

BULLETIN

Thursday

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Washington Area Women's Center

BULLETIN

6/8/1972

FLASH: HOUSE IMMINENT

Fate has moved back in our direction! Suddenly the housing market is opening up again and we've got 2 good possibilities for a Center this summer.

The first is a 14 room house at 1929 19th Street NW (behind the Hilton). The rent is \$750 a month with a two year lease. It's a bit steep but feasible if we have enough monthly sustainers (yes, that is another gentle hint for money) and considering the fact that we are counting on \$350 a month from groups that are now paying that much for office space elsewhere. The owners/occupants are painting the house now and are interested in renting it as soon as possible. Two members of the Housing Committee have seen it and loved it, so we'd love to have everyone see it themselves. The house will be open for everyone to see on Monday, June 12 from 5-7:30 p.m. The family who live there will be in the middle of dinner, but say they don't mind. If we decide on this building, it'll be necessary for the zoning to be changed and that may take some time, so the sooner we make a decision the better.

The second possibility is a mind-blower! It's a bit unusual but bear with us. It's a 22 room (!) house near Rhode Island Ave. & 15th Street. It's now rented by 3 people, two women and a man, who have been looking for other people to share the house with. We've spoken with one of the women, and she is very receptive to having the Center there. However, they want to continue living there. The clincher is the rent--would you believe \$250? YES! Members of the Housing Committee are going to see the house on Friday, June 9, and if things look good, we'll try to set up Mon., June 12 from 5-7:30pm also as the time for everyone to see it. So...go first to the 19th Street house, then to this house. Don't have the exact address at this writing, but we'll leave a message at the 19th Street house.

We know it's been a frustrating five months of looking, and we're very anxious to have everyone see some tangible results. So please come see the houses - Mon., June 12 from 5-7:30pm - then come to the NEXT GENERAL MEETING on Thurs., June 15 to make THE decision.

Which brings us to.....

Next General Meeting: Thursday, June 15 at 8:00 pm

Peoples Union, 2131 G Street N.W. (G.W. Campus)

Notice: General Meetings have changed from Sundays to Thursday evenings for a while since so many people are going away on weekends. Thursday seemed the best night since we didn't know of any project groups that were meeting then. If Thursday is a major conflict for any group, please let it be known and we may change the meeting night again.

GENERAL MEETING MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS...

1. Decision on a building for the Center 2. Formation of a Coordinating Council

It is imperative that women from every project group and every organization affiliated in any way with the Center be at this meeting. The Coordinating Council will be composed of representatives from groups who have space in the Center as well as groups committed to the movement who want to be involved in some way. What groups and the number of their representatives will be decided at this meeting. This, you'll note, is the nitty gritty of whether we really have a viable Women's Center. See you there!

## WOMEN'S CENTER BENEFIT \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

The women's concert is going to be more than just a concert! We're going to describe it as the Women's Center Benefit, but we'd like to have a jazzy title like "With A Little Help From Our Sisters" or something like that. Let us hear your suggestions for a title. We need imaginative women to help work out the themes of the benefit, which we can carry out in lots of ways like poetry readings, dramatic or humorous skits (The Singing Sappho Sisters?) slides or color back-drops, etc., and to help with production. Prospects look hopeful for getting several performers; we're trying for Joni Mitchell, Judy Collins, Joan Baez, Roberta Flack, Carole King and our great local talent. (We think some of them are interested in being in the skits or reading poetry as well as singing!)

We're shooting for Cole Field House at U. of Md. - capacity 12,000 people, and maybe for free. If we charge \$5 a ticket, we can net quite a lot of money, even taking into account the cost of publicity. We'd like it to be held in late Sept. or early Oct. Work has to begin now. Lend us your imagination and time to make this the best women's concert Washington has ever seen! Call Carol Vance at 223-3252 or Kathie Garner at 232-1461.

**WOMEN'S CENTER BENEFIT MEETING before General Meeting, 7:15pm, same place.**

## WOMEN SUSTAINING WOMEN \$\$\$\$\$\$

Come on women! At this point only a few women are supporting all of us with their sustainers - 19 to be exact, for a total of \$258. We know your intentions are good, so get those sustainer forms out of your desk drawers and get them in so we can really say women are sustaining women. Some people haven't sent their forms in because they're worried about having their money earmarked for specific projects - that's no problem. We'll be sure to earmark it in our records. Also, don't worry about pledging a lot of money. If everyone on the mailing list pledged \$2 to \$5 a month we'd reach our goal: \$1,000 a month for rent and utilities on one of the 2 houses we've located. Pledge whatever you can afford on a monthly basis. Be sure to specify the total amount of your sustainer as well as the monthly amounts. For example, \$60 - \$5 a month for 12 months, payments to begin in June.

It's difficult asking anyone - even sisters - for money. Help us out and remind your friends at meetings and things. If you need a form, call Vance at 223-3252. We'll have sustainer forms at general meetings also.

## MORE ON \$\$\$\$ (and sexism)

So far four flat refusals from the six foundations the Funding Committee wrote to: Stern Family Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Hattie M. Strong, and Cafritz. The two still not heard from are the Public Welfare Fndtn. and the Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Fndtn. The experience has been a consciousness raising one for all of us. The Strong Fndtn. said they are only interested in funding "disadvantaged groups!" How's that for sexism! Several things are clear: the oppression of women is still not taken seriously by the institutions of this society. Second, the problems of women are still their own problems in the eyes of the men who control the wealth. Third, we have barely begun to make the force and power of women known.

WASHINGTON SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR TO BE REPEATED !!!!

Rave reviews for the Women's Song & Dance Fest of May 12 have been pouring in at such a rate that we've been moved by popular demand (and by the funds it brought in) to start planning another dance for the summer.

More singing, dancing, socializing, eating--maybe even a return of the famous Singing Sappho Sisters. The possibilities for the dance are unlimited--we might be able to have it out in the country, and we could combine it with a picnic supper. If you'd like to incorporate your own particular fantasies in the plans, call Mary Jane Naumen (244-3506), Linda Hawkins (396-8171), or Ardena Shanks (723-8804). They could use some help getting it together.

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LEGAL PROJECT

After a meeting with the board of directors of the Women's Legal Defense Fund on Tuesday, May 30 the legal project has decided to become the legal counseling committee of WLDF. This means that the legal office in the Center will be the WLDF office which will coordinate test case litigation(receiving calls, screening cases to be taken free by WLDF attorneys, keeping tabs on cases in progress), legal counseling and referral and liberation courses on legal skills.

We would like to expand to actually provide legal services (representation in court) for women, but probably won't be able to do so until we get funding, for which WLDF is in the process of applying. A legal counseling committee meeting was held Tuesday, June 6 and we decided to start work on three counseling programs.

Sharyn Campbell is organizing counseling on sex discrimination in mortgages, credit cards, loans- call her if you want to work on the project or to tell her your own experiences with local banks, credit institutions, home & car buying, etc. or to get counseling before the Women's Center opens at (w) 755-1374, (h) 785-5128.

Elinor Bachrach is talking about organizing employment discrimination counseling or a speaking program on that subject. Call her if you would like to be trained as a counselor or speaker at (w) 225-6306, (h) 338-0083.

Candy Cohen is working with Pat Williams, Ann Freedman, Jackie Williams and Judy Potter to design a training course in domestic relations counseling. They hope also to develop a list of good inexpensive lawyers to whom we can refer women, and to learn when to help women help themselves. If you're interested in being a counselor, call Candy at (w) 387-2500, (h) 232-1396.

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Advocate Office, on the 3rd floor of 714-21st St. N.W. to talk about how this legal counseling committee should be formally integrated into the WLDF structure. WLDF also plans to have a general membership meeting to publicize the legal counseling project, recruit more of its members to work on it, and to raise enthusiasm and money for the Women's Center. The legal counseling committee hopes WLDF will be able to pay at least \$25.00 a month rent to the Center and raise that figure once we can collect contributions from clients.

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CRISIS CENTER See attached announcement!

Things are moving along rapidly with lots of requests from the media for further coverage. We need donations of sheets, pillows and blankets for the donated mattresses.

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"POLITICS OF RAPE: NEEDS OF A WOMEN'S CENTER" (Fund-raiser for ♀ Center)

Thursday, June 29 at 8:00 pm, Quaker House, 2121 Decatur Place, N.W. \$1.00 donation

----- spread the word -----

Anyone interested in doing publicity for this program call Billie at 965-3573.

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SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES

We have a fairly permanent place. Classes start Monday, June 12 at All Souls Church, 16th & Harvard Sts., N.W. 6-8:00 pm.

PLEA FROM MARIE.....

HELP! HELP! The mailing list is now over 300 women and keeps growing. But a lot of you have moved in the past month and left no forwarding address. Please call or write Marie Koury, 1916 North Wayne Street, Arlington, Va. 22201 phone: 522-3497 and give me address changes and new phones!

DEATH OF THE WOMEN'S PHONE or ARE WE JUST KIDDING OURSELVES?

Maybe it's because it's a lonely place to go, or maybe it's because it's isolated, or maybe women don't care? We've been asking ourselves these questions for the past 2 months as we repeatedly begged for help staffing the women's phone. What does this mean when we have a Center? Will anybody be there to run the office? Or will it be different? We hope the latter, but it's something to think hard about. Can we depend on volunteers to staff the office?

FEMINIST COUNSELING COLLECTIVE

The collective realizes the importance of outreach in the Women's Movement, and is working on more effective methods of communication, whether it be on a one-to-one basis or in a rap group. At present the goals of the collective include research on resources for women in emergency situations, and how the collective will function as part of the Center. Interested in any of the aspects of feminist counseling? Call Evelyn at 522-3497 or Linda at 585-7326.

HOUSING & FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 14, at 8:00 pm

A PLACE FOR ♀ CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Brookmont Baptist Church is available, free of charge, for us to use for special activities like retreats, picnics, meetings, etc. That is, anything we'd like to do in peaceful, woodsy surroundings for a change. Oh, also women's dances! And, a room of our own to use as an office. But we haven't given Bill McLeod, the pastor, a definite "yes" to the office yet since we'd like more

woman to go see the place as an indication of our interest (since it is free) and to give us their opinions on using the Church for their activities. If you'd like to go see it (and please do) here are the directions to it:

Go out MacArthur Blvd., bear left onto Foxhall Rd., go past map station and turn left into small road between 2 pillars, go 2 blocks, turn right and Brookmont Church is on a corner on the left.

Date & Time to go: Sunday, June 11th at 12:30

NEXT NEWS-FILLED NEWSLETTER! Y'ALL COME! BRING SOME BEER or something?

Putting out a Newsletter is really a shitload of work, but it can be fun! Bring something to eat and drink and join Vance and Marie at People's Union, 2130 G Street, N.W. (G.W.U. Campus) Tuesday, June 20th, from 1-6:00 p.m.

THERE'S LOTS OF ~~+\$4\*50~~ (\*50+!\$ TYPING TO DO and you could even learn to run a mimeograph machine (easy, and good to know) Also collating, stapling, mailing....

Project Groups and interested individuals, bring project reports, announcements, good jokes, etc. with you. But if you can't make it (boo) call them in to Vance at 223-3252 or Marie at 522-3497.

#### F A N T A S T I C F E M I N I S T Q U O T E

"Every woman is capable of taking some control of her life by saying no"

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It is free (etc)  
If you  
know it  
will be  
open

The Rape Counselling Center will open on June 1. The phone will be in operation 24-hours daily; the number is 333-RAPE. Women who have been raped or attacked will be referred to discussion groups, where they can talk out their experience.

We also hope to provide escorts for women who have been raped. If a woman calls us after she has been raped, and needs transportation to the hospital or the Center we would like to be able to help. We have very few cars among women in the collective, and we feel that asking a woman to take a cab can only increase her alienation and aloneness. If you have a car and would be willing to help provide transportation occasionally could you please call Karen Kollias at 965-3573 or Liz O'Sullivan at 234-5354. (We hope that we will be able to reimburse women for gas, but we can't promise this at the present time).

Also, if you know of anyone who has beds or mattresses they want to give away, please let us know. We want to provide temporary housing for women at the Center who would otherwise have to stay alone during the crisis period. We also need mattresses, mats, and bar-bells for self-defense.

We also have women available who will speak or give rape conferences for a fee. If you know any groups that would be interested, please pass that information along.

Yours in Sisterhood,

The Rape Counselling and  
Education Collective

Washington Area  
Women's Center, Inc.  
P.O. Box 13098  
T Street Station  
Washington, D.C. 20009

### GOALS OF THE REGULATIONS