Connections: A Womyn's Monthly

Vol 1 #10; January, 1996 Halifax, N.S.

Women and Business

"...prepare budget for next month... phone the bank... don't forget Amy's dentist appointment...get that accounting done... call Phoebe to arrange a meeting... proofread the end of month status report... pick up dry-cleaning... arrange for a plumber... phone Marie about supper... organize files... order supplies...clean out the closets... oh no! Grocery shopping... choose paper colour for new brochures... pick up new batteries... read magazine article... get hair cut..."

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Subscriptions:

If you would like to receive this newsletter in the mail, subscriptions are ONLY $15.00 a year - to cover shipping costs. It's costing a small fortune to ship the bulk orders around the province too, so if you'd like to send a little extra, we would not mind.

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half page inside (4 1/2 x 3 1/2) — $40;
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Some of the places where you can get Connections

all women's centres in NS
Acadia Women's Centre, Wolfville, NS
Atlantic News, Morris Street, Halifax, NS
Daily Grind, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS
Dalhousie Women's Centre, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
Eos Fine Foods, Wolfville, NS
Fresh Start Bed & Breakfast, 2720 Gottingen Street, Halifax, NS
Frog Hollow Books, 5640 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS
Little Mysteries, 1645 Barrington Street, Halifax, NS
Mary Janes Alternative Tastes, 1313 Hollis St, Halifax, NS
Murray Manor, Joan Semple, 225 Main Street, Yarmouth, NS
Nice & Natural, old Tower's Mall, New Minas, NS
Maggie's Place, Family Resource Centre, 129 Arthur St, Truro, NS
NSACSW, 202-6169 Quinpool Road, Halifax, NS
Odd Book, Wolfville, NS
Planned Parenthood, Quinpool Road, Halifax, NS

Red Herring Co-op Books, 1578 Argyle Street, Halifax, NS
Seekhers, 324 Main St, Wolfville, NS
Stonewall, 1560 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS
Women Aware, Port Hawkesbury, NS
Women's Network, Charlottetown, PEI

Next issues

We are currently looking for information on the following topics for the next three months.

February: Women of Colour
March: Resources for Women
April: Festivals/Travel

If you have any information or know of any resources on any of these subjects, please contact us. We'd love to hear from you.

CALENDHER

If you know of events of interest to womyn to be included in next month's Calendher, please let us know. We believe this could be one of the most useful sections of Connections: A Womyn's Monthly, but it will only work if you send us stuff!

Announcements

Help Deb and Kelly plan, research, and distribute our next issue of Connections. Call Deb at 453-9475 or Kelly at 679-1051.

January

Wednesdays from January 10 to April 3 at 12 noon: Writing by Women with Linda Burnett at the Main Library on 5381 Spring Garden Road. Call 421-6983. Linda Burnett is a lecturer in the S.M.U. Dept of English. She has a Master's degree from Dal and is completing a PhD at McGill.

Now to January 14: Survivors in Search of a Voice: The Art of Courage. At the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 1741 Hollis Street. 24 of Canada's best artists have created a monument to the courage of breast cancer survivors. 424-7542.

January 10 (Wednesday): Meeting of Lesbians in Business. 7 pm. Second Cup Coffee Shop, Spring Garden at Queen St, Halifax. Contact Andrea

D'Sylva, 423-9006 for info.

January 11 (Thursday): Cat in the Hat Night: wear a smart or funny chapeau. Prizes. 10 pm. Stonewall, 1560 Hollis St., Halifax.

Starting January 11, Every Thursday at noon: The World Around Women, Global Themes in Women's Organizing. With Co-ordinator Emily Burton. Call 421-6983. Emily Burton is a graduate of Int. Development Studies at SMU.

January 14 (Sunday): Chinese Traditional Cooking Workshop. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. $65 including lunch. For more info and location call Morningtide Traditional Acupuncture Clinic (902) 455-7402.

January 14 (Sunday): Meeting the Madwoman Within. An adventure confronting Madwoman's creative energies and transforming them into unusual art. Bedford. Call LaLonnie Wood for more info. (902) 832-1626.

January 18 (Thursday): Feminism and Points of View, lecture by Kathleen Shannon, filmmaker. 7:30 pm. Auditorium D, Seaton Academic Centre, Mount St Vincent University. Halifax.

January 18 (Thursday): Music And Wellness. Halifax Recreation. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

January 21 (Sunday): Red Hot and Blue Night: Wear original denims or decorate them. Prizes. Stonewall, 1560 Hollis St., Halifax.

January 21 (Sunday): Self-Defense For Women. Halifax Recreation. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Info: Northcliffe Centre (902) 421-7601.

January 22 (Monday): Lunch and the Zodiac. A free lecture with astrologer Wynne Jordon at Little Mysteries 1645 Barrington St. Discussing AQUARIUS. Noon - 1 p.m. Bring a lunch 423-1313.

January 22 (Monday): Create the Life You Truly Want. Halifax Recreation 6:30 p.m. Info. Chocolate Lake Centre (902) 421-7604.

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January Events

5¢ Wing Night: If you think our tasty wings are a great deal (10¢) on Wednesdays, drop by on Mondays in January for even better prices.
Karoke Night: Wednesdays will be having you sing your heart out for two prizes worth $50 of Stonewall Gift Certificates.

"A safe place for us to meet"

January 24 (Wednesday): Kripalu Yoga Classes with Silver Frith. Beginners, intermediate levels. Beginning today. Info (902) 477-9771.

January 31 (Wednesday): Last day to get nominations in for First Annual Stonewall Cultural Awards, to be held March 10. Details at bar. Stonewall, 1560 Hollis St., Halifax.

February and on

February: Black History Month. Gala Cultural nights, children's puppet shows, schooltime programs and discussions of contemporary issues highlight the rich cultural heritage and ongoing social contributions of African-Nova Scotians. For events in the Halifax area 421-6897.

February 1 - June 30: " Notable Women of Nova Scotia 1820-1900" 1685 Argyle St., Halifax. New display at the Dal University Costume Studies Institute and Museum, Carleton House. Open Tues - Sat 11 am - 3 pm. 494-6515.

February 3 (Saturday): 9:00 pm - 1:00 am. Truro Valentines Dance, at the Truro Armory, 2nd Building on 126 Willow St. Smoking allowed. For more info call 893-2579.

February 6 (Tuesday): 7:30 p.m. Owning the problem, White people's

The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women would like to announce:

Family Violence Prevention Week
February 11 - 17, 1996

For information on how to participate in your local area, please contact:
Family Violence Prevention Initiative
1-902-424-4187

response to racism. At the Atlantic Health Centre Meeting Room, Captain Spry Community Centre. Skits and presentations by the Metro Coalition for a Non-racist Society focus on the roles and responsibilities of white people in the struggle against racism. Call Linda Roberts at 479-1111.

February 10 (Saturday): Sweetheart Women's Dance. 8 pm to 1 am. Halifax Civic Workers Club (corner of Bloomfiels and Isleville Streets) Tickets $7 advance $9 at door. Call 423-0264 for info.

February 11 (Sunday): Confronting Anger: What Does Your Anger Look Like? When anger is confronted it releases powerful energies that can transform your life. Giving a creative expression for anger helps to release these energies trapped within your anger. For information call LaLonnie Wood, Bedford. (902) 832-1626.

February 11 (Sunday): Lunch and the Zodiac. A free lecture with astrologer Wynne Jordon at Little Mysteries 1645 Barrington St. Discussing PISCES. Noon - 1 p.m. Bring a lunch 423-1313.

February 13 to 18: Sheree Fitch's First Play by Claudia Habib. At the Sir James Dunn Theatre in Halifax in coordination with Family Violence

Prevention Week. Performances begin at 8 pm. Tickets are $16.50 and $12.50.

March 7 (Thursday): Aboriginal Women in the Oral Tradition, lecture by Maria Campbell, writer/playwright. 7:30 pm. Auditorium D, Seaton Academic Centre, Mount St Vincent University. Halifax.

March 8 (Friday): International Women's Day. Variety Show at Dalhousie StudentUnion Building, Halifax. 7:30 pm. Call 494-2432 for info.

April 26-28: Body Consciousness Through Belly Dancing at Akala Point, Box 1627, RR #1, Tantallon, NS, B0J 3J0, 902-823-2160.

May 10-12: Mothers and Daughters at Akala Point, Box 1627, RR #1, Tantallon, NS, B0J 3J0, 902-823-2160.

May 17-19: Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Assault at Akala Point, Box 1627, RR #1, Tantallon, NS, B0J 3J0. Contact Eastwind (902) 422-3760 for info.

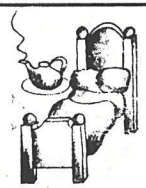
June 21-23: Honoring the Ripeness of Women, of Summer at Akala Point, Box 1627, RR #1, Tantallon, NS, B0J 3J0, 902-823-2160.

June 38-July 1: For Lesbians Only: Lesbian Fair, live entertainment, dance, workshops & more. To get on mailing lists, send SASE with name and address to N. McNamara, RR #1, Scotsburn, N.S. B0K 1R0. (This is a drug-, alcohol-, s&m-free event.) Registration fee to be announced. (See also Might You Be Interested section.)

Monthly/Weekly Meetings

1st Sunday of the month: Pictou County Lesbian Brunch Club. 10:30 ish at local (Pictou area) restaurants. Call 485-8526 for info.

Fresh Start bed & breakfast



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2nd Sunday of each month. Juka (N.S. Black Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Association). Call 429-7922 for details.

Every Sunday. Safe Harbour MCC. 7:30 pm in the Universalist Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis St., Hfx. Call 454-2522.

Every Sunday. Truro Lesbian Support Group. 7 pm. 897-6722 for info.

Every Monday. Halifax Gay AA. 8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Basilica. Spring Garden Rd., Hfx. Call 461-1119 for details.

2nd and 4th Monday. **Humans Against Homophobia**. Meets from 5:30 - 7:00 in Rm #302 Dal Sub, University Ave, Hfx. All sexual/gender orientations welcome. Call 494-6662.

Women's Recovery Support Group meets Tuesdays 6-7:30 pm. 4th Floor Lord Nelson Bldg, Drug Dependency Office, 5675 Spring Garden Road. Hfx. Contact Kathleen Howell, 424-5920.

Every Tuesday evening: Lesbian singing group near Pictou. 7-9 pm. Call 485-8526 for info.

Tuesday Evening Discussion Group. The Seeker's Emporium host a series of talks on a number of topics including reflexology, Yoga and the art of breathing, crystal awareness, Reiki, tapping into your intuitive potential and colon cleansing. 7-9 p.m. 1518 Dresdon Row, Upper Level, Halifax. (902) 423-8961.

Outlet. Lesbians, gays, and bi's meet 1st and 3rd Tuesday in Wolfville. Charlene 542-2287 Ext. 140.

Women's Group for Young Lesbian and Bisexual Women (25 & under). First & third Tuesday of the month. Drop-in/social from 6-7 pm. Meeting at 7 pm at Planned Parenthood NS offices, 6156 Quinpool Rd., Hfx. Call Maura 492-0444 for info.

North Branch Women's Group. Wednesdays at 10 am. Join us at the North Branch Library on Wednesday mornings for two hours of friendly conversation, film, and discussion on what affects you. All women welcome! For further information contact Tina Robertson at 421-6987.

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FLAG general meeting. 2nd Wednesday of each month. 7 pm, Rm F108 of the Science Library Concourse, UNB campus, Fredericton. Phone 457-2156 for details.

NGALE General Meeting. 2nd Wednesday. 7:30 pm at Newfoundland and Labrador AIDS Committee offices, 347 Duckworth St, 6th floor, St. John's. Bring a friend. 579-8656.

Last Wednesday. **Central Nova Lesbians and Gays Group** regular meeting. Call 893-2579 for details.

The Business Network Intl. meets every Thursday morning at 7:00 - 8:30 am in the Smitty's Meeting room, Bedford, NS. A great opportunity to network with other business women and men in your community. For info call John Renouf at 454-7424.

GLAS (Gays and Lesbian Association for Support) every 1st and 3rd Sat. 7:30 pm in the Student Common Rm. Grenfell College, CornerBrook. 634-1066 for more info.

Every Saturday. **N.S. OUTLine.** The toll-free queer youth line is now available from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. at 1-800-566-2437.

Might you be interested?!

Volunteers are needed:
- to work shifts at the **Red Herring Co-op Bookstore**, 1578 Argyle St., Halifax. (902) 422-5087 or drop by.

- to help us plan, research, write or distribute our next issue of **Connections.** Call Deb at 453-9475 or Kelly at 679-1051.

- **Stepping Stone** is a street outreach organization working with women, men, and youth who are involved, or at risk of becoming involved in prostitution. We are looking for tutoring volunteers to assist us with our upcoming literacy program. Volunteers must have experience in literacy tutoring/upgrading. A non-judgemental attitude is also required. For more info call Suzanne at 420-0103.

"LICK" - Lesbians in Constant Konfusion - a group for lesbians who have sexual abuse issues, alcohol/drug/smoking addictions/coping mechanisms, and who want to talk about the "Konfusion" in their lives. Call 485-8526 or write Nadine McNamara, RR1 Scotsburn, N.S. B0K 1R0 (Only REAL [Raging, Entertaining, and Loud] lesbians please).

Looking for Lesbian Entrepreneurs with services or wares to buy/sell/exchange at Lesbian Fair, June 29, Pictou Co. Book space by Jan 1. Apply

in writing with name, address, phone number, your particular ware or service to N. McNamara, RR #1, Scotsburn, NS B0K 1R0. (See also Calendher events June 28-July 1)

Looking for environmentally sensitive women-positive people for the purpose of forming a support group. Contact Johanna Cash at 7 Frederick Ave, Halifax, N.S., B3N 2K3.

A project to explore the abuse of parents by their teenage children. The aim is to find out more about parent abuse, and to collect information about what resources are needed by parents, teens, and support people in order for the abuse to end. If your willing to be interviewed about your experiences please call Barbara Cottrell, project coordinator at 454-4801.

Winter Classes at Great Ocean Natural Foods. Vegetarian cooking classes with Laura Bishop of the famous Green Door restaurant in Ottawa and now Heartwood Bakery & Cafe in Halifax. Eat what you create! Holistic Health Care with Dr. Cheryl Lynette N.D. Learn more about what is troubling your body and your environment. For dates contract Great Ocean Foods, 6112 Quinpool Rd., Halifax, N.S. (902) 425-7400.

Health and Nutrition - Individuals interested in health and nutrition workshops and courses contract Nella Pidutti in Digby (902) 245-6720.

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January 1996

Welcome back! The Women's Centre is open for the New Year. Upcoming events include events for Black History Month and International Women's Week. Of course, we will be presenting the annual International Women's Day Variety Show on Friday, March 8 at the Dalhousie Student Union Building. In addition, there will be a variety of events over the next few months.

Once again we are looking for new volunteers. There will be a volunteer training day later this month. Call us if you would like to be one of our enthusiastic volunteers at the Centre!

If you have any suggestions for programming or would like to be involved in organizing events and activities, please call Heather any time at the DWC.

Schedule of Events

January 8 — The DWC is open!

January 11— Volunteer meetingg, DWC, 4:30 pm. If you would like to volunteer and cannot make this first meeting, please call Kelly at 494-2432.

January 16— Organizing meeting for I.W.D. DWC, 4:30 pm. If you would like to be involved, have any suggestions or comments, or want to volunteer your time, please call Heather at the Centre.

January 17— Organizing meeting for Black History Month activities. 4 pm.

January 26—New Year's Potluck. For more information, please call the DWC.

February 10—Volunteer training. 11 am, DWC. Call for more information.

International Women's Day Variety Show

Friday, March 8, 1996

Dalhousie Student Union Bldg.

7:30 pm

For more information, please call 494-2432.

The Dalhousie Women's Centre

The DWC is a volunteer-directed, woman-centred, non-profit organization. We offer a women's resource library, meeting space for woman-positive organizations, and a comprehensive referral system. Because we are run by student volunteers, the Centre is not always open. We try to maintain a schedule of 10 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday. Please drop by and tour our new location. Or call anytime!

The Dalhousie Women's Centre is located at 1229 LeMarchant Street Halifax, N.S. (902) 494-2432

Fitch's First Play

by Claudia Habib

Award-winning children's writer and poet Sheree Fitch has turned her hand to adult drama. Set in a transition house, *Like A Little Candle* tells the story of Valerie, a transition house worker who must choose between protecting those in her care and her obligation to the law.

Valerie is working the graveyard shift at the transition house of few days before Christmas. She is trying to writer of resignation when, over the course of the evening, several events occur to make her question her decision. The main conflict sits between Valerira, a female police officer. Each is defending her own side but later realizes they are fighting for the same thing.

Like A Little Candle lends voices to women and children who live with the burden of violence in their everyday lives. It is a story of courage and strength and of hope.

The play was inspired from Sheree's first book of poems, *In This House Are Many Women.* From there, the book was developed into a workshop for Eastern Front Theatre's On the Waterfront Festival in 1994.

It is directed by Mary Vingoe and stars Carol Godsman, Faith Ward and Kay Anonsen. The show runs from February 13-18 at the Sir James Dunn Theatre in Halifax in co-ordination with Family Violence Prevention Week. Performances are at 8 pm. Tickets are $16.50 and $12.50 for students, equity mambers, and the unwaged.

Women and Business

Written Resources

Atlantic Women Magazine. A mostly black and white magazine, free if you pick it up at one of the distributions outlets or $28.50 (incl GST) for 12 issues. 468-5362 or Fax 468-5364.

Home Business Advocate. A newsletter published since 1986. A supplement to Natural Life, published by the Alternate Press, 272 Hwy 5, RR 1, St. George, Ontario, Canada N0E 1N0. Subs: $19.63 + GST. (519) 448-4401.

Home Business Report: Working for people working from home. A full colour quarterly mag from Canada! Subs $17.12 (GST Incl.) per year. Back issues are available. HB Communications Group, Inc. 2949 Ash Street, Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 4G5 Tel (604) 857-1788 or (604) 854-5530 Fax (604) 854-3087 E-mail hbr@cyberstore.ca

Marketing Magazine. MacLean Hunter Building, 777 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5W 1A7 Subs. $59.60 for 47 issues a year.

Profit: the magazine for Canadian entrepreneurs. PO Box 3000, Stn Brm B, Toronto, Ont. M7Y 7A2 Subs. $10.65 year for 4 issues.

Women in Management. Established in 1987. FREE. Write to Management Research and Development's Women in Management Program, Western Business School, London, Canada, N6A 3K7 Editorial Office: 248 Pall Mall St., Suite 400, London, Ont. N6A 5P6 Tel (519) 673-3089 Fax (519) 433-6982.

Working Woman. A full-colour monthly mag for women whether you are an employee or an employer. Subs are $21.97 U.S. Write PO Box 3276, Harlan, IA 51593-2456.

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Other magazines of interest: **Atlantic Business Magazine** and **Canadian Business Magazine.**

Here are some of the resources available at Frog Hollow Books, Spring Garden Place. 429-3318.

The Female Advantage: Women's ways of leadership. Sally Helgesen. $19.95 Focuses on the strategies and organizational theories for successful leadership.

Canada's Best Employers for Women. Tema Frank $17.95. A guide for job hunters, employees, and employers.

Inc. Your Dreams. Rebecca Maddox $29.99 For any woman who is thinking about her own business.

A Managers Guide to Sexual Orientation In the Workplace. Bob Powers $33.95

Mary Kay: You Can Have It All. Mary Kay $32.95. America's foremost woman entrepreneur tells you how to do it.

The Last Word on Power. Tracy Goss $35.00 The new buzzword is executive reinvention. You can't reinvent an organization without reinventing the managers first.

If Women Counted: A New Feminist Economics. Marilyn Waring $21.00 An analysis of modern economics from a feminist perspective.

Here are some other books which have been recommended.

Woman To Woman: Street Smarts for Women Entrepreneurs. Geraldine Larkin

Our Wildest Dreams: Women Entrepreneurs Making Money, Having Fun Doing Good. Joline Godfrey

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Women Mean Business: Successful Strategies for Starting Your Own Business. Moneca Litton

Other Resources

Some places you might want to search further are:

Phone book Blue Pages. Very Useful Stuff!!!

Halifax City Regional Library on Spring Garden Road • has a very complete business resource section including their own pamphlets highlighting some of their own materials.

Canada/Nova Scotia Business Service Centre, 1575 Brunswick St, Halifax, B3J 2G1 426-4597, toll free 1-800-668-1010 • Many free resources here including a library, computer time, a bunch of brochures and pamphlets, and helpful bilingual resource people. They run the Community Business Loan Program. Other Business Service Centres across Nova Scotia: Truro 893-1595; Yarmouth 742-8404; Sydney 563-2070; Amherst 667-3223; Bridgewater 543-0515; Port Hawkesbury 625-3200; New Glasgow 755-7040; Kentville 679-6116.

Canadian Intellectual Property Office •A representative of this office works at the Halifax Business Service Centre (see above for phone numbers) Information about copyrights, trademarks, and patents.

Small Business Loans Administration, Industry Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5 (613) 954-5540

Almost all Chartered Banks • For example, the Royal Bank has a series of booklets titled Your Business Matters about starting a small business: (Starting out right, Managing your cash flow, Financial planning guide and application, Borrowing money.) Also a computer disk about business planning called The Big Idea.

David W. MacDonald
Honours B.Comm. SPAD

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Federal Business Development Bank, 1400 Cogswell Tower, 426-7850. Long distance no charge dial 1-426-2474. •Information about various loans.

Center for Women In Business, Mount St. Vincent University. 457-6271 (See article in this issue)

Association of Atlantic Women Business Owners. Regional Office 1819 Granville St., Suite 304. Halifax, N.S. B3J 1X8. Phone (902) 422-2828 or Fax (902) 422-9711.

Halifax Women's Network: Helping women in business network since 1981. Box 3604 South, Halifax, NS B3J 3K6. Call 429-3131.

The National Representative, Canadian Labour Congress Women's Bureau, 2841 Riverside Dr., Ottawa, Ont. K1V 8X7 (613) 521-3400

Statistics Canada, Atlantic Region, Advisory Services 1770 Market St, Halifax, N.S. B3J 3M3 Tel (902) 426-9822 or 1-800-565-7192 Fax (902) 426-9538

Business Development Centre, Saint Mary's University, The Sterns Building, Dartmouth. 81 Alderney Dr., Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 2N7 Tel (902) 469-2992 Fax (902) 469-4244

ACOA: Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency 1801 Hollis St., PO Box 2284, Station 'M', Halifax, B3J 3C8 1-800-565-1228 Tel (902) 564-3614 Fax (902) 564-3825

Canadian Bankers Association. Suite 501, Queens Ct, 5475 Spring Garden Rd, Halifax, N.S. B3J 1G2 Tel (902) 423-3399 or Fax (902) 429-5478.

Revenue Canada, Special Services for Small Business Department 426-2577 or 1-800-663-2577. • Small Business Employer's Kit from Revenue Canada 426-3296 or 1-800-563-3296.

A Great Gift for Yourself or Someone Else:

Connections: A Womyn's Monthly

a lesbian-positive information/resource newsletter for women

Subscriptions $15/12 issues.

Mail check or money order (made out to Kelly Dixon) to:

Connections, 5419 Roome St.
Halifax, N.S. B3K 2L6

Peer-group lending. Apparantly there are now two groups in Halifax and more across Nova Scotia. Groups of people get together to get loans for their small businesses and to support each other. You can reach one Halifax group, Shambala Peer Lending, by calling 492-3585.

Government Programs: Please note that government assistance programs are constantly changing. Old ones are canned, qualifications change, and new ones start up.

Small Business Loans Act Program (SBLA): If you run a small business with an annual revenue of less than $5 million or if you are thinking of starting one. Agricultural, religious or charitable organizations, or businesses that wish to borrow or acquire real estate for rent or resale are not eligible. It helps new and existing small businesses obtain term loans from chartered banks and other designated lenders to help finance the purchase or renovation of fixed assets. These business improvement loans, which cannot exceed $250,000, must be repaid within 10 years. Applications can be made at any chartered bank, credit union, caisse populaire or other financial institution which has received designation as a lender for the purposes of the SBLA. For further information on interest rates, maximum level of funding, registration fees, and securities contact: Small Business Loans Administration, Industry Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5 (613) 954-5540

Aboriginal Business Canada: For status Indians, non-status Indians, Inuit and Metis people. Provides a range of services and support for all sizes and kinds of businesses. This includes developing business plans, sector information and marketing support, other sources of financing, financing for buying, starting or expanding a business, loan insurance and support for conferences, workshops and studies of Aboriginal subjects. To obtain a copy of Aboriginal Business Canada and You, call the Aboriginal Business Canada office nearest you or call Industry Canada at (613) 954-4064. You may call collect.

Management Trainee Program: If you have a master's degree in any

Income Tax, Bookkeeping, Financial Statements

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discipline from a recognized university. It is a five-year, multi-assignment training and developing initiative for those interested in management. Participants can enhance their education with training in management skills and gain first-hand knowledge and experience of a career in the federal public service. Applicant profile forms and information brochures can be obtained from your campus career centre or from Public Service Commission offices across Canada.

Festivals/Events

Dates were for 1995. Check for 1996 dates before planning to attend.
June 14-17: '95 National Assoc. of Insurance Women Annual Convention(NAIW) in Baltimore, MD: Theme: "Continue the Quest." For more information call 1-800-766-6249.

June 18: Lesbian, Gay Business Expo. Astroarena, Houston Texas. Over 400 booths of businesses catering to our market. For tickets or info call 1-800-203-4597 or write Town Meeting, Inc. PO Box 66128 Houston, Tx 77266-6128

June 23-24: "Uncommon Women on Common Ground" in Long Beach, CA: Keynotes: Anita Hill, Anita Roddick. 2-day conference presented by Women Incorporated. For info call 1-800-930-3993.

June 27-29: Channels for Change in Santa Clara, Calif.: How-to panels, workshops. Sponsored by WITI (International Network of Women in Technology). $375. Call 818-990-1987 or send e-mail to witi@crl.com

AUGUST
TBA: **Women in Entertainment, Sports & Business**: Workshops and expo in Los Angeles. PO Box 1600, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 or call 310-318-2144.

Centre for Women in Business

"Realistic support, encouragement and information."

Starting or expanding a business?

The Centre for Women in Business is an information and referral centre for YOU!
Call (902) 457-6449

CENTRE for WOMEN in BUSINESS

Centre for Women in Business

Mount Saint Vincent University's Centre for Women in Business is a resource centre for potential and existing entrepreneurs. Its mandate is to: supply business information, provide access to training, facilitate networking, promote the role of women entrepreneurs and support relevant research. The Centre for Women in Business is supported by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Bank of Montreal.

The Centre for Women in Business (CWB) is an innovative organization, established in 1992, to meet the needs of women entrepreneurs in the region. Two-thirds of all new Canadian businesses in recent years have been started by women. By the year 2000, it is expected that women will represent one in three self-employed people. CWB has been extremely busy with a client base of over 2,000 one-to-one meetings and over 2,500 information packages have been distributed upon request.

The Centre recognizes that women face certain challenges in owning and operating their own business. Women who contact the Centre are treated seriously. Each query receives the friendly attention from the Office Administrator who takes time to listen. Turnaround time on phone calls is 24 business hours.

CWB is a unique place for realistic support, encouragement and information where women become focused and motivated. Clients are given the opportunity to discuss their ideas in a confidential setting with the Business Consultant, Maria Hopkins. One of the most supportive features about the Centre is that the information and time is generally free of charge. The Centre realizes that money can be one of the biggest barriers facing any person starting up a business.

Clients requesting referrals are given several names of services, consultants, businesses and agencies. Feedback is received from clients as to how they were received when they approached places recommended by CWB. If they had a negative reaction, CWB checks on the validity of the complaint and decides on future referrals. Credibility is extremely important to CWB and the Centre understands that clients can't afford to waste time going to places where they're not going to receive the help they need.

Networking Evenings, where women can learn, mingle, support and share ideas, are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Mount Saint Vincent University. For more information, please phone the Centre at (902) 457-6449 or E-mail at Louise.Mark@msvu.ca.

The spirit of business

With all the challenges and hurdles presented to women entering the entrepreneurial arena these days, I thought I'd write, instead, about the positive experiences I've had since opening a small business less than a year ago. Not to say that we're flying free and east, yet all in all, the positive encounters have outweighed the negative.

Even before the store was just a crazy idea, I've had the support of both friends and family ; from financial assistance to the loan of a fabulous antique case to physical labour. I firmly believe that anyone even considering a business should have this kind of support network. Setting up a business was a fabulous amount of work with people questioning your abilities and sanity at every turn. Knowing there is a cheering section out there who believes in your vision can make the difference between having a decent concept and physically opening a store.

One of the pleasures of Little Mysteries Books is being a resource to the local community, in particular the newly developing Goddess and Earth oriented communities in the Maritimes. In striving to be unique and to offer a woman positive and sacred place, as well as useful products for our customers, Little Mysteries has found a customer base of wonderful, vibrant people (primarily women) who are a real treat to deal with. Frankly, from having worked for a good number of years, you don't often see the shining side of humanity in retail. At Little Mysteries, it's a different story altogether. The customers I've met are earnest, intelligent seekers, quick to smile and willing to share the stories of their lives and spirituality. Throughout the past few months, a strong core of Little Mysteries "regulars" has developed and it's always a pick up to see a familiar face walk through the door.

With specialty stores like ours, you have to go that extra distance to reach what is often a narrow target market. The up side to this is that our best form of advertising continues to be word of mouth (which carries with it the recommendation of the speaker, something no conventional ad ever could). As well, we actually get to know our customers. I love being able to show someone a new item that I know will be right up their alley. Helping people on their spiritual journeys is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job, and working at Little Mysteries is definitely one of the only jobs to which I *could* devote the amount of time and energy to that I do. I guess it's the combination of the joy of self employment and the pleasure of working with such great folks!

* * *

Vanessa Smith is co-owner and manager of Little Mysteries Books, 1645 Barrington Street in Halifax. She has been involved in the local Pagan community for over five years.

Do Banks Discriminate Against Women Business Owners?

from Page 6, The Home Business Advocate. Issue Number 33.

A survey recently released by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) found what it called "outrageous" discrimination by banks against women small business owners. According to a survey of over 10,000 business owners, women are far more likely than men (20%) to be rejected when applying for small business loans ... and 60% of women who answered were paying more than one percentage point higher on business loans than their male counterparts.

The CFIB made a series of recommendations to help rectify this discrimination. These include: banks should decentralize credit decision making to the branch level to foster a relationship of confidence between the borrower and the bank; account managers should receive training to help them understand the importance of female entrepreneurs in the economy; and financial institutions must better understand the needs of small businesses, especially those owned by women.

Reactions to the survey was predictably mixed, especially since other studies exist (including one by the federal government) which says there is no relationship between gender and access to credit. Banks continue to deny the existence of discrimination against women business owners.

Connections needs a new advertising saleswoman!

Our current saleswoman is going on to newer and, hopefully, better things! So we are trying to find another woman who will work on a commission basis to solicit businesses for advertising and arrange for ad pick-up and delivery. Must be a self-starter, willing to work with minimal supervision.
Contact Debbie Mathers at 453-9475
or Kelly Dixon at 679-1051.