



NEWSLETTER

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GREETINGS FROM PENNY KANNER

We launched our thirteenth year at our annual conference March 7-9 at Aldersgate Lodge in Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles area. More than 100 members enjoyed the warm reunion and participated in formal and informal meetings and sessions that focused on both historical subjects and professional interests, skills and opportunities. Opening the formal proceedings on Friday night, Allison Heisch spoke on "Rediscovering Judith Shakespeare's Sisters: Feminist Scholarship and Early Women Writers." Saturday sessions covered the topics: "Antebellum Slave Communities," "Migration Theory in History," "Publishing and Historians," "Non-Traditional Sources and Social Organization," "Love and Marriage Approaches in American History," "Asian-American Immigration." On Saturday evening, the 45 resident participants and per diem conferencees enjoyed talks and a panel discussion on "Varied roles and Occupations of Historians" given by Marilyn Garber (history professor and attorney), Mary Jane Farrine (curator of rare manuscripts), Deborah Jakubs (bibliographer), Patricia Hanson (editor), and Melinda Frye (museum curator). The Sunday sessions were: "Jewish Social History" and "The Current Status of Women's Studies." At the business meeting following the sessions on Sunday, the members voted to change our organization's name from West Coast Association of Women Historians to Western Association of Women Historians largely in response to the case made for having our name reflect that our membership is drawn from thirteen Western states. The second item on the agenda pertained to increasing dues to cover the higher costs of printing the Newsletter, correspondence, and participation in conferences and activities of national history associations where women members sponsor special events. A majority vote (about 60 members were present) set a new schedule of dues on a sliding scale. (See membership coupon on back cover.) The third business item was election of new officers upon hearing the recommendations of the nominating committee. Officers of the new executive board are listed above. A new office and entity was voted upon and Francesca Miller coordinates the new Speakers' Bureau. Per constitutional provision, the new executives added the office of past-president liaison and adviser. Grace Larsen fills this position. The new officers are already working creatively to fulfill our goal of expanding the functions of WAWH and of increasing the size of our membership. Articles and notices that appear in the Newsletter indicate the directions that our officers are taking. Your suggestions and comments pertaining to all phases of activity are invited. We urge your assistance and participation. For example, contact Linda Popofsky at Mills College, Social Sciences Department, with 1981 program ideas and proposals. Our annual meeting next year will take place in northern California. To date, the suggestion of Asilomar leads the list of suggestions made to our conference coordinator, Mollie Rosenhan, Center for Research on Women, Stanford University.

Let me call your attention to WAWH's forthcoming participation at the Pacific Coast French-American Historical Association Convention, August 21-23 at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. (For program details, see p. 3.)

Finally I want to report that over the year WAWH will continue to participate with women historians nationally to strive for greater equity in the various job markets and in the structure of professional organizations. Recently, Frances and I have been in correspondence with members of the AHA's Council and Nominations Committee to inquire about criteria for deciding the slates of candidates for national office. We have urged greater effort to include more women, minorities, and unaffiliated (independent) scholars on executive boards of professional associations, organizations and institutions.

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I hope you agree that we have made a good start on a productive year. Please check today that your membership subscription is up-to-date. We need your support in every way.

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ONE LAST WORD by Joanna D. Cowden, past president

During the past three years, I have come to know this organization, now WAWH, well and would like to share with others my reflections on it. First, the professional caliber of the sessions at our last meeting was, in my estimation, excellent. I hope--and anticipate--that at future meetings we will maintain, even excel, this standard. Second, this organization will serve its members well so long as it continues to function as a meeting ground for a geographically dispersed membership and a source of timely information on jobs, grants, calls for papers by other professional organizations and other items of interest to women historians. In short, we function best as a nerve center and lodestone for women historians in this region.

As former program coordinator, vice president, and president I move to the sidelines and anticipate with delight the prospect of attending the next meeting as a member only. Nonetheless, I believe in this organization and pledge support to the able women who will serve as officers during this coming year and in future years.

The Western Association of Women Historians will hold its annual meeting in Northern California in May 1981. Linda Popofsky, Program Committee Chair, urges women historians in all fields of history to begin thinking about submitting proposals for papers and panels next fall and winter.

The Committee solicits panels and presentations on the theme of "Women Historians as Educators," to treat broadly such topics as the condition of women's history, the perpetuation of stereotypes in education, the roles of feminist scholars, and developing theories of higher education. Proposals related to this theme as well as papers (individual or in panels) concerned with any field of history whatsoever will be welcome.

Please direct any questions regarding the program or forms of proposals for papers or sessions to Linda Popofsky, Department of Social Sciences, Mills College, Oakland, CA 94613.

SPEAKERS BUREAU: The WAWH announces the formation of a Speaker's Bureau, whose services will be available to our membership. Francesca Miller (908 Fordham Drive, Davis, CA 95616) will be coordinating the bureau. The bureau will serve as a channel between speakers and organizations and institutions which seek speakers. There will be a small donation requested for processing of materials and communications costs.

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GRADUATE STUDENT COLUMN by Gayle Gullett (Escobar): SEXUAL HARASSMENT

If you're sexually harassed, that is, if a male in a position of power attempts to make coercive sexual advances toward you, what can you do? Can't you just say no? First of all, this may be difficult if you are a graduate student and he a professor with decisive power over your future, particularly if this is the only type of attention you receive from him. Furthermore, what do you do after you say "no" and you're punished with such reprisals as bad recommendations?

Students at UC Berkeley who were being harassed by a sociology professor took action, seeking to find a solution to this problem. Their limited success demonstrates both what can be done and what problems remain to be solved. Women Organized Against Sexual Harassment (WOASH), an organization of women students on the Berkeley campus, gathered complaints from 13 students. These students, according to the Independent & Gazette, charged that the sociology professor touched and attempted to kiss some of them and that he made proposals to enter into sexual relationships, offering a student a higher grade in exchange for sexual favors. Another student alleged that the professor wrote her an unfavorable letter of **recommendation** after she spurned his advances.

The first problem for WOASH was that no method existed for these 13 women to present charges in a hearing. Instead, they had to ask the chancellor's office to bring the case before the academic senate for a formal disciplinary hearing. Chancellor Powker decided instead to bring in an outside opinion, requesting UC Davis law professor Susan French to investigate the charges. While the report has not been made public, it has been widely reported that French found prima facie
(continued on next page)

evidence in support of the accusations and recommended that the administration press for the professor's dismissal before a hearing in the Senate. Instead, the chancellor's office, without consulting the Senate, decided to suspend him for one quarter. This "severe reprimand" occurred while he was already on leave, thus costing him only \$5,000. Next year he will return to teach.

In defense of his action, Bowker said he decided not to fire the professor because most of the incidents "occurred during a relatively short period of time while the professor was suffering personal emotional distress." WOASH members refuted this and filed a sex discrimination complaint with the regional office of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, charging that the university is negligent in handling cases of alleged sexual harassment. The complaint is still under investigation by HEW.

As pointed out in an editorial of the Daily Californian, this case came at the same time a similar one was resolved at San Jose State University. There, a professor who had sexually harassed five women students had a hearing before a faculty committee, was found guilty, and publicly fired. Of course, as the editorial notes, at San Jose State the president is a woman.

But for **campuses** without a woman president, WOASH has suggestions for a fair method of dealing with sexual harassment. In the next issue, we'll discuss them.

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AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION - PACIFIC COAST FOARD

WAWH offers a presentation at each annual meeting of the AHA-PCB. This year's meeting will be held August 21-23 at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. WAWH members Frances Richardson Keller, San Francisco State University, and Christie Pope, Indiana University, will present papers on "Slave Societies, Black Historians, and Black Activism" at a meeting to be chaired by Arthé Anthony, Occidental College, 10 a.m., Aug. 22. (This is a change from AHAPCB announcement.)

At 12:30 p.m. that same day, August 22, Penny Kanner, Occidental College, will preside at a WAWH-sponsored luncheon. Guest speaker Judith Stiehm, University of Southern California, will talk on "Women and the Military in the U.S. Today." The luncheon will be open to the full convention.

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NOTES ON MEMBERS

The University Press of New England announced the publication date of June 1980 for Crime and Society in Early Modern Seville by Mary Elizabeth (Betsy) Perry.

Also published this June was Women: From the Greeks to the French Revolution, an anthology edited by Susan Groag Bell. This is a reprint available in paperback.

Joanna Cowden is spending the summer at the Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan, participating in a seminar on "Parties, Politics and Government in the U.S." She has also received a grant from the American Philosophical Society to complete research in East Coast libraries on her study of Connecticut politics during the Civil War.

Joan M. Jensen, New Mexico State University, is on leave under a grant from the Regional Economic History Research Center at the Eleutherian Mills in Wilmington, Delaware, to do research on early 19th century farm women. Her book on farm women, With These Hands: Women Working on the Land will be out this fall. In addition, Greenwood Press has accepted her anthology of writings on the women's movement from 1920 to 1945, coedited with Lois Scharf, for publication. Tentative title: Bitter Years.

Several participants in our March conference have professional **news**to report:

Don Abbott, who presented a paper on 13th century manorial extents in England, will publish this paper in Comitatus, The Journal of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, in March 1981.

Leila Berner, presenter of a paper on the Jewish community of medieval Barcelona, will leave in July for a year of study in Spain, thanks to a Fulbright-Hayes Fellowship.

Deborah Jakubs, who participated in the panel on non-teaching alternatives for historians, has been accepted for graduate study in the School of Library Science, University of California, Berkeley.

Norma Tratt, who presented a paper on Yiddish-American women writers, has received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for the 1981-82 school year. She hopes to use some of this material for a book, and will publish some of it in an article that will appear in the journal, American Jewish History, at the end of 1980. She has accepted a position with Sarah Lawrence College for this coming year.

Joan Todd chaired a Plenary Session on "Aspects of Baltic Prehistory" at the 7th Conference on Raltic Studies in Washington, D.C. in June.

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The 24th annual Missouri Valley History Conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, March 12-14, 1981. Papers and sessions are invited in traditional topic and area studies as well as quantification, psychohistory, teaching methodology, research tools and techniques and interdisciplinary studies. Proposals should be submitted by November 2, 1980, to Oliver B. Pollak, Dept of History, U. of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska 68182.

WOMEN EDUCATORS announces the 4th Annual "Research on Women in Education" Award, to be presented at the American Educational Research Association meeting in Los Angeles, April 13-17, 1981. Published or unpublished research reports in journal article format on any aspect of women in education are eligible if conducted or written during 1979-80. Deadline for entries is 15 December 1980. Send 5 copies of a 200-250 word abstract of the entry to: Charol Shakeshaft, Coordinator Elect, WOMEN EDUCATORS, School of Education, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11550.

Bogged down with research and typing? Historians in the Los Angeles area could call on two students who are interested in part-time work. Elaine Neiman, who will receive her R.A. in history from UCLA this summer, can be reached at 874-4555. Cindy Wolf, a graduate student in dance at UCLA, can be reached at 462-0500, or 382-2426. Betsy Perry will be glad to provide personal references for both of these students.

The Washington Women's Heritage Project, based in Women Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle, will provide support and coordination for women throughout the state who wish to gather materials on women -- oral history interviews, photographs, personal writings, newspaper documentation. This process will serve as a step toward establishing a permanent collection of information on women in Washington. Contact: Marsha Lash, 128 16th Ave E., Seattle, WA 98122.

Friends have reported seeing our president Penny Kanner's book Women of England from Anglo-Saxon Times to the Present on the table just inside the door of that prestigious London bookstore, Blackwell's.

Joann Loffler will do archival research in London on the actress Ann Oldfield for her book Ann Oldfield: A Life in the Theater.

A late news flash has revealed the names of members who will serve on the 1981 WAWH Conference Program Committee chaired by Linda Popofsky (co-chair to be announced): Grace Larsen, Mollie Rosenhan, Helene Moglen, Estelle Freedman, Carolyn Naylor, Jess Flemion, Deborah Kennel, Penny Kanner, Frances Keller.

Betsy Perry writes: Several members have been kind enough to make contributions to our organization, and we would like to use this money to set up a fund to assist people who otherwise would not be able to attend conferences and present papers. Please send any contributions to Betsy Perry, 296 Redwood Drive, Pasadena, CA 91105.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:

Oregon State University, fall 1980. Assistant Professor, Russian History and Western Civilization. At present not tenure track. Ph.D. required! teaching experience and publications preferred. Include curriculum vitae, complete college transcripts, letters of recommendation. Send to: Dr. Thomas C. McClintock, Chair, Department of History, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331.

Janet Boles and Isabel Marcus (University of Texas at Austin) would appreciate receiving copies of conference papers and other unpublished manuscripts on the subject of the ERA for inclusion in a commissioned review essay. Papers using the ERA as a major topic within a larger study are also needed. Send to: Janet Boles, Department of Political Science, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

REPORTS OF CONFERENCES

Susan Groag Bell offers the following impressions of conferences in San Francisco in April:

Scholars descended en masse upon the San Francisco Bay Area during the week of 9-13 April. The American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (ASECS) held its annual meeting at the St. Francis Hotel and Stanford University; the Organization of American Historians (OAH) at the Hyatt Regency Hotel; and the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies (PCCBS) at the University of California at Berkeley.

It was an intellectual and social riot. Participants from all three conferences with interchangeable badges wandered across the Bay, up and down the Peninsula, and over the San Francisco hills, their minds and stomachs in a turmoil of mental and physical indigestion, their eyes glassy from lack of sleep, endless cocktail parties and receptions.

Critical feminist scholarship was much in evidence and the representation of women is creeping upwards. At ASECS and PCCBS 54 women (in 40 sessions) read papers or commented on 18th Century studies, and 12 women (in 12 sessions) on British studies.

Conference panels led me to muse about one of the serious problems that feminist historians must confront. "Main stream history" has been, and continues to be the history of the successful and of success. Perhaps it is time for some of us to look again at main stream history developing a critique of success itself. Perhaps we should do so by working, in parallel with social history, on a multi-faceted analysis of successful individuals, of the development of successful institutions and of professions, by thinking about how they might have developed without the existence of women's traditional roles and women's traditional work. Then we might ask: in what lay their success?

Carole Srole, who attended the OHA conference, writes: The theme of the conference, "To Study the People" highlighted the state of the field of social history. While a smattering of panels on American foreign policy and national politics dotted the conference, the overwhelming number were on different groups of people: rural migrants, male factory workers, gay men, middle class progressive women, and immigrant and minority men and women.

The shortcomings of contemporary social history marred its triumph. Women's history, although well-represented, remained the province of women. At panels dealing with "women's issues," few men attended; at sessions not discussing "women's issues," men predominated. The only exception to this segregation of the sexes were presentations on black women and to a lesser extent on working women, because those sessions integrated women with another issue.

We are still confronted with the classic dilemma of integration or segregation. Certainly, we have derived much strength out of separate women's conferences and sessions. But, until we convince the bulk of the profession that without incorporating women in American history, the present interpretations are at best incomplete, and, at worst, blatantly wrong, we will remain pariahs.

U.S. social history is still at the stage where we study groups (black women, immigrant men, etc.) or at best themes and processes (migration, urbanization, feminization). Instead a new direction is needed: we must integrate these groups and processes at particular time periods. For early 19th century, urbanization, industrialization, separation of work and home, migration, and fertility decline are all related processes which include women. The early stages of social history concentrated on groups and then on processes. Now we have to move to the next stage, synthesis of these processes and women's history. Not only in our work do we need to take the first steps, but we must make a concerted effort to organize panels integrating processes and women's history at future conferences.

And Nupur Chaudhuri adds one more note: Beautiful weather and the scenery of San Francisco did not diminish concerns about job crises. Nor could those present forget the declining importance of the historical profession to the general public. These matters dominated the mood of the entire conference. Carl Degler discussed the lowered priorities accorded histories in the public mind, while Joan Hoff-Wilson addressed both issues in her Friday breakfast speech. She pointed out that between 1983 and 1989 there will be, according to pundits, hardly any academic jobs. Therefore we should develop a new kind of graduate training emphasizing practical skills that are transferable to the job market. She recommended that independent scholars either share equally or dominate both the leadership and the rank and file of historical associations, she pointed out that this was the custom at the turn of the century and that such a policy would be a return and not a departure.

Penny Kanner feels this speech is so important, she is willing to furnish a copy of it to anyone who send \$1 (to cover copy and mailing costs) to her at:
467 Comstock Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

Napur Chaudhuri sent the following REPORT ON THE SECOND NATIONAL WOMENS STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE:

About 1500 women attended the Second Annual National Women's Studies Conference held on May 16-20 at Elloomington, Indiana. The 280 panels, workshops, and round-table discussions were of high quality and were well-attended. Yet I left with an uneasy feeling.

Tensions permeated the conference. The majority of white women were unaware of any racial tension, but women not privileged with white skin felt alienated because they are not included in leadership roles. Hence they don't find themselves in the mainstream of women's studies programs. They also know that their experiences as minority women are not quite incorporated in curricula. Moreover, white middle class feminism, which was prevalent at the NWSA, cannot be applied to their particular situations. For these reasons most of them did not feel themselves a part of this conference. Furthermore, many of the minority women felt that they would rather spend time and energy to develop their particular fields instead of developing women's studies programs. After lengthy discussions, "Racism" was picked for next year's conference theme, an idea endorsed by the Third World Caucus and the New England region which will host next year's conference.

The general conclusion: feminism is multidimensional, a fact women's studies scholars usually ignore. Some of us felt that at present "sisterhood" is an empty designation. Sisterhood can only be achieved when there is mutual respect, trust, and faith; these qualities develop over a long period of time, on a one-to-one basis and not on a mass scale.

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MORE UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Oral History Association Workshop, 2-5 October, Durango, Colorado. For information, write Dr. Ronald E. Marcello, PO Box 13734 NT Station, Denton, Texas 76203.

South Central Women's Studies Association, 18-19 October 1980, U. of Texas at Arlington. Papers on various topics. Write Jeanne Ford, WomanFair Coordinator, PO Box 19528 UTA Station, U. of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX 76019.

Western Society for French History, 23-25 October 1980, U. of Oregon, Eugene. Write Prof. Shirley J. Black, Secretary, Western Society for French History, Dept. of History, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX 77843.

The Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies offers an annual cash prize for the best essay on an 18th century subject published during the preceding academic year. Essays published between 1 Sept. 1979 and 31 Aug. 1980 are eligible for the next award, to be made in Feb. 1981. The interdisciplinary appeal of the essay will be considered but is not the sole determining factor. Submit your own work or that of others, in 3 copies, before 1 Nov 1980, to: Prof Milton M. Klein, Dept. of History, U. of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37916.

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The WAWH has noted the failure of the platform committee of the Republican party to endorse ERA. For forty consecutive years ERA had been a part of the Republican platform. Since ERA is the wish of a substantial majority of American women, we hope Democratic, independent, and Republican women will find an effective way to express their disappointment and renew their efforts to pass ERA. The WAWH Executive Board seeks membership response to this and related women's issues in the forthcoming campaign. The editors of the newsletter will welcome members' letters, articles, and statements which could appropriately appear in the fall issue.

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To all those who contributed generously to this issue, many thanks. If you have news of members or any item of interest to the membership, please drop a note to Carole Hicke, 57 Coronado Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070.

TO: Deborah Kennel
Secretary-Membership
1250 Norman Place
Los Angeles, CA 90049

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Membership Category (check one):

_____ Fully employed, donor member: \$10.00

_____ Permanently, full-time employed: \$7.50

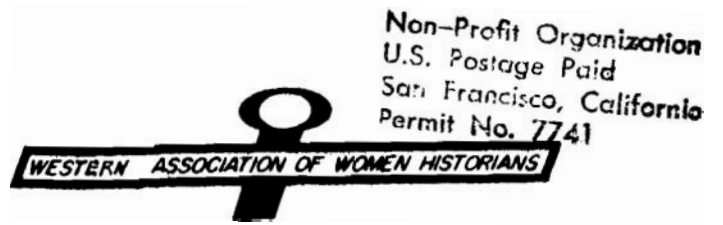
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_____ Tax-deductible contribution: \$5.00

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If you wish to apply for membership, please remove this page, fold, staple, stamp, and mail.

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