

KENSINGTON WOMENS GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO. 8 OCT/NOV

SHOULDER-<sup>TO</sup>SHOULDER



- CHILD CARE CO-OPERATIVE LTD. -

89 M<sup>c</sup>CRACKEN ST., KENSINGTON.

PHONE 3767280.

1979.

# Cultural

## "THE QUALITY OF INSIGHT (EMPATHY)?"

EMPATHY →

↳ that emotional effect of imagination which impels a person to assume the identity of another and experience the latter's reactions. Greek: *pathos-feeling* (COLLINS COGNITIVE DICTIONARY)

↳ a (psych) power of projecting one's personality into (and so fully comprehending), object of contemplation.

(CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY)

↳ Form - "If I Had Known" SHOULDERS TO SHOULDER, ISSUE NO. 6?

↳ Projection (not necessarily voluntary) of the self into the feelings of others or, anthropomorphically, into the "being" of objects or sets of objects; it implies psychological involvement at once know's pain and joy. The word itself was coined by Vernon Lee in 1904, and then employed by the psychologist E. B. Titchener, in 1909 as a translation of the German *Einfühlung* ('feeling-into') the notion of which has been developed in Germany by R. H. Lotze in *Mikrokosmos* (1856-66, tr. 1886). It largely pervaded the ALIENATION theories of Brecht in reaction to it

(THE FORTUNE DICTIONARY OF ADOLESCENTS)

↳ According to these selected definitions of the word empathy, commitment to concern oneself with others appears to be a dominant characteristic

point of, "putting yourself into the shoes of another or a group of people", and maybe being able to feel, know and actually see 'them', can be scary and frightening. Often, seeing the reality of another person's life, whether it be pain or joy, can make us feel, "I don't want to know about it", or "handle it", or "so what, as long as it's not me".

Empathy, defined, stands alone. It is the attitude with which one displays or feels empathy that is the crucial definition.

It seems true that there exists a universal situation whereby, people, in their struggle for simply trying to survive in this society have been forced to do away with qualities (if these are qualities and not weaknesses)

Such as, empathy, tolerance, rapport, caring. The truth of the matter seems to be that we are faced with one question, and this question is directed to one person - "YOU", "I", "US", "ME". Hence we the tolerance (particularly of ourselves), to feel (empathy) what someone else may be feeling, with sympathetic ears, eyes, and conversation, in so much as we care for them with real commitment (not quantity but quality), and if and where it is possible relieve the burden?

It doesn't seem valid to consider this 'same old blurb' on being "human", "let's be real caring people", as bourgeois-'y' talk, hippie 'idealistic crap' when it is truly obvious that people are alone and divided. Getting along equals "dog and dog". Even the word empathy is considered a "trendy, well-meaning word".

Empathy → feeling(s), knowing, a willingness to understand.

"If I Had Known what thoughts despairing drew you,  
(Why do we care for the troubled?)"

# KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP

## CHILD CARE CO-OPERATIVE

89 M<sup>C</sup>CRACKEN STREET, KENSINGTON 3031.  
PHONE 3767280

### DIRECTORS MEETING, NOVEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> AT 6 P.M.

Dear Friends,

We would like to invite you to the next meeting of the co-op. It will give you an opportunity to meet the directors, staff, and other people involved in our centre, as well as, informing you of the wide range of activities we run. You will have the chance to talk about your interests, and things that you would like to be involved in, within the centre.

Hoping you can make it on November 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m.



Thanking you,  
Maureen Fagan.  
CHAIRPERSON.

I would like this to go in the way I wrote it?

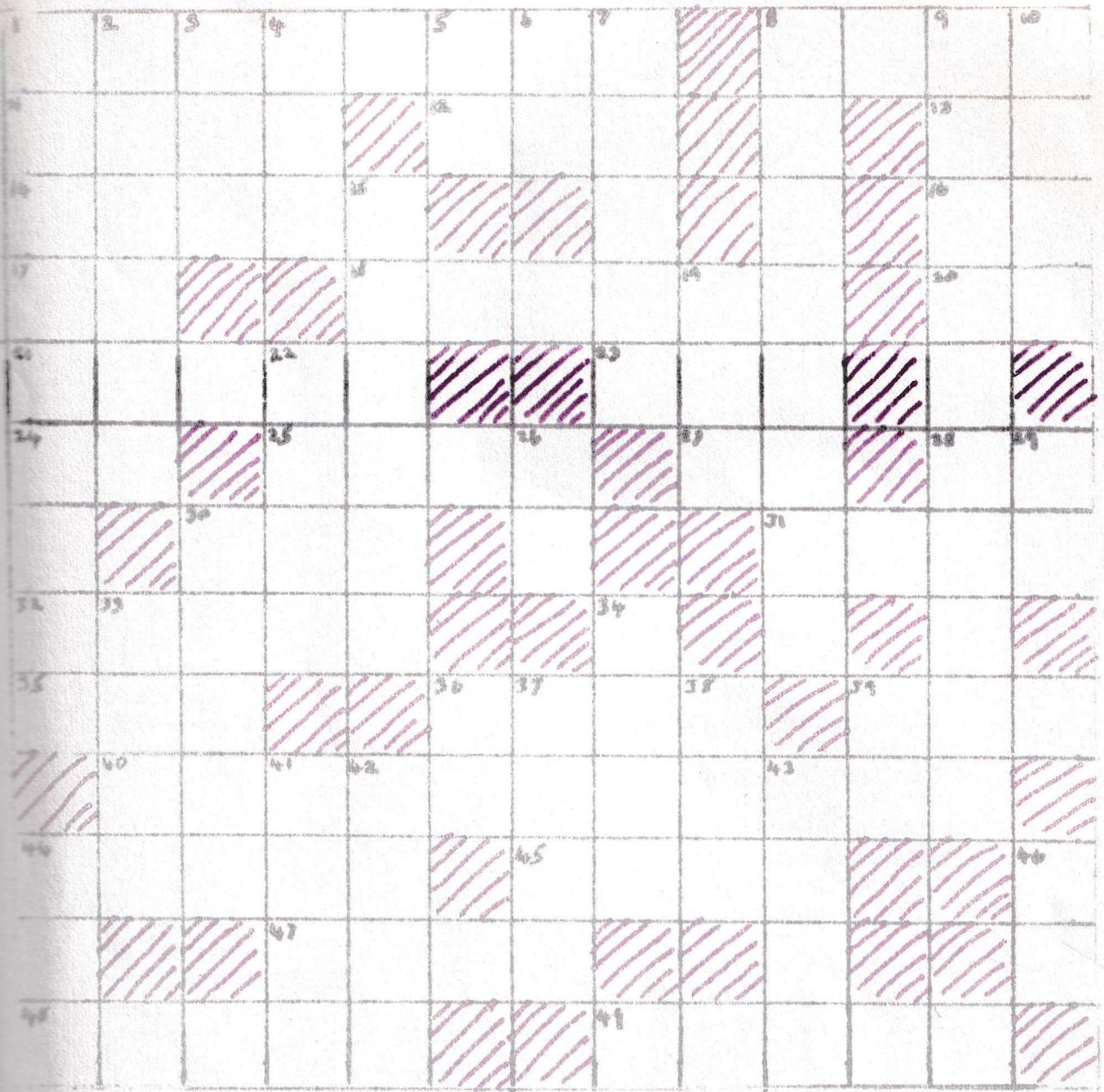
It seems to me that when those long years ago when they worked out the rules of our society that no woman was on that panel.

We are on the job 24 hrs a day, longer if they could arrange it. Who is around when you think world war three has broken out between your kids before you open your eyes to another day when the house work must be done, when all the needs of the other members of my family need to be met.

Don't get me wrong, I love them all very much and like to do for them but when things go on and on that I think my head will fall off I feel like running away from them all. So what about me, the women, don't I need things for me as well. I agree that I feel guilty if the kids don't look

good, if my husband feels neglected and the house is untidy, if I don't get involved in my children's activities, if I get bad tempered about looking after a husband, kids, the house and doing a full time job (which I love.)

Then if I think about me, the person I am, selfish and unfair and all that rubbish. Well I think it's about time to do away with all that crap and start living, what you work it out we are on this earth a few short years but a b---dy long time dead. So let's get going let them sit up and take note that we are people like them we have to do all the same things they do to stay alive. So sorry, oh what you mean of the



ACROSS

- 1. An African deer.
- 2. Opposite of "this".
- 3. An animal's den.
- 4. A small riding horse.
- 5. Only the best will do.
- 6. Pertaining to the moon.
- 7. Belonging to me.
- 8. Entire trees in one -- too.
- 9. Young owls.
- 10. Part of the verb "to be".
- 11. Spirit.
- 12. The upper part of an object.
- 13. Reposition.
- 14. Any one of a lot of things.
- 15. Baby talk for "thank you".
- 16. In the direction of.
- 17. Past tense of "eat".
- 18. Noticed.
- 19. Frequently.
- 20. Story for "kangaroo".

- 21. Russian emperor or king.
- 22. Sick.
- 23. Yearly return of a date.
- 24. Insects often found on dogs.
- 25. Opposite to "far".
- 26. Story told in a play or novel.
- 27. Monetary unit of India.

INSTRUCT

DOWN

- 1. Crocodile found in America.
- 2. Nothing.
- 3. A light metal.
- 4. A period of time.
- 5. Opposite of "off".
- 6. Short for "grandfather" (American).
- 7. Small white heron.
- 8. Enter unlawfully on another's land.

- 9. Of course.
- 10. Child's playthings.
- 11. Decayed.
- 12. Small child.
- 13. Ground on which a building is to stand.
- 14. Objective case of "I".
- 15. Upon.
- 16. Make up for.
- 17. Young horse.
- 18. Have the courage.
- 19. Television (abbrev).
- 20. Past tense of "send".
- 21. Republic of South Africa (Cinits).
- 22. Ian Roberts (Cinits).
- 23. Back of neck.
- 24. Island.
- 25. District.
- 26. A long way off.
- 27. Within.

POETS' CORNER

THOUGHTS

Seeking, searching  
Wandering, waiting  
For people  
Friends  
Meaningful relationships  
Love  
Fulfillment  
Contentment  
Happiness  
Peace  
Serenity  
Within my soul.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE IMMIGRANT'S LAMENT

No maples now  
No Rio-Rias,  
A three room house  
At Lake Tyers.  
No Kangaroo  
or hunting trips,  
"Metho" now  
and Fish and Chips.  
My destiny  
Is unfulfilled,  
My forests gone  
My game all killed.  
Unable  
To your ways adjust,  
I still retain my wanderlust.  
Craving space  
No longer there,  
Rivers dry,  
My mountains bare,  
You found my land  
And in your glee  
Developed it for you ---  
NOT ME

Gary F.

THE SUN

The sleepy sun  
Pokes a fiery finger  
Towards the slumbering  
Still-dark world.

Slowly, but surely  
It proceed to  
Get out of Bed  
And awaken the world.

A sparkling ray of  
Sunlight dances merrily  
Into my bedroom, and  
Rests gently on my face.

I felt the warmth, and  
The light around me  
Stirring me out of  
My slumber.

The sunlight says to me.  
It is now now Norma  
Wake up and get up  
It is a new day.

\* \* \* \* \*

There is a destiny that makes us brothers  
None goes his way alone.  
All that we send into the lives of others,  
Comes back into our own.

Markham

\* \* \* \* \*

SAY THIS EVERY DAY

I have seen yesterday;  
I love today;  
I am not afraid of tomorrow.

Anon.

★

"TRY AGAIN"

"There's nothing to stop you from building again  
When you find that your castles have crashed;  
There's nothing to stop you from dreaming again  
When the dreams you once dreamed are all smashed;  
There's no law to stop you from wearing a smile  
Though perhaps you are crying inside;  
There's never a reason for losing a grip  
On your faith, on your nerve, on your pride.  
There's nothing to gain by recounting your woes into every  
listening ear,  
For pity and sympathy won't get you far  
Though it may be quite kind and sincere:  
Get on with the job of rebuilding your life  
For it's useless to sigh or complain;  
The best thing to do is start out anew,  
Pluck up courage - and just try again."

Author unknown

\* \* \* \* \*

COURAGE

Successful living requires courage.  
Perhaps courage is a basic life quality  
which God gives us, since it is of the spirit.  
Moments may come when courage alone  
shall stand between us and disaster.  
In the long pull across the years there will be  
times when we shall need dogged courage  
to keep us going when the going is hard.  
And what is the source of such rugged courage?  
Surely that sense of God's presence when we  
hear Him say. "I am with you always".

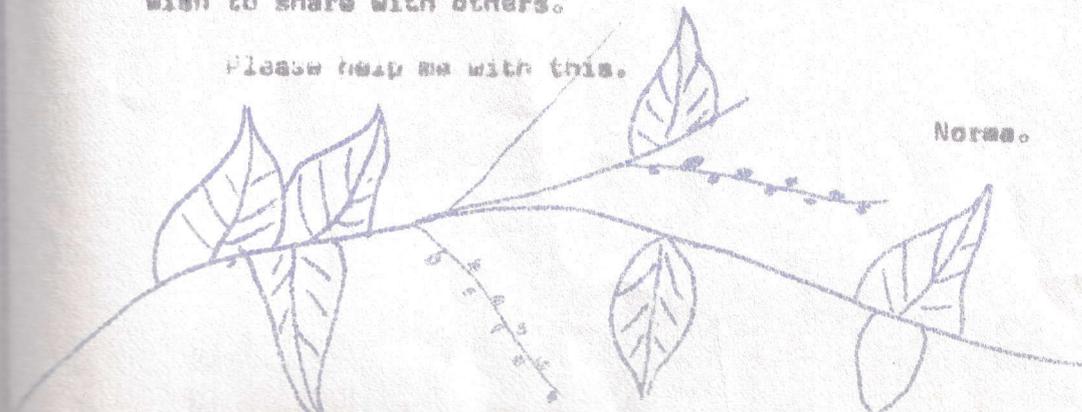
Norman Vincent Peale

\* \* \* \* \*

I hope you enjoyed these poems and I would like to make Postcard  
Corner a regular feature for Shoulder to Shoulder. Contributions  
from readers are welcomed of either poems they have written themselves,  
or poems written by other people which they have really enjoyed and  
wish to share with others.

Please help me with this.

Norma.



7

# THE C.S.D.O.

We did not receive funding for the Children's Services Development Officer. As you know, this affects both the Women's Group and Robertson St., badly as well as the new Co-op which has recently been funded for Flemington.

Perhaps the most pressing need at the moment is our before and after school programmes and without a C.S.D.O., Ross, all of you and all of us have a terrible time ahead of us. In our "free" time we are going to somehow have to organise this service for 1980 because the Save the Children fund is leaving the area.

On Wednesday October 31<sup>st</sup>, at 2 p.m. Ross and I will be talking with everyone else in the community involved in this one to try and put together our needs and ideas for a submission to the Office of Child Care. As our families grow up with us our numbers of children increase. Robertson St. has 15 children in this age group alone next year without taking enrolments from non Co-op families.

We look forward to seeing you at this meeting - your support is greatly appreciated - the need is urgent!

Look at this -

Women's Group Co-op - 10 - not yet funded.  
Robertson St. Co-op - 15 - not yet funded  
Holy Rosary - 15 - presently funded by S.C.F.  
Flemington - not yet funded.  
Turkish Women's Group - 10 - not yet funded.

"Not yet funded" means that these centres presently offer services using existing staff space as well as staff cars for transport or making accompanied by staff or a parent. Flemington has been waiting for some months for funding, the rest of the centres have not yet submitted.

The Holy Trinity - Ron Browning, has been attempting to offer after school care and recreation with Sister Penelope

Dear Editor,  
The article from "Kippie" on child abuse was out of context when lifted from the journal. The term "child abuse" means different things to different people & very few of us are "experts" - certainly none of us at Robertson St claim to be experts, but I was asked to put something down on paper about how we attempt to provide support to families who come to us. The material in the article was made up of thoughts & needs expressed by many people over a number of years and as we live & work in Kensington we

would not write about somewhere else, other people write about other areas.

Our landlords also have violence in their families.

It is important to remember that wherever we are and wherever we live we all feel stress at times, all are tempted to strike out at our children & sometimes do. It is fortunate for us that we have somewhere to go in times of stress & the support of a Community Health Centre. If we lived in Malvern we would not!

Janet Allwood

G.S.D.C. CONTINUED

all year and is in desperate need of assistance.  
CAN WE SET UP a supportive network BETWEEN  
OURSELVES? I'm sure we can BUT who co-ordinates  
the EFFORT?

Janet Allwood

Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting 2pm. 89 McCracken St.

# YOUTH NEEDS GROUP

Seven people attended the first meeting of the youth needs group

On Tuesday 11.11.88

The general discussion focused on the availability of services and/or activities that are presently operating, such as the E.P. Y.U. programme & the involvement of the CYSS team in Kensington.

Attention was also given to discussing the function & operation of other sources, such as the Holland Park Community Centre, & in particular what sorts of activities happen there & for whom.

Generally, it was considered that there is a need to get more people involved in looking at the needs of adolescences teenagers, & this should include consultation with the Youth Services Group with interested parents and kids.

Furthermore, the group discussed the fact that, programmes already happening don't cater for a wide range of needs. Not every kid is interested in sports, or doesn't fit into social functions as well as others. These kids are left, without much opportunity to meet others, and either remain at home or wandering the streets. Parents who have started this group feel strongly, that there needs to be more co-operation between those employed to service the needs of our kids, & parents who are actively interested in their children's future.

We are concerned that we head towards a Preventative approach. When setting up & organising services, no matter who these services are for, aiming to cater for.

The next meeting is on Thurs Nov 1st 12 noon at the Women's group those in Mc Cracken St. Hope you can make it.

Helena Ali

# A REMINDER!

- OCT 31<sup>ST</sup>
- 10:30 Women's Group Discussion
  - 12:30 Newsletter Group.
  - 2:pm. Meeting re - Before and After School (Janet Allwood & Ross Paterson).  
89 McCracken St.

- NOV 1<sup>ST</sup>
- Youth Need Group 12 noon.

- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Dinner by VAlk the 9am - 6pm.  
(everyone welcome.)

- NOV 5<sup>th</sup>
- CUP DAY - Drop - In - Centre open all day B-B-Q.

- NOV 7<sup>th</sup>
- 10:30 Women's Group discussion
  - 12:30 Newsletter Group Meeting.

- NOV 8<sup>th</sup>
- Shopping - meet at 10.am.

## KEN. WOMEN'S GROUP

DROP - IN - CENTRE

OPEN 9 - 6 each week day  
and evening + weekends. Her advised. 12