

## Remembering Rosemary Brown: commemorative stamp to be launched in February

**A**s part of Black History Month 2009, Canada Post will launch a commemorative stamp featuring legendary Canadian feminist Rosemary Brown.

Not only was Rosemary the first black woman to be elected to public office and the first woman to run for the leadership of a Canadian federal political party, she was a vital part of MATCH's success as Executive Director, Special Ambassador, fundraiser, board member and, at the time of her untimely death, President. Her courage and tenacity made a lasting difference for all women.

Thanks to your ongoing generosity, MATCH continues to strive towards Rosemary's vision of a world where women can realize human rights and fundamental freedoms through civic, political, economic, and cultural justice. She encouraged MATCH to center its

programming around equality, dignity, and better living standards for all.

We are proud to have partnered with the National Congress of Black Women Foundation in the

application to Canada Post for this commemorative stamp.

Many organizations across Canada will include the launch of this stamp within their 2009 Black History month activities:

The National Congress of Black Women Foundation will host an event on February 1 at the Vancouver Playhouse; the Ontario Black History Society will host a luncheon on January 25 at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto; Black History Ottawa will host an Opening Ceremony for Black History Month on February 1 at the Library & Archives in Ottawa; and the Caribbean Pioneer Women of Canada will host a breakfast on February 8 in Montreal.



## The Annual General Meeting at a glance ...

On September 19, 2008 MATCH supporters gathered in Ottawa for our 32nd Annual General Meeting and to participate in a lively and edifying discussion entitled “The Food Crisis and its Impact on Women”.

Global and local perspectives on the gendered nature of the food crisis were shared by two exceptional panellists:

Moe Garahan is an Ottawa-area farmer, food security activist, and director of Just Foods.



Left to right: Elisabeth Barot, Mariama Williams and Moe Garahan

Mariama Williams – international economics and trade consultant and research associate with the International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN) – is a leading expert on the impacts of globalization on women; [a summary of Mariama’s remarks can be found on page 3 of this newsletter; her full remarks are posted at [matchinternational.org](http://matchinternational.org)]



MATCH Founding President, Dr. Norma Walmsley (second from left), among over 100 MATCH Supporters at the 2008 AGM.

At the AGM, MATCH President Jane Heron presided over the presentation of our annual report and financial statements for 2007-2008. Attendees ratified the new Board of Directors while noting a vacancy to be filled; MATCH is seeking a board member from Alberta.

We bid farewell and sincere thanks to two hard-working board members: Judith Wedderburn of Jamaica and Isabel Duque of Chile. Since 2001, Judith has served MATCH as Vice President (South), chair of the personnel committee, and member of the by-laws committee. Isabel has also been active on the board since 2001, having served as Vice President (South) and member of the personnel committee.

We celebrated the arrival of two new representatives of the Global South: Cecilia Babb for the Caribbean and Sandra Castaneda Martinez for Latin America. MATCH looks forward with great anticipation to the stimulating contributions of these two extraordinary women.

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MATCH is a non-profit, non-governmental development agency that concentrates its support on women through overseas project funding and education in Canada.

The aim of this publication is to engender thought and discussion about various development issues. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of MATCH as an organization and are those of the author(s) alone.

MATCH is committed, with our Southern sisters, to a feminist vision of development. Such a vision requires the eradication of all forms of injustice, particularly the exploitation and marginalization of women.

The newsletter is sent free of charge to MATCH donors. Subscriptions are available as follows:

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Groups	\$25
Third World women’s groups	Free

Contributions to *MATCH News* of articles, notices, resource information and graphics are encouraged. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

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## “The Global Food Crisis and women: making the best of everything”

Summary of a panel presentation by Mariama Williams of the Integrated Policy Research Institute to the MATCH International AGM, Ottawa, Canada, September 19, 2008

Today, the issues of poverty reduction and women’s empowerment are caught up in a series of global challenges which I call the “3 Fs”: food, fuel, and financial crises that are inextricably intertwined.

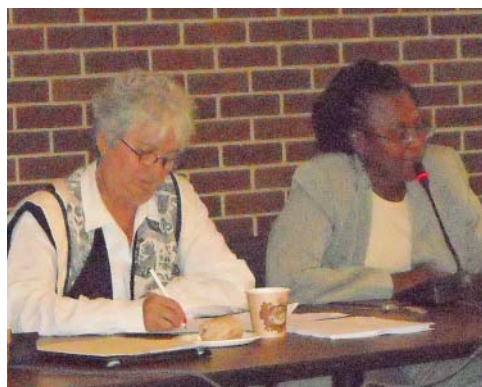
All three of these crises are clear evidence of systemic government-market-institutional failures to combat and deal with the excesses of deregulation, rapid and uncontrolled accumulation, and greed in both the North and the South.

These three crises are not equivalent in their impacts on the lives of countless girls, boys, men, and women in the South, nor do they command a similar sense of urgency or policy responsiveness from decision-makers. This, despite the food crisis being the one with the most significant and potentially deleterious impacts for women’s lives. To put it simply, it is a matter of life and death.

What are the dimensions of this crisis?

Rising prices and growing shortages of staples such as wheat, rice, corn, maize, and soybeans, as well as other foods and cooking oils, are threatening to push about 100 million people into poverty and hunger.

Stockpiles of grains like rice and wheat – which, along with potatoes,



Left to right: Elisabeth Barot. and Mariama Williams

provide over half the plant-based calories of the diet of most people – have declined sharply. The prices of wheat and maize have risen by about 130% since mid-2007 while the price of rice has more than doubled since January 2008.

Even before the manifestations of this current crisis, 854 million people in 82 countries suffered from food insecurity: over two billion suffered from malnutrition or under-nutrition and about 18,000 children died daily as a consequence of malnutrition.

Does this mean there is a lack of food? No, there is enough food. People simply cannot afford to buy it.

Meanwhile, the gender dimensions of the food crisis have yet to be fully explored, despite the fact that women persistently represent a large percentage of those suffering from chronic hunger and food security:

- 7 out of 10 of the world’s hungry are women and girls
- 45% of women in developing countries suffer from anemia, which is linked to malnutrition

- pregnant and nursing women have specific needs for proper food intake, yet horrific numbers of women die daily from childbirth related traumas (about 300 women die daily during childbirth)
- young women and children are vulnerable to the risk of permanent malnourishment

The data speaks for itself: two-thirds of countries in the South are net food importers and vulnerable to volatile world prices. Current proposals would only increase this dependence on food import while allowing agricultural transnational corporations to benefit from high prices.

Never significantly addressed are the gender and women’s empowerment dynamics of the crisis. This presents extreme danger for the forward momentum of women’s social and economic empowerment, but also offers the potential for appreciating women’s roles and contributions to agricultural production and the improvement of that sector’s productivity.

Yet none of the current reform strategies consider shifting the balance of power in favour of rural women. There is a need for a radical departure from so-called gender neutral policies. A proactive, gendered approach to the food crisis would include links between the food crisis and issues related to water and energy access and affordability, as well as the comprehensive integration of issues like health care, child care, and reproductive and sexual health.

Mariama’s full presentation can be found at [matchinternational.org](http://matchinternational.org).



## Working in Partnership

### A conversation with Carolyn Reynolds, Executive Director of WIN-Belize – a MATCH partner

#### How does MATCH assist WIN-Belize in raising awareness about HIV/AIDS in marginalized communities?

MATCH's involvement with our work in this area has had a positive impact. We coordinated and implemented two sessions with journalists on the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with AIDS. A simulation exercise on stigma helped participants understand how it feels to be discriminated against and to be more sensitive when writing news articles. This was followed by a two-day forum with women from throughout Belize on understanding sexuality and its relation to HIV/AIDS and Gender. Attendees expressed gratitude and requested a follow-up session. And sessions with women and men in rural Toledo were so popular, we've been asked to do more.

With MATCH sponsorship, our work in Mayan communities is increasing women's understanding of HIV/AIDS and mobilizing communities on the issue. I also believe the women's forum made a difference in empowering women in personal relationships, so we will continue to use this technique throughout the remainder of the project.

#### What is the biggest struggle facing Belizean women now?

By far, it is women's access to resources and services – especially marginalized populations. Many Belizean women do not know their rights and are learning to challenge a patriarchal system.

#### What is one way WIN-Belize makes a difference?

Our advocacy campaign on gender budgeting develops economic literacy for the general public through a radio program, education sessions in schools and with women's groups, and a manual on the budget process for schools and communities nation-wide. An immediate result of this campaign is the public consultation process that the Government of Belize just instituted for the 2008- 09 budget in which space is being provided for people's participation.



Left to right: Bonnie Diamond and Carolyn Reynolds

You are currently attending a short human rights course at the University of Toronto – how will this help your work with WIN-Belize?

I have so much more knowledge about the various human rights instruments and how they can be used effectively in advocating for changes to laws and policies. I plan to be more vigilant in promoting women's rights as human rights to ensure that gender equality is achieved in Belize. I also hope to do more education about these instruments with our members and sister groups.

### MATCH in cyberspace

In our last newsletter, we invited you to send a message to [info@matchinternational.org](mailto:info@matchinternational.org) saying "YES!" to e-updates. Why? Because we are gradually modernizing our communications systems and soon hope to stay connected with all of you in a paperless way.

Meanwhile, we encourage supporters and partners like you to please promote and make use of the range of information and tools housed at [matchinternational.org](http://matchinternational.org).

So let's get wired, shall we? Please **EMAIL US** to ensure your current address gets into our database.

See you on-line ...

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## Monica Carrillo comes to Ottawa

In August 2008, the Executive Director of MATCH partner LUNDU in Peru visited Ottawa.

The unstoppable Monica Carrillo founded LUNDU (Centro de Estudios y Promocion Afro-Peruano / Center for Afro-Peruvian Studies and Empowerment) in 2001 at the age of 21. Devoted to advancing the human rights and political participation of people of African descent in Peru, LUNDU works to empower young people in low-income areas who face pervasive discrimination and receive little information on sexuality and reproductive health. LUNDU concentrates its efforts in the rural towns of El Carmen and El Callao.

In a meeting with a senior CIDA official, Monica spoke of LUNDU's vision to use the arts as an instrument to fight sexism and racism from the grassroots up.

Monica explained that El Callao – where children as young as 10 have weapons – has the highest concentration of guns in the country among the civilian population. She shared how difficult it is to conduct a workshop when eight year olds brag about how many shells they can pick up at a gang member's funeral (the last rite consists of several rounds of firing in the air). The 24 children and youth in the LUNDU programme are taught alternatives to violence and to pride in their ancestors' contributions to building the country. LUNDU teaches them about the roots of racism and sexism and how to fight back through art. Participants create masks of the person they wish to be and dialogue about self-esteem. In cases of serious disorders, LUNDU intervenes with counseling and/or psychological support.

A look at the children in El Callao:

- 50% are malnourished
- 30% are born with mental problems as result of their parents' addictions
- 70% live only with their mothers or grandmothers and have at least three siblings by different fathers
- children use bullet shells as toys in their play, imitating gang leaders

In El Carmen, families are very poor and young women are easily lured into the sex trade as part of the internal tourism industry. Preliminary research indicates that after Lima, El Carmen's region of Ica has the second highest rate of HIV infection in Peru. Says Monica, "It doesn't take much to make the connection." LUNDU's programme works with 14 El Carmen youth.

While in Ottawa, Monica shared success stories with MATCH staff, best practices with local community leaders and women's groups, and even had time to stop by Ottawa's popular Greek Festival.

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## Sri Lankan partner makes links with Canadian allies

In August 2008, MATCH welcomed to Canada Shyamala Sivagurunathan, Field Director for Women Defining Peace Project (WDP) – a MATCH partner in Sri Lanka.

Women Defining Peace – a CIDA-initiated project managed by MATCH, WUSC, and Co-water – supports collaborative action on issues related to national peace, including the reduction of violence against women

Shyamala used her visit to connect with the very resources that help support the work of women in Sri Lanka. During a discussion with MATCH and WDP (CIDA) staff, information was exchanged regarding violence against women in both countries. We talked about the theoretical frameworks used to combat violence against women in Sri Lanka and Canada, as well as the practical programs used to reduce violence against women. Shyamala heard first-hand of MATCH's experience with women's groups around the world who are working on violence against women, particularly in countries where conditions are similar to those in Sri Lanka, ie: where women are coping with war.

Shyamala is one of our cherished distant partners, but engaging with her in person, in real time, reinforced again that a vital part of the MATCH magic is fostering links with women around the world so that our experiences can be shared, and so the global network of women's resources can be strengthened.

## Donor Profiles

### Hilda Powers

*"It's the empowerment of women that will make all the difference."*

She's been a MATCH donor for over ten years, but Hilda Powers feels as though she's always been connected with MATCH, especially its philosophy: "I firmly believe that women are the foundation and strength in every community and family – if you help the women, you help communities and families."

What strikes Hilda is how some organizations are still about doing 'for' instead of 'with', whereas MATCH supports initiatives by and for women: "Those women are the ones who know what they need."



Hilda Powers

Particularly inspired by projects that develop women's financial independence and legislative advocacy, Hilda considers all MATCH partners to be engaged in equally important activities:

"Every time I read the newsletter, I come across another innovative initiative – and since they all relate to legal, financial, and social aspects, they link to everything."

Never a believer in big projects, Hilda likes how MATCH addresses grassroots needs one woman, one family, and one community at a time. It's in this way, she says, that the MATCH contribution to the global movement for women's equality is so vital.

"The way forward is to build sustainable communities – to strengthen women in whatever ways they identify and provide the resources for them to pursue those goals themselves."

### Emanuela Mousley

*"I support MATCH because it works to help women achieve independence and develop the confidence to contribute to the economy through community development."*

A psychologist who has long been concerned with women's rights, Emanuela grew up in China where she often saw baby girls left by the roadside by parents unable to feed their large family. As sons were considered to be of greater economic advantage, this sort of institutionalized sexism made a lifelong impression on her. Even now, Emanuela follows with a sense of urgency all "the horrible things that happen to women and girls the world over" and seeks out projects that succeed in making deep change.

So what exactly about MATCH inspires Emanuela to give? "MATCH is concerned about the roots of injustice towards women and tries to correct them." She also likes that her donation goes further thanks to the matching arrangement with CIDA.

Of special interest to Emanuela is the situation of women and girls in Africa who endure female genital mutilation (FGM). She values the contribution of MATCH partners who strive to put an end to that form of injustice, and does what she can to increase public awareness of the issue.

Emanuela cites MATCH's support of micro-business as another reason for her ongoing support: "Working with women in the area of sustainable food production is a key way to help them out of the dependence on the very people who oppress them."

Emanuela encourages others to donate to MATCH because it partners exclusively with initiatives working for and with women, with proven success.



Emanuela Mousley and her granddaughter Elicia

## MATCH staffer honoured for volunteerism

**M**aria-Eugenia Otarola – MATCH Program Officer for Asia and South America – was honoured for long-standing volunteer involvement with Immigrant Women Services Ottawa (IWSO) at the organization's 20th Anniversary celebration in November 2008 in Nepean. Maria was recognized as a trusted and valued expert on women's issues and cross-cultural communications. Attendees of the ceremony included Ottawa City Councillor Diane Holmes and local A-Channel personality Karen Soloman.



Honouree Maria-Eugenia Otarola pictured with IWSO Executive Director Lucy Spencer (left).

Marking 20 years of service delivery on “creating positive change in women's lives,” IWSO provides tools for empowerment to immigrant and visible minority women and their children who experience violence.

## Introducing the newest members of the MATCH Board of Directors

**Sandra Castaneda Martinez** is a social justice advocate from Santiago, Chile who works with the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network. Not only does Sandra have an extensive background in public policy and action campaigns, she specializes in social sector advocacy through alliance building and citizen participation strategies. She volunteers with a number of civil society groups in Chile, does training on capacity building and consumer rights through an ESCR framework, and teaches conflict resolution and democratic leadership. Sandra holds a law degree and has pursued graduate studies in Europe-Latin American politics and cooperation relations, as well as women's human rights.

**Cecilia Babb** is executive coordinator of the Caribbean (NGO) Policy Development Centre in Welches, Barbados. An Mphil Candidate in Sociology in gender and development, Cecilia brings experience in gender analysis, project design and management, and advocacy. She has done extensive research on gender and development and is a social commentator on gender justice, equality, and participatory/ collaborative natural resource management. Cecilia currently volunteers with the Dominican Association of Barbados, the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action, and the Commonwealth Foundation Advisory Group on Governance.

### MATCH Board of Directors 2008/2009

Patricia Harewood, President	Ottawa, ON, Canada
Effie Simpson Ekuban, VP South	Accra, Ghana
Sharmini Fernando, VP North	Toronto, ON, Canada
Mita Meyers, Secretary/Treasurer	Ottawa, ON, Canada
Jane Heron, Past-President	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Suzanne Johnson-Harvor, Co-founder	Toronto, ON, Canada
Cecilia Babb	St. James, Barbados
Elisabeth Barot	Ottawa, ON, Canada
Urvashi Butalia	New Delhi, India
Sandra Castaneda Martinez	Santiago, Chile
Stella Lejohn	Winnipeg, MB, Canada



## 4 easy ways to donate

### #1 The United Way

Even though we are not a United Way agency, you can designate MATCH International as the recipient of any gifts you make through your employee payroll deduction to the United Way.

Easy – Simply indicate the name ‘MATCH International’ and charitable business number 12303 7939 RR0001 on your payroll pledge form. Then the United Way will issue you a charitable receipt and send your donation straight to us.

### #2 Planned giving

A planned gift – or ‘legacy gift’ – gives you the control to decide in advance what happens to your estate.

Naming MATCH in your will is one of the simplest and most flexible ways to leave a lasting legacy while allowing you to maintain your current level of financial security. Whether you allocate a specific cash amount, an asset, or a percentage of the remaining estate – you will receive a receipt for the value of your gift along with a tax credit to reduce tax otherwise payable on your final tax return. A simple clause in your will is all it takes to leave MATCH a gift that keeps on giving.

### #3 Life insurance

Consider giving this powerful gift with big benefits. Make a significant future gift at a current cost that’s modest – without reducing your estate. The gift is not diminished due to taxes, probate or administration fees. Making MATCH the owner or beneficiary of a new or existing policy entitles you to a current tax receipt for the premiums you pay, yet the amount of your gift will grow as the cash surrender value of the donated policy increases.

Even by simply naming MATCH as a beneficiary, your estate will be entitled to a tax receipt when the policy proceeds are received.

### #4 Transfer Securities/Stocks

You can enjoy significant tax savings when you make a donation of appreciated securities in the form of an “in kind” transfer of the security itself. MATCH issues a charitable tax receipt for the fair market value of the gift of securities to be used for tax purposes- the fair market value is determined based on the closing price of the securities on the date the gift is received by MATCH.

*For additional details regarding any of these donating options, contact Terri Jones at 613-238-1312 ext. 113 or 1-888-414-8717, email [tjones@matchinternational.org](mailto:tjones@matchinternational.org), or consult your financial advisor or lawyer.*

### Yes! I Support Women’s Efforts

To end violence, poverty, inequality, and injustice globally.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### My donation is enclosed...

\$ 25     \$ 35     \$ 50

\$ 75     \$ 100     \$ 200

Other    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bill my:



Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Become a Sustaining Donor

MATCH can count on my ongoing support. I authorize MATCH to draw the following amount from the specified chequing account on the first day of each month. If you prefer your monthly donation be processed on your credit card, please check off the amount and fill in your card information above:

\$ 10     \$ 15     \$ 25

\$ 50     \$ 75     \$ 200

Other    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Please enclose an unsigned cheque marked VOID)

**GUARANTEE:** You may change or cancel your participation in the Sustaining Donor Plan at any time by notifying MATCH International Centre.

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