

# Andover Bread Loaf

## writing workshop news

### WRITE TO CHANGE PARTNERSHIP

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#### *Greetings Friends,*

January 1, 1999 marked a new era in Andover Bread Loaf's (ABL) history with the launching of our own international telecommunications network: the Global Learning Network (GLN). The GLN is a small-scale, teacher-centered educational network modeled after the highly acclaimed Bread Loaf Rural Teacher Network (BLRTN). In collaboration with the International Academic Partnership (IAP), **Write to Change (WTC)**, and BLRTN, ABL will organize and manage the GLN as a part of BreadNet, Bread Loaf's telecommunications network.

ABL alumni and staff are working on GLN projects that link teachers and students from 8 different countries (Bangladesh, England, India, Kenya, Pakistan, South Africa, Tanza-



**The 1998 ABL Writing Workshop (front to back):** Lubna Kohati (Karachi, Pakistan), Arjumand Sayed Hussain (Bombay, India), Vuyelwa Maqubela (Andover, Massachusetts), Farhana Rarhat Asif (Karachi, Pakistan) Kim Barry (Lawrence, Massachusetts), Coleen Alonzo (Lawrence, Massachusetts), Christine Edwards (Mt. Kisco, New York), Betsy Kimball (Lawrence, Massachusetts), Joan Scully Metz (Lawrence, Massachusetts), Judy Warn (Noank, Connecticut), Regina Tate (Norwich, Connecticut), Stephen Abdallah (Dar-Es Salaam, Tanzania), Lou Bernieri (Andover, Massachusetts), Patricia Echessa-Kariuki (Nairobi, Kenya), Mary Beth Smails (Lawrence, Massachusetts), Hazel Lockett (East Orange, New Jersey)

nia, and the United States) on four different continents.

Drawing on the experience and the research developed by BLRTN teachers, the GLN is a powerful tool for:

1. ongoing teacher professional development and research
2. groundbreaking

collaborative and student and teacher projects

3. organic renewal in schools and school systems.

Functioning productively in a global environment depends increasingly on electronic networks that span diverse regional and national bound-

aries. The GLN links students and teachers across the world as they work with each other to conduct significant cross-disciplinary learning projects. The partnerships are not driven merely by the goal of computer literacy but by the desire of teachers to create innovative global learning environments that prepare students for the economic and social challenges they will surely face.

As this newsletter goes to press, several GLN pilot projects are up and running. Mohsin Tejani, (ABL 1997) in Karachi, Pakistan and Lee Krishnan (ABL 1997) in Bombay, India have students in after school programs writing to each other informally about themselves and their families. In a similar project, ABL staff member Susan Phieffer's 7th grade class in Lawrence, MA is writing to one of

Lee's classes; the students' focus is their lives and their communities. Both projects, though only modest pilots, have elicited passionate interest from students and teachers involved.

The summer of 1999 will be a vital one for organizing and launching GLN projects, as ABL teachers will spend

two intense weeks together in our summer program working on building partnerships. At the time this is written, we're not sure what will emerge on the GLN next year, though teachers from many disciplines (English, Math, Science, Economics, History, Languages, Physical Education, Art, Music, Commu-

nity Service) have begun thinking about and/or planning projects.

We do know that one of the major GLN initiatives will be an international inquiry and conference on HIV/AIDS, a disease that continues to plague people throughout the world. Included with teachers

and students in this online conference will be several AIDS activists who are ABL staff members. We plan to have the GLN support all the HIV/AIDS Writing For A Healthy Community Projects that ABL students and teachers are working on in their schools and communities.

-Lou Bernieri, Director  
ABL