



WOMEN'S CENTRE

D.E.W. DROP IN

The Newsletter for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

**Downtown Eastside Women- Drop In Free
April 2007**



INSIDE:

- Calendar of events/ workshops
- DEWC Spring Dinner
- Women's Poetry
- Art Workshops
- Taiko
- Diabetes workshop

- **Mental Health Team at DEWC**

Friday, April, 6, 13, 20, 27, 5:00-7:00

Taiko

Dinner served at 5:00, no late comers

Sunday, April 9, 5:00 - 8:00

DEWC Community Kitchen

This time we will be making Mexican food

Monday, April 16 , 10:00- 5:00

Spring Dinner Tickets Give Out

Wednesday April 18, 12:00- 4:00

DEWC Spring Dinner

The Centre will open at 12:00 for the Spring Dinner.

Monday April 23, 3:00

Weave Consultation Meeting

Concerning Art Management and Art Sales.

Monday April 30, 2:00 -3:30

Diabetes Workshop

Sandra and Corrine from Native Health are here to discuss diabetes and nutrition

Strathcona Mental Health Team at DEWC

Karen and Christine will be at the centre the first Wednesday of each month from 1:00 to 2:00 to answer questions and concerns that women may have regarding accessing mental health resources.



SEEKING PARTICIPANTS FOR CHODARR PROJECT

The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre has recently entered into a partnership with the Community Health Online Digital Archive Research Resource (CHODARR) Project.

The goal of this project is to document and archive our newsletter. This will help us document our own history and give us access to the university research that touches us and the women of the Downtown Eastside.

DEWC will work with CHODARR to host trainings at DEWC with a group of 4-6 women to learn how to catalogue materials for the collection.

Are you interested in learning new skills in archiving, cataloguing and documentation?

Interested participants will

- Have an interest in reading and documentation
- Be interested in developing computer skills
- Be interested in developing archiving skills
- Commit to 2 hours a week on Sunday mornings for 6 months starting in April 2007.
- Commit to a collaborative working environment with other participants and trainers.

In return participants will be

- Compensated financially for their labour through an honorarium
- Provided with breakfast on Sunday mornings

If this interests you, please talk to Sara ASAP at x 224.

DEWC TAIKO Schedule

Sorry for the absence and the short notice, Cynthia was on vacation and could not arrange for a group until the week of March 23rd.

Every Friday night from 5:00 – 7ish

Starting

April 6

April 13

April 27

No taiko on April 20th because of Community Consultation!

Dinner will be served between 5:00 and 5:30.

The doors will be closed by 5:45, no late arrivals.

Everyone is expected to work together to move and play the drums, serve and clean up for dinner.

News from the Management Team

It has been a busy few months and lots has been happening – where do I start.

Well the Emergency Shelter certainly is big news! An average of 35 women use the shelter each night, most are homeless but many are also escaping unsafe housing, violence and even loneliness. Earlier this month we received news from BC Housing that they will continue to fund the shelter for another 6 months – they will provide \$160,000. This seems like a lot of money but there are expenses that most people do not immediately think about. Rent, utilities, insurance, etc. Most of the funding goes towards the staffing, the DEWC tries to have 3 staff on to ensure that every one is safe and secure and that the Centre is clean and fully operational (for the shelter and the drop in)! Later this month, date not finalized, the emergency shelter will be moving to 412 Cordova because the space is much nicer – more bathrooms, multiple rooms for privacy, tv room, sleeping mats and much more. We have had two meetings with centre members and shelter users. We believe that this is in the best interest of the Centre and also best for women using the shelter.

We need to know how things are going in the Centre. We are generally stuck in the basement preoccupied with the boring and mundane tasks of running the Centre – scheduling staff, paying bills, looking of funding, talking to politicians and bureaucrats etc. Although the Management Team tries to get out we do not always get to find out about how the Centre is going. We are interested in what you have to say about the quality of the programs and staff. We have not had time to conduct another survey to evaluate the Centre but we would like to host a talking circle at the Centre with our elders. This is a chance for women to share suggestions, constructive criticisms, solutions, views and ideas on how to improve the Centre. Please come and invite others.

DEWC COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FRIDAY APRIL 20, 2007 5:00 – MEAL SERVED

There have been many new staff additions, some for the drop in and most for the shelter. Welcome to Alison, Colette, Daniela, Elaine, Janna, Joelle, Marr, Roberta, Sharlene and of course Patrina. There will be additional staff hired for the Emergency Shelter so give them a warm DEWC welcome.

Stephanie has resigned, we wish her the best for the future, and Davi is on medical leave. Thank you to all the staff who give of their hearts, body and mind.

Rights and Responsibilities – SO WHAT!

"Individual rights" are the rights of individuals by virtue of their humanness, i.e. their nature as sentient beings (thinking, feeling, conscious and aware). Individual rights provide principles to delimit the interaction of individuals in society with respect to personal interactions and the distribution of goods and services. Rights are respected or recognized by others for reasons of reciprocity, contract, pragmatism, or as a moral imperative. Some individual rights may be forfeited if that individual does not exercise reciprocal respect and restraint. Most modern conceptions of rights are universalist and egalitarian - in other words, equal rights are granted to all people.

- Do your rights interfere with the rights of others?
- What is your role in respecting the rights of others?
- Just because you have the right or legal entitlement to do something do you always have to exercise that right?

The Centre is a non-profit corporation created with a specific purpose. As such we are subject to the entitlements and obligations. One of those entitlements is the option to refuse services. Of course this is an entitlement as well as a responsibility, for example we cannot refuse services to women with disability but as a women's centre we refuse services to men. So what? Well women with disabilities do not have equal access to the services offered in society at large. They encounter great hardships when we refuse services to them, men however, as a group, DO NOT encounter similar hardships. Women, particularly disabled women, are a recognizable group or category of people that have experienced historic and systemic disadvantages. We equal responsibility to achieve our purposes, which are;

- 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 a social space and facilitate the 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.

We do refuse services to those who do not exercise reciprocal respect and restraint the Centre, take a good look at our guidelines.

Increasingly women of the Centre women are exercising their rights all over the place, which is great! But on the other hand some women disregard their responsibility to ensuring that those rights are granted to all in society.

Especially when it comes to their behaviour in the Centre.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE?

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

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.

Resume Workshop - Create your own resume with the help of a practicum student.

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

Tuesdays - 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 Video 2:00 Help with Resumes 5:00 -8:00 Woodwards Hoardings Design Art Workshop	2 10:00 Drawing and Painting	3 10:00 Sewing 10:00 Massage 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Grief and Loss Group 5:00 BWSS	4 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke 5:00 POW2W	5 10:00 Painting 5:00 Healing Circle	6 GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 -5:00 5:00 Taiko	7 2:00 Video
8 2:00 Video 2:00 Resumes	9 Easter Monday Centre Opens 12:00- 5:00 5:00 Community Kitchen	10 10:00 M/S 10:00 Welfare Applications 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Grief and Loss Group 5:00 BWSS	11 2:00 Crochet 2:00 Karaoke 5:00 POW2W	12 10:00 Painting 5:00 Healing Circle	13 10:00 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko	14 2:00 Video 2:00 -5:00 Art Workshop
15 2:00 Video 2:00 Resume 5:00 -8:00 Big Art Workshop	16 10:00 Drawing and Painting 10:00 Spring Dinner Tickets give out	17 10:00 M/S 10:00 Welfare Applications 12:00 Street Nurse 2:00: Bingo 3:15 Grief and Loss Group 5:00 BWSS	18 12:00-3:00 Spring Dinner	19 10:00 Painting 5:00 Healing Circle	20 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko	21 2:00 Video
22 2:00 Resumes 2:00 Video 3:30 Volunteer Meeting	23 10:00 Drawing and Painting	24 10:00 Sewing 10:00 Welfare Applications 12:00 Street Nurse 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Grief and Loss Group 5:00 BWSS	25 CLOSED	26 10:00 Painting 5:00 Healing Circle	27 2:00 Beading 5:00 Taiko	28 2:00 Video 2:00 -5:00 Art Workshop
29 2:00 Video 2:00 Resume 5:00 POW2W	30 10:00 Drawing Painting 2:00 Diabetes Work Shop					

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

From Our Suggestion Box

The pretty red box located near the elevator

I would like to suggest to have a birthday cake and gifts for women and children's birthdays.

Month by month birthday list with cake and gifts for women and children of the DEWC

Do we still have the Community Garden. We never read about it in the newsletter.

What a great idea to put the TV at the far end so those of us who socialize can socialize!

Response:
Eeeeer... we decided not to get a new tv but spent the money on our bums – we got new chairs – did you notice! Will talk to the peer support staff about locating the TV closer to the back.

I have a real problem about 'smudging' in the Women's Centre, all of us are not native and the smell is(sorry

Response:
Smudging is an occasional practise at the Centre that reflects the values of many of our members. Not all natives smudge and smudging is not just for natives. As a non native I appreciate smudging. If the smell bothers you perhaps you can leave until the smell clears (15 - 20 minutes), your courtesy will be greatly appreciated, I would appreciate it as smudging brings calm to me. Thank you in advance.

Response:

We did use to have a monthly cake for everyone who had a birthday on that month. What happened what eventually it got phased out in favour of daily afternoon snacks. We encourage women of the Centre to be involved, anyone interested in baking a cake for us? It may be challenging but not impossible to keep track of the B'day list – any volunteers?

Response:

Well the garden is still there! And we did have a spot years ago it may have been reassigned due to inactivity. Ruth the kitchen trainer was just talking about that – Spring has that effect. How about we check up on that and keep you posted.

Put the coffee on the straight table at back. Coffee shift should be Saturday 1-4:30

Response:

The coffee urns are connected to a water source and drainage that is fixed and cannot move. Sara will be informed re the coffee shift on Saturday from 1-4:30.

LOVIN' THE CENTRE

PRIZE WINNER FOR MARCH IS ... Anita Guno

*'why I love to be here is the atmosphere cheers
you up and you always have a shoulder to cry on.
The staff do the best they can to accommodate you
and make you feel like a somebody.'*

**You are a somebody, you are a winner – All
DEWC members are winners**

She wins a \$25 gift certificate to Future Shop.
This month is another \$25 gift certificate to Future Shop.

From Christine Connie Cardinal who has been volunteering at the DEWC Emergency Shelter

Why do we always show disrespect?

At a time when nobody should be sleeping outside 2010 is more important than the needy. I am one that is blunt in a disrespectful, straight forward sound better – I like to speak my mind. This is what I have to say.

When it comes to 2010 suddenly downtown eastside is so important, it seems that they are putting people out on the streets just so they can impress whomever is coming here to visit. We find out about the increase and the next thing you know rent has gone up. What's up with that? All this other unhumane stuff that's been happening because of 2010, from what I've noticed so far the poor get more poor the homeless stay homeless and the rich get richer off those who are poor and homeless. And they come down here to laugh, harass people and get away with things in the downtown eastside. The so called peace officers think that by 2010 the streets are gonna be clean and everything is just gonna be fine and dandy – "BULL"

There is no more middle class – only the working poor or poor and the rich. We have become the disposable people!

POETRY AND PROSE FROM THE DTES

TO A PERSON

No you don't know,
What love doesn't mean to me.
No you don't know, that
I will be happy when
I am sober, rich, happy and
Free of responsibility.
But I don't want you by my side as a lover
Or as a boyfriend.
I just want you to know,
That you will never know
What love doesn't mean to me.
Love a friend. Victoria M.

Diabetes Workshop

Monday, April, 30th

2:00-3:30

Upstairs!

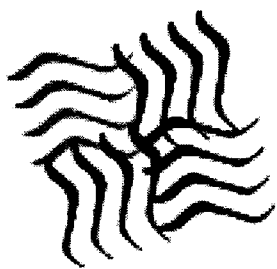
Interested in learning more about Diabetes and nutrition?
Then come to the centre on April 23rd and join in an
informative group run by Sandra (Nutritionist) and Corrine
(Elder) from Vancouver Native Health Association.

RESUMES are coming back to the DEWC

Looking for a job? Need a resume? The centre will be having a
resume workshop every week. Get a resume for yourself!

Every Sunday from 2:00-3:00

Starting in April



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.

ART WORKSHOPS
EVERY SECOND SATURDAY
With
Rose Spahan

Rose M Spahan – The WEAVE coordinator has put together some fabulous fun workshops and Creative ways to enjoy art making that is inspiring, beautiful and encouraging. Come drop in and enjoy art material exploration and challenge your creative ingenuity.

Free your inner child to focus and create new visions of empowerment!

Monday Workshops (drawing and painting) 10:00-12:00

Thursday Workshops (painting) 10:00- 12:00

Saturday April 14, and 28 (mixed media) 2:00-5:00

Sunday April 15, (special assignment) 5:00- 8:00

WOMEN WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT TO EXTEND DEWC EMERGENCY SHELTER; REITERATE NEED FOR LONG-TERM AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Women in the Downtown Eastside welcome the announcement by BC Housing today announcing funding for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre (DEWC) Emergency Shelter to operate for another six months. An average of fifty women a night have been using the shelter as a safe place since November 2006. Women in the Downtown Eastside, as part of the Power of Women to Women Project, would like to thank BC Housing for responding to the voices, needs, and demands of homeless and poor women.

Women at DEWC demonstrated great leadership, commitment, and passion in organizing around this issue including petition drives, issuing press releases and speaking to media, and building community support. This has been an empowering process and strong moment for us!

We would also like to emphasize that shelters are not a viable solution to homelessness and all levels of government must commit to long-term, safe, and affordable housing for women. We are concerned and anguished by the ongoing devastation of poverty and homelessness in our community. According to the 2005 GVRD Homelessness Count, there has been an increase of 60% in the number of homeless women since the 2002 Count. PIVOT research shows that the number of homeless people has doubled to approximately 2,174 people in 2005 and it is estimated that the rate of rapid gentrification leading to the Olympics will triple the number of homeless in Vancouver. We will continue the work we have been doing to raise awareness and advocate for an end to homelessness and for housing for women.

Join the Power of Women to Women Group every Wednesday to continue to work on this issue and other important social justice issues. We try to understand how different political, economic, and social systems and structures affect our lives. We also discuss ways to strengthen ourselves collectively so we can act and be heard in transforming these structures.

The group includes outings, movies, discussion, theatre, guests, and much more.

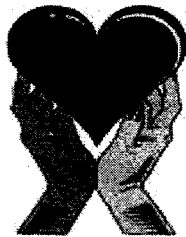
This is currently an open group that meets on Wednesday evenings and the Sunday after check-day from 5pm-8pm (Dinner from 5pm-6pm). Cecily and Harsha will co-facilitate the evening groups.

All women are welcome and bring your ideas, thoughts, and stories!

For more information, questions, or your ideas for this project, come talk to Harsha (Sundays-Wednesdays) or email project@dewc.ca or call 604-681-8480 x 234

VOLUNTEERS GROW COMMUNITY

Thank-you Women Centre Volunteers!



National Volunteer Week: April 15th-21st, 2007

National Volunteer Week is a special time set aside in April to honor the women who give their time and energy to the women of the centre. The Week also raises awareness of the vital contribution volunteers make to our broader community.

New Day for Bingo?

The centre is asking for the DEWC women's input on whether they would be permissible to changing the Bingo program to Sunday instead of Tuesday. Please give us your opinion by cutting out yes or no, provided below and place in designated box located at the front desk.

Yes	No
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