

March 10, 2010

Dear ARM Members and Friends,

I am writing with important updates on ARM (including its May conference “Representing Motherhood”), *The Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering*, and Demeter Press. But before I do, I must say THANK YOU!!!! for the outpouring of support for ARM, its journal and press though words are inadequate to convey the depth of my appreciation and astonishment at everyone’s love for ARM and outrage at its forced closure. I have received 500 plus emails in seven days and 350 letters have been already sent to York administration with letters still arriving every hour. That women, men and mothers have done this in the busyness of their lives has brought much needed joy to my heart—and tears to my eyes. Within hours of the forced closure, the voice mail on the ARM phone was full; the mom bloggers were spreading the news faster than the flu spreads through a household of five. Blogger and journalist Ann Douglas had a Toronto Star blog posted within hours, Kate Sanagan, a blogger started a fundraising campaign and Shawna Lewkowitz, the co-ordinator of the London Ontario Mother Outlaws group set up a “Friends of the Association for Research on Mothering” Facebook page, now with 500 plus members. And within three days of the closure Toronto Star columnist Andrea Gordon had a lengthy and powerful story on the forced ARM closure on the front page of the Life Section that lead to CBC radio (Canada’s public/national radio station) covering the story in their news all day Friday. Wow! And again that this was accomplished by everyday women reveals that grassroots feminist activism is still very much alive in these so called post-feminist times. Conveyed most poignantly by the dozens of women who wrote fast and furious emails saying I will do this or that after I get back from daughter’s skating competition or my son’s birthday party or by the brief note from Ann Douglas on her blackberry when she wrote: “Just uploaded the latest blog as I am buying chicken”

Indeed hell hath no fury like a pissed off mama

*Thank You!!!*

PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR FULL MEDIA COVERAGE ON THE ARM CLOSURE.  
Please distribute widely and forward to your university and/or community media

Given the outpouring of support we are resolved to keep Demeter Press (and we hope ARM and JARM going with or without York’s support). Weekly updates will posted on the ARM website, and the “Friends of the Association for Research on Mothering” Facebook Page (please join if you have not already), and sent to members and supporters of ARM. And PLEASE keep the letters coming, buy a Demeter Press title from our new website [DemeterPress.org](http://DemeterPress.org), and contact Kate Sanagan -[ksanagan@gmail.com](mailto:ksanagan@gmail.com)- to help with the fundraising. MAKE ALL DONATIONS AND DEMETER PRESS TITLE PURCHASES IN A CHEQUE PAYABLE TO DEMETER PRESS. Full details may be found below.

Attached please find the Demeter Press catalogue and the Forced Arm closure letter (March 2) that has the emails of university officials to send letters to.

## **CONFERENCES**

**BEING A MOTHER IN ACADEME SYMPOSIUM**, April 8, 2010  
Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University **WILL PROCEED AS SCHEDULED**

**REPRESENTING MOTHERHOOD: MOTHERS IN THE ARTS, LITERATURE, MEDIA AND POPULAR CULTURE**, May 20-22, 2010

After much discussion and deliberation we have decided to continue with this conference. **BUT IT WILL NOW TAKE PLACE IN TORONTO, ONTARIO, MAY 20-22, 2010**, venue TBA. We have moved the location of the conference to Toronto to save much needed money (having the conference in New York costs approximately 10,000 dollars in room rental, av, and travel) and to enable us to have the conference as a fundraiser for ARM.

We understand that Joy Rose is now hosting a conference sponsored by the Motherhood Foundation in New York the same weekend as the original ARM conference. But please note this conference is NOT the original ARM conference (120 presenters) nor was ARM made aware of her plans to host this conference. We hope that our 120 presenters can come to Toronto for the Representing Motherhood conference. Though this conference will no longer take place in New York, it will be held in downtown Toronto and it will be, as all ARM conferences are, an exciting event. If you still wish to go to New York, you are welcome to present at or attend the Motherhood Foundation conference (please contact Joy Rose at [joymrose@aol.com](mailto:joymrose@aol.com) for details on this.) Again our deepest apologies for the confusion this has caused; but again ARM cancelled the Representing Motherhood conference with the forced closure and was not informed of Joy Rose's plans to create a replacement conference the same weekend.

We plan to have the program for the Toronto ARM conference on ARM's new website MotherhoodStudies.org soon. **TO THAT END, WE ASK THAT ALL PRESENTERS ORIGINALLY ACCEPTED FOR THE ARM CONFERENCE LET US KNOW YOUR INTENTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;** (if you are interested and able to attend the conference now that is being held in downtown Toronto May 20-22, 2010). Please let us know within the week. **THANK YOU.** Full registration information, including conference program, will be on [www.MotherhoodStudies.org](http://www.MotherhoodStudies.org) next week

## **JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH ON MOTHERING:**

A discussion on this continues. Information will be posted and distributed to our lists as it is known.

## **Additional Information:**

We are asking ARM members and supporters to:

1) Write a letter, however brief, to York officials listed in the ARM closure email (It may be found on ARM's website [www.yorku.ca/arm](http://www.yorku.ca/arm) or in attached letter). In a week 350 letters have been received. Also, I understand that Associate Dean Crow is sending a form letter in her reply to concerned individuals. Many people have emailed inquiring on how they should respond to this note and its misrepresentation of information: "York has provided significant financial support" and that I, as director "chose to close ARM". If you are so inclined please respond to Associate Dean Crow and ask her to please detail/specify what this significant financial support has been and secondly to question her statement that I chose to close ARM (as I have said to individuals who have asked for more clarification on this: Such a situation may be likened to an individual at the edge of a cliff with a loaded gun to her head who "chose" to jump.

2) Distribute widely this email, the media coverage (see below) and the ARM closure letter; contact your local media. Join the "Friends of the Association for Research on Mothering" Facebook page.

3) Send to ARM, myself and Kate Sanagan [ksanagan@gmail.com](mailto:ksanagan@gmail.com) any and all ideas/leads/contacts for funding for ARM/JARM./Demeter Press post York.

4) Please purchase a Demeter Press title from Demeter Press' new site [www.demeterpress.org](http://www.demeterpress.org) with a cheque payable to Demeter Press. Or make a donation to Demeter Press. And encourage your library, friends, and colleagues etc. to do the same. York is disgracefully not honouring invoices and thus our production people have not been paid for their just completed work on Demeter Press' most recent title. With the money generated from Demeter Press sales the production staff can be paid for the work completed and we can move our spring titles into production. The Demeter Press catalogues as well as all forthcoming titles are listed on the site. Again please purchase and/or pre-order Demeter Press titles with a cheque payable to Demeter Press. (TAX is NO longer being charged so please ignore this part of the order form). Again cheques are to be made payable to DEMETER PRESS. We are currently securing a postal box for Demeter Press but until this is set up, please send order forms/cheques to Demeter Press at the York address. THANK YOU

5) Contact Kate Sanagan at [ksanagan@gmail.com](mailto:ksanagan@gmail.com) concerning the fundraising Initiative. And if you are able to raise funds/donate money to save ARM/JARM/Demeter Press please make cheque payable to Demeter Press

**PLEASE SEE RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE. PLEASE DISTRIBUTE WIDELY!!!!!!!**

The forced closure of ARM story was included in the CBC radio hourly news show; all day Friday March 5, 2010.

<http://www.thestar.com/living/article/775217--mothering-research-centre-to-close>

<http://thestar.blogs.com/anndouglas/2010/03/as-soon-as-word-got-out-that--the-association-for-research-on-mothering-was-going-to-close-its-doors-the--mothers-started-ta.html>

<http://thestar.blogs.com/anndouglas/2010/03/interview-with-andrea-oreilly-arms-mama-speaks-frankly-about-whats-ailing-her-baby.html>

<http://www.parentcentral.ca/parent/newsfeatures/article/775217--mothering-research-centre-to-close>

<http://www.picklemethis.com/2010/03/03/the-association-for-research-on-mothering-and-me/>

<http://www.parentopia.net/blog/2010/03/association-for-research-on-mothering.html>

<http://feministphilosophers.wordpress.com/2010/03/04/closure-of-association-for-research-on-mothering/>

<http://www.phdinparenting.com/2010/03/02/a-day-in-the-life-of-marginalizing-fringe-groups-in-canada/>

<http://plainsfeminist.blogspot.com/2010/03/closure-of-association-for-research-on.html>

<http://chronicle.com/blogPost/Association-for-Research-on/21622/>

With the deepest appreciation,

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