

NEWSLETTER # 7

December 1972

THE WOMEN'S PLACE
31 Dupont St.
Toronto 5

Hours:
Mon - Thurs 10:30 am-9:30 pm
Fri & Sat 10:30 am-5:30 pm

Dear Sisters,

Last newsletter of 1972, our founding year! Don't expect an inspiring message from us. There is no call for us to congratulate ourselves-we have barely scratched the surface and the need is greater than ever. Many women come to the place for help, information and support but only a few are prepared to pitch in with work, money and ideas. We must break through the apathy and helplessness which women feel; we must release our creative energies. Too many of us expect things to be done for us, too many believe others will do anything for us. We must do it ourselves! Starting now, as individuals. So let's get ourselves together.

Our mailing list is growing and sending out this newsletter places considerable strain on our limited budget. Accordingly, we are progressively dropping the names of women who have not been in touch with The Women's Place in any way. So, if you want to remain on the list, please let us hear from you.

There are plans to stay open over Christmas and New Years - regular hours. There are thousands of women in Toronto who need a friendly place to go, especially during this holiday season. Organized activities will be suspended, but women are welcome to drop in. Tell your friends.

An effort is being made to organize Christmas Eve and New Years Eve parties at The Place. Please call Pat Leslie (9s9-3185) if you are interested.

The promised Liberation Workshop brochure will now be out in January. The problem has been lack of instructors, especially for the Fix-It courses. Many women probably believe that only experts need apply. Not so. If you can fix a running toilet, rewire a lamp, know how to use a booster cable and can tell a distributor from an alternator - you are instructor material. Call 929-3185 immediately. You will never regret it.

The women's Place is chronically short of money. Our grant (when we get it) will all go to salaries. Over and above that, it costs \$700.00 per month to keep operating. So, anything we can get in money and kind is welcome. Right now we need the following:

- a filing cabinet
- an electric typewriter (we have a gestetner, but only a little portable to type stencils on, crazy isn't it!)

- floor covering, of any description; rugs, carpets, underpads, linoleum, etc.
- household supplies; floor cleaner, liquid wax, toilet paper, anything, just so we don't have to spend cash on it.
- pots and pans, especially a large cauldron for soups and stews.
- an adding machine or calculator
- a piano
- mattresses or cushions
- a high chair
- a collating machine

There are plans afoot to fix up part of the basement. We badly need concrete paint, chip board, panneling, anything and everything in any size or quantity. Surely someone out there has stuff they could donate! We will pick up things in the Toronto area.

If you haven't been able to get down before, due to lack of time, try to get down during the holidays. People will be here to rap and give support. Have a good holiday.

Luv,
from your sisters at the Women's Place

PROJECTS AT THE WOMEN'S PLACE

Consciousness-raising Groups:

Many women have asked us exactly what consciousness-raising groups are and how they can help. One of the best descriptions can be found in the July issue of MS. magazine.

"Women have been isolated from each other. In our kitchens, and even in outside jobs, we are often made to feel that our problems are ours and ours alone; that somehow everything stifling and painful about our lives is due to our personal inadequacies; that, if there weren't something wrong with us in the first place, we would be perfectly happy and fulfilled in the female role.

Men have problems too, of course, even in their less limited worlds but theirs are somehow adult and legitimate, and therefore can be discussed over a business lunch or dignified by sympathy at home. Even minority men have someplace they can be themselves-part of town, a bar, some turf that belongs to them-women of every group have almost no place where roles as wife, mother, sex object, hostess, high level helper, social appendage, or domestic aren't forced upon us.

The result is that we don't know who we are; we can't separate our individual selves from our social conditioning. Worse, we feel guilty or self-indulgent or crazy for wanting such a separation.

The rap group is a free place; a place to be honest. It is a group of supportive and non-judging friends who are there to

help when we come back battered and ridiculed from trying to change our worlds. It is some version of the often repeated statement, "You feel like that? My God, I thought only I felt like that." It is a place to discover and sustain each other and ourselves.

Eventually, we find out not only who we are, but the political relationship of women, as a caste, to society as a whole. We learn or invent practical ways of changing our own lives, and the lives of women around us."

We have several new consciousness-raising groups starting. Anyone in the Scarborough area or in the Downsview area, those of you who are interested in joining a group, please call The Place at 929-3185. There is also a group of separated or divorced women starting soon.

There is also a consciousness-raising group being started for women who feel the need for "professional" help, and who feel distrustful of male therapists and psychiatrists. Any women who are interested, Sherry Rochester, at the Clarke Institute-924-6811.

The Library :

Women interested in helping the library, but who cannot spare time to come and work in the library itself, can be of great help if they could:

- 1) Volunteer to clip the daily newspapers for material of interest to feminists. This saves us the cost of subscribing to the newspapers. Contact Kathy at 925-8512.
- 2) Donate a subscription to a feminist magazine. Contact Jat Wilson at 694-2908.
- 3) Volunteer to clip feminist magazine articles from all magazines that are not specifically feminist, e.g. Macleans. Please make sure articles contain date and name of magazine when clipped. Articles can be placed in the box in the library marked "pamphlets" or sent to The Place c/o The Library.
- 4) Donate shelving of any kind to put books on or a filing cabinet to hold clippings.

Lecture Series:

Although the Lecture Series skips a month in December-in our brochure- there will be a special lecture: (see below)

Dec. 15th, 1972	"Lesbian Feminists"
Jan. 26th, 1973	"Mothers and Daughters" similarities and differences in motivation (part 1)
Feb. 23rd, 1973	"Part 2 of the above"
Mar. 23rd, 1973	"Prostitution"
Apr. 27th, 1973	"Recent Landmarks in Sex-Role Stereotyping Research in Psychology"

Women's Conference :

Anyone who would like to talk about getting together an Ontario Women's Conference to struggle out some positions and possibly plan an action ... call the Women's Place and ask for Ellen Woodsworth or Heather.

The Newsletter :

The next newsletter will be collated and mailed on January 3rd. If you can help put it out, please come at 7.30p.m. Also if you know how to run a gestetner you can come in the day before and help run off the newsletter. If you don't know how to run one it is an easy procedure to learn and Heather or Stephanie can teach you in half an hour. Call and leave your name and phone number.

Advertisements

Sussex-Devonshire Daycare Co-op, a parent controlled daycare co-op in the University community area has openings for people sincerely interested in the growth of their children & themselves. Children under two years old. Call 925-7495.

If you are feeling down about being alone with children, give me a call - I know how it is and am interested in meeting other women in the same situation. Sandy 924-1922 (usually after 5.30p.m)

The Toronto Board of Education has courses starting in January:
Home Maintenance will be held at Danforth Collegiate
Mondays 7.30p.m. to 10.30p.m.
Automobile owners will be held at Brocton Collegiate
Wednesdays 6.30p.m. to 9.30p.m.
There will be a small fee. For more details call 362-4931.

Judy Falkner is working as Adult Programme Director for the Scarboro YMCA. She has planned a forum on the Women's Movement at Cederbrae Library on January 23, 1973, followed by a four week Women's Course in February. If you want more information, or can help establish an information directory for women, call Judy at 266-7797.

If you work in an office or know someone who works in an office, and if you find the office oppressive and dehumanizing and would like to talk about it with other people, please call:

Margaret Rolfe 535-6206
White Collar Project 869-0692 (work)

Women's Photography Co-op is interested in photographing women and women's events. If we could be of use to you call 364-2630.

INTERVAL HOUSE

A group of women started meeting at the Women's Place last August to discuss plans for a women's distress centre.

They have applied for L.I.P. funding to open Interval House, a co-operative house where sole support mothers can stay for a month or more while adjusting to a new and independent life.

The house is set up to help those women who are forced to remain in intolerable marriages or domestic situations by lack of money and moral support. The only place which will now accept a woman with children and no money is the Family Residence of the Metro Social Service Department. This barracks-like building holds 100 people. Its first floor is inhabited by indigent World War I veterans and accommodation is provided on an emergency basis only.

Interval House will supply accommodation, food, babysitting, a good referral service and most important, personal support and encouragement from its 12 staff members. The house will hold 3 to 5 women and their children at a time—a potential total of 20 people. There will be 2 or more staff members on duty 24 hours a day. Cooking and cleaning will be organized on a co-operative basis by staff, guests, and (we hope) volunteers.

Staff and volunteers will help with househunting, job search, welfare negotiations and referrals to doctors, lawyers, therapists, school authorities.

It is hoped that personal support in the crisis period will leave women more energy to relate to their children, discovering how life will be as a sole support parent.

Interval will provide time and space for decision-making—a bridge between the old life and the new—a place to begin the search for a new identity. Hopefully, women staying there will be each others greatest resource.

Food and rent expenses will be subsidized by the Metro Social Service Department and a house for the project has finally been located.

Now we need to furnish the house. So we're asking you for money and furnishings.

Following is a room by room list of what we need:

OFFICE:

- 2 desks and desk chairs
- 2-3 chairs for visitors
- shelves, file cabinets
- folders, paper and office supplies
- desk and other lamps
- curtains
- bulletin board

VISITING ROOM

- chesterfield or sofa
- 2-3 chairs
- lamps
- coffee table
- desk and chair
- rug
- curtains

LIVING ROOM

- 2 chesterfields
- several armchairs
- coffee tables
- lamps
- rug, curtains
- posters and wall hangings
- mirror
- cable donations (for TV)
- bookshelves and Books—esp. books of interest to women in this situation
- newspaper and magazine subscriptions
- low shelves for kids' toys and books

BEDROOMS

- single beds and mattresses
- sheets, pillowcases, blankets, spread
- dressers, bedside tables
- lamps
- small rugs
- mirrors
- hooks and hangers
- towel racks
- small tables or desks
- comfortable chairs

KITCHEN

- big and small plates
- big bowls and small bowls
- glasses and cups
- cutlery and cooking utensils
- large mixing bowls
- large pots and pans, frying pans
- drainer
- measuring cups and spoons
- wooden spoons
- sharp knives, can opener
- shelves
- large containers for staples
- sponges, tea towels
- coffee pot and tea pot
- pot scrubbers, oven cleaner, dish detergent, spic'n span, self-shine wax
- curtains
- garbage pail, green garbage bags
- bulletin boards
- recipe file box
- high chairs
- *broom, mop and dustpan
- food staples

EATING AREA

- tables
- chairs
- side board

BATHROOM

- first aid kit
- bathmats
- towel racks
- soap
- toilet paper
- extra toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- kotex and tampons
- shower curtains

EVERYWHERE

- ashtrays
- waste basket
- plants
- clothes hangers
- paper, pens, pencils
- boot trays
- door mats
- vacuum cleaner
- iron
- ironing board

HEAVY DUTY EQUIPMENT

- stoves
- 2 fridges
- washing machine
- dryer
- television
- radios

Please call Lynn Zimmer, 767-2 849 or Darleen, Martha, Kate or Suzanne at 966-3091 and tell us what you can give us.

We will also need volunteers with stationwagons, cars and trucks to help us collect donations.

Besides furnishings we need money-one shot donations and regular monthly pledges, however small.

We hope to set up a reliable bank of monthly pledges which will allow us to continue the project beyond May. To our knowledge this is the only project of its kind in Canada.

Cheques can be written to: Interval House, c/o The Women's Place,
31 Du Pont St., Tor. 5

We are now being incorporated and within a small amount of time will be qualified as a charitable institution. This means that donations will be tax deductible. Women wishing to volunteer call Darleen, 966-3091

Dare strikers have been on strike since May!! They need money.
90% are women. Send donations to: Dare Strike Fund
Brewery Workers, Local 173
Boycott DARE Cookies! 65 Lodge St.
Kitchener, Ont.

Indian Rights for Indian Women

On December 6-8, 1972, the Indian Rights for Indian Women organization will hold a unique conference at the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa. Due to limited funding only four Indian women from each province will attend as delegates. There are no delegates from the Toronto area.

The question in issue is whether or not the Indian Act, which applies to people of Indian ancestry who are recognized by the Dept. of Indian Affairs as being legally Indians, can discriminate against Indian women who marry someone other than an Indian as recognized by the Indian Act.

The Indian Act provides that a female Indian who marries a non-Indian thereupon ceases to be an Indian. A male Indian who marries a non-Indian remains an Indian. Further, when a male Indian marries a non-Indian, the non-Indian wife becomes an Indian by operation of the law.

It is important that all Canadian women recognize that this is the first time that the Canadian Bill of Rights will be invoked to protect women from discrimination by reason of their sex.

Because it is an issue that is of vital importance not only to Indian women of Canada but to all Canadian women, we would like to send delegates from the Toronto area to go to Ottawa and support this issue. Thus we are asking for whatever support you may offer, in terms of funds for travel, to send some Indian women to Ottawa to have some say in legislation that affects them.

For donations, please send to the following, and if wanted we can obtain a tax deductible receipt for you.

Jeannette Corbiere Lavell,
Nishnawbe Institute,
11½ Spadina Road,
Toronto 179, Ontario

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Lesbian rap groups are now being started. They will be informal discussions where women can share feelings about their lesbian identity. The lesbian drop-ins, a more social evening, will be alternate Friday evenings.

- Fri. Dec. 8 -- Lesbian drop-in at Women's Place.
- Fri. Dec. 15 -- Formal Feminist Lesbian Lecture by two Lesbians with discussion after.
- Fri. Dec. 23 -- Drop-in.
- Fri. Dec. 29 -- Rap Group.

Separated Mothers: Are you tired of getting the run around from family court and their "social work". Let us unite and be a force to be reckoned with. Let us have our own union, hire a lawyer to fight our complaints and enforce our court orders, etc. We could also have a rental office, collect furniture for those in need, etc. Please write me: Jill Goddard

Box 1041
Uxbridge.

Land, Land! We need to use some land. We'd like to set up a woman's camp for all or part of the summer. Anyone who has land or access to land, please call the Women's Place and leave your name and number.

The Women's Place
31 Dupont St.
929-3185

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

___ I wish to donate \$ ___ to The Women's Place.

___ I wish to pledge \$ ___ per month to The Women's Place.

___ I wish to continue to receive the newsletter.

registration

Liberation
Workshop
for Women

name _____

address _____

_____ phone _____

courses:

1__ 5__

2__ 6__

3__ 7__

4__ 8__

are you on our mailing list? ___

do you need childcare? _____

return to: THE WOMEN'S PLACE
31 DUPONT ST.
TORONTO 5

Friday, January 26 Ann Berens
Mothers and Daughters:
Similarities and Differences in Motivation

Friday, February 23 Ann Berens
Part II of January 26
discussion

Friday, March 23 Joanna Stuckey
Prostitution

Friday, April 27 Mary Stewart
Recent Landmarks in Sex-
Role Research in Psych-
ology

Discussions are held at The
WOMEN'S PLACE at 8p.m.
Donation is \$1.00 for those
who are able.

LIBERATION WORKSHOP is a series of courses for women which is conducted by THE WOMEN'S PLACE, an organizing centre for women. Through this school we learn about ourselves, about our history, our roles in society, our strengths and our intellectual capabilities.

Each workshop meets once a week at THE WOMEN'S PLACE unless otherwise indicated. Day and time for meetings after the first session will be determined by the members of the group.

Classes are open to any woman who registers and who pays \$5.00 per course, if possible, in order to keep the school running.

Winter courses begin February 4. Registration for classes will be accepted by mail or in person until January 27.

If childcare is a problem, indicate this on the registration form and we will help.

THE WOMEN'S PLACE

31 DUPONT ST.

TORONTO 5

929-3185

WOMEN AND THEIR BODIES
FEBRUARY 7 7:30p.m.

This course is planned to allow us to discuss our health and sexuality. "Our Bodies, Ourselves" is used as resource material. Specific topics will be decided by the participants. Previous subjects have included VD, birth control and abortion, monogamy, Master's and Johnson's report, cervical and breast cancer.
8 weeks

WOMEN AS A MINORITY GROUP
FEBRUARY 7 8p.m.

In this course we will be looking at the developing change in contemporary North American society from women as individuals with minority status to women as a relatively organized minority group. We will be examining various aspects of life in which women are subordinated, looking at some theories to account for the development of this subordination and considering the extent to which women, despite internal divisions, constitute an organized segment of Canadian society. Required reading for this course will include Masculine-Feminine by Roszak.
8 weeks

WOMEN AND REVOLUTION
DATE UNDECIDED

This course will explore the relationship between the women's liberation movement and other revolutionary currents. It will require basic reading including an examination of Marxist theory. If you are interested please contact THE WOMEN'S PLACE.

VIDEO WORKSHOP

If enough women indicate interest in a workshop on the use of video tape equipment: cameras, tape decks, etc., women from Liberation Media will conduct it. If you are interested contact us.

WOMEN AND THE LAW
FEBRUARY 6 7-9p.m.

A comprehensive course designed to acquaint us with our legal position as women in Canadian society. Includes: woman as wife, mother, citizen, consumer, worker, and woman.
8 weeks

AUTO ORIENTATION
FEBRUARY 5 7:30p.m.

This is a course to acquaint us with the basics of car maintenance. There will be two sections available: one for those most interested in Volkswagen and other small, foreign cars and the other for those interested in North American models.
5 weeks

CARPENTRY
FEBRUARY 6 7:30p.m.

This course is designed to teach the use of tools and the basics of carpentry. A choice of projects will be offered which can be finished during the session. This course will meet at The WOMEN'S PLACE for its first session only.
8 weeks

CR WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 4 8p.m.

This course will be available to those women who have participated in a consciousness-raising group and would like to develop skills which would help them to start other groups. This will include basic group dynamics, history of cr groups in the women's movement and skill practice sessions.
8 weeks

HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!
SOMETIME AGO A WOMAN CALLED THE CENTRE TO VOLUNTEER HER TIME AS A TEACHER FOR THE COURSE ON ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE....WE LOST HER NAME AND NUMBER. COULD YOU PLEASE CALL US? WE DO NEED YOU.