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The Women's Collective

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The Women's Collective Newsletter

Volume 1. Issue 3

Spring 2004

A Word From The Director...

WoCo has been very busy since the last edition of the WoCo newsletter. **The Thin Line** went off without a hitch on February 28th, **Girls Eye View-MDI** had its grand finale art exhibition and celebration on April 13th, and ten girls from Hancock County as well as seven chaperones have been chosen for the **Girls Eye View-GAMBIA** adventure taking place February, 2005. Success is all around and much of it is due to the wonderful community members who volunteered their time, skills, and enthusiasm to aid in fulfilling the potential of the girls and women of Mount Desert Island and beyond. I extend a humungous thank you to: Amy Reisman, Mary Swift, Pennie Schwartz, Lauren Gifford, Leslie Linder and Tara young, for their wonderful work benefiting the **Girls Eye View** program and the girls of MDI; thank you to: Elise Mogensen, Kate Caivano, Amy Pollien, Susan Kaye and Benita McMullen for taking on and accomplishing, with flying colors, the challenging task of selecting **Girls Eye View-GAMBIA** chaperones from a selection of 21 outstanding applicants. Thank you also to Jessica Naylor, Abby Robinson, Elaine Lauriat for their hard work in helping put together and actualize **The Thin Line**. Thank you to: Laurie Alley, Pam Parvin and Janice Lowe for volunteering their time and counseling skills in order to serve audience members potentially needing support during **The Thin Line** event. The panel members for **The Thin Line**, Andrea Gable-Richards, Tracy Haskell and Dr. Jonathan Fanburg, also deserve a gigantic thank you for volunteering their knowledge and expertise and for providing audience members with valuable information regarding eating disorders and body image.

As you can see, WoCo is truly a volunteer powered organization. All of our major events and programming come to life with the skills, time and effort of our volunteers. And rumor has it that all of the women and girls who have volunteered do so as a result of their strong belief in the strength and power of women coming together and female motivated programming. Thank you so much for helping the vision of The Women's Collective come to fruition. When women and girls come together, amazing things happen...and this is just the beginning!

'Two Thumbs Up' From the Maine Women's Fund

On May 14th WoCo received a phone call from Maine Women's Fund Director, Karin Anderson. "Milja, I have good news!" And the news couldn't have been better. After months of waiting, two written proposals and a site visit, the verdict was in and The Women's Collective was fully awarded with \$7500 supporting general operations from the Maine Women's Fund!

The Maine Women's Fund works in partnership with its grant recipients to make significant positive change for women and girls in Maine by building bold and daring organizations. Through its grantmaking program, the Fund supports systemic social change for women and girls, believing in the dreams of innovative programs, and supporting initiatives addressing root causes of poverty, violence and discrimination. Their priorities are: Eliminating gender barriers; Building self-esteem in girls; Promoting economic self-sufficiency for women; Preventing all types of violence toward women and girls; and Increasing access to quality health care and information for all women.

"We couldn't be more excited about our grant to the Women's Collective — this is precisely the kind of collaborative, grassroots initiative that will kindle the social change we need to achieve true gender equality. The women of WoCo are amazing in their reach, and we are honored to help fuel the organization's growth and evolution. We expect great things from MDI!" Said Karin Anderson, Executive Director of MWF.

The endorsement of the Maine Women's Fund provides a stamp of approval that is recognized all over the state of Maine and beyond and we are so proud to bare this stamp.

A BIG thank you to Amy Reisman, Heather Albert-Knopp, Elaine Lauriat, Meaghan Foster and Elise Mogensen for their presence and words of support during the MWF site visit at the end of April. Thank you also to Susan Kaye for her assistance with preparation of the MWF full proposal. Another example of the great things that come from women working together!

YoWoCo is on a Roll!

(YoWoCo - The Young Women of WoCo a.k.a.
The Doc. Girls)

After a brief hiatus in April due to many of us traveling to Houlton to win the state show choir competition and later to Europe on a school trip, we're back and burning up the videotapes.

This project centers on our process exploring the issues of media literacy, body image and true health. We have conducted interviews with several local professionals as well as community members, both within our high school and the greater MDI community. Right now we are tying up the loose ends of filming and diving headfirst into editing. The gracious donation of an iMAC computer from **Sue Ferrante-Collier** and the generous \$1000 donation from the **Bar Harbor Banking and Trust Company**, \$250 from **Machias Savings Bank**, \$500 from the **Crobb Box Company**, and \$200 from **Bar Harbor Brewing Company**, will enable us to purchase state of the art editing software.

Our story board is complete and we're finally starting to piece this documentary together. We (and our wonderful advisors, Milja Brecher-DeMuro and Jessie Davis) are ecstatic that our dream of creating a video that will truly make a positive impact on its audience is rapidly becoming a reality!

Stay tuned for the world premiere of our documentary sometime soon!

Written By: Elaine Lauriat, age 16

WoCo Steering Committee Members:

Cas Dowden
Susan Kaye
Elaine Lauriat
Barbara Peppy
Amy Reisman
Lynn Jebbia
Sarah Codraro
Heather Albert-Knopp
Kate Caivano
Jessica Naylor

WoCo Staff

Milja Brecher-DeMuro
Founder & Director

Jessie Davis
Documentary Advisor

Jessica Naylor
Program Asistant
&
University of Maine
BSW Intern

MAY 2004 Designated As "Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine" Month

Families, Schools and Communities Invited to
Celebrate a New Cultural Definition of Beauty as
"Good Hearts, Great Works and Activism"

Monday, April 26, Governor Baldacci signed a proclamation declaring the month of May 2004 as "Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine" Month. *Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine* is a grassroots celebration of a new cultural definition of beauty as "good hearts, great works, and activism." "Turn Beauty Inside Out" (TBIO) 2004 will also be celebrated across the nation in May.

The proclamation signed by Governor Baldacci states that "the vision created by *Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine* is to achieve a new cultural definition of beauty so that girls in Maine feel good, safe, strong and confident and have a sense of ownership of their bodies and their lives"; that "girls have the resources, skills, and role models to support them in questioning cultural and media definitions of beauty"; and that "girls develop an awareness of the inner and outer aspects of beauty and realize that they have choices in figuring out for themselves what it means to be female, whole, and beautiful."

Governor Baldacci declared, "It is with great pleasure that I issue this proclamation and I invite all Maine families, schools, and communities to conduct appropriate activities to promote awareness and appreciation of beauty as *good hearts, great works, and activism*. All who share this vision should join in this critical work with our girls and young women in groups and communities throughout Maine."

The "Turn Beauty Inside Out" campaign began as a project of New Moon Magazine in 1999 when the magazine's Girls' Editorial Board decided to challenge People magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People" issue. Its own special issue, "25 Beautiful Girls" in May 2000 declared "We'll Show You Real Beauty." New Moon's vision to create a new cultural definition of beauty turned into a media campaign called "Turn Beauty Inside Out." Each year the focus is on a different form of media with the goal of getting decision-makers to re-think and take responsibility for how they portray women and girls.

For more information about *Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine*, please call 1800-287-1535 or (207)324-2814 or go to: <http://www.umaine.edu/umext/genderproject/Q4tbuiactivites.htm>. To learn more about New Moon's TBIO May activities go to: www.mindonthemedia.org.

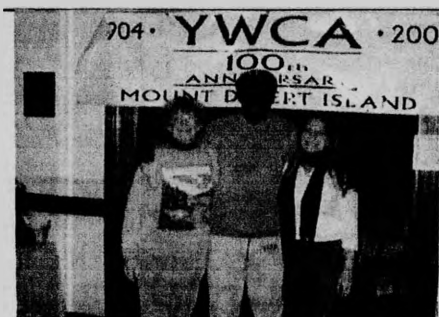
Thank you to the YWCA MDI
for their continued support!

Gambia Expedition in Full Swing!

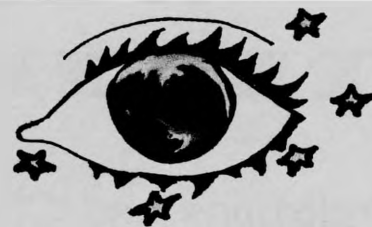
All ten girls and seven chaperones have been chosen for the Girls Eye View Gambia expedition next February, 2005 and we are jumping into programming, planning and fundraising feet first. The next 9 months are going to be filled with monthly meetings focused on team building, trust building, cultural research and information sharing as well as racial equality education.

The goals of this program are: 1) to plan, prepare, educate and execute a program for ten middle school girls from Hancock County, Maine that will introduce them to life in a developing country with the intent of broadening their understanding of the world that they live in. 2) For Hancock County residents and Jambanjelly, Gambia residents to gain insight into racial equality, celebrating diversity and female empowerment. 3) To increase community connectivity and social capital within and among Hancock County communities.

On top of the regular meetings, we will be planning and setting into action our fundraising campaign. In accordance to the WoCo mission of providing programming for women and girls of all backgrounds, race, creed, sexual identity and socio-economic status, we are ensuring that the participation of each girl and chaperone who applied for the expedition would not be limited due to financial commitments. Therefore, \$40,000 has to be raised by February. Funds will cover the cost of air fare, in-land travel, food, room and board, trainings as well as general planning and promotional expenses. We will host fundraising events in each of the girls' communities, including but not limited to, spaghetti dinners, bottle drives and school dances. We will also host a few events open to the entire Hancock County community, featuring African music, hors 'devours, wine and festivities. Also keep your eyes out for us at the 4th of July parade and the wonderful opportunity to support WoCo and our many exciting programs in our Annual Appeal.



Pictured from left to right: Anne Smallidge, Lamin Njie, Milja Brecher-DeMuro



CHAPERONES

Milja Brecher-DeMuro – Bar Harbor
Anne Smallidge – Seal Harbor
Lamin – Jambanjelly, Gambia, West Africa
Kathleen Kotas – Bar Harbor
Abigail Curtis – Orono
Linda Pomerleau, Alternate – Bar Harbor
Lori Fineman, Alternate – Bar Harbor

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Caroline Turner – Deer Isle
India Frazier – Blue Hill
Sally Peckenham – Orland
Elisabeth Moore – Stockton Springs
Melissa Clark – Bass Harbor
Margaret Bacon – Mount Desert
Ashley Ann Higgins – Brooklin
Chrissy Woodward – Surry
Ashley McDonald – Franklin
Anna Sproule – Trenton

Upcoming Events

County-wide raffle

Tickets on Sale:

June 13th; Drawing: July 18th,

TONS OF GREAT PRIZES!!

4th of July raffle-ticket sale

look for ticket booths county-wide!

Mike Bennett African Music Benefit

July, 2004

So, you want to donate to this expedition?
Send a check payable to Girls Eye View - Gambia to:
The Women's Collective - 36 Mount Desert Street -
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

For more information, please call:
Milja Brecher-DeMuro at 207-288-0660 or
Anne Smallidge at 207-266-3244

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Foundations and Organizations:



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca



Businesses:



STEWART BRECHER
ARCHITECTS



Individuals:

Leaders

Dr. Frank Moya

Supporters

Katherine Bell
Stewart & Melita Brecher
Lenny & Rita Johnston
Victor & Elinor Kelmenson
Gay Lindenmeyer
Donal & Patricia Murphy
Peter & Peggy Richardson

Contributors

Billy & Sally Arata
*Kate Caivano
Gail Caruso
Roberta DeMuro
Jane Disney
Todd & Suzie Foster
*Susan Kaye
*Barbara Peppey

Friends

Dan & Debby Dubois
Charles Fletcher
Gary & Glenon Friedmann
R.E. & Mary Godfroy
Starr Gilmartin
Ron & Karen Greenberg
*Elaine Lauriat
Etta Kralovek
Katherine Moore
Amy Reynolds
Liz Subin & John Crock
Tommy & Etel Thomas
Laurie Williams

Members

*Heather Albert-Knopp
Mary Lois Alicen
Dean & Elizabeth Bryer
Susan Ferrante Collier
Steven DeMuro
Roy Kasindorf & Helen Harton
Fay Lawson
Sally Luth
Jill Miller
Chelsea Mooser
*Jessica Naylor
Susan Reiff
*Amy Reisman
Judith Swazey
Karel Weissberg
Carol Woolman

*WoCo Steering Committee Members

The WONDERFUL creativity of women & girls

What is Life?

By Alexa R. Bonsey - Age 9, Bar Harbor

What is life with war and no peace?
Why can't our anger of each other cease?
The war between countries old and new,
Is stopped almost never, only by a few,
Those are the ones who believe in talk,
Do not run in revenge, but with kindness they
walk.

Though in the future we may see,
Peace will come and be made again only by
Thee.

If you would like to submit a poem, short story or a piece of artwork to be published in the WoCo Newsletter, please send it to: The Women's Collective, 36 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609. We welcome submissions from women and girls of all ages!!! Please also include a mini bio about the artist/writer. Thank you.

WoCo Wish List

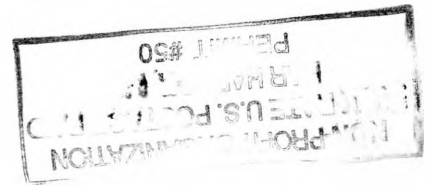
- Office Supplies
 - 8 ½ x 11 white paper (recycled)
 - 8 ½ x 11 white card stock
 - HP 15 & HP 78 Printer Cartridges
 - 11x17 multicolored paper (pale colors)
 - ZIP disks
- GiftMaker Pro Donor Software
- Color printer compatible with Apple Computer
- Color photo copy machine
- WoCo outdoor sign
- Books & Videos re: female holistic health (contact WoCo for more info.)
- Van

LATE NOVEMBER AFTERNOON

By Josie Sigler

I wish you could see me, sometimes, when I am at home in my body, when I am alone in the car, like this afternoon, when I catch a glimpse of myself in the rearview mirror, when I see my face golden with the late November sunlight, my lips parted, when I think I am beautiful, I wish you could see me wish you could see how beautiful I am, how the beauty of me distracts me, makes me forget to wave at the child ahead in the back of a yellow bus; I am thinking of all the yellow buses I rode and the yellow buses my father rode and how I was once in love with a man who reminded me too much of my father and he rode yellow buses, too, and I was thinking about how we all have that thing in common, those yellow buses; but I can't even pay attention to that today because I am noting that my eyes are starting to have lines around them, and that my lips are already thinner than they used to be, but I wish you could see that I am aging, wish you could see me when I am not trying to please you, when I am pleasing me, even last night when you opened me before the cold window, when you made your love, when you worshipped me, you could not see me like this; and how I wish you could see me, how I wish you could see that I am beautiful when I stop the car, pull over to the apple field, oh the light, oh the trees making their way into the sky, Rilke said you could make the world from that, and I wish you could see me when I am making the day from that, when I stop caring if I am going to be late, when I am alone and in love with history, mine and that of the elderly couple sitting on the porch of this roadside house and when they wave I return the wave and I can tell we know something that the rest of the world doesn't know at this very moment, I am beautiful; oh god, and they are twice as beautiful, the woman's skin hanging from her face like scarves, her hands clasped onto the arm of his brown jacket, the way he looks into her eyes, all he sees is her, that is the way I want you to know it, that is the way I want you to find me.

The Women's Collective
36 Mount Desert Street
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609



Ms. Sharon Barker
5728 Fernald Hall
Orono, Me 04469



So, you want to be a WoCo...

Member Volunteer Donor

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

In Kind Donation: _____ (i.e. contributions earmarked for books, videos, \$/items for specific projects -please refer to the WoCo wish list))

Donation Amount:

\$15 - \$49 Member \$50 - \$99 Friend \$100 - \$149 Contributor \$150 - \$199 Investor

\$200-\$499 Supporter \$500 - \$999 Leader \$1000 + Visionary

I would like my donation to remain confidential: Yes No

Please send this form and your cash or check contribution payable to The Women's Collective to:
The Women's Collective - 36 Mount Desert Street - Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

For more information, please call: (207)288-0660, e-mail: mlja@women.mdmaine.us, or check out our website at <http://women.mdmaine.us>

Thank you for supporting The Women's Collective & the women and girls of MDI!
All donations are tax deductible