



# D.E.W. DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre  
**Downtown Eastside Women Do Drop In**  
September 2006 Free

September 2005, DEWC 2nd Annual Street Party



Celebrating Our Journeys  
The Third Annual DTES Neighbourhood Street Party

Sunday, September 17th 2006  
12 – 6pm

300 Block Columbia Street  
DEWC Open House – ALL WELCOME

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, September 10 5-7**

**Recycling Committee**  
Planning and Coordinating for a GREEN Centre

**Monday, September 11 5-8**

**BIG Art Workshop**  
Collaborative art for exhibition. Meal and bus tickets provided

**Friday, September 8, 15, 29 5 - 8**

Join Bernie Williams and the Elders Council with your thoughts and ideas to create the  
**Memorial Wall: Recognizing the Missing and Murdered Women**

**Friday, September 8 2-4**

**Residential School Compensation Info. And Support**  
To address issues related to recent government action and decisions affecting survivors.

**POW2W Events at the Aboriginal Front Door**

**Tuesday, September 20 6-8**

**No Ones Illegal: Immigration & Women**

**Tuesday, September 27 6 - 8**

**Tools for Empowerment: the legacy of Colonization**



Opportunities for creative expression.  
Opportunities for exhibition of women's work.  
Opportunities for making some money.

## WEAVE

Women Engaged in the Arts – Vision and Empowerment

Get involved and let's come together  
and make something of this project.

### BIG ART WORKSHOP

September 11, 2006

5:00 – 8:00

Dinner at 5:00

All supplies and materials  
and bus tickets.

WEAVE is working towards a Community Arts Exhibition for November and February. Rose Spahan wishes to invite women artists to voice their visions on paper –  
**TO SHOW TO THE WORLD.**

Rose is an artist and WEAVE project coordinator; she will have a slide presentation and an arts demonstration for a group collaborative arts piece.



**Join in the fun and creativity!**

**Come and be a part of  
the bigger picture!**

**Together we will draw, paint and create!**

## BBQ AT CRAB PARK



*Thank you to Business Objects for supporting the BBQ and to their staff who volunteered to make the event a huge success!*





Lexi's 3rd Birthday Party!



**DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE**  
**302 Columbia Street, Vancouver**  
**604.681.8480 ALL SPECIAL/NEW EVENTS ARE IN BOLD**

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

**REGULAR PROGRAMMING**

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

**Massage** - Every Tuesday from 10 - 12

**Conversation Cafe** - new group starting on June 5<sup>th</sup> from 2-4

**Street Nurses, Christina or Liz**, scheduled to be announced

**Sweat Lodge** - Every second Wednesday, Elder Reta will take women to the Lodge, meet at the Centre at 11:30.

**ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS**

**Painting**-Join Tara and the WEAVE project for all types of Art- materials supplied- every Thursday - 10:00 am. DEWC will host a Fall Art show of works so contribute your gifts.

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

**Sewing Circle with Freeda**- Every Tuesday morning, 10:00am.

**Beading with Leona**-.

**Ceramics**- Every Monday from 2-4 OR 10-12

**Fabric Arts with Diane** - every Saturday from 2-4 p.m.

**EVENING PROGRAMMING**

**Tuesdays-Battered Women Support Services**- Support for women experiencing violence.

**Wednesdays-Power of women2women**-social justice group and other activities from 5-8:00

**Thursdays-Healing Circle**- except the day after Welfare.

**Fridays-Taiko Drumming**-For anyone who has been to previous workshops - **GROUP CLOSED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 29**

**Karaoke** - Sing a tune from all the ages with Reta and Jem.

Every second Wednesday from 2-4:30

**Community Kitchen**- Once a month, come out to make a meal together and pack some for home. All ingredients provided

SUNDAY 12:00-5:00*	MONDAY 10:00-5:00*	TUESDAY 10:00-5:00*	WEDNESDAY 11:00-5:00*	THURSDAY 10:00-5:00*	FRIDAY 10:00-5:00*	SATURDAY 12:00-5:00*
					1 2:00 Beading	2 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts 5:00 Taiko Closed Group
3 10-12 Taiko 2:00 Video	4 <b>CENTRE OPEN 12-5</b> 2:00 Conversation Café 2:00 CWS	5 10:00 Sewing & Massage 2:00: Bingo 5:00 BWSS	6 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke 5:00 POW2W	7 10:00 Painting with Tara 5:00 Healing Circle	8 2:00 Beading 2:00 Residential School Comp. Info. and Support 5:00 Taiko 5:00 Memorial Wall Project	9 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
10 10-12 Taiko 2:00 Video 5:00 Recycling Committee	11 10:00 Ceramics Painting 12:00 La Bousole 2:00 Conversation Café 2:00 CWG 5:00 <b>BIG Art Workshop with Rose Spahan</b>	12 10:00 Sewing & Massage 11:00 Street Nurse 2:00: Bingo 5:00 BWSS	13 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke 2:00 <b>Street Party Organizing Committee</b> 5:00 POW2W	14 10:00 Painting with Tara 5:00 Healing Circle	15 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko Closed Group 5:00 Memorial Wall Project	16 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts 5:00 Taiko
17 <b>STREET PARTY!</b> <b>CENTRE OPEN HOUSE 12-4</b>	18 10:00 Ceramic Painting 12:00 La Bousole 2:00 Conversation Café 2:00 CWG 5:00 Community Kitchen	19 10:00 Sewing & Massage 11:00 Street Nurse 2:00: Bingo	20 2:00 Karaoke 2:00 Crochet 5:00 POW2W	21 10:00 Painting with Tara 5:00 Healing Circle	22 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko <b>OPEN</b>	23 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
24 2:00 Video	25 10:00 Ceramic Painting 12:00 La Bousole 2:00 Conversation Cafe 2:00 CWG	26 10:00 Sewing & Massage 11:00 Street Nurse 2:00 Bingo	27 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke	28 <b>CENTRE CLOSED</b> 5:00 Healing Circle	29 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko <b>OPEN</b> 5:00 Memorial Wall Project	30 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts 5:00 POW2W

• PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CENTRE IS OPEN UNTIL 5:00 PM BUT DOORS WILL BE LOCKED AT 4:45

# DEWC VOLUNTEER PICNIC

What can I say about the Volunteer Picnic? Well, we had a great time! With the help of some of the staff members who contributed food and time, to those who organized the event, everything was a success!

We were all transported via vans and cars to Stanley Park on Monday, August 20th where we made our way to second beach. There were some interesting discussions around the specific location, near the pool or closer to the beach. In the end we carried all the food and rolled the BBQ to the most perfect spot in the park.

Ruth was all ready for us. She had been swimming, so we knew the water was safe to venture into. She set about preparing the food and cooking the hamburgers, what a great lady! Always with a smile for everyone.

Thank you to Ruth for the pasta salad and fruit – it was delicious, I still have seconds at home to consume. Thank you to Darcey for her delicious potato salad! Thanks also to Myrna for the great KFC, two buckets of delicious chicken, it was great, everyone ate it without a piece left to take home.

Many thanks to Sara and her contribution of the soft drinks which went without any problems, such a sweet lady and gracious with all of us all the time!

Thank you, Alice and Cynthia for their hard work and dedication to us all!

I am looking forward to next year's event, where we will hopefully be able to spend the entire day there, as the time went by far too quickly for many of us, who would have liked to stay longer. I understand this is the second of three events planned for the volunteers each year, the first being our wonderful dinner out at the Urban Buffet in Vancouver, which was a great success, we still have our dinner coming up in the fall as the third event to look forward to, I can hardly wait!

With many thanks to all those who contributed time and effort.



The Volunteers at the DEWC

## **Nurses at the Centre**

The Street Nurses will be back at the Centre every Tuesday from 11 –1. The nurses will be able to help you with any reproductive health issues, dressings and other medical situations.

In October the nurses from InSite will be coming to the Centre twice a week to provide support to women on a range of issues. They will also provide information and education around harm reduction, medication, addictions and treatment.

## **Women in hospital or away from the Centre**

Last month at the staff meeting we were wondering where J was, women of the Centre had not seen her for awhile. She usually comes into the Centre several times a week. We were all very worried and set about trying to locate her by calling various shelters, the hospital, family and friends. It turned out J went up North to visit family, when she got back to the city we all were so happy and thrilled to see her again. We did give her heck for not telling us and MAKING us worry. By the way she looked great and felt good.

Not long ago L was in the hospital for over 10 days and she was so lonely. Against doctors orders she left the hospital to come to the Centre and visit her friends. She got sicker and had to go in again for a longer time!

When you are away from the Centre, for whatever reason, you are missed. We notice your absence and we worry. Sometimes the worry is warranted sometimes it is not. We care that the you may be hurt, we care that you may be isolated, we care that you may be in a strange environment (shelter, treatment, whatever), we care that you are ill, if you are in the hospital we would like to be able to visit. Send cards, maybe some candy at least a friendly face to complain to.

If you want visits or if you want to be left alone please let us know. You can call the Centre to tell us where you are or tell a staff you trust. Of course your privacy is important too. We will not share the information with anyone we will just let people know you are A-OK.

The Outreach Worker, Myrna Cranmer visits woman in the hospital, detox, or palliative care. If you know you are going to one of these places or know of a women who is in there, give Myrna a call at 604-728-7353.



# News from the Management Team

In August and September many regular staff are on holidays. During these times we rely on relief staff to take care of the Centre and ensure that programming continues without a break. We all know how disappointing it is when our programs are cancelled. At the Centre everyone is important this also means our relief staff without them we would not be

able to open the Centre seven days a week – even on Statutory Holidays. The Centre is one of the only places that can do this. It is a challenging job because relief staff are called in when there are less staff than usual which means that there are less hands and shoulders to bear the load and do the work. They are also called in once in awhile which means that they may not have time to keep up with all the changes in the Centre and in the community. If you have a chance to spend some time with our relief staff please make them welcome and help keep them

involved and informed. Our relief staff are Joyce Rock, Erin Graham and Darcey Sedgewick. Cecily Nicholson has recently moved from the relief position to the full time coordinator for the POW2W Project.

*Erin Graham*



*Darcey Sedgewick*



We also want to thank the volunteers for all the work that they do at the Centre. Last month BBQ at Stanley Park in volunteers. Cynthia as a volunteer almost

was a volunteer for over 5 years then she applied for a job as the volunteer coordinator, at the time she was not hired, in fact she applied for a job here at the Centre 4 times before she was hired – part-time! Be a volunteer, it can change your life.



*Some volunteers having fun at the UNN AGM in Kamloops*



# POWER of WOMEN to WOMEN (POW2W)

DEWC Evening Group

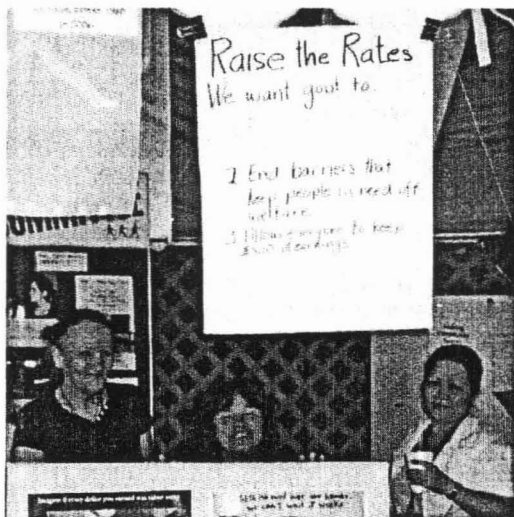
How do we create social change?  
What are the roles of collective organizing,  
learning, protest and discussion shaping our  
lives?

How can we build our communities and  
strengthen in times of struggle?

What is "EMPOWERMENT"?

In the spirit of past organizing efforts at the  
Centre like the Organizers' Training Group  
(OTG), at POW2W:

We talk about how the world, economy,  
politics, government and "activism" functions  
and the ways in which we and our  
communities are involved. We work  
together with popular education methods\*  
to learn about our conditions and about  
each other.



Anne Marie, Lou and Wendy Volunteers from the POW2W group participating in public education and gathering signatures for the "RAISE THE RATES" Campaign at the Powell Street Festival, August 2006.



And we are organizing and participating in existing campaigns such as: the Raise the Rates Campaign and save Low Income Housing as well as addressing in our own ways, issues of homelessness, housing, health and poverty that impact our daily lives. This is an open group that meets on Wednesday evenings and the Saturday after check-day (5pm – 8pm). All women are welcome. For more information see Cecily (Wed. – Sat.) 604-681-8480 x 238.

## \* Popular Education here means;

An equal relationship between facilitators and participants;

- Responding to the needs expressed by the group;
- Group involvement in planning and implementing any activities – training and political action;
- Acknowledgement and valuing community as a source of knowledge.

The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, with the generous support of several DTES community groups, eagerly invites you to its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event....

*Celebrating Our Journeys:  
A Downtown Eastside Neighborhood Street Party*

Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006

12 - 6pm

300 Block Columbia Street

Please join us at *Celebrating our Journeys*, an occasion where women are given the opportunity to continue – despite the difficult circumstances which afflict their daily lives – to laugh, sing, dance, rejoice, and resist. See you at the Party! For further information or to volunteer at the event, please call 604-681-8480 x242, email [celebratingourjourneys@yahoo.com](mailto:celebratingourjourneys@yahoo.com), or drop by the Centre and ask for Cara, Event Coordinator.

**Calling all Female Artists!**

The Organizing Committee for *Celebrating Our Journeys: A Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Street Party* is currently looking for talented female artists to sell their creations at the Street Party Artisan Market.

If you are interested in being part of the Artisan Market, please contact Candice at 604-331-1407 or email [stv@atira.bc.ca](mailto:stv@atira.bc.ca).

The Street Party – which will take place on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 from 12 to 6pm on 300 Block Columbia Street – is hosted by the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, with the generous support of various community groups in the Downtown Eastside. For more information, contact Cara at 604-681-8480 x242 or email [celebratingourjourneys@yahoo.com](mailto:celebratingourjourneys@yahoo.com).