



President's Column

Very soon something important will appear in your mailbox: the program and registration materials for our 1997 conference at Asilomar, near Monterey, California. The conference runs from dinner on Friday, May 30 through luncheon on Sunday, June 1. Those dates may seem quite a ways away, but I can't over-stress that we need you to send in your registration promptly. Since several other groups will also be meeting at Asilomar that weekend, we have to submit our requests for specific numbers of rooms and meals—plus a big chunk of the payment—more than a month in advance of the conference. Most of the available rooms are doubles and triples, so you may want to start contacting friends about rooming together. But most of all, be ready to send back your materials as soon as you can once they arrive. That way you can focus on the pleasing prospect of the conference itself, instead of trying to remember which pile the program is buried in.

The program is shaping up wonderfully, for scholars have responded enthusiastically to our announced topic of "Difference and Power." Scholars from as far away as Africa will participate, as we explore difference in terms of gender, ethnicity, nationality, class, and many other categories. In addition to our panels, there will be a one-woman show as our Friday evening entertainment, our annual awards dinner on Saturday, ample time to network, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the peaceful beauty of Asilomar, the aptly named "Refuge by the Sea." For those who have attended only our Southern California meetings, be prepared for a more casual and relaxed atmosphere, almost like a retreat at times, with valuable feedback on your work accompanied by the sound of wind through the pines and waves on the beach.

Even before our conference, the Organization of American Historians will be meeting in San Francisco, April 17 through 20. The OAH holds meetings on the West Coast once every four or five

years, at best, so this presents a rare opportunity for many of us to attend a major national meeting relatively close to home. By a curious coincidence, however, the American Historical Association will hold its 1998 conference in Seattle next January. On top of that, the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA will be coming to my hometown of Portland this August.

This string of conferences up and down the coast, all in the space of less than nine months, has set me wondering how the WAWH fits into the scheme of things. Obviously, we offer this newsletter to keep members apprised of jobs, funding opportunities, prizes, upcoming conferences, resources, and so on. We put out a directory to enable members to stay in touch, and we offer awards for excellence in

1	President's Column
2	Member News
3	Deadlines and Data ⊗ Job Openings
4	Graduate Student News ⊗ SPITHRA
5	Member News Form ⊗ WAWH Executive Board
6	WAWH Membership Form

scholarship. Maybe most importantly, we have our annual conference, where people can present their work in the knowledge that they will receive useful, thoughtful, and truly constructive criticism and mentoring at its best. These are all valuable services, but are they enough?

We call this newsletter The Networker, and I think our organization can behave more like a network too. According to sociological network analysts, people get emotional support but little new information from their "strong ties" in a network, like family and close friends, because close contacts tend to share similar information. People get access to fresh information and a wider range of resources from "weak ties" further out in the network, since these act as "bridging ties" to other networks and resources altogether. Maybe it's time to start mobilizing our weak ties to accomplish things that need doing. (Continued on Page 2) *✍*

All the conferences coming our way in the next few months can be especially helpful to graduate students, in terms of meeting key scholars in their fields, mastering the professional style that's expected, and generally making contacts that will help them become established as historians. But students in particular live on very tight budgets, and the costs associated with attending conferences can be prohibitive. Is there a way we can use the "weak ties" that already exist in the WAWH network to make conference attendance more affordable?

Our graduate student representatives, Erika Bsumek and Katie Pearce-Sassen, have been working hard to cultivate other student representatives at the campus level throughout our region. These people have access to information that students from other localities could use, especially in terms of finding lodging, not just for conventions but also during research trips. It may even be appropriate for students in a host city to invite fellow members of WAWH who are attending a conference to stay with them. I can remember more than one conference that I attended as a grad student that became affordable because other students let me sleep on their sofas. But it goes beyond saving money. Helping to make conference attendance easier for each other offers the chance to turn strangers into friends and colleagues, to learn new ways of thinking about common problems, and to become more creative in our work strategies. And strengthening the weak ties in our network makes our whole network stronger and more effective.

I don't mean to put the whole burden on grad students either: All of us can do this for each other, especially in these times of increasing economic stringency. But I believe the need is most pressing for graduate students, who are, after all, our future colleagues. So I'd like to challenge the grad representatives at the campus level to get in touch with your counterparts in the host cities of these various conferences to learn what resources are available. I also encourage WAWH members in those host cities, at every level of seniority, to contact the local grad representatives to learn about housing needs and to do what you can to meet them. Isn't helping each other what networks are for?

*Susan Wladaver-Morgan, President
WAWH*



Editor's Note

- If you haven't already renewed your WAWH membership for the 1997 year, send your dues to Carol Gold.
- There are plenty of jobs to do in this organization, so if you are interested in getting more actively involved, please contact our incoming president, Sarah Stage and let her know your interests!



Member News

Mary Anderson is happy to share with us that she will be in China for six weeks in May and June but she regrets she'll miss the WAWH Conference! *(Have a great time!!)*

Nan Alamilla Boyd, University of Colorado, Boulder, has been busy delivering papers and publishing. For just 2 examples: "Beyond Lesbian Bodies: Transsexual Women in 1970s Lesbian Feminist Discourse." Paper presented as part of a panel on *Spatial Perversions: Queer Bodies and Nationalist Discourse* at the American Studies Association Meetings, Kansas City, Missouri,

October 31-November 3, 1996; "Homos Invade S.F.!: San Francisco's History as a Wide Open Town," *Creating a Place for Ourselves: Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community Histories*, Brett Beemyn, ed. (New York: Routledge, 1997).

Jacqueline R. Braitman, UCLA, has won a major grant from the John Randolph and Dora Haynes Foundation to finish her manuscript: "The Quintessential Reformer: Katherine Philips Edsen and California's Era of Reform."

Carol C. Fan, University of Hawai'i, has a long list of recent publications. To name just a couple:

(Continued on Page 3) ⤵

(Continued from Page 2)

"Language, Gender, and Chinese Culture," *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, Vol. 10, No. 1, Sept. 1996, pp. 95-114; "Asian Women in Hawai'i: Migration, Family, Work and Identity," *National Women's Studies Association Journal*. Vol. 8, No. 1, Spring, 1996, pp. 70-84.

Nina Gelbart, Occidental College, published "The Monarchy's Midwife Who Left No Memoirs," which appeared (Fall 1996) in a special issue on biography in the journal *French Historical Studies*.

Diane Macleod, University of California at Davis, just published Art and the Victorian Middle Class (Cambridge U.P.: 1996)

Kristie Miller published: "Grace Coolidge" in *American First Ladies*, ed. Lewis L Gould (Garland, 1996) and "Dame Among the Danes" about first woman ambassador Ruth Bryan Own, with Ann Miller Morin, *Foreign Service Journal* 1/97.

Susan L. Smith, University of Alberta, published "Neither Victim nor Villain: Nurse Eunice Rivers, the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, and Public Health Work," *Journal of Women's History*, 8 (Spring 1996): 95-113.



~ Deadlines and Data ~

Announcements

Call for A. Elizabeth Taylor Prize Submissions. The Southern Association for Women Historians announces its annual A. Elizabeth Taylor Prize for the best article on a topic in southern women's history published in either a journal or an anthology during the calendar year 1996. Please send nominations or submit three copies of the article *no later than* June 1, 1997 to: Dr. Diane Miller Sommerville, SAHW Taylor Prize Committee, Department of History, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544. *Phone:* (609)258-1734; *Fax:* (609)258-5326 (do not fax copies of articles!!); *e-mail:* sommervi@princeton.edu.



Call to Conference

The Southern Association for Women Historian's fourth **Southern Conference on Women's History**, June 12-14, 1997 at the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. If you're interested, contact ASAP: Professor Michele Gillespie, SAHW—Agnes Scott College, 141 E. College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030-3797.

~ Job Openings ~

Full-time Visiting Lecturer, History Department, California State University, Stanislaus, Turlock, CA 95382. The Department of History invites applications for an appointment at the lecturer rank for the 1997-98 academic year. The position requires teaching 30 units of undergraduate courses, including: 2 courses in East Asian history, 3 terms of World Civilizations, courses in a specialty area, and participation in two team-taught courses. Application review begins March 12 and continues until position is filled. Send letters of application, c.v., copies of transcripts, teaching evaluations, and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Austin Ahanotu, Chair, Department of History, California State University, Stanislaus, 801 West Monte Vista Avenue, Turlock, CA 95382 or fax to 209/667-3333.



❧ Graduate Student News ❧

Spring is upon us and as the season indicates it's time for change. First off, we are issuing a call for a new Graduate Student Representative for the WAWH. It is a great opportunity to meet with other women and to participate in the profession. If you are interested in holding this position and would like more information, please contact Erika or Katie.

Being a Graduate Student Representative is not the only way to be active in the WAWH. Graduate Student Liaisons (GSL) work within their universities to recruit other Graduate students, open lines of communication between members of the organization and address concerns unique to the graduate school experience. At the next WAWH conference at Asilomar, we hope to set up a meeting with the GSL and Susan Waldaver-Morgan (President of WAWH) to discuss such issues. We would like to thank Jennifer Green (UCLA) and Samantha Yates (UC Davis) who have agreed to serve as Graduate Student Liaisons for their universities. Donna Crail-Rugotzke (U Nev) and Rachel Shaw (UC San Diego) have also expressed interest participating. Again, if you are interested in representing graduate students from your department please contact us.

At the last WAWH conference, there was renewed interest in a Dissertations-in-Progress panel for the upcoming conference in Asilomar. If you are interested in participating, please contact us by 1 April 1997. This will be an informal but valuable discussion for those struggling with the writing, research, and publication processes.

One last note, if you don't know already, you should definitely check out H-GRAD, the H-NET list specifically for graduate students. It lists jobs, fellowships, valuable advice, and always has lively discussion topics. To check out the website dial-up: <http://h-net.msu.edu/~grad>.

Katie & Erika ❧

SPITHRA, The informational network

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

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

SPITHRA is co-sponsored by the Coordinating Council for Women in History (CGWH), the Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH), and the Department of History, University of Southern California (USC).

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; 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"

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) Send Membership inquiries & dues to Emily Rader, *see below*.

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Sierra Book Prize

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Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize

Chair: Dr. Florence Baker
1256 Alameda Avenue
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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

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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	\$400
New 1996 WAWH Membership Directory	\$5 (includes \$2 postage)

(Clip and send with your check made payable to *WAWH*: Carol Gold, 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.)

CALL TO CONFERENCE:
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**Western
Association
of
Women
Historians**

May 30-June 1, 1997 at Asilomar

**Jacqueline R. Braitman
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Woodland Hills, CA 91367**