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SWG News

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sisterhood is Powerful

By Kimberly A. Crews

Last year, I interviewed Lynn Gangone, former Executive Director of the National Association for Women in Education, as part of the SWG strategic planning process. After learning about SWG and how we propose and select members, she said, “so it’s like a sorority.” I have to admit to being rather appalled...the image of hazing, frat parties, and “popular” girls came into my head.

After processing that comment for more than a year, I have come to realize that SWG is “a sorority.” I favor the first definition of sorority from www.yourdictionary.com: “a group of women or girls joined together by common interests, for fellowship, etc.” So I will shake off my images of college keggers and share some recent examples of the wonderful SWG sisterhood.

My recent trip to New Zealand epitomizes what is great about SWG. Before I left for a few weeks of hiking on the South Island of New Zealand, I sent an email to SWGers on the South Island. We exchanged emails about the weather, appropriate clothing for hiking, sandflies, and



Kim Crews crosses Lake Te Anau, the largest lake on New Zealand's South Island

coordinated schedules for meeting up.

But even before I set foot in New Zealand, Joanna Biggar (Bay Area) met me at the San Francisco airport and shared a meal with me while we did some SWG business. She thoughtfully gave me a care package for my long flight.

Meg Andrew met me in Queenstown on the seventh day of my trip. She traveled by bus—a five hour ride—from her home in Dunedin. When I told my fellow hikers that an SWG colleague would be meeting me in Queenstown, they were surprised when I said that I had never met her.

After I met Meg in Queenstown, where we got acquainted, we took a short bus trip to Arrowtown where Meg was doing research on a book she is writing. We visited the museum and library there and returned to

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*Don't Forget to Sign Up
for May 24 to 27 Meeting*



One of the best things about the **Triennial** is the opportunity to meet with other members, exchange ideas, and create synergy. To help members with similar interests get together in **Chicago**, we will initiate a session called “**table topics**.” This is an opportunity for you to brainstorm with others about future projects, grant-writing opportunities, or other joint activities.

Here are just some ideas for topics. Please email me with your thoughts on these and other topics and we will make sure that the favorite ideas will get time on the Triennial Program. We can finalize the topics at the meeting, but take some time to think about the subjects that you would like to share with others.

Antarctica.....Reasonably-priced
Travel.....Photography.....
Programs for young people.....
Grant Writing.....China
.....Southern California

Thank You, Megan!

This is Megan Rosenfeld's last issue as editor of *SWG News*. I truly appreciate Megan's commitment to putting out a professional newsletter for SWG. Here is what some other SWGers said about Megan's role as editor: — Kim Crews, SWG President

“It's not an easy job keeping up with SWG's global travelers and their diverse activities, but Megan Rosenfeld, as editor of the Society's thrice-yearly *SWG News*, has managed it extremely well for the past seven years. Members depend on *SWG News* for updates about individuals, groups, books, biographies of new members, as well as informative articles from Headquarters and elsewhere. Megan always made certain that these were communicated in a lively, yet concise, style. Her e-mail alerts far in advance of deadline were appreciated, because they permitted time to organize materials for *SWG News*.”

*Ellen Steinberg, Vice President,
Chicago Group*

“Megan did an outstanding job of getting *SWG News* together, keeping us informed, and in touch with our far-flung crew. It was also a treat to have one with her standards of professionalism at the helm, and I appreciated working with her as well as reading the News. Thanks, Megan, for keeping up the best traditions of SWG, and of your family.”

*Joanna Biggar, Vice President,
Bay Area Group*

“I can't begin to mention all the ways that Megan contributed to the well-being of SWG during my presidency and in the years beyond. When we

lost our editor for the 2001 Bulletin, Megan was there to help pick up the pieces. When we decided to modernize *SWG News*, she was there to consult with the printer over format and to take over the editorship in tribute to her mother, Chris Rosenfeld, who had shepherded it for many years prior to her death. When we decided that SWG needed a more appealing brochure to attract newcomers, Megan was there to provide lively, informative text. And when we held our 2005 Triennial bash in Savannah, Megan was there to act as our official Triennial reporter. SWG has been extremely lucky to have such a talented writer in its midst—and one who was prepared to volunteer her services unstintingly. Megan, you will be missed by many of us.”

*Sara Rau
President, 2002-2005*

EDITOR'S NOTE: I did not edit this tribute! And I am very grateful for it. I'd like to add my own thanks to Grace Hayes for her meticulous copyediting, and to administrator Janet McGinn for collecting information and liaising with our printers. I'm also grateful to Joanna for helping me out with the New Members column, and to Sara and Kim for superb guidance and support. I hope the next editor will enjoy learning about our fantastic members as much as I have.

Tibet Tours

Dianne Aigaki is organizing two tours to Tibet this summer focused on botany and photography. The \$3,900 cost includes transportation, accommodations and meals within Tibet, but not airfare to Chengdu, China, where the journey will begin. For more information you can go to www.dianneigaki.com/tibet.

IN MEMORIAM

Lynn McLaren, January 2008
Flora E. Reynolds, January 2008
Mary Meader, March 2008

Filmmaker, Mediator and Two Educators Join SWG; Two New Student Members Welcomed

JUDITH BOCK (Chicago) is a teacher and leader in the Geography education movement, whose accomplishments include contributing to textbooks, facilitating workshops, and co-chairing the Illinois Summer Geography Institutes. Retired from teaching gifted students in middle school, she now teaches as an adjunct geography professor at regional colleges and universities (Elmhurst College, Northeastern Illinois University, and College of Lake County). Judy is the current president of the Geographic Society of Chicago and past president of the Illinois Geographical Society. She is chair of the GSC/NGS Endowment Fund and serves on the Finance Committee for the National Council for Geographic Education. Her B.A. in Elementary Education (1971) and M.A. in Geography and Environmental Studies (1982) are both from Northeastern Illinois University, and she has numerous other certifications in geography education. Her travel includes Peru and the Galapagos Islands, Japan, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, and countries in Western Europe.

GILLIAN BURLINGHAM

(At Large) is a mediator and social activist in Seattle, who has also worked in construction and on a sheep farm, been an official observer for an English Channel Swimmer, and served as a wilderness ranger for the U.S. Forest Service. She is also a certified Forest Service firefighter. She earned her B.A. at Oberlin College (1988) in History and Geology, and an M.A. from Antioch University Seattle (1996) in Systems Design and Cross-cultural mediation. Gillian established and coordinated the Committee for Ministry on Racial Justice for the University Friends Meeting in Seattle,

and established an advocacy and education group for homeless women. She is the niece of SWG member Terry Glenn, with whom she gave a presentation to the Chicago group comparing pre- and post-apartheid South Africa. Her other travel includes studying Buddhism and Thai in East Asia; Bangladesh, and Argentina.

VIRGINIA GALLOWAY (D.C.)

recently returned from Kenya, where she was the director/producer of documentary films funded by the Chronicle of Higher Education and the Chronicle of Philanthropy. Virginia has used her experience working for major studios to organize logistics for missions to Laikaipia, Kenya, including last summer's work by the Paul Chester Children's Hope Foundation, building a state of the art solar medical facility that offers treatment to over 50,000 people who would otherwise lack access to medical care. She has also followed a young Kenyan woman ethnobotanist, who is combining her scientific skills with documenting cultural knowledge in remote communities. Virginia has produced a film about her that will be released this summer. She has a degree in political science from the University of Maryland (1989), and a two-year certificate from the William Esper Studio in New York City.

WILMA S.(BILLIE) GROVER

(Florida) founded and directs the Ethnic Arts and World Cultures Society in Hollywood, Florida. As an educator, she has developed programs and exhibits on Native American art, medicinal plants, Shamanism, food in India, weavings from Iran, Turkey and Uzbekistan, and Benin bronze, among others. Billie also feels the impor-

tance of promoting a better understanding of the environment to the local community, and has developed an annual Lunch and Learn Nature Series for adults in South Florida. She has a degree in Library Sciences and Languages from Simmons College (1962) and an M.Ed. from the University of South Florida in Library Science (1981). In addition to the countries mentioned above, she has traveled to Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mexico, Peru, Indonesia, China and New Guinea.

DEBORAH J. ALEXANDRA

(ALEX) NIEWIJK (Student Member, At Large) is pursuing a doctorate in Geography at the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. She has a Masters of Public Health from Yale University (1996), and a BA in International Relations from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT. (1993.)

JONI PALMER (Student Member, At Large) is working on a Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She has a Master of Landscape Architecture from Harvard University (1991) and a B.S. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University (1985). She is interested in the areas of environment and society interactions, the dynamics of the urban built environment, public art and urban planning, feminist theory in human geography, and GIS Science and visualization.

SWG Fellows

There are 12 SWG Fellows for 2007-08.

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FELLOWS

- **UC Berkeley**
Sandra Brown
Caroline Chen
- **UCLA**
Abbie Tingstad
- **Penn State**
Jessica Hayes-Conroy

PRUITT FELLOWS

Pruitt Dissertation Awardees

- **Syracuse**
Claudia Sawyer
- **Arizona**
Sara Smith
Erika Wise

Pruitt Minority Awardees

- **Penn State**
Mamata Akella
- **Kent State**
Dorris Scott
- **Syracuse**
Anna Lumsden

NEW YORK FELLOWS

- **Hunter College - CUNY**
Erin Araujo
Rhoda Quan

Membership

REMINDER: Information about membership and downloadable applications are available 24-7 on our website, www.ISWG.org/membership.

Monica Barnes wrote an article on 1930s aerial photographer **Mary Upjohn Meader** for the Women in Photography newsletter. Mary (who is now in her 90s) made some superb photographs of Africa and South America that were the subject of an exhibit at SWG Headquarters. You can read Monica's piece at http://www.womeninphotography.org/f2/upjohn_meader.html ... "Salud Indígena en Venezuela, Volume I." contains a 51-page chapter by **Lourdes Giordani** based on her anthropological research in the state of Amazonas, Venezuela. The book is edited by Germán Freire and Aimé Tillett and published by the Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Salud, with the collaboration of the Caribbean Institute of Anthropology and Sociology of the Fundación La Salle. The subject of the book is the contrast between indigenous

Venezuelans' attitudes toward health care and the biomedical paradigm that is the basis for national health care service... **Virginia Morell** wrote the cover story in the March issue of *National Geographic*, "Inside Animal Minds." The story describes how "Humans are not alone in their ability to invent, plan or contemplate," according to the table of contents. **Laurie Marker** and her work in Namibia saving cheetahs is the subject of the cover story in the March issue of Smithsonian Magazine. Laurie will be receiving SWG's Gold Medal at the Triennial in May... **Tanya Atwater**, our last Gold medalist, will be speaking at the Carnegie Institute of Science in Washington D.C. on April 17 on "Plate Tectonics Meets the Ice Ages in North American Landscapes." SWG members may attend without making reservations, and there is no fee.



Dr. Tanya Atwater

GROUP NEWS

- **BAY AREA:** Bay Area Meeting on Jan. 12 – Member **Mary Crowley**, long-time sailor of the world's seas, eco-tourist, educator and owner of Ocean Voyages Institute, gave her 36-year perspective on the Galapagos Islands at the Jan. 12 meeting. She described the still mostly untouched region she first sailed into in 1972 and the destructive effect that increased tourism, resident population growth, and fishing have had on the character of Darwin's paradise. At the end of her remarks, there was an open discussion with other members about what measures, if any, given political and economic pressures, might be pursued to stop its continuing degradation.

Recently, the Group heard a fascinating presentation by student member **Miri Lavi-Neeman**, who is a doctoral student in the geography department at U.C. Berkeley. Her talk, entitled "Between the Nation and its Natures: The Environmental Educators of Israel" made the connection between Zionism, development (much of it illegal), environmental degradation, and the views of traditional educators in Israel. Local fruits and cheeses were provided by **Judith Justice** and **Cecelia Hurwich**.

- **CHICAGO:** While planning for the May 24 –27 Triennial, the group also took time in January to visit the map exhibit at the Oriental Institute, "European Cartographers and the Ottoman World 1500-1750," with **Emily Teeter** as guide. It gave them further insight into that part of the world **Carol Mayer** described at the November meeting, "Alexandria After Amr" also held at the Oriental Institute...In February, **Helga Polet** gave an illustrated talk called "Waterways of the Czars- a River Cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg" at the Columbia Yacht Club.
- **FLORIDA:** In March the group met at **Suzanne Kayyali's** to hear **Carol Horvitz** discuss her recent trip to



Dr. Joyce Johnson gave the D.C. group a lecture on the history and science of chocolate. Happily for the group, she held the event in her kitchen and served all 24 members dishes in which chocolate was either a secret or an obvious ingredient.

New Zealand and Australia.

- **NEW YORK: Adele Haft's** March 20 lecture at Hunter College explores how the poems of Gloria C. Oden about two 1950s era maps show more political and historical nuance than other poetry about maps. Adele looks particularly at Elizabeth Bishop's 1934 work "The Map," and at Oden's poems "A Private Letter to Brazil" (1956 – 1957) and "The Map" (1961). Last October, **Ruth Anne Phillips** gave a talk based on her dissertation, "Pre-Columbian Revival: Defining and Exploring a U.S. Architectural Style, 1910-1940." She examined how a number of architects and designers in the United States appropriated aesthetic styles of various Pre-Columbian cultures into their building designs.
- **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:** In February the group hosted a talk by Pruitt National Fellow 2008, **Abbie H. Tingstad**, at the home of **Scotty Wuerker**.
- **WASHINGTON DC: Joyce Johnson**, a new member, hosted a lecture on "The History and Science of Chocolate" at her home in February. The talk was then illus-

trated with a series of treats – not just bowls of chocolate candy, but a lunch that included pumpernickel bread, chicken mole and scalloped potatoes that all contained chocolate. In March, **Marty Talbot** and husband Lee reported on their expedition last winter to the Nakai Nam Theun National Protected Area in central Laos (see Summer 2007 Newsletter for a description of their trip.) Later in March the group will tour the U.S. Botanic Garden's orchid exhibit.



Mary Crowley, who spoke to the Bay Area Group in January, sailing in the Andaman Sea.

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Newsletter Deadlines

Please send us your news—publications, group activities, awards, travel, and your Works in Progress. **Deadline for the next newsletter is: June 30, 2008.** Anything received after that deadline will be held over to the next newsletter.

You can send your news to Headquarters, or by e-mail to SWGHQ@verizon.net.

PRESIDENT

(continued from p. 1)

Queenstown, where Meg joined our group for dinner. Meg gave me a copy of her children's book on penguins, and we have planned to meet during the Triennial, where Meg will be sharing a room with SWG member Maria Pia Casarini from Italy.

About a week and a half later, the last day of my visit, another SWGer, Jane Soons, met me at my hotel in Christchurch. During my trip, I had noted that there didn't seem to be any "typical" style of architecture in New Zealand. Although her time was limited, Jane gave me a brief tour of neighborhoods and showed me some of the history of local development.

Finally, when I returned home I received an apologetic email from a third Kiwi SWGer, Margaret Bradshaw, who gave a typical SWG excuse for not returning my email until after my visit. She'd been doing fieldwork in Antarctica and didn't have access to a computer!

SWGers are unique. They are helpful, welcoming, and supportive.



Kimberly Crews in New Zealand

Don't hesitate to contact your SWG sisters wherever you travel, when you need help with a work challenge, or when you need to brainstorm on a project. I must thank the sisters of the SWG sorority, who have been particularly helpful lately in my transition to my new job...they hazed me with flowers, earrings, and notes of support; they have been in attendance at all of Geography Education's most popular functions; and they are the "popular" girls in my geogoddess world.

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