

# D.E.W. DROP IN

## Downtown Eastside Women Do Drop In

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

February 2005

Free



## Happy Valentine's Day

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**“Their Spirits Live Within Us”**

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual February 14<sup>th</sup> Women’s  
Memorial March  
in the Downtown Eastside**

**Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
beginning at 12:00 noon  
at Carnegie Community Centre  
Main & Hastings**

*Honouring and remembering the lives of the 29 murdered women and 3 unidentified women from the  
Downtown Eastside and the 40 women who remain unaccounted for.*

**Agenda:**

- 11:30am Theatre Opens & Refreshments Served
- 12:00pm Gathering, welcoming prayer; Red Blanket Singers;  
words from family & friends, song from Dalanah Bowen
- 1:00pm Join hands and form a circle at Main & Hastings  
March through the DTES  
offering of prayers, tobacco & roses
- 2:00pm Rally in front of the of Vancouver Police Station
- 2:30pm Candlelight memorial at Oppenheimer Park
- 3:00pm Feast at the Japanese Language School

*For more information about the Women’s Memorial March, call Marlene  
at 665-3005 or Carol at 681-8480 ext 233.*

**February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005**  
**Women's Memorial March**  
**in the Downtown Eastside**

**A Herstory of the Women's Memorial March:**

The Women's Memorial March is part of a long herstory of organizing and rallying against violence against women in the DTES. Women, men and children in the Downtown Eastside gather on February 14<sup>th</sup> to honour all the women in our community who have died and to remember the women who are still unaccounted for. Valentine=s Day was chosen because it is a day that is universally recognized as a celebration of LOVE. On this day we remember our sisters, mothers, partners, daughters, nieces, aunties, granddaughters, cousins, grandmothers and friends who have been taken from us through acts of violence. The Women=s Memorial March is an expression of love, not just for those who have passed on to the Star Nations, but also for those who are living.

**The Women's Memorial March is about:**

Cherishing the memory and the unique, valuable lives of the women who have died and those who are still unaccounted for.

Supporting the family and friends of the women who have died and are still unaccounted for.

Joining spiritual healing and political resistance in all our actions.

Engaging in collective action to strengthen the campaign to end violence against all women in the DTES.

Mobilizing the community to confront and end poverty, racism, homophobia, and all other forms of oppression.

Making local agencies, organizations, institutions and government accountable for ending violence against women and demanding that they support women on our own terms.

Refusing the stigmas imposed on women in the DTES, around prostitution, poverty, homelessness and addictions.

Publicly condemning violence against women, whenever and wherever it occurs.

Demanding legislative changes and governments that work for women in the DTES.

*The February 14<sup>th</sup> Women=s Memorial March is organized and led by women because women, especially Aboriginal women, face physical, mental, emotional and spiritual violence on a daily basis. We invite the whole community to join us in the spirit of the march. We ask that men share their grief and show their support by respecting the structure of the march*



February marks the beginning of Black History Month - an annual celebration that has existed since 1926. But what are the origins of Black History Month?

Much of the credit can go to Harvard Scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who was determined to bring Black History into the mainstream public arena. Woodson devoted his life to making "the world see the Negro as a participant rather than as a lay figure in history."

In 1926 Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week, which took place during the second week of February. Woodson chose this date to co-incide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln - two men who had greatly impacted the black population.

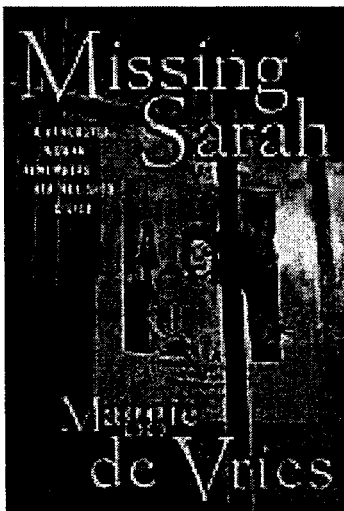
Over time, Negro History Week evolved into the Black History Month that we know today - a four-week-long celebration of African American History.



Come join Maggie de Vries for a reading from *Missing Sarah* at the D.E.W.C. on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 1PM.

Light Refreshments Provided

Some Copies of the book are still available for reading. Please Contact Mary Ann at the Carnegie Library for further information



# *Gung Hay Fat Choy!*



The Lunar New Year dates from 2600 BC, when the Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the zodiac. Because of cyclical lunar dating, the first day of the year can fall anywhere between late January and the middle of February. This year, it falls on February 9, 2005 - Lunar Year 4703...the year of the Rooster.

The sign of The Rooster indicates a person who is hard-working, confident and unwavering. This means Roosters can really crow about their own accomplishments!

Hello everyone,

As a volunteer for over 12 years and a past staff member I am so happy to be back at the Centre as the Administrative Coordinator. I am part of a management team that includes the Centre Coordinator and the Financial Coordinator. Together we work to ensure that the Centre continues to operate as a not for profit society according to the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Mandate. I am responsible for staff performance, public relations, board support, day to day office duties, liaison with other agencies, organizational development and most importantly fund raising. In this role I also work with our funders like the Vancouver Coastal Health, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women Services, the City of Vancouver and others. Although some of you are familiar to me there are so many new people that I am looking forward to meet and get to know.

In my role I try to balance the needs of all our members, expectations of donors and our contracts with funders, the environment as a unionized workplace, organizational limitations and the desire for positive change. All this under the social conditions of exploitation and poverty around us. I would like to be a part of a community which includes Centre staff, volunteers, board, members and users of the Centre to work together to build this Centre.

The past few months have been absolutely amazing, women have yelled at me for refusing pastry donations, they have given me lucky money for New Year, they have scolded me for forgetting things, they have made me cry and they have laughed with me. I am very lucky to be here and even though I will make mistakes I do my very best for the Centre, and if I don't you will tell me off.

Peace,

Cynthia



**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 10:00 Massage & Sewing 1:30 deyas Alcohol and Drug Counseling	2 10:30-12 Computer Class 11-3:00 BWSS LEGAL ADVOCACY 1:00 RESUMES 2:00 Crochet & Raffle	3 10:30-4:00 IIG Math & English-University Access Program 11: 12 Book Club	4 11-3:00 BWSS First Nations Women's Support Worker	5 2:00 Video
6 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video	7 10:00 Arts & Crafts 10:00 CWS 10:30 YOGA 1:30 Beading 3-4:30 Carnegie Crafts	8 10 Massage & Sewing 12-2 Street Nurse 1:30 deyas Alcohol and Drug Counseling 2:00 Bingo	9 10:30-12 Computer Class 11:30 Sweat Lodge 11-3:00 BWSS LEGAL ADVOCACY 1:00 RESUMES 2:00 Crochet & Raffle	10 10:30-4:00 IIG Math & English-University Access Program 11-12 Book Club	11 11-3:00 BWSS First Nations Women's Support Worker	12 2:00 Video
13 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video	14 10:00 Crafts 10:00 CWS 10:30 YOGA 1:30 Beading 3-4:30 Carnegie Crafts	15 10 Massage & Sewing 12-2 Street Nurse 1:30 deyas Alcohol and Drug Counseling 2:00 Bingo	16 10:30-12 Computer Class 11:30 Sweat Lodge 11-3:00 BWSS LEGAL ADVOCACY 1:00 RESUMES 2:00 Crochet & Raffle	17 10:30-4:00 IIG Math & English-University Access Program 11-12 Book Club	18 11-3:00 BWSS First Nations Women's Support Worker  MUSIC JAM	19 2:00 Video
20/27 1:30 Dreamcatchers 2:00 Video	21/28 10:00 Crafts 10:00 CWS 10:30 YOGA 1:30 Beading 3-4:30 Carnegie Crafts 5-8 Community	22 10 Massage & Sewing 12-2 Street Nurse 1:30 deyas Alcohol and Drug Counseling	23 CENTRE CLOSED (VISIONING AND STRATEGIC PLANING)	24 CENTRE CLOSED (VISIONING AND STRATEGIC PLANING)	25 11-3:00 BWSS First Nations Women's Support Worker  TAIKO NIGHT	26 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.

**Carnegie Crafts**—Arts and crafts each week with new themes all the time, all women welcome, everything supplied.

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

**Massage**—Pamper yourself courtesy of Anita and Rosemary!  
**Resume Workshop** – Create your own Resume with the help of Eemina.

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

**BWSS' First Nations Women's Support Worker, Mona**, comes by every Friday from 11-3, talk to her if you need help with a problem.

**BWSS Legal Advocate, Olatz** comes by every Wednesday from 11-3, if you need help with legal issues, child protection, custody &access or general legal information.

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

**Yoga— with Janet** All women welcome, wear comfortable clothing, practice breathing and stretching exercises, good for the body and mind.

**Sweat Lodge** – Reta will be taking women every Wednesday meet at the Centre at 11:30

**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**

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

**Taiko Night**-Drum with Cynthia and the Taiko Group.

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



What do you think of support staff such as floor workers, advocates, counselors, service workers, etc.?

- Gotten worse       Little bit worse       No difference       Little bit better       Lots better

Please explain:

What do you think of the management team, the Centre Coordinator, Administrative Coordinator and Financial Coordinator?

- Gotten worse       Little bit worse       No difference       Little bit better       Lots better

Please explain:

How would you describe your access to information about the Centre?

- Gotten worse       Little bit worse       No difference       Little bit better       Lots better

Please explain:

How would you describe the Centre's relationship with other groups and individuals in the community?

- Gotten worse       Little bit worse       No difference       Little bit better       Lots better

Please explain:

How would you describe the Centre's Programs such as, beading, sewing, support groups, yoga and drumming?

- Very good       Good       Not bad       Bad       Terrible

Please explain

When you use the Centre how would you describe your experience?

- Very good     Good     Not bad     Bad     Terrible

Please explain:

When you have needed support from Centre staff how would you describe your experience?

- Very good     Good     Not bad     Bad     Terrible

Please Explain:

Please let us know what the 3 most important reasons why you come to the Centre.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know what the 3 most important changes you would like to see at the Centre

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments:

Please complete and return this survey to the front desk by February 16, 2005.

# ***COMMUNITY DINNER AT La Maison DEWC***

It has been 7 months since the last AGM, the DEWC Board of Directors and Staff is interested in what you have to say about the Centre. How it's going, share some ideas, offer help, etc. The Board members and the management team will be there to provide updates, answer questions and to pay attention!

**YOU ARE INVITED FOR DINNER AND  
A GATHERING TO TALK ABOUT  
THE FUTURE OF THE CENTRE**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2005**

**5:00pm to 8:00pm**

**Dinner and Door Prizes**

## **DEWC Purpose Statement:**

The constitution of the Downtown eastside Women's Centre was written in 1978 upon incorporation and is still relevant today.

- To provide a comfortable, safe drop in centre.
- To provide recreation and self help programs.
- To act as a source of information by assisting women with referrals concerning their needs.
- To provide social space and facilitate opportunity for women of diverse backgrounds to interact and build community.
- To educate the public and all levels of government about issues concerning women in the area.

## Center Survey

In the past few months there have been lots of changes at the Centre. The Board and staff at the Centre are conducting a survey to check to if these changes have had an effect on the activities and support that we provide at the Centre. We get funding from the government, private donors and corporations. Most important we are responsible to the Centre members and women and children who use the Centre. The survey will be used to help us improve the conditions here at the Centre, your honest opinion is appreciated. This is anonymous and confidential.

In the past 6 months have you noticed a change in the Drop in Centre?

- Gotten worse       Little bit worse       No difference       Little bit better       Lots better

Please explain:

What do you think of the food service, for example, breakfast, lunch, coffee & tea, group meals, special events, etc.?

- Gotten worse       Little bit worse       No difference       Little bit better       Lots better

Please explain:

What do you think of the general Centre facilities for example, showers, washroom, clothing room, computer room, telephone, messages etc.?

- Gotten worse       Little bit worse       No difference       Little bit better       Lots better

Please explain:

## **A Note From Sara:**

Hello DEWC Members and Volunteers!

I am Sara the new Volunteer Coordinator, as you may know I have been working at the Centre for more than two years, as a Floor Worker and as a Kitchen Relief.

I would like also to take this opportunity to say thank you For letting me work in this space among all these inspiring women. I am very privileged to be here!

### **Volunteer's Corner:**

**A big thank you for the Hard Work and Dedication  
Volunteers Offer to The Centre!!!!**

So what do you say? When you see the next Volunteer working hard, give them a bright smile, a big hug and a simple "Thank You". They deserve

*Poem From the Downtown Eastside*

*Manipulation*

It stimulates your sic mind,  
You act kind and clever, to see if I'm that kind  
I own my body I own my soul  
This girl here is not sold  
On your lies, deceit  
You're just a trick  
You ain't sweet

*Erin*

**Stuff Happening...**

Sharon is coming to do a workshop for Chinese New Year's Celebrations to help us celebrate the year of the Rooster.

**February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**2:00 PM**

**at the DEWC**

Come to join us to make headdresses, puppets and to make this event a success.

## **Stuff Happening...**

**There is a play at Vancouver East Cultural Centre called “The Trigger”, the play deals with rape and the impact of violence involved.**

**It will run from February 5<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Beginning 8:00 ending at 9:30**

**DEWC has 25 free tickets for women interested**

**We will go one of these nights.**

**Carol Martin will be attending, we will meet at the Centre and provide bus tickets.**

**Please sign up; the sign up sheet is at your left as you enter the Centre**

## **OUTREACH**

**Hospital visits have become a volunteer position, so if you are A volunteer, please see Myrna Cranmer, the Out Reach worker About hospital visits.**

**If you know any women in the hospital that I am not aware of, please get a hold of me. I am also available to accompany women to their Doctor’s appointments, plus any other relevant medical situation. The DEWC has access to transportation on Mondays and Thursdays.**

**Please Contact Myrna Cranmer for more information.**

## NEW SUPPORT+ADVOCACY TO WOMEN AT DEWC

**TUESDAYS: 1:30 -3:30** DEYAS (LORI AND CINDY)  
WILL BE HERE TO PROVIDE DRUG AND  
ALCHOL COUNSELLING, OR REFERRAL TO  
DETOX, RECOVERY OR OTHER SUPPORT.

**WEDNESDAYS: 11-3:00**  
BWSS (OLATE) WILL BE HERE TO PROVIDE  
LEGAL ADVOCACY ON ISSUES SUCH US  
CUSTODY & ACCESS, CHILD PROTECTION  
OR ANY LEGAL ISSUES .

**FRIDAYS: 11:300**  
BWSS (MONA) FIRST NATIONS SUPPORT  
WORKER WILL BE HERE TO HELP YOU WITH  
ANY PROBLEMS YOU MAY HAVE , OR IF  
YOU JUST NEED TO TALK ASK FOR HER.

We are always looking for submissions for the D.E.W. DROP IN newsletter. Any interested artists, writers, satirists, cartoonists, photographers, poets...should place submissions in the folder posted by the front desk, or see the Volunteer Coordinator. While it helps to have things on disc hand written/drawn submissions are just fine. The newsletter also provides an opportunity to post upcoming events, activities or workshops that you might be connected to. Readership is about 400+ so this is a good chance to pass along news to folks in the area.



Speak your mind



## **COMPUTER CLASSES IN THE DEWC COMPUTER ROOM**

Dionne from the Learning Exchange  
will be at DEWC on

**Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon**

Dionne is here to help you learn more,  
this class is for beginner and for those with more experience.

Learn how to....

- ❖ Set up an email account
- ❖ Do internet searches
- ❖ Use different programs
- ❖ Create documents
- ❖ Type...faster and better

**All Women Welcome!!!**

## Herstory of the February 14<sup>th</sup> Women's Memorial March

In 1991 a woman was murdered on Powell Street in Vancouver. Because of the way the woman was murdered her family, people of the Coast Salish territory did a cleansing ceremony at each of the sites her remains were found to cleans her Spirit and allow it to travel to the Star Nations to rejoin her ancestors.

This woman's' murder in particular was the catalyst that moved women in the community into action. Out of a sense of hopelessness and frustration that no one was listening and feeling like they needed to show the larger community that violence against women in the downtown eastside had to stop, the women organized a march through the streets of the downtown eastside carrying placards and banners with the names of women in the community who had died or were murdered.

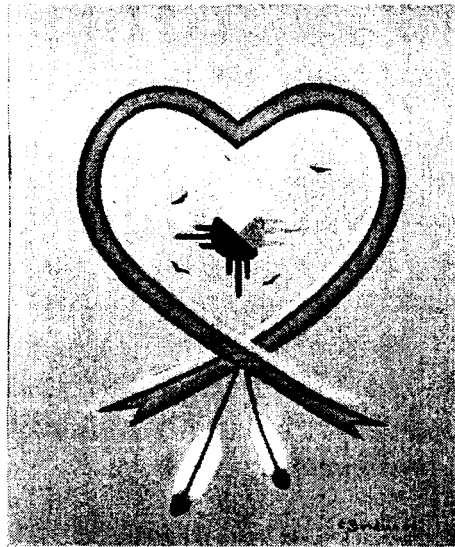
The march was held on February 14<sup>th</sup>, VALENTINES DAY, a day that signifies love. The colour purple was chosen because it is the colour of healing. Yellow was introduced as a symbol of hope when women in the community were "MISSING" in ever increasing numbers. Red roses and tobacco were left at each of the sites women were murdered. Yellow roses and tobacco were introduced to each of the sites women were last seen.

Today the march continues, the ever increasing names to the memorial brochure is kept as a marker and stark reminder that much work has yet to happen to prevent and end violence against women in this community. Seventy-two women are on the "Missing Women List", 29 have been positively identified and 3 are unidentified, 40 remain "Missing".

Women drummers lead the march. The Women's Warrior Song was introduced by the Lil' Wat Nation from Mount Currie in memoriam for the women. The song signifies that there is strength in women and that we are warriors in our own right.

We each have the strength to effect change.

*“THEIR SPIRITS LIVE WITHIN US”*



The 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN'S MEMORIAL MARCH  
MONDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2005

Carnegie Theatre opens at 11:30  
Families to speak at Noon  
March begins from Main & Hastings at 1:00

This event is organized by women and led by women because women, especially Aboriginal women, face physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual violence on a daily basis.

Please bring your drum, wear red or purple Everyone welcomed  
We only ask that men respect women leading the march  
by marching behind the women and Elders

Honouring and remembering the lives of the 29 murdered women, 3 unidentified women and the 40 women still unaccounted for in downtown eastside