

May, 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:

- Spring Dinner on Tuesday, May 23rd (Reservation form included)
- Brainstorming for the 2006-7 Program on Tuesday, June 13th (Suggestion form included)

Upcoming Networking Question:

May 23rd: For what cause would you choose to lead, if you knew you wouldn't fail, and why?

Inside:

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

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

"We live in a verbal society," explained Joan Burch, at our evening event on April 11th. "In order to tap into other parts of our brain, there will be no talking during the creative process and your collages cannot include words." With that, Joan skillfully guided us through the making our own collages – how to scan magazines for images; sort our selections; and then cut, combine and present. Collage means "glue" and has the name derivation as my last name. So, if you don't mind indulging me, here's a collage in honor of my son, Tim, who graduates from Columbia College (more "glue") on May 17th:



OK, so it might not be great art. Is it obvious I had a good time?

"What is the one thing you know about Mary Magdalene?" asked Susan Ackerman, Professor of Religion and current Chair of the



Religion Department at our last luncheon for the year on April 17th. "She was a prostitute," the majority of us replied confidently. As it turns out, we were wrong. According to Susan, "Holy Blood, Holy Grail" and "The Da Vinci Code" pretty much have it wrong, too. The story that, when Christ was crucified, Mary Magdalene was pregnant with his child leading to a long line of divine aristocracy evidently evolved from a French myth. What appears to be true is that Mary was a follower of Jesus, the first person to report his ascension, was an "apostle to the apostles," and held a leadership position in the early Christian church. Reports that she was a prostitute resulted from a combination of sloppy historical work and, well, an attempt by a male dominated church to discredit female leadership -- something for which, the Catholic Church has recently apologized. So consider yourself somewhat informed should you choose to see "The Da Vinci Code" which, just recently, was cleared for release as a movie in mid-May.

Sadly, this year is rapidly coming to a close. The last hurrah will be our spring dinner on Tuesday, May 23rd at the Hanover Inn. The Honorable Madeleine Kunin will speak on the topic of her recent book, "Living a Public Life". Please join us ... and return the enclosed reservation form before you forget! You might want to bring along a friend (My spouse is promoting a men's table.) and a few extra dollars to purchase tickets for the terrific raffle prizes listed on page two.

Warm Regards,

Judi Colla

Events

“Mary Magdalene: What Do We Really Know?”



Above: Susan Ackerman

Support Health Locally

Good Neighbor Clinic

5th Annual Bowlathon
Saturday April 29, 2006
1 to 5 pm

Donate to **Naomi Hartov's &
Judy Music's Team**
goodneighborhealthclinic.org
naomi.hartov@verizon.net

Dartmouth's Norris Cotton Cancer Center

25th Annual Prouty Century
Bike Ride & Challenge Walk
July 8, 2006

Donate to **Susan Wright's Team**
www.theprouty.org
Click on
“The Wright Stuff”

Spring Raffle

Anichini
Beautiful Wool Scarf

Anonymous
“Judgment of the Grave
A Sweeney St. George Mystery”
by Vermont Sarah Steward Taylor

Anonymous
New York Times
Crossword Puzzle Gift Set

Carpenter & Main Restaurant
\$50 Gift Certificate

Elements Salon
One Haircut

Chaos Computing
One-hour PC computer services

Norwich Book Store
“Living the Political Life”
by Madeleine Kunin

River Valley Club
One-month membership

Stone Soup Restaurant
Dinner for Two
(Excluding drinks and gratuities)

Trusting Hands
One-hour massage

We're Makin' Waves
Pedicure/Manicure

*You will be able to purchase tickets for the
above raffle prizes at the spring dinner on May
23rd (\$1 for one and \$5 for six tickets).
Proceeds will benefit WNUV.*

Below: Diana Cox and Shirley
Barnes at Spring Lunch



“Making Collages”



Above: Joan Burch

“Just in Time for Mother's Day Sale”

Exquisite hand-embroidered accessories
and home furnishings by Rubia, the
Afghan women's handwork project

Saturday May 13, 2006

10 am to 5 pm

**Suite 309, The Studio of
Paulette Werger & Medora Hebert**

AVA Gallery

**11 Bank Street
Lebanon, NH**

For more information,
call Rachel Lehr at 603.456.3848

*Rubia, Inc. is a non-profit organization serving
women in rural Afghanistan through
education, skills training, and the promotion of
their hand-embroidered textiles
(www.rubiahandwork.org). The funds raised
from this sale will help bring Afghan
embroiderers to the US this summer to
participate in the Santa Fe International Folk
Art Market (www.folkartmarket.org) and the
League of New Hampshire Craftsmen's 73rd
Annual Craftsmen's Fair at Mt. Sunapee State
Park, August 5-13 2006.*

Membership

The Net

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

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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Opinion Piece

As we approach the mid-term elections, I hope that all potential voters become aware that plans for political, economic and military world domination are being pursued by neo-conservatives currently in power in the Bush administration, in conjunction with the Pentagon, the aerospace and nuclear industries, and allied corporations.

These plans were laid out prior to the 2000 elections in a paper crafted by the Project for a New American Century (PNAC). Titled "Rebuilding America's Defenses" it can be found online at:

www.newamericancentury.org/RebuildingAmericasDefenses.pdf

Long before 9/11, this document promoted pre-emptive war and identified Iraq as a primary military target with others to follow. It proposed resumption of nuclear testing, development of new nuclear weapons with 70 times the force of the Hiroshima bomb, and *first use of nuclear weapons even against non-nuclear powers*. It declared war in space inevitable, recommended nuclear powered rockets to command the solar system, and favored genetically specific biological weapons. These nightmarish images would be unbelievable had they not been published by those now in power in the Bush administration. And some of these projects (such as Star Wars and global satellite surveillance) are already being developed.

President Bush's pre-emptive war against Iraq has become a tragic mire. And now we face the possibility that Bush will unleash a pre-emptive strike against Iran, perhaps a nuclear attack that could, I believe, unleash cataclysmic violence through the Middle East and perhaps the world. The president currently denies this intention (as he earlier denied his true intentions toward Iraq). But Seymour Hirsch, *The New Yorker's* investigative reporter, has written that Bush would view regime change in Iran as his "legacy" to the world.

A segment of the U.S. Congress resists President Bush's and PNAC's malignant aims. They struggle to save our democracy and to rejoin an international community working toward peace, disarmament, human rights, sustainable development and environmental preservation. We must greatly increase their numbers through our votes.

In New Hampshire, Paul Hodes is eager to become the Congressional Representative for the second district. He has developed a solid platform of "Reform and Real Security" which is described on his web site, and I urge WNUV members to read it (www.hodesforcongress.com). Spotlighting the current "culture of corruption" in our national government, it points out the urgent need for reform of lobbying practices. The platform promotes education, employment, health care, women's right to choose, development of alternative energy, and protection of civil rights.

Although he supports maintaining a strong, flexible military force, he does not favor new U.S. military action in the Middle East. "That incites enemies and loses friends," he said on the phone. "We need a cohesive diplomatic action against Iran."

Hodes needs financial support in order to communicate effectively with his potential constituents. My husband and I have contributed already, and he will have our vote. I hope that other WNUV members will join us.

Audrey McCollum

(Editor's Note: The above opinions are those of one WNUV member and not necessarily those of the WNUV as a whole. We welcome opinions contrary to those expressed above.)

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Anne Sutton 603-643-8239 or
e-mail anne_sutton3@hotmail.com

In the News

Congratulations to member **Pietie Birnie** who won the bronze medal in the Grand Crumpoff Crumpet Making Crumpetition sponsored by Charles Shackleton and Miranda Thomas Ltd. on Saturday, April 1st at the Bridgewater Mill. Judges were Jeffrey Hamelman – Master Baker at King Arthur Flour; Rosemary Hubbard - Food Editor for The Vermont Standard; and Charles Umpleby - owner of Umpleby's Bakery.

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**The Honorable
Madeleine Kunin**

**Former Vermont Governor
Former U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland**

“Living the Political Life”

May 23, 2006

Spring Dinner

Hanover Inn

5:30 – 8:00 pm

\$33 (Members & Spouses) /\$38 (Non-Members)

Special Events

Debbie Aliber

debaliber@yahoo.com

603.643.0107

**Brainstorming for the
2006 – 2007 Program**

June 13, 2006

Potluck

Hanover Friends Meeting House

6:15 – 8:30 pm

Program Chair

Judy Music

judymusic@valley.net

802.649.2535

The Net

P.O. Box 183
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