

January 6, 2008

# 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 share their viewpoints and interests.”

**Please Take Note:**

- N.H. Primary Elections on Tuesday, January 8
- Deadline for submission to next newsletter: January 25
- The January evening meeting date *has been changed* to January 15, due to the January 8 primary in N.H., and the meeting will be held in the Murray Room, which is also in the basement of the Howe Library
- Sign-up sheet for “Remarkable Women” luncheon (January 21) enclosed

**Networking for the January Program:**

No specific networking question this time!

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*The Net*

P. O. Box 183  
Hanover, NH 03755-0183

## President’s Letter

Dear Friends,

I want to wish each and every one of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2008. The new year certainly got out of the gate at a brisk pace, with the electrifying Iowa Caucus, the intensified political campaigning, and this zesty winter weather. And we’re off!

Even though it was cold and icy outside during the December evening program, Gina Capossela and her Middle Eastern dance (MED) students filled the Mayer Room with warmth and sizzle. She began her presentation with a breath-taking sprint through the history of MED. Although no one can say for certain, Middle Eastern dance probably originated in ancient Egypt, where women probably first danced only for women, probably for sacred, birthing, and other purposes. Following a rich period of cross pollination of ideas and dances among Mediterranean cultures in which MED flourished, the Roman occupation of Egypt began the deterioration of this art form into “entertainment”. The body/mind split of Christianity and the rise of Islam almost finished it off. When Europeans later “discovered” the Middle East, fanciful reports of harems and dancing girls (most certainly made up) fired the Western male’s imagination, ranging from the Oscar Wilde staging of Salome’s “dance of the seven veils” to the “belly dance” shows that apparently became the economic salvation of the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893. (Gina told us that the “Snake Charmer’s Song”, which is popularly linked even today to “belly dancing”, was made up by a World’ Fair organizer.) “Belly dancing” moved on to burlesque and then to Hollywood, which further degraded this once honored dance form. The feminist movement of the 1960’s and 1970’s revitalized MED, encouraging dance scholars and dancers to research and restore MED to art status.

But, of course, one cannot simply *talk* about dance! Gina then treated us to a video recording of several dances from her students’ 2006 sold-out show. We saw women of all ages and sizes shimmying and shaking and moving very beautifully together. The highlight of the evening, however, was when two of Gina’s students, Nadine Nelson and Rebecca Lallier, performed, in 1800’s style costumes, a “gawasi” dance, an Arabian dance paying tribute to horsemanship. They were amazing! Gina and her students are obviously dedicated to their scholarship and craft. Gina also sees MED as a means for women to heal their disconnections from their bodies and sensuality. That sure sounds like a sacred art to me.

Please note that our January meeting will be on the *third* (instead of second) Tuesday at 7:00 in the *Murray Room* of the Howe Library. Dr. Elizabeth Trought, VP of the League of Women Voters, and a highly recommended speaker, will give us “A Non-Partisan View of Politics”. How is such a view possible? Please come and find out!

I am also looking forward to our second “Remarkable Women” luncheon on Monday, January 21. Professor Katharine Conley will be speaking about women in the Surrealist Movement. If her podcast is any indication, we’re in for a treat and some surprising information. Sign up soon.

Sincerely,  
*Judy Music*

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*Food for Thought:*

*“We women are callow fledglings as compared with the wise old birds who manipulate the political machinery, and we still hesitate to believe that a woman can fill certain positions in public life as competently and adequately as a man.”*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

**Message from Gina Capossela:**

Hello Women's Network of the Upper Valley members!

It was a joy to come to speak with your group on December 11 and I was only sorry that the weather prevented us from chatting further. You had some fabulous comments and everyone was so nice! I thought I'd drop you a note to follow up regarding belly dance classes this winter. So far two people from your group have registered! I have six beginner classes starting next week including a MORNING class. Here is where they are, etc.:

Woodstock, Monday 5:30 pm, 10 weeks, \$120 - begins January 14  
Windsor, Monday 7:30 pm, 9 weeks, \$108 - begins January 21  
Hanover, Tuesday 6:30 pm, \$120 - begins January 15  
Hanover, Thursday 4:00 or 5:15 pm, \$120 - begins January 17  
MORNING: Hanover, Friday, 11 am, \$120 - begins January 18

All of the information about where, when, how much, how to register, what to wear, etc. can be found at [www.GinaDances.com](http://www.GinaDances.com) I am also happy to speak with any of you at (802) 763-8691. Wouldn't it be fun for us to continue our conversation in class? Remember: this is a dance for everyone. All sizes, shapes, ages and ability levels are welcome!

Happy New Year to all of you!

**Political Discussions—“Brown Bag” Luncheon Series**

It was a great idea, but the organizers took hard looks at their schedules and decided not to go forward with the “brown bag” political discussion lunches at this time. I'm going to use this “teachable moment” to remind all of you that the great strength of the WNUV is its flexibility—so please feel free to explore and initiate any programs, luncheons, study groups, field trips, etc. that appeal to you. Use “*The Net*” for announcements or exploratory proposals, and keep those ideas coming!

**WNUV Members Directory**

The Members' Directory will be sent within the next two weeks to all current members. If you haven't already renewed or joined, please send a \$25 check (“WNUV”) to Alyssa Smith; POB 183; Hanover, NH 03755-0183.

The Directory will list members' names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. If you want to be omitted from the directory, or if you want to abridge your contact information, please let Alyssa Smith know by January 10. Thank you!

**Reservation Form**

**Women's Network of the Upper Valley  
"Remarkable Women" Winter Luncheon**

***"Women and the Surrealist Movement"*  
Katharine Conley, Professor of French**

**Tip Top Café, White River Junction  
Monday, January 21, 2008  
12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Work \_\_\_\_\_

Home \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Menu Preference**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Salmon**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad**

**Please mail this form and check made out to WNUV  
in amount of \$20 (Member) or \$25 (Non-Member)  
by Tuesday, January 15th to:**

*Special Events*  
**Deborah Aliber  
37 School Street  
Hanover, NH 03755**

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

*(Unfortunately, we cannot refund money for any cancellations received  
after Thursday, January 17th. Thank you for your understanding.)*

**Core Committee Chairs**

**President**

Judy Music  
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**Vice-President & Program Chair**

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**Past President**

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# Programs January – June, 2008

## *Evening Programs*

**January 15**

“Primary Election Analysis”

Elizabeth Trought

**February 12**

“Civil Liberties Update”

Claire Ebel

**March 11**

Panel on Aging

**April 8**

“The Vermont Peace Academy”

Kathleen Shepherd

**May**

Spring Event

TBA

**June**

Potluck, Brainstorming, Elections

## **“Remarkable Women” Luncheons**

**January 21**

“Women and Surrealism”

Katharine Conley, Professor of French

**April 21**

“Hildegard von Bingen”

Monika Otter, Associate Professor of English

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

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