

## *What's New...*

Spring is in full bloom and summer is but a breath away. It seems like a lifetime of learning and work has occurred at the Women's Centre since January. The brooding storm we called "Crisis" and the fear that years of work and dreams could be swept away by May 2000 has passed. The umbrella of community sheltered us and we are enjoying a rebirth not unlike springtime.

The internal review is completed, submitted and positive discussion continues with the Ministry of Women's Equality. The jobs are posted for the new contract year and the confidence in the West Kootenay Women's Association is reflected in the women who have come forward to submit their resumes. Women are actively choosing to be a part of this dynamic organization and to assist in the direction we are mapping out for the future.

We are stable for another year and our next goals include long term planning for the next few years.

If you attended the Mother Earth Music Festival you will have been treated to a day and night of supreme magic! The event was sold out and the response from the crowd was overwhelming. On a personal note, it was the most stressful day of my life coupled with it being the most wonderful day of my life...beyond any graduations, birthdays or holidays! What can I say?? WOW! The recording of the event was done by Kyra Soko and we await the details until it can be aired on CBC's Definitely Not the Opera. Ula videotaped the event and we are now aiming at a full length documentary on the West Kootenay Women's Association and Women's Centre. The thread that has linked us historically has often been the use of arts as a powerful voice of feminism. We are seeking any video footage from Women's Festivals or other events. The voice of art was not

only audio but also visual with Chris E. Ott's beautiful hand-painted banners as backdrops at the Mother Earth Festival

I would like to take this opportunity and the numerous volunteers who went above and beyond the call of duty. In particular, thanks to Donna Garrison and Joanne Danielson who filled in the gaps everywhere and propped me up when I began to tilt. Thank you to the dozens of musicians who volunteered their talent and inspired the community in ways that we can't measure! Thanks also to the numerous business donations without which we could not have had a successful fundraiser. A formal article is pending for release to the local media mentioning the dozens of participants in the event.

Other news at the Centre includes the end of the co-counseling group on Tuesday evenings. The group was very successful but they are choosing to break for the summer and resume in September. A new group, the Writer's Group, will begin meeting on Thursday June 15 at 7 pm. No formal training is necessary and the group is open. Please contact Thea for more details.

Historically the summer is a slow time at the Centre but slow or not we need more volunteers! All committees need volunteers and drop in has a few openings as well. Volunteer training is scheduled as soon as possible. Please contact Thea for more information on how you can offer your skills at your Women's Centre. Enjoy the summer sisters!

Thea Trussler

The new Volunteer Coordinator!!!! Congrats Thea!

*Women's Centre Annual Summer*

# FUNDRAISING NEWS

Mary Crowe was hired to do another short fund raising contract of 6 hours per week for WKWA in May & June. This is her report.

Hi everyone! In the brief time back at the fundraising helm at WKWA, I have followed up on a number of outstanding applications and initiated a couple of new ones. Here's an abbreviated list:

- **RDCK** - \$750 grant application to match \$250 City of Nelson grant received for



Unemployed Women's Drop-In to take place over the summer. Total cost of the project is \$1,000.

**CIBC** - follow up on computer & phone application of \$5,000 for 2 new computers and a new telephone system that has an intercom facility.

**NDCU** - Nelson & District Credit Union application for \$1600 to buy the Big Database Internet fundraising unit. This is a very user-friendly and constantly updated system and would help us spread our 'net' much wider. See separate article in this newsletter.

- **BCGC** - B.C. Gaming Commission. Community groups access to funds ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>, according to their website, so I'm writing an application for one year funding of \$45,000 for the Drop-In & Volunteer Co-ordinator post to be continued next year.
- **Foundation research** - this is a huge area and I have a new list ready for letters of inquiry to be sent out.
- **Letter of Inquiry** - I have written a draft of this letter that will serve as the generic model to be sent to foundations as a preliminary request for information.

- **Vancouver Foundation** - I wrote a letter of inquiry requesting \$135,000 three year funding for the Drop-In & Volunteer Co-ordinator. This foundation gave us a \$5,500 grant in 1995 to furnish the then new Women's Centre.



The ongoing needs of WKWA to stay out of financial dire straits and maintain a strong and vibrant women's association include long-term fundraising initiatives to ensure a solid base, the Women's Centre, and three-year funding contracts taking place there. I am happy to have been part of this vision to date.

Happy summer to you all! Mary.

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**Deadlines** for submissions are: Jan 15, Mar 15, Apr 30, Jun 15, Aug 15, Sept 30 & Nov 15 respectively.

## Library Report by Heather McSwan

I browsed through the new book section this month and then selected an older (1986) novel by Caeia Marcl solely on the basis th it was published by the Women's Press Fiction. Called *Three Ply Yarn*, it is a tale set in England, a cross-weaving of stories told by three women as they interact/react to one another and the people in their lives, on such topics as sexuality, race, feminism, education, work, class and love. It is a great story, suspenseful, sad and strengthening, told with honesty. Maybe it is about "finding it all from inside us, all the beauty, all the sexual loving. To keep it alive and wonderful, to overcome our fears, to make something new against all odds."

Then I had a look at a beautiful book, *The Dinner Party*, on the multimedia artwork of Judy Chicago. The artwork is made up of a huge, triangular table, set with 39 place settings that "presents a symbolic history of women in Western Civilization". The book explores the idea, the creation, the history of this elaborate piece of art - well worth a look at. (I saw the actual Dinner Party in the early 80s and was awed by the unique and very vulval plates and surroundings. Where is this artwork housed now, I wonder? KXinda)

The last new book I looked at was *Getting Wet*, a collection of short, sizzling tales of lesbian seductions - fun & heart-hitting - (including one by yours truly, K.Linda, written about a small town lesbian community in the mountains!)j

## A Financial Blurb from the CC

This spring, WKWA made a principal paydown on its mortgage which along with Equity shares from our Credit Union account, came to 7589.21! Yeah to everyone who donated money for this worthiest of causes. At the same time, we also renegotiated the mortgage. As of June 1, 2000, the Association owed 50,189.00 on our house and our new monthly payment is \$503.98!



## An Exciting Announcement from CC

As you may know, the Women's Centre has been in a six month review process which ends at the end of June. Due to additional funding and much conversation, the decision was made to combine Women's Centre and WKWA work and divide this between two staff people, a Volunteer Coordinator and an Administrative Coordinator. **Thea Trussler**, the Interim Coordinator has'been hired as the Volunteer Coordinator and **Maggie Shirley** (Welcome back!!) will be our new Administrative Coordinator. May they live long and reign well.

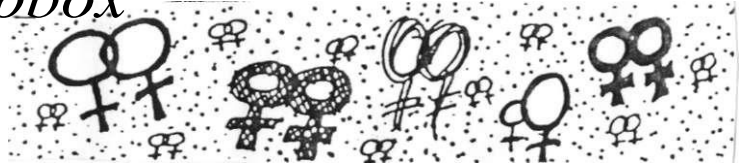
## Other Newsy CC Tidbits and Pieces

The CC chair, Keitha Patton, recently resigned. We already miss her and hope she returns in the fall. Mary Crowe has been hired as our in-house fund-hunter! Unfortunately, the Women's Festival will not be happening this year but we are trying to see this as a time of renewal. **Also, the Women's Centre will be closed during the first two weeks of July as our annual summer closure We will reopen on Tuesday, July 18.** Finally, the CC is recruiting for new members. Calling all energetic, innovative, positive, wonderful women! Here's your opportunity to work to benefit your community while meeting fabulous women like yourself, gab, have some fun and make new friends (or not, as you like). WKWA's Annual General Meeting will be held in September and the new Coordinating Collective will be ratified at that time.



# Woman on a Soapbox

by Karen Newmoon



*With all due respect for the current collective who are working very hard, the CC this past year has lacked experience with Recognizing that many of you have already put in your years of work, come sit on the CC and advise. Which tasks are the*



## - Can You Help

*WKWA would like to purchase a subscription to an Internet-accessible fundraising database with access to 5,000 funding sources representing \$10 billion worth of funds. The Big Database includes foundations, corporations and governments as well as 1,000+ wealthy individuals. It is constantly updated and includes 360 Canadian foundations newly formed in 1999. It is difficult to get this information in book form and it is also more time-consuming. The database is cross-referenced for speedy access to relevant funders and it would make the job of fundraising for our various projects much much easier!*

*How much does it cost? Here's where you come in! We're looking for a sponsor to fund the \$1,600 one year fee. You can donate the sum to us or if you prefer, make a loan we can return to you if the database does not secure funds for us in the first six months. This is their money-back guarantee.*

*You can be an individual, group or a business, female or male so guys here's your opportunity also to support the valuable work of WKWA and the Women's Centre.*

*For more information on the database, contact Mary on Tuesday & Thursday afternoons at the Women's Centre. 352 9916.*

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