

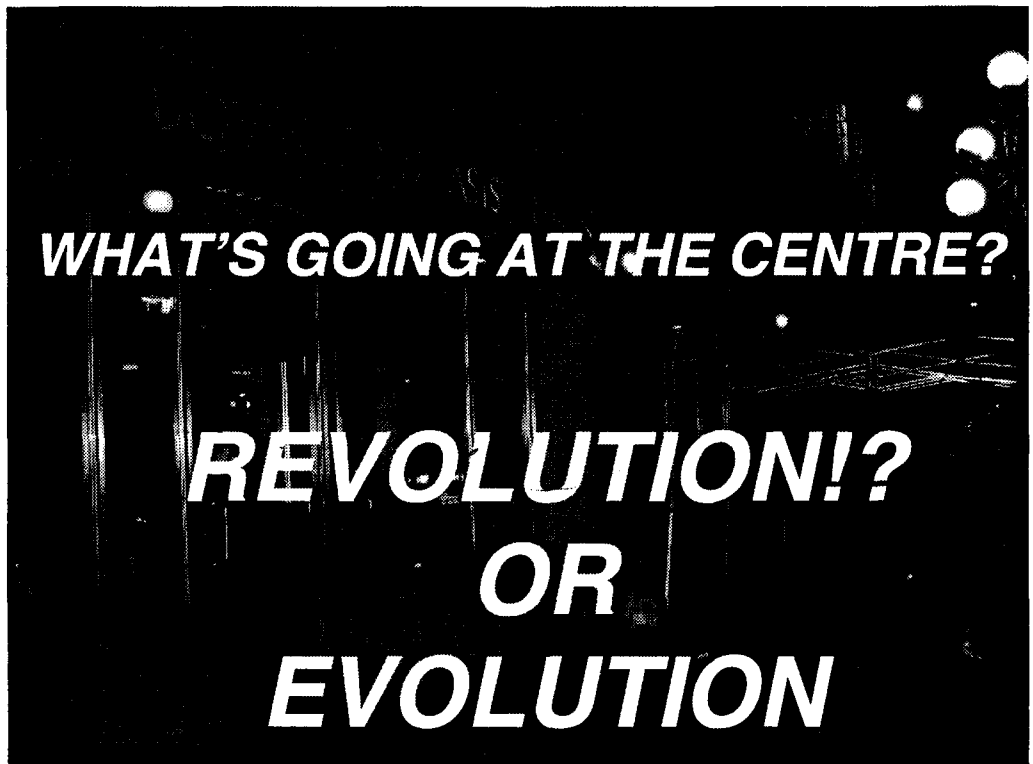


# D.E.W. DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

Downtown Eastside Women Do Drop In  
December 2006

Free



The Centre will try to keep open the critical hours in the evening and early morning. Each day is a new day, keep informed by posters and through word of mouth!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, December 10 & 17, 5:00**

**Mask making workshops with Bernie Williams**  
Make and decorate a mask for yourself or for exhibition!

**Thursday December 14, 10:00**

**Welfare applications**  
Facilitated by the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance

**Friday December 22, 2:00**

**Christmas Hamper giveaway**  
For those who do not get support over Christmas, food to tide you over the holidays.

**Monday December 25, 2006**

**Christmas Brunch**  
Celebrate the holidays together with a festive meal and holiday BINGO!

**Monday January 1, 2007**

**New Years Brunch**  
Welcome the new year with friends and Centre family!

## **News from the Management Team**

On Sunday November 19, 2006, a group of women led by the Elders demanded that the Centre stay open as a refuge for homeless women in the community. It has been an incredibly difficult few weeks for women in the community since the Centre has opened 24/7. The weather has taken a toll on women who are homeless, our volunteers have been working incredibly hard to support the continued opening of the Centre and our staff has shown such leadership and dedication by being here way beyond what is expected. We feel so honoured to work with such a fine group of women who care so deeply about the community.

We want to thank the Elders Council for making us take this journey, over the past years women have been telling us that a 24/7 space is desperately needed. We have been waiting for funding and support – the Elders took a stand and made us think about how the management team has become part of the system that does not respond to changes but maintains the status quo. We too were waiting for promises from the government, it has been over 2 years. The Elders are the conscience of the Centre and they have guided us to this place. On first night there were over 50 homeless women sleeping here, women who do not usually use the Centre, young and very sick. Everyone who is familiar with the community knows that this is the right thing to do but the Centre cannot sustain this effort without help.

To date discussions with City of Vancouver, Provincial Government and Federal Government departments have not gotten us anywhere. The “PROBLEM” of homeless women and lack of access to services for women seems is no one’s responsibility. We all know that there are millions and millions of dollars coming into the neighbourhood to pay workers like Alice and I to address the ‘PROBLEM”. Look around and see all the projects, InSite, Building Opportunities for Business, The Health Contact Centre, just to name a few. How are women supported to make positive changes in their lives, in some cases women can’t even access these services! Their clients are mostly men – men who may not have the skill, abilities or inclination to treat women with the respect they need and deserve, sometimes women encounter abusers in the programs!. Women make up 42% of the population in the DTES, why aren’t women getting 42% of the money spent on these programs. As we make demands on funders we have to be realistic about what the DEWC is able to accomplish and how we can best use our resources without burning out or worse bankrupting the organization.

We will be working with our members, volunteers, centre users and the community to come up with solutions that will fit womens needs. We will continue with discussions with government funders knowing that they many not recognize their responsibility. We will try to look for other sources of money to continue with longer Centre hours because we know that what we are doing is a good thing and that this is desperately needed to keep women safe and healthy.

## SAFE HOUSING SIT IN @ Downtown Eastside Womens' Centre

The momentous sit in which commenced last evening (Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup>) has imparted some greatly needed social changes. A mini-revolution is happening!! The overall mood in the DEWC after only one night open has changed the overall usual chaotic and frenetic atmosphere of a morning (which is usually brought about from spending a disgruntled night on the cold rainy streets) to a mood of most surprisingly, calm and peace. Ladies who are usually scowling, smile, laugh and act more courteously with each other! It's heart-warming to see real camaraderie as women are more inclined to get along and share with one another (with their physical bodies knowing that, at least for the time being) they have had a safe, dry, women's only place where their dignity and their personal needs are met.

Especially with our current polluted water problem and its subsequent shortage, this factor along with the ever-burgeoning cooler and rainier nights and the ever present dangers of sleeping outside with range from weather exposure, various animal bites, being exploited, assaulted and RAPE!

It makes us truly realize what needs to be mandated now and that is an IMMEDIATE opening and sustaining of more centres like the DEWC to help with the ever critical housing crisis! Do we not live in Canada? Do we not live in Vancouver, the best city in the world? Perhaps our temporary water setback is forgivable but allowing our poor women to sleep huddled from the cold and rain, risking possible death from overexposure is an ATROCIOUS shame!

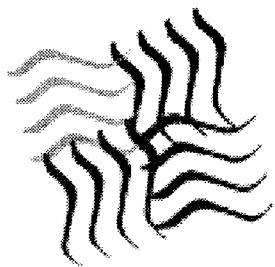
I whole heartedly applaud the DEWC for making the groundbreaking effort to help break down barriers and being in the forefront to help "rehabilitate" women from all walks of life. And please don't think it couldn't happen to you, it happened to me, and therefore I utilize the Women's Centre everyday to help me with my basic needs (food, clothing and positive camaraderie) and to help me get back on my feet. A year ago, I had everything and now I am heavily dependant on the DEWC and it's services. I'm proud to say that I've met some of my greatest friends that I will have made in my lifetime here including my sweet girlfriend. The DEWC along with other possible sister health and wellness for the extreme impoverished and high risk ladies.

I'm grateful and thankful to the DEWC and other women's services group in town for they have helped me so immeasurably with so many life-sustaining things.

So if it is too much to have food, clean water, and safe shelter, the basic necessities for human life in Vancouver, Canada on Monday November 20, 2006, what can we hope for ourselves and what can we dare dream for our children?

Please support the DEWC and it's notable cause!

Thank you,  
April S.



# WEAVE

Women Engaged in the Arts  
Vision and Empowerment

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

## MASK MAKING WORKSHOP With BERNIE WILLIAMS

Bernie is an accomplished artist who was the first woman who trained under master carver Bill Reid. In the first workshop, she will be showing women how to make masks out of plaster, after the masks dry we will be painting and decorating the masks in the second workshop.

Sunday December 10, 2006  
5:00 – 8:00 (meal at 5:00)

Sunday December 17, 2006  
5:00 – 8:00 (meal at 5:00)

### **Announcing the ART CART!**

Last month Tara, the painting, drawing and ceramics woman, presented an art workshop at WISH to bring some of the amazing activities from the Centre into other women-centered spaces. Once a week she will be taking the ART CART on the road and will be presenting workshops in different spaces. If you are aware of a women's group that would be interested please speak to Tara who is usually here Monday and Thursday mornings!

## NEW CENTRE HOURS

The Centre is women only space, this is precious and honoured space that needs to be respected and cared for. We ask that everyone who uses the Centre respect each other in the space and take responsibility for our Centre, together.

Monday	10am – 5pm	11pm – 8am
Tuesday	10am – 5pm	11pm – 8am
Wednesday	11am – 5pm	11pm – 8am
Thursday	10am – 5pm	11pm – 8am
Friday	10am – 5pm	11pm – 8am
Saturday	12pm – 5pm	11pm – 8am
Sunday	12pm – 5pm	11pm – 8am

**Groups will continue at the Centre, Center will close at 5pm for groups.**

The goal of the Downtown Eastside Womens' Centre is to create the environment and conditions for women to make positive changes. During the after hours we will help women apply for welfare, find shelter and address vulnerability to violence, addictions and mental health. We can only do this as a caring and loving community.

## WELFARE APPLICATIONS

If you are not on welfare, Ministry workers will be at the Centre every other Thursday to help fast track your application so that you can receive support for housing as quickly as possible.

**Thursday December 14, 2006**

**Thursday January 4, 2006**

# **YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS NIGHT OUT AT THE DEW**

**For women and girls under 21**

**Make up, hair styling, music, crafts,  
clothing and lots of freebies**

**Saturday December 16, 2006  
5:00 pm**

**Meal Served**

**In partnership with Justice for Girls**

# Well here I am.

On a whole different journey.  
And I am not alone, because I have sisters that are traveling along.  
And together, we will make it.  
United as one, we will go as one,  
One as many journeys we have traveled before and before.  
We are strong and so is our circle.  
They cannot break it, only if we let them.  
Our circle is strong but sometimes weak,  
Only to make us stronger to overcome  
The hard journey ahead  
We bear the children,  
We protect them  
Safe and strong  
We protect our children of all the tomorrows to come  
I pray to the creator, he will protect all circles of our universe.  
We are all in this together  
And all I figure is we can hold on  
No matter how rough the journey gets  
I pray for strength for each circle.  
I'm here now,  
Tomorrows yet to come  
Tears only make us stronger  
So creator, let us have strength for all the tomorrows  
Let the sun shine  
And the water teach us patience  
Mountains, trees, water, as we began.  
Teach us the way, let the trees grow  
Water run, to let us grow with you.

All My Relations  
Susie Q



## FAS/FAE/NAS

FAS/FAE/NAS is preventable but alcohol is so much a part of our culture. It is advertised so aggressively that it is so hard to resist. Mothers that are planning to have a baby should be at least 3-4 months clean. It takes a couple to have a health baby. Men should be clean from alcohol just the same.

This program should be taught in schools. Professionals should include this in their studies. It takes more than a week to learn about FAS/FAE/NAS. It is an ongoing learning process. It needs to be acknowledged.

For more information, the FAS/FAE/NAS Prevention Project contact YWCA Crabtree Corner. Contact Nola Harper, FAS/FAE/NAS Facilitator re: workshops and joining a group. Phone: 604-216-1659 Fax: 604-216-1665  
I would like to let you know that FAS/FAE cannot be cured or fixed and will not be outgrown.  
Not curable, but is manageable.

I highly recommend this program for all cultures, ethnic and economic groups.

### Memories of Our Sisters

We will always treasure their memories.  
Even, if it was a small thing.  
In what we shared  
It means a lot to one person  
Letting go is so hard  
We need peace for our sisters  
They need to go help in the spirit world  
Their memories will always be in our hearts  
Always, thinking of wonderful sayings  
She will always be beside you  
She will probably whisper positive things to you  
In the mind or in your dreams  
Keep strong for the ones that are left behind  
They need your courage and understanding  
You have the power  
Don't let anyone take that spirit  
Fight for what is right  
Freedom to stand up to anything

All my Relations  
Bonnie E Stevens

I've learned a lot in this program and it takes a whole community to RAISE A CHILD.

I hope that you can acknowledge where I come from. FAS/FAE/NAS affects ALL cultures.

All my Relations,  
Bonnie E Stevens

# 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**- We're Back! Every Friday at 2:00pm.

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

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

### EVENING PROGRAMMING

**Mondays - Grief and Loss Group** - Support for women going through changes and loss of all kinds, relationships, community, family, children, etc.

**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 would like to learn taiko and perform.

**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 5:00 Taiko CLOSED	2 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
3 2:00 Video	4 10:00 CWG 10:00 Ceramics  5:00 Grief and Loss Group	5 10:00 Wreath Making with Freeda 12:00 Street Nurse 2:00 Bingo  5:00 BWSS	6 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke  5:00 POW2W	7 10:00 Painting 10:30 Upgrading	8 2:00 Beading  5:00 Taiko CLOSED	9 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
10 2:00 Video  <b>5:00 Mask Making Workshop</b>	11 10:00 CWS 10:00 Ceramics Painting  5:00 Grief and Loss Group	12 10:00 Stockings with Freeda 10:00 Massage 12:00 Street Nurse 2:00 Bingo  5:00 BWSS	13 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke  5:00 POW2W	14 <b>10:00 Welfare Applications</b> 10:00 Painting 10:30 Upgrading  5:00 Healing Circle	15 10:00 Christmas tickets 2:00 Beading  5:00 Taiko CLOSED	16 2:00 Video <b>2:00 Fabric Arts</b>  <b>5:00 Young Women and Girls Night Out</b>
17 2:00 Video  <b>5:00 Mask Making Workshop continued</b>	18 10:00 CWG 10:00 Ceramic Painting  5:00 Grief and Loss Group	19 <b>Centre Closed</b>  <b>Christmas Party at 475 Alexander Street</b>	20 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke	21 <b>CENTRE CLOSED</b>	22 2:00 Beading 2:00 Christmas Hampers  5:00 Taiko	23 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
24 2:00 Video	25 <b>Christmas Brunch</b>	26 10:00 S & M 2:00 Bingo	27 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke  5:00 POW2W	28 10:00 Painting 10:30 Upgrading  5:00 Healing Circle	29 2:00 Beading  5:00 Taiko	30 2:00 Video 2:00 Fabric Arts
31 2:00 Video	1 <b>New Years Brunch</b>					

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

## Letter from member Selina Barton who is back home.

November 16, 2006

I guess you are busy getting set for another Christmas. Personally it is an over rated holiday. That's the one that should be every two years. Millarky crap. My day began at 8:30 this morning. Woke up to 4 feet of snow outside my front door. And it is still coming down. It will be getting to the point of shovelling off the roofs pretty soon. All I hear is the clock ticking and the children out playing in the snow with dogs barking once in awhile.

Today I start a jewellery and art classes. The two poems I have included, one, I wrote with my first cup of coffee this morning. The other was when I was going for a morning walk to the waterfront. My pieces will get longer as time goes by. If you can all take a vote, which one can you put in the monthly newsletter?

Heli-pad one is the one I would choose. Tis' now 10:30 am. It usually doesn't take me this long to write anything. Oh well.

On my last cup of coffee before I go and see how my dad is today. This cold is effecting my breathing. Don't know how to slow down, even in this slow pace community. We shall be keeping in touch thru moccasin telegraph. Snail mail. Slow river.

The power still goes off once in awhile. With this amount of snow maybe more often than I figure. Bye, hugs and candy kisses,



Picture of Selena taken on February 14, 2006

SKB

PS

LETS BE CAREFUL OUT THERE NOW LADIES

## AT THE HELI-PAD ON A CRISP MORNING

Old trees. New growth.  
Beautiful green leaves.  
Feeling the morning breeze.  
Cold nose, water continues to flow.  
Birds, robins, brown feathers.  
Cold weather, in need of warm sweater.  
Look out – fall of green.  
Sunrise that is orange.  
Puffy clouds that re white.  
Sky that is blue.  
As if painting a canvas that is new.  
Cedar trees full of colour.  
From our all nature – Mother  
Ever changing landscape  
Waiting for the weather to break.

SKB, October 28, 2006

## DESTINY UNRAVELLING

Different set of eyes to meet  
With mind that are sweet  
Life is slowed down to a crawl  
No more going to a mall  
All we have here is a rec hall  
No sirens or gunshots to hear  
Here is silence that is crystal clear  
Darkness is a blessing, to know  
What I am not missing  
When we get into too far or deep  
There is sanity to keep  
No one is out to kill you, just  
BC Hydro out to bill you.  
The mountains retain the rain, wind and snow  
When will they finally let go?  
Moisture is constant of where we live,  
As we are surrounded by mountains of hills.  
Let me know when it is time to go  
As I await that magnificent glow  
My life was full of laughter, tears and some very  
good friends.  
Thank you for sharing precious time with me.  
Now all we need; is to hug a tree  
For you and me.

Selina K. Barton  
November 16, 2006



**More Pictures from  
the DEWC Harvest  
Dinner.**







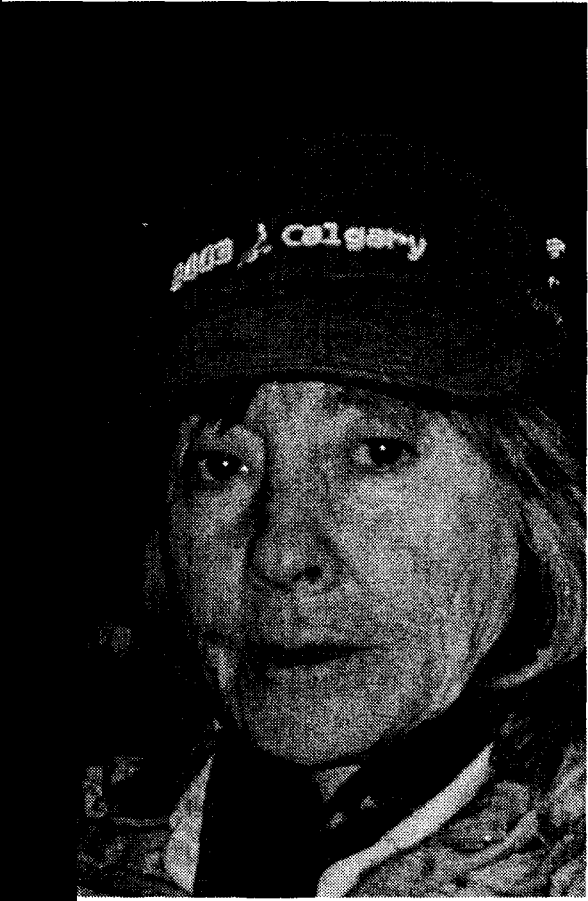
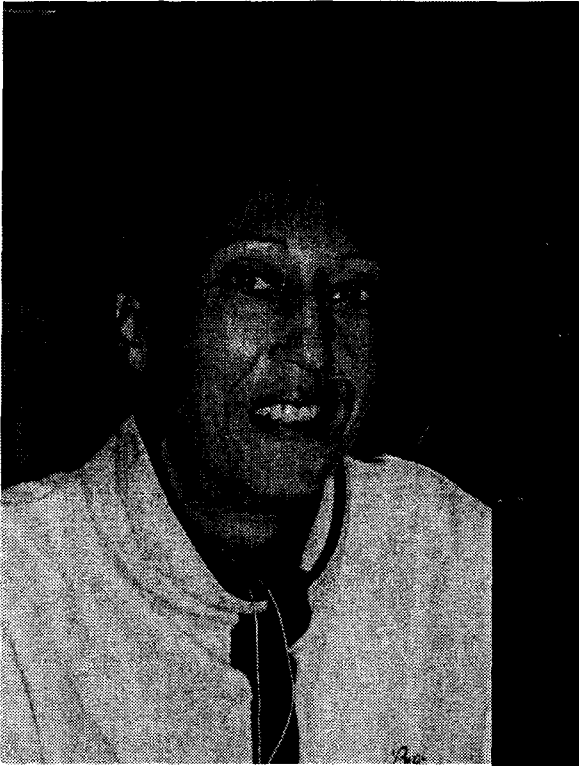
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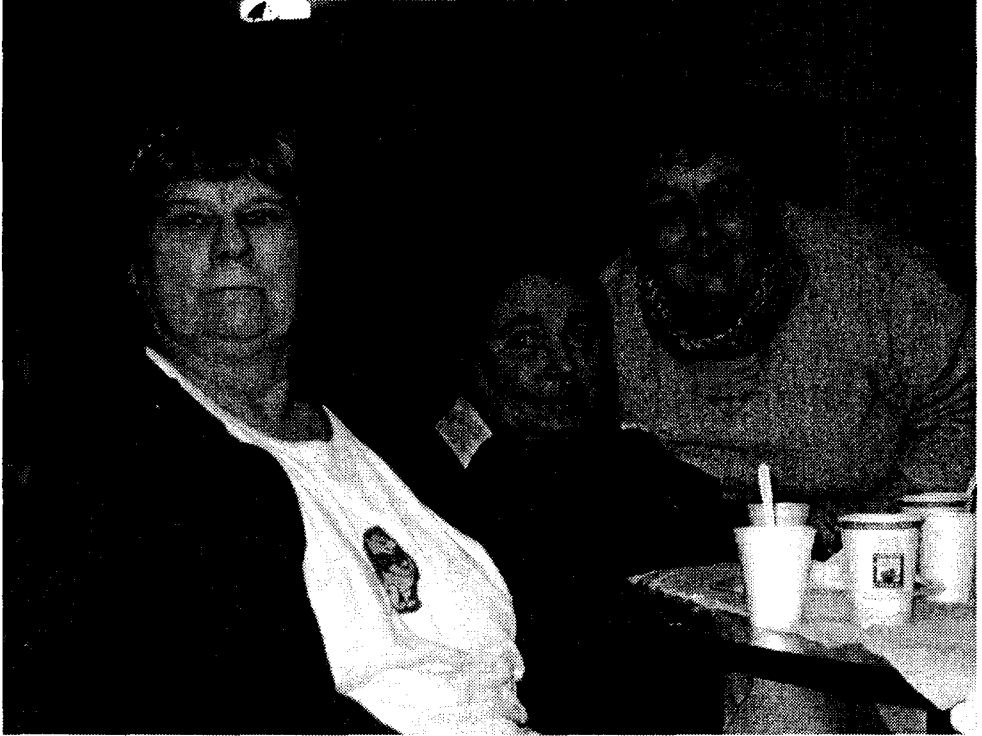
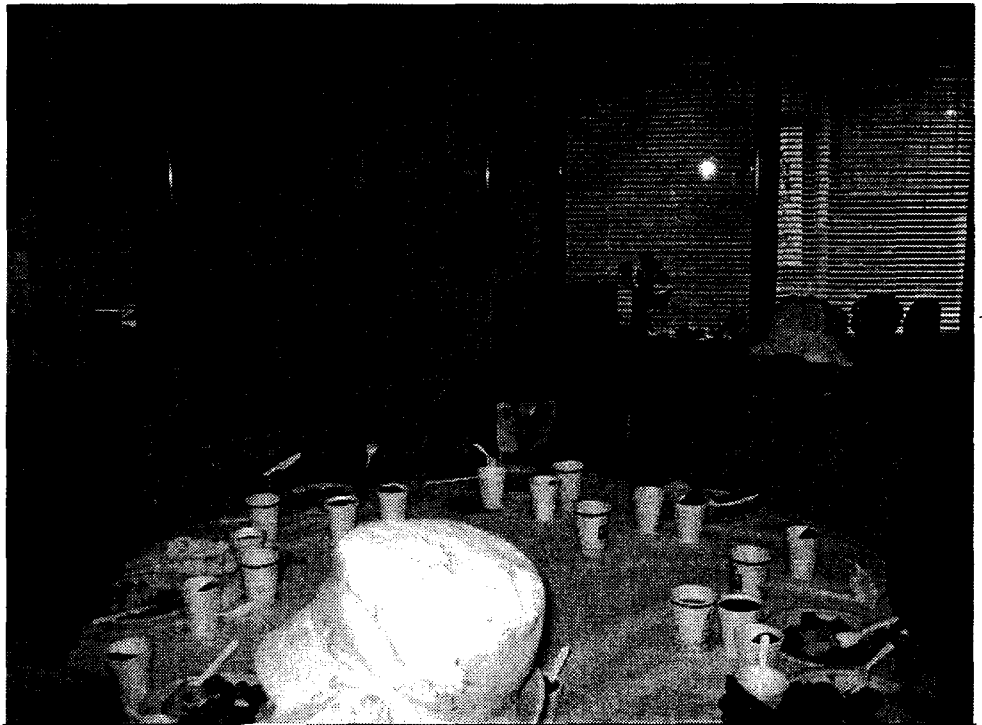
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# DEWC Christmas Dinner

For women and children (boys under 13)

Tuesday December 19, 2006  
475 Alexander Street

Turkey dinner, entertainment and gifts for all.

Seating at 12:00 & 2:00  
Tickets will be available on  
Friday December 15 at 10:00am

You do not need a ticket to attend the dinner, tickets help us manage each seating and it means that there is less waiting outside the hall on the day of the dinner. People with tickets will be seated first. If you do not have a ticket we recommend that you come to the 2:00 seating. There will be lots of food and gifts for everyone. See you there!

The Centre will be closed that day.

For those with mobility issues rides will be available from the Centre at 11:45 and 1:45.