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NEWSLETTER

Volume XV, No. 2

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: A REPORT FROM FRANCES

It is a pleasure to report the involvement of many members as we seek directions for our organization. Some have responded to our efforts to build guidelines toward a new consensus of culture, as toward the expression of that consensus of culture that does exist. Feeling at the beginning of the year 1982 a sense of mission as women historians, they have written us ideas, plans, possibilities. Others have provided--are providing--yeowoman service by giving their talent and their time to immediate concerns.

In the latter regard, we hope to see all who can possibly arrange to come to the Huntington Library the weekend of May 20-22. It should prove a memorable gathering, a time to enjoy the scope and the sophistication our members have attained, a time to plan ahead, a time simply to appreciate one another. To that end we are offering scholarships for graduate students and special arrangements to those who find difficulties. Please look elsewhere in this issue and the next for details.

I am delighted to announce that Nancy Weiss of California State University at Irvine will be our Conference Coordinator. Suzanne W. Hull, Director of Administration and Public Services at The Huntington, has graciously agreed to act as Co-Conference Coordinator. For us who attend, this should be an occasion of double dividends; we will be sharing with those with whom we have most to share the resources of one of the richest, most beautiful places in the nation. Our Program Chairwoman, Francesca Miller, writes that her committee sees an outstanding series of presentations. Martin Ridge, Senior Research Associate at The Huntington, writes that he has arranged for dinner to be served in the Athenaeum of California Institute of Technology, another historic location immediately adjacent to The Huntington. On that occasion our speaker will be Mollie C. Davis of The National Endowment for the Humanities. No one will want to miss this opportunity.

It is appropriate that Mollie Davis should come to California. The prospect of her visit brings us to a priority affecting all historians. As of this year, the Reagan Administration has indicated severe cuts in funds maintaining the National Archives and the National Endowment for the Humanities and for the Arts. In the case of the National Archives, the cuts are carried at a figure of 16%, but the results of the cuts will be felt in the neighborhood of some 35%, or over 1/3 of the apportionment for the Archives. Worse. This could be a beginning for a program restricting the impact of these agencies on our national life. At a time when "defense" appropriations increase, there is probably no professional historian who does not sense a warning like that of Thomas Jefferson's "fire bell in the night." At a meeting of our Board of Directors it was agreed that we propose that women historians in the West, who have often taken a lead in matters of national import, begin an effort to counter these desultory cuts by contributing an additional \$1 when we pay dues to this organization. Many members have benefited from these agencies; others hope to benefit in the future. By this nominal contribution we can become a model for historical associations. Our aim is to set a pattern for financing an agency, the National Coordinating Council, to represent in the Congress of the United States the importance of maintaining our National Archives and our National Endowments. The necessity of monitoring events and of expressing our views is clear. This will require wide support, but we can pilot such an effort. Please let us know your feelings in this matter.

Let me end on an inviting note: The Board of Directors also agreed to the establishment of an award to be called the Sierra Prize for the most outstanding book published by a member of the WAH each year. Look for details in this issue. Our Association is well and very much alive. Let us think and plan and grow together. We look forward to Spring in San Marino. With good wishes to all,

Frances

WAWH CONFERENCE XIV: May 21-23, 1982, at the HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, San Marino, CA

Plans and program for this conference all indicate that it will be a superlative one. Francesca Miller, Conference Program Chair, indicates--as we go to press--that she is still accepting single papers for the conference program. Although the response has been good, she still has a few spots to fill--your paper might just fit into her schedule! Contact her right away at 908 Fordham Drive, Davis, CA 95616, tel: (916) 756-1250. She requests that proposals be submitted in duplicate with a current vita and a one paragraph abstract from the vita for possible use in program notes.

Nancy Weiss, Conference Coordinator, will be ably assisted by Susan Hull of the Huntington Library as Co-Conference Coordinator. Mary Robertson will be our Program Consultant at the Huntington.

Martin Ridge, Senior Research Associate at the Huntington, welcomes our conferees. He and Co-Conference Coordinator Sue Hull are making arrangements for our entertainment, which will include a wine-and-cheese social in the Library. A special dinner at the famous Athenaeum has been arranged for Saturday.

Registration fees will be announced in the next newsletter. Betsy Perry, who has done yeoman service on arrangements, writes that the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena offers us the special rates of \$53 per single room per night and \$64 per double room per night (\$32 per person). We must receive your reservation request no later than May 1, 1982. Please send requests to Nancy Weiss, 10350 Keswick Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90064. Let her know if you have a request for a roommate. For people traveling into Los Angeles by air, a limosine goes directly from Los Angeles International Airport to the Huntington-Sheraton. Burbank's airport is closer, and arrangements can be made for someone to pick you up there.

Members in the Southern California area are asked to open their homes to our graduate student and unemployed members who can bring sleeping bags to stay overnight locally during the conference. We are asking all local members who have space available to call Nancy Weiss. Her home phone is (213) 553-9516.

We will give as much financial aid as possible to people who otherwise could not attend the conference. Please notify Beth Weisz-Buck (1720 Camden, Los Angeles CA 90025, (213) 473-4682) or Nancy Weiss (address and phone above) if you will require some financial support.

Employed members can help to make the conference possible for many other members by sending a contribution for the Conference Fund to Betsy Perry, 296 Redwood, Pasadena, CA 91105. We have \$40 in our 1982 Conference Fund. We are hoping for a Fund 20 or 30 times larger.

The Association of Black Women Historians is now publishing a newsletter. The group's board members are Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, Janice Samler-Lewis, Bettye Collier-Thomas, Ellen Lawson, and Noralee Frankel. We welcome this new publication.

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Nupur Chaduri spent a year in Strasbourg and London completing research on British Women in India. As the new Executive Secretary of the Coordinating Council of Women in the Historical Profession, Nupur plans an active membership canvass and she began with a newly designed brochure which was available at the AHA convention. Nupur can be contacted at the Department of History, Eisenhower Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

D'Ann Campbell is hoping to follow up the FIPSE project, which she discussed at our 1981 Asilomar conference, with regional conferences. She plans to revise and standardize the project for integrating women's history into basic history courses.

Mary Agnes Dougherty is in the process of compiling a bibliography of children's nonfiction writings, e.g. diaries, journals, letters, notebooks, etc. from any historical period. She welcomes information from anyone who knows of such sources either published or in manuscript form. Send citations to her at 909 Carmel Ave., Albany, CA 94706.

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FROM BETSY PERRY: We continue to welcome new members. Our membership now totals 373. Please keep your membership current by paying your dues! See dues coupon on back page. One of the best things about our organization is the willingness to share. I want to urge all our employed members to send a contribution with their dues so that we can have a substantial fund to assist members who would otherwise be unable to attend our annual conferences. I am filing the necessary papers with the Secretary of State so that there can be no question that these contributions are tax-deductible.

Ruth Friedlander sends this account of her last summer's Mt. St. Helens adventure: "Have you ever flown around in the crater of a live volcano? You should have come along on a study trip arranged by UC Santa Cruz, with course credit, yet! Eight of us students, ranging in age from 20-plus to 79, got into a 10-seater Piper Cub, with Herb Strongin, Instructor of Geology at San Francisco State, in the lead, and an intrepid pilot named Bruce at the controls. We flew out of the San Carlos airport one fine Monday morning, August 24, buzzed Mt. Lassen, Cinder Cone, Mt. Shasta, Mt. Shastina (its cub), then bounced all over the Mt. St. Helens crater, area-of-devastation and all. From Kelso, where we spent the next two nights, we could see an atomic reactor, steaming to beat Mt. St. Helens. We never buzzed it: too dangerous. The rest of Monday and all of Tuesday we drove and hiked about the area, visited museums, and learned how life -- human, animal, and vegetal -- had responded to the eruption of last year. Wednesday we were back in the air. We took an inland route home, visiting every one of the volcanic peaks along the Cascade range, including Crater Lake. A very moving experience. A month later we met at the home of one of the participants and viewed slides and photos of the trip. No one had taken a picture of the vertical lake we encountered. You doubt there is such a phenomenon? I distinctly saw one that hove into sight as Bruce banked the plane sharply to give us eye contact with the top of Cinder Cone! Terra Firma: it's wonderful, especially when it remembers to stay firm."

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EMPLOYMENT: We have received the following notices of open positions:

Renaissance-Reformation, with both medieval and early modern fields, tenure-track position, beginning Sep 1982, for Ph.D.'s only; apply Dr. Norman Ravitch, Dept of History, U. of California at Riverside, by Jan 1, 1982.

Modern European history, full-time position for 1982-83 academic year only, teaching four courses per semester; teaching experience required, Ph.D. preferred; apply to Prof. Eldon Modisette, Chair, Dept of History, San Francisco State U., San Francisco, CA 94132, by March 31, 1982.

Medieval Europe, Asst Prof rank, tenure-track, to teach Western Civ and own specialty; send credentials and published work to Gene D. Lewis, Dept of History, U. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221, by Feb 15.

Cal Poly, Pomona, is seeking women candidates for a general pool of part-time instructors, Ph.D. preferred, M.A. in history required. Contact Prof. James G. Kamusikiri, Cal State Polytechnic U., Pomona, 3801 West Temple Ave, Pomona, CA 91768 ATTN: Dept of History.

The Organization of American Historians has established an OAH Placement Service for Women Historians. Send name, address, up to three academic fields, whether or not interested in employment outside academe, and whether or not interested in information about academic administrative positions, to: OAH Placement Service for Women Historians, Dept of History, U. of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA 70504. The names and addresses of those with interests similar to the requirements of potential employers will be sent to those employers who contact the Placement Service. The files will be cleared every August, so those who continue to be interested in being informed of employment opportunities should renew their listing every September.

ATTENTION! CALL TO ACTION! ATTENTION!

URGENTLY NEEDED:

THE PROTECTION OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
AND
THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE HUMANITIES

Cuts threatening the operation of these facilities and encouragements vital to historians and their profession are now projected. We propose the establishment of an inter-organization fund for lobbying our representatives in Washington to persuade them that such cuts are contrary to the national interest.

The Western Association of Women Historians proposes to lead this effort by asking a contribution of \$1.00 from each of us when we pay our dues. Let us express our professional and national concern by adding \$1.00 to be allocated for these purposes. In this cause our growing numbers of Women Historians can furnish a pattern for addressing a matter of deep concern to all historians.

If you agree, please add your dollar upon payment of your dues or send or hand your dollar to Betsy Perry, 296 Redwood Drive, Pasadena, California 91105.

FROM THE EOARD: WAWH board members held a meeting during the December conference of the American Historical Association. They agreed to award a prize to be called The Sierra Historical Award for the book judged most excellent published by a member of WAWH during 1981. Professor Joan M. Todd will chair the committee to award the prize. Three copies of books published in 1981 should be submitted to her by April 1. Her address: Department of History, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192. Awards will be announced at the May WAWH conference. Also, Fetsy Perry has established a separate fund for this prize and welcomes your contributions (see membership coupon in this newsletter or send directly to Betsy).

Also at the AHA conference, the CCWHP held a business meeting. President Catherin Prelinger summed up the activities of the group, introduced Nupur Chaudhuri as the new Executive Secretary and Penny Kanner as the President of the Conference Group on Women's History, and discussed plans for future coordination of women's groups. As President of the CGWH, Penny plans regular publications noting particularly works in progress and containing bibliographical essays by members. Penny will be pleased to hear from WAWH members in these respects.

A breakfast for women historians took place at the AHA conference under the Chairmanship of Katherine Sklar. A discussion of the viability of a woman candidate for the presidency of the American Historical Association took place. Although it was suggested that the group agree then and there on a candidate, our President Frances Keller suggested it would be useful to re-examine the guidelines for this office. She pointed out that age qualifications restricting nominations to people of age 45-60 may deprive the Association of desirable talent and that it might be more desirable to view the Presidency as an active office rather than as primarily an honorary one. Frances noted that we need a candidate with broad appeal. A committee consisting of Louise Tilly, Frances Keller, and another member to be named was appointed by the Chair to consider recommendations from the Coordinating Council.

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PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGE: It has become increasingly apparent that it is impossible for the officers of WAWH to function properly under the present restriction of one-year terms. Jess Flemion, our President-elect, wrote to President Frances Keller: "I urge that the WAWH go to two-year terms for its officers to provide greater continuity and stability. I strongly urge you to consider serving another term while we change our constitution. That will not only allow you to make your maximum contribution but will allow me more time to become familiar with the responsibilities of running the WAWH so that I can also serve it well when the time comes." The Executive Board therefore recommends unanimously that we vote on the following constitutional change to extend the terms of all officers to two years: It is proposed that Article 4, Section 1 be changed to read: "The officers . . . shall hold office for two years."

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WAWH Board members agreed to donate \$100 to the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History.

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WAWH sent a telegram urging Russell Dickenson, Director of the National Parks Service, to support the establishment of a national women's park to include the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House in Seneca Falls, New York.

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Constance Ashton Myers of the University of South Carolina has agreed to be our speaker at the WAWH annual luncheon to be held at the August 13-15 conference of the American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch at the University of San Francisco. Her topic will be international aspects of the equal rights movement.

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: March 15! Please send more news of members' activities. Board members: this will be our Call to Convention issue. Send all items by March 15 to Carole Hicke, 57 Coronado Ave., San Carlos, CA 94070.

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ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE ON JANUARY 1, 1982! Send to Betsy Perry (below)

MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

(If address is changed, please check this box)

Fields of Interest (1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

_____ Fully employed, donor member: \$10.00

_____ Permanently full-time employed: \$7.50

_____ Part-time employed and graduate students: \$5.00

_____ Special fund for graduate students attending WAWH conference

_____ Special fund for the Sierra Historical Award

PLEASE SEND FULL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HISTORY FIELD, INTERESTS, WORK, AND ACTIVITIES TO BE ENTERED ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP RECORD.

SEND TO: BETSY PERRY
SECRETARY-TREASURER
295 REDWOOD DRIVE
PASADENA, CA 91105



296 REDWOOD DRIVE/PASADENA, CA 91105



Susan Groag Bell
8 Montecito Road
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