

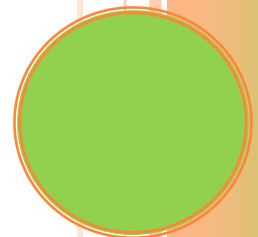
ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014



Richmond Women's Resource Centre

110 – 7000 Minoru Blvd
Richmond, BC V6Y 3Z5
Tel : 604 279 7060
Fax : 604 279 7069



Annual General Meeting report 2013-2014

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Richmond Caring Place

Room 340 – 7000 Minoru Blvd, Richmond

AGENDA

6:30 pm Registration

7:00 pm Opening

7:05 pm Annual General Meeting

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM, May 28, 2013
3. Annual Report
4. Auditor's Report
5. Stand Down of Previous Board
6. Election of Board Members
7. Other Business
8. Closing Remarks
9. Adjournment

7:30 pm Volunteer Recognition

7:40 pm Entertainment

8:05 pm Followed by Refreshments

Richmond Women's Resource Centre

Annual General Meeting, Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Minutes

Present: Approximately 68 members, guests and friends

Staff: Florence Yau and Penny Menezes

Special Guest: Councillor Bill McNulty

Regrets: Mayor Malcolm Brodie

Colleen Glynn welcomed everyone to join in taking some light refreshments. She introduced our life member Councillor Bill McNulty. Councillor McNulty expressed his continued support to the Centre and encouraged everyone to support the centre by being life members.

1. **Call to order by President Colleen Glynn.** Agenda adopted as presented.
2. **Minutes of** the previous annual general meeting adopted as presented.
3. **Annual Report** presented – see attached.
4. **Auditor's Report** presented – as in the package.
5. **Stand down** of Previous Board
6. **Election of Board Members** – Nominations received for Colleen Glynn, Linda Ramsey, Iveta Williams, Marielle Demorest, Mary Scott, Chris McDowell, Gemma Hui, Katrina Lau, Stella Pardo, Shireen Grégorious and Judy Chu

M/S/C that we accept all the nominees.
7. **Other Business** – Colleen informed the group that our first Tea & Trivia Fundraiser held on June 23rd 2012 was a great success. We are holding our second Tea & Trivia on June 22nd 2013, tickets are available. The Centre celebrated International Women's Day for the first time by having a Breakfast Fundraiser held on March 9th 2013; Sibel Thrasher's performance was the highlight and Colleen hopes Sibel will perform at the next Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, March 8th 2014; save the date.
8. **Closing remarks** and volunteer recognition followed by entertainment by our volunteer Portia Kwok and her Fun Line dancing group.
9. **Meeting Adjourned**



ANNUAL REPORT MAY 29, 2014

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, facilitators and board.

My name is Colleen Glynn and I am pleased to have served the membership for the past year in the capacity of President and look forward to what our new year brings.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff members, our Executive Director - **Florence Yau**, our Administrative Assistant - **Penny Menezes** and our Bookkeeper - **Fanny Tam**, who have managed, coordinated and supported all our programs and services to the women of Richmond.

I want to thank our program facilitators for serving our programs over the past year. They are: **Marielle Demorest, Carol Brindle, Laurie McEwan, Sarah Ross, Patience Tsai, Patricia Wang, Linda Chan, Kelly Shorrock, Anna Parayno, Caroline Dyck, Portia Kwok, Jacquie Siemens, Gail Thompson, Clare Yow, Kathy Kent, Chris McDowell, Vicky Sun and Deborah Turner.**

Thanks also to our 2013 Board of Directors: **Marielle Demorest, Iveta Williams, Gemma Hui, Mary Scott, Chris McDowell, Judy Chu, Katrina Lau, Amanda MacPherson, Xinya Wang, Shireen Gregorius and Elaine Lin (YouthNow Leadership Mentorship Program).** Thanks for all your hard work! I want you to know that this is a hands-on Board and they collectively put in more than 726 hours of volunteer time in the last year.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our Honorary Board: **Rev. Margaret Cornish, Charlotte Diamond, Devine Elden, Neeta Sandhu, Cherelle Jardine and Sibel Thrasher** for lending their names and visibility to the RWRC and for promoting our programs in the community.

Finally, a BIG thank you to all our **Volunteers** who help keep the programs going and spread the word about the good work done at the Women's Centre.

Accomplishments in 2013-2014

Funding

Despite the challenging financial climate, we have managed to keep our funding levels consistent. Again this year we received grants from **BC Gaming, the City of Richmond, Vancity, Decoda Literacy Solutions and the Province of BC.** All funds go directly into delivering our programs and services. Our Richmond Community Foundation **Endowment Fund** is in its sixth year of operation. This fund will eventually enable us to be self-sufficient. Donations are gratefully accepted of course!

New Programs

With funding from Decoda Literacy Solutions and the Province of BC, we were able to offer a literacy program called "Family Financial Smart for Life in Canada". This program provides financial workshops for adult and youth to enhance financial literacy. This program also reaches to women to help them feel

welcome and comfortable in the community while discovering new experiences and forging friendships through cultural events and activities.

Continuing Programs

Continued funding enables us to offer our many popular programs and services, such as **Information and Referral, Computer Training, Peer Support, English Conversation, English Writing, Les Femmes Francais, Single Mother's support group, Grandmothers Support Group, Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, Hot Ink, Work Ready and Richmond Shares.**

Outreach and Partnerships

We have grown our relationships with the **Richmond Art Gallery, ROSE (Remember Our Sisters Everywhere), The Richmond Review, Canadian Federation of University Women and The Richmond Community Foundation.** We are continuing in our relationship with ROSE as a project of the RWRC and we continue working with them on the very important issue of violence against women. We consolidate a rewarding relationship with **Richmond Multicultural Community Services** for our Work Ready program so that students can gain volunteer practicum experience.

We continue to foster relationships with Richmond's community agencies such as: **Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Richmond Poverty Response Committee, Richmond Food Security Society, Richmond Affordable Housing Task Force, Richmond Literacy Committee, Richmond Civic Engagement Network, Richmond Family Violence Prevention Network, Chimo Community Services, Richmond Multicultural Community Services, Volunteer Richmond Information Services, South Arm Community Centre, Richmond Secondary School and St. Albans Anglican Church.**

Advocacy

The RWRC continues to support the **B.C. Living Wage** campaign in Richmond, being a living wage employer ourselves, and continue to campaign for the City to become a living wage employer. We also work with other Richmond groups to advocate for more **Affordable Housing** through our participation in the Supportive Housing Committee. We also work with **First Call BC** in speaking out about **Child Poverty** – Richmond has the second highest rate of child poverty in BC.

Appendix 1: As per RWRC Bylaws, please see Stand-down of Previous Board and Slate of 2013-2014 Board.

APPENDIX 1

STAND DOWN OF 2013-2014 BOARD

Marielle Demorest

Colleen Glynn

Chris McDowell

Gemma Hui

Iveta Williams

Judy Chu

Katrina Lau

Shireen Grégorious

Xinya Wang

Amanda Macpherson

SLATE FOR 2014-2015 BOARD

Marielle Demorest

Colleen Glynn

Chris McDowell

Gemma Hui

Iveta Williams

Judy Chu

Mary Scott

Xinya Wang

Amanda Macpherson

Elaine Lin



EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

The Richmond Women's Resource Centre continues to serve the community by delivering programs and services that make a difference in women's lives. We are proud to report that from April 2013 to March 2014 we responded to 8090 individuals and provided them with important community services.

Programs

Continued funding from our core funders: the Province of British Columbia, City of Richmond, Vancity, Decoda Literacy Solutions Society and financial support from our members and donors enable us to offer these popular programs and services: English Conversation and English Writing, Computer Training, Information and Referral, Book Club and Movie Night, Volunteer Program, French Speaking Women's Support Group, Grandmother's Support Group, Single Mother's Support group, Hot Ink Creative Writing for Teens, Ivy Cultural Group, Community Volunteer Income Tax, Peer Support, Canadian Work Experience Program, Richmond Shares, ROSE and Family Financial Smarts for Life in Canada.

Events

We would like to thank our members and supporters for their participation in many of our events such as potlucks, movie screenings, December candle light vigil, Christmas party and various fundraising initiatives: Fundscrip, the International Women's Day celebration and breakfast fundraiser, Plants & Seeds Sales, Raffle, Tea & Trivia, fundraising letter mail out campaign and St. Alban Fair Trade Fair. With your support, we were able to raise the much needed funds to continue to provide services to the community.

Highlights

Starting this year the Canadian Federation of University Women (Richmond) has provided a scholarship for the Work Ready graduates. We are delighted to report that this year's scholarship has been awarded to Maryna Pakhomova to help her to gain some Canadian training in the accounting field.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to Mary Scott our dedicated board member as the 2014 Ethel Tibbits Award nominee.

Resources

I would like to thank our Board members, staff and all our volunteers who worked hard to make the delivery of our programs and services possible! Our work is made possible with the talent and commitment from our dedicated staff, facilitators and 75 amazing volunteers with over 3,000 volunteer hours in total! Thank you for contributing your time, talents and diversity to help build the work at the Centre, to serve women and make a difference in our community! We are grateful for the resources we have and are looking forward to another year of strength!

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Yau
Executive Director

WORDS FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS

It has been an amazing experience as a tax volunteer with RWRC. I came to Vancouver three years ago. As a newcomer, integrating into society was a vexing question for me. Luckily, I found RWRC and became a tax volunteer. I still remember the first interview I had with Florence. At that time, her words and acceptance was really an encouragement to me. And during the tax clinics, whatever problems I faced, Penny has been there always to support. It is so enjoyable to work with warm-hearted people as them.

The tax volunteer experience has helped me overcome the fear of rejection and boosted my confidence in this new environment. Through helping others, I now feel like a part of this community

Catherine Kuang
(Community Volunteer Income Tax Program since 2011)

As a new immigrant, I hoped to continue my career here, confident that my skills and experience gained through decades of work from my home country would help. But all was just a dream. I was not able to get a job and everything seemed to be so hard for me. My self-esteem was low; no job, no friends. I was very frustrated. But I did not let depression rule my life; I started to look for help. After mustering courage, I found myself applying as a volunteer at Richmond Women's Resource Centre. And why did I choose RWRC? Simply, because I knew that a women's centre would understand me better. And I was right!! The people are friendly and welcoming. There was a spirit of belongingness. The centre's tranquility and silence brings comfort to the troubled heart of a woman. Every moment in the centre is an opportunity for learning. Computer skills, office work, dealing with people from different cultures and even the simple task of brewing coffee, all of these I learned here at the centre. They are very supportive. My volunteer work made me realize that I still have a lot to learn and a lot more to offer. I joined the Work Ready program. It was learning and having fun at the same time. Our instructors were generous in imparting their knowledge not only with communication skills, job search tools and techniques but as well as with some facts about the Canadian culture.

With all the skills I obtained, I am regaining my confidence. I am hopeful that the right opportunity will come in due time. And when it happens, I know that I am prepared. For now, I continue to volunteer here at the front desk where there is mutual relationship of giving and receiving. Some women come for help and others come to share. This is Richmond Women's Resource Centre. They call it an organization for women. I call it HOME.

Mariza Desiderio Mendoza
(Work Ready Program September 2013 and Front Office Volunteer since May 2013)

Grandmother's Support Group

In the past year, the activities in Grandmother's Support Group included:

Art Exhibitions

We visited five modern art exhibitions held in Richmond Art Gallery which was enjoyed very much. Especially after each exhibition, they discussed or shared their views about the theme demonstrated in the art. Some commented that the modern art exhibitions broadened their view around the world, and they would like to bring their family and grandchildren for a visit too.

Outdoor Activities

We held a tour in the Minoru Park. Though most of the grandmothers visited the park before, they found it different and fun to tour the park again in a group. They also discovered something or some places new through the sharing amongst the group.

Workshops and Resources

We held two workshops: "Introductory of Meditation" by Bodhi Meditation Center and "Staying Fit at Home" by COSCO, Council of Senior Citizens Organizations. Health, nutrition and exercise are the popular topics among the grandmothers. In addition, we share resources such as BC Housing and power of attorney during the group time.

Celebration

In January 2014 we held a potluck party for celebrating the Chinese New Year. Grandmothers shared about the traditions in their home towns and celebrated a new year with members.

Healthy Food & Cooking

The guest speakers from Richmond Food Security Society held the "Food Charter Kitchen Talks" among the grandmothers. They expressed their view regarding what Food meant to them personally, their family, and to the community. They also discussed issues related to organic food, gene modified food, food safety, etc.

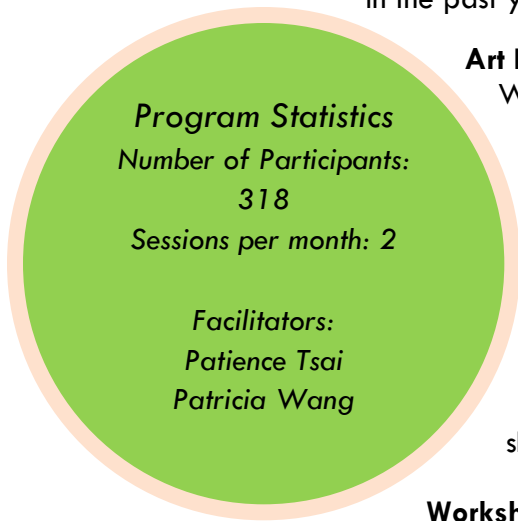
A healthy food, quinoa, was introduced through a quinoa salad recipe. Grandmothers shared examples of healthy food and cooking.

Learning English Conversation

Grandmothers are good learners. Many of them have immigrated to Canada from China, Taiwan, or Hong Kong for more than 10 years. They hope to participate and be involved in the community through proficiency in language. Several sessions were themed in English learning. Grandmothers took notes, practiced with their grandchildren in learning phonics, English vocabulary, conversation for taking a bus, etc.

In Summary, grandmothers actively participate and support all the activities. They also enjoy the chatting with other members in the beginning of the group time. In the past year, more time is spent on English learning. For the coming year we hope to continue the language learning for empowering grandmothers in community participation and communication.

Patience Tsai and Patricia Wang



Basic English Conversation

Program Statistics:
Number of Participants:
581
Sessions per month: 4

Facilitator: Carol Brindle

Volunteer Facilitator:
Jacquie Siemens

The two hours on Mondays go by quickly. Each member of the group has creative ideas and lots to say so we must share our time wisely. We try to follow the **KISS** rule: **Keep It Short and Simple**, which at times can be difficult. Facilitating English conversation requires that everyone has equal opportunity to express their ideas in structured English. Time and sometimes the size of the group can affect speaking time.

Change can be difficult. Some people are more comfortable with change than others. Adults, particularly women, can hold high expectations of themselves, such as the ability to achieve excellence quickly. This takes time, patience, and practice.

One of the program's goals is to change the line, "My English is terrible" to "My English is improving", "My English is getting better", or "I'm new to English." Changing how participants view their English skills can improve their confidence and assist in their learning.

The weekly English Conversation class encourages participants to change roadblocks such as discouragements, frustration, and fear into stepping stones such as hopefulness, satisfaction, and courage. The English Conversation group encourages participants to concentrate on how far they've become, rather than how far they have left to go.

It's the participants, not the facilitator, who make Basic English Conversation Group successful. I wish to thank RWRC; volunteers – Mila, Sally, Marjorie, Josephine & Jacquie; and most of all the committed and determined participants who faithfully attended the class.

Carol Brindle



Basic English Writing

Our two-hour weekly meetings on Tuesdays provide opportunities to learn about the formal writing structure of the English language. This program combines handwriting, business English, creative writing, filling out forms, technology, and grammar in its classes. Each week we see the learning levels of each member progress steadily.

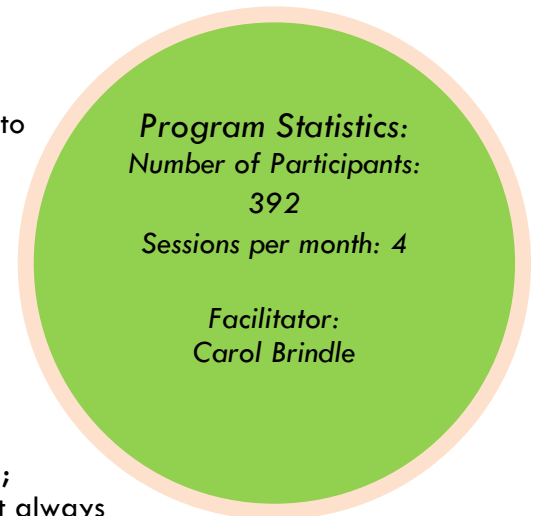
Vocabulary building and spelling play a big part in learning to improve writing. The writing class is divided into four to seven 15-30 minutes "chunks of time". These "chunks of time" cover different subjects such as Vocabulary, Spelling, Punctuation, Parts of Speech; Sentence structure, and Paragraph structure. This structure does not always work in practice, but we try to follow it to provide consistency in the classes. Class structure and "formal" English in the Basic Writing Program has proven to be essential in making progress.

The delivery of this class is always welcome to suggestions from participants. A new participant recommended doing more reviews of previous lessons.

Group exercises in class are chances to collectively make the best use of learning time. It is important to encourage cooperation to facilitate growth. Every participant has something to offer. It is encouraging to see participants feel comfortable about making mistakes and learning from them. It can be hard for participants to be easier on themselves when they have high expectations of themselves. Learning languages different from the one we grew up with is always difficult.

The program's most recent project was entering a writing contest to submit to *The WestCoast Reader publication*. The topic is "The Art of Writing" which provided participants practice in expressing their experience with learning English writing. The article was a good way to explore the similarities and differences that unite us in discovering the combination of learning and producing written compositions. We hope to see the article in the May issue of the WestCoast Reader.

Carol Brindle



Computer Training

Program Statistics:
Number of Participants:
 277
Sessions per month: 4

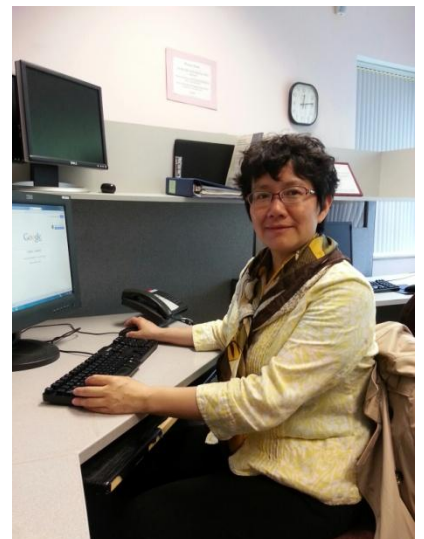
Facilitator:
 Laurie McEwan

Every month files left on the computers are removed. All software is updated so we stay current as well. By keeping the computers clear of files we can ensure our computers remain relatively fast and not get bogged down. That way too, students always have their files on their flash drives. We installed a newer version of Professor Teaches. We now use **Professor Teaches Office 2010**. We continue to use **Professor Teaches Office 2007** for those who have an older version of office they need to learn or relearn. We also recently installed **Professor Teaches Windows 8**. All the computers now can have headphones plugged in so they can listen to files on the internet such as YouTube. **Mavis Beacon** is also used in the lab for practicing typing skills.

In the summer the computers are maintained. We do in-depth scanning for viruses and malware.

We get a lot of compliments on our tutorials that we use from our Work Ready students. The tutorials, with skill consolidation exercises, are designed to teach **Word** (including mail merge), **Excel** (including formulas, graphing, charting and Lookup Tables), and time permitting, **PowerPoint**. They also include a lesson on the Office **drawing tools**.

Laurie McEwan



Richmond Shares

This year Richmond Shares has had a total of 267 matches of donation. Richmond Shares provides a “virtual” place for donors to post gently used household items to be available for free to low income Richmond residents in need. It is a give and take practice all year round that benefits both the recipient and the donor and is environmentally friendly.

So far, the program has been running smoothly given its limited resources. There were times when it was sometimes busy and sometimes slow, and spirits were high and low. At some point when the inventory was very low, Richmond Shares did promotions at the Fair Trade Fair in St. Alban Church last December. With the help of Lynda Brummitt, co-ordinator of Richmond Poverty Response Committee, Richmond Shares was able to be better promoted along with the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition. Lynda offered to promote Richmond Shares to all related organizations by handing out posters and flyers. She invited me to promote Richmond Shares at their monthly meeting. I had the opportunity to explain how our website works and how and what their volunteer members may help. During the meeting, I provided them an update on Richmond Shares. The program has gained a wider audience and also received some valuable feedback and inspiring advice on how to approach other associated groups for publicity.

Participating with Richmond Shares takes commitment and can be very awarding. We hope to continue the program in the same manner, maintaining the website so it is up-to-date, keeping donations coming in, and informing people in need about the program. RWRC members are welcome and encouraged to consider signing up as volunteers for the program if they are like-minded individuals.

A special thanks to Florence Yau and to Laurie McEwan for being my mentor in managing the project.

Portia Kwok

Program Statistics:

Number of Matches: 267

Volunteers: 1

Transport Volunteers: 1

Facilitator: Portia Kwok



The Richmond Shares Plant & Seed Fundraiser held on May 5th 2013 was organised by Laurie McEwan and her team of volunteers.

Single Mother's Support Group

Single Mother's Support Group continued meeting in a theme of exercise and group discussion. Since November, we have added more activities to explore programs existing in the community and develop different themes fitting various needs.

Program Statistics:

Number of Participants:

134

Sessions per month: 4

Facilitator:

Patience Tsai

EXERCISE

Besides the group exercise held at Richmond Caring Place, we joined the drop-in fitness class "Strength & Stretch" at South Arm Community Centre. In summer, we went hiking along the West Dyke in the Steveston Village and practiced speed walking to achieve our fitness goal.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

We visited Ersen's exhibition of "Passengers" at Richmond Art Gallery and participated the Conversation Lounge to discuss the issues related to social behaviours, identities and stereotypes portrayed in the exhibition. We also took part in the "Diverse Voices and Portraits" project in the community. Single mothers shared their stories about the theme of diversity, discrimination and inclusion based on their voluntary participation and comfortable realm.

WORKSHOP

We joined the "Laughing Yoga" workshop held by RWRC. It was an interesting experience to practice voluntary laughter in a way of group which is turned into real and contagious laughter through eye contact and playfulness between participants.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

A survey among single mother participants was conducted in October 2013. The result showed that making friends/social activity was the most popular reason why single mother participants attended the support group. Therefore, we started to hang out for coffee in October 2013. Later in November we started our own cooking sessions. Single mothers in the group presented their creativity in making sushi/California roll, shrimp pesto bread, honey cake, baked wasabi salmon, cheese cake, Japadog, etc. It was the moment of highlight when all participants sat down to enjoy what they have prepared.

CELEBRATION

Thanksgiving was celebrated by bringing holiday themed foods-cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, pumpkin bread etc. We talked about the origin of THANKSGIVING and the way we celebrate the holiday in different cultures.

ART

Starting in November 2013, we joined the monthly art program held at Richmond Art Gallery. We attended the "Collage Night" and "Pick Up Your Pencil" programs. The relaxing and artistic environments impressed the participants very much. A volunteer instructor was available to help to draw, to collage, or to create whatever you like.

KIDS WELCOME

In order to support the single mothers with small children, we try to incorporate kids welcome activities into our program. Kids are welcome to join the Coffee Night and cooking sessions. Moreover, we started our Movie Night in February 2014 to watch family movies so children are welcome to join with their mothers.

As more single mothers with young children are interested in joining the Single Mother's Support Group but cannot attend because of the need of childminding, in the future we expect to develop KIDS WELCOME activities to include the single mothers with young kids.

Patience Tsai

Ivy Women's Cultural Group

Ivy Group started in 2007 and has been successfully running for almost seven years. We appreciate the support received from RWRC office through the years

Through our activities, many Chinese women learned more about RWRC, especially the new immigrants. It has helped them to feel a part of the community through public performances and to make friends; enjoy the beauty and many opportunities that Canada provides. It has helped to foster a feeling of belongingness. The number of participants has grown over years.

From 2013, we changed the day of activity from Wednesday to Saturday, to make it more convenient for working women. We have a wonderful and amazing group of volunteer teachers like **Grace Gao, Doris Chung and Peggy**; they are motivated and passionate about sharing their knowledge with others.

We promote RWRC programs to all our participants so that they are aware of the services available and make use of it. The Ivy program has grown with women of different cultures participating and enjoying the exercise and dance. All participants feel that the program has helped them to keep fit, relax and at the same time have fun.

Vicky Sun

Program Statistics:
Number of Participants:
482
Sessions per month: 4

Volunteer Facilitator:
Vicky Sun



Hot Ink Creative Writing For Teens

Program Statistics:
Number of Participants:
 294

Sessions per month: 4

Facilitator:
 Caroline Dyck

We started the year strong, with over 40 girls signed up, and 25 attending. This number eventually stabilized at a small but diverse core group of girls. Ranging from grades 8-11, they included differing skill levels and challenges. We had girls at a variety of ESL levels, girls with learning disabilities, and girls who were highly verbose and advanced learners. Many of the girls were aware of their capabilities in regards to grammar and spelling, and were both overly critical of their own work, and afraid to share it with their peers. The girls expressed that they preferred the smaller group size, as it was less intimidating to share their writing. Their talents have truly blossomed throughout the year as some of these shy writers have begun to come out of their shells.

Throughout the year, we had a number of special guests and activities:

- Author Mark Thorburn ran a workshop on writing non-fiction and generously donated copies of his books so that each girl would go home with one.
- Local magician Joseph Daniels gave a talk on misdirection and red herrings in writing. He also performed feats of magic which amazed and astounded us. The girls loved him so much they requested that he come to our year end magazine launch.
- We studied the practical differences between genres: poetry, fiction, graphic novel, script writing, comedy, suspense, sci-fi, fantasy, and non-fiction.
- The girls created book spine poetry at the school library where each "spine" was a line in a poem. This was one of their favourite sessions this year.
- We played with substances and examined bizarre objects and wrote about the experiences.
- We re-captioned storybooks, creating new stories to go with the pictures.

We also wrote our own comics, tried out fountain pens, participated in literary group and individual exercises, and challenged ourselves by writing from different perspectives. It was a "hot" year for Hot Ink.

Care Dyck

Work Ready

The Work Ready Program has now been in existence since September 2008, and is growing in popularity as an increasingly larger number of women have participated in the Program.

At the end of March 2014, we will have completed 17 sessions and, although our mandate is to train a minimum of 18 participants per year, this year we will have trained 19. Over the past six years, the level of education and experience of our participants has continuously risen, and consequently more women are finding suitable employment after completing the Program and sometimes even before completion.

Our sponsoring body, Vancity, offers a 2-hour presentation to each group providing information about Basic Banking and Budgeting, which is always well received and appreciated.

This year, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) has contributed a \$500.00 educational scholarship which has been awarded to a participant in our sixteenth session who has applied to take an accounting course. We also have an arrangement with Dress for Success who willingly provides business clothes free of charge.

We have received the volunteer assistance of a career coach, Deborah Turner, this year in the area of Job Search Skills.

I will soon be entering into my seventh year in this position which gives me a great deal of personal satisfaction.

Sarah Ross

Program Statistics:

Number of Participants:

6/session

Sessions per year 3

Facilitator:

Sarah Ross



Peer Support

Program Statistics:

Individual appointments: 8
 Relaxation workshop: 15
 Heart and stroke: 4
 Laughing yoga: 15
 Self defense workshop: 9

Facilitator:

Anna Marie Parayano

Significant achievements:

- This year the peer support program has provided support for 51 women through individual appointments and workshops.
- In a single appointment, clients were able to open up about their emotions, current issues or conflicts they are going through, as well as talk about their lived experiences. Many come away with a better idea of what their next steps are in resolving their issues, as well as feeling that their experiences and emotions have been validated. Having someone to listen and help them getting their story out can be an empowering experience.
- The program has also organized four workshops this year. These workshops are organized with the intention of improving women's well-being. Pamela Patterson facilitated a Laughing Yoga workshop and a Relaxation yoga workshop. Each yoga workshop was attended by 15 participants. Anna Marie Parayno facilitated a workshop on Heart and Stroke, with 4 people in attendance. The latest workshop was a Women's Self Defense class with Michael Sirota, attended by 9 participants who heard about the workshop via the RWRC (out of a total of 42 women who attended). Clients have spoken of their appreciation of being able to take home what they learn from these workshops and would like to see more like them. Clients have also mentioned interest in having a general women's support group through the peer support program, where women can meet and discuss any topic of interest through open discussion. Another workshop that the program hopes to organize in the future is an Assertiveness workshop. Suggestions for future workshops are always welcome.

Anna Marie Parayano

French Speaking Support Group

The French group continues to meet every Wednesday at the Dining Terrace, Richmond Central Mall. They exchange information on the coming events of the French group, the Women's Centre and the community.

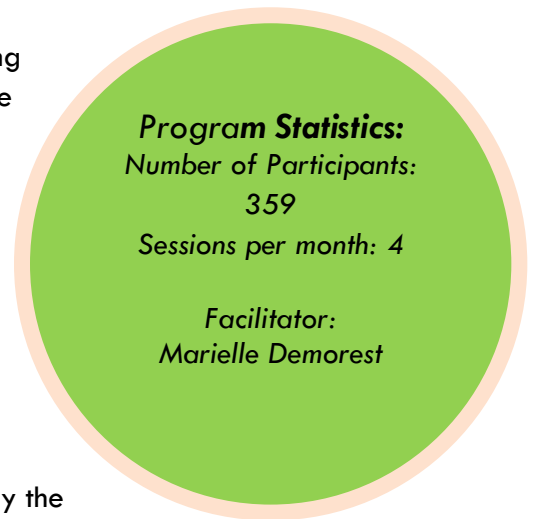
Six women came to celebrate International Women's Day with the Women's Centre and also enjoyed the Zumba class at the winter get-together.

Marielle took part in an interview on CBC for one hour on International Women's Day on the work of the Women's Centre. Marielle assisted at a conference on the New Family Law put on by the French Law Association.

On December 6th 2013, CBC TV came to the Women's Centre to film the ceremony of the Montreal massacre. It was showed twice on that day.

The women support each other and go in groups to the events in French in the Vancouver area. All women are welcomed to join us.

Marielle Demorest



Movie Night

Program Statistics:

Participants: 133

Sessions per month: 1

Volunteer Facilitators:

Gail Thompson, Clare Yow,
Kathy Kent, Sara B,
Kathy Zhang, Mary Miller

Movie Night was initiated in October of 2010, born out of a strong desire for a feminist-centered forum. Since then we have screened many documentaries and fictional movies illustrating women's issues and conditions in many countries.

Our events are free and open to all women. We provide popcorn and other light refreshments, good company, interesting movies and animated discussions. Donations are collected to help off-set our expenses and to help fund special events and celebrations.

Thank yous go out to: **Penny Menezes**, for all her support and organizational expertise; **RWRC**, for consistently spreading the word; **Mary Miller**, an ardent supporter and provider of ongoing assistance; **Kathy Zhang**, who has responded to our cries for "help" whenever technical support was needed; and members of our core group of participants for their help in greeting new attendees and ensuring smooth running of our event. *Many hands make for light work*, as the saying goes.

Movie Night has managed to survive the coming and going of many key people (firstly Parvaneh Farajollahi and then Sara Baghbannezhad). We survive because the core group is really a team of like-minded, dedicated people. After Sara left for India, one of the key people to step up to take on more responsibility, was Clare who now produces all our posters, contributes greatly to choosing movies and takes care of technical aspects of the screenings. She also helps with the set-up and clean up.

Although she will continue to help out when possible, Gail will be stepping down from her role as co-coordinator in June. Enormous gratitude to Gail for her thoughtful leadership and brilliant facilitation of the post-screening conversations. Clare will continue to coordinate and contribute her support to the running of this monthly event. If you are interested in providing regular, ongoing assistance to Movie Night, please touch base with the office.

These movies and discussions have offered a casual way to learn more about one another including our countries of origin, our experiences and beliefs. This in turn has led to deepening respect, intercultural understanding and friendships among us. We hope that Movie Night continues to offer insight and stimulating conversation around women's issues in the years to come.

Gail Thompson & Clare Yow



Bread and Roses Book Club

RWRC's Book Club met in Rm 110 in Oct., Dec., Feb. and Apr. Our last session until next October will be on June 12, 2014. (Book pickup May 15 at Movie Night or in the office after that date.)

Around eight of us gathered each time to discuss plot, style, issues presented and how some of them related to our own lives. Books varied:

Oct. – CLARA CALLAN by Richard Wright (Cdn) starts out in small town Ontario and moves on to letter exchanges between two sisters and assorted friends and lovers from 1934 to 1939. Family dynamics, social mores, life-changing experiences.

Dec. - BLUE SHOES AND HAPPINESS by Alexander Smith is one of the No1 Ladies' Detective Agency series. It takes place in Botswana, Africa – witchcraft, pilfering, bad advice and gentle resolutions, along with a sense of the area and the people.

Feb. – a First novel by young Vancouver writer Gurjinder Basran. In EVERYTHING WAS GOODBYE, strong-willed, educated, young Indo-Canadian Meena tries to balance her mother's traditional family values , traditions and expectations with "real life". Most first generation children from immigrant families experience some of the problems as the novel moves through romance, passion and tragedy.

Apr. – LATE NIGHTS ON AIR, an award-winning book by Cdn Elizabeth Hay, Takes us to the mid-70s small town(then) of Yellowknife, the list of characters involved in the VERY local CBC radio station there, social challenges, news presentations in small communities, First Nation and Inuit concerns, The Berger pipeline Inquiry, and triumph tragedy on the tundra.

Enjoyable evenings of discussion and camaraderie – thanks to all who participate and to Clare Yow for the PR notices.

Kathy Kent

Program Statistics:

Number of Participants: 23

Book Club Coordinators:
Kathy Kent
Sara B



Remember Our Sisters Everywhere

Remember Our Sisters Everywhere is a community - online and on the ground - dedicated to the prevention of violence against women: www.rememberoursisterseverywhere.com

ROSE has wonderful volunteers and is currently looking for more. ROSE volunteers overlap with the Women's Monument Committee and last year formed the Women's Monument Action Committee. For almost two years we struggled to persuade the Vancouver Park Board to change their minds about adding the Irish Monument to Thornton Park and siting it 100 feet from Marker of Change, the Women's Monument.

We have had a special year holding events at Marker of Change and having a practicum student join the group and participate in ROSE and the actions taking place at the site, and with Women Transforming Cities (WTC), an initiative to make cities more livable for women and girls.

At Marker of Change, we have protested the murder of local women by veiling benches in black cloth and naming women as an act of remembrance and a way to bring attention to the on-going tragic loss of women and children to violence.

December 6th 2013 we held a public event at the site with a Native Elder giving an opening prayer followed by inspiring speakers, music and ceremony.

February 19th we held a public event working with WTC about the importance of dedicating public space to address the on-going violence against women and girls. We discussed preserving Thornton Park as a place to organize and create a better world. Amazingly, that evening we were able to announce that the Park Board changed its mind, and Marker of Change will remain the sole monument in the park! Special thanks to jil weaving and the Park Board management and elected Commissioners for acknowledging the park was best preserved as is.

Certain issues have been featured on the website this year, for example, the call for a public inquiry into the high numbers of Aboriginal women murdered and missing, and discussion around the possible implementation of the Nordic Model to address prostitution/sex trade in Canada.

We are presently gearing up for December 6th 2014 because it is the 25th anniversary of the Montreal massacre. Artist Margaret Dragu will be performing at Marker of Change a piece about how the education of girls can change the world. This is a tribute to Malala Yousafzai, the 16 year old Pakistani girl shot by the Taliban for promoting the education of girls.

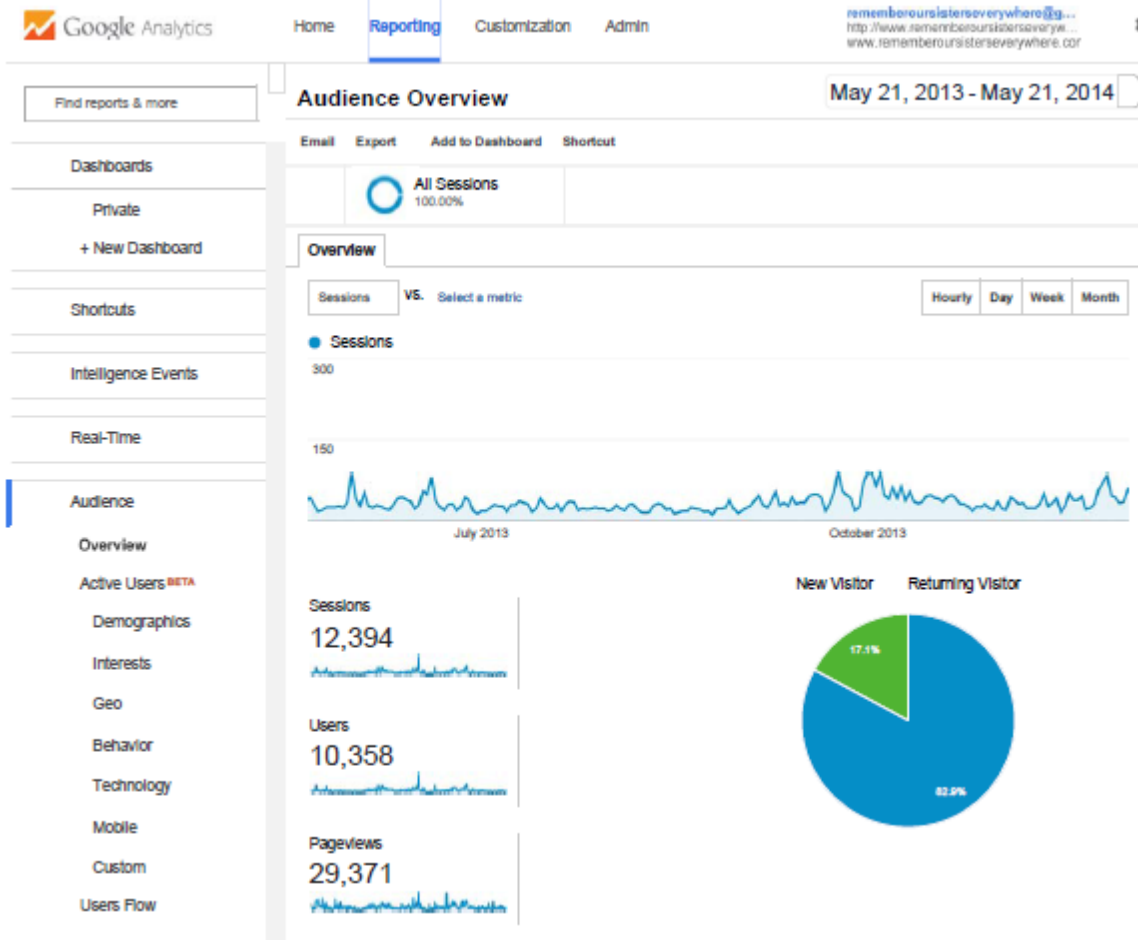
ROSE is deeply grateful for RWRC's interest and support. Thank you.

In Sisterhood,

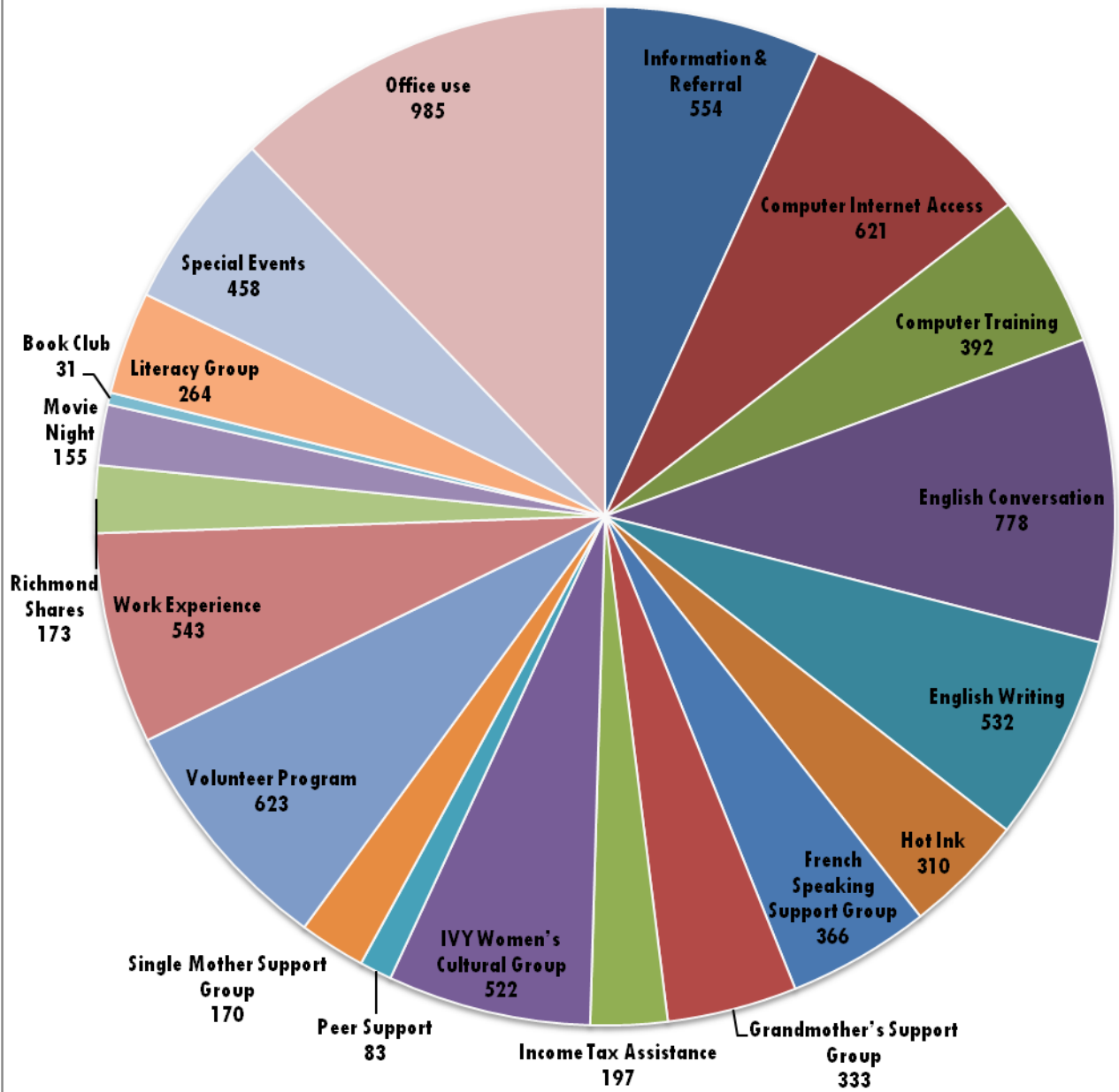
Chris McDowell

Attached: PDF of Google Analytics for 1 year, May 2013 to May 2014

Remember Our Sisters Everywhere: Google Analytics



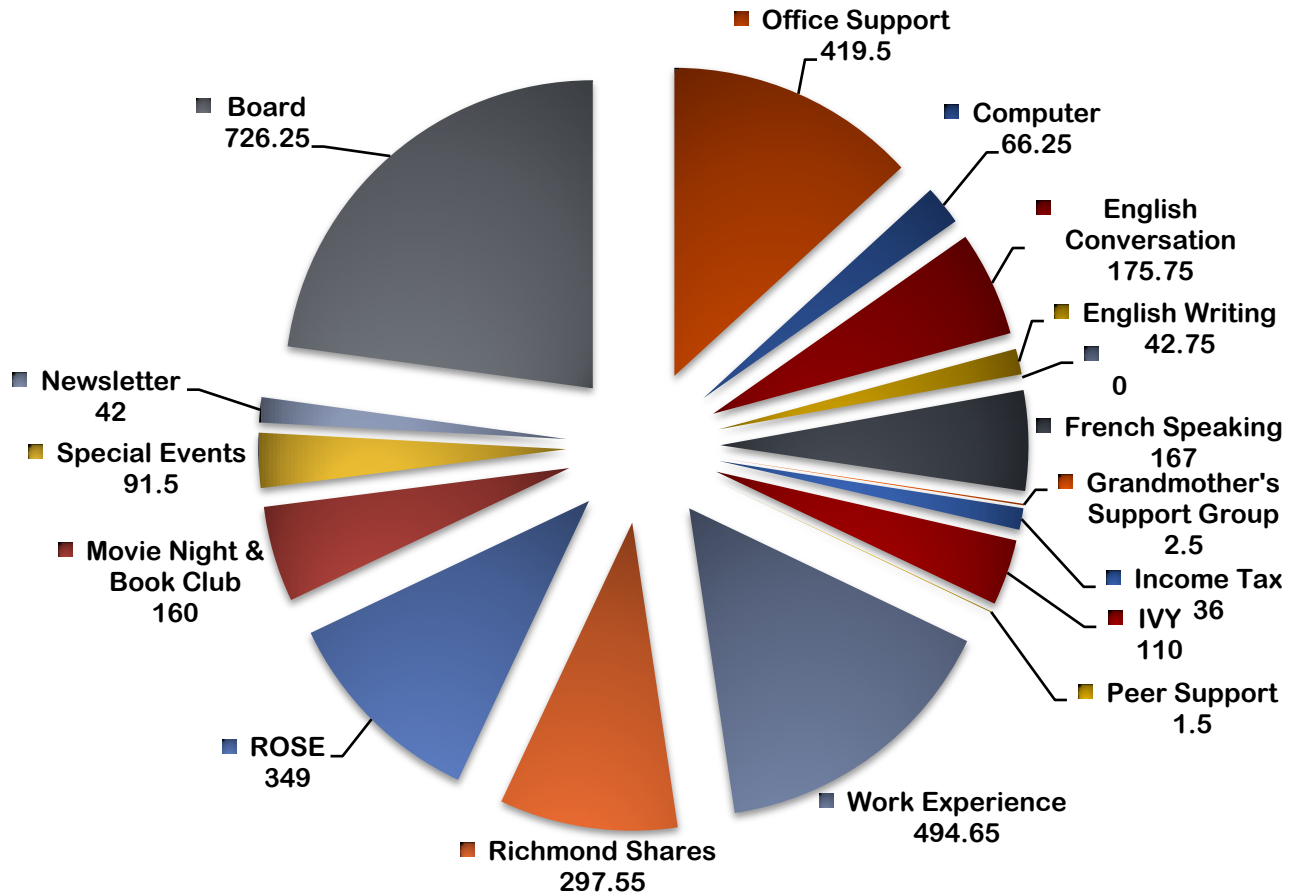
Program Statistics: April 2013 to March 2014



Total: 8090 persons used our services

Volunteer Hours

April 2013 to March 2014



Total Volunteer Hours: 3,182.2

THANK YOU! VOLUNTEERS

During 2013-2014 fiscal year, we had the privilege of working with over 75 amazing volunteers. They have added a vibrant and diverse atmosphere to the Richmond Women's Resource Centre. We would like to thank each and every one of them personally for their enthusiasm and support of the women in their community. Without them, this centre would not be the same.