

April, 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:

- Evening Event on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Luncheon on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> (Reservation form included)
- Spring Dinner on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> (Reservation form included)

## Upcoming Networking Question:

April 11<sup>th</sup>: Your collage will be your statement! Please bring small pointed scissors, "high quality" magazines, and, if possible, a \$2 contribution for supplies.

April 17<sup>th</sup>: In what religious tradition, if any, were you raised, and how did the depiction of women in that tradition influence what you think a woman should or should not be?

## Inside:

President's Letter	1
Events	2
Membership	3
Upcoming Program	4

## President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Humble – that's how I felt amidst discussion of profound issues at our evening event on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Judy Stern talked about stem cell research – not just the science but also the personal, legal, political, ethical and spiritual soup in which it struggles to survive. (For more complete information, go to [www.stemcells.nih.gov](http://www.stemcells.nih.gov).) Judy explained that umbilical cord blood does not hold the full promise of embryonic stem cells. Current strains of stem cells are generally impure and dangerous. Consequently, research is dependent upon new sources of stem cells (excess frozen IVF embryos, anonymous egg and sperm donors, and cloning) and therein are the controversies. What a privilege it was to discuss this topic under Judy's able guidance amongst women with good hearts, good minds, and good souls.

Humble again – that's how I felt on March 22<sup>nd</sup> listening to the heroic twenty-seven year old Malalai Joya, newly elected Member of the Afghan Parliament. ([www.malalaijoya.com](http://www.malalaijoya.com)). Audrey McCollum asked me to write an article covering Malalai's visit for the March 29<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Spectator*. For you who didn't see it, I have included excerpts on page 2.

Our next evening event on April 11<sup>th</sup> will depart slightly from "business as usual." Joan Burch, Artist in Residence at DHMC for three years, will guide us in the making of our own individual collages. Joan began making art in 1998 as a way of clarifying and sharing her feelings about breast cancer. She believes that making one's own art is inherently healing, is possible for everyone, and is a



natural way to explore deep feelings not easily expressed verbally. To tap into these feelings, there will be NO TALKING during the creative process. For networking, we can choose to talk or not talk about the art we share with each other. Please bring with you small pointed scissors, "high quality" magazines (that you're willing to cut up), and, if possible, a \$2 contribution for supplies.

Our spring luncheon (sadly, our last luncheon for the year) will be on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Tip Top Café with Susan Ackerman, Professor of Religion and current Chair of the Religion Department. Susan specializes in the religion of ancient Israel and the religions of Israel's neighbors (Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Canaan). She will give us the facts about Mary Magdalene, especially timely given the current controversy over "Holy Blood, Holy Grail" versus "The Da Vinci Code". (Reservation form included.)

In closing, let me repeat how delighted I am to have Madeleine Kunin speak at our spring dinner on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Hanover Inn. Madeleine is the first woman and former Governor of Vermont as well as former U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and founder of the Institute for Sustainable Communities ([www.iscvt.org](http://www.iscvt.org)). Please put the spring dinner on your calendar, ask friends to join you, and return the enclosed reservation form at your earliest convenience.

Warm Regards,

Judi Colla

## Events

### “Women’s Roles in Nation Building: An Afghan Experience”



*Above: Malalai Joya*

“There are two kinds of enemies in Afghanistan – the Taliban and those who have put on the suits and masks of democracy,” said Malalai Joya, heroic 27-year-old member of the new Afghan parliament. “Our democracy is a mock democracy, repeating the same mistakes of the past. Dear friends, my country is not free,” she explained to a crowd of over 100 at the Norwich Congregational Church on the evening of March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The daughter of a former medical student wounded while fighting against the Soviet Union which invaded and occupied Afghanistan from 1979 - 1989, Joya was 4 years old when her family fled in 1982 to the refugee camps of Iran and then Pakistan. She became a social activist at age 14, finished her education in Pakistan and began teaching literacy courses to other women at age 19. Joya returned to Afghanistan in 1998 during the Taliban's reign. She established an orphanage and health clinic in the remote Farah Province and was soon a vocal opponent of the Taliban.

Malalai Joya rose to fame in December 2003 as an elected delegate to the Constitutional Loya Jirga. On the day of the parliament’s first session in more than 30 years, she did what no one else dared do. Rising from her seat she denounced many of those seated around her, condemning the presence of “criminal warlords” whose hands were stained with the blood of the people.

Joya is now one of the most popular members of the Afghan Parliament. She was elected to the 249-seat National Assembly, or Wolesi Jirga, in September 2005 as a representative of Farah Province. Joya has many times taken a stand against the ex-Mujahideen fighters who dominate it.

For her outspokenness, Joya has endured many death threats and survived four assassination attempts. She travels under a burqa and with armed guards when in Afghanistan. To protect themselves, her family members live in provinces different than her own. Even during her current month-long tour of the U.S. to gather moral and financial support, Joya received death threats from those connected with warlords back home.

Joya brought her truth to the Upper Valley through the support of grassroots organizations. Jennifer Fluri, Assistant Professor in the Departments of Geography and Women and Gender Studies at Dartmouth who researches the geographic implications of female leadership in the Middle East and Afghanistan, learned of Joya’s tour from the listserv for the Afghan Women’s Mission. Fluri partnered with three other organizations to generate interest in the community and garner financial support: Dartmouth College Women and Gender Studies, Building Bridges Middle East-US, and the Women’s Network of the Upper Valley.

Responding positively to Joya’s courage and passion, the larger-than-expected audience gave Joya two standing ovations, filled baskets with donations, and lined up to talk and exchange contact information.

In a recent interview with the BBC, Joya said, “They will kill me but they will not kill my voice because it will be the voice of all Afghan women. You can cut the flower, but you cannot stop the coming of spring.”

*Judi Colla*

### “Stem Cell Research”



*Above: Judy Stern*

#### Spring Raffle

**Anichini**

Beautiful Wool Scarf

**Carpenter & Main Restaurant**

Gift Certificate

**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

To support Malalai Joya’s tour and projects, please send donations to IHC, P.O. Box 923, Malibu, CA 90265. Make checks payable either to OPAWC (NOT tax-deductible) or IHC (tax-deductible, 5% overhead) and write “Malalai Joya” in the memo.

# Membership

## The Net

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

### SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

#### Associate Editor

Naomi Hartov  
603.448.0426  
naomi.hartov@verizon.net

## Member Interview Carol Weingeist

Hearing Verdi's Requiem while on a college foreign study program in Italy changed Carol Weingeist's life. Her parents had taken her as a child to concerts, but it took this moment to hear as she had never heard before. Music and art were natural parts of her life. Her father, a New York ophthalmologist, cared for many of the musicians and artists of his times. Many of them were family acquaintances. As Carol said, "there was nothing special about that." She was "raised with the world as her backyard".

Walking through her home is the equivalent of walking through a Greenwich Village upscale art gallery. Much of her collection was inherited from her ancestors -- Italian Jewish and Pennsylvania Quakers -- or chosen from the art gallery she ran as one of her several careers. Listening to her stories connected to her art and her eclectic objects d'art is fascinating.

Carol graduated with a degree in history from Earlham College, a Quaker school, where she met her husband Tom. They married before finishing college. Tom went on to graduate school in New York City. There they became close friends with a Czech family who sublet an apartment in the same building as theirs. Upon completion of his studies Carol and Tom moved to Iowa City where Tom attended medical school at the University of Iowa and later joined its Department of Ophthalmology. They loved Iowa City and had two children there but, unfortunately, divorced when their children were in elementary school.

Being alone with two young children was difficult and Iowa City had limited job opportunities, but Carol was resourceful and determined. She made part of her home into an art gallery -- something she enjoyed but was not very fruitful. She attended graduate school in hospital administration and, when gaining employment proved difficult, returned to school again to study gerontology. She did whatever she needed to do to make ends meet. Carol enjoys diverse people and was always ready for any adventure that came her way but put her dreams on hold

so her children would be near their father while growing up.

When her son Aaron was a junior at Earlham College and her daughter Rachel was a freshman at the University of Iowa, Carol's parents were residents of Kendal in Pennsylvania. Kendal's CEO invited Carol to apply for the marketing/outreach position to start Kendal in Hanover, NH. She got the job. Carol's move from Iowa City where they had lived for seventeen years was a blow to her daughter. But both children were "extraordinary with adventurous spirits," who, like Carol, had the makings of becoming "citizens of the World".

Carol maintained friendship with her Czech friends, Zdenka and Josef, over the years. She understood the dearth of cultural materials in the Czech Republic. Working for Kendal and living in Hanover close to the Dartmouth Bookstore kept her busy. Whenever the Bookstore had book buy backs and excess books, she sent these books to her friends. She sent "thousands of books" which offered learning opportunities they would not have had otherwise. In a culturally starved country, these books meant the world both literally and figuratively. On her trips to the Czech Republic she met many of Zdenka and Josef's intellectual friends who were very grateful for the education these books offered them. On one of the visits after 1989 she attended a ceremony at Palacky University. Josef, then Rector, surprised her by honoring her with a university medal and words of gratitude for the education the books provided them. This was one of the most memorable experiences of Carol's life.

Carol left Kendal after 5½ years and met a Vermont forester who had developed a plastic traction surface material. Carol became interested in the promise of this product. In time, the material developed into modular flooring which had several uses, one of which was for covering muddy, uneven surfaces. Carol's marketing skills and outreach played a significant role in the growth and development of the company. It took five or six years for the company to develop molded plastic panels useful for wheelchair ramps and for tent flooring. When the Kosovo War was shown on television, Carol recognized the potential use for walkways and floor covering in tents in the muddy refugee camps. Her super networking skills and a great management team went to work and promoted the product for use in the armed forces. It is ironic that she should retire as a successful entrepreneur.

Currently, Carol is interested in the environment and politics. She travels frequently to visit her family and friends all over the world.

Estelle Diamond

#### President

Judi Colla  
[judi.colla@dartmouth.edu](mailto:judi.colla@dartmouth.edu)  
603.643.9274

#### Vice-President Program Chair

Judy Music  
[judymusic@valley.net](mailto:judymusic@valley.net)  
802.649.2535

#### Secretary/Publicity

Sheila Buckley  
[sbuckleyr@yahoo.com](mailto:sbuckleyr@yahoo.com)  
603.643.5359

#### Treasurer

Inge Brown  
[inge.brown@dartmouth.edu](mailto:inge.brown@dartmouth.edu)  
802.296.5777 (H)  
603.646.2624 (W)

#### Membership

Ro Wyman  
[rowyman@verizon.net](mailto:rowyman@verizon.net)  
603.643.2460

#### Biographer

Estelle Diamond  
[Estelle.Diamond@valley.net](mailto:Estelle.Diamond@valley.net)  
643.2710

#### Special Events

Debbie Aliber  
[debaliber@yahoo.com](mailto:debaliber@yahoo.com)  
603.643.0107

#### Hospitality

Alyssa Smith  
[alysas@gmail.com](mailto:alysas@gmail.com)  
603.448.1759

Esther Colby  
[Escolby@valley.net](mailto:Escolby@valley.net)  
603.643.2483

#### Spring Raffle

Judy Rocchio  
[judith.rocchio@valley.net](mailto:judith.rocchio@valley.net)  
603.643.6902

#### Nominations

Carol Weingeist  
[cpereraw@verizon.net](mailto:cpereraw@verizon.net)  
603.643.6850

#### Past President

Mary Kukowski  
[mary.kukowski@valley.net](mailto:mary.kukowski@valley.net)  
603.643.8994

# 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*

**April 11, 2006**  
**“Collage Workshop”**  
**Joan Burch**

**May 23, 2006 (\$)**

Former Vermont Governor Madeleine Kunin  
Spring Dinner  
Hanover Inn  
5:30 – 8:00 pm  
\$33 (Members & Spouses), \$38 (Non-Members)

**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  
[debaliber@yahoo.com](mailto:debaliber@yahoo.com)  
603.643.0107

**April 17, 2006**

**“Mary Magdalene:  
What Do We Really Know”**  
**Susan Ackerman, Professor of Religion**

**Now Welcoming Suggestions  
Upcoming Program 2006 – 7**

***Program Chair***

Judy Music  
[judymusic@valley.net](mailto:judymusic@valley.net)  
802.649.2535

*The Net*

P.O. Box 183  
Hanover, NH 03755

