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SWG News

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Society Ends a Strong Year

By Marty Talbot



Dear Esteemed SWGers,

Our trees are a blaze of brilliant colors - yellows, reds, pinks, deep purple against the dark green evergreens, and the backyard is a multi colored carpet of leaves needing to be raked up and deposited in the mulch pile.

Since our last newsletter (thank you **Emily Rushin** for editing the Summer Edition of the SWG News with a great description and photos of the Triennial), the current SWG president has been on the road and in the air traveling almost constantly.

In early October, she and her husband joined the Washington Group of the Explorers Club for their "bombash" to sightsee Richmond, Virginia, after husband Lee's road race in southern Virginia.

Then we (Lee and Marty Talbot) crossed the Atlantic to beautiful Barcelona, Spain, for the IUCN World Conservation Congress attended by over 8000 conservationists from all around the world, some picturesquely attired in native dress. We attended to witness the

presentation of the first Harold Jefferson Coolidge Award which we had spent about 10 years instigating as a memorial to the man we consider "the father of International Conservation." Hal was one of the founders of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1948 and was the architect of the IUCN commission structure which enlists the services of well over 10,000 scientists and other conservationists worldwide.

We then flew to spectacular Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for the meeting of the State of the Parks Advisory Council of the National Parks and Conservation Association. This endeavor assesses the conditions in various National Parks and Monuments.

On our return trip we spent a night in Boulder, Colorado, to have dinner with SWGers **Sallie Greenwood** and **Susan Planck** to discuss possible locations for the 2011 SWG Triennial in Colorado since that state was one of the places that had been suggested. Other suggestions have been Nantucket and the Blue Ridge (Shenandoah National Park) in Virginia. We would still welcome other ideas.

Besides discussions of possible

Triennial sites, other SWG news includes the outstanding exhibit held at HQ of SWGer **Ann Hawthorne's** friend Richard Kennedy's photographs of India in September and the new exhibit "Head Hunt Revisited: the Expedition Images" which opened November 15. I would like to encourage SWGers to contact Exhibits Chair **Elizabeth Welles** if you have an exhibit you would like to put up in our Headquarters Building.

And a special "thank you" to our hard working Washington, D.C., Chair **Elizabeth Brownstein** for initiating her first "first Monday in the month

(See **PRESIDENT**, p. 8)

Open Book House

Ann Hawthorne and **Ben Booz** hosted a book party at Headquarters December 7th, 2008, to celebrate the work of our member-writers and highlight the holdings of our library. Members brought books written or published by them or about them- books old or new- to sell or add to the SWG library.

Watch the SWG News or the website www.iswg.org for the date of the spring book party.

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Idell Conaway has an exhibit of her underwater photography at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque, which will run from Sept. 27, 2008 to Jan 18, 2009. The title is *Underwater Oasis: Coral Reef Communities* and is a presentation of colorful marine invertebrates. You can see more of her fantastic photos on the website at www.idellconaway.com

New Exhibit at Headquarters opened November 15th



In the Spring of 2005, **Michele Benoy-Westmorland**, travel photographer and diver, and **Karen Hunt**, a documentary photographer and photo editor, carried the SWG flag to Papua New Guinea and The Solomon Islands, for their project "Headhunt Revisited," inspired by the journey of former SWG member **Caroline Mytinger** to the region in 1926. Their goal was to document the current conditions of cultures in these areas, using Mytinger's travels as a guide. Mytinger was a professional portrait painter, as well as a Gibson Girl model. She and her companion, Margaret Warner, spent four years in the islands painting portraits of the inhabitants in an effort to document the cultural changes that had taken

place. Westmorland and Hunt spent two months photographing and filming the people and their traditions, and discovered descendants of Mytinger's portrait subjects. The Smithsonian Magazine published a ten-page article about Mytinger and the Headhunt project, "A Gibson Girl in New Guinea," in April 2006. They reported on their experiences at SWG headquarters in November 2006.

Laurie Marker held her annual Cheetah Conservation Fund event on October 13, in Washington DC. She was riveting in talking about her

beloved cheetahs and the international work she is doing to save the dwindling numbers remaining world-wide. Her home base is her International Research and Education Centre in Namibia, which she founded some years ago, and she is now the world's leading expert on the cheetah. She brought Kaigo, a beautiful cheetah from the Columbus Zoo. Kaigo purrs very loudly and is very patient with children and adults who are taking her picture! Laurie Marker received the Gold Medal from the Society of Woman Geographers in May at the Triennial in Chicago.

LETTER FROM MEGAN L. DIXON

Pruitt Fellow (2006-2007), Speaker at the 2008 Triennial

Megan L. Dixon
Department of Geography
University Of Oregon

Dear Ann, Ruth, Janet,
Kim and Marty:

I am so grateful that I got to attend the Triennial. Not only did I have a wonderful time, but I saw firsthand what SWG is all about.

The meeting confirmed my sense that the opportunity to gather with women is essential. Perhaps my generation of women thinks that we are past needing this contact, but at some point, the persistent challenges of being a professional woman still kick in, and woman-to-woman support comes as a relief. Many of the conversations that I had at the Triennial with mentor-level academic geographers gave me crucial encouragement and perspective, and increased my feeling of belonging to an intellectual community.

The inspiring, funny, compassionate, and encouraging atmosphere at the Triennial is unusual in many professional circles and this is a very precious thing. When committed women talk with each other, our critical faculties are often amplified by mutual encouragement instead of being made

bleaker by egoistic competition for dominance of the conversation. I felt valued for my commitment, as well as for my academic efforts.

SWG brings together a wide range of professions that have much to teach each other. SWG's membership includes so many different professions, I felt placed in a wider context by meeting women who are doing freelance writing, leading tours, organizing student internships, – not to mention running a cheetah preserve in Namibia! The mix of members who do something in the "real world" (as we academics tend to say) makes SWG unique among organizations that include academics and other professionals.

After the Triennial I see very clearly that SWG members are inspiring explorers who offer an example that is needed more than perhaps they themselves realize. Even though women have so many more opportunities than even 25 years ago (not to mention in 1925) the frontiers are still there, and we still want and need companions on our journey.

Thanks again,
Megan Dixon

An Artist, a World Traveler, Some Professors and Students into the Fold

PAT HENRY (Active) is an artist who has exhibited her paintings in Mexico, Venezuela, Greece, Turkey and many other places around the world. She began her career with a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Illinois in Champaign, IL. She worked as an architect and interior designer and was an Associate Professor of Design at San Jose State University. In addition, she is an experienced sailor and navigator. She completed the "Southern Cross," her voyage as the first American woman to circumnavigate the world via the canals. She is an author of books on her sailing adventures.

Jacarandas 183
Col. Emiliano Zapata
Puerto Vallarta JAL
Mexico CP 48380

MARY CASE DURHAM (Associate) is a world traveler who has been to many of the more remote regions of the globe, from the northern tip to the town of Barrow and to the southern tip of Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego. Her intense interest is in geography, and she is active in The Association of American Geographers and the Association of Pacific Geographers. She obtained a BA from the University of Houston in Spanish and a MS from the University of Nevada in Land Use Planning.

7326 Keim Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85250

PATRICIA A. GOBER, Dr. (Active) is a Professor at the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University. She has contributed to her profession at the national level as president of the American Association of Geographers, member of the NOAA Science Advisory Board, member of the Geography Committee of the National Research Council, and

as a leader in the development of Advanced Placement Geography. She has researched issues of the U.S. Southwest (especially water related problems) as well as issues that have taken her to many other countries: migration, gender, sustainability, urbanization, housing, employment, elder issues, population, transportation, etc.

She obtained her degrees in geography from the University of Wisconsin (BA) and Ohio State University (MA and PhD). She has written books as well as numerous publications on the wide variety of subjects in her investigations.

126 East Loma Vista Drive
Tempe, AZ 85282

WEI LI, Dr. (Active) is an Associate Professor at Arizona State University in the Asian Pacific American Programs and the School of Geographical Science. She is a member of the Affiliate Center for Asian Studies; North American Center for Transborder Studies; Center for Population Dynamics; School of Justice and Public Inquiry; Women and Gender Studies. She is also a member of the Census Advisory Committee of the Asian Population, Race and Ethnic Advisory Committee (REAC), U.S. Census Bureau. She has served as Inaugural member, the Attorney General's Senior Advisory Council, and Member of the Asian American Community Justice Council for the Attorney General, State of Arizona.

As well as a member of Honors Committee B, American Association of Geographers, she also holds the position of President and Member of the Board of Directors of the Population Specialty Group. Before coming to the U.S.A., she studied geography at Beijing Normal College / and Peking University in the People's Republic of China. In the U.S., she

obtained a PhD in geography from the University of Southern California.

She has written books and numerous publications on migration and ethnicity.

1161 E Sandpiper Drive, Unit 122
Tempe, AZ 85283

HILARY JEAN STEVENS is a student in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Delaware. Previously she had completed a Master's Degree in coastal management at Yale. She also conducted a Peace Corps mission in the Philippines before working as a coastal resource management assistant for NOAA in the Northern Marianas Islands. This year she participated in an international expedition to the Netherlands Antilles Island of Bonaire to explore and document coral reef quality. This project was funded by NOAA's Office of Exploration and research and was a flag carrying expedition for The Explorers Club.

In addition to her academic accomplishments she speaks three languages, Danish, German and the Filipino dialect of Cebuano. She is a certified Rescue Diver and experienced in handling small boats.

She received her BA from Wesleyan University in Connecticut and was a teaching assistant there in geology as well as at the University of Delaware.

326 Cannons Way
Newark, DE 19713

SUSANNAH B.J. FULTON is a PhD Candidate at Miami University in the Botany Department. Her dissertation is on the Biogeography of Coccolpermaceae. The Coccolpermaceae is a small pantropical family for which she is reconstructing its evolutionary history using molecular markers to explain its

(See **NEW MEMBERS**, p. 4)

Deb Atwood Joins Search for Adventurer Fossett's Downed Plane

Deb was part of the 28 person search team that combed the rugged mountains of the Wassuk Range in western Nevada looking for the wreckage of Steve Fossett's plane that went down on Labor Day, 2007. At that time it was the most extensive search for a missing plane in U.S. history and was conducted by the Nevada National Guard and the Civil Air Patrol. Deb and the team of explorers, led by Robert Hyman, spent two weeks scrambling over steep canyons through heavy stands of trees and brush. Although they were not successful in finding the plane (which was found by a hiker weeks later), they suffered no injuries and managed to

complete the effort with two scientific components. They assessed a prototype three-dimensional search and rescue software package for NASA SAR Mission Lab and gave them feedback on its use. In addition, the expedition was used as a test case for Metron, using probability mapping and search theory, and developed a series of proposals that could be implemented to improve search and rescue.

Left to right search team members Lew Toulmin, Dick Sale, Deb Atwood, and Robert Hyman update maps, Saturday, August 30, 2008, at a base camp just west Of Hawthorne, Nev.

(AP Photo/Brendan Riley)



A Day at the Races



At-Large Co-Chair **BETTY KAYNOR** & President **MARTY TALBOT** enjoy the afternoon at Lee Talbot's classic car race on October 30th at the Hilton Head/Savannah Histories on the Hutchinson Island road-race course at Savannah Harbor, an event of the Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival.

Photo by Katherine Albert

NEW MEMBERS

(continued from p. 3)

distribution and patterns of diversity. She is also pursuing ethnobotany, to better understand which species are used by indigenous cultures worldwide. She is combining anthropology and botany to understand biogeographic patterns in the tropics. She was awarded her BS From Brigham Young University and her MS From New Mexico State University.

350 McKee Avenue
Oxford OH 45056

Washington, DC, New York, Chicago and Florida Check In

- **WASHINGTON DC GROUP.** On November 22, **Ann Van DeVanter Townsend** spoke on “The Art of Cultural Diplomacy.” On December 14, **Deb Atwood** and her husband/photographer Robert Hyman will host their annual Christmas party at their home. January 24, there will be a look at India through the eyes and art of **Carol Reed**. April 4, our Penn State awardee will discuss her discrimination research. In 1976, Ann was asked by the U.S. Information Agency to put together a traveling exhibition called “Two Hundred Years of American Painting” for a seven-month tour of museums in Germany, Yugoslavia, Italy and Poland. In 1985, Ann founded the Trust For Museum Exhibitions. Trained in international relations at Brown University and international economics at Johns Hopkins School of International Studies, Ann believes “it’s cultural diplomacy that opens the doors, makes friends and reaches the people.” Her Trust (TME) now works with over two hundred museums in the United States and around the world, supplementing museum staffs and putting together exhibitions they cannot organize themselves due to personnel and financial constraints.

- **NEW YORK GROUP.** In October Joni Seager spoke to the Group on *Sex, Lies and Statistics Mapping The World of Women*. **Donna Henes**, program chair, has planned for

November 21 a Geographic Awareness dinner with the Fellowship Awards. For the December 11 Holiday Party the guest speaker will be **Rolena Adorno**.

- **CHICAGO GROUP.** In September the Group heard **Judy Bock** on *Changing Stereotypes, Education and Family Life in Japan*. This fall the Group made a field trip to the Newberry Library to see the exhibit *Artifacts of Childhood*, 700 years of children’s games and literature from around the world in 100 languages, plus a talk by The Chicago Humanities Council. In 2009 they plan presentations on Philippine DIVERSity, Algeria, Lewis and Clark,

and a trip to a Korean Market, dates to be announced.

- **FLORIDA GROUP.** A potluck Holiday Party will be held Saturday, December 6, at the home of **Sawsan Khuri**. Sawsan is a Research Assistant at the University of Miami and a consultant in the fields of genetics and bioinformatics.

More complete listings of future meetings of all the Groups can be found on the SWG website, www.iswg.org. If you are going on a trip to one of these cities think about contacting the SWG Chair there and enjoy getting together with other SWG members.

New SWG 2007 Bulletin!

From Trudy Suchan, Editor:

The 2007 *Bulletin* was printed in mid-September. Each member should have her copy by now. If you did not receive it or if there is an error in your Directory information please contact Headquarters.

The 2008 *Bulletin* work is beginning. About 20% of members sent activity reports for 2007. They comprise miniature but entrancing essays of worldwide adventure, frank commentary, and personal reflection on the events. I urge you to plan now to submit your report for 2007. Specific instructions will be sent in a few weeks. The submission deadline will be March 1.

Several SWGers have made suggestions for changes to the *Bulletin*; feel free to share your ideas for content or design via e-mail to Headquarters. The 2008 *Bulletin* will better organize the assortment of physical and e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and URLs

for each member in the Directory. Fax numbers will be “opt in.” The Chicago Manual of Style will be adhered to more thoroughly, for example, dual surnames will be alphabetized under the first of the name pair. Color printing is priced reasonably and one- or full-color options will be considered

The *Bulletin* has been published more or less annually since 1929 (there was a shaky period of irregular publication in the 1950’s; In the 1960’s there was discussion of the relevance of the *Bulletin*, but the *Bulletin* survived. For me, it is an honor to carry on the SWG tradition of the annual *Bulletin* / and I look forward to hearing from each of you in the coming months.

THANK YOU, Trudy Suchan. for a marvelous job on the *Bulletin*! One member commented that reading it “is like taking a trip around the world”.

CORRECTION

PLEASE NOTE!

New student member **Marjorie Holmberg**’s name was misspelled in the summer Newsletter.

Fellowships Awarded for 2008-2009

The Pruitt National Dissertation Fellowship

- The University of Kentucky: **Sya Buryn Kedzior**, Pollution knowledge and Hydropolitics in the Ganges River Basin. Her research focuses on how political actors attempt to change the social meaning of water and its use in order to address water pollution problems.
- The University of South Carolina: **Sara Schwartz**, female and male responsiveness to HIV/AIDS education campaigns in Swaziland and how responsiveness levels relate to place-based identities and power relationships.
- The University of Colorado: **Amy Zader**, Feeding the Masses: Balancing the Quantity and Quality of Chinese Rice. The project will identify how the Chinese state is balancing modern scientific rice grown for mass quantities with high quality rice for consumer's demand.

The Pruitt National Minority Fellowship

- CUNY, Hunter College: **Elyssa Davis**; her Master's Thesis is entitled Participation of Women in Water Supply Management in the Hato Mayor Region of the Dominican Republic.

- Penn State: **Mamata Kumari Akelia**'s minority fellowship has been extended through September, 2008, to allow her to present her thesis results at the Auto-Carlo Conference at Shepherdstown, MD. Her evaluation system for map symbols on emergency management maps in the United States is being considered for adoption by the Homeland Security Agency.

National Fellowships

- UCLA: **Lilia I. Illes**. Ms Illes is interested in primates living in fragmented habitats and how human activity in and around forest fragments influences primate persistence.
- Penn State: **Kate Driscoll Derickson**, Contesting Neoliberal Urban Governance: Case Studies in

Biloxi, MS and Boston, MA. She is analyzing the impact of city governments' shift from viewing their responsibility as providing services to creating climates conducive to business.

- UC Berkeley: **Leigh Taylor Johnson** - Dept. of Geography. Her thesis research involves analyzing recent changes in Gulf Coast property insurance markets, and investigates their relationship to changing scientific knowledge about hurricanes.
- **Charlotte Wickham** - Dept of Statistics. Her thesis research involves analyzing sequences of locations of an object and relating those locations to key geographic features. For the thesis she is focusing on data that measured the world's largest fish, the whale shark.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The SWG Pruitt National Dissertation and Minority Fellowships 2009-2010

The Society of Woman Geographers (SWG) announces two national fellowship programs for 2009-2010. Both are for women in geography and geographical aspects of allied fields and are funded by SWG's Evelyn L. Pruitt Fund.

The SWG National Fellowship Committee invites applications from woman Ph.D. candidates for the annual Pruitt National Fellowship for Dissertation Research Competition. SWG expects to make two or three awards of \$8,000 to \$15,000 for 2009-2010. Applications are due by February 1, 2009 and awards will be announced April 15, 2009.

The SWG invites applications also for the Pruitt National

Minority Fellowship Program. Women who are members of a minority group and who have been admitted to and plan to enroll or are enrolled in a Masters program in geography or geographical aspects of an allied field are strongly encouraged to apply. It is expected that one or two awards of \$1,000 to \$5,000 will be made for 2009-2010. The application deadline is May 15, 2009. The award will be announced by July 1, 2009.

Request application guidelines for either the dissertation or minority program from **Dr. Ruth I. Shirey**, Chair of the SWG National Fellowship Committee (rishirey@auxmail.iup.edu) or visit the SWG website at www.iswg.org

OBITUARIES

Nancy Arnn, June 2007

Patricia Dickerman,
November 2008

Rosalie Loreto, March 2008

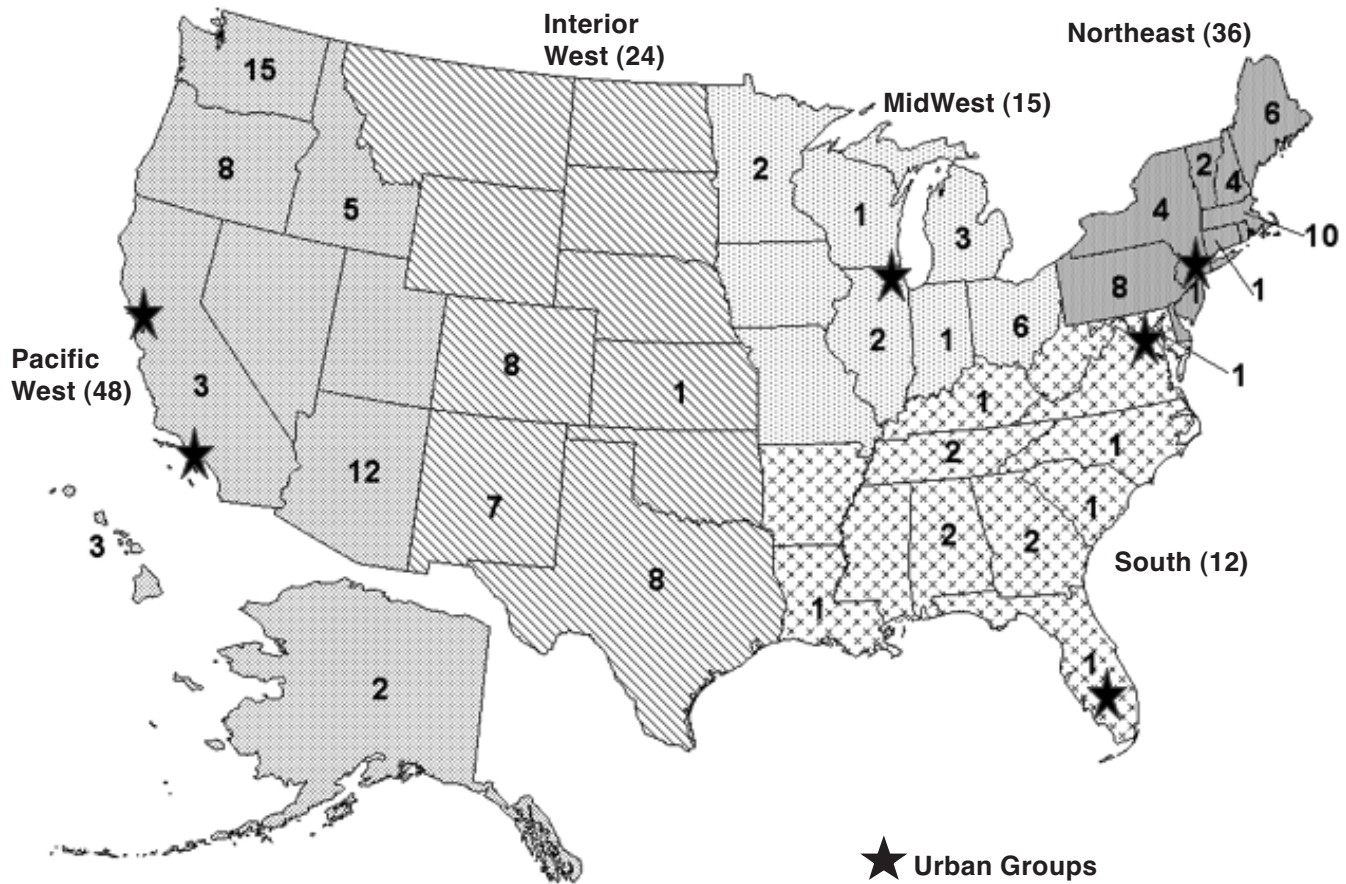
Katherine Patey, May 2008

Emily Polk, August 2008

Meredith Woolfolk Smoke,
November 2008

SWG At-Large Report – Here We Are!

SWG At-Large Membership – July 2008



Here we are on the SWG At-Large Membership Map (above), created by **Martha Sharma**, that shows where we all live all across our nation. . It is divided into five (5) Regions: *NORTHEAST, SOUTH, MIDWEST, INTERIOR WEST and PACIFIC WEST*. We live in 34 different states and have a density of one member (1) per state in eleven (11) states to fifteen (15) members in one (1) state (Washington). The stars on the Map show the “urban” SWG Groups: New York, Washington, DC, Florida, Chicago, Southern California and the San Francisco Bay Area.

An *At-Larger Communications Network* was started with the first *At-Large Column* in the summer issue of SWGNews. This Fall, all SWG At-

Large members throughout the country received this Membership Map along with an Address List (state-by-state) of everyone in her own Region so she could be in touch with colleagues. Also, the Chairs of the “urban” SWG Groups have been asked to send their meeting notices to all the At-Largers in the Region nearest to their Group to enable members in that area to attend if they were able. And, we are asking for Regional Reporters to be contacts in each Region.

An At-L Highlight: The delightful talk full of SWG history that was given by At-Larger **Jan Monk** (AZ) at the Triennial in Chicago, “Practically All The Geographers Were Women”, is now posted on the SWG website www.iswg.org under the listing for

Triennial 2008 –Outline. Happy Reading! It is great! Don’t miss it!

Betty Kaynor & Martha Sharma
AT-LARGE Co-Chairs.

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Newsletter Deadline

Please send us your news: publications, group activities (especially in advance so visiting SWGers can attend), awards, travel, Works in Progress. Send to Headquarters or by e-mail to SWGHQ@verizon.net. **Deadline for the next newsletter is January 31, 2009.**

Let Janet know we had to flip mailer for PO

Membership Information Easier to Access!

The new page on our website (www.iswg.org) describes membership application procedures (much simplified from the time when many of us joined!) and provides all the forms and instructions you'll need to bring new members into our Society.

Materials are available from headquarters:

- a colorful brochure
- application forms and instructions
- simplified instructions for proposers (you!)

So please think of all the accomplished women you know, introduce them to SWG, and encourage them to join us. The future of SWG is in your hands!

PRESIDENT

(continued from p. 1)

member's luncheon" at the Washington Press Club where several members exchanged news and ideas.

I want to thank **Betty Kaynor**, **Martha Sharma** and **Donnie Enright** for all their efforts in reaching out to our At-Largers. As you can see in this issue the map tells you where they all live throughout the USA and we hope they will soon be in touch with their colleagues in each of their Regions.

Also, our thanks to **Karen Ronne**

Tupek, our SWG Webmaster, for keeping us all posted on what is going on throughout our membership on our website www.iswg.com. Also, I warmly welcome suggestions for making SWG more relevant. Do let me hear from you.

We have so much for which to be grateful including all of you who make up this amazing SWG.

Warmest and fondest best wishes for Happy Holidays,

Marty Talbot, SWG President