

Manila Women's Forum

A Network of Women Professionals

October 2003

High Hopes for Philippine Canine Rescue Operations

By Lorraine Pearson

If you are buried in a landslide, minutes turn into hours, and timing is critical if rescue teams will be able to save you. A single dog and trainer team is more accurate, faster, and replaces 30 human rescuers. But there has been no such option in the disaster-prone Philippines — until now.

Renee Speltz drove this point home to about 35 MWF members at the September meeting when she spoke about her mission to provide the Philippines with access to canine rescue teams. The Philippine Canine Search & Rescue Association is a newly founded NGO created to fill the gaps in the Philippine rescue and recovery system.

Renee, who has a background as a counselor and psychologist, was living in New York City during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. In the aftermath she became keenly aware of the benefits the K9 search teams brought to the grim task to recover survivors or find remains.

When Renee arrived in the Philippines as a trailing spouse (her husband is Ambassador Paul Speltz, American Director to the Asian Development Bank) the still fresh impact of the 9/11 tragedy spurred her interest in asking the questions. When she learned there were inadequate canine rescue facilities here, she developed a profound sense of mission, which has opened

many doors in her march towards the goal of establishing a world class canine rescue organization to

Rescue crusader and her choco delight: Renee Speltz and Tex are great workout partners. Photo by Jun Mendoza.

assist with Philippine disasters. And as Renee reminded us, there have been plenty of those. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, mudslides, lahar, tidal waves, typhoons, and volcanic eruptions have punctuated this country's recent history all too frequently.

A human can survive in the rubble of a fallen building up to about 100 hours. After the 1990 earthquake in Northern Luzon, which resulted in 1,666 deaths, and injured 3,500 people, it took between 48 and 72 hours to mobilize the Canine Rescue from Virginia USA. This was simply too long a response time to help, especially since the dogs were also suffering from jet lag. England and Australia have canine units, but quarantine restrictions for rabies in

(Continued on page 4)



Next MWF Meeting

When: 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 20, 2003

What: Joanne Rae Ramirez will talk about her work as editor-in-chief of People Asia Magazine and as associate editor and columnist of the Philippine Star.

Where: Lisa Lumbao's home at 3B Cordova Condominium, 138 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City

Bring: A contribution to the potluck dinner.

November meeting: Monday, November 17, 2003



Voice of the Chair

By Lisa Kircher Lumbao

Selfless Women Not Negotiating for Promotions

By Tessa Mayes

...women are selfless. They are less likely than men to demand what they want for themselves, but highly skilled at asking on behalf of others.

Women may be failing to break through the glass ceiling because they lack the negotiating skills to get what they want, a new book has claimed.

Research carried out for the book found that in all types of situations—from asking for job promotions to getting their men to help around the house—women started negotiations far less often and demanded much less than men.

The authors, Linda Babcock, professor of economics at Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania, and Sara Laschever, a freelance journalist, argue that women are selfless. They are less likely than men to demand what they want for themselves, but highly skilled at asking on behalf of others.

“Our society has created a psychological straitjacket for women that confines them from doing some things,” said Babcock.

A survey of 100 men and women for the book, *Women Don't Ask*, to be published by Princeton University Press in October, found that half of the men had started a negotiation within the previous two weeks, while half of the women had started their most recent negotiation more than four weeks earlier. A fifth of women surveyed said they never negotiated.

They were also far less successful when they did. Babcock found that, on average, women negotiated pay raises that were 30% lower than men's.

The cumulative cost of this, according to Babcock, could be as much as £280,000 through their working life.

In the 1980s working women were sometimes seen as white stiletto-heeled careerists as portrayed in the film *Working Girl* by Melanie Griffith. By the 1990s, the belief had shifted towards more aggressive work

competitors as typified by Demi Moore's character in the film *Disclosure*.

Although still relatively rare, the number of real-life high-earning women working in entertainment, publishing, law and business is increasing. Some of the top British earners include JK Rowling, who amassed £280 million from the sale of the Harry Potter books and accompanying film and merchandising rights.

Average female earnings have increased since the 1980s, but are still often far below men's for the same job.

High-flying women are still unusual, argue the book's authors. Most women are too unassertive to take the lead in making decisions or stand up for themselves, let alone seal the deal on a fat wage packet.

The authors attribute the difference in attitude largely to women's psychology and upbringing in early childhood that turns them into caring and selfless adults rather than more traditional explanations such as inadequate childcare provision.

However, Jenny Watson, deputy chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) disputed the findings. “I wouldn't want to suggest that the reason women have unequal pay is because women don't negotiate. It's far more complex than that,” she said. ■

Reprinted from the London's Sunday Times, 24 August, 2003.

In Touch Community Services: Upcoming Events for October

1. *Introduction to Life in the Philippines by Daryl Newton.* Living and working in a new culture can be a challenge! We can help make the transition smoother! Join our open seminar and learn how to fit in. Wednesday 8th October 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

2. *Free Introductory Lectures to Natural Eyesight Care Course.* Wednesday 8th October 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday 11th October 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

3. *Managing your Domestic Helpers by Gigi Gatti.* This seminar aims to help you understand social, legal and cultural aspects of managing your domestic helpers. Monday 13 October 9 to 11 a.m.

4. *Authentic Oriental Carpet Auction* (Carpets from Eastern Carpets of Singapore) plus launch of In Touch & Wired 2004 Calendar and Art Auction. Wednesday October 15 at Hotel

Intercontinental. Viewing from 6 p.m. This is an evening fundraiser to help support the community services of ITCS.

5. *Natural Eyesight Care Course.* Four Sessions (2½ hours each). Saturdays 18 October to 15 November 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (No Class 1 Nov) or Wednesdays 22 October to 12 November 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

6. *Tracking Your Money by MaryAnn & Gigi Gatti.* Is “figuring out where all the money goes” one of your long-standing resolutions? Then this is the course for you, come and join this fun seminar! Monday 27 October 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

For further information please call 810 6233 or 893 7606 or visit us at No. 48 McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati. E-mail: intouch@i-manila.com.ph

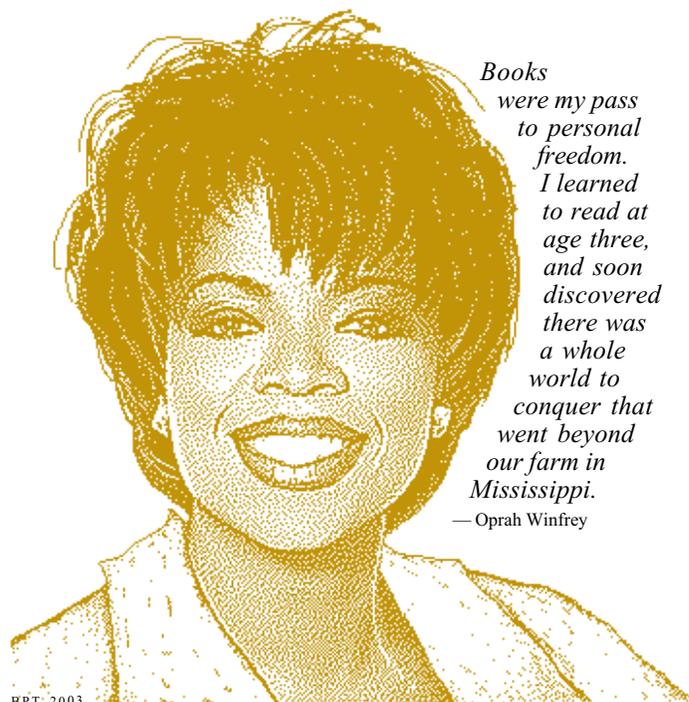
The Manila Women's Forum

The Manila Women's Forum (MWF) is a cross-cultural network for women. It provides opportunities to build friendships, to talk to women of various cultures, and to share information about resources. Our meetings are intended to provide intellectual stimulation and lead to personal and professional development. All women are welcome to join. The current officers are **Lisa Lumbao**, Chair, Programs, Treasurer, and Newsletter. **Penny Poole**, Programs, Newsletter. **Beulah P. Taguiwalo**, Newsletter.

Cost of membership is P300 per year. Members receive a copy of the current mailing list in addition to the newsletter, which is also sent to non-members. A contribution is collected at each monthly meeting: P20 for members, and P40 for non-members. Please contact Lisa Lumbao at Tel. 818-2887 or 813-0168, or at lumbao@mozcom.com for more information about MWF.

Women's Voices Women's Faces

By Beulah Pedregosa Taguiwalo



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*Books
were my pass
to personal
freedom.
I learned
to read at
age three,
and soon
discovered
there was
a whole
world to
conquer that
went beyond
our farm in
Mississippi.*

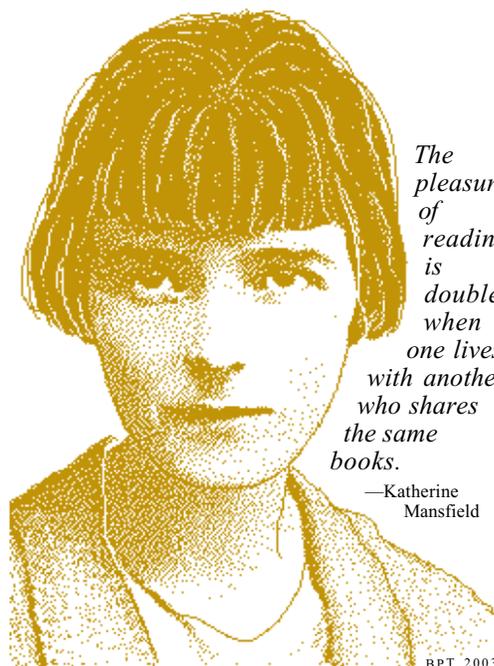
—Oprah Winfrey



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*I
love
the solitude
of reading.
I love the deep
dive into
someone else's
story, the
delicious ache
of a last page.
I love the wide
basket in which
shining fruits
rest together on a
table. The sense of
gathering, the gleam, seems
similar to the bounty offered
by an anthology.*

—Naomi Shihab Nye



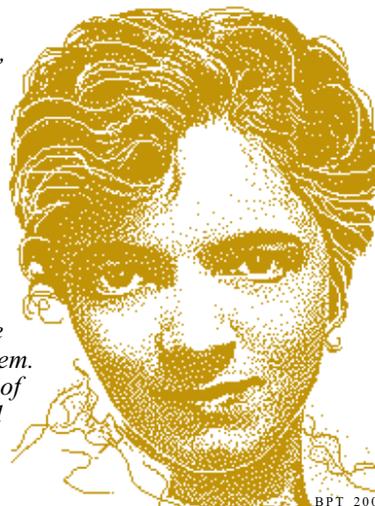
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*The
pleasure
of
reading
is
doubled
when
one lives
with another
who shares
the same
books.*

—Katherine
Mansfield

*We rely upon the poets,
the philosophers and the
playwrights to articulate
what most of us can only
feel, in joy or sorrow.
They illuminate the
thoughts for which we
only grope. They give us
the strength and balm we
cannot find in ourselves.
Whenever I find my courage
wavering I rush to them.
They give me the wisdom of
acceptance, the will and
resilience to push on.*

—Helen Hayes



BPT 2003

High Hopes... (From page 1)
both those countries prohibit their use in international disasters. Renee is not alone in recognizing the need for on site trained dogs.

To date, three Philippines-based dogs and their owners have been identified and approved for training, which takes four to five months for handlers and four months for the dogs. The criteria are tough to meet. From the 160 potential volunteer trainers who brought their dogs for assessment interviews in July, only 20 met the criteria to become part of the rescue operation team.

Among the breeds used for search and rescue, the four most commonly used are German Shepherd, Retriever, Labrador, and Belgian Malinois. They should be 1 to 2 years old, although some 3-year-olds can be eligible if they pass the tests. Becoming a canine rescue team trainer is a volunteer lifetime commitment for the dog owner, and includes re-certification every 6 months, as well as daily work with the dog. Finding more certified trainers and dogs is critical.

Even in the worst-case scenarios, this service provides compassion and closure for the victims' families. The Ozone Disco fire in 1996 left 162 dead, but the remains were never found. Following the 1998 Cebu Pacific air crash in northern Mindanao, it took weeks to recover the bodies, every day causing greater pain to the victims' families.

Renee has proven herself an able fundraiser and so far has found

government, corporate, and private sponsorship to be plentiful as well as eager partnership commitments. Deployment response will be done jointly with the Office of Civil Defense, International SOS which provides medical evacuations, Animal House veterinarians will look after the dogs' health, while Pedigree Dog Foods will supply animal food needs as well as uniforms. Pedigree has also committed to fundraising for the cause at their dog shows. Solerex Water Technologies has committed to provide purified water both at the headquarters and on deployment.

Using her passion and people skills, Renee also succeeded in securing a generous donation of one acre of land in Antipolo, the site proposed as the organization's headquarters. There is enough space to accommodate a helipad, dog training facility, and the

administration buildings. Some P8 million in donations have been committed so far towards the construction.

Renee appealed to MWF members to work with their networks to spread the word, as she still needs operating and building funds. She is turning the NGO into a membership organization, charging fees of P500 annually. The Philippine Canine Search and Rescue Foundation accepts tax-exempt donations of any amount. Checks can be made to the Philippine Canine Search & Rescue Association Inc. Please visit their web-site at www.phk9sar.org (designed and managed gratis by BSC Consulting.) In-kind donations are also welcome.

As Renee points out, our children and spouses are as vulnerable as anyone to natural or manmade disasters in this country. ■

Food Culture One really nice thing about Filipino food culture is that people always ask you to *share* their food. In my office, if you catch anyone attacking their baon, they will always go. "Sir! *Kain tayo!*" ("Let's eat!"). This confused me, until I realized that they didn't actually expect me to sit down and start munching on their boneless bangus. In fact, the polite response is something like, "No thanks, I just ate." But the principle is sound -- if you have food on your plate, you are expected to share it, however hungry you are, with those who may be even hungrier. I think that's great. In fact, this is frequently even taken one step further. Many Filipinos use "Have you eaten yet?" ("*Kumain ka na?*") as a general greeting, irrespective of time of day or location. -- From "A Matter of Taste" by Matthew Sutherland

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