

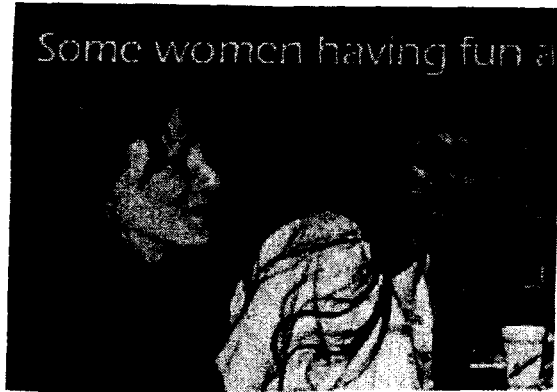
D.E.W. DROP IN

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

MAY 1999

Free



Some women having fun at the Spring Dinner



A Day Long Workshop facilitated by Aline LaFlamme & Bernice Hammersmith.

Wednesday May 5th 9:00 - 4:00

This Workshop will provide an opportunity to explore and discuss issues such as racism and fear of others. The workshop is open to all members, volunteers, steering committee members and staff.

If you plan to attend, you are asked to be at the Centre and ready to begin by 9:45. The Facilitators have requested that no latecomers be admitted, because late arrivals will disrupt group work in progress.

AND SO, IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, PLEASE BE AT THE CENTRE BY 9:45 AM.

The Centre will be closed on May 5th

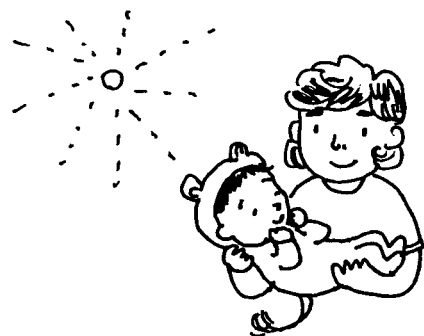
single mom's picnic at the park

Sunday May 9th

(time and place to be announced)

Please register to reserve your spot

To recognize the hard work and valuable contribution single mothers make, DEWC is organizing a Single Mother's Day event with the Vancouver Status of Women. We are arranging an out-of-town picnic for single mothers and their children. As we are organizing transportation to and from a park (to be decided), single mothers will need to register themselves and each child for this event. It will be first-come first-served. To register call Alice at the **Downtown Eastside Women's Centre** 681-4786 or Ema at **Vancouver Status of Women** 255-6554.



Motherly Love

She was the Pearl of the Ocean
The Puffy clouds in the sky
Her own bodily motion
With the deadly look in her eyes
Leaving the image of her devotion
with unlimited emotion
Listening to all that could be and
believing in all that would be
Forever live the young in the land of
the old

Selina K. Barton

Friends

Are the energy of our spirit
Are the voice of inspiration
Are the strength of Integrity
Are the courage behind our thoughts
Are our hope when there is no will
Are the youth to our wisdom
Are the shoulder in which we lean
on
Are the Invested interested of our
well being
Selina K. Barton



MISSING WOMEN MEMORIAL

**Wednesday May 12th at 2:00 at First United
The Centre will be closed in honor of our sisters**

On Wednesday May 12th, we are planning to attend the **memorial service** at First United Church (320 E. Hastings) followed by a walk to crab park to remember our beloved sisters, honour their lives and **grieve their disappearances**. The service will begin at 2:00pm. At approximately, **3:00pm we will be walking to Crab park** (north end of Main St. over the overpass) where there will be a **bench and plaque**

dedicated to the missing women. There will be various speakers from family members and other individuals, as well as, **refreshments and snacks**. Any women owning drums are encouraged to join in with the **drumming** during the walk from the church to the park. There will be **transportation available form the church** to the park for seniors and people with disabilities.

An open letter to the DEWC from Hazel Davies, the president and Founding Director of the Jenni Lee Hope Centre

I am writing to you today to express my surprise that at a recent demo memorializing women killed in the DTES the men in our organization were not permitted to march alongside the women in our group. Instead they were instructed to bring up the rear, well separated from the main body of the marchers all of whom were Women.

We were also not permitted to march behind our banner that was created for us by a local Native artist bearing the name of our group. There were no other slogans or protest statements on this banner, merely the JLHC title.

I am aware that most of the deceased Women were killed or maimed by men. However, they were not killed by the men of the JLHC who play a strong supportive role in our group dedicated to the opening of a Rest and Respite Centre for all Women at the risk in the urban environment.

As President of the JLHC I am dedicated to the notion that both the Men and the Women in our organization participate in the support of Women's issues in the days ahead. Therefore, would you kindly advise me by mail or phone just what exactly are the criteria for participation by our membership in future demos of this nature.

Clarification from Cynthia Low;
The DEWC is just one of many community, women's groups and individuals involved in organizing the Feb. 14th Memorial Walk. The decisions not to have any organization banners and to ask men to march in the back were made by the organizing group. This is where the vision of the March starts. People are welcome to join the organizing committee that will be meeting in November or December of 1999. If you would like to be involved please watch out for notices of meetings in the DEWDROP IN.

Volunteer News

We had a wonderful time at the retreat in March. For more detailed information there is a complete report available at the front desk. Here is some stuff that came out of the meetings we had;

what we want

- clarity around our volunteer duties, objectives, responsibilities and rights
- a sense of togetherness and unity with other volunteers
- a place to share ideas
- a problem solving group rather than gossiping

what are our needs

- to communicate and be heard
- to participate as equals
- to have confidentiality and respect
- to be understood
- to have solutions discussed
- for resolution of issues

What we should be doing as individuals

- be pleasant to everyone
- respect others, their confidentiality and privacy
- try to understand others
- communicate in a positive way
- set the example by adopting a positive attitude
- discuss issues openly, not gossip
- do not create problems by being too strict and judgmental
- be approachable and listen to criticism
- seek out help and training on how to deal with difficult situations
- treat people with kindness regardless of their behavior - I can walk away
- be on time for my shifts
- stop complaining and be constructive to be a part of the solution

WOMEN'S OWN HOME IMPROVEMENT ZONE

Learn how to:

Fix leaky taps
Do drywall repairs
Paint like a pro
Refinish Furniture
and much more

*Groups meet on Tuesdays
and Thursdays for 4 weeks*

**For more info speak to:
Gwen at Tradeworks
876 Cordova (253-9355)**

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IMPORTANT VOLUNTEERS MEETING

Sunday May 9th at 5:00

Agenda items include;

- meet the new coordinator
- the future of the store
- volunteer responsibilities

PLEASE ATTEND YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

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What bugs me about the Centre

Women need an attitude adjustment
Being bossy with others
Gossip
Complaining too much
Wanting to be treated with respect
but not treating others with respect
Everyone telling me what to do
Being shutdown - Coming into the
Centre in a Crisis and someone
telling you right away not to get
in the way
Women not knowing their own
behaviors

**Ask yourself if these are some of
the things you do, too!**

***What we think about people has
more to do with ourselves
than with the other person.***

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MAKE VOLUNTEERING FUN
FOR VOLUNTEERS TO BE MORE UNITED
TO FIND WAYS OF COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY
BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS, AND ALSO BETWEEN GROUPS IE.
STEERING, STAFF AND VOLUNTEER TEAM

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

44 East Cordova St., Vancouver

681 - 8480

May 1999

**LUNCH SERVED
DAILY AT 12:30**

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
2 1:00 Video	3 1:30 Beading 2:00 Meet the new Volunteer Coordinator 5:00 Learning Group	4 2:00 Bowling 5:00 Battered Women Support Services	5 Centre Meeting All women welcome 5:00 Alcohol and Drug Support Group	6 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Making Cards 5:00 Women Surviving Together	7 10:30 Sewing and Alterations 2:00 Video 5:00 Anti-violence discussion Group	1/8 1:30 Dreamcatche rs
9 Mother's Day 1:00 Video 5:00 Volunteer Meal and Meeting	10 12:00 Sweatlodge 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	11 8:45 S O Emergency First Aid 5:00 To Be Announced	12 9:30 New Volunteer Orientation 12:00 Shiatsu Massage 2:00 Missing Women's Memorial - Centre Closed 5:00 A + D Group	13 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST	14 10:30 S + A 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 5:00 A-V Group	15 1:30 Dreamcatche rs
16 1:00 Video	17 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	18 2:00 Race Track Stables 5:00 TBA	19 12:00 Shiatsu Massage 5:00 A + D Group	20 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramic Painting 5:00 WST	21 10:30 S + A 2:00 Video 5:00 A-V Group	22 1:30 Dreamcatche rs
23 1:00 Video	24 Victoria Day Open 12 - 5 1:30 Beading. 5:00 Learning Group	25 1:00 Boundary Bay Beach 5:00 TBA	26 CHEQUE DAY Centre Closed 5:00 A + D Group	27 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramic Painting 5:00 WST	28 10:30 S + A 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video 5:00 A-V Group	29 1:30 Dreamcatche rs
30 10:00 New Volunteer Orientation 1:00 Video	31 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group		CENTRE HOURS			
			Sun. 10 - 5 Mon. 10 - 5 Tues. 11 - 5	Weds. 10 - 5 Thurs. 10 - 5	Fri. 10 - 5 Sat. 10 - 5	

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Learning Group - Every Monday, doors close at 5:15. Exploring different ways of Learning with elder, Bernice Hammersmith.
Battered Women Support Services on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8:30, support for women affected by violence in their lives. Marnie is here on Wednesdays to give women relaxing, healing **shiatsu massages** on a first come first massaged basis.
Alcohol and Drug Support Group - Wednesday from 5:00 - 8:00, do you have or had a drug and/or alcohol problem. This may be the place to get some support, no preaching or guilt trips.
The Street Nurse is here every Thursday from 10:30 - 12:00 to give you information on all kinds of health issues.
Women's Voice - Thurs. 1:30. Let us know what you think about the Centre. Your opinions and ideas are needed.
Women Surviving Together - Thurs. 5:00 - 8:00 Healing Circle and support group for women.
Raffles - Every other Fridays at 1:30 or 2:00 depending on availability, items that have been donated to the Centre are raffled.
Anti-Violence Discussion Group - Every 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, 2:00. Make something that you can use everyday or give to a friend.
Fabric Arts with Freeda - Every Friday morning, 10:30. Learn to do your own sewing and alterations and also to knit and crochet.
Dreamcatchers with Beverly or Mable, every Saturday at 1:30. Expand your skills and share stories with other women.

OUTINGS - Watch the Outing Board for RUSH tickets.

Tue. May 4 at 2:00 we are going **Bowling at the Commodore Lanes** again. Have some exercise and enjoy the company.
 Mon. May 10 at 12:00 accompany Reta to the **Sweatlodge in North Van**. For more information please speak to Reta.
 Tue. May 18 at 2:00 a visit to the **stables at the RaceTrack** to see the horses and see behind the scenes of horse racing.
 Tue. May 25 at 1:00, bring your sun screen, bucket and spade for a day at the beach at **Boundary Bay in Tswasswen**.

Sign up sheets are put up at the beginning of the month, even though there is a waiting list chances are there will be space available.

NOTE: Sometimes things get canceled or set up on another day make sure to check "Update sheet" on the front chalk board. The Activities Board will also have information on other events.

Do You Know that your child is at RISK of apprehension if:

A Social Worker “BELIEVES” your child is not safe or properly cared for (often by their standards)?

Is There *Any Chance* of Your Child Being Apprehended?

- ✓ Has a teacher, doctor, neighbour, or friend asked *odd* questions about how you care for your child?
- ✓ Has a Ministry of Children & Families (MCF) Social Worker contacted you?

Knowing your rights and responsibilities may stop an apprehension

You *Will* Need Support

Note: If your child has already been apprehended, you should contact legal aid immediately at 601-6300, to access legal representation.

The idea of your child being apprehended, can cause a range of feelings: fear; anger; desperation; and powerlessness.

It is most important that you remain as calm as possible. Use your energy to develop a plan that will help prevent the apprehension.

Knowing what MCF might expect of you will be helpful. Showing you intention to do what is best for your child allows you some control over the process.

Examples of things the social worker will look at are:

- ✓ is the home adequate and reasonably maintained?
- ✓ Does the child go to school regularly – reasonably clean and with a lunch?
- ✓ Is there use of drugs and/or alcohol?

An advocate can explain Ministry processes and procedures, rights and responsibilities, as well as offer assistance and support

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TEAR OUT THIS PAGE AND KEEP THIS INFORMATION CLOSE BY

Advocacy on Child

Apprehension Issues

Native Court Workers & Counselling
985-5355

Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
681-4786

Indian Homemakers
876-0944

Kettle Friendship Society
(Mental Health Consumer Survivors)
253-0669

Transition Houses:

Rape Relief & Women's Shelter
872-8212

Powell Place
606-0403

Helping Spirit Lodge
872-6649

Drugs and Alcohol:

Detox

Vancouver Detox 660-6656
Youth Detox 251-9615

Recovery

New Dawn/New Day (for women)
325-0576

Aurora Centre (for women) 875-2032

Counselling/Support

DAMS 687-5454

AA 434-2553

NA 873-1018

ACTION 885-5680

Hey-Way' -Noqu' 874-1831

Welfare:

Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
681-4786

Downtown Eastside Residents Association
(Downtown Eastside Residents)
682-0931

First United Church
681-8365

St. Paul's Anglican Church
683-4287

Kettle Friendship Society
253-0669

(Mental Health Consumer Survivors)

Parenting Skills

Burnaby Family Life
659-2200

Indian Homemakers
876-0944

Crabtree Corner (single mothers)
689-2808

Hastings Family Drop-in
251-2913

Legal Assistance

You (and your child) may require a lawyer to represent you (and your child). To find out how to apply for legal aid call 601-6300. If your child has been apprehended you need to do this immediately.

*Thank you to Alice for providing this
information with such short notice.*

Report on the Wednesday April the 14th meeting

There have been lots of concerns expressed lately around the increasing number of women using the Centre and the lack of resources and space available to meet their needs. Some days, it gets so chaotic and busy in here that staff are unable to get work done. As a result, many women are not able to get the help they need. Given these situations, staff wanted to make some changes concerning Fridays raffles and the tobacco days that occur here in the centre. We wanted it to be an inclusive decision made by everyone. So on Wednesday April the 14th the Centre was closed in the afternoon to make way for this very important and much needed discussion. The meeting was a great success. The turn out was very high and consisted of staff, steering, volunteers and women who use the Centre. It was great to see women coming together and voicing their opinions around what they like and dislike about the Centre. Women came up with solutions to the problems and a consensus was reached. The women elected to have a committee to come up with and implement changes. Here are the changes that the committee has agreed upon:

1. Both the raffle and the tobacco day will be the volunteers responsibility.

- **Sarah Jane will be responsible for sorting out what goes into the raffle.**
- **Leona will be the only one responsible for giving out the raffle tickets (so do not bother asking the staff).**
- **Illona will get everything organized on the actual day of the raffle.**
- **Betty will roll the tobacco.**
- **Tobacco will be given out by Anita between 1:30 and 2:30 (so if you are not here then you get no tobacco) and remember the staff are not responsible for giving out the tobacco.**

2. The raffle will happen every second week and will consist only of larger items like microwaves, televisions, small appliances etc..

3. A needs/wish list will be started for things like sheets, pillows, bath stuff, etc.

**Remember this will be a trial run and if the responsibility falls back on to the staff then the committee has agreed that there will be no more raffles or tobacco day. Your help would be appreciated if you want to volunteer.*

WOMEN'S VOICES

Meeting for Women of the Downtown Eastside every Thursday at 1:30

We are going to try and reestablish the Women's Voices so that women may have a say in the operation of the Centre. This is a time for women to offer constructive criticisms about the Centre. If you have a complaint be prepared to be a part of the solution by offering ideas, volunteering or contributing to the Centre. Words are not enough we should all be prepared to give back to the Centre. How important is the Centre to you? We would also love to hear about things that are working well in the Centre. Like how the Centre has helped you or what the Centre is doing that is good for the members.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you have some free time and would like to contribute to the operation of the Centre.

Be a Volunteer

Next Orientation on
Wednesday May 12 9:30
Sunday May 30 10:00

DO NOT FORGET ABOUT THE MAY 5TH MEETING

There will be a meeting at the Centre to address the increased incidents of intolerance among our members, volunteers, staff and Steering Committee.

Women are rude, racist, homophobic and generally very aggressive towards each other. This is a Centre for all women living or working in the Downtown Eastside. We are victims of violence, poverty and hatred. We do not have to continue the cycle of hate by fighting among each other.

Let's talk about what is really bothering us try to support each other. If we cannot accept the differences among us we must atleast agree to treat each other with respect and expect the same from others.

Hello wonderful womyn,
My name is Michelle and I am one of the new relief workers here at the center. Many of you may remember me as a co-facilitator with Deepa's Friday night Anti-violence group. I am really excited and honored to be involved in the women center on a more regular basis. I feel I have a lot to learn from the womyn who use the center, the volunteers and the staff. I am constantly amazed and inspired at the tremendous amount of strength and courage that womyn display around sharing their stories and working on healing their lives. For the past few weeks, I have been replacing Christine Hutchinson working as one of the Mental Health workers and will be going back to doing relief floor worker soon. In the meantime, I have greatly appreciated everyone's patience and help while I have been learning this new position. My background is womyn studies and feminist counseling. I have gained most of my practical experience from volunteering at a variety of organizations such as Womyn



centers, a Womyn's health organization, and drop in centers for womyn. More recently I have been working in the neighborhood around the corner at the Portland Hotel Society. I try to work from a place of non-judgement and believe strongly in supporting womyn in the choices they make. So feel free to talk to me whenever you need to and I look forward to meeting everyone of you wonderful womyn in the months to come.



Say Hello to the New Volunteer Coordinator - Denise Tang
Where is this going? Hmm...talking about myself is never easy. Let's see, I have been a HIV/AIDS educator for Asian

communities, a conference co-ordinator and an exhibit co-ordinator. And I will always be a committed volunteer, a community activist, a student of all sorts and an Asian lesbian. I am excited to start my job as Volunteer Co-ordinator at DEWC. I feel that I have a lot to give and a heck of a lot to learn from DEWC members, volunteers and the staff team. Among those words that people have used to describe me, I thought I should share these with you: "quirky", "weird", "too much energy" and "funny". Oh...about my personal interests, I like filling out surveys and I love drinking liquids, and I want to grow up and be a musician one day. See you in a few days.

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