **Victim Services Worker**. My background includes feminist psychology and criminology. My role as the Victims Services Worker is to assist women in the Centre who have been victims of crime(s). If you or someone you love has been assaulted/abused, harrassed, stalked or in any other way victimized, it is important to know that you have legal rights and support is available. I am here to support you in determining your needs and choices by providing:

- ◆ emotional support
- ◆ information (what your rights and options are)
- ◆ practical assistance (filling out forms, going to interviews, tribunals or court etc.)
- ◆ court orientation (explaining the legal system and process)
- ◆ referrals to suitable community resources (making sure that you are in a safe place and getting help, if needed).

As victims of crimes, it is a scary experience to go through the process towards healing. some women may want to take legal action by reporting to the police and possibly going to court. some women may just want to talk about their experiences and feelings. Whatever your choices are, it is my role to ensure you that you are not going through the experience alone. I am usually at the Centre in Office B (Monday to Friday) for any women who would like to see me. As I am new to the Centre, I am also busy trying to get to know many of you. I welcome the chance to meet and talk to you - So, please feel free to come and introduce yourself!



**Marg Scott**

My name is Marg and I am the new Stopping the Violence counsellor. I feel really privileged to be working at DEWC, in an area where I can be of the most use. I have enjoyed meeting lots of you in the past couple of weeks. I appreciate all the help and feedback that you've given me so far, as I get familiar with how things work around here.

I have worked trying to help people with their problems and challenges for over ten years. I've worked with youth on the streets, developmentally disabled people, women students, people struggling with drugs and alcohol, and people with HIV/AIDS. Most of the people I worked with had experienced violence. Most recently, I worked at the Main Street STD clinic.

My job is to help women who have experienced violence in the past or present. I help women to deal with how this violence is affecting their lives. If you are in an unhealthy or abusive relationship, or if you are getting over one, it is important to be able to talk about it and get support. You may need or want help coping with problems as a result of the abuse.

I work from a feminist perspective, which means that I recognize that problems in living are related to power imbalances in society and that women have less power in our society than men. I believe that power differences between people make it possible for people with more power to abuse people with less power. I try to help women to find their own power.

You don't need an appointment to come and talk to me, but you can make one if you want. I also co-facilitate the Friday night Anti-violence group with Sharon Williams.