

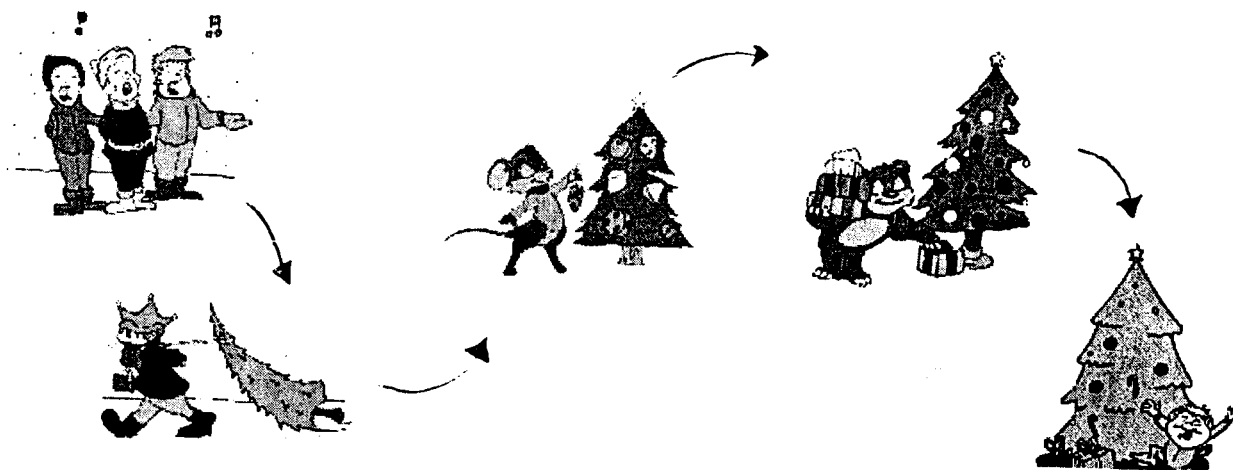
D.E.W. DROP IN

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

December 2000

Free



Please join us for an afternoon of delicious food,
carols, and entertainment!!

Seatings start at 12:00

Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 20

475 Alexander Street

Tickets Available

Tuesday, Dec. 12th

1 ticket per person!

You do not need a ticket to attend
but those with tickets will be seated first.

NEWS FROM MESHELL, the HIV OUTREACH WORKER!

What is AIDS: AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. AIDS is caused by prolonged infection with the HIV virus.

What is HIV: HIV stands for Human Immuno-deficiency virus. HIV slowly breaks down the body's immune system, making it easier for you to get a variety of illnesses including rare types of cancer, pneumonia, TB, meningitis and dementia (mental illness).

The most common ways HIV is spread are:

- Unprotected vaginal and anal intercourse
- Sharing needles, water, and works when injecting drugs
- Infected mother could transmit HIV to her child through childbirth or through breast milk
- Oral sex is believed to be less dangerous than vaginal or anal but it is still a risk when unprotected. Oral sex is more dangerous if your gums are bleeding or you have sores in your mouth.

HIV is not spread by hugging, kissing, sneezing or coughing in food or water, by sharing dishes and utensils, or by insects

HIV is preventable!

Some people think that HIV infection and AIDS will never happen to them. But HIV infection and AIDS can happen to anyone, no matter how old you are, no matter what race you are, no matter whether you have sex with men or women.

Anyone who is not careful can get HIV. It doesn't matter who you are; it matters what you do.

**this information was taken from pamphlets put out by AIDS VANCOUVER and DEYAS*

WORLD AIDS DAY: DECEMBER 1ST

In response to growing international concern about the AIDS epidemic, the United Nations General Assembly declared AIDS as a Global Pandemic in 1988. Therefore, it declared December 1st as World AIDS Day.

World AIDS Day marks a time for all to acknowledge the danger AIDS poses to all, and recognize how widespread the disease is. Second, this day is a time for women to show their support and solidarity to those people and their families who are suffering from HIV/AIDS.

AIDS is a human rights issue. Those with the disease suffer from discrimination. This is disproportionately felt by women and children living in developing nations, and in poorer communities in so-called First World countries. Those with HIV often experience discrimination in areas of employment, health treatment, accomodation, and the right to privacy about their health status.

We must fight together to help end discrimination to those women living with HIV/AIDS. You can show your support by wearing a red ribbon and by standing in solidarity with others.

Source: www.unac.org/unfao/davs/aids/html

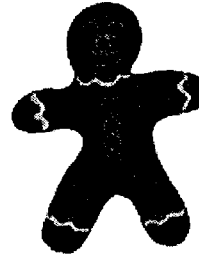
Christmas Events in the Downtown Eastside!

Lighting of Christmas Tree
Ray Cam Community Centre
Hot chocolate and cookies will
Served!

December 1st

Pancake Breakfast
Ray Cam Community Centre
Keep your ears out for this one!

TBA



She Way Christmas Party
For clients (new and old) only.
Note*: Sign up at Front Desk

December 11th

Kids Christmas Party
Aboriginal Friendship Centre
Note*: Call to register your
children

December 16th, 12 noon

Kids Christmas Party
Carnegie Theatre
Carnegie Community Centre

December 17th, 11-3pm

Winter Solstice Party and Feast
Carnegie Community Centre
Note*: Sign up with Marlene Trick
All Women and Children Welcome

December 18th, 6-10pm

**Positive Women's Network
Christmas Party**
1033 Davie St, Main Floor
Note*: Members only

December 18th, 12 noon

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Free Christmas Dinners in the Downtown Eastside

WHERE?	Date and Time <i>(if known)</i>
Union Gospel Mission	December 7
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement	Dec. 17
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	Dec. 20
Mission Possible (3 seatings)	Dec. 22
Quest (2 seatings)	Dec. 25 (12:30 and 2pm)
Door is Open	Dec 25 (11-4:30)
Triage (sign up 2 weeks prior)	Dec. 25 (4-6pm)
Look Out (members)	Dec. 25 (12 or 1pm)
Harbour Light (service at 9am)	Dec. 25 (9-1:30pm)
Positive Women's Network/DAMS (open to those who use these services)	TBA
Kettle Friendship Society	January dinner/dance- TBA



News from the Centre

Rules For Group Night

Be here by no later than 5:10pm- door will not be open after this time, unless you have called ahead because of child minding delays. This is so we can get the meal served and cleaned up before group begins.

If you come to group you should be prepared to stay for the entire group.

One bus ticket is given out at the end of group.

To get childcare you must be on the list and phone 24 hours ahead of time.

Child care is given out at the end of group only

The kitchen staff prepare meals for group but do not stay past 5:00. Therefore, women participating in the group must help with serving and clean up.

Women who come to the group get a meal prior. If you are NOT staying for group then you cannot stay for the meal.

This is because of the high numbers of women who are "dining and dashing". From now on you will not be able to come back to a group for eight (8) days. So, for example, if you dine and dash at Popular Education on Wednesday night your name will be written down and you will not be able to attend group until the Healing Circle the following Thursday.

Please show your respect to the women and the Centre and mind these concerns.

NEW STAFF AT THE CENTRE!

Karyn, Fundraiser

Karyn is our super duper new financial woman goddess! She is the one who helps the Centre grow and develop by securing and acquiring funds to support all our amazing services, programs, and staff support. Karyn is from Carcross, Yukon and has had immense experience fundraising for social and health programs for the Carcross Tagish First Nation (20 years!!).

Barb, Bookkeeper

Also known as Lady Genevieve Barbota of Gryphonshold, Barb is a woman of computer technology. She keeps the Centre in financial order, and in her spare time enjoys recreating the Medieval Ages with other members of the "Society of Creative Anachronisms". So watch out when you see her approaching with a large dull stick and armour- she may want to drag you into battle!

Cecily, Volunteer Coordinator (office E)

Cecily is the one with the very cool hair. Yep, you have probably seen her cleaning out office E, running the volunteer and Skills Development Program, and playing Bingo in all that spare time she has. Cecily has worked extensively with street youth, employment training programs, and on many other human rights issues. If you are interested in joining the Skills Development Program, please drop by her office!

And Goodbye to Vera, We will miss you!

Thank you for all your hard and incredible work at the Women's Centre. We will miss you dearly, on the floor and in the kitchen, where your smile was always deep and warm. May peace and happiness guide and keep you on all your journeys.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

44 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1K2

Front Desk: 681 - 8480 Women's Line: 681-7458

**LUNCH SERVED
DAILY AT 12:30**

Jan. 15th - Creative Writing Begins.

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

DECEMBER 2000

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.

The **Street Nurse** is here every Wednesday from 10:30 - 12:00 to give you information on all kinds of health issues.

Popular Education Group - Wednesday from 5:00 - 8:00, Share the skills that you have to make changes in your life. Meet with like-minded women to organize events.

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

Women Surviving Together - Every Thursday, 5 pm. Healing Circle and support group for women. Facilitated by elder Reta Blind and Stopping the Violence Counselor, Carol Martin.

Creative Writing Group - Every Thursday, 6 pm. Metis / performer & playwright, Marie Clements, offers her talents to women interested in creative writing. She will meet women at the Centre at 5:50 pm and walk over to Firehall Arts Centre (280 East Cordova) for the group.

Support Gathering for Women who are HIV+/AIDS - Every Friday, 12:30 - 3:30 pm. Meshell and Donna (from DAMS) will be facilitating this group at DAMS (167 West Pender). Join us for good food, great conversations and company as we focus on different topics and issues concerning the daily lives of women who are affected by HIV/AIDS.

ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS: Materials provided.

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

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 and her friend, every Thursday at 1:30. Expand your skills and share stories with other women.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CENTRE HOURS				Outings will now take place on Thursday afternoons. Look for sign up sheets outside Office E!	1 10:30 Sewing etc. 12:30 - 3:30 HIV+/AIDS Support Group at DAMS (167 West Pender St.)	2 CENTRE CLOSED For Annual Strategic Planning
Sun. 12-5 Mon. 10-5 Tue. 11-5		Wed. 10-5 Thurs. 10-5				
3 CENTRE CLOSED For Strategic planning	4 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	5 2:00 Card Making 5:00 Battered Women's Support (BWSS)	6 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education DEC. 6 March	7 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Dreamcatchers 5:00 Healing Circle 5:50 Creative Writing Group (Firehall Arts Centre, 280 E. Cordova)	8 10:30 Christmas Wreath Making 12:30 - 3:30 HIV+/AIDS Support	9
10	11 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	12 5:00 BWSS Dinner Tickets Available	13 CHEQUE DAY 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education	14 Centre Closed for All-Day Staff Meeting 5:00 Healing Circle 5:50 Creative Writing Group	15 10:30 Stained Glass 12:30 - 3:30 HIV+/AIDS Supp. 1:30pm Centre & Tree Decorating	16 CENTRE CLOSED WRAPPING DAY
17	18 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	19 1:30 Stocking Making with Freeda 5:00 BWSS	20 CHRISTMAS DINNER 475 Alexander St.	21 1:30 Women's Voice 5:00 Healing Circle 5:50 Creative Writing Group	22 10:30 Sewing, etc. 12:30 - 3:30 HIV+/AIDS Support	23
24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education	28 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Dreamcatchers 5:00 Healing Circle 5:50 Creative Writing Group	29 10:30 Sewing, etc. 12:30 - 3:30 HIV+/AIDS Support	30
31 HAPPY NEW YEARS EVE!	12: 00 Pancake Breakfast (breakfast also on January 1 st)					

The following list of grievances and demands were put together by the women who attend the Organizer' Training Group (Tuesday night group). Parts of it was presented by Volunteer Ann Marie at the Women's Tribunal on October 17 at the Friendship Centre.

1. We are forced to live in sub-standard single room hotels or on the street. Hotel rooms are unsafe, unsanitary, and offer no amenities, such as cooking facilities private bathrooms. Additionally, in times of crises shelters and transition houses are full and we end up staying on the street.

WE DEMAND

Safe, affordable, accessible, decent housing. Responsible management of social housing which is responsive and sensitive to the needs of women in this community.

2. The Health care system is uneducated about the needs and realities of women in this community. Too often women's health concerns are dismissed by health care "professionals". In addition, we do not have adequate access to basic health care equipment and services such as medication (of choice), glasses, dental, etc.

WE DEMAND

Health care system (and workers) who are educated and aware of the unique health care needs of women in this neighbourhood. Responsive, accessible, holistic health care services needed.

3. There are no detox/recovery services available to women. When women want to get off drugs or alcohol detox (for women) is full. Or (abusive) partner follows her into detox centre. This is ineffective.

WE DEMAND

Detox and recovery services for women only. Harm reduction model that offers alternatives which reflect the needs of women in this community.

4. Welfare assistance is inadequate and has too many rules that do not relate to financial need. Shelter portion is inadequate to obtain decent, safe housing. Rates do not provide for the most basics of need. Leads to homelessness, violence (against women), and poor health.

WE DEMAND

Significant increase in Income Assistance rates that brings us above the poverty line including shelter and support portions. Eliminate arbitrary rules, basing eligibility on financial need only. Allow women accesses further education (of choice)

Allow parents who receive welfare to keep the National Child Benefit Supplement, BC Family Bonus, and BC Earned Income Benefit – components of the National Child Benefit. This money should be available to Canada's poorest children.

5. Child support and enforcement does not pursue fathers. Too many children do not receive child support. Whereas, Government is effective at pursuing taxes (except Corporate taxes).

WE DEMAND

Child support and enforcement that is adequate and effective. Although government has the ability, it lacks the desire.

6. "Indian Act" Bands too often will not assist "off-reserve" membership.

WE DEMAND

First Nations develop their own system of governance which reflects nationhood rather than "Indian Act membership". Services (housing, healthcare, education, income assistance, legal) must be accessible to those living off reserve.

7. Women and Children who are abused need to be believed. Too often it is the women and children who are taken away (transition houses) rather than the abuser removed (arrested/detained)

WE DEMAND

Police /justice system need to LISTEN to our stories and believe us.

8. The government continues to remove children from families because of racism, classism, and stereotyping.

WE DEMAND

Women need to be provided with the resources and supports to raise their own children. Min Children and Families need to be educated about their racism, classism, and stereotyping. MCF needs to develop (quick & responsive) system of inner accountable to stop the “theft” of children.

9. The broader community is ignorant of this neighbourhood. Too many stereotypes of people in this neighbourhood. Many of those people come here for sex and drugs.

WE DEMAND

Provide adequate, effective, holistic, supports and services to women in this community. Provide safe spaces for women that are not dumps. Amenities should reflect the intention.

Educate the broader community about the realities of people in this community.

Need a community that is not just services. Include social space, library, museum, parks, swimming pools, recreation centres, cinemas.

ACTIONS IN THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE: DECEMBER 6th

Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

IT ENDS NOW! On the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women- We will Demand the Implementation of the Sex Trade Liaison Officer who will deal with this violence. JOIN PACE SOCIETY and others on Dec. 6th at 2120 Cambie Street at 2:30pm. Transportation will be arranged for those who want to come.

MARCH and CANDLE VIGIL ON DECEMBER 6th (Breaking the Silence Campaign)

A meal at the Women's Centre will be provided around 3:30pm. The Centre will also provide candles to women who are going to participate in the march. The march will move from 44 E. Cordova to Thorton Park on Main and Terminal. Join us please to bring attention to support ours and your pledge to end violence against women.



OCTOBER 17th, 2000 : March + Tribunal

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS, WORKSHOPS, and OUTINGS.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS:

In addition to the weekly beading and dreamcatcher classes, please note the dates for special Christmas Craft Workshops. Freeda (and Jennifer too) will be running some fantastic workshops around the Christmas season. Wreath making, stocking stitching, stained glass candle holders, ornament making/painting, are a few of the incredible afternoon craft schedules to look forward to.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

Christmas Blues: An informative and helpful workshop will be put on by Bonnie of the Strathcona Mental Health team. This workshop is open to all women. The Christmas season is one of the most difficult time of the year. Women deal with the loss of a loved one, loneliness, distance from family members, unemployment etc. Learn some coping strategies that will enable you to make it through the season with a deeper sense of contentment.

Shiatsu Massage: Marni is back!! Marni will be joining us on most Thursdays to offer her amazing relaxing massages.



OUTINGS:

PLEASE NOTE JENNIFER HAS NEW OFFICE HOURS!! SHE WILL BE WORKING THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS. THIS MEANS **WEEKLY OUTINGS WILL BE CHANGED TO THURSDAYS**, FROM THE REGULAR TUESDAY SCHEDULE!

A few of the Christmas WEEKLY OUTINGS: Look for sign up sheets outside of Office E.

Lights at Van Dusen Gardens

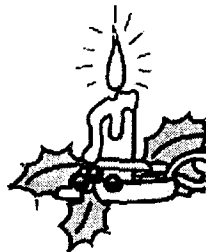
Tobogganing

Concerts



IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR OUTINGS, LOOK FOR THIS!

Vancouver Game Farm: Join us, children and all, for an exciting outing to the Game Farm. Train rides, laser shows, costumes, and decorated grounds are among the festive entertainment. Day to be announced shortly. There will be transportation provided to and from the Game Farm. Sign up sheet will be outside Office E as soon as the Farm has confirmed.



news flash!!!

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS!!!!

In response to Women's Voice, which voices the needs of women who use the Centre, the Women's Centre will be handing out Christmas Food Hampers on January 5th, rather than December 24th. This is to address the reduced support that exists in the New Year, as the period between Cheque days is particularly long.

From the last newsletter, I asked you to write a poem or short story with a few random words! This is an anonymous author, who came up with this.

Denise,
A paperclip sled is melting
my Taurus karma
into a Mr. T Beanbag.