

WEST KOOTENAY

MAR/99

# women's

## ASSOCIATION

VOL. 2  
NUM. 4

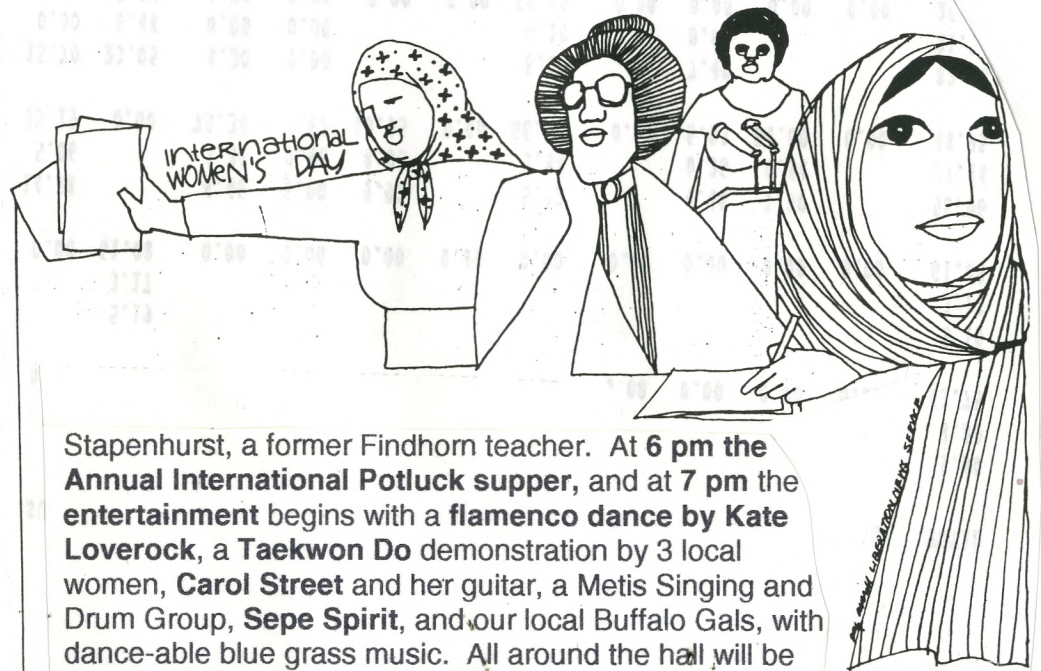
Children, women and men are being exploited in sweatshops all over the world today. Many work 12-15 or more hours a day, 7 days a week, without overtime pay in unsafe, unsanitary and abusive conditions. Children and young women have been found chained to their work stations so they cannot run away. Ignored are international labour standards such as a safe and healthy workplace, a living wage, freedom from discrimination and sexual harassment, no forced labour or exploitive child labour, no forced overtime, and the right to organize and bargain collectively to safeguard their rights. Apparel giants being sued for sweatshop abuses are: GAP, TOMMY HILFIGER, WAL-MART, OSHKOSH B'GOSH,

EDDIE BAUER, CALVIN KLEIN, SEARS, PHILLIPS VAN-HEUSEN, FOOT LOCKER, DOCKERS, & NIKE. The issues that spawned the creation of International Women's Day are still with us. More information about this is available at the International Women's Day March 6<sup>th</sup> Event at the Rod & Gun Club Hall in Nelson.

## International Women's Day

Women around the world claim March 8<sup>th</sup> as a day of protest, solidarity and celebration. We come together to celebrate our victories and to plan strategies to fight many issues including employment at decent wages and an end to violence against women.

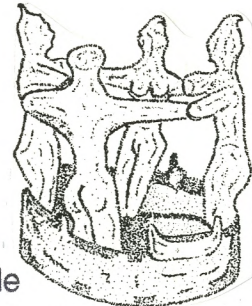
This year we brainstormed about what would be the perfect Day for Women. Here's what we came up with: First: three free workshops; **Massage for Women 10-noon** with Christine Sutherland; **noon to 2 pm Art & Awareness**, a workshop with art therapists Christine Lummas and Erica Terry; **2 pm to 4 pm Circle Dance** with Rose



Stapenhurst, a former Findhorn teacher. At 6 pm the **Annual International Potluck supper**, and at 7 pm the **entertainment** begins with a **flamenco dance** by Kate Loverock, a **Taekwon Do** demonstration by 3 local women, **Carol Street** and her guitar, a **Metis Singing and Drum Group**, **Sepe Spirit**, and our local **Buffalo Gals**, with dance-able blue grass music. All around the hall will be women's information booths and women selling local crafts. Tables are free, call the Women's Centre to **book a table or to register for a workshop: 352-9916**. See you there!



## Co-ordinating Collective Report



The *West Kootenay Women's Association* is composed of a Co-ordinating Collective of nine women; seven are volunteers and two are Women's Centre staff. The decisions are made with a consensus format, the meetings are monthly and anyone who is a member of the WKWA is welcome to attend. The meetings have a different chair each month, someone volunteers to bring supper for everyone, another dessert, and another to do minutes. Discussions are often lively and agendas usually contain a broad range of subjects contributed by WKWA members.

We on the collective are grateful for the work of the Hiring committee: Sally MacKenzie, Krista James and Jarmila Hradil for choosing such an outstanding candidate to fill the large shoes left behind by Moe Lyons. Jill Stewart's warm and deeply engaged presence at our collective meetings and in the Centre is a welcome asset. If you haven't met Jill, drop by and receive one of her brilliant smiles; you won't be sorry you walked up the hill!

The collective is working hard to safeguard the delivery of services at the Centre, increase accountability and also comply with organizational standards set by the Ministry of Women's Equality. To be eligible for continuing agreements with the Ministry, policy matters are

being set down with the capable steerage of Rhonda Schmidt; i.e., a complaints policy for women who use the Centre; refining staff and CC roles and orientation.

In early March a one-day retreat for the CC is scheduled to discuss division of responsibilities between staff and the CC. Communication exercises designed to accommodate the varied perspectives on issues of concern to women in the community and to help seek common ground will be an important feature of this gathering. We will look at how and why the Association works and how to better serve the needs of women in the community. (There will be a suggestion box at International Women's Day for anyone's ideas.)

New collective member Laura Lundee is welcomed, replacing Joanna Maratta who resigned in December. With Laura's background in law and experience in women's issues, she brings plenty of fresh perspective to the table. Next CC meeting, March 3, 1999.

See you at  
**International Women's Day, a  
Celebration of Women's Diversity,  
Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the  
R & G Club Hall (The Waterfall Hall).**



If you are the victim of a crime, going to the police can be very frightening. You do not have to go through it alone. When you call the police, ask them to call their **Victim Services Worker (Edith Doyle)**. She can be with you the whole time and explain everything that is happening.



Even if you're just thinking about reporting a crime call **354-1393** and she will tell you what it will be like so YOU can choose what you'd like to do. (This message reprinted from the excellent **Nelson teen booklet, Girls on the Town**, available at the Women's Centre Library.)

# Women's Centre Report



We have been very busy and are also in the midst of transition since November which will continue until April, at least.

A quick recap of the year so far:

**January:** I spent most of this month working on the Status of Women Canada (SWC) grant application - with help from Bev, Eileen, Heather, Sally, Jill, plus input from Kootenay WITT and others. Jill continued on the steep learning curve provided by the Centre, generally held the fort and put out her first newsletter.

**February:** We got verbal approval for our SWC project - a two year project on Employment Equity. This is very exciting, as it means two-year funding from SWC ( hooray! no grant application to write next January!) for an essential and exciting project. The change at SWC from Program (core) funding to Project only funding has significant impact on us and is part of the reason for the continuing transition. Jill and volunteers organized what promises to be a fabulous IWD and did most everything else life at the Centre threw at her.

**March:** Come celebrate IWD with us at the R&G Club on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 free workshops, lots of music and an International Potluck supper at 6pm. Phone 352-9916 to register( no charge) for a wares/display table or to take a workshop.. Volunteer training starts 9:30 a.m. on Monday, March 8. Moe's farewell party (we miss you) is Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>. The 31st will see the ending of the DL/DW project, the current fiscal year and the present staffing configuration. Klinda will take a much needed break from March 15-April 12.

**April:** April 1 is the first day of the new funding from SWC and therefore of the Employment Equity project. The Women's Centre committee, staff, and the CC have begun to come to grips with the results of this funding change. We have discussed a possible staff configuration of Women's Centre Coordinator, Project Coordinator and Office Manager. This would be a major change from the co-coordinator positions currently held and requires thorough job-description review. Maintaining the same total number of work hours (57.2), we would see them distributed as follows:

WC coordinator	26 hrs/wk
Project coordinator	20 hrs/wk
Office Manager	8 hrs/wk
Bookkeeper	3.2 hrs/wk.

This will make staffing the centre challenging and we'll be constantly maintaining boundaries around what can be done by one woman in 26 hours. Jo H. and I went over the work done by coordinators to set priorities and reduce commitments; the best we could do is still 34 hours.

The quandary is always how to decrease time without cutting back on services. (Is this possible?) Staff has always put in volunteer time above paid hours, which is an ethical dilemma for a feminist organization. This highlights the need for more adequate funding and we welcome your brilliant ideas on how best to creatively address this situation.

Karen Newmoon

## book review



**Beyond the Pale.** by Elana Dykewomon, is a fat, juicy book that's hard to put down. The story begins in *The Pale*, the area in Russia where Jewish people lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It follows the lives of two women, Gutke, the midwife, and Chava, the daughter of a rabbi, as they make their way through a very difficult era as Jewish women and lesbians. What I love about this book (apart from *everything*) is the intricacy of the historical detail and the feeling of looking at a culture from the inside.

Like many Jewish people of the era, both Chava and Gutke end up immigrating to New York to escape the escalating violence against them in Russia. Once in the United States, we enter the world of tenements and sweatshops in the era of strikes that gave rise to the first **International Women's Day**.

For those of you who loved **Cereus Blooms at Night**, this is another book you can sink your teeth into. (Shani Mootoo, author of *Cereus* will be reading on Friday, March 12 at the Nelson Library, 7:30 pm, sponsored by the Kootenay School of Writing).

K.Linda ♀

# notes



## CALLING ALL WEBSITE PROS!!!

We need someone to update our website. Call 352-9916 to offer your services and/or to train us to do it. Thanks.

**Resumes wanted:** Headstart Resources Attn.: Randy Zonnis re: experienced people to assist People returning to work from rehab. Fax: 250-767-2792.

**Women's Support Group Drop-in.** Mon. Mar. 22 9:30 - 11:30 am at ACCESS, #3-385 Baker St. Call the day before if you are intending to come 354-4121

**Recognizing Our Strengths:** a support group for women who are or have been experiencing abuse, violence or harassment. Proposed start date is Thurs. April 8, 6:45 pm - 9 pm Call 352-9916 or 352-3504 to register

West Kootenay Gay, Lesbian and Bisexuals (**WKGLB**) Dance at the Eagles Hall March 13, 1999 8 pm to 1 pm.

**Nelson & District Recreation Commission 352-7257** have Spring Break kids programs Mar. 15, playground on ice Mar 17, a Homeopathy night Mar. 23, RRSP Planning Mar. 25, National Coaching Level 1 Mar. 19, and Beginner Two-Step Mar. 23.

**Nelson Aquatic Centre 354-4044** offers a Lifeguard course Mar. 14, a NLS Recert. course Mar 26 & 27, and St. Patricks Pot 'o Gold Swim (wear something green) with prizes eg: a free round of golf for 2!

**Literary Salon Tues. March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Dancing Bear Inn.** Theme Culinary Delights. \$5 donation.

**Kathleen Shannon Film Festival,** we need more people interested in watching this wonderful project grow. Phone the Women's Centre at 352-9916 to sign up.

**Workshop Proposal:** theme, **Healing after loss of a long term relationship.** If you'd attend phone 352-9916 to put your name on the list.

**Looking for Lesbian posters,** art, books, paraphernalia for a lesbian info. table at IWDAY. Phone Jill @ 352-9916.

**Community Response Network (CRN)** Next meeting Wed. Mar. 24 @ 1:30 in the Mental Health room, 333 Victoria St. Purpose: To prevent abuse/neglect of vulnerable adults. The Women's Centre is looking for someone to attend and inform us of developments there. Info.352-9916 Jill/Joanne.

**EMERGENCY SHELTER**  
A relatively new committee has formed around this subject and Lara, (the Women's Centre's intrepid and valuable volunteer) continues to inform us about activity at these meetings. **Research info. is required on shelters** ie.: how they started elsewhere, what worked etc. **If you have info. to share call 352-9916 or Fax 352-7100.**  
**Thank-you**



**Need a Job? The Youth Employment Resource Centre at the Nelson & District Youth Centre** is open for business! If you are between 15 and 29 years of age, the centre can help you get started. One on one help is available mon. - Fri. 10am - 4 pm. Resume writing workshop 1 pm Mondays, Job search strategy workshop 1 pm Wed.'s. We are located at 608 Lake Street or call us at 352-5656.

**A BIG thank-you to Lang's Business Systems** for the deal they put together for us for our new computer! Now we have to do some fundraising to pay for it. If you care about your newsletter and saving staff time please consider a donation to the computer fund.352-9916

**Lesbian Political Discussion Group**  
Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm at the Nelson & District Women's Centre 352-9916

**Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for women** only take place on Tuesdays at 5 pm at the Cellar, 717A Vernon St. For more info call: 354-4754

Want to meet fabulous women and help get exciting projects off the ground? WKWA needs your help! We need volunteers to brainstorm ideas, staff tables, input data, and co-ordinate volunteers. Call **352-9916** and leave message for Sandi with best time to call you back.

The **Co-ordinating Collective Projects Committee** is looking for new members to deal with requests from groups who approach WKWA with proposals to sponsor grants. Call Rhonda:365-1087



# Women on the Collective

We will be running an introduction or two each edition so that everyone can meet members of the Collective



## Rhonda Schmidt

Hello everyone, this is Rhonda Schmidt and it is my second term on the Coordinating Collective as a co-chair. The last time I wrote to you I was 3 months pregnant. I now have a beautiful baby boy named Elijah-Blue. I have completely immersed myself into motherhood and am enjoying every sleepless moment!

It was important for me to continue being on the Coordinating Collective for another year to honour my commitment to the West Kootenay Women's Association; to continue my work in the women's movement, and to model to my child the importance of equality, freedom and justice for women in our world. I am working on developing organizational standards for the WKWA so that we can continue to be funded by the Ministry of Women's Equality. It is a way to develop structure in our association but at the same time maintain our integrity as a grassroots women's movement.

Please call if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback.

**HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!**

In Sisterhood,

Rhonda ♀

## Eileen Delehanty Pearkes

In my second year on the Coordinating Collective, I feel less over my head and more able to give to the association. I wear many hats for the collective, currently filling for Tisha as treasurer while she's away. I have a friend who says: life is in the doing and I try to live by that in my work for WKWA. I have been in Nelson for four years now, writing in a wood-heated studio when I'm not mothering or enjoying the mountains. I'm learning to survive February without complaining too much. I have two school-age children and am married 14 years to the Canadian who brought me from the U.S., a move I am more happy about each year that I settle further into being a sort of Canadian. My writing work brings me great satisfaction. I write a lot about nature, and about womanhood: currently I'm working on a novel set at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on a B.C. Gulf Island about a woman and her desire to express herself in a culture in which that was not easy. My International Women's Day contribution will be on Co-op Radio, Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>, where I'll read from my piece entitled "Berry Picking"; an exploration of female symbols in nature. It's at 100.9 FM, tune in!

Eileen ♀



The Dancing Bird Goddess.

## LOGO CONTEST!

Spiff up our existing WKWA logo or create a new design. Fax, mail or bring to the Women's Centre

Big prizes for the winner!



Our Present Logo

ROBOTMAN



# Where is Women's History?



Have we ever heard of women having a history or, what's more, a historical impact on society? Most of us heard no such thing from school textbooks. But if we consider the evidence, there are clues, such as the bronze plaque honouring *The Valiant Five*, at the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. The plaque cites Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Henrietta Muir Edwards and Louise McKinney for their exceptional acts.

At the onset of the twentieth century, women, along with children, 'idiots', 'lunatics', and criminals, were not considered persons under Canadian Law (note the tactful language that was used). All money and property was in the name of fathers, husbands and even brothers. Consequently, women could not, if married, own property, have bank accounts, keep their own wages, or keep their own children if they left their husbands, etc.

*The Valiant Five* were at the forefront of the social participation women have now gained by the end

of this century. It took many years of struggle against discrimination. In one case, a lawyer refused to accept a judgement made by newly-appointed Magistrate, Emily Murphy, in the Edmonton Juvenile Court, in 1916, because she was not even a person! The fight carried through to 1928, when in response to a petition signed by the aforementioned five women, the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada took the stand that women were not persons, since all the pronouns in the *British North America Act* of 1867, were male. Fortunately, the Supreme Court of Canada did not have the last word, at that time, and the women took their petition to the Privy Council in London. Lawyer R.C. Rowell represented them in England, June 1929, where the matter was deliberated until October 18, 1929 when at last, Lord Sankey declared women to be persons just as much as were men, and with the same right to serve in the Senate.

Elaine Dupuis ♀



## Quoted from *Words That Count Women In*

### Ontario Women's Directorate

Words create images more powerful than any definition. If you don't choose your words with care, they may send a message you never intended. All speakers and writers share the same goal: clear communication. Male-biased words don't meet that challenge. They hark back to a world that no longer exists, a world with no place for women's aspirations. They cause needless doubts and needless offence. Unless we learn to spot them and change them, they'll distract attention from the Point we're trying to make. Bias-free language includes the **WHOLE** audience.

For example:

#### NON-INCLUSIVE

household, housewife  
 common man  
 faculty wife  
 bachelor degree  
 hatchet man  
 early man  
 man, mankind  
 mother tongue  
 maiden name  
 woman's intuition  
 modern man

#### INCLUSIVE

homemaker  
 average person  
 faculty spouse  
 undergraduate degree  
 assassin  
 prehistoric people  
 humankind, humanity  
 first language  
 birth name  
 intuition  
 modern society, people today

## Local Workers Strike on March 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day

Community Social Services are vital to the health and well being of the people of B.C. Workers provide critical services to families, people with physical or developmental disabilities, youth and children, and women in crisis.

In the Community Social Services sector, the majority of the workers are women, however they are among the lowest paid workers in the public service, earning less in wages and benefits than workers in health care or provincial government that do similar work. They have lower vacation benefits, fewer health benefits, and no pension plans. Some earn minimum wage; others, who work 24-hour live-in shifts, make less.

Ten thousand members of the BCGEU, CUPE, HEU and HSA have voted in favour of strike action, deadline March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1999. The labour movement and the NDP have stood together to win the same pay for people who do similar work. It's time the provincial government made good on its commitment to address wage equity for community social services workers.



# events



## **CAPITOL THEATRE 352-6368**

Box office hours Tues-Fri 10-4:30 pm

Costume Shop open Tues-Fri 1-4:30

**354-1510**

Sat, March 6 **Bacchois** (P.E.I.

Acadienne musique) 8 pm

Sat, March 20 **The Capitol's**

**Children's Workshop Theatre** 7:30 pm

Fri, March 26 Inner Peace Fashion

Show 8 pm

Sat, March 27 **Annual Lip Synch**

**Contest** 8 pm Adults \$10, Kids \$7 Light

& Power Theatre Co. Register to

perform \$6 March 9 - 23 **352-1696**

Wed, March 31, **LVR Grad Fashion**

**Show** 7 pm

## **HUNGER SUPPER**

5:30 pm, March 7, United Church Hall

602 Silica An award-winning drama

from JL Crow students.

**Maquillas, the Real Story**

**352-2822**

## **LESBIDYKE DROP-IN**

First Friday of month. Next one, March

5, 7 pm at the Nelson Women's Centre,

420 Mill St., This month's topic: *Your*

*favourite book.* **352-9916**

## **KOOTENAY GALLERY** (Across from

Castlegar Airport) In the East Galley

**Chrysalis** March to April 7. Twelve

graduating KSA Students' works In

the West Gallery- A Kootenay

invitational exhibit. Awesome.

Items auctioned off April 17 at 7 pm with

auctioneer CBC's **Vicki Gabereau.**

Moe Lyons

**365-3337**

## **NELSON MUSEUM**

### **MILDRED ERB GALLERY**

March 5 - 27 Patrizia Menton: The

photographs in this exhibit are alpine

and local nature images. Italian-born

Patrizia uses the beauty of the Slokan

Valley to fuel her creativity. Opening

reception Fri, March 5, 6 - 8 pm

**352-9813**

## **YOUTH CENTRE**

Girl's Night every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

**352-5656**

## **NELSON LIBRARY**

*Author Reading & Writing Workshops*

Author Readings Fridays 7:30 pm

Writing Workshops Saturdays, 10 - 2

pm Library Meeting Rooms

**Shani Mootoo** Reading March 12,

Workshop March 13

**Carmen Rodriguez** Reading April 9,

Workshop April 10

**Janet Lunn** Reading April 30,

Workshop May 1

**Terry Glavin** Reading May 7. Workshop

May 8

**352-6333**



*Sheela-Na-Gig.*

**Celebration Party for Moe**  
**Lyons Sat. March 20<sup>th</sup>** at the  
**Legion Hall, 402 Victoria Street,**  
**Nelson 7:30 pm. Info.: 352-**  
**9916, leave message for**  
**Catherine Fisher. (Bring any**  
**'Moe' stories, this will be fun!)**



**WEST  
KOOTENAY  
WOMEN  
PLANNING  
OUR  
WAY  
TO  
EQUAL  
REPRESENTATION**

**WWW.KICS.BC.CA/WKWPOWER**

**THE WEBSITE  
FOR KOOTENAY WOMEN  
WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!**

Drop in to:  
**The Nelson & District  
Women's Centre**



**HOURS:**

*Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday*

*Noon to 4pm*

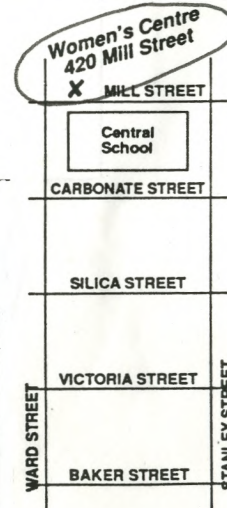
*Thursday*

*10am to 4pm*

**Nelson & District  
Women's Centre**

The Nelson & District Women's Centre has operated in Nelson since 1972. Our purpose is to improve the status of women in our community through education, skills sharing and lobbying on a local and national level.

The Women's Centre is a project of the West Kootenay Women's Association, a non-profit society. The drop-in is staffed by volunteers and two coordinators. All women are welcome to use our services.



Whether you need:

A place to put your feet up

A chance to talk

Help with a problem

or

Just some information

if you're a woman,

the

**WOMEN'S  
CENTRE**

is a place for you!

420 Mill Street  
Nelson, B.C. • V1L 4R9  
(604) 352-9916

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

to September '99

and keep your Newsletter subscription, your library privileges, and your association with some of the more active feminists in our community!

**Sliding scale: \$15 - \$30**

payable to the West Kootenay Women's Association  
or a four-hour work exchange.

420 Mill Street, Nelson, B.C. V1L 4R9