



# Networker

VOLUME XVI, No. 2

November 1982

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE; A LETTER FROM FRANCES



Dear Members and  
Friends:

Do you sense movement toward a new consensus of culture? While alienation of intellectuals may portend disruption, does rapprochement of historians fore-

ell climates more salutary for women historians? For their scholarship? For their influence? Let me note some indications.

Since our July *Networker*, both Gabrielle Spiegel, President of the Berkshire Conference, and Susan Geiger, President of Women Historians of the Midwest, have expressed interest in joining us to work out a plan for annual national conferences. We could rotate the location. We could work together to solve logistical and organizational problems. If we find solutions, the rewards would be greater communication, greater cooperation, increased mutual support, enlarged opportunities for women to gain national hearings for their work. Members of WHOM have suggested national Summer Institutes and national Working Conferences while we study long-range proposals. Will you let our officers and board know your thoughts?

Another indication of movement is the appearance of groups furthering concerns of women historians. June Stephenson reports a "Sex-Equity" conference of historians in Secondary Education held last week in Los Angeles and another planned soon to be held in San Francisco. Lillian Schlissel and associates of both sexes progress in building their Women's West Conference of national constituents. In spring 1983 the Organization of American Historians and the Institute for Historical Study will sponsor a conference at San Francisco State University, one of several designed to integrate the new materials of women's

histories into basic courses at all levels. A check of our own membership shows escalation of a tradition: many of us are members of organizations concerned with women's histories on national levels.

Is it not important that in a period of economic distress our Western Association of Women Historians increases its numbers? Was not the quality of works submitted for our first Sierra Award a revelation and a promise? Ought we now to realize potential reaches of our rapprochement toward one another? Ought we to understand the repercussions that can occur throughout our civilization? Of all people on earth, women historians inherit responsibility wisely to foster the consensus they are building.

Cordially, hopefully yours,

WAWH OFFICERS

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Elizabeth Gleason arranged an elegant luncheon for WAWH members attending the AHA/PCB meeting last August at the University of San Francisco. Constance Ashton Myers spoke and was warmly received by the 75 persons attending. Frances Richardson Keller presided and spoke about a projected path for WAWH.

Sandi Cooper sends this note from New York: "At the recent meeting of the Council of the Conference on Peace Research in History, it was agreed that we would introduce a resolution to the AHA (December 1982, Washington) business meeting which a) asked the Association to endorse the nuclear freeze; b) invited the profession to take seriously its obligation to teach courses on war, peace, and arms control issues and to support research and scholarly activities in those areas."

WAWH has learned with sorrow of the deaths of Adade Wheeler and Joan Kelly. Adade Wheeler was a superb contributor to the needs of our organization and we shall miss her. Joan Kelly offered a breakthrough theory of dialectic feminism. We are proud of this research; it speaks for itself.

Did you see that a recent issue of the Wall Street Journal noted that "advertisers are beginning to show women in a different light"? Ads in the '50s showed women as housewives; in the '70s, it was the impeccably dressed woman executive. Now, "advertisers are showing a softer woman who cares about relationships yet is strong, the fully dimensional woman."

When Thanksgiving comes, for what can we be thankful? As historians, looking at our recent past, we can celebrate. For instance, our Western Association of Women Historians is alive and well, even growing, in spite of times like these that try women's souls. We have a viable, dynamic organization that responds to the needs of historians to stay in touch with their colleagues. The growing numbers of you who have sent replies to the Networker indicates that women historians care about their profession.

WAWH is also moving toward greater national recognition--for its members and for itself. Our Sierra Award winners were announced in newsletters of national and regional historical organizations. Our conferences are attended by people from across the United States and from western Canada.

We can be extremely proud that 93 members of our Association are also active participants in the Coordinating Committee on Women in the Historical Profession and Conference Group on Women's History. This indicates a high level of commitment to national concerns among women of our western Association.

To further these connections, we are exchanging newsletters with other groups nationwide: Women Historians of the Midwest, Southern Association of Women Historians, the Institute for Historical Study and the Southern California Institute for Historical Research & Services.

As part of this network, we can strengthen our ties with each other and with other organizations of historians through this newsletter; that is the purpose of your Networker. Send us your ideas, news of yourself, of colleagues, of events. Enjoy an added dash of spice on Thanksgiving Day!



## THE WAWH SIERRA AWARD

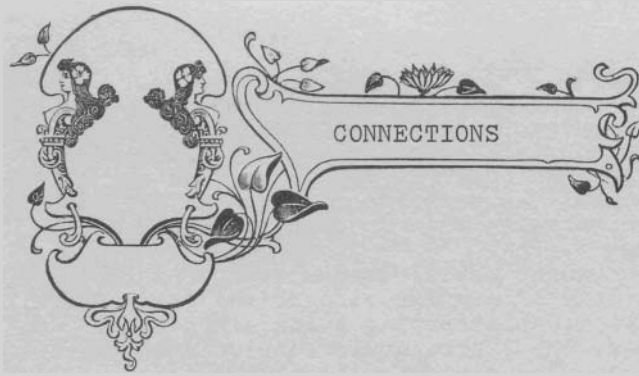
Frances Richardson Keller, in introducing the 1982 winners of the Sierra Award, said: "From far away, the Sierra mountains rise in majesty, range upon range, each range rising higher than the range before. The color, the shape, the style, the existence of the mountains compel the seeker's involvement. If the seeker travels that way, her imagination vibrates with wonders to behold.

"But soon dimensions of the mountain ranges reveal themselves. Shadows sweep the mountain sides, crevasses plunge, cliffs of granite rise to the sky. Overall, winds and snows rage, blinding the traveler, obliterating guide signs other climbers raised. To all but the intrepid, the Sierra grows forbidding, it grows unyielding, it grows treacherous. For many the distant view remains the only inkling of its secret beauties. But to those who press ahead in the mountains, the struggle can strengthen resolve, it can deepen vision, it can impart significance to their experience on this planet.

"In honoring the spirit of the struggle, in honoring the achievements of the struggle, the Western Association of Women Historians awards formal recognition for excellence. As scholars we understand the meaning of the designation: we understand that there are mountains of the mind. We understand that our members are climbing these mountains."

### Regulations for the Western Association of Women Historians' competition for the 1983 Sierra Award

1. We will consider books published between January, 1982 and March, 1983.
2. Authors must be members of the Western Association of Women Historians. This can be accomplished by sending \$10 to the WAWH Treasurer:  
Betsy Perry  
296 Redwood Drive  
Pasadena, California 91105
3. Deadline for receipt of books is April 1, 1983.
4. Authors or their publishers should submit three copies of the book; these will not be returned. Please mail them directly to committee members:  
Joanne Lafler  
43 Abbott Drive  
Oakland, California 94611  
  
Shirlene Soto  
Office of the Provost  
California State University  
Northridge, California 91330  
  
Louise C. Wade  
5719 South Kenwood Ave., Apt. 6 South  
Chicago, Illinois 60637
5. Inquiries should be directed to Louise Wade, chairperson of the 1983 Sierra Award Committee, (312-667-1379)



Many thanks to those who sent in news to the Networker!

Joan Jensen has been asked to head the Department of History at New Mexico State University, as well as being granted tenure and promoted to full professor. Her candidacy for an office in the OAH is announced elsewhere in the Networker.

Shirlene Soto gave a talk in September at the 44th International Congress of Americanists, University of Manchester, England. Her topic was "Mexican Women in War and Revolution 1910-1940."

Valerie Sherer Mathes delivered a paper on "Susan LaFlesche: The First Indian Woman Physician" at the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA meeting in August, and a paper on "Annie Ridwell and the Mechoopda Indians of Northern California" at the Western History Association meeting in Phoenix in October.

Sherry L. Smith, U. of Washington, is Visiting Instructor, Dept of History, U. of Wyoming, during the 1982-83 year, teaching Indian and American West history. She plans to complete her dissertation, "U.S. Army Officers' Attitudes Toward Indians in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1848-1890," by June 1983.

Lillian Jones has been appointed Co-ordinator of Women's Studies Program, Calif. State Polytechnic U., Pomona, CA for 1982-83.

Sally M. Miller of the U. of the Pacific has published two books. She edited and contributed essays to Flawed Liberation: Socialism and Feminism (Greenwood, 1981) and to Kate Richards O'Hare: Selected Writings and Speeches (Louisiana State U. Press, 1982). She has also published "Experiences of Immigrant Women," which is the full issue of the Pacific Historian, Summer, 1982.

Karen Offen and Susan Groag Bell, Affiliated Scholars at the Center for Research on Women, Stanford, have a book that will be published in 1983: Women, the Family, and Freedom: A Documentary Interpretation of Western Thought, 1750-1950, 2 volumes.

Marian Parks spent five weeks last summer in historical research on the Melones Reservoir Project in the Mother Lode area of California. This second season of her work there is part of a contract let by the Dept of the Interior to INFOTEC Development, Inc., CA to mitigate destruction of historical sites being inundated by the federal dam.

Melinda Young Frye will be a faculty member at the John F. Kennedy Museum Studies Graduate Program in San Francisco, Fall, 1982, teaching "History and Philosophy of Museums." She is also on the advisory board for establishment of JFK's Museum Studies Journal. Frye's paper on the history of early museum period rooms, read at the Winterthur Museum's Colonial Revival Conference in 1981, has been accepted for publication in a volume based on the meeting entitled The Colonial Revival in America.

Sue Cobble is now beginning her third year as Department Chair, Labor Studies Program, San Francisco Community College District, and returning to work on her Ph.D. dissertation "Organizing Feminine Service Workers 1935-55." She is interested in contact with others working in the same subject area. Address: 1003 Keith Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708. Tel: (415) 525-2781

Leslie Fishbein received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of American Studies at Rutgers/The State University of New Jersey. Her book Rebels in Bohemia: The Radicals of The Masses, 1911-1917 will be published by the U. of North Carolina Press in November.

CLIP AND RETURN!

Please write a few lines about your present activities--or any other news--on the lines below and mail to: Carole Hicke, 57 Coronado Ave., San Carlos, CA 94070 by Feb 1, 1983.

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CONNECTIONS (continued)

Alison Klairmont Lingo gave a paper at the PCB/AHA in August on "The Attack on Popular Healers in 16th Century France" and plans to expand it for publication.

Reba N. Soffer returned to Mansfield College, Oxford and to Selwyn College, Cambridge last summer to continue her research on the origins of history as a discipline in England from the 1850s to the 1920s. She also chaired a session at the Anglo-American Conference in London and has been invited to write the chapter on "History" for Volume 7 of the Oxford University Press History of Oxford University.

WAWH has three candidates for national offices who deserve your vote. In the last issue of the Networker we mentioned that Frances Keller and Joyce Appleby are running for offices in the American Historical Association--Frances for Place 2 on the Nominating Committee and Joyce for Place 3 on the Council. We would also like to call your attention to the candidacy of Joan M. Jensen, New Mexico State University, for a place on the Nominating Committee of the Organization of American Historians. She writes: "We need to integrate women's history, and it must be done as multi-cultural women's history so that minority women are not excluded. We also need more minority women as well as men visible in our national organizations. And we need to promote exchange and collaboration between historians in public history, interpretive history, and academic history. I am committed to working on these three goals.

Ruth Friedlander's new play about Socrates' wife was broadcast on the radio on October 3, with Ruth herself taking part.

Yaffa Draznin published in the September San Francisco Review of Books a review of our own Sierra Award-winning book Victorian Women. (Unfortunately, her name was misspelled in the review.)

Sharon Ostmann, a new member in Huntington Beach with experience and education in archival administration, especially care and use of historical photographs, also in American social history, would like to hear from other members in archival historic preservation fields. New to California, she is interested in career development.

Doris Brinker Tanner writes:

"I am submitting a proposal to the Southern Historical Assoc. for a session for the 1983 program. My paper will be on the WASP - Conflicts in Traditional Values. I need to find a companion paper and woman historian to present it. Need a vita and 2-page outline of work." Send to her at the Dept of History, Univ. of Tennessee at Martin, Tenn. 38238

CCWHP-CGWH

Nupur Chaudhuri writes of the coming events sponsored by the CCWHP-CGWH: "We would like to invite you to the following CCWHP-CGWH sponsored events at the American Historical Assoc. meeting in Washington, D.C.

1. Dec 28: Session on Women's Domestic Production and Household Labor: A Workshop with Core Papers Participants are Penny Kanner, Introduction; Leonore Davidoff, Chair and paper presentation; Joan Jensen, Nancy Grey Osterud, Eileen Boris, Phyllis Palmer, paper presentations.

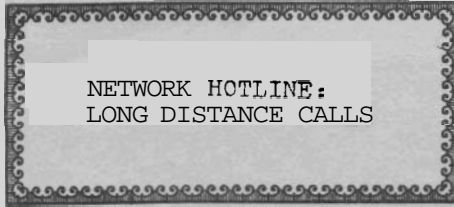
2. CCWHP/CGWH is co-sponsoring this year's cocktail party with the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Women Historians of the Midwest, Southern Assoc. of Women Historians, Western Assoc. of Women Historians, The Women Historians of Greater Cleveland Area, and CCWHP-New York Metropolitan region. This will be on Dec 28, 7-9 p.m. at Sheraton-Dover Room, with a "Cash-bar."

3. CCWHP-CGWH Business Meeting will be on Dec. 29, 11-45-2 p.m., Sheraton-Dover Room.

4. The AHA Committee on Women Historians is sponsoring a plenary session Dec. 29 at 7:30 in the Sheraton-Washington Ballroom entitled "The Fate of the Equal Rights Amendment: A Preliminary Historical Assessment." Speakers: Jane De Hart Mathews, Donald Mathews, Frances Farenthold and Mary Berry. Joan Scott will moderate. Reception follows, sponsored by national and regional organizations of women historians.

And finally, the CCWHP-CGWH officers invite you to stop by to see them at their table with they will be attending on Dec. 28, 11:30-1:00 p.m.

"IF THERE'S ONE THING WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN IT IS THAT IF WE DO NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL, THEN DISASTER IS CERTAIN TO OVERTAKE US. WE MUST DO SOMETHING" -- Isaac Asimov



The Institute for Historical Study is sponsoring with San Francisco State University a conference on integrating women's history into the standard survey courses. This conference is scheduled for March 1983, and is funded by the Lilly Foundation and coordinated by the Organization of American Historians. It is an offshoot of the FIPSE Project which developed curriculum materials to make women's history materials accessible to those teaching U.S. history and Western Civilization survey courses at the college and university level.

Plans for the conference were first started by Betsy Genovese and D'Ann Campbell and supported by Joan Hoff-Wilson. Frances Richardson Keller is Conference Coordinator, William Bonds is representing San Francisco State University, and Ellen Huppert is representing the Institute for Historical Study. Ann Sherrill is Program Chair.

The San Francisco conference will include teachers in elementary and secondary schools as well as two- and four-year colleges and universities. The workshops will be practical rather than theoretical, designed to help teachers use the rich resources available in women's history while still using existing text materials. WAWH members are encouraged to make suggestions for conference format and to suggest workshops. Anyone who would like to participate, please contact Ellen Huppert, President, Institute for Historical Study, 1490 Willard St. San Francisco, CA 94117. Tel: (415) 665-1529.

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Page Putnam Miller writes that on Dec 28 the members of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History will meet to consider a revision of the NCC charter. The purpose of the NCC would be to serve as a central advocacy office for the historical profession and to develop a state committee network for the promotion of history at the state level. For information, contact Page Putnam Miller, NCC Director, 400 A St. SE, Washington, DC 20003.

The Institute of the American West announces the 1st INTER-REGIONAL CONFERENCE on "The Women's West," August 1983, Sun Valley, Idaho. The conference will focus on the experiences of women in the trans-Mississippi West (including Alaska, Hawaii, and western Canada). Exploring the diversity of women's work in contrast to their place in the mythology of the West, the conference invites presentations in the following areas in both historical and contemporary perspectives:

- a) Doing What Has to be Done: the work of western women;
- b) Region (land) and its significance to western women;
- c) Women and Frontier Individualism: testing the hypotheses. Women and families (tribes, clans); communities; women and state law.

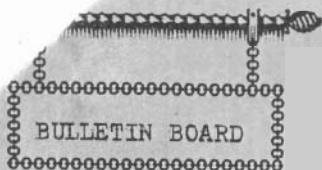
Those interested are invited

to submit a 2-page description of research or community/artistic experience by January 1 to Richard Hart, Institute of the American West, P.O. Box 656, Sun Valley, Idaho 83353. "We welcome the names of others whose work or experience is related," writes Lillian Schlissel of the AIW.

The Southwest Labor Studies Association announces its conference on April 29 and 30, 1983, at San Jose State U., CA. The topic is "Brave New Workplace: A Conference on Labor History and Current Labor Problems." They invite paper proposals on Plant Closure; Women & the Workplace; Work & Mental Health; Labor & Politics: Political Action; Organizing; Union Development Outside of the US; Labor in the News Media; Changing Nature of the Workforce & Workplace; Labor History in the Santa Clara Valley. Send proposals by Jan. 25, 1983, to Dr. Jeanne L. Crank, Political Science Dept., San Jose State U., San Jose, CA 95192.

POSITION AVAILABLE:

The University of Tennessee has a tenure-track position available for an Early Modernist for September 1983. They are especially interested in having women applicants. Please apply by December 8, 1982, to Professor Michael McDonald, 1101 McClung Tower, Dept. of History, U. of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0411



WOMEN EDUCATORS announces the Fourth Annual Curriculum Materials Award to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Assoc. in Montreal, March 1983. Send 2 copies of materials relating to women that have been developed since 1976 for use in educational settings to Mary Harris and Nancy Smith, Curriculum Award, WOMEN EDUCATORS, Dept of Curriculum and Instruction, Kansas State U., Manhattan, KA 66506. Include a one-page description of how materials relate to sexism, sex-role stereotyping, and the image of women and girls and the rationale or theoretical/empirical foundation for the material. Entries must be postmarked by December 1, 1982.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Asst Professor of History, Purdue University; tenure-track appointment, US, US Women's, and US Social history courses. Doctorate in history required, dissertation completed by Aug 17, 1983. Send letter of application, resume, confidential placement file, 3 letters of recommendation and research publications by DEC 1, 1982, to Donald J. Berthrong, Head, Dept of History, 231 Univ. Hall, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette, IN 47907

The Southern California Institute for Historical Research & Services is organizing a project on teaching how to integrate women's history into the school curriculum K-12. For more information, contact Alice Clement, 604 Swarthmore Ave, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

Women historians in all fields are invited to list themselves with the OAH Placement Service for Women Historians. Write to: Judith F. Bentley, Director, OAH Placement Service for Women Historians, Dept of History, Univ. of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA 70504.;

The Southwest Institute for Research on Women has developed a handbook offering "practical hints on how to develop a curriculum integration program and advice about resistance: what it is and how to deal with it." For information on the book, write SIROW, Women's Studies, Modern Languages 269, U. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.

Welcome to our new members: Carolle J. Carter is professor of history at Menlo College in Menlo Park, and her special interest is American intelligence in Red China; Janice White Clemmer is an assistant professor in the history department and the American Indian Education Department of Brigham Young University, as well as associate co-ordinator for Native American Studies; Joan V. Feeney is a free-lance writer and researcher whose special interests are abolitionism, black radicalism, and black art.

NOTE THE YEAR TYPED ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL! Many of you cannot remember when you last paid your dues to WAWH. The year typed on your label tells you when you last paid. If you have not paid dues for 1982, please send them in to Betsy Perry, 296 Redwood Drive, Pasadena, CA 91105.

If you are not a member of WAWH or have not yet paid your 1982 dues, please fill out the coupon and send it, along with information about your history field, interests, work, activities, to:

Betsy Perry  
Secretary-Treasurer  
295 Redwood Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91105

MEMBERSHIP  
(Dues & donations are tax deductible)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues:  
\_\_\_\_ Fully employed: \$15  
\_\_\_\_ Part-time employed: \$10,  
\_\_\_\_ Graduate students and  
independent scholars: \$5

Donations:  
\_\_\_\_ Conference Fund  
\_\_\_\_ National Archives  
\_\_\_\_ President's Discretionary Fund  
\_\_\_\_ Sierra Award Fund

81/  
Martha H. Swain  
Box 23974 Texas Women's  
University Station  
Denton, TX 76204

296 REDWOOD DRIVE/PASADENA, CA 91105

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS

CALL FOR PAPERS

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS

CONFERENCE XV

May 13, 14, and 15, 1983  
Asilomar, California

Please send proposals for papers  
and panels, by January 15, to:  
Dr. Leslie Hume  
Research Libraries Group, Inc.  
Stanford, CA 94305  
Phone: (415) 328-0920

Include vita and stamped, self-addressed envelope