

# Tamarack

Fall 2009

*The newsletter of the Terrace Women's Resource Centre Society*

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## *October is Women's History Month*

We've had a few conversations about women's history this month, and searched the Net for women of note. But somehow, this year, the women who spring to mind are all Northern women.

This was the year of Patti Barnes' battle with cancer, and her passing in April. Patti's involvement with the women's centre society went back as far as her early years in Terrace, and for the last few years she was Board chair of the society. Patti chaired through some interesting times, including funding cuts, the move out of the Women's Centre building and consolidation of the Society under one roof. She was often called upon to meet with funders, to negotiate contracts, even to hand out pink slips to staff. Patti weathered all the storms with grace and humour. One year when last-minute Ministry meetings were frequent and tense, Patti rushed between the women's centre and her own workplace at the college library where a nasty flood required massive amounts of clean-up. Patti inspired and mentored many women through her work with our society.

Some of the other women inspiring us this year:

- a woman who built her own house, including a beautiful stone fireplace, with her own hands
- a couple of special hard-working nursing students at Terrace UNBC
- an Olympic gold-medal wrestler visiting her hometown of Hazelton
- an accountant who's kept her sense of humour through rough times
- a hockey player excelling in her first year on the UBC women's hockey team
- a woman whose dream of publishing children's versions of Kitsumkalum stories has come true
- the many women who have been tremendously busy all summer "doing fish" or canning and freezing all kinds of food to last the coming winter
- last on our list, but most certainly not least, our own Board of Directors, who guide and support the Society: Joan Conway, Mia Reimers, Rhonda Edgars, Sheree Ronaasen and Adrienne Weget. They invite you to nominate new Board members or to volunteer yourself at our upcoming annual general meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Any human anywhere will blossom in a hundred unexpected talents and capacities simply by being given the opportunity to do so.

*Doris Lessing*

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*Interested in a  
Women's Book  
Club?*

One idea is to have women bring books by their favourite woman author and introduce them. Another is to host a typical book club where a book is pre-selected read by all, and then discussed.

Either way, are you interested? Give Ann or Coco a call at 250-638-0228.

Some favourites from friends of the Women's Centre

*The Concubine's  
Children*  
Denise Chong

*Crow Lake*  
Mary Lawson

*Stiff* - Mary Roach and  
Shelly Frasier

*Elegant Gathering of  
White Snows*  
Kris Radish

*Snow Flower and the  
Secret Fan*  
Lisa See

*Love Medicine* - Louise  
Eldritch

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## *Financial Literacy Project* funded by Status of Women Canada

I live in a cloud. Grey skies bump up against the mountain that shadows my home, and hazy mornings stretch on to last throughout the day. I'm often surprised to suddenly emerge from the fog just blocks from my home. Bright cheerful leaves against blue skies light up the world, and all becomes clear.

Finances can be like that in our lives as well. Our finances may be cloudy to us - money comes in, money goes out, and all is well unless there isn't enough to last the month. If you're a woman, there often isn't enough. Some of us don't know how much money there is in our household or how it's all spent. Others amongst us know to the last penny what there is and where it goes.

Few among us know all the answers to our financial questions. Ann and Coco have been meeting with a variety of service providers and with our Financial Literacy Project Steering Committee [Working Group] to identify financial questions that women want answered, including those not identified in our Board's initial project proposal.

For instance, some of the questions we've heard have been about cell phone contracts, Insta-Loans and Speedy Cash, pay-day predators.

Join us on **November 28<sup>th</sup>** to clear your financial fog and to ask your questions. This is the first of 3 one-day conferences in the project, and we will also host a series of workshops over the coming year.

The first workshops were Budgeting Basics, one held during the day, and the other in the evening. We are trying various workshop formats, and welcome your input as to convenient times to attend, as one of these was not well attended.

### *Up Coming Events*

Terrace Women's Centre Annual General Meeting November 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 pm.

National Child Day - November 20<sup>th</sup>

Planning Your Financial Future 0 November 28<sup>th</sup>

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence - November 25 to December 10.

Pedaling for Patti - Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup>

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You're invited!

Terrace Women's Resource Centre Society  
welcomes women to our

# Annual General Meeting

Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup>

7:00 pm Business Meeting

8:00 pm Refreshments, and  
Guest Speaker Arlene Herman

at The Family Place / Women's Centre  
4553 Park Ave  
Terrace

Call 250-638-0228 or 250-638-1863 for details or if  
you have questions

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