

IN OUR OWN WRITE

a monthly newsletter by the
WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER

1825 18th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009 (202)347-5078
SEPTEMBER 1979 Issue

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“THE DANCE”

If holding a dance in a big fancy hotel means we've arrived, then we've arrived. But more importantly, if providing a warm, women-oriented space for the thousands of women coming to Washington for the October March means we've arrived, then we really have arrived. We at the Women's Center realized that very little had been planned around the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights that was expressly directed towards women. A dance, a BIG DANCE, seemed to be a good way for a large group of women to gather together, meet each other, and stockpile their energies for the next day's March.

Have you ever tried to plan a dance for over a thousand women? We were faced with hard political choices. None of our traditional dance "palaces" (i.e., All Souls Church, First Congregational Church, G.W. University) would hold more than a few hundred women and/or were already booked for that night. That left the hotels. The Women's Center is concerned about the problems of women and alcohol, but the way that hotels make their money on dances is through their bar sales, not through their rental fees. Males staff these bars. So here was our situation: we either have the dance in a hotel, or we don't have the dance.

We are having "The Dance." On Saturday night, October 13th, from 9 to 1 A.M., the Women's Center will be holding a benefit dance at the Shoreham-Americana Hotel, 2500 Calvert Road, N.W., in the spacious Blue Room. Tickets will be sold through the mails and also at Lamma's Bookstore. Center members who buy their tickets in advance will pay \$5.00 per ticket; non-members \$6.00. If you wait to buy one of the very, very few tickets that will be sold at the door, it will cost \$7.00 for members and non-members alike. The space we have rented will accommodate 1,000 dancing women and no more. We suggest that you buy your tickets for yourself and your out-of-town guests as soon as possible as we cannot sell more than the room will safely hold. Information on the dance will be publicized nationally along with the March. Dress will be whatever strikes your fancy, and an over-priced cash bar will be available.

(Cont'd. on P. 3)

WOMEN'S NITE OUT

The Grand re-opening of WOMEN'S NITE OUT will take place on Saturday night, September 8th, at the First Congregational Church from 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The church is conveniently located at 10th and G Sts., N.W., and is accessible from the Metro Center subway stop. Parking for cars is also close and accessible. Admission for WOMEN'S NITE OUT will be \$2.00 for members, \$3.00 for non-members, and children are free. (If you are not a Center member, but have been considering joining, now would be a fine time. Membership information will be available at Women's Nite Out.)

In planning for our WOMEN'S NITE OUT, we have built upon our past experience at the old Women's Center space and from the knowledge the Rising Women Coffeehouse Collective have shared with us. We wanted a space large enough to accommodate a large number of women and children, easily reached by bus and Metro, equipped with kitchen facilities and, very importantly, wheelchair accessible. With your help we feel we can transform the 1st Congregational space into the friendly, magical air of previous WOMEN'S NITE OUTS and the original Rising Women Coffeehouse.

The evenings will be filled with talking, game playing (a variety of board-type games will be available), and, of course, entertainment. Free munchies will abound, and non-alcoholic beverages and non-junk food snacks will be available at nominal prices. The doors will open at 7:00 p.m. with performer sets at 8:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S NITE OUT SCHEDULE

September 8.... Cheryl Jacobs and Wendy Stevens
22.... Carol Anne Douglas and Susan Wood-Thompson

October 6... Hilary Morgan

Opening our WOMEN'S NITE OUT schedule on Sept. 8th, will be two performers from past events, Cheryl Jacobs and Wendy Stevens. Cheryl performed at the Extravaganza last winter and is well known for her powerhouse blues style. She has performed at D.C. Gay Pride Day, Tess's and Food For Thought. Wendy Stevens returns to

.. (Cont'd. on P. 7)

NO "DINNER PARTY"?

Will Washington women be denied the opportunity to see and marvel at Judy Chicago's monumental art sculpture, "The Dinner Party"? It is a work which took the combined talents of more than 300 artists, five years in the making, and \$750,000 to produce. The huge triangular banquet table, 39 china-painted plates, place settings, elaborately embroidered and designed runners, plus the "Heritage Floor" made up of 2,300 hand-made porcelain tiles commemorating 999 women throughout all time and countries -- all this sits hidden away in crates in a warehouse, at a cost of \$1,000 a month in storage fees and insurance. "The Dinner Party" is a "symbolic history of women's struggles," and the art itself may well set off power struggles in communities all over the country between the powers that control museum and exhibition space, and the people who want and need to set this work in all its beauty and power.

100,000 people waited in record-breaking lines to see "The Dinner Party" when it opened at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art last March. On August 8th, Judy Chicago gave a sold-out slide-illustrated lecture on what the Washington Post called her "controversial paintings on china plates." She also told the audience about several refusals by museums to show her work. The Whitney Museum told her that "it doesn't show political art." The Rochester Art Museum was supposed to show it but backed out of their commitment, citing "irreconcilable differences with Judy Chicago." Chicago has stressed to the museum directors that she wants the community involved in the showing of "The Dinner Party," and suggests holding a seminar about the artwork like the one held in San Francisco.

Here in Washington, the Hirshhorn Museum turned down "The Dinner Party," stating that there was a "lack of sufficient interest" on the part of the museum's directors. The Corcoran would dearly love to have the honor of showing the huge piece, but doesn't have enough gallery space to display it. The National Gallery's East Wing never exhibits the work of living artists, and it is very doubtful that Judy Chicago will fulfill this restriction just to

get them to show the sculpture. Finally, the historic Pension Building has been tentively offered as a last resort, but the roof leaks when it rains, making it unlikely that anyone would risk ruining this important art work. If you think that this sounds like a bad and stupid situation, you're absolutely right. I personally wonder if what's scaring the Hirshhorn people is not so much the sexual imagery of the sculpture or even their expressed fear of "lack of interest," but simply their terror that people--especially women--will come in droves and crowds such as the Hirshhorn has seldom seen for any of their highly touted exhibits of male sculptors.

Well, the Washington Women's Art Center, which some good women continually get confused with the Washington Area Women's Center, is heading efforts to make sure that "The Dinner Party" does get shown here in D.C. Joan Mister of the WWAC is coordinating the drive. Leaflets were passed out at the

Smithsonian announcing a meeting on August 24th at WWAC to discuss strategies and tactics we can all use to find space and raise the funds needed to bring "The Dinner Party" here. By the time you read this, that meeting will have already taken place, but if you want to get involved, call Joan Mister at the WWAC, phone 332-2121 for information and an up-date.

This is a breathtaking work of art. I was moved to tears at how important the lives and struggles of the historical women were to Judy Chicago and her co-workers, and at the overwhelming beauty with which the lives of the women were incorporated into the runners, plates and floor tiles. This work is a crucial breakthrough in women's reclaiming our herstory. We need to make sure that "The Dinner Party" is experienced by as many women as possible. If we don't fight to get this work shown here, it is our own very great loss.

Judith Schwarz

S.A.F.E.

In Campbell-v-Fojtik, a 1.5 million dollar damage suit filed in Federal District Court in Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Jefferie Campbell alleges that his wife, Willie, and their seven children were held against their will at S.A.F.E. House, a refuge and shelter for battered women located outside of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mr. Campbell claims that he was deprived of his constitutional rights of life, liberty and property and as a result he was damaged in the sum of 1.5 million dollars.

Although Mrs. Campbell states in sworn affidavits that she was not held against her will and sought the safety of a shelter for battered women out of fear of future assaults, she has returned to Mr. Campbell and they are living together. The implications for the defense should be clear.

The suit is scheduled to go to trial in January of 1980. Although the motions to dismiss were denied by Judge Phillip Pratt, of Federal District Court, and a request by Mr. Ray Mullins, Mr. Campbell's attorney, to settle out of court for 10,000 dollars has been denied, this case remains complicated and a long battle is ahead. Therefore, THE SAFE HOUSE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND has been established to raise the funds necessary to prepare this case for trial. The firm of O'Brien, Morgan, and Dimond has been retained; however, the high caliber of legal counsel needed to defend such a complicated case in Federal District Court is expensive. The Legal Defense Fund has established as its goal the amount of \$20,000 to be raised before January of 1980. Checks can be made out to The Domestic Violence Project Defense Fund and mailed to 202 East Huron St., Suite 101, Ann Arbor, Mich., 48104. Phone: (313) 995-5460.

ALL GOOD THINGS...

Dear Sisters,

I have been running a women's open house in my home once a month for about the last 14 months. It has been a fine experience for me and, I hope, for the many women who have attended it. However, at the last few meetings of the open house there has been a falling off in attendance. This situation, added to my own personal commitments has brought me to the decision to close my open house as of its last meeting in August. I feel that with the increase in the number of activities designed for women in the Washington area the need for my own open house has diminished.

My sincere thanks go to all the women who have been a part of the open house, and I hope that the energy that kept it going will be redirected to supporting the new projects springing up all around the area.

Sincerely,
Judy Reagan

WORKIN' WOMEN

A "Fresh Connection" is coming to the Metropolitan D.C. area, and women from Washington, Maryland and Virginia are pooling their energy to help other women plug into it.

The connection is "Workin' Women", a fledgling telephone referral service aimed at establishing a directory of women with skills to market.

"We're presently in the process of building up our resource/referral listing," says Sherry-Lynne, founder of Workin' Women. We want to be able to put women with services to offer in touch with women who need those services. Women in support of women is our guiding theme."

She continued, "We want to be able to offer a broad scope of skills to consumers. The demand is there. We've had numerous requests for women plumbers, electricians, and mechanics. And those are the resources we especially need to tap into."

Workin' Women is not an employment agency. It primarily functions as a clearinghouse for women's creativity, talent and expertise. Any woman who is self-employed, owns her own business, works on commission, or free lances, is eligible to be listed.

"The idea is to give any woman the opportunity to be employed," reports Sherry-Lynne.

Referral services cost nothing; those wishing to list their skills with Workin' Women are requested to make a \$10 contribution for six months of listing, but special arrangements can be made. If finances are a problem, Workin' Women also promotes bartering of skill-trading.

Anyone wishing to contact Workin' Women to put their name on the referral list or to contact a woman to do a particular job, may do so by calling 530-2757. Workin' Women also has speakers available for groups or organizations desiring more information about the service.

A CHILD'S RIGHT

Richmond area women's groups, child rights advocates, gay civil rights organizations, and the A.C.L.U. of Va. are working together to raise funds for "A Child's Right to a Fit Parent". The potentially precedent-setting ACLU "Jack Doe" case now before the Va. Supreme Court is the first such high court case to attempt to define the rights of the child who has been removed from a lesbian mother/gay father solely on the grounds of the parent's sexual orientation.

In the Doe case, the judge granted the adoption of Jack to his father and his father's new wife, which denies Jane and her son any possibility of maintaining their close relationship through visiting, vacations, or holidays. Without hearing any evidence that Jane is in any way an unfit mother, but admittedly on his disapproval of her lifestyle, the judge has banned the mother and son from seeing each other for 11 years, until Jack has reached 18. Jack lived with his mother until last year when his father, who had rarely visited with him, came to take Jack to dinner, and never returned with the child. After that the complete adoption was awarded to the father and his present wife.

To raise funds for this heart-broken mother, bereaved child, and their important case, and to provide in return an evening of enlightening and entertaining events, several Richmond groups join to invite you, your family and friends to the Richmond YWCA at 6 North 5th Street, at 7:00 pm on Saturday, September 29, 1979. -a press release

"THE DANCE" — TICKETS

Use the mail order form below to order your tickets. Check one of the following:

I am a member of the Washington Area Women's Center and would like tickets at \$5.00 each for the Oct. 13th dance at the Shoreham-Americana

I am not a member of the Washington Area Women's Center and would like tickets at \$6.00 each, for the Oct. 13th dance at the Shoreham-Americana.

Enclosed is (Make checks out to Washington Area Women's Center)

Send my ticket(s) to:

All advance ticket requests must be postmarked by September 30, 1979.)

MAIL TO: Washington Area Women's Center
"Tickets"
1825 18th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

update....

The Women's Center History Project consists of a small group of us who have been meeting on alternate Tuesday evenings in an attempt to preserve and learn more about local women's history. As our beginning tasks, we have been collecting and sorting through the center's scattered and incomplete office files; gathering together the WAWC newsletters and collections of tattered, yellowing early women's liberation, feminist and lesbian newspapers; and evaluating the best methods of preserving these documents. The oldest items are the newspapers: copies of RAT (New York) dating from April, 1969; It Ain't Me, Babe (Berkeley, CA) dating from May, 1970; and Ain't I A Woman? (Iowa City, Iowa) from November, 1970. The D.C. Women's Liberation Bulletin dates from April 6, 1970 through March, 1972, when the name was changed to the Washington Area Women's Center Bulletin. We were also sent a copy of Our Story, Herstory: A Working Paper on the D.C. Women's Liberation Movement, 1968-1971 by Charlotte Bunch who had helped compile the paper for a weekend retreat in 1971.

But the most interesting documents may well be the office files, notes of women's center collective meetings, and phone logs. These are the raw materials of our own history at a time of rapid change and high energies in our community. The earliest letter in our files is dated February 4, 1971--only eight and a half years old, yet it sounds like something out of our ancient past. The woman who wrote it for D.C. Women's Liberation (our forester group) described the group's structure weekend retreats, and speaker's bureau. Then she stated: "We organized about four years ago. We've had an office over two years, maybe almost three." She went on to say "Recently, women who had been in Gay Liberation here in Washington left that group . . . and have become active in WL. This has not been an easy transition for a lot of people, but it seems to be smoothing out, and we have a new realization of what sisterhood can mean." Another early letter came from a man who had heard a woman from DCWLM speak before his group. He wrote to ask: "How can I, a male, contribute to women's liberation?"

How many current members of the WAWC can remember when the women's center was located in a seventeen room, five bathroom, three story row house on R Street? Sophie's Parlor Coffeehouse, where Meg Christian performed, was located in the basement. The Rape Crisis Center, the Liberation School for Women, Feminist Counseling Collective, Legal Counseling Project, Health Project, and the Women's Phone (a hotline and referral phone) were all located under one roof. All this was ours in 1972. Does any current women's center member remember working on the Women's Center benefit which didn't happen--the one that was to be held in Cole Field House in 1972, (capacity 12,000), cost four dollars per ticket, and last two hours? We have found five pages of notes on the progress in contacting Jane Fonda, Joan Baez, Roberta Flack, Helen Reddy, and many other performers for the massive benefit. No penny-ante thinking in that early group of members! Why didn't it happen? Does anyone reading this know?

The History Project group is open to new members at all times. Please call Judith at 897-5897 or Susanna at 337-8447, or the Women's Center, for more information on time and place of the next meeting. If you have papers, photographs, minutes or notes of old meetings, or ancient newsletters from the Center's activities, we would be especially pleased to hear from you.

THE BATTLE RAGES ON.....

ERA has been before the VA General Assembly since 1973. The Senate defeated it by one vote in 1977 when Senator Canada (R-VA Beach) switched his position from pro to anti the day of the vote. Members of the House of Delegates however have never been able to vote on ERA. This is because the Privileges and Elections Committee, which considers proposed Constitutional Amendments, has refused to release ERA to the full floor. This is the only Constitutional Amendment in the history of the General Assembly that has not been to the floor for a vote. Clearly, the several years of lobbying by Virginians in support of ERA were not sufficient to convince our legislators that we were serious about this issue. Even the fact that 59% of Virginians support ERA was not considered conclusive evidence. It became apparent that ERA supporters needed to flex their political muscles.

1979 is also an election year, this time for all of Virginia's 100 delegates and 40 senators in the General Assembly. The candidates, and NOW are gearing up for the general election on November 6, 1979. Virginia NOW has established a political action committee (VA-PAC) in order to participate more actively in the election process on a state-wide basis. The purpose of the increased participation is to insure the ratification of ERA in VA before July 30, 1980, by electing pro-ERA candidates to the General Assembly. The PAC has ongoing projects around the state which identify and mobilize pro-ERA support. Many volunteers are needed to staff the phonebanks and to canvas door-to-door.

In addition to political activity, NOW will be organizing phonebank action teams in a number of districts throughout the state. The action teams will organize activities like letter-writing campaigns and lobby days. Constituents need to build a better rapport with their legislators to serve as a constant reminder that we and ERA will not go away.

Leslie Alden
VA State Legislative Coordinator
(published previously in Washington Equal Times NOW)

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Leslie Alden
VA State Legislative Coordinator
(published previously in Washington Equal Times NOW)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROADWORK & FRIENDS presents Sweet Honey in the Rock, a Sixth Anniversary Concert. This concert, of D.C.'s own Sweet Honey, will be held on October 19 at Howard University's Cramton Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. Tickets: General Admission is \$6.50. Reduced ticket prices are available for students. For further information on tickets, student tickets and child care, call Roadwork, 234-9308.

THE WASHINGTON WOMEN'S ART CENTER has an exhibit called "Clay and Line," which will run from September 11 through September 29. The opening of the exhibit is to be held on Sept. 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and all are welcome.

REGISTRATION for workshops and classes in the arts held by the Washington Women's Art Center is scheduled for September 8th and 9th. For information on the courses, fees, etc., call the Washington Women's Art Center at 332-2121.

WOMANSPACE, the Women's Center of George Washington University, is having a Women's Outreach meeting on Monday, September 17. For more detailed information, call the Center weekdays at 676-7389, or call Cathy on weekends and evenings, at 920-9265.

LESBIAN RAP SESSIONS are held every Wednesday night, 7:30 at the Lesbian Health and Counseling Center. The rap sessions are community get-togethers. Topics are open. The LHCC is located at 1606-17th Street, N.W., Whitman-Walker Clinic (near Q St.). For information, call 332-5295 Wednesday nights, or just drop by.

RAPE CRISIS CENTER - Group session for victims of rape on Sept. 12 at 6-8 p.m. at All Souls Church. Entrance on Harvard St. at 16th St. Call 333-RAPE for further info.

BLUE COLLAR TRADESWOMEN (formerly Women Working in Construction) invites you to their first annual Picnic. It will be held at Rock Creek Park on Sunday, September 23, in Groves 9 (11-4 pm) and 7 (4-9 pm). Groves 7 and 9 are on Beach Drive north of Military Road. From 11 am to 4 pm there will be New Games led by Monica Fleischmann, a food party, and square dancing & country music, led by Carol Hausner (bring your instruments). From 4 to 9 pm, there will be sports - softball, volleyball, etc. - bring your equipment. For more info, call Terry at 927-8465 or Sue at 468-9329.

ABORTION RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF WOMEN'S LIBERATION is planning an Abortion Rights Action Week for October 22-29, 1979. For more information, or to help, contact ARM of Women's Liberation, 1212 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Wash., D.C. 544-1823.

N.O.W. CHAPTERS meeting times and dates:

Federal City N.O.W. - This month's meeting is September 9th at 8:00 p.m. Call 667-5307 for further info.

D.C. N.O.W. - Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at All Soul's Church - 16th and Harvard Sts. N.W. For further info call Kathy Jursik at 362-1484.

Capitol Hill N.O.W. - Meetings are held the first Sunday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at the Capitol Hill Hospital Conference Room. Call 363-1469 for more info.

NoVa N.O.W. - Northern Virginia N.O.W. - Due to Labor Day this month's meeting is on September 10th at 8 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fairfax. Meetings are usually held the first Monday of each month. For further info, call 524-1481.

N.O.W. CHAPTERS' EVENTS:

Blue Grass Party on Sept. 8 sponsored by Capitol Hill N.O.W. Call Carol at 360-6844 for further info.

Support Groups or Career Readiness Assistance

- Anyone interested, call Montgomery County Commission for Women at 279-8346 for their fall calendar.

NoVa N.O.W. Yard Sale/ Silent Auction and Crafts

- September 22, Saturday, at the Rock Springs Congregational Church, 1510 Little Falls Rd. (between Harrison and Old Dominion in Arl). For info call Bennie at 524 1481.

VA-ERA POLITICAL ACTION ALERT. Get in on the ERA action for the general Va. elections early -- volunteers are needed to staff phone banks in both the Northern VA and DC areas. The new DC headquarters is located near Union Station. Every "per-being" hour puts us closer to our goal. Contact Cornelia Schuler, 356-8096, or Pat Harley 751-8981, or Richel Lupkin, 979-7312.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO Women, Inc. will sponsor the first national scholarly research conference on Black Women, November 12-13, 1979, at the Shoreham-Americana Hotel in Washington, D.C. This conference, "Black Women: An Historical Perspective," will coincide with the National Council of Negro Women's 39th National Convention and the opening of the National Archives for Black Women's History and the Mary McLead Bethune Memorial Museum. Anyone interested in receiving additional information, or in attending the conference should call or write: Sheila Gardner, NCNW Research Conference, 1318 Vermont Ave.. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone 332-9202, or 443-6780.

CENTERNEWS

ART on the WALL

» featuring «
photography by

**DEBORAH
BECK**

exhibit will run from

Sept. 3 thru Sept. 28

viewing hours: 6-9 p.m.
mon.-thurs.

OPENING PARTY

Sun, Sept. 9-2 to 5 pm

SPONSORED BY AND HELD AT THE
WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER
1825 18th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009
phone: 347-5078



ART ON THE WALL

This month's artist, Deborah Beck, says of her art, "My decision to photograph the stairways and passages of Trinity College's main building was based on the need to explore my immediate surroundings. As I prowled about with a 4x5 view camera and a 2½x2½ camera, I was impressed by the oldness of the building and began imagining scenes of people interacting in times past. The stairways and passages are frozen in time reflecting the solitude of unpeopled space. Passages erect barriers for people passing through, just as people often construct barriers for themselves."

Please join us on Sunday, September 9, at 2:00 p.m. for an opening with the artist. Munchies and wine will be available. The exhibit will run for 4 weeks.

BACKPACKING

SEPTEMBER BACKPACKING WORKSHOP

Learn the basics of backpacking and hike in the company of women. Two classes (September 25 & 27) will cover the essentials: food, clothing, equipment, shelter, how to choose what to carry and how to pack it. That Saturday (September 29) we'll adventure into the woods for an overnight hike.

I'll be sharing what I "ken" about "co-existing with nature without leaving a trace," organizing and simplifying for life on the trail, efficient hiking techniques, etc. Hope you'll bring along cameras, harmonicas, field guides, kazooos and other instruments of pleasure, also your enthusiasm for life out-of-doors!

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP INFO:

Sept. 25 & 27	Classes	7-9 PM	
Sept. 29-30	Hike		\$12

OCTOBER ADVANCED HIKE

For those with backpacking experience (including the above workshop participants) I'll be coordinating a weekend hike in October. We'll organize over a potluck meeting on Tuesday, October 23 and backpack October 27-28.

OCTOBER HIKE (Note the new dates.)

Oct. 23	Mtg/Potluck	7 PM	
Oct. 27-28	Hike		\$5

Instructor: Nancy Landau, at 979-6398. For further info, call the Center, at 347-5078.

(Note: Nancy Landau is a graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School, in Lander, Wyoming, and has taught backpacking for three years at the University of Houston.)

and more centernews

WRITING WORKSHOPS

A day-long writing and criticism workshop for all women will take place Saturday, Sept. 15 from 10-5. Mab Segrest and Susan Wood-Thompson will offer sessions in story-telling, your choice of poetry or prose-writing (bring paper and pen), group criticism, and a discussion of critical theory and feminist aesthetics. In the criticism session we'll criticize either what you wrote earlier in the workshop, or another piece of your writing. If you think you may prefer the latter, bring several copies of one or two poems to a one-to-three page bit of prose (journal, letter, story, other). We'll break for lunch (you provide your own, which could be a meal in a nearby restaurant). The workshop cost of \$8 can be applied to the second workshop, which runs seven Wednesdays from Sept. 26 to Nov. 7, and costs \$40 (\$32 if you attend the first two meetings).

This second workshop will meet 7 to 9 pm and focus on traditional poetic structures, with participants writing at least four poems in such forms. Poems by Brooks, Clifton, Larkin, Plath, Rich, A. Walker, and others will serve as models of how women, including lesbian feminists, are adapting traditional structures in the creation of a new tradition of poetry by and for women.

Susan Wood-Thompson will offer the second workshop. She has studied, published, and taught creative writing extensively, and is for the first time trying to earn her living solely by teaching workshops and giving readings. Mab Segrest, who will co-facilitate the first workshop, has just earned her Ph.D. at Duke University and is an experienced teacher. Susan coordinated the workshops this June at WomanWrites: Southeastern Lesbian Conference on Writing, Printing and Publishing, and both women lead workshops there. Mab is a contributing editor for SINISTER WISDOM, and both women are in the FEMINARY collective.

RAP GROUP TOPICS

We invite you to join us in a rap group planning meeting on September 17 at 7:30 PM in the Women's Center Lounge. The planning meeting is an opportunity to make suggestions based on your own personal field of interest. We are looking for ideas to broaden and better focus our choice of topics for the coming months. Your experiences, suggestions and queries are invaluable.

WOMEN'S NITE OUT, cont.

read from her growing collection of short stories. A member of the Writing On Collective, she has published poems in the group's own publication, as well as in her own book, I AM NOT A CAREFUL POET.

On September 22nd, Carol Anne Douglas and Susan Wood-Thompson will be reading from their soon to be published books. Carol Anne is a repeat performer and has already published in her own book, LOVING WOMEN IS DANGEROUS. Susan Wood-Thompson has recently come to D.C. from North Carolina where she was active in the publication of FEMINARY, a feminist journal. Susan is offering a course on writing poetry through the Women's Center. She will be reading poems from her forthcoming book.

October 6th will bring us a lesbian-feminist singer/songwriter from New York city. Hilary Morgan is a blossoming talent who has played on bills with Meg Christian and Gwen Avery. She is very excited at the prospect of sharing her music with a D.C. area audience.

Womanpower is needed to make WOMEN'S NITE OUT happen. We need help in coordinating public relations, setting up, food, sound, music and literature on an alternating basis with the women who are already working. We are willing to arrange work exchange for the first event if you can contact us by September 6th:

Set up/Clean up: call Alene at 931-1109
Bringing/Selling food: call Cheryl at 234-5846 after 8 pm
Sound/Entertaining: Judy Reagan at 522-0493

All others: call the Center and leave your name and number.

We sincerely hope we'll see you September 8th.

September 3	Holiday - No Rap Group
September 10	<u>National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights - Views From Houston - See article</u>
September 17	<u>Planning Meeting</u>
September 24	<u>Women's Music: What is it & Where is it Going?</u> Come to discuss and/or bring your instrument and a song to share.

ENGLISH BASEMENT APARTMENT FOR RENT. Located in house in Mt. Pleasant area. \$170 per month. Contact Donna at 234-3414.

HOUSING WANTED October 1: 2 women looking for 2-bedroom apartment (preferably in house) in northeast DC or neighboring MD, convenient to metro. Yard, porch, and neighborhood setting preferred. Call Winnie, 927-8835 or 265-9500, ext. 211; Jean, 462-1906.

* * * * *



Want to save \$149? The Women's Center has a used chair exactly like the one pictured that we are GIVING AWAY!! Interested? Call the Center M-Th 6-9 pm or call Sandy or Angie at 521-3199 (no gimmick - we are rearranging our space and the chair is simply too big.)

* * * * *

SPORTS

After a long, hard season, the Women's Center Softball Team came in second place in our league. Because of the way the tournament games are held, we were able to play in the tournament as well, but lost our first game and were therefore eliminated in the first round. Congratulations to the team for placing second and good luck next year!

IN OUR OWN WRITE is the monthly newsletter of the Washington Area Women's Center, 1825 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. The Women's Center does not necessarily support opinions expressed in articles, announcements, ads and inserts but the staff does reserve the right to refuse any items which are exploitive or demeaning to women. All items are subject to space limitations.

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This issue is brought to you by Angie, Chris, Jan, Clarice, Holly, Jane, Judy R., Judy S., Lynn and Sandy. Special thanks to Tina Lunson, The Printer for a job well done as usual.

WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER

Referrals:

Housing
Employment
Physicians
Therapists
Legal
Shelter

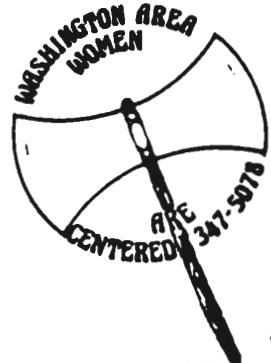
Library and periodicals
Dances and special Events
Rap Groups
Classes

Support Groups:

Music
Poetry and Fiction
General

Art-on-the-Wall
Women's Nite Out

IN OUR OWN WRITE, a monthly newsletter



DEADLINE FOR October - September 15

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