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# WAND Celebrates International Women’s Day

## WAND focuses on HIV/AIDS and Human Sexuality

APPROXIMATELY 50 MEN and women joined WAND on Thursday 6 March 2003 at the WAND Centre, UWI School of Continuing Studies, St. Michael, as part of its International Women’s Day celebration.

Those who attended were treated to an informative, educational and entertaining evening, which included music, dance, choreopoetry (poetry done to music and dance), panel discussion, art exhibition, book display and refreshments.

But it was not just a celebration of women’s accomplishments. The spotlight also shone on issues which devastate women and their families, such as HIV and AIDS, the cultural influences which help to perpetuate them, and the national developmental responses for addressing the problems; and gender issues such as learning how to be a man, adult literacy, nutrition and communication.

Highlights of the evening were a panel discussion on “Women and HIV/AIDS”, and the innovative and creative use of Choreopoetry by Yvonne Weekes and members of Dance ‘N’ Africa, to highlight issues relating to women and particularly those raised in the recent Barbados stage presentation of the “Vagina Monologues”. ■

JOAN CUFFIE, Acting Tutor/Coordinator of WAND, was a special presenter/facilitator, at the University of the West Indies HIV/AIDS Response Programme (UWI-HARP) Workshop, which was held on 12 June 2003, at the Almond Bay Hotel, Barbados.

Theme of the workshop was, “*Human Sexuality and HIV/AIDS: Issues and Challenges for tertiary educators*”. It was specifically designed to assist university lecturers to effectively incorporate issues relating to HIV/AIDS into their courses and programmes.

In her presentation on “HIV/AIDS and Human Sexuality”, Ms Cuffie urged educators not to ignore the issues of male/female sexuality and highlighted the importance of incorporating these into their course outlines.

Thirty participants including educators, health care professionals and academics from the UWI Cave Hill, Mona and St. Augustine campuses attended the workshop sessions which included the use of drama, lectures and group discussions with people living with HIV/AIDS. ■



*“These hands” - Yvonne Weekes and company involve a member of the audience to highlight the versatility of a woman’s hands to undertake multiple tasks - from the home to the office.*

## Focus on preschool teachers and parents



*Joan Cuffie conducts workshop sessions with parents and teachers at La Pointe, Preschool, St. Vincent.*

DURING 23-26 April 2003, WAND conducted separate workshops for preschool teachers and parents of the La Pointe Pre-School, St. Lucia.

Ten preschool teachers and 20 parents attended the workshops, which focused primarily on the social development of children of pre-school age. ■

## Final WAND/BARNOD computer training underway

SIX WOMEN and three men from the Barbados National Organisation for the Disabled (BARNOD) are currently being trained in computer studies at the Academy of Learning, Barbados.

Seven of the participants are pursuing courses in *Introduction to Keyboarding* and *Introduction to Personal Computers*, and two in *Quickbooks* and *ACCPAC – General Ledger*. On completion of the programme, participants will receive certificates of international recognition, from the Academy. The group is the final to be trained under a WAND/BARNOD cooperation agreement. ■

## Workshop for low income communities

WAND, represented by Consultant, Christobel Ashton, in collaboration with Marion House, held a series of workshops in Fancy and North Windward, St Vincent, during the March to June period, under the WAND-Fancy Community Help Group 2003 project.

Twenty women attended the workshops, which were aimed at improving their leadership skills; empowering them to take charge of their sexuality and relationships, and to confront domestic violence; and providing them with the skills to render first aid and to respond to emergencies.

Topics presented included: *Leadership, AIDS Prevention and Self Esteem, Dealing with Household Emergencies, and Domestic Violence and Child Abuse.* ■

SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES FOR CARIBBEAN TRANSFORMATION

## Doc Centre Upgrade ends

The WAND Documentation Centre, upgrading Project, which was funded by the Government of the Netherlands, ended on 30 June 2003.

The centre, which is the only one of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean, now boasts an upgraded, specialized information center and teaching resource bank on gender, women and related issues.

More than 2166 bibliographic records are now accessible via the in-house database and over 2000 items have been classified and are awaiting further processing.

The collection includes periodicals, newsletters, audio and video cassettes, workshop training and other materials and a rich collection of materials produced and published by WAND.

The web site is also being updated to provide online access to the database, operations manual for the Documentation Centre and a bibliography of WAND's publications. ■

**WAND** Notes

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