As I sit down to write my inaugural presidential column, I find myself thinking, “the state of our association is strong!” All humour aside, I am delighted to be assuming the helm at a time when WAWH is thriving due to the stewardship of so many women who have invested their time, energy, and vision. The success of our latest conference in Sacramento and recent developments in our use of social media show how we are continuing to evolve, even as we remain true to our organization’s founding ideals and spirit.

The 2015 WAWH Conference did not disappoint. The Welcome Reception — at which seven authors read excerpts from their recently published books — drew a large and enthusiastic crowd on Thursday night, filling every seat in the room. On Friday morning, Kitty Sklar and Tom Dublin officially launched the conference with a wonderful dual keynote entitled, “Our Joint Journey into the World of Women’s History.” Narrating their own personal and professional histories, they offered a unique perspective on the development of women’s and gender history over the past 50 years — one that was as entertaining as it was instructive. For those who missed it, the video can be viewed here: [http://chswg.binghamton.edu/media/Sacramento_20150515.html](http://chswg.binghamton.edu/media/Sacramento_20150515.html).

Other highlights of the conference included the President’s Panel, “Recent Scholarship in African/African-American Women’s History: A Roundtable Honoring the Memory of Stephanie Camp,” organized and chaired by Jessica Weiss, and a roundtable on “Jane De Hart on Ruth Bader Ginsberg: The Challenges of Writing on a Sitting Supreme Court Justice,” organized by Program Committee Co-Chairs Jennifer Robin Terry and Danielle Swiotnek, who deserve much credit for bringing us such a rich program. Faced with an increased number of paper and panel submissions, Jennifer and Danielle increased the number of panels by adding an extra session. They also introduced a graduate student poster display, along with a prize for best poster. (This year it went to Gianna May, University of New Mexico). The quality and breadth of the many papers presented reflects the vitality of our organization, which has always prized a “big tent” approach. Founded to further the interests of women historians, rather than historians of women, we have never limited ourselves to women’s or gender history, although work in these fields has always featured prominently in our programs. While this is well understood by current members, we need to continue to communicate our mission and eclecticism to colleagues and graduate students, who are occasionally misled by our name.

To my mind, the ways in which WAWH facilitates connections across generations is one of the organization’s most characteristic strengths. I was particularly cognizant of this in Sacramento, in part because several of my graduate students attended the conference, and I had the pleasure of introducing them to more senior scholars. I was also fortunate (Continued on page 9)
Letter from the Executive Director
Cheryl Krasnick Warsh

Happy Summer, WAWH members, from Nanaimo. Unfortunately, our temperate rainforest has endured a heat wave and drought too familiar to you in the southwest. Hopefully, things will return to a soggier normal soon.

We are preparing for the Denver conference with a stellar organizational team. Check out the Call for Papers as well as the website for more information. All paper and panel proposals, including AV requests, have a deadline of September 18th, 2015.

Submissions to the new Graduate Student Poster Prize, which are sent to the Programme Committee, have a November 1st deadline, to give graduate students more time to formulate their proposals.

Prize submissions must be in by January 4th, 2016, except for the Carol Gold Graduate Student Paper Prize, which is due April 11th.

More information about all of the awards, and applications, are available on the wawh.org website.

The draft 2015 WAWH Members Directory was circulated, and we have received a number of updates and changes for members. You may continue to send me changes until August 31st. Only members in good standing will receive the final version, so remember to renew your membership.

Hope to see you in Denver, and slather on that sunscreen!

Cheryl Krasnick Warsh
executivedirector@wawh.org

Member Reflection
Natalie Mendoza

This was my second time attending a WAWH conference, but my first time presenting research. I had been told on numerous occasions that WAWH was the best place for grad students to present material for the first time — everyone is kind, supportive, and collegial — and this is absolutely true! I found the panel members and audience to be generous and insightful with their comments, and I am glad I had the opportunity to share my work, for the first time, at a WAWH conference. Thanks for having me!
Member News


https://app.box.com/s/wbx8o2beavfo1gf1apvqp8hyco4afo8l

Anya Jabour (University of Montana) and collaborators on the "Montana Women’s History Matters” project hosted by the Montana Historical Society received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (montanawomenshistory.org). In addition, her article, “Feminism Personified: Judy Smith and the Women’s Movement,” Montana: The Magazine of Western History, Vol. 64, No. 2 (Summer 2014), 18-21 (http://montanawomenshistory.org/feminism-personified-judy-smith-and-the-womens-movement/) was selected by the Montana Historical Society Volunteers for the Friends Choice Award of 2015. Jabour is currently serving as historical consultant for a new miniseries about the Civil War, "Mercy Street,” airing on PBS in January 2016 (http://www.pbs.org/about/news/archive/2015/mercy-street-cast/).

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Reis is moving to New York City to accept a job at the Macaulay Honors College, the honors college for the City University of New York. She will be teaching classes on gender and bioethics. She can still be reached via her University of Oregon email: lzreis@uoregon.edu.

Tiffany Gonzáles (Texas A & M University) published a number of book reviews including:
✦ Mexican Inclusion: The Origins of Anti-Discrimination Policy in Texas and the Southwest, by Matthew Gritter
✦ Aztlán: Journal of Chicano Studies, (forthcoming Fall 2015)
✦ The Latino Generation: Voices of the New America, by Mario T. Garcia
✦ Southwestern Historical Quarterly 118, no 4 (April 2015): 445 – 446


Ava Kahn’s co-authored anthology Transnational Traditions: New Perspectives on American Jewish History was published by Wayne State University.
http://www.wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/transnational-traditions

(Continued on page 4)
Member News (Continued from page 3)


PearlAnn Reichwein and Paulina Retamales at University of Alberta’s Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation have published a new study of interest to historians of childhood, education, and urban reform. Their article “A Healthy and Contented Band”: The Gyro Club and Playgrounds in Edmonton Urban Reform, 1921-1944” appeared in *Sport History Review* 45 (2014): 96-122. The study examines the leadership of men in the local Gyro Club and playground workers in the creation of holistic play programs for children in a western Canadian city. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1123/shr.2014-0026](http://dx.doi.org/10.1123/shr.2014-0026) Additionally, Reichwein was awarded the 2015 CHA Clio Prize (Prairies) for her book *Climber’s Paradise: Making Canada’s Mountain Parks, 1904-1974* (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2015), which investigates mountaineers in Canada’s national alpine club and its tenacious advocacy for conservation and parks. *Climber’s Paradise* was also a non-fiction finalist short listed in the Banff Mountain Film & Book Festival (Mountain and Wilderness) and IndieFAB Book of the Year (Environment and Ecology) competitions, as well as winner of an American Association of University Presses book design award. The book is currently exhibited in AAUP’s annual winners tour. [https://holeinthebucket.wordpress.com/2015/06/03/ climbers-paradise-wins-the-chas-clio-prize-prairies/](https://holeinthebucket.wordpress.com/2015/06/03/climbers-paradise-wins-the-chas-clio-prize-prairies/)

Kathleen B. Jones (2015 Kanner Award winner) worked with Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy Drama Teacher, Michael Levin, and his advanced acting class on a production of her new play, *The Origin of the Seasons*. Loosely based on Jones’s memoir, *Living Between Danger and Love* (Rutgers University Press, 2000), the play examines the issue of domestic violence through the true story of a feminist woman student murdered by her boyfriend and the widening circles affected by this tragedy. Structured around the Greek myth about the origin of the seasons — the story of Demeter and Persephone — the play narrates a tale of loss and mourning, attachment and letting go. In May, the original cast performed it again in Santa Barbara, as part of a graduate student’s field work with the Santa Barbara Domestic Violence Solutions. Anyone interested in the play should contact Kathleen B. Jones (kjones@mail.sdsu.edu) about bringing the play to other areas as a collaborative interdisciplinary learning experience.

Marcia M. Gallo (UNLV Associate Professor of History) published “No One Helped”: Kitty Genovese, New York City, and the Myth of Urban Apathy (Cornell University Press, 2015). In her book, Gallo examines one of America’s most infamous true-crime stories: the 1964 rape and murder of Catherine “Kitty” Genovese in a middle-class neighborhood of Queens, New York. The story began when a front-page report in the New York Times incorrectly identified thirty-eight indifferent witnesses to the crime, fueling fears of apathy and urban decay in New York and in cities throughout the nation and world. Genovese’s life, including her lesbian relationship, also was obscured in media accounts of the crime. Fifty years later, the story of Kitty Genovese continues to circulate in popular culture. Although it is now widely known that there were far fewer actual witnesses to the crime than was reported in 1964, the moral of the story continues to be urban apathy. “No One Helped” traces the Genovese story’s development and resilience while challenging the myth it created. It places the conscious creation and promotion of the Genovese story within a changing urban environment. Even though the particulars of the sad story of her death were distorted, Gallo emphasizes that it left an enduring legacy of positive changes to the urban environment. www.cornellpress.cornell.edu

Share your accomplishments! Include your professional news in the next Networker. Send submissions for Member News to: Networker@wawh.org. A reminder email will be sent to the organizational email list.

Welcome New Members
These members joined between February through August 12, 2015:

**YEARLY MEMBERSHIP**
Lynn Wenzel
Alyssa Cole
Laura Ackley
Kevin Kemp
Hannah Kemp
Margaret Neubauer
Amanda Williams
Tiffany Gonzalez
Tanya Bailey
Renata Keller
Cathy McClive
Kimberly Welch

**THREE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP**
Jen Brown
Lisa Cody
Amy Harris
Kathleen Jones
Lisa Materson
Sharan Newman
Jacquelin Pels
Amy Randall
Elizabeth Watkins
Jayme Yahr

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP**
Estelle Freedman
Rebecca Plant
Business Meeting Minutes of the May 2015 Conference
Submitted by Lindsay Wilson, Secretary

The regular annual business meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians was held at 5:30pm on Saturday, May 16, 2014, in the Brandywine Room of the Hilton Hotel-Arden West in Sacramento, California.

Officers Present: President Jessica Weiss, Executive Director Cheryl Warsh, President-Elect Rebecca Plant, Secretary Lindsay Wilson, and Treasurer Pamela Stewart.

Proceedings

The meeting was called to order, Jessica Weiss presiding.

MOTION made to call the meeting together.

Motion made to approve the Agenda. MOTION APPROVED.

Announcements

Conference:

Beginning in 2017, we will go back to April as the preferred conference time. The site will be in Southern California. Costs are important in choosing a site.

Conference coordination is complicated and requires institutional memory.

We envision a progression of members of the Conference Committee from position 1 (Future Site Coordinator) to 2 (Program Production Coordinator to 3 (Onsite Registration Coordinator). No one this year had prior experience, which we've realized is required. Conference coordinators recommend terms of 2 years for each position, which would end up being a 6-year commitment for each member. Current members will be asked to stay on for another year. The Onsite Registration Coordinator chairs this committee.

We need to charge more for future conferences because of increases in AV costs.

Change in conference fee policy: There were lots of last-minute cancellations from this conference, including from panel participants. We need to be explicit that, after a certain date, we will consider the conference fees paid by those who cancel to be donations.

The Program Committee contacted faculty in the fields of panels, asking them to join a panel and become WAWH members. They did a lot of publicity: CFP H-Net, 72 history departments, as well as calls for chairs and commentators. We need to continue this model.

Eventbrite is efficient and saving us money in stationery and postage.
**Business Meeting Minutes (Continued)**

**Personnel:**

There are 2 Networker editors: Samantha Francois, content; Niki Nibbe, proofreader and MS publication.

Laura Munoz will chair the Chaudhuri Prize again next year. Please recommend books to her.

Penny Renner has joined the Nominating Committee.

Need to appoint: Eventbrite manager (No volunteers yet)

**New ad hoc committees:**

Let’s establish the following ad hoc committees this year and make them more permanent next year by announcing proposed changes in the winter edition of *The Networker* before discussion and voting at the Business Meeting in 2016:

1) **50th Anniversary Committee Conference in 2019**

Let’s ask people who have a long history with WAWH to share their stories.

Let’s survey historians who have retired in the last 5-10 years or are about to retire: Are their lines being replaced?

2) **Publicity Committee** — Sunu Kodumthara

Prize committee and program committee chairs are urged to seek out applicants for prizes and participants for panels. Every member can help.

3) **Public/Digital History** — possibly Andrea Milne and Karen Huebner.

4) **Should we have a formal committee dedicated to mentorship/professionalization?**

(No conclusion.)

**Other matters to vote on at the 2016 Business Meeting that need to be announced in advance in *The Networker.***

Vote to formalize the $100 graduate poster award.

Vote to formalize the Nominating Committee.

**Membership:**

It is important to grow membership; maintain institutional memory.

(Continued on page 8)
431 members renewed their memberships before the conference.

We have over 700 members on the books. How can we bring them back?

⇒ Offer a 3-year membership. Notify members of this option before June 15.
⇒ Solicit more money from life members.
⇒ Send information to Cheryl or Sunu to upload to Facebook page.

What are we giving members beyond the conference, the Networker, and awards? Let’s also:

⇒ Offer an honorable mention for each prize.
⇒ Offer continuing education online.
⇒ Encourage faculty to sponsor graduate student memberships and prizes.

Communications:

We will set up a Membership Directory on Eventbrite that includes name, email, and field of members. We’ll put a pdf online; go digital; let people opt out; make sure it’s available only to our membership.

Delivery of The Networker is by e-mail by default; we will send hard copies to those who request them.

We have Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn pages.

Executive Board:

Committee chairs have requested that copies of their committee’s previous reports and of the conference minutes be placed online as a guide to new chairs. For example, this year’s program committee initiated program changes that should be continued, including a 9 a.m. keynote and poster presentations with a prize. As a result, the number of attendees increased, which is very good for our organization.

Voting for the Executive Board officers took place and the election of the following officers was affirmed by unanimous consent:

Rebecca Plant: President
Jennifer Thigpen: President-Elect
Pamela Stewart: Treasurer
Lindsay Wilson: Secretary

Vote: By unanimous consent, the membership voted to put Carol Gold’s name on the graduate student prize that was initiated during her presidency.
to chat with Tom Dublin, who many years ago introduced the sequence in U.S. women’s history that I now routinely teach at UC San Diego today. As he related his efforts to move beyond a single-quarter course that covered the wide swath of U.S. history to the two-quarter sequence that remains on the books today, I was reminded again of something I thought of during Tom and Kitty’s keynote address: in ways we often do not even recognize, we are indebted to those who came before and established the organizational structure and scholarly apparatus that we depend upon today. It behooves us to honor their legacy by paying it forward, so to speak, and finding ways to contribute time and energy to such service work, understanding — as Jessica has suggested in prior columns — that our capacity to contribute will ebb and flow according to the rhythms of our professional and personal lives.

Fortunately, WAWH is currently well staffed in regard to our Executive Board and Volunteer positions, in part because we have wisely extended our terms of service, so that we are no longer constantly scrambling to replace committee members. I would like to welcome several new and returning members to our Executive Committee: Laura Moore as Graduate Student Representative; Laura Ping and Ashley Baggett as Program Co-chairs; Carrie Streeter as Program Production Coordinator; Jennifer Macias as Local Arrangements Co-chair; Peggy Renner as a member of the Nominating Committee; and Shelly Tirado, who will be leading Community College Outreach as part of our new ad-hoc Publicity Committee. I am also especially delighted to welcome Jenny Thigpen into her new role as President-Elect. Jenny has long been active in WAWH and has chaired both the Carol Gold Graduate Student Paper Prize Committee and, more recently, the Conference Committee. She will be our featured luncheon speaker at the upcoming AHA-PCB in Sacramento in August; I urge those who are attending to purchase a ticket if you have not already done so. Jenny’s talk, “On a Mission: Christianity and Empire in Hawai‘i and the Global West,” will be drawn in part from her recently published book, Island Queens and Mission Wives: How Gender and Empire Remade Hawai‘i’s Pacific World (University of North Carolina Press, 2014).

Finally, I would like to note our progress on the digital front, which is due in large part to our Digital Communications Coordinator, Sunu Kodumthara, and Andrea Milne, head of Social Networking (Publicity Committee). At our conference, we had more people live-tweeting our conference than in prior years, and Andrea has storified some of the twitter coverage and posted it here: https://storify.com/MyPenHistorical/the-western-association-of-women-historians-2015-c#publicize. Membership on our Facebook page is currently up to 113 — a number we hope to double over the course of the year. (It is a closed group, so you need to send a request to join.) Here we post not only WAWH news, but also job advertisements and other announcements relevant to our membership. We have also
Upcoming Calls for Papers

**CRITICAL REALISM, GENDER AND FEMINISM.** In order to encourage the development of the emerging field of critical realist feminism and gender studies, as well as critical exchanges between the respective branches of critical realism (including dialectical critical realism and metaRealism) and feminist theory/gender studies, we are happy to invite submissions for a special issue of *Journal of Critical Realism* on *Critical Realism, Gender and Feminism*, edited by Angela Martínez Dy, Lena Gunnarsson and Michiel van Ingen. We welcome not only contributions that draw on critical realism in studying gender relations and/or engaging with feminist concerns but also critiques of critical realism from feminist or gender-based points of view. Deadline: October 1, 2015. Email enquiries to lena.gunnarsson@oru.se, and submit online at www.editorialmanager.com/rea. For more information, see http://www.maneyonline.com/pb/assets/raw/PRT/REA_special_issue_gender.pdf.

Brief excerpts of upcoming CFPs; full text available on wawh.org:

**WESTERN LEGAL HISTORY.** The Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University and the University of Nebraska Lincoln’s History Department and Center for Great Plains Studies solicit proposals for papers that offer a critical approach to legal borderlands in the North American West. Deadline: September 15, 2015. (Full CFP available at http://www.wawh.org/2015/CFP-Western-Legal-History/)

**ETHICAL PRACTICE AND THE STUDY OF GIRLHOOD.** For this themed issue of *Girlhood Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, "Ethical Practice and the Study of Girlhood," we invite submissions from transnational and transdisciplinary perspectives that investigate how the constructs of girlhood and ethics might inform each other. Deadlines: September 1, 2015 for expressions of interest and abstracts; January 1, 2016 for submissions of full manuscripts. (Full CFP available at http://www.wawh.org/2015/CFP-Ethical-Practice-and-the-Study-of-Girlhood/)


**MOTHERHOOD, CHILDLESSNESS, AND THE CARE OF CHILDREN FROM SLAVERY TO EMANCIPATION.** As part of an international research network funded by an AHRC network grant entitled “Mothering Slaves: Comparative Perspectives on Motherhood, Childlessness and the Care of Children in Atlantic Slave Societies,” we invite proposals for 20-minute papers for a conference to be held at the University of Reading, 19-21 April 2016. Deadline: 20 September 2015. (Full CFP available at http://www.wawh.org/2015/CFP-Women-Gender-and-Families-of-Color/)

**GENDER AND TRANSFORMATION: WOMEN IN EUROPE WORKSHOP** — a joint project from New York University and the Network of East-West Women — invites speakers to submit proposals for Friday afternoon talks for the academic year 2015-2016 at the NYU Center for European and Mediterranean Studies.
The Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH) invites proposals for panels, single papers, roundtables, posters, and workshops in ALL fields, regions, and periods of history. The program committee especially invites proposals with gender, generational, geographic, racial, and institutional diversity in regard to panel content and/or panel composition. This year we are particularly interested in panels that offer historical perspectives on hot-button issues such as economic inequality, conflicts over race and immigration, and environmental degradation. We also welcome panels on public history, academic publishing, and alternative career paths for historians, as well as panels on issues relevant to women and adjuncts in academia today. Finally, we would especially like to encourage Canadian and Mexican historians to apply, as we hope in coming years to become more representative of Western North America as a whole. Priority will be given to proposals for complete sessions, but individual papers will be incorporated where possible.

Proposals due Friday, September 18th, 2015

WAWH welcomes scholars at all career stages (from students to senior faculty), as well as independent scholars. We award a prize for the best conference paper presented by a graduate student as well as a number of others awards for articles, monographs, dissertations, and electronic publications by WAWH members. See www.wawh.org for details. Submission guidelines and required forms can be found at www.wawh.org.

Scholars may self-nominate as commentators or panel chairs by providing a short curriculum vitae and submitting a brief statement outlining their areas of expertise and topics of special interest. Please specify whether you are willing to serve as commentator, chair or both.

Membership and Registration Requirement: WAWH membership and 2016 conference preregistration will be required of all program participants. Membership runs conference to conference and is open to all.

Professional announcements including CFPs are included in The Networker if their publication is timely. For a complete listing of Job Opportunities, CFPs, and other Professional Opportunities, please visit the News section of the WAWH website (http://www.wawh.org/news/).
Announcement

Biographical Database of Militant Woman Suffragists, 1913-1920: A Crowdsourcing Experiment

To celebrate the centennial of the White House picketing for woman suffrage that began in January of 1917, the editors of Women and Social Movements in the United States invite women's history faculty and students and independent scholars to join a crowdsourcing experiment. Historian Jill Zahniser compiled extensive information about women suffrage picketers and their supporters, which we published as a database in the March 2015 issue of WASM. Women from 35 states and the District of Columbia are represented in the database. Jill Zahniser has launched this project by constructing the database and writing 500-word biographical sketches of six women activists. (See http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com for more information.) Another 28 already have biographical sketches in Notable American Women. We seek to assemble biographical sketches of the remaining 190 picketers and their supporters for whom there are no authoritative biographical sketches. Will 20 faculty in U.S. women's history volunteer to mentor students in their classes between now and June 2017 in the methods of researching and writing these remaining biographical sketches of militant woman suffragists? Are there graduate students or independent scholars who would volunteer to write one or two of these sketches?

This collaborative project offers a rare opportunity to engage in the research, interpretation, and writing of women’s history for a broad public. Contributors will receive authorship credit for their work and can view the online publication of these sketches as a contribution to the approaching centennial celebration of the passage of Woman Suffrage in the United States.

In the summer of 2017, Jill Zahniser will edit these new suffragist sketches and they will be published in the fall 2017 issue of Women and Social Movements in the United States. We will also add to the NWP Suffragists Database new information discovered about any of these activists.

If you do not have access to Women and Social Movements in the United States we will provide you access to the excel spreadsheet which contains this database and related files from the project. We have prepared guidelines to researching these woman suffrage activists that we can send you. And we will supply you with names and biographical information about activists to research. To join this project, please contact WASM co-editor, Tom Dublin at tdublin@binghamton.edu, who will be coordinating the crowdsourcing activity.
Announcement

Did you, or someone that you know, write to an international pen pal in the 1940s, 1950s or 1960s? I am researching international girls’ friendships and seek women who will share their recollections (and letters if you saved them). Please contact Jennifer Helgren at jhelgren@pacific.edu or (209)946-2270.

Thank you to Our Donors!

Many thanks to those who contributed February 1st through July 31st, 2015, and to the anonymous donors at the WAWH conference banquet.

Nupur Chaudhuri
Estelle Freedman
Joanne Goodwin
Lois Nettleship
Peggy Renner

Jennifer Robin Terry
Jennifer Thigpen
Lindsay Blake Wilson
Susan Wladaver-Morgan

The WAWH is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Your donations are tax-deductible.
Donations of any size are welcome. Donations can be directed to a specific fund or award.
Thank you for your continuing support.

President’s Column (Continued from page 9)

received a great deal of positive feedback about our new and much improved website, courtesy of Susan Kullman, which can be easily navigated on phones and tablets.

Let me close by strongly urging everyone to attend our next conference in Denver, Colorado, May 12-14, 2016; the deadline for submitting paper and panel proposals is September 18. Of late, events unfolding both nationally and internationally appear to be underscoring what historians know to be true — that there is no evading history, for the past always demands a reckoning. Whether it comes to lowering the Confederate flag and confronting enduring racial inequality in the U.S., legalizing gay marriage, restoring relations with Cuba, ending sanctions against Iran, or any number of other critical issues, what historians have to say matters deeply. In our present-day climate, when public universities and the humanities are pressed to justify their very existence, it is more important than ever to remind ourselves that we are not a luxury. They may not always know it, but our students and, dare I say, the public at large, need us.
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