



## Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

### YEAR END PARTY PICTURES

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Our MC's



Food!



Performances

#### Qu',9en pensez-vous?

##### What do you think?

- Let us know your thoughts about the bulletin.
- Que pensez-vous de notre journal?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language by the 25th of every month to:

• [adisun3@gmail.com](mailto:adisun3@gmail.com)

• Écrivez -nous à

[adisun3@gmail.com](mailto:adisun3@gmail.com)

SAWCC's year end party was different this year compared to other years as it was held at a new venue—Centre William Hingston. The new venue offered a large stage for performers and a nice welcome area.

The party kicked off with dance and musical performances and ended with delicious food. I had the chance to witness the show from backstage and revel in the nervous excitement, (and relief!) of the performers as they finished their turn.

As a newcomer to the SAWCC year end party, I was taken aback by the large crowd in attendance and, even more, by the copious amounts of food people had brought to share with the community. And the essence of a community was definitely felt. The place was bustling, with children running around, and people enjoying good food and great company. It was a great party!

-Adithi Sundarakrishnan

## CENTRE UPDATE



### Centre Hours

**Monday & Thursday 9am—9pm**  
**Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday— 9am-5pm**

The Centre is wheelchair accessible  
 Le centre est accessible aux fauteuils roulants.

### Volunteers

If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Homa (Ext. 102 or [homa@bellnet.ca](mailto:homa@bellnet.ca)) to coordinate a meeting!

## Youth Corner



Saraf et Radhika

Thank you, Abagelle, Afeefa, Brhaami, Elisa, and Helena, at Lauren Hill Academy for your ongoing sharing, teaching, learning and inspiring that you bring to our space every week. Looking forward to this year!

—Merci Saraf et Radhika de l'école secondaire La Voie, pour vos idées et créativité! décembre 2015

- Naila and Farha (SAY facilitators)



Lauren Hill Academy Girls. Picture taken on Dec 16, 2014

## Sexual Health Posters

SAWCC community workers have been working on making and collecting a series of sexual health posters for the centre. The completed ones - most of them written in various languages spoken at the centre- will be placed in the waiting area.



## Job Opportunity

CHARGE Peer Support and Leadership Project @ ASTT(e)Q

\$200/month plus transportation, approx 5-10hrs per week

**Deadline: 15 January 2015**

CHARGE Peer Support and Leadership Project is a project of ASTT(e)Q (Action santé travesti(e)s et transsexuel(le)s du Québec), working in partnership with allied community organizations (Stella). It is based on the principle that trans people are best equipped to provide support and resources to the people in their communities. The chosen candidate will be provided training which will prepare them in supporting trans sex workers in Quebec through listening, providing non-judgmental support, giving referrals, and organizing activities and special events. The role of the CHARGE Peer Support and Leadership program is to increase individual and community capacity to create networks of support and advocacy. In addition to being involved with activities at ASTT(e)Q, each Peer Support and Leadership Worker will be paired up with our partner organizations (Stella).

We are looking for the following qualities in our candidates:

- An understanding of issues facing trans communities and the sex industry in Quebec
- A desire to build skills to be able to provide support and create resources for people in trans communities
- An interest in HIV/Hep C/STI prevention, advocacy and support
- Good listening skills, strong interpersonal skills, an open mind, and an ability to empathize with trans people facing a variety of issues
- A desire to work in a team and motivation to participate in team meetings and training sessions
- Patience and punctuality
- We are prioritizing the hire of trans women, sex workers, people who are unemployed and/or receiving welfare, and who experience multiple barriers to accessing “traditional” forms of education and employment.

The work will include:

- 1) Participating in team meetings and training
- 2) Organizing monthly community educational activities
- 3) Providing support and resources for trans people
- 4) Working in a partner organization to increase trans representation in the community sector
- 5) Organizing events and fundraisers
- 6) Working with allied health and social service professionals

Please answer the following questions and either deliver it in person at 1300 rue Sanguinet (metro Berri-UQAM) addressed to ASTT(e)Q, or email it back to us at [info@astteq.org](mailto:info@astteq.org)

- 1) What skills will you bring to ASTT(e)Q's peer support and leadership team? Please describe any skills or life experiences which you think will add to the project.
- 2) What do you think the role of peer support and leadership worker will bring to your life? What do you hope to learn?
- 3) In your opinion, what are the most pressing needs and issues faced by trans people in Quebec today?
- 4) What does leadership mean to you?
- 5) What are your availabilities?

Contact us if you have any questions about the application process!

À propos d'ASTT (e)Q: ASTT(e)Q a pour mission de favoriser la santé et le bien-être des personnes trans par l'intermédiaire du soutien par les pairs et de la militance, de l'éducation et de la sensibilisation, de l'empowerment et de la mobilisation. Nous concevons la santé des personnes trans et de nos communautés comme étant intimement liée aux conditions d'inégalités sociales et économiques qui ont une incidence sur leur vie. Ces conditions les exposent de manière disproportionnée à la pauvreté, au manque d'emploi ou au sous-emploi, à la précarité en matière de logement et d'hébergement, à la criminalisation et à la violence. Nous croyons que l'autodétermination en matière d'identité sexuelle et la liberté d'exprimer sa propre identité sans vivre de la coercition, de la violence et de la discrimination sont un droit. Nous militons pour faciliter l'accès à des services de santé qui permettront de satisfaire les multiples besoins de nos différentes communautés, tout en travaillant collectivement à construire des communautés résilientes, solidaires, et en santé.

ASTT(e)Q : Action Santé Travesti(e)s et Transsexuel(le)s du Québec  
514-847-0067, poste 207 // [info@astteq.org](mailto:info@astteq.org) // [www.astteq.org](http://www.astteq.org)

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À propos de Stella : Stella a pour but d'améliorer la qualité de vie des travailleuses du sexe, de sensibiliser et d'éduquer l'ensemble de la société aux différentes formes et réalités du travail du sexe afin que les travailleuses du sexe aient les mêmes droits à la santé et à la sécurité que le reste de la population.

Plus spécifiquement, Stella a pour objectifs :

- d'offrir du soutien et de l'information aux travailleuses du sexe afin qu'elles puissent vivre et travailler en sécurité et avec dignité
- de contrer la violence et les différents facteurs qui les mettent à risque de devenir infectées par le VIH et des ITS, et qui représentent des menaces envers leur intégrité physique
- de combattre la discrimination faite aux travailleuses du sexe de même que leur isolement social et leur stigmatisation
- de promouvoir la décriminalisation des différentes formes de travail du sexe
- de soutenir la participation des travailleuses du sexe à la communauté et dans la mise en oeuvre d'actions collectives
- de favoriser la création de plate-formes d'échange sur le travail du sexe aux niveaux municipal, provincial, national et international.

L'équipe de Stella réalise ces objectifs en favorisant le développement de la solidarité et l'appropriation du pouvoir par les travailleuses du sexe en tant que citoyennes. Stella participe également au mouvement international de défense des droits des travailleuses et travailleurs du sexe.

Stella et ses locaux sont réservés aux femmes, travesties et transsexuelles travaillant ou ayant travaillé dans l'industrie du sexe et à leurs allié-es. Par allié-es, on entend les individus et les groupes qui n'ont pas d'expérience de travail dans l'industrie du sexe, mais qui ont une bonne connaissance des réalités du travail du sexe au Canada ou au niveau international, reconnaissent le travail du sexe comme une forme de travail et soutiennent les personnes qui le pratiquent de même que leur lutte pour sa décriminalisation.

### **Statement on the Peshawar Massacre**

Montreal, 18 December 2014

CERAS (Centre sur l'Asie du Sud) condemns in unequivocal and categorical terms the murder of over 150 people, mostly children, in the attack on the school in Peshawar by the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, Pakistani Taliban, on Tuesday, 16th December. That a school should be targeted shows the moral bankruptcy of the Pakistani Taliban. And that other militant groups have chosen to condone this attack shows that they share this depraved logic.

CERAS sends its heartfelt condolences and extends its solidarity to all those families who have been affected by this terrible event, who have lost loved ones and beloved children.

This tragedy is the logical outcome of Pakistan's view of militant groups as "strategic assets" to be used and abused by her intelligence services. CERAS therefore welcomes Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's statement that "We announce that there will be no differentiation between 'good' and 'bad' Taliban". It is also recognition that the problem cannot be tackled and a solution found without the cooperation of Afghanistan, which would require the withdrawal of Pakistan's implicit support for the Afghan Taliban. CERAS therefore welcomes Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's statement that "The time has arrived for Afghanistan and Pakistan to act together against terrorism and extremism with honesty and effectiveness."

For Afghanistan and Pakistan to work together, cooperate and build mutual trust requires the immediate cessation of USA's drone attacks on NWFP (Northwest Frontier Province) and Waziristan. There were at least 15 drone attacks this year, ostensibly targeting militants, but killing hundreds of civilians. These attacks undermine the legitimacy of the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan and provide a fertile ground for Taliban recruiters.

Finally, this benighted region of the world has always attracted foreign interference – British, Russians and at this point in history, Americans -- which it has vehemently resisted. If Afghanistan and Pakistan have to work successfully together to contain extremism, then other regional powers – China, India, and Iran – must not seek to establish spheres of influence in the wake of a retreating USA. It might then allow for a political solution to create conditions to marginalise all varieties of extremism and allow the fiercely independent people of this region to live in peace and with some modicum of autonomy.

CERAS would like to emphasise that military strategies do not yield solutions because violence inevitably breeds more violence. And equally importantly, it then reduces the space for a lasting negotiated political settlement.

As CERAS condole all those affected by this terrible tragedy, it also hopes that Afghanistan and Pakistan are successful in cooperating with each other and peace returns to Waziristan and the NWFP; that from this charnel house something good might come – a sliver of silver lining from this awful tragedy.

[cerasmontreal@gmail.com](mailto:cerasmontreal@gmail.com)

## Women in Science: Weird Sisters?

James Watson was thrilled to catch an illicit glimpse of Rosalind Franklin's X-ray photograph suggesting the double-helical structure of DNA. He was much less impressed by her personal appearance. "There was never lipstick to contrast with her straight black hair," he wrote in *The Double Helix*, "while at the age of thirty-one her dresses showed all the imagination of English blue-stockings adolescents." Had he been more aware of European fashion, he might have appreciated the care Franklin took to adopt designer Christian Dior's iconic 1947 New Look — although she presumably never revealed to him that her underwear was hand-made from parachute silk to her own specifications.

Watson was far from alone in believing that it is impossible for someone to be both a normal woman and a first-class scientist. To safeguard her reputation as a serious researcher, PhD student Jocelyn Bell — who discovered pulsars in 1967 — removed her engagement ring every morning before she went into the laboratory. Decades later, when president of Britain's Royal Astronomical Society, she complained that "As a woman in physics, you certainly need to be a superwoman".

In the past, biographers and their publishers routinely squeezed female scientists into stereotypical roles — the frump, the whore, the enchantress, the underdog or the power behind the throne. Even Brenda Maddox, who criticizes Watson for his chauvinistic attitudes, played on gender stereotypes in choosing the subtitle *The Dark Lady of DNA* for her biography of Franklin. Is it not sufficiently fascinating that Franklin's skilled research was crucial for Watson's fame?

Current writers, male and female, are keen to distance themselves from old-fashioned approaches. Still, to boost their book's appeal, they emphasize the singularity of their subjects. It seems that being an ordinary woman with a stellar scientific career is simply not enough: to be marketable, she must also be odd. Dust jackets entice purchasers by rebranding an overlooked character as a unique female individual — in other words, as a weird woman.

Converting female scientists into publishing opportunities may sell books, but it does the cause of equality in science no favours. Take the recent biography of Marie Tharp, the American geologist and cartographer who, with colleague Bruce Heezen, produced the first systematic map of the ocean floor in 1977. In *Soundings*, author Hali Felt imagines Tharp walking along the streets of New York, her coat unbuttoned, shoes scuffed and frizzy hair unbrushed. "She does not look like the other women," Felt writes — reinforcing sweeping generalizations that female scientists are a race apart.

Even sympathetic authors perpetuate the prejudice that brains and beauty never go together. Describing the film star Hedy Lamarr as *The Most Beautiful Woman in the World*, Richard Rhodes deliberately provokes a shiver of surprise by reporting that she also made breakthrough inventions. With composer George Antheil, she devised spread-spectrum radio, a technology now used in many applications, including cordless phones. "Any girl can be glamorous," Lamarr is reported to have said. "All you have to do is stand still and look stupid." Despite her intelligence, Lamarr's remarkable looks and glamorous career occluded her innovations for decades.

Science's most famous heroine is surely Marie Curie. Over the decades, biographers have caricatured her as various unrealistic and undesirable ciphers, most notably the adulterous opportunist and the martyr to science. When her husband was killed — according to some such romances — she ensured her continuing success by latching on to his married colleague, Paul Langevin. Meanwhile, eulogies of the pioneer who dared to behave differently stress that she was often too absorbed in her work to eat, sacrificing her health as well as her appearance to the higher cause of research. Downplaying Curie's theoretical achievements, they portray her as a dedicated worker who spent months systematically sieving tonnes of pitchblende — a mindless, repetitive task with echoes of domestic drudgery.

Modern biographers may have abandoned such facile renderings, but they behave as if it were unthinkable to criticize an icon. Thus, in *Marie Curie and Her Daughters*, Shelley Emling presents the physicist as a doting mother to Eve and Irène, even though the evidence suggests otherwise. Birthday after birthday, Curie chose to be away, sending letters that overflowed with love and regrets, yet enclosed extra homework. Eve reported that her parents regarded radium as their third child, and they seem to have treated their human offspring as an experimental research project. Marie remained physically and emotionally remote, while meticulously recording the girls' clothes, diet and academic progress in her notebooks.

*Continued...*



A less familiar name is that of mathematician Dorothy Wrinch, often labelled a harridan because of her forceful manner among her male peers. Like Curie, she was censored for behaving like a man — with ruthless ambition. The first woman to receive a doctor of science degree from the University of Oxford, UK, Wrinch developed a theory about the molecular structure of proteins that, although later discredited, ultimately contributed to genetics.

In contrast with Felt's book about Tharp, Wrinch's name does at least appear on the cover of Marjorie Senechal's biography, although relegated to the subtitle in favour of the eye-catching but misleading *I Died for Beauty*. Wrinch was indeed fascinated by the aesthetic appeal of mathematical truths, so the title and the pink cover motif implicitly trivialize her intellectual abilities.

Another infuriating feature of many biographies about women scientists is their use of first names and gushing prose. Senechal adopts the nickname 'Dot' for Wrinch — but presumably she would not have converted Michael Faraday into Mike, or Albert Einstein into Al. Similarly, although Maddox writes in an accessible yet dignified style, she insists on calling Franklin 'Rosalind'. So why does she use surnames for Watson and his male colleagues? Presumably, this patronizing practice is intended to foster an impression of cosy familiarity, but it signals once again that women who go into science are venturing into an alien male world.

In bids to restore women scientists' reputations, fulsomeness over their work's significance is as distorting as demeaning familiarity. True equality cannot be attained until women can accept criticism without taking the easy route of complaining about gender bias. Ideas are often rejected simply because they are not good enough: the US Navy may have been justified in dismissing Lamarr's projected guidance system as too bulky to be valuable. And failing to win a Nobel prize need not mean that a woman is a wronged genius: Franklin's X-ray photograph proved crucial in the race to find the structure of DNA, but Crick and Watson did get there before her.

By perpetuating stereotypes, books affect how people think. When I was in my early twenties, I resolved never to confess that I had a degree in physics from the University of Oxford: I knew from experience that any potential suit-or would immediately assume I slotted into one or other of the 'strange woman scientist' categories. And schoolgirls are still being steered, as I was, into mathematical and technical subjects by teachers serving the cause of political correctness. I migrated immediately after graduating not because I was incapable of tackling physics or because I was intimidated by being in an environment dominated by men, but because I was bored by the repetitive practical work.

Biographers can shift attitudes, but they need to celebrate their subjects for being special scientists, not marvel at them as weird women. Just like men, female scientists have individual personalities and idiosyncrasies, and they have weaknesses as well as extraordinary capabilities — not because they are women, but because they are human beings.

**-By Patricia Fara**

*Taken from Nature*

## **Zucchini Chocolate Chip Muffins**

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| • 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour | • 1/4 cup milk                                |
| • 3/4 cup white sugar          | • 1 tablespoon lemon juice                    |
| • 1 teaspoon baking soda       | • 1 teaspoon vanilla extract                  |
| • 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon   | • 1 cup shredded zucchini                     |
| • 1/2 teaspoon salt            | • 1/2 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips |
| • 1 egg, lightly beaten        | • 1/2 cup chopped walnuts                     |
| • 1/2 cup vegetable oil        | ~Makes 12 Muffins~                            |



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease 12 muffin cups, or line with paper muffin liners.
2. Combine flour, sugar, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt in a large bowl. Mix egg, oil, milk, lemon juice, and vanilla extract in a bowl; stir into dry ingredients until just moistened. Fold in zucchini, chocolate chips, and walnuts. Fill prepared muffin cups 2/3 full.
3. Bake in preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of a muffin comes out clean, 20 to 25 minutes.

Taken from <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/zucchini-chocolate-chip-muffins-2/>

## I tried to find India in its Poets

I wanted to see a picture of the Punjab  
in words, to smell the wood doorsteps  
covered with hay  
and wild yellow chrysanthemums, the very same  
my grandmother threw her wash water on  
when she was just a young woman

Souza

Jussawalla

Ramanujan

I tried to find a picture in words

Old stories – Sidhartha, Vishnu, The Black Kali  
all dusty statues, huge toes and frozen hair  
sandalwood arms  
And new stories – Grocery chain stores, airports, catbells and cars  
none in between  
none that inhabit the space it takes  
a yellow flower to grow up around a wood doorstep

I tried to find India in its poets  
but I couldn't  
they are too busy  
finding themselves

I wanted to see a mango tree  
in the center of a field, men  
melting sugar beneath it, to smell  
the cane bake, iron pot flake  
the wooden paddles stirring. I looked  
for a word that would tell me  
the color of shade  
the size of a mango tree leaf, and the length  
of its shadow at noon. A word  
that would show me the black faces of monkeys  
paws outstretched gripping a red fruit. What  
do I want with airports, catbells and cars?

I tried to find India in its poets  
but they are too busy finding Canada  
in me

I've never seen her  
my grandmother

chrysanthemums the color of lemon rind  
around the hem of her dress  
tossing the wash water  
out of the door  
I looked for a Poet to tell me  
how she looked then  
when her cheeks were smooth like warm sugar syrup  
lips red as mangos  
how did she look

**By Danielle Lagah**

## Naramata Road

You know this is a landscape that tends to unfasten  
you, brings you again and again to the brink of  
weeping.

No matter how many departures and disappear-  
ances,  
you are marked by this beauty, astonishment that  
depends on loss.

As the bitter edges of things slide into memory  
and flesh, you  
claim the meaning of your days on this frayed  
loveliness.

You sign your name to it.

At these moments something is given back to you,  
panic  
dusted off, calmed by desert heat in the summer,  
vineyards

heavy with grapes. The body is set to music, car-  
ried by rain in  
the spring resurrection of orchards. In the fall, the  
road swells with

harvest, the ripe comfort of apples. Even in winter,  
the skeletons of  
trees dangle gifts, Golden Delicious earrings  
abandoned to the wind.

The ghosts of dead teenagers and drunks live  
here, their  
voices echo along the curves and bends, in the  
rocky incisions of

graves, haunted by memories of prom dresses,  
cigarettes smoked in  
the Seven Eleven parking lot and behind the high  
school.

There is a soft spot in everything.

You drive that road, move into a sky like a late  
Turner painting, gold  
and amber, white canvas dreaming colors of Ven-  
ice. It makes you believe

there is tenderness in every geography, And this  
has the power to change you,  
unweight your eyelids every morning, as the sky  
leans towards the absolute.

**By Rishma Dunlop**

**Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques**

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34 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2015

[www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca](http://www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca)

Jan 6– Staff meeting

Jan 13– Session on cyber security  
(10:30am– 12:00 pm)

Jan 20– Session on Recycling and  
the Environment (10:30am-12:00pm)

Jan 27–Session TBD (10:30am– 12:00  
pm)

Jan 30– Potluck! (12:30 pm-2:00pm)

6 Jan– La réunion du personnel

13 Jan— Session d'information  
Sur la cyber sécurité (10h30—12h)

20 Jan—Session d'information sur le  
recyclage et le environnement  
(10h30-12h)

27 Jan— Session d'information sujet  
indéterminé (10h30—12h)

30 Jan– Potluck! (12h30—14h00)

# January 2015

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