

March, 2006

The Net

A Newsletter of the Women's Network of the Upper Valley

Mission:

"A forum for women in all their roles, both personal and professional, to voice their viewpoints and interests."

Please Take Note:

- Always a Good Time to Become a Member (Form Included)
- Evening Event on Tuesday, March 14th
- Special Evening Event on Wednesday, March 22nd
- Luncheon on Monday, April 17th (Reservation Form Included)

Upcoming Networking Question:

March 14th: Give an example of when you faced an ethical dilemma in your life and how you resolved it.

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President's Letter

Dear Friends,

"Main character and setting are two essential ingredients for a good mystery," advised local mystery writer Sarah Stewart Taylor during our evening meeting on February 14th. What fun is was to hear Sarah talk about her Sweeney St. George mysteries as well as mystery writing in general. PD James, Ruth Rendell, Julia Spencer-Fleming, Donna Leon, Sarah Peretsky, Sue Grafton, Linda Fairstein, and Michelle Martinez were just some of the names tossed around. Also, what fun to hear from our membership during networking. A few are already publishing their own genre of mystery and others had great fodder – even blood relatives who had been involved with murders generations ago!

Our next evening event on March 14th will move us out of the mysterious into the scientific and ethical realms when Dr. Judy Stern will talk about stem cell research. Judy joined the staff at DMHC in 1989, is Director of the In Vitro Fertilization Lab, and specializes in andrology; embryology; obstetrics and gynecology; and reproductive medicine. Please join us for what promises to be a thought provoking evening.

Jennifer Fluri, Assistant Professor of Geography at Dartmouth, recently contacted us for support in bringing to Hanover a heroic 27-year-old woman by the name of Malalai Joya, newly elected Member of Parliament in Afghanistan. Connected to grassroots organizations in both Afghanistan and the United States, Ms. Joya will speak in the Upper Valley on Wednesday, March 22nd at the Norwich Congregational Church (on the green). There will be a potluck starting at 6 followed by her talk at 7:30 pm. We can help



by participating in the potluck, attending her talk, and donating to her cause. For more information, go to:

www.malalaijoya.com
www.afghanwomensmission.org/index.php

The topic of our spring luncheon on April 17th at the Tip Top Café with Susan Ackerman, Professor of Religion, will be "Mary Magdalene: What Do We Really Know?" It is not too early to send in your reservation form.

Also, I am delighted to announce that Madeline Kunin, former Governor of Vermont, will speak at our spring dinner on Tuesday, May 23rd at the Hanover Inn (details forthcoming). It is no secret that Governor Kunin is now officially a part-time resident of the Upper Valley, having married just a few weeks ago a much revered Hanover fellow, John Hennessey, former Dean of the Tuck School and Chancellor of the University of Vermont. Congratulations to them both and welcome, Governor Kunin!

Finally, many thanks to those businesses that have already contributed to our spring raffle. At its last meeting, the Core Committee decided to dedicate at least part of "The Net" to members who have their own business. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please send to Naomi Hartov a very short description of your business, contact information, and how others can be most helpful to you.

Warm Regards,

Judi Colla

Events

Interested in Writing Your Memoirs?

Memoir Café: Hot Tip from Mary Childers

Mary Childers has recommended a website for women interested in writing their memoirs. Naomi Hartov contacted Stephanie Montgomery, Kindly Proprietor of the Memoir Café (www.memoircafe.com), who provided the following description of this website.

Women, technology and art combine in Memoir Café to create personal legacies and social history. This online literary journal and writing workshop, rolled into one, provides the safety women need to trust others, pursue their writing goals and share their stories.

Memoir Café invites women to participate in recording the events and circumstances they have witnessed, one story at a time. All of the stories, critiques and discussions may be read by any visitor, but only members participate in active posting.

The website appeals to women of all ages who are intent on writing memoir because the materials and guided participation provide an intimate sense of place and connection with other members.

Unlike any site on the Internet for women, Memoir Café is completely free of advertising. When a woman begins to participate in Memoir Café, she makes an investment in herself. That's more than enough.

- Over 200 members range in age from 16 to 86 and represent 15 states. Three write from abroad. Many are retired. Many hope to publish their

work. Just as many write for the pleasure of practicing memoir as an art and for the satisfaction of recording family history. Twelve are published authors. Some have little to no writing experience. All are having fun.

- Most members use screen names to protect their privacy. Benefits of membership include a personal profile available to other members, a portfolio, an internal messaging system, access to "Tell Me a Story," the writing course I design for them, and the opportunity to hear their stories read on the Memoir Café radio show.

- All entries on the website are archived as part of The Women's Memoir Project and searchable through a powerful and subtle search engine. This function makes the stories and discussions an invaluable resource for primary research in women's history and literature.

- Positive critique provides the foundation for trust and friendship. Members are each other's best readers.

- Memoir Café also provides its members with forums on an array of topics of interest to women writers. These discussions reveal lively minds and big hearts.

- I provide a detailed, thought-provoking writing prompt daily. I also post a story of my own once a week and a tutorial once a month.

- Members learn how to get started writing a story and how to finish. They develop confidence, knowing that their story has eager readers waiting for it and will take its place in the archive, their contribution to a collective record of how women have thought about their lives.

- Membership costs \$60 for six months or \$100 for a year.

"Writing Mysteries" with Sarah Stewart Taylor



Above: Sarah Stewart Taylor

Spring Raffle

Anichini

Beautiful wool scarf

Elements Salon

One Haircut

Chaos Computing

One-hour PC computer services

River Valley Club

One-month membership

Trusting Hands

One-hour massage

We're Makin' Waves

Pedicure/Manicure

Want to promote your own business by donating a service or product or know of someone else who wishes to do so? Please contact Judy Rocchio or Sally Paduch. We will acknowledge donations in "The Net" from the month they are given through May.

Membership

The Net

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMEN'S NETWORK OF THE UPPER VALLEY

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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Book Mark

I am deep in a Howe Library book, "Myself and the Other Fellow: A Life of Robert Louis Stevenson" by Claire Harman. The "other fellow" refers to his recurrent depression. When he wrote Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Stevenson knew what he was talking about (for "Hyde" read "hide"). When you read about his controlling, obsessed parents (he was their only child) you'll understand his depression. RLS and his wife, Fanny Osborne, were 19th-century hippies: she was 20 years older; they lived together sans marriage; finally escaped from strict Scotland to relaxed Samoa where he died in 1894 at age 44. Highly recommended by *Nardi Reeder Campion*.



The Archivist of Jewish Sounds

*Walking through the remains of the shtetl
Alex the archivist of Jewish sounds
Encounters Tevye the Dairyman
Each recognizes the other
By bristling beard
Glint of world-weary acceptance in the eyes
As a distant link in a long chain*

*Mein got!! cries the dairyman
I thought the chain had been forever broken
But Alex the Archivist of Jewish sounds
Sweeps away the dust and cobwebs of neglect
Revealing to the dairyman the secret laboratory,
where
As if by some Kabalistic mystery revealed
He hears, emerging from strange boxes
The voice of his mother tongue
Escaping, like smoke
From the chimneys of the crematoria.*

*My husband, Alex Hartov, is in fact, a well-known archivist of Jewish sounds - musical, cantorial, historical, humorous, etc. If you, or anyone you know, has a stash of old recordings in the form of 78s, LPs, tape or whatever, please let me know. They can be either donated to the archive or lent to Alex to re-record.

Naomi Hartov

Left: Queen Sheba of Ethiopia (1013 – 957 BC) receiving gift in her honor from King Solomon of Israel.
Postcard from member Laura Clauson, currently in Rwanda and recently in Ethiopia.



Right: The "Harmonious Chords," including member Marty Rowell (3rd from left) in her barbershop greetings quartet. To book the foursome call 603.448.1668.

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Upcoming Program 2005 - 6

Evening Program

*Unless otherwise noted,
in Mayer Room at the Howe Library in Hanover
Second Tuesday of the Month, 6:15 to 8:30 pm*

March 14, 2006

**“Stem Cell Research”
Judy Stern, PhD, DHMC**

April 11, 2006

“Collage Workshop”, Joan Burch

May 23, 2006 (\$)

Topic: TBD
Governor Madeleine Kunin
Spring Dinner at the Hanover Inn

June 13, 2006

Potluck/Brainstorming for Next Year’s Program
Hanover Friends Meeting House

Luncheon Program (“Remarkable Women”)

*(In collaboration with the Program on
Gender and Women Studies at Dartmouth)*

Tip Top Café in WRJ

Selected Mondays, 12:00 to 2:00 pm

Advanced Reservations Required

\$20 (Members)/\$25 (Non-members)

For information, contact:

Special Events

Debbie Aliber

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April 17, 2006 (\$)

"Mary Magdalene: What Do We Really Know?"
Susan Ackerman, Professor of Religion

Now Welcoming Suggestions Upcoming Program 2006 – 7

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The Net

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