

THE NETWORKER



Volume XXVIII No. 1

Fall 1996

President's Column:

With the coming of autumn, most of us get back into the rhythms of the academic year for all the projects and activity of the summer, and fall is when we really get down to work. So, with your hectic schedules and renewed responsibilities in mind, I will focus in this message on very practical matters.

In the last issue of the newsletter, I briefly mentioned the call for papers for our upcoming conference at Asilomar, which will take place May 30-June 1, 1997. The call for papers appears elsewhere in this newsletter, but, since our annual meeting plays such an important role in the life of WAWH, some points bear repeating and elaborating.

First, please feel free to construe the theme of this year's conference, "Difference and Power," as broadly as you like. WAWH is an organization of and for women-historians who study the history of people of all times and places. Many of us focus on women's history, but many others do not. Thus, participants may wish to think of difference (and power, for that matter) in terms of race, ethnicity, class, religion, age, education, or any relevant category, including gender. Any subject appropriate for the AHA or the OAH is welcome in the WAWH too.

Second, putting together complete panels, rather than submitting single papers, makes sense from a lot of angles. Obviously, the program committee has an easier job if the members do not have to invent them to unite wildly diverse papers or to stretch their networks to the limit to find people to chair and comment on the panels. But it is also better for you as a panelist to have a coherent theme on which to focus, to share the session with other presenters who have a substantial interest in your area or subject, to receive constructive criticism for the most knowledgeable commentators you can find. The program committee MAY be able to come up with good matches, but you are the expert on where your work fits in the larger scheme of things, and the panel you put together yourself has the best chance of being truly useful to you. Therefore, before you send your proposal to this year's program chair, Nupur Chaudhuri, let me encourage you to investigate

SPITHRA, an informational network designed to facilitate the matching of paper proposals for conferences. Information on how to access SPITHRA appears in this newsletter, and it works! Besides, the program committee will be very grateful.

Finally, at our last conference at the Huntington Library, we became especially aware that grad students in particular may find the cost of participating in our conferences prohibitive. We will therefore do as much as possible to give grad students a break on registration and other fees at Asilomar. We have also formulated plans to make the next Huntington conference more affordable and more welcoming (almost anything is a step up from the Holiday Inn!). In addition, since our always holding the conference in California amounts to a virtual subsidy for California residents (since nearly all Californians can drive to our conferences, instead of having to pay airfare), we plan to give a small stipend to out-of-state grad students who present papers or participate in panels. The money will come from a fund given to us several years ago for the purpose of helping grad students attend conferences. Since we are a regional organization, it seems appropriate to facilitate the participation of members throughout our whole region. In any case, all you grad students, don't let finances scare you away from Asilomar; we can't pay your way, but we'll do what we can to make participating easier. (Continued on Page 2)✉

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WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS



President's Column *(Continued from Page 1)*

At the Huntington, the executive board of WAWH considered one other topic that may have bearing on participation in the Asilomar meeting—how we define the region we serve. Since Texas and Oklahoma are part of the Western region, some had asked why the states and provinces due north of them should not belong as well. We therefore decided to go along with Walter Prescott Webb and define "West" as west of the 100th meridian. That means that Kansas, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota are now officially part of our region (the eastern portions of those states count too). In addition, the Western provinces of Canada and states of Mexico can participate fully as well. This change bears more directly on eligibility for our prizes and graduate fellowship than on conference participation, but this information gives me the opportunity to encourage people to apply for our various awards.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *New logo will appear in next edition. If you have any suggestions, please send them, photo ready!*

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, Joan Jensen (professor emerita, New Mexico State University) spoke at the WAWH luncheon at the meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA in San Francisco last August. She is now the president of the PCB and would like to invite WAWH members to participate in next year's PCB; this meeting will take place in Portland, Oregon, on August 8, 9, and 10, 1997. Our participation is especially appropriate because the WAWH has long been a co-sponsor of the PCB conference. In fact, in years past, we have sponsored not only a luncheon but also several sessions under our organizational aegis. Joan and I agreed that it would be wonderful to revive this tradition in 1997. The deadline for submissions is coming fast, in November 1996, and any panels that explicitly represent WAWH should probably go through either

me or Sarah Stage, who will be President of WAWH by the next meeting of the PCB (I suggest this strategy because it would be useful for the PCB program committee to have a letter in hand stating "The WAWH proudly sponsors the following panels," with a complete list attached). Though the PCB deadline comes sooner than ours (November 15, 1996), the papers themselves won't be presented till next August, so there is really plenty of time to polish what you have to say. Joan has also asked me especially to encourage women historians in Western Canada to participate at the Portland meeting.

And, if you have doubts, let me be a booster for a moment for my city as well as my organization (after all, what's the use of being president if you can't exhort from time to time?). Don't miss this change to come to the PCB in my adopted city next August. Portland may not be quite as spectacular as San Francisco and is definitely not as tropical as Hawaii, but it's a good little city in a beautiful setting. From downtown, you can see the snow-capped peaks of Mt. Hood and Mt. Saint Helens, not to mention Powell's City of Books, where people have been known to become happily lost for days. Half an hour from downtown, you can go hiking in Forest Park (thousands of acres of forest trails on the western bank of the Willamette but still within the city limits) or climbing a waterfall in the incomparable Columbia Gorge. And, in spite of what you may have heard, it hardly ever rains up here in August.

So start planning now to submit your work to our prize committees, to share your work and ideas at Asilomar, and to help represent the WAWH at the PCB next August. As you all know, our members have wonderful range of talents. Let's show them off.

Susan Wladaver-Morgan, President
WAWH



WAWH Networker Calendar

December 2, 1996

Deadline for WAWH conference submissions.

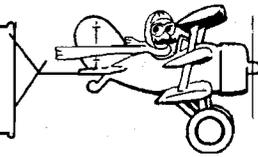
December 10 1996

Deadline for submissions to NETWORKER.

May 30 - June 1, 1997

WAWH Conference, Asilomar

Member News



Editor's Note: The increasing number of submissions for announcements of current work and accomplishments has grown tremendously. This clearly attests to the dynamic scholarship and professionalism of our diverse organization!

Marilyn J. Boxer, former Vice President for Academic Affairs at San Francisco State University was recently appointed Executive Director of the Northern California Center for Interinstitutional Collaboration (NCCIC at SF State University). If you or your educational institution is interested in developing collaborative or consortial degree and course-sharing arrangements, Dr. Boxer would welcome your call or email. phone: 415/904-2366 email: mboxer@sfsu.edu

Jacqueline Braitman, UCLA, received a John and Dora Haynes Research Fellowship at the Huntington Library.

Virginia Warner Brodine's historical novel, Seed of the Fire has been published (International Publishers, September 1996). Research for this book was described by Brodine in her paper "Fiction as History" at the 1984 WAWH Conference.

Lauren Coodley, M.A. candidate, Sonoma State University, received grants from California Council for the Humanities to develop script and documentary film on the lives of feminist reformers Upton Sinclair and wife Mary Craig for PBS. She is also, presenting a panel on new biographical approaches to Sinclair at Critical Thinking Conference (SSU) and California History Conference (Sacramento).

Sylvia McGrath, of Stephen Austin University has published a chapter, "Unusually Close Companions: Frieda Cobb Blanchard and Frank Nelson Blanchard" in Helena M Pycior, Nancy G. Slack, and Pnina G. Abir-am, eds., Creative Couples in the Sciences (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1996); and she has been named Regents Professor for 1994-95.



WAWH extends our deepest sympathy to Professor McGrath. Her daughter, Sandra Jean McGrath passed away. She was 27 years old.

Margaret J. Moody received her Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Los Angeles in March 1996. The title of her dissertation is "From Applicant to Inmate: The Regio Ospedale di Carita di Torino, 1748-1756". She presented a paper in August 1996 entitled "Short History of Ospedale di Carita di Torino, Italia: Health Care in Eighteenth Century Turin," at the meeting of the AHA, Pacific Coast Branch, San Francisco State University.

Cecilia O'Leary received her Ph.D. in U.S. History from UC Berkeley in December 1995, and has been hired as an Assistant Professor at the new California State University Monterey Bay. The university is interdisciplinary and is committed to developing multi-cultural approaches to education.

Linda Peavy/Ursula Smith independent scholars, have brought out their sixth co-authored book in women's history Pioneer Women (Smithmark, 1996). A coffee table style picture book, Pioneer Women has been picked up by Literary Guild/Doubleday Book Club.

Mary Felstiner of SFSU, did a one-woman (plus audience) panel on "The Ethics of Biography," at the AHA-PCB in San Francisco.

Margaret L. Grimshaw received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles in June 1996.

Kathleen Sheldon, presented two papers in June 1996, "Gender Ideology and Portuguese Colonialism in Mozambique: Instruction for the Elevation of African Woman" at the Berkshire Conference on Women's History at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and "Urban Women in Africa: Courtyards, Markets, City Streets," at a conference at School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The second paper will be published by Westview Press in September 1996 as the introduction to her edited book, Courtyards, Markets, City Streets: Urban African Women.

Marilyn Tobias, Independent Scholar and public historian, gave a paper, "Affirmative Action: From Seneca Falls to this Fall in California," at Women's Resource Center, California Lutheran University, March 1996.

MEMBER NEWS (continued from Page 3)

Nancy J. Taniguchi of California State University, Stanislaus has published a book, Necessary Fraud: Progressive Reform and Utah Coal (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996). It is a legal history dealing with sex, violence, and coal land rip-off (primarily the latter) in the turn of the century American West.

Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton Professor of History Emerita from the University of Alabama at Birmingham has published Looking for Clark Gable and Other 20th-Century Pursuits (University of

Alabama Press, 1996) (to order call 1-800-825-9980)

Jessica Weiss is a 1996-97 Visiting Assistant Professor at University of Utah, Salt Lake City, is now teaching U.S. Women History/ U.S. History.

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**Deadlines and Data:**

**WAWH Awards and Prizes 1997**

*Each of the following awards is granted at the annual conference of the Western Association of Women Historians. Applicants for these awards must be members of WAWH at the time of submission (beginning with the 1997 awards, all applicants will need to have been members for two years). The deadline for all of these awards is February 15, 1997. Membership information may be obtained from the Secretary, Carol Gold, Department of History, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775.*

**Sierra Book Prize** The WAWH will award the 1997 Sierra Prize (\$250) for the best monograph in the field of history published by a WAWH member. Eligibility for the prize is limited to two groups: those residing in California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Montana, Texas, or Oklahoma; and WAWH members residing in other states who have paid membership for three years (not necessarily consecutive years). The book must be a monograph based on original research (not an anthology or edited work); the prize is open to all fields of history. Please send a letter of intent and three copies of the book to: Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland, Dept. of History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

**Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize** The WAWH will award the 1997 JLRAP (\$100) for the best article in the field of history published by a WAWH member. The article must have been published in 1995 or 1996. All fields of history will be considered, and submissions must include full scholarly apparatus. Please send inquiries and three copies to Dr. Florence Baker, 1256 Alameda Ave., Glendale, CA 91201.

**Barbara Penny Kanner Award** The WAWH will award the 1997 BPKP (\$500) to the best scholarly bibliographical and historical guide to research focused on Women's or Gender history. The award is intended to promote the practice of bibliomethodology and to reflect the critical tools of the historian's craft as they have been developed to provide research guides. Book-length submissions are preferred, but substantial guides in other forms (articles or book chapters) may also be considered. For further information and application, please contact Dr. Candace Falk, 912 Mendocino Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709.

**Graduate Student Fellowship** The WAWH will award the 1997 GSF (\$1,000) to a graduate student, advanced to candidacy, who is writing a dissertation at the time of application, and is expecting to receive the Ph.D. no earlier than December of the calendar year in which the award is made. For further information and application forms, please contact Dr. Lois Huneycutt, 628 Huntridge Drive, Columbia, MO 65201



**Submissions Requested**

Proposals are sought for essays to be included in "Colonial Views of Native Women," a projected reader for college-level classes and above. 250-word abstracts are welcome on any geographic location or era. Please send your abstract and curriculum vitae for Dr. Tamara L. Hunt, History Dept., Loyola Marymount University, 7900 Loyola Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045-8415 or email to thunt@lmumail.lmu.edu

## Call for Papers

28th Annual Conference  
Western Association Women Historians,  
Asilomar Conference Center  
May 30-June 1, 1997

Proposals for panels are welcome on any historical subject, time period, or region but those focusing on the theme DIFFERENCE AND POWER are preferred. While WAWH has often had a special emphasis on women's history, we suggest that participants may also wish to think of this theme in terms of race, ethnicity, class, religion, age, education, and any other relevant categories, including gender. Panels or workshops on long-term concerns of women in the historical profession are also encouraged. Proposals for complete panels, including commentators, are strongly preferred, but individual papers will be considered.

Proposals should include FOUR copies of each of the following: a cover page that includes the title of the panel, names of the panelists, and titles of the individual papers; a one-half to one-page abstract for each paper; a one- to two-page curriculum vitae for each panelist; and a list of the panelists that includes their current addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. In addition, please enclose one self-addressed stamped postcard for each panelist. Send proposals to:

DR. NUPUR CHAUDHURI  
1737 Vaughan Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502  
The deadline submission for proposals is  
Dec. 2, 1996.

## Published Guides

### Revealing Women's Life Stories

The publication of *Revealing Women's Life Stories: Papers from the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the SOPHIA SMITH COLLECTION* (Smith College, Northhampton, MA 1995) brings together the papers delivered at the celebratory symposium at Smith College honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Sophia Smith Collection. The 80 page volume includes addresses by Nancy F. Cott on Mary Beard and women's history, Ellen Chesler on re-interpreting Margaret Sanger and Carolyn Heilbrun on writing a biography of Gloria Steinem and is available for \$12.50 a copy. Contact Nancy DeHapenna, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northhampton, MA 01063, FAX 413-585-2904.

### Guide to African American Manuscript Sources

The Special Collections Department, Emory University announces the availability of a new subject guide to its manuscript holdings entitled *Manuscript Sources for African-American History*. The 51 page guide contains 189 entries for literary and historical manuscript collections from the 1820s to the present; historical collections predominate. The guide includes a name and topic index and is available at a cost of \$3.00 by writing to African American Guide, Special Collections Dept., Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322. Make checks payable to Emory University. Other guides to manuscript sources currently available include: Civil War History (\$3.00); Women's History (free); Methodist History (free); and Atlanta, Georgia (free). ●

## Social Action Committee

Regina Lark, Social Action Coordinator

*(Please note: Any opinions expressed about propositions, initiatives, or other political positions are those of individual members and not the official position of WAWH).*

Greetings! WAWH member Mayme Hubert ask that I remind our California members about the need for a proactive stand against an issue that will one day affect all of us. Right now, Californians are facing an extremely volatile political situation in the November elections. Proposition 209, the California Civil Rights Initiative, will end affirmative action in this state "as we know it." As Hubert explains: "Although the number of academic positions held by women and minorities has increased, there is still dramatic imbalance. Equal opportunity will be an empty phrase again, if the tool for realizing it is scrapped. We need to defeat 209."

WAWH members are encouraged to contact organizations already working to preserve affirmative action. Californians for Justice has offices in Oakland (510) 452-2728 and in Los Angeles (213) 747-4495. They will soon open in San Jose. A call to one's local ACLU, NOW, or League of Women Voters is another path to hook up with "No on 209."

(Editor's note: On October 5th, the Huntington Library Women's Studies Seminar will host a panel entitled, "Thirty Years After Freedom Summer: Women, Community and Democracy," which will deal with the history of the civil rights movement and affirmative action, placing Proposition 209 in historical context. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. and is free to the public. No reservations needed.)



## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Respondents to the graduate student survey that appeared in the last issue of the Networker was somewhat limited. Respondents agreed that they rely on organizations like the WAWH to provide them with information on financial aid opportunities, a forum where students can showcase their work and the chance to meet students and faculty members with similar interests. We would like to thank all of those that took the time to respond.

Katie and I will endeavor to help fellow graduate students along those lines. At this time, we would like to encourage students interested in presenting work at conferences to join SPITHRA, The Informational Network, started by Emily Rader. (See application form in this issue of Networker). Students who would like information on available financial aid should consult Graduate Funding Resource System Award Opportunity Listing available through the Graduate School AG-10, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195. Phone 206-543-5900. This service charges students \$15.00/search but searches are extensive and can be very helpful. Students should also utilize the internet. Services like Netsearch™ can help students find information about specific university archives, libraries and funding opportunities. For those of you who want to correspond with graduate and faculty members of the WAWH, membership directories are available from Emily Rader for a fee of \$5.00. The directory lists all current members, their areas of academic interest and their addresses.

Finally, we would like more individuals to work as Graduate Student Liaisons (GSL). We believe that GSL's will be able to provide a direct line of communication between the WAWH and graduate student concerns. We would like GSL;s to participate in a forum with WAWH faculty members at the next conference in Asilomar to discuss such issues as TA/GA appointments, university support of grad students and job opportunities. Please contact Katie or Erika if you would like to serve as a GSL and/or have suggestions for current GSL's.

*Katie Pearce-Sassen & Erika Bsumek*

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## SPITHRA, The informational network

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SPITHRA is for scholars who wish to locate matching paper proposals so that completed panels can be proposed to conference program committees. With or without a computer, you can enjoy the benefits of a computer-recorded network simply by filling out the following form and sending it to Emily Rader, 436 Lime Ave., #6 Long Beach, CA 90802-2678 or email the information to [rader@scf.usc.edu](mailto:rader@scf.usc.edu). To access SPITHRA, if you have a computer connected to a university computing system, log onto Gopher. You will then see: "Other Gopher Systems; there you will eventually find "University of So. California (USC). If you are not connected to a university system, log on to [cwis.usc.edu](http://cwis.usc.edu); this will bring you to the Gopher menu. At USC Gopher, make the following menu choices: (1) #3 "University Information"; (2) #1, "Academic Departments"; (3) #15 "Social Sciences and Communications"; (4) #3, "History; and finally (5) #1, "SPITHRA"

|                                                              |                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Name _____                                                   | Address _____                               |
| City, state, zip _____                                       | FAX/e-mail: _____                           |
| Telephone (daytime) _____                                    | evening: _____                              |
| Region of interest (circle one):    Africa    Asia    Europe | Latin America    Middle East    No. America |
| Country in region _____                                      | Time period of interest _____               |
| Title or topic of proposed paper _____                       |                                             |

Willing to travel to conference to present papers? Yes  No

[Co-sponsored by the Conference Group on Women's History (CGWH), the Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH), and the Department of History, University of Southern California (USC).]

## Member News - *The Networker*

Name, affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Notice of publication or other member news: \_\_\_\_\_

(Use an additional sheet if necessary. Send to Jacqueline Braitman, 23250 Mariano Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367)

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Katie Pearce-Sassen

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k.pearce-sassen@m.cc.utah.edu

#### Sierra Book Prize

Chair: Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland  
Dept. of History, Univ. of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS 66045

#### Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize

Chair: Dr. Florence Baker  
1256 Alameda Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201

#### Barbara Penny Kanner Award

Chair: Dr. Candace Falk  
912 Mendocino Ave  
Berkeley, CA 94709.

#### Graduate Student Fellowship,

Chair: Dr. Lois Huneycutt  
628 Huntridge Drive  
Columbia, MO 65201

# WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (include city, zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

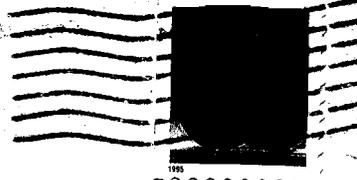
e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Internet or Bitnet (circle one)

Current Position and/or Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Research and/or Teaching Fields \_\_\_\_\_

|                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Full-time Employed                   | \$20                       |
| Part-time/Retired                    | \$15                       |
| Graduate Student/Independent Scholar | \$8                        |
| Lifetime Membership                  | <del>\$400</del>           |
| New 1996 WAWH Membership Directory   | \$5 (includes \$2 postage) |

(Clip and send with your check to: Carol Gold, WAWH Secretary, Department of History, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775. email: ffcg@aurora.alaska.edu *Reminder: Membership runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Membership dues are tax-deductible.*)



Western  
Association  
of  
Women  
Historians



Call for Papers



Jacqueline R. Braitman  
23250 Mariano Street  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Susan Groag Bell 1996  
101 Alma Street #503  
Palo Alto, CA  
94301

