

# WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER NEWSLETTER

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 "Gertrude Stein's Gertrude Stein" w/ Nancy Cole, a 1-woman show. 8:30. Post Hall, Mt. Vernon College Foxhall Rd. & W NW April 1-5	1 Casse Culver, Writing On U. of Md. 8-12 pm.	2 Sweet Alliance at Club Madame 9 PM	3 Sweet Alliance at Club Madame 9 PM	4 Alix Dobkin All Souls Church 8 PM	5
6	7 Assertive Training Program begins... for info, call 686-2521	8 9	10 Sweet Alliance at Club Madame 9 PM	11 Berkeley & Music Collective St. Marks Church 8 PM	12 Lesbian Sexuality Workshops at the D.C. Free Clinic	
13	14	15	16	17 Willie Sweet Alliance at Club Madame 9 PM	18 Willie Tyson & "Bless These Women", a feminist theater troupe. 8:30 Hand Chapel, WAFT Workshop registration 1 pm Hand Chapel Mt. Vernon College N.Y.C. Temporary Dance Theater. 8:30 Hand Chapel.	19 Capitol Hill NOW all day course, plumbing, elect, carpentry \$10 call 488-1914
20	21 Writing On & Friends. 8:30 Hand Chapel	22 Writing On & Friends. 8:30 Hand Chapel	23	24 Casse Sweet Alliance at Club Madame 9 PM	25	26
27 Katherine Ann Porter 7:30 Hand Chapel	28	29	30 Maryland Dance Theater 8pm Hand Chapel	Deadline for this calendar is the 21st of each month.		

## An obituary..

In August, 1974, the Washington Area Women's Center on R Street died. In many ways, however, the Center had been a success. It provided thousands of women information, services and support. A lot of time, money, and energy was invested in the building and the programs. From the start, the building was pretty much a lost cause. By the end, the programs were lost too. Why? The reasons are complicated, so complicated that it's not possible to go into great detail here. Very simply, a big reason for the failure of the Center can be found in its success. The Women's Center gave a lot to Washington and asked little, if anything, in return. The Center and all the women involved with it were sucked dry.

Much can be learned from retrospection and all perspectives must be shared before the ghost of the R Street Women's Center can be put to rest and the new Center live happily ever after. It is clear that the troubles of the mother should not be visited upon the daughter. A new beginning is a rare opportunity not to be ignored.

## ...and a birth announcement

The Women's Center on 18th Street opened its doors in January. Located in the store front, the Adams-Morgan Women's Employment Center(AMWEC) began its difficult task of finding unskilled and semi-skilled women jobs in the face of the present 'recession'. The building was still being cleaned, painted and

altered, but everyone survived the confusion.

Two months later, the Center is a bit less chaotic and a lot more in use. The D.C. chapter of the National Black Feminist Organization (NBFO) just opened its office on the third floor, joining the Washington Area Feminist Federal Credit Union (WAFFCU) which opened in February. Together NBFO, AMWEC, WAFFCU and the Center itself are meeting the needs of a wider spectrum of women than ever before.

The Feminist Counselling Collective (FCC) uses the building for several of its groups and a number of the classes and CR groups organized by the Center meet here on a regular basis. At this time, the building is not being used as much as it could be and should be. Members are encouraged to take advantage of the building and its facilities.

At least once a month the Center has sponsored an event. So far, we've shown Kate Millett's film Three Lives; sponsored a concert by Lou Crimmons, a feminist musician from Boston; and held a very successful women's activity and organization fair. April 4, Alix Dobkin of Lavender Jane Loves Women will be doing a concert for us at All Soul's Church.

Finally, in addition to acting as a communications clearinghouse for everything anyone needs to know about women in D.C., we've created the city-wide calendar you see at the top of the page for all groups and individuals to use. We could be doing more and we will before long. We just don't want to bite off more than we can chew. If you have the time, we have the project. Come on in!

## FINANCES!?

In the past, the financial situation of the Center was the topic of much discussion. It always seemed that the Center was on the brink of financial collapse. That brink is still within eyeshot, but falling off is not an immediate danger. We now know clearly how much we have, where we have it, where it's going and where it's coming from. The monthly financial breakdown is roughly:

Expenses	Income
Rent.....	\$500.00 Rent.....
Gas.....	110.00 AMWEC.. \$200.00
Electricity...	35.00 WAFFCU 50.00
Phone.....	35.00 NBFO... 50.00
Salary.....	435.00 FCC... 50.00
Consultants...	125.00 Electricity & 15.00
Odd expenses...	40.00 Gas (AMWEC) 40.00
Total	\$1270.00 Memberships... 425.00
	Contributions. 200.00
	Total 1030.00

The disparity between what comes in and what goes out is covered by what we have left from the Meyer Foundation grant of a year ago which is about \$2000.00. The small fundraisers have not been as successful as we'd hoped, but beginning with the Alix Dobkin concert we'll begin to break even every month. We are working on getting a new grant and are optimistic about the future. After all, we signed a two year lease and are bound and determined to be here to see the lease run out.

## WAFFCU

Opened since February 15, 1975, the Washington Area Feminist Federal Credit Union (WAFFCU) is a growing feminist economic alternative for women in the metropolitan area. WAFFCU is the result of growing awareness and politico-economic consciousness to fight discrimination against women seeking credit, loans and bank financing for business and personal reasons. We are an important segment in the economic life of any community and WAFFCU was founded and works toward creating and improving viable economic alternatives for women. The National Black Feminist Organization (NBFO), the National Organization for Women (NOW), and the Washington Area Women's Center, the sponsoring organizations of WAFFCU, formed a coalition to answer the questions Why there is a need for WAFFCU and what it can mean in fighting discrimination against women desiring savings and loan opportunities.

WAFFCU does not adhere to the adage, 'If you can't fight 'em, join 'em'; rather WAFFCU purports to slash away at the myriad structure of red tape and discrimination and bring some clout to our fight for economic independence and re-ordering the previously recognized second-class solvency of women.

The income of women is counted in the total household income, but blatantly excluded when determining the credibility for credit. Single women are excluded from a great many advantages available from banking institutions. In some instances, businesswomen don't have the opportunity to stay in business. WAFFCU hopes to change all that by helping women put their money where they are-economic independence for themselves and their sisters.

We are co-located with the Women's Center at 2452 18th Street, N.W. The phone number is 332-1132. Our

## announcements, etc.

**SOFTBALL!!!!** The Center is going to sponsor a city league team this summer. If you'd like to play (or coach) call Susan at the Center for more info. You recreational softball players don't despair...there will be Sunday afternoon softball, too.

The library wants more books and magazines. Before you give Goodwill your old volumes, bring them to the Center for recycling.

The Washington Women's Art Center is opening soon at 1821 Q St. NW.

You can still play VOLLEYBALL or BASKETBALL every Monday night at Cardozo H.S. (13th & Florida NW) from 6 to 8 pm. Swim too!!

**THE FURIES.** Believe it or not we have a few issues for sale at the Center in mint condition.

Men's CR Groups... Call Ken at 628-2234, Bill at 232-6559 or Doug at 667-8663.

1975 Conference on Women and Health is in Boston April 4-7. Call the Center for info.

**THE BERKELEY WOMEN'S MUSIC COLLECTIVE** is playing at St. Marks Church (3rd & A SE) Friday April 11 at 8 pm. Brought to you by Athena Productions and the Women's Coffeehouse-Bookshop of Wash. You'll be sorry if you miss them...

Remember Lavender Jane!

# ALIX DOBKIN

hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Call or drop by for information; fill out our membership card and open an account. Put your money where your movement is ... the Washington Area Feminist Federal Credit Union. If you're interested and energized to work, call Claudette at 332-1132 Monday or Tuesday after 5:00 p.m. or leave a message.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR OF 1974

### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

#### Income:

Grants		
Meyer Foundation	\$ 10,000.00	
Pepco	6,191.00	
Contributions	5,511.90	
Interest	33.63	
Membership	2.40	
	\$ 21,738.93	

#### Expenses:

Rent	\$ 3,265.00
Utilities	980.46
Telephone	2,306.04
Printing	281.22
Postage	159.55
Building Maintenance	460.19
Office Supplies	313.54
Salaries	10,403.75
Consultants	1,659.00
Books and Publications	9.50
Office Equipment	781.70
Project Group Supplies	230.95
Fund Raising	19.00
FICA Expense	405.00
D.C. Unemployment Taxes	144.89
Miscellaneous	70.83
	\$ 21,490.72

Excess of Income over Expenses

\$ 248.21

WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S  
CENTER INC

2452 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009  
Telephone: 202-232-5145



WAFT is sponsoring a series of programs this month called

Women in the Performing Arts.

Most events are in the Hand

Chapel at Mt. Vernon College

located at Foxhall Rd. & W NW.

See the Calender for dates.

ATTENTION ARTISTS, SCULPTORS, FILMMAKERS, POETS, WRITERS, ETC. The Women's Center is planning a Media Festival for June 6-7. If you'd like to read, show, or present your work, contact the Center!

Many thanks to Carol Edelson without whose help on this newsletter I'd have had a nervous breakdown...