

D.E.W. DROP IN

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
JANUARY 2000 **FREE**

FRIENDLY REMINDER

In my eyes, I see only you.

In my heart, it beats for you.

In my soul it aches for you.

My seconds, minutes, hours and days that goes by:
consists of only you.

I know that I should carry on and find someone new.

But every breath is like a whisper of you.

What shall I do?

You are painted in my mind

and I hear your voice in the wind.

I can't help it if I care for you more than life itself.

I think of the precious time we spent in each others
company.

It was very special and unique.

For we were trying to form a friendship like no other.

Trying to build something that will last.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

CHRISTMAS DINNER was a huge success.

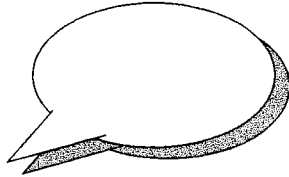
The stage was set for the children to visit Santa, the women to join in with the Carolers. Santa's helpers were also a part of the set by passing out the gifts to the women and children.

The hall was so festive with a row of Christmas trees to one side of the hall that were uniquely decorated. The tables were decorated with red & green tablecloths and beautiful flowers. The 5 rows of 4 tables per row seated approximately 30 women and children. Four of these rows were filled at each meal sittings - feeding over 300 women and children. And, as always the turkey dinners were delicious.

It was delight to see the women and their children sharing in this festive event.

Thank you to the direct mail volunteers! This years group of direct mail folders and stuffers was particularly keen and hard-working. Women showed up early and got the job done in record time. Just over 3 hours! You women are amazing and don't forget it.

Thanks to Laurette, Gloria, Marie, Theresa, Carla, Trish, Joan, Bunsy, Chilie Bean and Lynn.



THANK YOU!

Thanks seems not enough for all the hard work done by all the women for our Christmas Dinner.

Many of our women came together so that we all could have such a wonderful Christmas meal for all the women and their children living or working in the Downtown Eastside.

We thank you all for your continued efforts especially during the holiday season when we're the busiest with our own holiday preparations.

Goodbye from Cynthia

Well it has been an incredible 6 years at the Centre. I started as a volunteer at the DEWC over 6 years ago and have had the honor of being a full time staff member for over 5 years. When I decided to leave the Centre and started telling people of my plans the response was always been the same. 'It must be so difficult to work at the Women's Centre, you must be tired and burnt out.' I began believing them. A recent trip out of town gave me the opportunity to reflect on my feelings about the whole situation.

I made the decision to leave the Centre because I felt that I was no longer effective in the organization, not because I was 'burnt out' but because it was time for new energy and new directions for the organization. The Centre has always been a source of strength for me and I have received much more that I have given. I love the Centre and all its complexities. I will miss all of you, I wish you the best for the future and thank you very much for your friendship.

From the Staff

LEGAL ADVOCATE

First of all we would like to welcome
Chris back.

NEWS FROM THE LEGAL ADVOCATE

Just a brief note to inform the women of the Centre that I returned back to work on December 20, 1999. It so happened that the Centre's Christmas Dinner was on that day as well.

I hope that the Christmas season was a joyous one for all and wish you a healthy and fortunate New Year.

Sincerely,
Christine Wood

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES

Next, we would like to send out a word
to Alice for a speedy recovery

From the Staff

VICTIM SERVICES WORKER

STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLOR

COUNSELLOR

Reta advises to watch for upcoming news -
for the Year 2000 we would like to see the
sweatlodge used.

CRAFTY WORKSHOPS

(materials are supplied)

MONDAY _____ **BEADING WITH LEONA**
1:30 pm Learn how to bead, expand your skills or just share ideas.

THURSDAY _____ **CERAMIC and TILE PAINTING**
2:00 pm Make somethin that you can use everyday or give to a friend.

FRIDAY _____ **FABRIC ARTS WITH FREEDA**
10:30 am Learn to do your own sewing and alterations and also to knit and crochet.

FRIDAY _____ **DREAMCATCHERA WITH BEVERLY**
1:30 pm Expand your skills and share stories with other women.

OUTINGS

Watch the Outing Board for Rush Tickets.

Sign up sheets

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

NOTE:

Sometimes things get cancelled or set up for another day. Be sure to watch for an "Update Sheet" on the front chalk board. The Activities Board will also have information on other events.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

44 East Cordova St., Vancouver, BC

681-8480

JANUARY 2000

SUNDAY 12 noon 5:00 pm	MONDAY 10:00 am 5:00 pm	TUESDAY 11:00 am 5:00 pm	WEDNESDAY 10:00 am 5:00 pm	THURSDAY 10:00 am 5:00 pm	FRIDAY 10:00 am 5:00 pm	SATURDAY 12 noon 5:00 pm
						1 Centre open 12 noon – 4:30 12:00 Breakfast
2 1:00 Video	3 Centre open 12 noon – 4:30	4 2:00 Outing 5:00 Battered Women Support Services	5 5:00 Popular Education	6 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 Women Surviving Together	7 10:30 Sewing and Alterations 1:30 Dreamcatchers 5:00 A-V Group	8 2:00 Video
9 1:00 Video	10 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	11 2:00 Outing 5:00 BWSS	12 5:00 Popular Education	13 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramics 5:00 WST	14 10:30 S & A 1:30 Raffle 1:30 Dreamcatchers 5:00 A-V Group	15 2:00 Video
16 1:00 Video	17 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Grou	18 2:00 Outing 5:00 BWSS	19 5:00 Popular Education	20 10:30 Street Nurse 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Ceramic Painting 5:00 WST	21 10:30 S & A 1:30 Dreamcatchers 5:00 A-V Group	22 2:00 Video
23 1:00 Video	24 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	25 2:00 Outing 5:00 BWSS	26 Centre Closed Cheque Day	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 1:30 Dreamcatchers 5:00 A-V Group	29 2:00 Video
30 1:00 Video	31 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Grou					

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

MONDAY _____ LEARNING GROUP

doors close
at 5:15 pm

Explore different ways of Learning with
Elder, Bernice Hammersmith.

TUESDAY _____ BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES

5:00 to 8:30 pm

Support for women affected by violence
in their lives.

WEDNESDAY _____ POPULAR EDUCATION GROUP

5:00 to 8:00 pm

Share the skills that you have to make
changes in your life. Meet with like
minded women to organize events.

THURSDAY _____ WOMEN'S VOICE

starts at 1:30 pm

Let us know what you think about the
Centre. Your opinions and ideas are
needed.

THURSDAY _____ WOMEN SURVIVING TOGETHER

5:00 to 8:00 pm

Healing Circle and support group for
women.

FRIDAY _____ RAFFLES (every other Friday)

1:30 or 2:00 pm

depending on availability, items that
have been donated to the Centre are
raffled.

FRIDAY _____ ANTI-VIOLENCE DISCUSSION GROUP

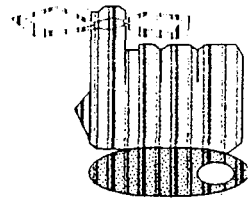
Gathering to share stories and strategies
to keep ourselves safe.

From the Staff

VOLUNTEERS

Denise advises to watch for notices regarding the Volunteer Program.

The deadline for
newsletter submissions is:
cheque day on Wed.,
January 26th, 2000.



REMINDER

WHO IS JULIA

Julia was born and raised in Vancouver, BC. After her marriage in the mid 1980's she moved to the Sunshine Coast with the hope to connect with her roots. After her separation in the early 1990's she returned to Vancouver.

Julia has always been drawn towards the Downtown Eastside (DES) just as other women in her family have been before her. Julia has met women at centres in the DES who were friends of her natural mother have told her how much she resembles her mother and thought they were having flashbacks.

There have been numerous women in Julia's family who not only lived but have died in the DES. Her mother died of abuse, in the late 60's or early 70's; her grandmother died of stomach cancer, in the late 70's, and choose to die in a hotel room without any assistance from doctors, friends or family; her 3rd cousin died of a very brutal death in the early 90's. And, today she has two 3rd cousins that both live in the DES and who are suffering from abuse. So my heart goes out to those who have someone in their lives who are at risk.

Julia strongly believes that women suffering from abuse whether it is self, substance, physical or emotional abuse need support that will guide them to wanting a positive change. This belief has been demonstrated by her support through donations made in the past to the D.E.S. Women's Centre, through volunteering her time at various DES centres since 1994 and through working for various non profit organizations.

Julia has a very unique educational and work history and has been given the name of "CrossWorlds" meaning that she is capable of communicating at various levels between the Native and non-native.

WHAT'S UPCOMING

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, ETC.

2000
JANUARY

- **Be Our Guests:** Women's Centre hosting a free concert Downtown Eastside neighbours!

The new year will bring us a free classical music concert for Downtown Eastside Residents. The concert is being organized by the Women's Centre and the University of British Columbia. The music will come from an all-female orchestra called La Pieta. The group is led by Angele Dubeau and has some of the best musicians in Canada in it.

The group gets its name from an 'orphanage' in Vienna in the early 18th Century. The 'orphanage' was really a place that women and girls who were outcasts of society were sent to live out their lives. A very famous composer by the name of Vivaldi was hired to teach the women how to play violin. He formed an orchestra and wrote music for the women to play. The women were so good that all the rich and famous came to hear them play and Vivaldi's music is some of the most well-known in the world.

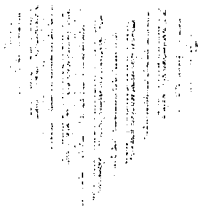
This event is a chance for all of us to enjoy the beauty of live classical music. Come check it out and bring a friend!
Friday, January 28th, 2000 - reception begins at 11:30 a.m.
- concert begins at 12:30 p.m. sharp at the Japanese Language School, 475 Alexander Street.

WHAT'S UPCOMING

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, ETC.

2000
FEBRUARY

- **Marches in February:**



Valentine's Day March

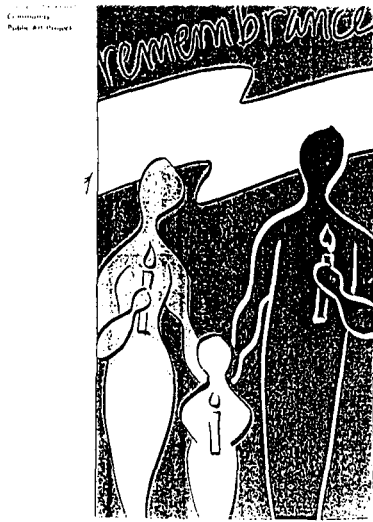
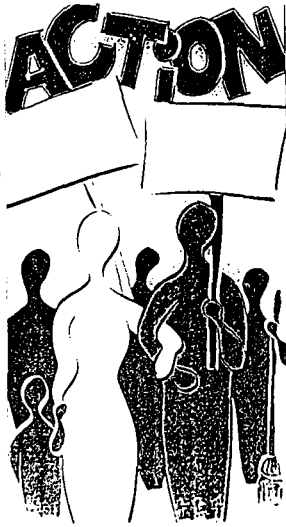
-Stopping the Violence

-Breaking the Silence

International Women's Day March

- **Chinese New Year**

Watch for NOTICES for:
meetings for these marches
and
celebrations for Chinese New Year.



As you walk along Cordova Street you will notice The Art Project banners displayed for one block between Columbia Street and Main Street. Our members were invited to participate in the Art Project at the Gallery Cachet.

BANNERS

The women responsible for the Art Project shared a story about the banners. One banner represents remembering while the other banner represents changes. The banners have women and children as their logo. The banner for changes has a women with a broom and is one of the volunteer staff who is seen, by the Art Project, as the lady always with a broom.

PROJECTS .

UBC RESEARCH

This research project was initiated by the DEWC in response to the women of the DES who have expressed a need for more diverse learning opportunities.

UBC was approached for assistance in developing more meaningful programs to meet the specific needs of our members and to determine how the other programs have not meet their needs.

The research team, Cynthia and Julia went on a walkabout in the DES to introduce this project to other centres and organizations. The research team will be going on more walkabouts to obtain the information they require for this project.

Updates will be provided as the project progresses.

WORKSHOPS

Keep posted for upcoming workshops in the new year.