Introducing a new voice

Welcome to the first WAND Notes, which we hope to distribute every quarter. And while we're into introductions, just a reminder about what WAND does. We're involved in non-formal training and development work. WAND assists communities to work towards achieving self-reliance through social training and economic projects. We are located within the School of Continuing Studies and our main focus is on the socio-economic and cultural advancement of women in the Eastern Caribbean, where most of our projects are located.

Reproductive Health trainers graduate

A Women's Reproductive Health Project has concluded with graduation exercises in Grenada, St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent on February 13, March 6, 13 and 20. Under the trainer of trainers project, women were prepared to return to their communities to train others. Over the two years of the project funded by the UNFPA, more than 900 people were reached with information on cervical cancer, breast and prostate cancer, menstruation, menopause, HIV/AIDS and other subjects. Associated with the training was a WAND health mail out on the issues covered in the project, to those involved and others in the region. Project coordinator was Nesha Haniff, who was assisted by Clarice Barnes, Maima McQueen and Elaine Hewitt.

CORE goes to Fancy

WAND's Communities Organising for Self Reliance (CORE) programme is spreading its wings. It's now being implemented in the Village of Fancy, St Vincent. WAND facilitates the process by providing a consultant to assist in training and in the development of social programmes and economic projects. The CORE programme initially started in 1991/92 is also being implemented in La Pointe, St Lucia.

Spirituality workshop May 29-31

"Communication, Gender and Spirituality" is the theme of a workshop to be hosted by the unit and the Caribbean Conference of Churches, May 29-31, at the CCC's conference room, Belleville, St Michael, Barbados. The workshop will discuss spirituality and religion, indigenous religious expressions and traditional expressions such as Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. It will look at the differences and definitions of spirituality and religion, examine gender perspectives on belief systems and query whether spirituality can be communicated.
WAND assists groups in IWD observance

WAND collaborated with women and community organisations in implementing community-based activities in Barbados, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines to observe International Women's Day/Week in March. The unit collaborated with Barbados' Bureau of Women's Affairs to host a skit and panel discussion on "Violence Against Women", and supported the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee's annual "World Day of Prayer", March 8. In St Lucia, WAND collaborated with the Ministry of Women's Affairs in hosting a one-day consultation on "Women, Poverty Alleviation and Community Health", for women in the island's Region 7. In St Vincent, the activity took the form of a workshop on "Adolescent Sexuality, Contraception and Reproductive Health". The activities were supported with funds from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The tutor coordinator issued a message for IWD which reaffirmed WAND's commitment to promote and support the social advancement of the women of the Caribbean.

Why women mother

Tutor/Coordinator Dr Judith Soares participated in a workshop on "Family and Gender Relations", March 5-6, at Mona the Mona Campus, Jamaica. She presented a paper, "Why Women Mother", which challenged the traditional argument that "mothering" is either natural or instinctive. The workshop was a follow-up activity to a research project on "Family and the Quality of Gender Relations". It was conducted in Jamaica, Barbados and Dominica, through the ISER, and funded by the Ford Foundation. WAND was invited to participate in the workshop because of its related work.

Encyclopaedia of Caribbean Religions

The tutor/coordinator has been invited by the Editorial Committee of the Caribbean Religions Project of York University to be a consulting editor for the Encyclopaedia of Caribbean religions. Consulting editors are selected based on their research and experience in the areas relevant to the project. The Caribbean Religions Project is an interdisciplinary collaboration being undertaken by York, to identify, describe and analyse Caribbean religious phenomena from a Caribbean perspective.

Jeanette completes Masters in Holland

Congratulations to programme coordinator Jeanette Bell, who recently returned to WAND after graduating with an M.A in Women and Development Studies, from the Institute for Social Studies, the Hague, Holland. Her thesis was "Women and Traditional Midwifery - the Processes of Preservation and Marginalisation". Jeanette examined how the traditional midwife was being sidelined by the "modernisation" in health services.

Welcome new SCS director

Welcome to Professor Lawrence Carrington as director of the School of Continuing Studies. The director has given his backing to the work of WAND and giving strong support to our new projects.

Bucknell student interns at WAND

Bucknell University student Gail Newfield, an anthropology major, is interning with WAND and CARICAD. She is doing research on administrative systems in the Caribbean and will see whether these can be adapted to women's organisations.

Help for teenagers

WAND has provided funds for Marion House, St Vincent and the Grenadines' Young Parents Empowerment Programme for teenagers and young adults.

On a sad note

Condolences to our Accounts Officer Mona Barrow, whose husband, Jeffrey, died March 27. Mr Barrow was vice principal of Barbados' Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. Best wishes to Mona and son Silvan.