

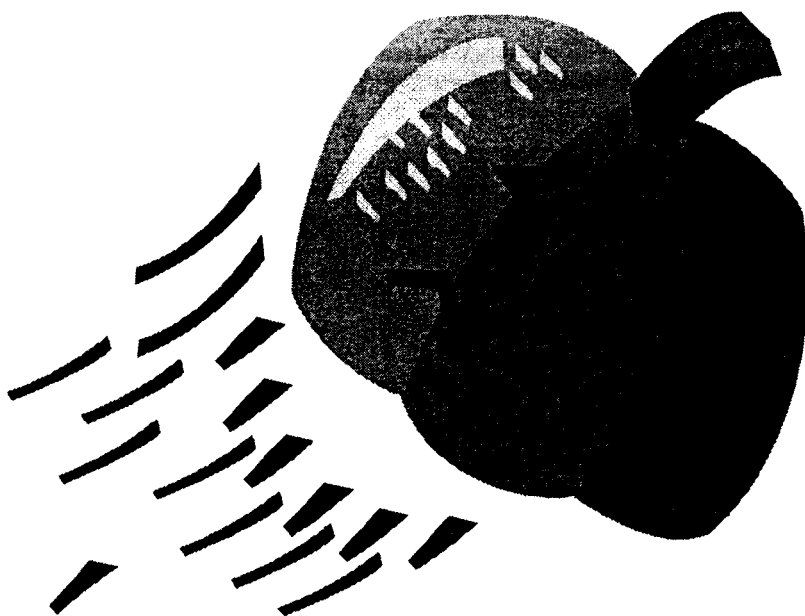
# D.E.W. DROP IN

## Downtown Eastside Women Do Drop In

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

October 2004

Free



### INSIDE:

- What a (Street) Party!
- DEWC Events for October
- Hellos from DEWC Staff
- Women's Home Improvement Program (Tradeworks)
- Women's Humanities Year (SWEET out of Lifeskills)
- Poetry
- Street Nurse Updates

## What a (Street) Party!



I think we all agree, the Street Party was a great day. The sun was shining, there was good food, good company and great entertainment. This was a wonderful demonstration of what the Women's Centre can do. This whole event was put together in a few weeks, completely by donation and with a ton of volunteers.

It has been a difficult time for the Women's Centre. This event was a celebration of the Journey we will be taking in revisioning and rebuilding the Women's Centre. Although it will be a difficult and challenging process, we know from the strength and commitment that has been demonstrated by women in this community that we will be successful.

Thanks to the PHS for all the support and resources they provided. To DERA, DAMS, Crabtree, DEYAS, Triage, Pot Luck Café, Union Gospel Mission, Franciscan Sisters, Oppenheimer, Arm & Navy, Save on Meats, Yen Bros. Capers, and Que Pasa for the donations and assistance in supporting this event.

Thanks to all the entertainers: The Our Elders Speak Wisdom, the Nanimo Street Taiko, Gail Bowen, Ceese and the Traditional Mothers, Cecily Nicholson and Erin Graham for MCing the days events. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard all day preparing and serving the food and preparing and cleaning up the space. It was a lot of work but we all did a great job. Thanks to Jenny Kwan and Libby Davis for coming out and celebrating with us.

At this event Elders were invited to sit on the Elders Council. This important council will provide support, advice and guidance to the Board of Directors and establish another level of accountability for the Women's Centre to ensure that we respect and follow the mission of this organization. The Elders are Lucy Chapman, Harriet Nahanee, Barbara Gray, Phillipa Ryan, Leona Reid, Brenda Wesley and Reta Blind.

A final thanks to Denis who took ill at the end of day. Denis worked hard all day moving and carrying things around and trying to ensure a peaceful space for the day. Thanks Denis and hope you are feeling better soon

We hope this days' event marks a new beginning for the Women's Centre.



## *October Events at DEWC...*

*Thank-you to Street Party Volunteers!*



*Street Party volunteers, please join us for a 'Pizza & Pop' afternoon Wednesday, October 6, 2004 from 4pm to 6pm at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre.*

*(This afternoon is only for those directly involved in the Street Party, the Centre drop-in will close at 4pm).*

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### *'Sunday on the Rocks'*

A Defiant Theatre Collective presents Theresa Rebeck's 'Sunday on the Rocks' a play at the Railtown Theatre at 138 East Cordova. On Monday, October 3 the play will be a fundraiser for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre and tickets have been set aside for women of the Centre. Please sign up for tickets on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> if you'd like to go.

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### **Harvest Dinner**

Women of the Centre, please join us for a *Harvest Dinner* on Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The Centre will host a home cooked meal between 12noon and 3pm, hope to see you there.



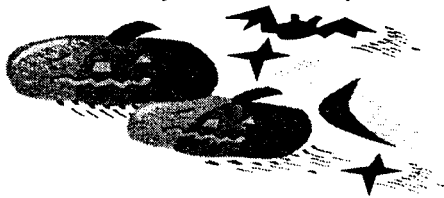
## **'Meet the Board' Open House on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**



This is an opportunity to meet the Board if you haven't already, bring your suggestions, comments, questions and have a chance to chat. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be served.

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## **Halloween Party! on Sunday, October 31**



We're having a Halloween Party! There will be pumpkin carving, face painting and prizes for best costume! Join us unless you're too scared...any women with decoration and party plans please talk to Michelle.

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## **Music Night News**

The next Music Night is Friday, October 22... (unfortunately, childcare subsidy and bus tickets cannot be provided until further notice) but come out, both women and children, to make noise, use your voice, and share a few laughs!



## ***DEWC Staff Hellos & Updates...***

### **Cori's Maternity Leave**

Hi All

The time is approaching quickly, too quickly, that I will be on Maternity Leave for the year. I'm expecting (ha no kidding) to leave at the end of this month, my last day being the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. I know in some ways its only a year and in other ways, its too long, so you can bet I'll be in lots to visit. I'm filled with much anxiety and excitement for the journey I'm about to embark on, but not without much sadness too. I can't imagine not seeing you all everyday and being surrounded with the love, support and kindness you have all shown me over the years. I love you all, I will miss you all terribly, and my thoughts will be with you.

Lotsa Love, Cori

ps any ideas on names?? don't know what the wee babe will be, and DEWCY has already been suggested, still thinking about that one thanks!

### **Sylvia's New Position**

Hi every one, most of you know me. I have been working at the Downtown Eastside Women Centre for about three years now. I was a floor worker, but now I am working as the mental health advocate. I can assist you with getting into shelters or transition houses, with disability applications, accessing detox or treatment/recovery, housing applications, or assistance with welfare. If I can be of help to you please feel free to see me and I will do my best for you.

Sylvia

### **Interim Centre Coordinator**

I am now in the interim position of Centre Coordinator while we undertake the process of restructuring and hiring the administrative positions at the Centre. It is clear that the Centre needs to be restructured in a way that takes into account the needs of the women in this community and the special challenges that the Women's Centre faces including redeveloping and rebuilding the programs and services. For the time being, my role is to coordinate some of the daily logistical needs of the Centre. Sylvia has been hired into the position of Advocate while I take on this role. Feel free to talk to me about what my role is and other things you think I should know. Alice Kendall

## **Carol's New Position**

Hello all, good to see you again. I have moved into a new position, temporarily until Mitra returns. Just want to inform you that I will be the Victim Services worker. I can still be reached on my usual extension; 604 681 - 8480 - 233.

This position is partially funded by the Victim Services. As the Victim Services Worker I deal with women against whom a crime has been committed. I also will offer support to women who have experienced tragic events, property related problems and crimes of Violence. Services offered through this program are:

- Provides one to one counselling
- Provides emotional and administrative support
- Accompany women to various agencies, court, police, doctor etc...
- Assists in filing reports and doing paperwork
- Getting information and referrals for women
- Provides WCB Criminal injuries representation

Thanks from Carol.

**IN CASE YOU ARE ALL WONDERING WHERE I HAVE GONE TO!**

I have moved into Michelle's old office. Michelle is in the old intake office.

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## **Women" Centre Guidelines**

Clean up after yourself - put dishes in bins, put garbage in garbage can, tidy up your things.

Clothing room - keep it clean - if it gets too full, it will be closed until cleaned (by a volunteer)

Donations - notify floor worker and help carry donations to the clothing room when they come in - "big items, are stored in storage and raffled off every Wednesday.

**LOOK AFTER YOUR OWN THINGS AND DON'T TAKE OTHER WOMEN'S BELONGINGS.**

Smoking - Only allowed outside.

**Phones** - you can use the women's phone for 5 MINUTES. Don't use the front phone, reception needs it.

**Bus tickets** - we can only give them out for volunteers who have done work that day, you need to speak to Michelle to become a volunteer.

This is a women and children space only - men should ring the doorbell to make their inquiries. Sometimes men are here to do WORK - or GIVE donations. Please be firm, but RESPECTFUL when asking them to wait outside the front door.

**Drugs** - the use or sale of drugs or alcohol in the centre is strictly prohibited.

**Bathrooms** - 5 minutes limit for bathrooms, unless taking a shower in the appropriate shower room - 15 minutes limit - one women at a time in bathrooms (showers) If there is a women in the washroom longer than 5 minutes, please see a staff person immediately to deal with this.

**Treat each other with respect** - we want to make this a safe space for women and children - that means: No abuse, verbal or physical, No discrimination because of race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental disability, body size, sexual orientation, religion or class.

There will be:

**ABSOLUTELY NO OUTSIDE SHIT OR STUFF BROUGHT INTO THE CENTRE AGAINST ANY MEMBERS.**

**NO VERBAL FIGHTING** - This includes swearing or shouting at other women, volunteers, or staff.

**No DISCRIMINATION:** If you make a negative comments or put women down based upon their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, spiritual beliefs, physical or mental ability you will be asked to stop.

**No Assaults.....** This includes hitting or punching, pushing someone when she is in your way, spitting at someone, throwing something at someone.

Please remember to be kind and gentle to one another. Respect each other!

**DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE**  
**302 Columbia Street, Vancouver**  
**604.681.8480**

**LUNCH SERVED**  
**DAILY AT 12:30-1:45**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 2:00 Video
3 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 2-4 Hairstyling	4 10:00 Arts & Crafts 10:00 CWS 1:30 Beading 2:00 Resumes 8pm—Women on the Rocks Play Tickets	5 10 Massage & Sewing 12-2 Street Nurse 2:00 Bingo 5:00 BWSS	6 2:00 Crochet & Raffle 2:30 Writing Group Street Party Thank-You Event for Volunteers, Centre closes at 4pm	7 10:00-4:00 IIG Math & English-University Access Program	8	9 2:00 Video
10 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 2-4 Hairstyling 200 Volunteer Orientation	11 Open 12-5 1:30 Beading	12 10 Massage & Sewing 12-2 Street Nurse 2:00 Bingo 5:00 BWSS	13 12noon to 3pm Harvest Dinner 2:00 Crochet 2:30 Writing Group	14 10:00-4:00 IIG Math & English-University Access Program	15 Open House Meet the Board Afternoon 2 to 4	16 2:00 Video
17 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 2-4 Hairstyling	18 10:00 Arts & Crafts 10:00 CWS 1:30 Beading 2:00 Resumes	19 10 Massage & Sewing 12-2 Street Nurse 2:00 Raffle 5:00 BWSS	20 2:00 Crochet & Bingo 2:30 Writing Group	21 10:00-4:00 IIG Math & English-University Access Program	22 5:00 MUSIC JAM	23 2:00 Video
24/31 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video 2-4 Hairstyling Halloween Party Today!!!	25 10:00 Arts & Crafts 10:00 CWS 1:30 Beading 2:00 Resumes	26 10 Massage & Sewing 12-2 Street Nurse 2:00 Raffle 5:00 BWSS	27 2:00 Crochet & Bingo 2:30 Writing Group	28 CENTRE CLOSED	29	30 2:00 Video

#### REGULAR PROGRAMMING

**Chinese Women's Group (CWS)** -Open to women whose first language is Chinese. The group will focus on cultural awareness, advocacy, and social events.

**Creative Writing Group**-Read and write poems and prose.

**Hairstyling**—Get a haircut or learn some new styling.

**Literacy Workshop** – Working with books, themes and word puzzles. Learn while having fun!

**Massage**—Pamper yourself courtesy of Anita and Rosemary!

**Piano & Voice**—Come on out to learn something new or practice what you know with music instructors!

**Resume Workshop** – Create your own Resume with the help of Eemina.

The **Street Nurse, Christina**, comes by every Thursday between 12noon-2pm to give you information on all kinds of health issues.

**Women's Voice** – Meets to give feedback about the Centre. Your opinions and ideas are needed!

**ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS** with materials supplied

**Beading with Denny** - Every Monday, 1:30 pm.

**Crochet with Anna & Freeda**-Every Wednesday, 2:00pm.

**Fabric Arts with Freeda**- Every Tuesday morning, 10:00am.

**Dreamcatchers with Denny** -Every Sunday at 1:30pm.

#### EVENING PROGRAMMING

**Battered Women Support Services**- Support for women experiencing violence. Tuesdays on rotating schedule from 5-8:30pm.

**Alcohol and Drug Support Group**—A harm reduction focus. Takes place every second Wednesday from 5-8:30pm. Everyone welcome.

**Music Jam**- Sing and play instruments with special guests.

**Women's Health Clinic**-Ongoing—59 West Pender.



### **Aries March 21-April 19**

Get ready for a wiz-bang month! You're in nearly perpetual motion, starting the 3rd to the 5th, when your high-speed energy is focused on rapid-fire communications. You're on! You're in! You're good to go! Things slow down for some at-home time (maybe you should check in with the folks back on the farm?) the 6th and 7th, and it's once more into the fray on the 8th to the 10th. During these few days, think: Romance. With a capital R. The 22nd and the 23rd, the rocket fuel ride that is your life will turn career-ward, and you're going to get something (or someone?) you've wanted for a while. Just be careful the 24th and 25th -- if you're worn out (and you should be!), don't make any sudden moves.

### **Taurus April 20-May 20**

'Bookend' might not sound like 'blazing excitement' but for you, this month, it is. That's to say: This month kicks off and winds up with the kind of rush usually reserved for surfers riding a rip curl, entomologists finding the world's oldest lady bug in an amber pendant, etc. The 1st and 2nd, everything you touch lights up (watch out! This could mean romance!). Don't plan anything long-term, though from the 3rd through the 5th -- make sure whatever (or whoever) glowed so bright in your first-of-the-month torch-light still looks good in other lighting before you commit. If you're fire and they turn out to be deadwood, a conflict -- or conflagration -- could ensue the 8th through the 10th. A fire-meeting-ice situation emerges the 22nd (have you been throwing out your neighbour's recycling again?). By the 28th you're ready for part two of 'blazing excitement' to kick in.

### **Gemini May 21-June 21**

If you hit a wall, there are several ways to handle it. You can put your head down and ram the dam thing. You could look for an opening. Or you could sit cross-legged and think about whether or not you really need to get over that wall at all. Try the third option first as the month kicks off. By the 3rd, the answer to whether you need to get to the other side -- i.e., is it a secret garden over there? Or just some tacky shopping mall? -- will become clear. So will the solution. The month winds up with some heavy-duty brain time -- especially the 22nd and 23rd, when you'll be wracking yours (and liking it). You'll see the results the 25th.

### **Cancer June 22-July 22**

Is that a tall white chef's hat you're sporting these days? It suits you -- especially the 1st and 2nd when it looks like you'll be cooking up a storm for your lucky companions. You're inspired (is it the hat?). And the nuttier the recipe, the better. By the 9th, any dinner party you plan is going to pan out like hotcakes -- and you're the sugar on top. Enjoy this time in the (key) limelight. The 20th, you're going to feel like making oatmeal. Do it. Oatmeal is good for you. And you might have a few things to deal with that require comfort food. The 30th, you're back in the kitchen. How'd you get so handy with a double boiler, anyway?

### **Leo July 23-August 22**

Let go a little -- you're no grasshopper who sang all summer. Just ask your friends -- especially the 3rd through the 5th. They'll tell you work too hard. This could lead to some serious soul-searching and question asking (e.g., Why not spend next summer singing?) the 6th and 7th. Whatever you come up with, it's going to be spurred forward by the surge of creativity that hits the 8th through the 10th. It's like your own personal Indian summer -- when you could, come to think of it, practice 'grasshoppering' for next year. And if you figure out the key to life is to learn to play the recorder, be nice about it the 20th and the 21st. Everybody wants their own wind instrument, they just might not know it yet. Go easy! If you feel like you're losing perspective on the 28th through the 30th, tone it down. Your friends -- especially the ones who are hard of hearing -- will help the 31st.

### **Virgo August 23-September 22**

When one searches one's soul, what does one find? Loose change, theatre ticket stubs, love letters? Old ratty carpet? A little bit of lint? You'll be in a good position to answer these questions (and more!) the 1st of the month. When it's back to the work week the 4th, you'll have a whole new perspective -- or at least a laundry list of soulful 'to-dos'. Don't let these distract you from the tasks at hand. You're going to channel all that self-knowledge into a highly organized, smoothly running, soul-enlightening project (of some kind) the 6th and 7th. Be flexible the 8th and 9th -- you'll feel better for it the 11th when you kick into super healthy, happy and satisfied mode. You might have to take a psychic dust buster to all those musty interior corners! The 15th, you could decide the dust-free corners of your searched soul need renovation. Maybe new wallpaper? You'll think of something that's all-you and all-new the 22nd -- just in time for a walk-through the 29th. Looking good!

### **Pisces February 19-March 20**

Oooh -- this autumnal month starts with a warm, glowing hearth fire for you. Be careful before you make a move the 3rd through the 5th -- if you have a prophetic dream, heed its warnings! Some more upbeat dreaming is in store the 6th and 7th -- and this could be a case of dreams turning to reality. Tune into your nutritional state -- no, you cannot live on chocolate hearts alone! -- the 8th and 9th. And a partnership could start showing signs of wear the 13th. Out with the old! And in with ... a little caution, the 15th. It'll make room for a little lady (or gentleman) luck the 17th and 18th, when you might just need it (did you post those love notes to the wrong person? Don't worry -- you didn't use enough stamps!). The end of the month -- the 28th and 30th -- love letters are coming your way. Who are they from?

### **Libra September 23-October 22**

Mirror, mirror on the wall, this month, you're the fairest of them all! People are going to be stopping you -- in the street, in restaurants -- to ask you how you do it. Watch out the 6th, when a glitch in your new self-care routine will throw you, if you let it -- so what if the acrobatics for beginners instructor didn't show? Don't flip out. Your friends -- who've missed you -- are going to get together the weekend of the 9th. Some old issues could keep you on the ground the 11th. You're still in the ring, though, and somebody's going to notice what a cutie you are on the 14th. You could hit your limit the 20th or 21st -- maybe you're just not ready for a new level yet. Accept it. Maybe the stars have a few other plans for you ...

### **Scorpio October 23-November 21**

You might have some sticky interpersonal business to deal with through the 2nd -- think of it as a Slurpy spill in aisle three. You just have to clean it up. The 3rd through the 5th, be very careful to follow directions, especially at work. After all, if you mishandle the hot dog cooker, you could get burned. And yes, you've been working the graveyard shift for a while now, but the 8th through the 10th is the wrong time to ask for a raise. The 15th, everything starts going your way. Your natural confidence gets to come out and play, and all the boys and girls want to share their candy bars. The 21st, go ahead and ask for that raise. If you don't get it, jump ship to the health food store down the street. The hours are shorter, the pay is better and it's good for your complexion.

### **Sagittarius November 22-December 21**

The 3rd and 4th, particularly, will be days (and nights) for soul-searching, one-on-one or 'What does it all mean?' kinds of interaction. You might not come up with answers, but asking the questions is just as important. The 6th and 7th, somebody might toss a little water on your flame -- don't fight it. Sometimes it's just not a good match. The 9th could find you on the road (again?). You can't wait to be making music with your friends, it seems -- especially the 13th and 14th, when it'll be these very same friends whose help will get you out of a sticky situation. The 15th or 16th could hit you with a case of the moody blues. It'll pass the 23rd, when a beautiful stranger will lift your spirits. Don't fret too much if, the 24th and 25th, you feel a little at loose ends: You'll be back on top the 27th. The month ends on a high note, with a rock ballad or two celebrating friendship.

### **Capricorn December 22-January 19**

It's kind of like you're sitting under a starry sky in a hot tub with your closest pals, emotionally speaking -- everything's warm, bright and complete with jets for your lower back. This mental massage will loosen your chatting muscles, and the 3rd to the 5th, you'll be talking a lot. (Maybe too much -- be careful.) The 8th through the 9th could be a little less idyllic (did the hot water turn off?). Others may want too much. You know better, and between the 11th and 12th, you'll solve the problem. The 15th and 16th you'll have to do a little maintenance work -- which of your friends can you count on? Don't spend any money the 22nd -- there's a cheaper fix out there. The 30th, you're going to be back in the swing, warmed up and ready for a soak with your buds.

### **Aquarius January 20-February 19**

Hmmm, just when you thought you were (relatively) free of family obligations, a person from the past who is, well, related to you pops up. Let them in! And give them tea and cookies. You'll be glad you offered this little act of kindness because the karmic payoff -- there could be some cleaning up necessary on the 6th or 7th (ashes are heck to get out in the wash!). A compromise on the 9th will put you back on high the 13th and 14th, when you may have the desire to ... yodel? Go ahead. Something new is good for you! If you feel emotionally exposed (it's not easy to bellow really loud in front of strangers on a mountain top!) the 16th, go a party. The 22nd and 23rd, you shine. You're like lava, except nobody gets burned. You might even create a few new islands in that big old ocean out there!

tradeworks  
training society  
**Women's Home Improvement Program**  
**Starts October 19<sup>th</sup>!**

This is a unique program for women who want to learn how to do basic home repairs or start to explore a career in the trades.

WHIP is an innovative program for women on social assistance.

The program runs Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 2pm in our shop. Two days a week you'll learn new skills. On the third, you'll work on projects and learn about resources in the community and volunteer opportunities.

With "hands-on" approach, you'll learn to:

- Paint like a pro
- Use hand and power tools safely
- Repair and paint drywall
- Install hardware
- Do tiling
- Complete a simple project for your home (bookshelf, toy box)
- Fix a leaky tap
- Work cooperatively with other women
- Learn about employment options and volunteer opportunities

**Ok—I'm interested—how do I register?**

**Please call Kate at  
604.235.9355 ext 255  
for more information.**

Or, come in to Tradeworks at 876 Cordova Division to register. Orientation sessions will be held in late September and early October at Tradeworks.

The Ministry of Human Resources provides funding for the Women's Home Improvement Program.

**S.W.E.E.T**

Society for Women's Empowerment in Education Transition

412 East Cordova

604.216.2776

**!!!Attention Women!!!**

**Keen on learning?**

**Have the drive but not the means?**

**Women's Humanities Year**

**Barrier-free university level**

**Evening classes**

**Starting soon**

**At the LifeSkills Centre**

**412 East Cordova**

**Drop in or call to make an appointment**

**With Aramis**

**604.216.2776**

**meal**

**bus passes**

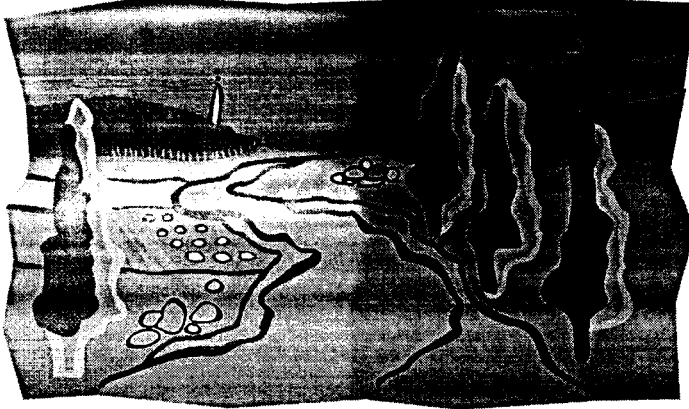
**childcare provisions**

**books and materials**

**all provided to you**

**to make these classes accessible!!!**

## The Wise Woman's Stone



A wise woman who was travelling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveler who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveler saw the precious stone in the wise woman's bag, admired it, and asked the wise woman to give it to her. The wise woman did so without hesitation.

The traveler left, rejoicing in her good fortune. She knew the jewel was worth enough to give her security for the rest of her life.

But a few days later she came back, searching for the wise woman. When she found her, she returned the stone and said, "I have been thinking. I know how valuable this stone is, but I give it back to you in the hope that you can give me something much more precious. If you can, give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone."

**THE POSITIVE SIDE OF LIFE:** Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year. How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on. Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live. Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open. Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them? Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us. If Wal-Mart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet? You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person. Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once. Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened. We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors....but they all exist very nicely in the same box. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour. Have an awesome day, and know there is someone who thinks you're great and has thought about you today!

### **Family Dynamics**

The blood that is thicker than water.  
For the duty are our mother and father.  
We have a bond that is tight.  
Even though we may fight.  
The respect has it's own intellect.

Trust has to be earned; not relearned.  
Honesty is a policy not to be broken, only there are not tokens.  
Believe in each other's dreams, for our lives are never foreseen.

Teach only the values that are the strongest.  
So there is no need to be modest.  
Be kind in the words you speak.  
You may have no paddle going up the creek.

Understand there are feelings to be expressed, so long as it is no longer suppressed.  
Learn to care with all our heart, so that it don't tear us apart.

Live, love and understand.  
Look to the future in no reprimand.  
Try not to break us up, as there may be no sustenance in the cup.  
Let's stand as one, when we don't have anyone.

## Street Nurse Updates

Christena, the street nurse who visits the Women's Centre on Tuesdays around lunch time, works as part of a group of Outreach Nurses, who are part of a program from the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, the BCCDC. This team of nurses brings information about avoiding sexually transmitted infections/HIV. They also offer testing for infections including syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and yeast as well as routine Pap tests to those who may have difficulty getting the information or testing that they request. Anonymous testing is always available.

The street nurse can help you to get results by phone if you have not been able to get back to the clinic for results. She also has antibiotic treatments available to those who have been tested and told they have an infection but have not yet received the medicine. The street nurse can do the check-up blood tests after syphilis treatment. If you think there is a message for you from the street nurses or have received one of their orange message cards, you can find out what that message is by using the street nurse to phone for information. When the street nurse is in, there will be a sign-up sheet at the front desk or approach her and ask to talk.

On other days, you can call the Street Nurse Program at 604-660-9695. On days that there is no Street Nurse at DEWC, you can meet with a Street Nurse in a side room at Pender Clinic from 1 - 4 PM from Monday to Friday, or phone 604-642-5816. Ask the Pender Clinic receptionist to let the Street Nurse know you are waiting and sign up on the white board sign-up list in the waiting room at Pender Clinic, 59 West Pender St.

Sometime in early November, as part of a research study, Christena and Yasmin, two of the street nurses, will be offering a new way of checking for cervical cancer, newer than the usual Pap test. Cancer of the cervix is an important health issue for women from when we first have sex (whether it was with our permission or against our will) until we reach age 69. The Pap test is a good test but the study will be looking at a test that women can perform themselves and when used with the Pap test, might be even better at finding out if a woman is at risk for developing cancer of the cervix. To be able to detect problems before it has developed into cancer allows treatment before it becomes dangerous. With regular testing by Pap test or the new test, we find out we have a problem and ways to fix the early possible early cervical cancer before it gets started.

The new test looks for an infection in the vagina and cervix that is known to put women at risk for cervical cancer. The woman would take the test herself and give the test to the street nurse. A few weeks later, the results would be available. The research will take place over a few months and in many locations in the downtown eastside including the Women's' Centre. Watch for more information on this in late October 2004.