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DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

DECEMBER 2001

FREE

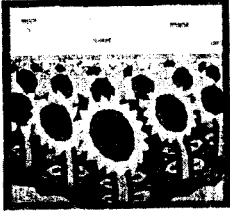
Join us for our annual
Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 20th
Seatings: 12pm, 1pm, & 2pm



INSIDE:

Holiday Craft Workshops- Gift Baskets, Card Making, Wreath Making and more!
December 6th: Canada's National Day for Remembrance and Action against
Violence Against Women- Reflections
Christmas Events in the Community!



Dewdrops
Fresh cool and clean
Glistening on the grass
Children playing going squish squish
serene

Written by Eva K

To my Grown Up Son

My hands were busy through the day;
I didn't have much time to play
The little games you asked me to
I didn't have much time for you

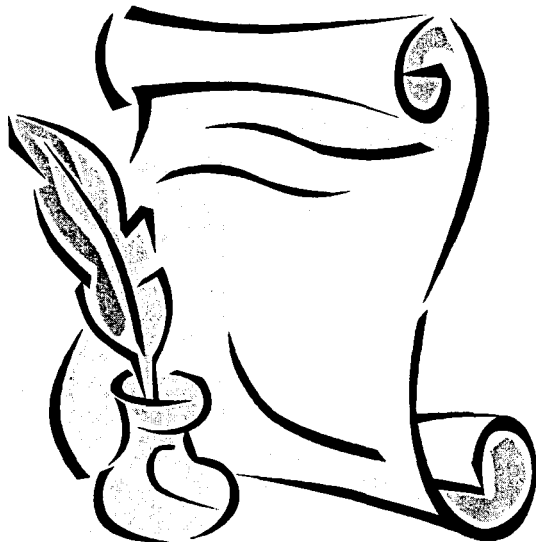
I'd wash your clothes; I'd sew and cook
But when you'd bring your picture book
And ask me please to share your fun
I'd say: "A little later, son".

I'd tuck you in all safe at night
And hear your prayers, turn out the light,
Then tiptoe softly to the door...
I'd wish I'd stayed a minute more

For life is short, the years rush past...
A little boy grows up so fast
No longer is he at your side
His precious secrets to confide

The picture books are put away
There are no longer games to play,
No goodnight kiss, no prayers to hear
That all belongs to yesteryear

My hands, once busy, now are still
The days are long and hard to fill
I wish I could go back and do
The little things you asked me to



Author unknown, Submitted by: Eva K



DURING (vegetarian meals...)



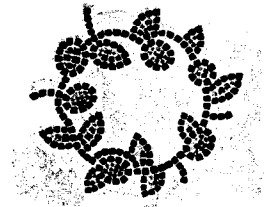
AFTER (Finally.... a meat fiesta!)



More Happy Faces
on the Fall Retreat

Christmas Crafts with Freeda at the Centre

Tuesday, December 4th: Wreath Making: 2-4pm



Wednesday, December 5th: Card Making 2-5pm (Cards, envelopes, stamps included)



Tuesday & Wednesday, December 11th and 12th: Christmas Tree Ornaments (Salt Dough)- Making and Cutting (Tues) and Painting (Wed). 2-4pm both days.



Wednesday, December 12th: Tree Trimming- Decorating the Women's Centre from 2:30-4:30pm. Come one come all, and bring your sparkly spirit, to the tunes of Holiday music, and with nourishment- egnog and goodies!



Friday, December 14th- Christmas Stockings. Sewing and decorating. 10:30am onwards.

Other Special News at the Women's Centre:



Wedding Bells rang in November for

~Alain Guy & Tom-morrow Blackwind~

They were married November 9th, 2001



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DURING (vegetarian meals...)



AFTER (Finally.... a meat fiesta!)



More Happy Faces
on the Fall Retreat

December 6th Discussions- Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women



On December 6th, women mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. On this day in 1989 14 women at Quebec's L'Ecole Polytechnique were murdered because they were women. As we reflect on this terrible loss, we must never forget the violence, suffering, and fear that many women endure in our own communities.

This is particularly poignant in the Downtown Eastside, where we know friends, family, sisters, mothers, granddaughters who have gone missing, most in the last five years. We are painfully aware that the numbers of missing women are neither dropping nor stabilizing, rather the numbers continues to climb. This is alarming, disturbing and outraging. It makes us sad, angry, frustrated, and fearful. But most of us, this should be a call for all women to *come together*, to resist the fear and terror that are imposed upon us, to make us even more determined to walk the streets feeling safe and confident in our own communities.

What are we doing to create safer places for women? How are we supporting each other? The Downtown Eastside network of women is an incredibly dedicated group of people who are committed to fighting violence against women- physical, emotional, and spiritual. Many women and organizations are working hard to support and provide services to women who are survivors of violence. An amazing new initiative in the community is "A Place of Grace". Grace approached a few women at the Centre wondering if a safe place could be found that women could go to during the evening before and day of Cheque Issue day. Responding quickly to the concern, a group of women decided to find a place (November it was held in the Sunrise Café), donations of food, warm clothing, and access to a van to accompany women to buy groceries! Peer support at our evening groups at the Women's Centre, are some of the most supportive places, where we share our stories through words, poetry, art and music. These are places of resistance, where we refuse to allow violence take over our lives.

December is a difficult time of year for many of us. The Christmas season brings up difficult emotions and memories- whether of loss, violence, grief. Let us all make the Centre a loving and warm place, where all women feel safe to express themselves. Let us come together to offer comfort and friendship, solace, and laughter to everyone who walks through our doors. Little moments of sharing are sites of resistance to the violence that meets our everyday lives.

Peace to all,

Jennifer England



WORLD AIDS DAY

Global day of Awareness, Action, and Change

**WEAR A RED RIBBON
DECEMBER 1st**

The Red Ribbon is the international symbol of AIDS awareness; a symbol of respect for those who have died of AIDS, of concern of those living with it, and a reminder to us all of the constant need to keep the fight against AIDS.

It's a symbol of how great achievements begin with small actions. The Red Ribbon came into being 9 years ago as the idea of a small HIV charity, Visual AIDS, in New York. Now, it is recognized the world over as the symbol of AIDS awareness.

What is AIDS? What is HIV? AIDS stands for: **Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome**. AIDS is believed to be caused by prolonged infection with 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 known as "opportunistic infections".

A growing concern for women in our community is the rise of having both HIV and Hepatitis C. Folks such as AIDS Vancouver, are working to provide more information for the community, by working with the Canadian Liver Foundation to expand their library and internet resources. One of the big issues in the community is the need to provide stable **HOUSING** with people living with HIV/AIDS. World AIDS day is a chance to show our support and organize efforts to raise awareness around HIV/AIDS, and the rise in other diseases, such as Hepatitis C, so that we can fight to provide better housing and support networks for women.

Also, World AIDS day, is a day to work on **EDUCATING** our friends and family, acquaintances and the general public about HIV-related issues. Although the issue of HIV/AIDS as being an epidemic has been around for the last 20 years, there is still a lot of misinformation, and confusion about HIV/AIDS. If you have any questions around HIV/AIDS you can always check in with our Outreach Worker, Cori Keating. Check out the World AIDS Day events at Carnegie Community Centre- where loads of information will be available!

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- 1:45**

DECEMBER 2001

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

Library Group –Every Monday at 5pm. Works on developing Centre library and works on literacy through crafts and fun activities!

Battered Women Support Services (BWSS) takes place on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8:30pm. This group offers support for women affected by violence in their lives.

End Legislated Poverty-Organizers Training (ELP) will take place on Monday nights at 5-8pm. 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 1 – 4pm to give you information on all kinds of health issues.

Popular Education Group - Wednesday from 5:00 - 8:00pm, 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 1:30-3:00pm (Note* Time Change!).

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 ten-week open healing course begins Thursday evenings, October 11.

Creative Writing Group – Every Tuesday, 5 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.

Clay Works* (NEW!)-Tuesdays at 2:30pm with Sue!

Crochet With Anna every Wednesday, 2:00pm

YOGA- Monday 11:15am (Roma) & Wednesday 2:30pm (Ferma). Blankets provided. Wear comfy clothing!

Fabric Arts With Freeda every Friday morning, 10:30am.

Dreamcatchers with Beverly every Saturday at 1:30pm.

SUNDAY 12-5pm	MONDAY 10-5pm (Full Meal Day)	TUESDAY 10-5pm	WEDNESDAY 11-5pm	THURSDAY 10-5pm (Full Meal Day)	FRIDAY 10-5pm	SATURDAY 12-5pm
* Note: Group Times are subject to change- keep		Holiday Crafts! Watch the announcement board for special holiday craft events.				1 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video World Aids Day
2	3 11:15 Yoga 1:30 Beading 2:00 BC Benefits Wkshp for patrons 5:00 ELP 5:00 Library Group	4 2:00 Wreath Making 2:30 Clay Works* 5:00 Writing Group	5 1-4pm Street Nurse 1:30 A & D Harm Red 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Card Making 2:30 Yoga 5:00 Popular Ed.	6 12:00 Sweat Lodge 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Outing 4:00 Dec. 6 th March 5:00 Healing Circle	7 10:30 Sewing etc. 1:30 Raffle 3:00 Food Forum 5:00-9:00pm CENTRE COFFEE HOUSE!	8 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video
9	10 11:15 Yoga 1:30 Beading 5:00 ELP No Library Group Christmas Tickets available	11 2:00 Salt dough Decorations 2:30 Clay Works* 5:00 Writing Group	12 1-4pm Street Nurse 1:30 A & D Harm Reduction 2:00-4:00 Tree Trimming 2:30 Yoga 5:00 Pop. Ed.	13 12:00 Sweat Lodge 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Outing 5:00 Healing Circle	14 10:30 Sewing etc 1:30 Raffle 3:00 Nutrition Wkshop 5:00 Music Jam with Marg!	15 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video
16	17 11:15 Yoga 1:30 Beading 5:00 Library Group	18 *Tobacco Day* 2:30 Clay Works 5:00 Writing Group	19 1-4pm Street Nurse 1:30 A & D Harm Red 2:00 Crochet 2:30 Yoga 5:00 Popular Ed.	20 CHRISTMAS DINNER Seatings: 12, 1, & 2pm, Entertainment and Dinner!	21 10:30 Sewing, etc. 1:30 Raffle 3:00 Food Forum	22 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video
23/30	24 1:30 Beading	25 Christmas Day 12:00pm Pancake Brunch Centre Hours 12-5pm	26 Boxing Day Centre Hours 12-5pm BINGO events!	27 1:30 Women's Voice 5:00 Healing Circle	28 10:30 Sewing etc. 1:30 Raffle	29 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video



WANTED

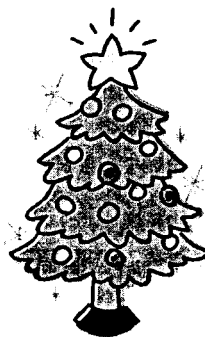
SUBMISSIONS FOR ALL MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS!

Poetry, drawings, photos, stories,
Political commentary, community
events, images, jokes, puzzles!

Please submit any original work to Jennifer England, Program Coordinator at any time. There is a newsletter folder on the Outing Board, near the Elevator, where you can also submit your work if she is not at the Centre. You can also submit your work to any staff, and they will pass it along to the Editor of the Newsletter.

Christmas Events in the Community

Free Dinners:	Location	Date	Time/Seatings
Union Gospel Mission	616 E. Cordova	December 15 th	11am-6pm
Fransiscan Sisters Of Atonement	250 Dunlevy St.	December 16 th	12-4pm
Mission Possible	543 Powell St.	December 22 nd	4, 5:30 & 7:00pm
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	302 Columbia St.	December 20 th	12, 1, 2pm
Quest	303 E. Cordova	December 25 th	10:30am-6pm
Door is Open	373 E. Cordova	December 25 th	11am-5pm
The Dugout	58 Powell St.	Dec 24 th Open 72 Hours	Meals Prov.
Harbour Light	119 E. Cordova	To be announced	
Triage	707 Powell St.	December 25 th	4pm (Tix.limited, Avail. at Triage)
Living Room	528 Powell St.	December 25 th	1pm (members)



COMPUTER ROOM

The Computer Room is now open, with three computers running with basic word processing features (Microsoft Word) and the internet! Computers are for the general use of word processing, internet and other educational programs, unless there is a class planned. All women who come to the Centre are welcome to use the computers. The Computer Room is open when we have a volunteer working in the room, who will provide computer aid to those who need it. Currently the Computer Room is open Monday-Thursdays 1:00-4:30pm. If you would like to use a computer, you need to sign up on the pink sheet outside the Computer Room. You are free to use the computer for one hour. Please note that computers are not to be used for games. There is a computer for games in the main drop-in space. Also, there are to be no food or beverages in the Computer Room. If you need a disk to save documents, please let a staff member know. Please note that all disks must be scanned for viruses before use. Computer Room volunteers will be on site to provide assistance and tutoring.

LIBRARY PROJECT

The Library group has been meeting for over a month and have come up with some potential names for the library! "Women in the Written World", "Multicultural Women's Library", "My Sister's Bookshelf", "The Ureka Library", "The Ureka Stone", "The Tree of Knowledge", "Women's Reading Lounge", "Alexandria", "The Owl's Nest": are a few of the suggestions for the name of the library. We will have a stamp made with the name, so we can stamp the books purchased and donated to the library. We are still looking for the resources to be able to provide the shelving for the books we have purchased. Until we are able to find funding for shelves the books can be read and looked at during the evening Library Group meetings. Our goal is to have the Library shelving put up in January. We are also accepting quality used books through donations, but are being selective as to what we will accept. This is partly because our library will be small to start, because we don't have that much space downstairs. Over the next few months we will begin to create a special space downstairs, to make it cozier and inviting for all women! If you have any questions about the status of the library, please let Jennifer, the Programmer know.

FOOD CO-OP

The Food Co-op had a great forum on November 9th. We gathered women's ideas for the Food Co-op, which is still in its very beginning stages. There are a dedicated group of women who are working to provide education and information around nutrition, food issues, and the ongoing developments of the Food Co-op for all patrons of the Centre. The Food Co-op will be setting up forums, discussions, and events related to food issues every second Friday in the Centre, from 3:00-4:45pm. Watch for upcoming events in the Centre! The next event takes place on December 7th with guest, Melanie Conn, from the East End Food Co-op, who will be happy to answer any of your questions about how food co-ops work!

Volunteer of the Month

December, 2001

Joanne Shapwaykeesic



Congratulations Joanne! December's Volunteer of the Month. Joanne has been a volunteer at the Women's Centre for several years and has worked in the kitchen, at bingo and most recently on the front desk. Her favorite thing about the Centre definitely would be the outings and camping as she loves to get out of the neighbourhood and the city. A favourite memory is when the evening group sang Happy Birthday to her and then to Ilona...back in the days of chocolate cake. Thanks Joanne for all your hard work!

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More news from the Centre...



TOBACCO DAY HAS CHANGED TO DECEMBER 18th!!

Tobacco day will move from the Monday before Cheque Issue day to the Tuesday before Cheque Issue day from now on (this month Tobacco will be given out on Tuesday, December 18th). The reason for this is: there are more and more women accessing this service, and because there are more staff on Tuesday in the Centre, The Women's Centre will be able to serve women more smoothly and efficiently. Tell your friends about the change!

TOBACCO TUESDAY: The day before Cheque Issue, just after lunch (1:30pm)

NEW* CLAY WORKSHOP!

A fantastic clay workshop will run for three weeks this December, and restart in late January. The Clay Workshop will begin on December 4th and will take place on Tuesdays from 2:30-4:30pm. The last class will be Tuesday, December 18th. We are joined by Sue Griese who is an artist working in the Downtown Eastside. Her specialty is Pottery, and has a long history of developing studios and clay workshops at community centres in Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Sue also teaches at the Roundhouse Community Centre.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS

Salvation Army will be providing Christmas Vouchers to **FAMILIES ONLY** this year. You can pick up the vouchers if you have a family at 3213 Fraser St. (phone: 604-872-7676)

You will need to bring:

- Medical Card (for every member of your family)
- Social Insurance Number
- Proof of Income & Proof of Address



Please Note* The wait tends to be long (up to 5 hours)

Also, children in eligible families are considered newborn to 18 years of age.

This month, the Breaking the Silence Campaign invites women and children in the Downtown Eastside to join us at two events:

Thursday, December 6th

Candle Light Vigil

5:30pm – 6:30pm

at Thornton Park

Site of the Montreal Massacre Monument

Main St. at Terminal, in front of the Train Station



December 6th is "The National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women." It marks the anniversary of the massacre of 14 women in Montreal in 1989. The Vigil is hosted by WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre.

Let's gather before the Vigil at 4:00pm the DTES Women's Centre, then we'll march together over to Thornton Park.



Friday, December 21st

Winter Solstice Celebration

4:00pm – 6:00pm

at the DTES Seniors Centre

509 E. Hastings St. (at Jackson)

Join us for food & other festivities, and learn all about Winter Solstice, a celebration of Light and the rebirth of the Sun.

co-hosted by Neighbourhood Helpers Project and Breaking the Silence

For more information, call Breaking the Silence at (604) 682-3269, box 8319.