

D.E.W. DROP IN

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

SEPTEMBER 2001

FREE



INSIDE:

Letter from the **Board of Directors**

Welcome to our **new Executive Director**- Pauline Greeves!

Take Back the Night March

New Courses and Programs in the Downtown Eastside

Annual **Crab Park** BBQ success!

To the members of the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre:

Hi Women,

Erin Graham, here. I am a new board member of DEWC and I'm all stoked about it, for sure. I was asked to write a letter to the membership to explain a bit about the role of the board and what kinds of rights and responsibilities we have. So here goes:

I think I can speak for other members of the board when I tell you that we came to the AGM and allowed our names to stand for election because we believe in the work that DEWC does and we are committed to making it the best women's centre it can be. Some of us are members of the centre, some of us work in or near the community of the Downtown Eastside. All of us have known about and/or been involved in the centre for a long time and have a lot of respect for the members and staff of the DEWC.

The Board is comprised entirely of volunteers. None of us get paid for any of the meetings we attend or the work we do for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre. There is some money for transportation, those of use who do not have bikes or cars can get their taxi fees reimbursed, or once this damned bus strike is over, we get bus tickets. There is also some money set aside for childcare expenses. Sometimes, we can also take a course or workshop if we think it will benefit the Centre or enhance our contribution as Board members.

Our job is to be a support and guide to the Executive Director and staff of the centre. We have a say in hirings and firings and stuff like that; we, along with the Executive Director and the staff, take care of the budget, make sure we can secure as much funding as possible for centre programs and food and salaries. We also work with Atira and the Bridge Housing Society to ensure good relations with everyone living and working on this corner of ours. We want to be accessible to the members and staff of the centre, so you can tell us what about the centre works for you and what doesn't, and we can work together to make the DEWC a happening, vibrant, and rich centre for the women who live and work in this neighbourhood.

I look forward to serving you in this next year, and being a part of this women's centre of which I have so long been proud. Lookit that, that nearly incomprehensible sentence was grammatically impeccable, but who can understand it? What I mean to say is, the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre ROCKS, and I'm real charged up about being part of it now. The board is a great gang of women, and we're all going to have a great year, I'm sure of it.

There is joy in the struggle. There is. Lots.

In Sisterhood, Erin Graham

Women's Centre Announcements

SHIATSU MASSAGE: Marni will be coming in most Wednesday afternoons from 12pm-2pm. Feel free to sign up at the Front Desk for your Shiatsu treatment once she arrives!

MUSIC JAM with MARG: Friday nights, mid-month, mark your calendar! Marg will be in with music instruments, sheet music, laughter, and a spirit of making some excellent tunes. Join her for an evening of creativity and magical soundscapes! See her Friday September 21st at 5:00pm for the next jam session.



SEPTEMBER OUTINGS (Thursdays!):

September 6th: Chinatown Walking Tour (2pm)- Learn about the historical and religious significance of local buildings in one of the oldest communities in Vancouver!

September 13th: Fringe Festival! Join us for a play at Granville Island's Performance Works! Meet at the Centre at 1:15pm sharp, to make the 2:00pm play entitled "Leah and Paul, for example."

September 20th: Swimming, Sauna, and Waterslide! Bring your swimsuit and towel and relax in the pool, with a view of the mountains. Van departs at 2pm.

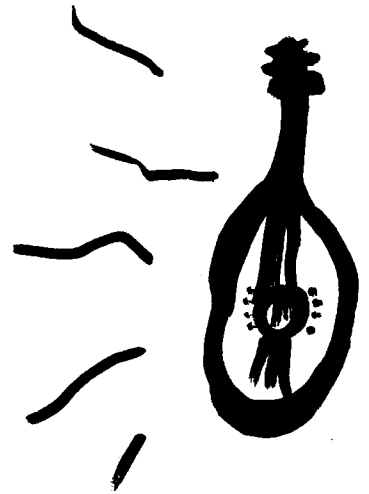
For ALL Women's Centre activities, tickets, workshops, and outings please check the *Outing Board* near the elevator, around the corner from the Front Desk. There are sign up sheets where appropriate, for example for weekly outings, camping trips, tickets etc. If you have concerns, questions, or suggestions, please see the Program Coordinator, Jennifer England during her weekly hours, Wednesday-Saturdays.

Phew....!



THANK
YOU VOLUNTEERS!!

♥ WOMEN'S
CENTRE
STAFF



Women's Centre Music Jam

Well, the Jam has been up and running since April now, on the third Friday of every month, with the next one coming up on Friday, September 21, 5-8 pm. We sure have a lot of talented musicians, singers, and dancers at the Women's Centre, and there's always room for more! Bring your friends!

If you have any feedback about how the Jam is going, or suggestions as to how to improve it, please either tell me directly, at group or after, or drop me a note & leave it with Jennifer, the programmer.

There has been a bit of a problem with latecomers. Dinner is at 5 pm. If you are going to be unavoidably later than 5pm for dinner, please call ahead so food can be set aside for you. We stop serving dinner at 5:30pm so that we have time for clean-up.

The Jam starts at 6pm, and finishes around 8pm, when bus tix and childcare are given out. Hope to see and hear you there!!!

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

302 Columbia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6A 4J1

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

**LUNCH SERVED
DAILY AT 12:30**

SEPTEMBER 2001

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Learning Group – Currently on hold, until a new facilitator/teacher is found. Hope to be running by October.
Battered Women Support Services (BWSS) takes place on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8:30. This group offers support for women affected by violence in their lives.

End Legislated Poverty-Organizers Training (ELP) will take place on Monday nights. Learn to facilitate and organize anti-poverty activists, rallies, and develop political strategies around various poverty issues.

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.

The **Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Support Group** is back with Kathleen and Donna from DAMS! Wednesdays at 5:00-8pm.

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. **Still Movement**, a six-week closed healing course, is currently on hold. Stay tuned for new updates.

Creative Writing Group – Every Tuesday, 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.

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, or knit etc.

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 1:30 Dreamcatchers
2	3 1:30 Beading Labour Day	4 5:00 Writing Group 5:00 BWSS	5 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education	6 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Outing 5:00 Healing Circle	7 10:30 Sewing etc. 1:30 Raffle	8 1:30 Dreamcatchers
9	10 1:30 Beading 5:00 ELP	11 5:00 Writing Group 5:00 BWSS	12 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Pop. Ed.	13 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Outing 5:00 Healing Circle	14 10:30 Sewing etc 1:30 Raffle	15 1:30 Dreamcatchers Take Back the Night March: 7:00pm McClean Park
16	17 1:30 Beading 5:00 ELP	18 5:00 Writing Group 5:00 BWSS	19 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education 5:00 Alcohol and Drug Group (A&D)	20 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Outing 5:00 Healing Circle	21 10:30 Sewing, etc. 1:30 Raffle 5:00 Music Jam with Marg!	22 1:30 Dreamcatchers
23/30	24 1:30 Beading 5:00 ELP	25 5:00 Writing Group 5:00 BWSS	26 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education 5:00 A & D	27 Centre Closed for All-Day Staff Meeting	28 10:30 Sewing etc 1:30 Raffle	29 1:30 Dreamcatchers



GLORIA BAPTISTE

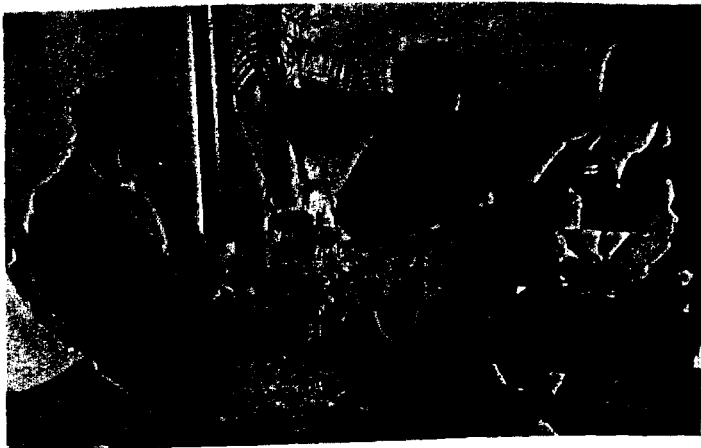
WE ARE ALL LOVELIGHTS;
ON LOAN BY THE CREATOR.
TO-DAY IN ONE CIRCLE.
TOGETHER.

ALL OUR PAIN SHALL BRING A LIGHT.
A LOVELIGHT TO SHAME THE PAIN.
PLEASE.

DO NOT HOLD YOURSELF IN SORROW.
FOR I ONLY SEE A BRIGHT NEW TOMORROW.

HOLD GLORIA IN YOUR HEART,
FOR ALL OUR ANCESTORS HOLD OPEN
A LOVELIGHT CIRCLE TO WELCOME HOME
GLORIA BAPTISTE.

ALL MY RELATIONS
AH-PA-CHEE. ME-QUACH!
CREATOR



Aboriginal Mother Centre Project

“Our Urban Long House”

If you haven't yet heard, there are some amazing grassroots organizing happening in the Downtown Eastside community. Our community of aboriginal women are planning a Mother Centre!

What is a Mother Centre?

Is a meeting place where young parents and their families are able to come together to support themselves through self help efforts, training, and micro-enterprises aimed at building their confidence, skills, economic self-sufficiency, and capacity to look after themselves and their children.

What services would our Mother Centre provide?

At the core of the Mother Centre is a daily drop-in coffee shop, childcare services, and other activities. These activities may include: projects that help lower the expenses for families (ie. hair-cutting, mid-day meals), crisis counselling and support, parenting skills, job training, capacity building (public speaking, conflict resolution etc.), advocacy groups (national daycare strategies, single parenting), and relaxation and holistic health services (reflexology, massage therapy).

Aren't there other services like this already?

Mother Centres are unique. They have proven to be effective with high-risk mothers in seven countries. They bring a holistic approach to increasing the capacity of young Aboriginal parents and their families. Currently, there are no existing programs that integrates children's services with training and micro-enterprise, housed within one building and aimed at young Aboriginal parents.

Look for more information at the Women's Centre. As the project grows and develops, you will certainly be hearing more about it. But it is important to know about what is happening in our community, especially when there are services that will offer us women new and exciting opportunities and support!

Good-bye from the Interim E.D.
From Lauren Howes

Well, I knew from the beginning, I was here for a good time, not a long time, and the time really has flown by in a blur. It has truly been a privilege working here at DEWC. It has also been a pleasure to work with so many amazing women. Thanks to the volunteers who give so much to keep the centre running smoothly, and to all the members whose power and strength have shown me the true sense of community. I have been humbled and inspired by the courageous lives of the women from the Centre and I thank-you for having allowed me this place amongst you. My life is forever changed and better for it. I will miss you but I won't say good-bye, I'll just say "see you around!"



And a big welcome to our new Executive Director, Pauline Greeves!

Pauline is happy to be with us at 302 Columbia, as she is happy to be working with a non-profit organization that combines her interest in women's health, mental health, and other issues. She feels the Women's Centre offers a great opportunity to get back into this line of work. Pauline used to work with the Elizabeth Fry Society with women in conflict with the law. She worked extensively with the Justice System, halfway houses, and women in the Prison for Women in Kingston. In the line of youth, Pauline worked as a storefront worker with youth at risk. Pauline has experience as a welfare and family benefits worker. For the last eight years she has lived in British Columbia, working as an administrator for the New Westminister School Board in their International Education Program. She loves to dance, sing, and run, and has been known to do the can-can on a few special occasions! Pauline also has a son of 16 years. So give her a big welcome when you see her- and she wants us all to know her door is always open!

**Get yourself to
the next Oppenheimer
Health Fair!**



ELDERS VOICE

If you haven't heard, the Women's Centre has been receiving an B.C. ELDERS NEWSLETTER once a month. This excellent initiative, comes from Donna Stirling in Campbell River. The Newsletter includes articles on:

- Easy Recipe Ideas
- Poetry
- Events throughout the BC province
- Elder's Voices "Bannock Bites"
- And More!

If you haven't seen this month's issue at the Front Desk, please come and see Jennifer, the Program Coordinator and she will be happy to provide more copies!



**If you have any questions
About health and outreach, come and see
Cori, the Outreach worker! She not
Makes delicious smoothies, but
She loves to hear from all of you! Cori works
Tuesdays to Fridays!**