

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
Dec. 1979 Issue

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WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

The quest for women's history has led many women into a realm of knowledge which has been hidden from us for centuries. We now know that civilization itself began in matriarchal societies (Davis, 1971).

Further evidence from our past shows that goddess worship was our first religion (Davis, 1971; Graves, 1948). The goddess was worshipped for her life-giving powers (she is the "Great Mother") and she was associated with nature's cycles. Religious holidays focused upon the cycles of the seasons and the moon phases. The cyclical nature of woman, moon, seasons, life were key concepts in the "old religion".

With the advent of patriarchy, mythology was re-written to glorify gods, not goddesses. People were coerced into giving up worship of the goddess for the worship of new gods. They did not give up the old religion easily, however. Many times new gods were accepted only when their rituals were incorporated into goddess rituals.

One of the festivals associated with goddess worship was the Winter Solstice - the shortest day/longest night of the year - the beginning of winter, December 21st. The dark tide of night is at its deepest at this point in the earth's cycle, but from this point on, the day will lengthen and the goddess of light will grow in strength. The wheel of existence comes full circle once again. The death of winter is upon us, but not without the promise of the coming of life/spring. Winter Solstice was such an important holiday in the old religion that Hebraic tradition held Hanukkah celebrations and the Christian church fixed the nativity feast of Christ in the same season.

Many patriarchal traditions during this time of year were originally goddess-religion traditions. For example, mistletoe was originally a matriarchal symbol. It was a tree which was sacred to the Druids, Ireland's matriarchal forest and moon cult. The sticky juice of its berries was believed to give the gift of prophecy. Its branches were cut with a silver sickle by Druid priestesses in rituals beneath the moon (Graves, 1948).

The fir tree (possible predecessor to the Christmas tree) was sacred in Greece to Artemis the moon goddess, who presided over childbirth. "The silver fir has its station on the first day of the year... the day of the Winter Solstice" (Graves, 1948,p.193).

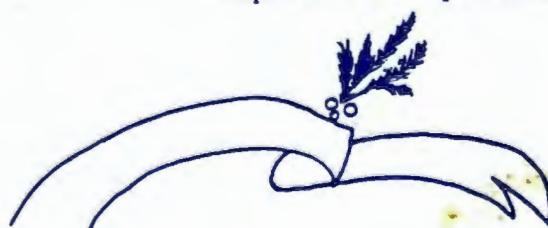
These are two examples of the links which exist between present religious customs and goddess-worship. Today, many women are abandoning the oppression of patriarchal religion and are returning to the original nature-religion in an effort to symbolically re-link themselves with the life-force of the feminine principle. With the resurgence of feminism has come the understanding that woman is a life-force in a culture that is heading for death and ecological destruction. Thus feminist communities across the country are incorporating a new spirituality into their lives (Quest, spring 1975). On Winter Solstice, those women will re-enact old rituals and create new ones in celebration of the longest night. As Jean, a member of the Aurora women's community said to me, "Solstice is the apex of cosmic forces" and the sharing of energy by women on that night has affected women throughout the year.

With our re-discovery of matriarchal religion, perhaps we have found a symbolic representation of our spiritual lives which coincides with our political struggle for liberation. As we reject patriarchal modes of economic and social organization, so too, can we reject patriarchal definitions of our spirituality. Tapping into our shared well-springs of spiritual energy past and present, perhaps we can find renewed strength for feminism in our lifetime.

Toni White

(References: Davis, Elizabeth Gould, The First Sex, N.Y. 1971; Graves, Robert, The White Goddess, N.Y. 1948; Woman-spirit magazine, Wolf Creek, Oregon, 1974; Quest: A Feminist Quarterly, "Women and Spirituality", Balt., MD 1975.)

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THE CLOSING OF TESS'S

On Thursday, November 8th, Tess's, the first women's bar in NW Washington, was closed permanently by its owners. Tess's was located in the basement of the Here and Now Restaurant, at 20th and S Sts. It was a small but friendly bar that provided the Washington lesbian community with a comfortable space to relax, talk and listen to music by local women artists. In its seven months of existence, Tess's gained an increasing number of customers. On Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, the crowd at the bar almost always overflowed. In losing Tess's, the Washington lesbian community has lost a unique social gathering place. It is essential not to simply mourn the closing of Tess's, but to understand the cause of its demise, and to use that knowledge constructively to create a new women's bar.

Tess's was owned by the Here and Now who employed bartenders from the women's community. While no contractual agreement to lease the space was ever signed, the women who operated the bar promised the owners, Warren and Peggy, that if any problems developed they would be willing to try to resolve them. Yet, according to Lis Cox, a bartender at Tess's and instrumental in starting the bar, virtually no communication between the owners and the women employees of Tess's ever took place.

Three weeks before the closing of the bar, Peggy told Lis that she had determined that Tess's was losing money. This seemed false to Lis. Not only had Tess's amassed abundant profits on its opening day (when 1000 women showed up), on Gay Pride Day, during the weekend of the National Lesbian and Gay March, on Thursdays, and on weekends, but it also usually had more customers than did the Here and Now Restaurant. Peggy and Lis discussed options for improving Tess's profits, including closing the bar on slow evenings. At that time, Peggy gave no hint that the bar might be closed permanently.

The bombshell fell on November 7th. That evening, two men came to Tess's. (Tess's had no policy against serving men, but if men took up too much space they were usually verbally hassled by the customers.) The men were served but were verbally harassed by other customers. They returned to the Here and Now where they complained to Warren. Warren, incensed, called Ellie (the bartender that evening) saying, "tomorrow is the last night the bar will open." This upset the bar's customers who proceeded to write on the walls in chalk (comments included, "Fuck Warren," and "Women have been passive too long."). The women also created a minor disruption though no permanent damage was caused.

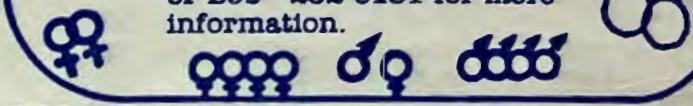
The next morning, when Lis Cox, Warren and Peggy met, Warren refused all offers to arbitrate the problem. "I don't want to serve those animals. You're all animals. The bar won't open tonight." he maintained. Lis returned later with a proposal to lease the bar. Warren refused to listen, repeating his earlier comments.

Tess's customers met November 8th to discuss the closing. That meeting again roused Warren's anger: posters announcing the meeting were torn from the door of Tess's and the police were called. The meeting took place in spite of these harassments. A large number of women discussed possible responses to Warren, as well as ideas for a new women's bar in NW Washington. Committees were formed to investigate sites for a bar, to contact women who might be interested in owning the bar, and to explore the legal

THE MARCH IS OVER, NOW WHAT?

JOIN P.A.P.

The police awareness project is an ad-hoc community group made up of lesbians and gay men interested in ending discrimination within the DC Police Department. Police Chief Jefferson has agreed to have the P.A.P. present awareness training on gay rights to all officers in the District of Columbia. We are looking for volunteers to help give presentations, and to help coordinate the training. If you're interested, please attend our next meeting December 18 at the Gay Community Center, 1469 Church Street, N.W. at 7:30 p.m. or call Janice—533-7659 or Bob—232-6131 for more information.



implications of forming a corporation, a club, and other structures. Many women at the meeting offered their time and skills to work on the project. Everyone thought that a bar like Tess's is definitely needed in NW Washington. A women's bar would almost certainly be a financial success if run by women sensitive to the community's needs. Most importantly, incidents like the closing of Tess's can only be prevented if the bar is owned and run by women.

The women who attended the meeting proposed that a boycott of the Here and Now be called to protest Warren's actions. About 30 women leafleted in front of the restaurant Friday and Saturday nights informing potential customers of the boycott. Gay or straight, female or male, all who wish to protest the closing can honor the boycott.

Tess's was more than the first women's bar in NW Washington. Tess's fulfilled a social need for the entire Washington lesbian population. In many ways it exemplified community; it provided a comfortable space to get to know new women, and it brought together the disparate elements of D.C.'s feminist/lesbian community. Tess's will be sorely missed. But the words inscribed on the walls of Tess's: "Women have been passive too long," should inspire us to create a better, permanent women's bar in NW Washington. If you wish to invest in such a bar, know of some possible buildings where the bar could be located, have legal, accounting or management experience, or have time to work on this project, you can help to make this new bar a reality. If you can offer assistance call Vivienne, Sandy, Nilda or Becky at 232-0829.

-Lynne G.

ACES NEEDED

The Women's Center History Project is interested in expanding its collection of written and oral materials to include images of the countless women whose energies created the lesbian and women's community/movement in D.C. The collection of photographs, which is expected to range from 8x10 glossies to instamatic prints and slides, will represent the feminist movement and the lesbian community and will be accessible to women only. But we need your help! Donate photographs, slides or negatives of yourselves, your womenfriends, lovers, co-collective members, groups, parties, meetings, workshops... We know the energy that women together can generate- let's preserve the images of that power and strength reflected in our own faces.

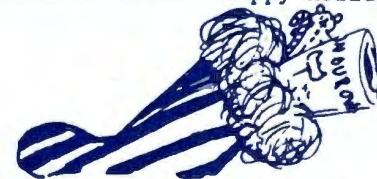
Women interested in donating any prints, slides or negatives are asked to drop them by the Women's Center with their name and phone# or call Beth Karbe, 836-2959 (early a.m. or dinner time is best). We are not looking for technically perfect or artistic photographs, only the representation of the energy that women together creates.



The National Women's Health Network was initially conceived in the fall of 1974 by two feminists, Belita Cowan and Barbara Seaman, who envisioned the day when the Women's Health Movement would have a full-fledged lobby in Washington, D.C. They were joined later that year by Alice Wolfson, and Phyllis Chesler. The years that followed brought more focus, new issues and more input as the group grew. From all this powerful woman-energy was born the Women's Health Lobby, later to evolve into the National Women's Health Network in 1976. The Network is credited with the testimony at U.S. Senate and House hearings on unsafe birth control pills and devices, drug reform laws, treatment for DES daughters and hospital childbirth practices. The Network is also instrumental in alerting women across the country to timely policy decisions by the health agencies. Besides petitioning, testifying and conducting health surveys of interest to women, the Network also offers its membership a bi-monthly newsletter, Network News, which keeps Network members informed on what's happening women's health-wise around the nation. The Network provides its membership with its ample health information clearinghouse and Newsalerts which are announcements of pending hearings, health actions, legislation and meetings that will affect the health of every woman. Support for this fine national organization can be given through donations, membership and volunteer support. For more information, write to The National Women's Health Network, 2025 "I" Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 or call 223-6886. You'll be glad you did!

STOCKING STUFFER

When considering gifts for your favorite December holiday, don't forget the joy that a membership to the Washington Area Women's Center can give your favorite woman, be she your mother, daughter, lover, friend or co-worker. Minimum memberships are \$7.00 per year, and are tax deductible. Newsletter subscriptions to In Our Own Write are only \$4.00 per year for 12 monthly issues. Your gift also helps your Women's Center grow and expand. It's a gift that supports the ideals you believe in and women's culture, while bringing pleasure to another woman. Happy holidays!



WOMEN'S OPEN HOUSE, EXPANDS

"More", you say? Then come to the Women's Open House in Arlington, where, in response to recent requests, we are indeed offering more. Come hear fantastic local women musicians, poets lectures and discussions about money management, relationships, "coming out", sexual harassment and lots more, including free disco lessons.

In addition we will continue to offer:

- An opportunity to meet other women who are gay, bisexual, or who think they might be gay in a warm, friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

- Reports of what's going on in the gay and/or women's community - camping trips, parties, new organizations, etc.

- a chance to advertise your organization, party, etc.

- copies of the latest gay/women's literature
- wine, soft drinks, snacks.

We are open every Tuesday night from 8:00-11:00 p.m. at the Arlington Unitarian Church in Room 16 of Reeb Hall (red brick building behind the church). Programs are from 8:30 - 9:30 with discussion and/or socializing before and after the program.

COMING EVENTS:

November 20: Judy Reagan - Wimmin's Songs
27: Eva Freund - "Ten Ways of Messing Up a Relationship"
December 4: Social Night - (open discussion)
11: Maryl - "Lesbian Mothers"
18: Christmas Party - (bring some cookies, punch, etc. if you can)

We are now sponsored by the Sexuality Task Force of D.C. NOW which is presently paying all our bills. This cannot go on indefinitely, so we would appreciate any donations.

If you need more information, or would like to lecture or perform, call Susan at 979-1672.

CENTERNEWS

WOMEN'S NITE OUT

Women's Nite Out is taking a short holiday break. There will be no Women's Nite activities during the month of December. The co-ordinators and the staff of the Women's Center will be using this time to re-evaluate and plan for programs during the winter and spring.

We will be considering some possible format changes and location changes, as well as searching for more woman talent to present before you. If you would like to have some input into our planning, call the center or drop us a note on your ideas.

Looking back over the first six events, we are all pleased at what has gone on in terms of support for the project and the caliber of talent that we have been able to showcase. Many and heartfelt thanks go to the many women who have helped by moving chairs and sound equipment, and cooked and sold the fine variety of foods we have had to offer.

The January issue of "In Our Own Write" will list the Women's Nite Out activities for the winter, and you should keep an eye out for flyers that will appear around the end of this month.

Thanks again to the many women who have kept us going, and if you haven't yet made it to Women's Nite Out, remember, we'll be back in all our glory in January, 1980.

EXTRA! EXTRA!...

Dear Members,

Those of you who are at all familiar with the Center are well aware of an ongoing problem in keeping the Center open and staffed. In an attempt to meet this problem, at least on a limited and trial basis, a part-time (40 hours per month) worker has been hired for two months to answer the phones, handle correspondence, and provide some day time hours on Thursdays. Other duties include book-keeping, media relations, and regular errands on behalf of the Center.

Funding for this position has come through the proceeds from the recent dance held at the Shoreham Americana.

Please take advantage of the extra hours and staffing that our salaried staffer will provide in the next two months.

As just a reminder, the staff meetings at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings are always open to any member of the Center, and the "staff" (who are actually just members who "show up" on a regular basis) want and need to hear from you.

The Washington Area Women's Center Staff

EXUBERANT SOLSTICE TO YOU!

To help you start your Solstice celebration off right, (or whatever you will be celebrating) the Washington Area Women's Center will be holding a Solstice Celebration Open House on Sunday, December 16th, from 3-6 p.m. There will be refreshments available and fine company.

While you're at the Center you'll also have a chance to look at the present Art On The Wall exhibit-photographs by Joan Biren and peruse the new Women's Center Archives which are on permanent display.

Please join us on Sunday, December 16th, at 1825 18th St., N.W., from 3-6 p.m. to spread some holiday cheer.

... and remember, a WAWC membership makes a fine holiday gift!

RAP GROUPS

December 10th, the Women's Rap Group will hold its quarterly planning meeting in the Women's Center lounge at 7:30 P.M. The Planning meeting is the space we offer to women who would like to see a special topic being discussed. We are looking for ideas and issues of interest to women, regardless of political opinion, cultural heritage, race, sexual preference or financial means. The rap group was created to provide ALL women with a sharing atmosphere in which we can all learn and grow. So, we see the planning meeting as the best place to bring up those concerns, whether you would like to facilitate or co-facilitate or if you just want to "put in your two cents".



SPECIAL RAP GROUP

Women interested in the Straight Radical Feminist Rap Group meetings are invited/encouraged to call the Center for time, location, etc., of any December meeting scheduled. Unfortunately, the last meeting, which was scheduled for November 27th, was not planned in time for the newsletter and subsequently any meeting planned for December was also too late to make the newsletter deadline.

AND MORE CENTERNEWS

ARCHIVES OPEN HOUSE

On November 4, 1979, close to 70 women joined the women of Lesbian Heritage/D.C. and the Women's Center staff at an open house to celebrate the opening of the Women's Center Archives. Women from the Washington area, some of whom had never before visited the Women's Center at its current home, shared wine and cheese in a friendly, animated atmosphere, surrounded by new files and strange gray boxes.

Midway through the celebration, we, the Lesbian Heritage/D.C. women, most of whom became involved in the Archives through the Lesbian Herstory classes offered by the Women's Center, introduced ourselves and the Women's Center History Project, on which we have been working since June. When we started, the "archives" consisted of several cartons and file drawers of material that had been trundled unceremoniously from place to place as the Washington Area Women's Center evolved and moved. Now all those newsletters, periodicals, written records, newspaper clippings, and flyers are sorted and preserved in acid-free folders and boxes. (The acid content is what causes the rapid deterioration of ordinary paper. An important part of the archiving process is preserving what would have otherwise been lost.)

Indescribably gratifying to us was the enthusiasm of those who participated in the celebration. Some women spoke of personal records that they have been keeping of their experiences and the organizations to which they belong and of their relief at knowing that there is now a place in the Washington area where these things can be both preserved and made available to interested women. Others volunteered their assistance with the continuing work of the Lesbian Heritage/D.C. and the Women's Center History Project.

In the past we have been sobered by how much we have lost. Now we are amazed by how much we have and how much more work--collecting, sorting, preserving, and cataloguing--remains to be done. Despite a whirlwind of activity in the week before the open house (thank you, Judy Reagan, for your invaluable assistance!), there are several piles of papers to be reviewed and filed. Organizations and individuals must be contacted and encouraged to contribute their stories and records to the evolving history of the Washington women's community.

WE NEED YOU, your energy and your perspective! For the next several weeks, we will be holding our biweekly work meetings at the Women's Center. On December 11, 1979, at 7:30 p.m., we will present an orientation to the Women's Center Archives and the work of Lesbian Heritage/D.C. We hope that interested women will come to learn more and/or join in the exciting project, still in the early stages.

Also essential to the growth of the Women's Center Archives is your financial support. Acid-free paper, folders, and boxes are very ex-

Joan E. Biren
1224 Maryland Avenue NE
Washington DC 20002

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEB

202-399-0117
messages 546-7292

Art
on
The
Wall

If you haven't stopped by the Center to see JEB's work, you're missing a great visual experience. On exhibit are six portraits from her book, *Eye to Eye: Portraits of Lesbians*, plus sixteen extraordinary color prints from nature. All prints are on sale ranging from \$17 to \$50. Her book is also on sale. Joan generously donated a copy of her book to the Center library and you can see it here. If you want to purchase this beautiful work for yourself or a friend, please call JEB directly at 399-0117.

Due to heavy personal commitments during the month of December with staff and artists, there will be no exhibit until after the new year. Any artists interested in exhibiting their work, please contact Sandy at the Center, 347-5078, or at her home, 521-3199. The Art on the Wall Exhibit is an excellent opportunity for women artists to share directly with the community, so artists please share your talents with us!

I wish you all a wonderful solstice holiday. In Sisterhood, Sandy, Art on the Wall Coord.

AT THE TONE ...

Our mad answering machine isn't mad any longer, just sick! She suffered a major relapse during the dance calls of Oct. 13 and we are not sure that surgery (via a local repair shop) will pull her thru. Staff and unused tapes are waiting very impatiently for her safe return. Otherwise, a new machine will have to be considered for purchase. Your patience is appreciated during her "hospital stay" and all callers are encouraged to call during regular office hours (Mon. thru Wednesdays 6pm to 9pm and Thursdays 9am to 9pm).

CENTER LETTERS

Dear Women's Center Members,

It has come to my attention and confirmed in the minutes of the Center Staff Meeting of November 4, that the staff has agreed to use Women's Center funds to pay one woman for working in the Center. This issue raised a very serious question in my mind; it has always been my concept of the Women's Center that women volunteer their time to promote the functions and purposes of the Center; therefore any changes in that policy, I think, should be directed to the general membership for their vote.

As a Women's Center volunteer for several years, I am fully aware of the problems involved with running an organization using only volunteers. If the Women's Center wishes to change that basic posture, I think the entire membership should have a voice in the decision.

Therefore, I am requesting that this letter be printed in the December issue of the Women's Center newsletter and further effective this date, I am resigning as the volunteer co-ordinator of Women's Nite Out Literature.

Regretfully,

Christina M. Lundberg

The following is a letter we received from a woman who came to the Center seeking information, ideas and feedback on starting a Women's Center. We would like to share it with you.

Dear Sister,

I can finally see through the mass of articles, newspapers, books and ideas I received from all the beautiful women in Washington, D.C.!

We had a staff meeting last night and sorted out a few things and set some goals on where and what to accomplish next. Hopefully, our newsletter will be out by the first of the year.

I had a wonderful time in D.C....through the Washington Area Women's Center, the Dance (WOW!) and your supportive and constructive ideas.

I am in the process of writing the Center's By-Laws, and thought of you and wanted to jot down a word or two extending my sincere thanks and love. *** Back to work!

In Sisterhood,

Ann

Ed. Reply: We send our heartfelt congratulations on your endeavors. All you wonderful women in Utah are undertaking a powerful and most fulfilling task. We will keep you in our thoughts and hearts.

MASSAGE THERAPY
FOR WOMEN

A gift of health, energy and
relaxation for yourself
or a friend
SUZANNE CHOLLET
667-8310

Dear Sisters:

I am writing this as kind of an open letter to feminists because I have several things on my mind that I want to communicate with more immediacy than I could by writing an article.

As usual, as a Black Feminist, I am concerned with the intersections of race and sex in my politics and in my life. I am feeling these intersections more viscerally than ever, because I think that we are finally at a stage when the Black community is having to deal internally with the implication of sexual politics, feminism and most crucially Black feminism. The evidences of this are many during the past year and I won't go into them here. I feel that it is urgent, however, that women familiarize themselves with some aspects of the "debate" over feminism that is now surging among Black people by reading several recent Black publications.

In April, 1978 The Black Scholar did a special issue on "Blacks and the Sexual Revolution." It was an astounding mixture of pro-feminist even pro-Lesbian articles by, for example, Assata Shakur and Audre Lorde and the most reactionary anti-Black women articles by Black male writers. This year The Black Scholar published a virulently anti-Black feminist article by Robert Staples in its March/April issue entitled "The Myth of Black Macho: A Response to Angry Black Feminists" and asked people to respond. The May/June 1979 issue entitled "The Black Sexism Debate" again contains many more articles that are pro-feminist, anti-feminist, innately anti-lesbian though the word is hardly mentioned and ones that fall somewhere in between. I think what these issues show is that sexual politics is finally up for discussion by Black people and that there is a massive amount of resistance to the idea of Black women being autonomous on the part of many Black people.

Committed white feminists should also read issues of Essence, Ebony, Jet and other Black publications not only to familiarize themselves with what is going on in the Black community around the issues of sexual politics but also to see what we as Black feminists are up against. The most recent issue of Ebony, for example, is a special one devoted entirely to the theme of "Black on Black Crime" and yet it does not deal with the epidemic of violence against women or sexual oppression and patriarchal notions of "manhood" as causes for Black women's abuse and deaths. I find this particularly ironic since in my own community 12 Black women were brutally murdered in a four month wave of killings this year and there has been a complete "white-out" in all types of media about this. Feminists might also be interested to know that there is a slick Playboy type magazine aimed at Black men called Players. (A pro-Black feminist publication which I consider to be "must" reading is the Black Women's Issue of Conditions which I co-edited with Lorraine Bethel.)

The other thing on my mind dovetails with encouraging white women who are actively anti-racist to read Black publications to find out what's happening and this is my frustration that white women in general do not grasp that

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the Black feminist movement is in a very different period historically than the white feminist movement, even though the participants in these movements are each other's contemporaries. I have been constantly aware of this "time-lag" during my seven years of involvement in Black feminist politics. If measured by the closeness of the Black community to feminism, the still relatively small number of Black women who identify themselves as feminists and the lack of Black feminist institutions Black women have, our movement is still in its early stages. Merely by comprehending this, the lack of support that Black feminists have for being Black feminists, white women might be able to give at least psychic and preferably practical support to Black women who they know and not assume that it means the same thing to us to be feminists and Lesbians. I don't know if my point is clear, but just think about the last time you went into a Black/Third World women's bookstore, restaurant, or women's center or read a Black/Third World feminist newspaper or magazine or a book printed by a Black/Third World women's press. Think about whether you've even heard of these things existing.

I am optimistic. I see our movement growing, the Black feminist movement in particular and the women's movement generally. I know things will change. But in the meantime, Black feminists don't have a lot of alternatives, particularly alternative institutions, and we are also up against a very resistant Black community which is, given racism, particularly racism in the women's movement, a community where we need to feel at home. White feminists not only need to fight racism but to familiarize themselves with the substance of our lives and struggle. Reading some of the things I've suggested and everything you can find about Black women is one way to do this.

In Struggle,

Barbara Smith
Roxbury, Mass.

Ed. Note: We realize this letter has appeared in several other publications like Off Our Backs and Lesbian Connection; however, we feel that this issue is of such importance to the growth of our community that its repetition here will enable all of us to consider our own relationship with and within our Black sisterhood. We welcome feedback!

SIGN SHARING

The sign for "SISTER".....

Using your right hand, place thumb on jawline, then place index fingers from both hands side by side. Thus, you have "girl" (I know.. very politically incorrect!) and the sign for "sibling".



CLASSIFIED

W.A.W.C. CLASSIFIED RATES AND INFORMATION: Personnel Ads (housing, individual, selling items) - \$1.00 for 30 words. Business & Services Offered - \$2.00 for first 30 words, 10 cents per word thereafter. Display Ads (newsprint-ready copy) - 1/8 page - \$7.00, 1/4 page - \$13.00. The Staff reserves the editorial discretion to refuse any ad it deems exploitative/demeaning to women. Check or money order MUST accompany ad copy and be received by the 15th of the month previous to publication. Make all checks payable to the Washington Area Women's Center. * * Thank you.

Roommate needed to share townhouse on Capitol Hill, 3 blocks from Eastern Market Metro. \$225. per month plus $\frac{1}{4}$ of utilities. Call Sandra at 225-1692 (w) or 546-4409 or 549-6147 (h).

Office Space for Rent: Share space with Quest: a feminist quarterly. \$100./month, perfect for one or two people, Dupont Circle area, female staff preferred. Call Arlene Rogan 293-1347.

Furnished room for rent; preferably to student, in 2-bedroom house. Use of kitchen and common space. At river Road near Wisconsin Ave., D.C. \$140 a month. Call Lynn at 523-6080 days or 362-5227 eves. and weekends.

Beautiful townhouse to share - country setting 3 bedrooms, $2\frac{1}{2}$ baths, all luxuries including pool, tennis courts, hiking trails. $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to downtown. Bus service available. S. Springfield, Va. \$185. + utilities. Call 455-6960 or 696-4567 - ask for Holly.

Two women seek third to share 3 bedroom house in Mt. Pleasant. House has separate dining room, fireplace, and big porches on a quiet street near the zoo. \$150. plus one-third of utilities. Call Virginia Harris - 332-3094 or 347-2279.

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pensive, as are the blank cassette tapes on which we will eventually be collecting oral histories from the Washington area women's community. As you who have seen the size of the current collection already know, we are thinking ahead to the time when we will need a larger place, more bookshelves, and more workspace.

The Women's Center has generously agreed to match dollar for dollar every contribution, up to \$50 per month, made to the History Project. Thus, your \$10 check will buy \$20 worth of supplies. Checks should be made payable to the Washington Area Women's Center and earmarked for the History Project. Your gift, of course, is tax deductible. As long as our limited supply lasts, contributions of \$10 or more will receive a copy of the book Blood Ties: A Woman's History, by Anice Mander.

The evolution of the Women's Center History Project is documented in the June, September, October, and November issues of In Our Own Write. The women of the Lesbian Heritage/D.C.--Dana Naparsteck, Donna Donato, Joan Twigs, Judith Schwarz, Susan Bernick, Susanna Sturgis, and Toni White-- are all more than willing to talk about our work and to hear your suggestions and hopes for the future.

DECEMBER • 1979

S m t w t f s

WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER <u>OFFICE HOURS:</u> Monday - Wednesday 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. (closed on holidays)						
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> CALENDAR KEY: * - see more information elsewhere in Newsletter WOH - Woman's Open House WRG - Women's Rep Group - WAWC </div>						
"Guest" Party 2 4-8 pm*	3 1979 - Karen Farmer Prepares to become 1st black member of DAR.	4 DC Now SEX. T.F. Arlington "Social Night" * 8-11pm	5 Lesbian Health & Counseling Center "Relationships" * Workshop 7-10pm	6 LHCC "Coming Out" workshop 7-10 pm	7 WAWC Center Memberships make great Solstice Gifts!	8 Cos. Potluck 7:30 p.m. *
beginning to look a lot like 88 9 ERA Rally - Market Square, Old Towne Alexandria, Va. 12 NOON *	WRG Planning Mtg for 1980 9:30 pm. WAWC lounge	10 LHCC "Lesbian Mothers" * Workshop 7-10pm DC Now SEX. T.F. * Arlington "Lesbian Mothers" * 8-11pm	11 Single & Overwhelmed 12 Mothers 7pm. * call: 667-0818	13 D.C. A. F.A. mtg. 13 7pm. All Saints Church *	14 1977 - Now announces plan to extend ERA ratification deadline	15 HANUKKAH
Celebrate ALL OVER TOWN!! WAWC Solstice Open LAMMAS & House* HOLIDAY CELEBRATION * 3-6 pm. 12-5 pm *	16 NEW SLETT 17	18 DC Now SEX. T.F. Arlington "Christmas Party" * 8-11pm	19 LHCC Counseling Night call: 332-5295 7-10pm	20 ER NIG" HIS JO	21 IN US!!	22 WINTER SOLSTICE
23 A good revolution for 1980 - volunteer at your W.A.W.C.	24 25 Christmas Holiday Center Closed TINA LUMSEN (The PRINTER)'s Birthday Clara Barton's Birthday born 1821	26 Single & Overwhelmed 26 Mothers 7pm * call: 667-0818	27 Happy Holidays !!	28	29 Charter of Florida's 1st woman-managed bank approved	



WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER, INC.

1825 18th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009

347-5078

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Washington Area Women's Center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose primary purpose is to serve all women of the Washington metropolitan area. The concept of the Center is woman-defined and guided by the needs of the women's community. We are creating an environment in which women can expand themselves outside the male-defined structures which prevail in our society today.

The Center believes in a positive Woman Image and firmly believes in the need for womanspace. Through alternative support services, women can realize their potential strength and valuable self-image. Because women are in a period of transition and have special problems which are not usually dealt with specifically or completely by other community agencies, we feel we should provide an information clearinghouse to give coherence to all services available to women; to provide physical facilities, educational and artistic programming, and referral and information services to members of the D. C. women's community.

The structure of the Women's Center encourages all members to participate and direct what happens here. We hope you will join us. Membership entitles you to several advantages, which are detailed on the back of this sheet.

WELCOME TO THE

WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER

Please cut on dotted line.

new renew newsletter only

NAME: _____

ADD: _____

zipcode: _____

PHONE: home: _____ work: _____

FEE: _____ DATE: _____

REMARKS: _____



MEMBERSHIP:

\$1.50 per thousand dollars of income per year.

Minimum membership (due to operating costs) is \$7.00.

NEWSLETTER ONLY:

\$4.00 per year.

MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO:

1. Take advantage of the referral listings available in the areas of health, employment, housing, and community organizations.
2. Receive the Washington Area Women Center's monthly newsletter, In Our Own Write, the most comprehensive publication of news and announcements about feminist organizations and events in the area.
3. Participate in classes, workshops, rap groups and sports teams sponsored by the Center. Join or start various projects or groups focusing on counselling, health, recreation, and entertainment.
4. Use the facilities of the Women's Center, which are available for meetings, groups or social occasions on a first-call, first-serve basis.
5. Volunteer and participate in the workings of the Women's Center. Members are encouraged to take an active part in the Center's operations.
6. Receive discounts at Women's Center-sponsored events.
7. Check out books from our small (but growing!) feminist library.
8. All the good feelings that come from supporting a vital part of the women's community!

Your new or renewed membership in the Center at this time is particularly welcome as support and encouragement for the Center's continued existence.

THE WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER

ALL KINDS OF INFORMATION . . . FOR ALL KINDS OF WOMEN

347-5078

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE D.C. FEMINIST Alliance's December meeting will be held Thur., Dec. 13, at 7 PM at All Soul's Church. The main topic of discussion is "Burnout in the Women's Community." All people are welcome to come.

D.C. COALITION OF Gay Sisters (COGS) is having a potluck supper on Sat., Dec. 8, at 7:30 PM, in Mount Pleasant, NW, and on Sat., Dec. 22, at 7:30 PM in Takoma Park, MD. For details on the parties, or for general information on COGS, call either 667-2616, 423-6747, or 920-7739.

BREAKING OLD HABITS-Workshop for people who want to change their body image but who hate traditional exercise. We will be teaching specific "anti-exercises" focusing on tension release and body energy. Sat., Dec. 8, 9:30-12:30 at Washington Community Therapy Guild, 2451 18th St., NW. Cost is \$10 and enrollment is limited. For reservations or info, call Anne Anderson, 483-2660 or Monica Fleischmann, 333-4304 or 449-6055.

MEETING OF PRINCE WILLIAM County NOW on Dec. 10, 7:30 PM, at Prince William County Library.

QUEST IS COMING OUT-Celebration of Quest publishing again and a chance for the community to meet the new staff. Sun., Dec. 2, at 4-8 PM with a \$2 cover fee which includes food. Cash bar. 115 8th St., SE. 293-1347

THE WOMEN'S MUSIC Support Group meets every Monday evening from 6-8:30 PM at the Paul Community Junior High School, 8th and Oglethorpe, NW. We welcome third-world women and women of all ages to come and help us grow musically together. For more information, please call Wendy.

THERE ARE GOING to be two fundraisers for the National Convention Project (for gay rights). The Project is an attempt to get gay rights into the Democratic and Republican platforms as planks. The first fundraiser will be held on Nov. 27, from 5:30-9:30 PM at The Pier. Donation requested is \$10. Jerry Brown, governor of California, is going to be there, as are representatives of the Kennedy and Carter campaigns. The second fundraiser is a cocktail party of Dec. 1, co-sponsored by 14 women. It is being held from 5-8 PM at 195½ F St., NW. Open bar. Donation requested is \$25. This is an attempt to get feminists and lesbian feminists together to support the National Convention Project.

On Dec. 9, there will be an ERA rally at Market Square in Oldetown Alexandria at noon.

DC N.O.W.'s Next chapter meetings are on Dec. 8, at 10 AM, and on Dec. 19, at 6 PM in the District Bldg. The subject of the Dec. 8 meeting is delegate selection procedures, etc., to the Democratic and Republican conventions. Also on Dec. 8 at 1 PM, there will be an orientation for new and old DC N.O.W. members at 133 12th St., S.E. (547-3082).

WE ARE LOOKING for a drummer, percussionist, and bass player to form an all-women's band. We want to play all styles of music and work up to performing in the D.C. area. For more information, please call Wendy 291-1652, Karen and Sherry 588-0840, or Joan 972-2291.

UNDERSTANDING AND DEALING with Sexual Assault-A course being offered at American Univ., starting on Jan. 15, 1980. The class is open to everyone and is worth three credit hours. There are no prerequisites. The course will meet Tues. 5:30-8:00 p.m.

THE LESBIAN HEALTH and Counselling Center, as part of its Fall Workshop Program, is holding three three-hour workshops in December. A workshop on "Relationships" will be held on Wed., Dec. 5. One on "Coming Out" will be held on Thur., Dec. 6, and a workshop on "Lesbian Mothers" will be held on Tues., Dec. 11. All workshops run from 7-10 PM and are all held at the LHCC, 1606 17th St., NW, except the workshop for Lesbian mothers. The minimum number for each group is 5; the maximum is 15, unless otherwise noted. Minimum donation requested for each workshop is \$2; more if you can. Call 547-3356 to pre-register.

Volunteers are needed to help arrange and sort the important historical records of the National council of Negro Women dating from 1935 to 1959. Although positions are clerical in nature, they provide an opportunity to examine materials relevant to the experiences of Afro-American women. Volunteers would also be exposed to the various work processed involved in the development of an archives. We would like a volunteer to devote at least $\frac{1}{2}$ day a week to this important processing of our records. Call or write to Linda Henry, Archivist, National Archives for Black Women's History, (332-1233 or 332-9201) 1318 Vermont Ave., NW, Wash., DC 20005.

To Kick Off the ERA campaign in Virginia, there will be a rally in January at the Opening of the General Session of the Virginia Legislature. Round trip transportation tickets to Richmond at \$8.00 are now available through DC N.O.W. Call Sue at 293-7635(days).

Lammas is having its annual Holiday Celebration on Sunday, December 16th from 12 noon to 5 p.m. at 321 7th Street, S.E. Wash., DC. For information, call 546-7292

OFFICERS OF THE FIRST POLICE DISTRICT have challenged the Gay community to a basketball game. The Gay Activists Alliance accepted the challenge only after it was guaranteed that the gay team could be mixed men and women. The game will be held in February as a charity game to raise money for the Police Girls and Boys Club. Interested Gay men and Lesbians should contact GAA at 667-5139. A coach for the team is also being sought.

BE ASSERTIVE...

Beginning Thurs. Dec. 6, Marge Kingdon, Ph.D. will conduct a three-week Assertiveness Training workshop for women on Thursday evenings. Marge is an experienced leader in this field and has conducted many workshops. The cost is \$25 which includes all books and materials. In cases of hardship, Marge may negotiate the fee. For more information or to sign up, call the Women's Center at 347-5078 and leave your name and number and you will be contacted.

PSSSSSSST....

In last months issue, we asked that any artist interested in changing the graphic that we use on our membership material contact us. Unfortunately, no one has offered her help. We would like the graphic to represent our membership with its many women of color. Can you help us out? We can't do it alone! Mail your graphic in a.s.a.p. or talk to artistic friends who might just need your encouragement. We're waiting!

SUPPORT GROUP

Single/Overwhelmed mothers are welcome to join others in sharing, supporting and brainstorming ideas. Sponsored by the Washington Area Women's Center, we will meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. in the United Church at 615 20th Street, N.W. Childcare is provided. For more info., call: 667-0818

IN OUR OWN WRITE is the monthly newsletter of 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 exploitative or demeaning to women. All items are subject to space limitations.

* * * * *

This issue is brought to you by the energy of the following women: Carole, Holly, Lois, Judy, Janne, Sarah, Chris, Lynn, Judith, Angie, Sam and all the marvelous women who help with the newsletter mailing. Printing was done by The Center, Tina Lunson.

DEADLINE FOR January - December 10

The deadline for all future newsletters has been moved up to approximately the 10th of each month. Please make note of this change and be sure to get all your announcements in on time.

RECALL 11/16, MD 20851
5710 STILWELL RD
SUE LORENTZ

IS it time for you to renew?
Use your code beginning with 78.
Renew now; you're entitled.
Renew now; so give your membership a gift.

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