

President's Column

AVE ATQUE VALE! Welcome to my farewell message as president of the Western Association of Women Historians. This post has left me with greater admiration than ever for our organization, the services it offers, and, above all, its members, many of whom I have come to know better through working and corresponding with them over the past two years. Again and again, these very busy people have cheerfully taken on yet one more responsibility to serve an organization that has helped to sustain us personally and professionally. In case you are in any doubt, sisterhood is alive and well and at work in the WAWH.

Many of us had the opportunity to experience that at our annual meeting at Asilomar, May 30 through June 1. The quality of the panels, both the papers and the commentary, was uniformly excellent, even in the face of technical glitches like missing audio-visual equipment and another conference group that briefly commandeered one of our meeting rooms. Especially outstanding were the Friday night performance by Bonda Lewis and the Saturday morning plenary session featuring Alexandra Nickliss, Ruth Crocker, and Nancy Hewitt. Bonda presented "Tea and Sensibility," a one-woman play about Jane Austen, that proved as deeply satisfying to the performer as to the audience; Bonda couldn't get over how wonderful it was to do the play for an audience that got all the jokes and clearly loved Austen as much as she did. The plenary focused on women and philanthropy, a particularly appropriate subject for the conference site, since without the generosity and foresight of Phoebe Hearst, there probably would not even be an Asilomar. Both sessions enjoyed large and enthusiastic audiences and lively discussions afterward—remarkable, considering the picture-perfect weather that Asilomar rarely enjoys at this season.

Sisterhood also surfaced as a very practical concern. When Barbara Stites, our conference coordinator, checked the conference in, we learned the reason for most of the problems we had encountered in our preparations: A for-profit management company (the

same one that now runs Yosemite) was taking over the running of Asilomar Conference Center, and the official transition would take place that Saturday night. All spring, the process had been causing disruption, anxiety, and confusion for the staff. During the awards dinner, we discovered that many staff members were working their last night and would be out of their jobs the next day; those who remained apparently faced reduced benefits and more difficult working conditions.

As women and as historians, a lot of us felt that this situation warranted some action on our part, so Sarah Stage, our newly elected president, gamely chaired a general meeting right there at dinner. After much heated discussion, we agreed to send committees to speak with both management and workers in a variety of staff positions to get as much accurate information as we could before taking any official steps as an organization.

Our members rallied in a flash in support of other women and workers. The investigating committees practically constituted themselves, and Rebecca Mead promptly volunteered as the new chair of the Social Action Committee. The committees did their initial fact-finding well into Saturday night and on Sunday morning; the process is continuing. Obviously, it will take time to acquire a full picture of what is going on at Asilomar, partly because the situation is still in flux. Be assured, however, that the WAWH is behaving in a socially responsible way to serve the best interests of both our own members and the wider community.

This example just illustrates the point at the beginning of this message—our members give

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generously of their time and effort to make this organization work. And now it is time for me to thank several people who have rendered special service. The members of our governing body, the executive board, performed their tasks with aplomb and were ready with good advice whenever I asked for it. They included Sarah Stage, our new president, who took on the touchy situation at Asilomar without missing a beat; Carol Gold, our membership secretary, who handled her duties first from her sabbatical in Denmark and then while recovering from a serious car accident; Emily Rader, our treasurer, who put our financial house on a more business-like basis and got us a much better interest rate on our savings into the bargain; Jackie Braitman, our newsletter editor, who has kept us all informed about jobs, grants, conferences, and much more; and Erika Bsumek and Katie Pearce-Sasson, our graduate student representatives, who have set up a network of graduate student liaisons and worked steadily to demystify the stages of grad life. Past presidents Karen Offen and Peggy Renner were always available to update me on organizational precedents and to offer encouragement. A dozen people served on our prize committees, which offered them the opportunity to see first-hand the high quality of work produced by our members. These twelve hard-reading people include Angel Kwolek-Folland (chair), Sherry Smith, and Susan Karant-Nunn of the Sierra Prize committee; Florence Baker (chair), Carol Fan, and Nancy Page Fernandez of the Judith Lee Ridge Prize committee; Candace Falk (chair), Frances Richardson Keller, and Susan Groag Bell of the Barbara Penny Kanner Award committee; and Lois Huneycutt (chair), Susan Smith, and Carmen Ramos of the Graduate Student Fellowship committee. (See "Here's to the Winners") I can't thank them enough, not just for the time they put in but also for the excellence of their choices.

Two other individuals helped so much that they deserve their own paragraph. Nupur Chaudhuri, assisted by Paivi Hoikkala and Sherry Katz, put together a program that reflected well the diversity of interests that our members pursue. There were panels of Africa and Latin America, Native American artifacts, the visual arts, cookbooks, and travel narratives, workshops on writing and public speaking, and so much more. Anyone who attended our meetings can attest to the exciting mix of panels she put together. What's more, Nupur never lost her sense of humor, even when both my fax machine

and her e-mail (actually, the entire e-mail system at Kansas State) crashed simultaneously on the day she was trying to get the final version of the program to the printer.

And Barb Stites, our conference coordinator, went way beyond the call of duty. The difficult changeover at Asilomar produced mixed signals, confusing information, and problems at almost every stage, but Barb handled all of it with patience and professionalism, even though we learned the cause only when we arrived. Conference participants were able to enjoy the beautiful site and glorious weather with a minimum of hassles because Barb took care of problems before they got out of hand. Barb and Nupur deserve the credit for a terrific conference.

I am fortunate to have worked with such wonderful people in serving an organization I deeply admire. Though I am glad to hand over the gavel to Sarah, serving the WAWH has allowed me to get to know many of you—and our organization—better. Let me encourage each of you to get more involved, as a committee member or a campus liaison or in some other capacity that you come up with yourself. You won't be sorry.

—Susan Wladaver-Morgan, President, WAWH

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Here's to the Winners!

It is with great pleasure that we announce the winners of our four major awards. The Sierra Prize of \$250, for an outstanding book by a WAWH member, goes to Estelle Freedman for Maternal Justice: Miriam Van Waters and the Female Reform Tradition (University of Chicago Press); the Judith Lee Ridge Prize of \$100 (endowed by Martin and Sally Ridge in memory of their daughter) for best article to Margaret Rose for "Woman Power Will Stop Those Grapes": Chicana Organizers and Middle-Class Female Supporters in the Farm Workers' Grape Boycott in Philadelphia, 1969-1970," which appeared in the Journal of Women's History, 7:4 (Winter 1995); the Barbara Penny Kanner Award of \$500, for excellence in bibliomethodology, to the Jane Addams Papers; and the Graduate Student Dissertation Fellowship of \$1000, to Marie Francois for her dissertation in progress entitled "When Pawnshops Talk: Material Culture and Petty Credit in Mexico City," with honorable mention to Regina Lark for her dissertation in progress "Japanese War Brides: Marriage and Migration." *Congratulations!*

Member News

Jackie Braitman would like to thank **Kathleen S. Schrank**, Customer Relations, on behalf of United Airlines for their contribution toward her attending the PCB-AHA in Portland, August 1997

Virginia Warner Brodine's book Seed of the Fire is a historical novel of Irish immigrants in the building of the Ohio Canal, 1825-29, published by International Publishers, Nov. 1996.

Antonia I. Castaneda, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin has been appointed for a 3 year term to the Board of Directors of the Texas Council for the Humanities and her essay, "Engendering the History of Alta California, 1769-1848: Gender, Sexuality and The Family," will appear in the 1st Sesquicentenary volume of California History in 1997.

Professor Joanne Goodwin received tenure at UNLV and was promoted to associate professor. Her book Gender & the Politics of Welfare Reform, by the Univ. of Chicago Press, was released in June.

Norma Nicol Hamilton presented a paper entitled: "The Placement of Charlie in a Non-Indian Home, 1971" at the Northern Calif. Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta in April, 1997 at CSU Chicago.

Women in Context: 200 Years of British Women Autobiographers A Reference Guide and Reader by **Barbara Penny Kanner** has been published by G. K. Hall Scholarly Reference (Simon & Schuster). She will be glad to mail a coupon to those who want the discount. Also please suggest purchasing by your institution's library.

Susan Karant-Nunn has had a very productive year. She delivered eight papers about different aspects of women in German history; 5 contributions to the Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation & published "Navigating Currents: Renaissance Studies in Germany Today," Renaissance Quarterly, Winter 1996.

Diane C. Margolf, Assistant Professor of History, Colorado State University received the Harold J. Grimm Prize for 1996 from the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference for her article, "Adjudicating Memory: Law and Religious Difference in Early Seventeenth-Century France," Sixteenth Century Journal XXVII:2 (Summer 1996), 399-418.

Jo Martin, Independent scholar, has an article on Chiricahua Apache women which will appear in the August 1997 issue of New Mexico Magazine

Dianne Sachko Macleod, History of Art, U.C. Davis has won the Jacque Barzun Prize in Cultural History by the American Philosophical Society for Art and the Victorian Middle Class: Money and the Making of Cultural Identity (Cambridge U.P.: 1996)

Diane North has published "Civil Liberties and the Law: California During the First World War," in Law, Society, and the State: Essays in Modern Legal History. Edited by Louis A. Knasha & Susan W. S. Binnie. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1994, 243-262.

Barbara Bennett Peterson has received the Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Hawaii Alumni Association (1997).

Margaret Rose received an appointment in the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UCSB to administer the California History Social Sciences Project (CH-SSP). You can reach her at: Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, Humanities and Social Sciences Building, Rm 6046, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9011. (805) 893-7269 (office) (805) 893-4336 (fax).

Jenan Saunders, formerly Jenan Shabbas, has just been hired to work with the California Gold Discovery to Statehood Sesquicentennial commemoration—the 150th anniversaries of the discovery of gold, the Gold Rush, and California's statehood. Jenan works in both the program and public relations departments and is the staff historian for the Sesquicentennial.

Patricia A. Schechter, Assistant Professor, Portland State University is a 1997-98 recipient of Faculty Fellowship from Yale University's Pew Program for Religion in American History to complete intellectual biography of Ida B. Wells-Barnett.

Donna Ziel, San Jose State University President-Elect of California Advocates for Re-entry Education (CARE) announces CARE's April 1998 conference at Asilomar will be the 20th Anniversary and it's dedicated to Phyllis Sutphen (dec.) of SJSU—a co-founder of CARE.

Graduate Student News

Another WAWH conference and another round of good papers given by graduate students. Katie and I would like to extend congratulations to all the graduate students who presented their work at Asilomar. We enjoyed meeting and talking with other graduate students. The dramatic ending to the conference came with an announcement that Asilomar would no longer be run by the California State Park system, and the resulting staff cuts. Graduate students interested in participating in formal objections should contact Rebecca Mead who has agreed to take on the responsibility of the Social Action Chair (izzy7bh@mvs.oac.ucla.edu). We would also like to congratulate Marie Francois on winning the Graduate Student Dissertation Award. Additional kudos to Regina Lark whose proposed dissertation received an honorable mention from the award committee.

We would also like to introduce your new Graduate Student Liaisons: Samantha Yates (UC Davis, sdyates@ucdavis), Jennifer Green (UCLA, JGSB@netcom.com), Donna Crail-Rugotzke (UNLV, crail@nevada.edu), Rachel Shaw (UCSD, rshaw@ucsd.edu), Susan Hecht (UC Irvine, skhecht@uci.edu), Linda VanIngen (UC Riverside, Vaningen@UCRacl.ucr.edu), Phyllis Jean Amenda (California State University, Fresno, pjall@csufresno.edu).

If you have questions regarding the organization please contact the GSL at your university or Katie or Erika. In addition, if you would like to inform graduate students in the WAWH of news, activities or funding sources GSL's will pass on such information to us. Anyone interested in serving as a GSL should e-mail Katie or Erika and let us know.

Once again, we would like to present some funding source material. Students interested in obtaining information on grants, scholarships and fellowships should write to the American Historical Association and request a copy of the "Guide to Fellowships and Prizes of Interest to Historians" at 400 A. St., SE, Washington, DC 20003. Information is also available from the University of Washington's Graduate Funding Resource System Award Opportunity Listing at: The Graduate School, University of Washington, Box 351240, Seattle, WA 98195-1240. Both organizations charge a minimal fee.

Graduate students should be aware that The House Ways and Means Committee is favoring a tax bill that, among its provisions is a tax increase on graduate student teachers and researchers of up to one thousand percent. In a vote strictly along party lines, the Committee approved the tax proposal originally offered by Chairman Bill Archer (R-TX). The National Association of Graduate and Professional Students has conducted a quick survey and found the bill would dramatically increase tax burdens on graduate students who made less than \$15,000 per year. Among the various changes to the tax code, the Chairman's proposal would eliminate Section 117d of the Internal Revenue code. Section 117d currently protects tuition waivers from taxation. Waivers are often granted by universities to graduate teaching assistants and researchers in return for teaching up to 40% of the courses on most university campuses.

Those interested in learning more about the tax bill should visit the NAGPS web site at <http://www.nagps.org>/NAGPS. NAGPS is also running a legislative alert e-mail list. To be placed on the list, send an e-mail request to nagps@netcom.com or contact The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students 825 Green Bay Road, Suite 270, Wilmette, IL 60091, FAX: 847-256-8954, PHONE: 847-256-1562, Toll Free 1-888-88-NAGPS. Email to: NAGPS@NETCOM.COM.

If this issue concerns you, please remind your state and local representatives that graduate students vote!

Best of luck in the coming school year!

✉ Erika Bsumek & Katie Pearce-Sassen

Memorial Scholarships to be Established

The Department of History & Philosophy & numerous student organizations at the University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, have begun the process to establish the Irene Ledesma Memorial Scholarship Fund. Dr. Irene Ledesma, whose work in labor history, Chicana history, and working class women's history garnered her recognition among her peers, passed away recently after a long illness. The goal is to collect at least \$10,000 ASAP per university regulations to get a scholarship established in Dr. Ledesma's memory. The scholarship will be used to help a female Mexican American student needing financial assistance to pursue the Master of Arts in History at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg. If you would like to assist, please send any donations, contributions, or any inquiry to: Dr. Rodolfo Rocha, Chair, Dept. of History & Philosophy, Univ. of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, TX 78539, or call: 210-381-3561.

Grants

The Episcopal Women's History Project will award its first triennial Frank Sugeno Research Award in 1998. The award of \$1000 will be made for a current research project on the history of Episcopal women. Topics may include individual women or groups, or women who initiated and run activities in the Episcopal Church in the United States, including its possessions and territories, and extraterritorial missionary activities.

Also, the Episcopal Women's History Project announces the establishment of Travel/Research Awards to support work on the history of Episcopal women. Projects can focus on individual women or groups, or female initiated or organized activities in the Episcopal Church in the U.S. and its possessions and territories as well as overseas missionary activity. Grants of no more than \$500 will be awarded for travel to archives or libraries, acquisition of material, or other scholarly expenses. Application deadline is 12/1/97; notification of the awards will be made by 2/1/98. Information and grant applications may be requested from: The Episcopal Women's History Project, 175 9th Avenue, New York, NY 10011.



Surprising Statistics

Carol Gold's report on our membership statistics revealed two interesting facts. First, the proportion of our membership that resides outside of California is growing. In one sense, this is promising news, since it means that we are becoming a more truly regional organization, like the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA. At the same time, it means that, in absolute numbers, fewer Californians are participating, since our overall membership numbers are holding steady. The conclusion: We need to do a better job of recruiting and keeping members from California so that their membership reflects the real numbers of women historians in this most populous Western state.

Second, the proportion of graduate students is also slipping. Maybe this means that our grad students are all getting jobs, which would be good news indeed. Still, there are always new students enrolling in graduate school, and we need to do a better job of recruiting them too, for they are our colleagues of tomorrow.

And who should do this important work? The people in the best position to recruit new members, both more Californians and more grad students, are colleagues and mentors. So, if you are a member, encourage your colleagues to join and, better yet, to submit their work to our conferences and for our prizes. And if you are a professor, encourage your students to become part of an organization—and a tradition—that has nurtured women historians for almost thirty years. Our organization has a lot to offer, but we need all of our current members to help spread the word.

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 dues to Carol Gold.

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., #8 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 _____	

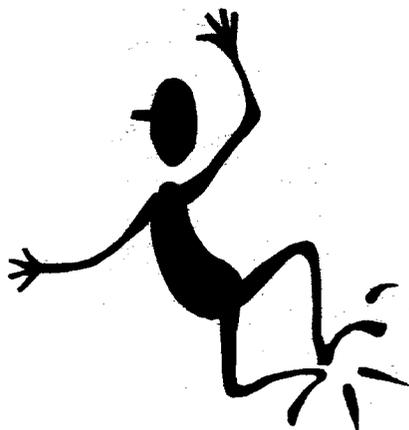
Willing to travel to conference to present papers? Yes No

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"

NEW WAWH Board for 1997-1998!!

The NETWORKER



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Treasurer	Emily Rader
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Newsletter Editor	Jackie Braitman
Grad Reps	Erika Bsumek

*New Address Listings in next issue

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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 Honeycutt
628 Huntridge Drive
Columbia, MO 65201

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Mailing Address (include city, zip) _____

Phone: (Work) _____ (Home) _____

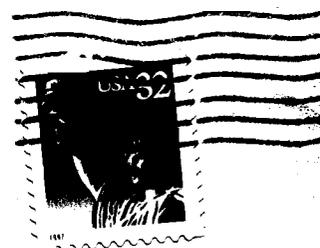
e-mail address _____ Internet or Bitnet (circle one)

Current Position and/or Affiliation _____

Research and/or Teaching Fields _____

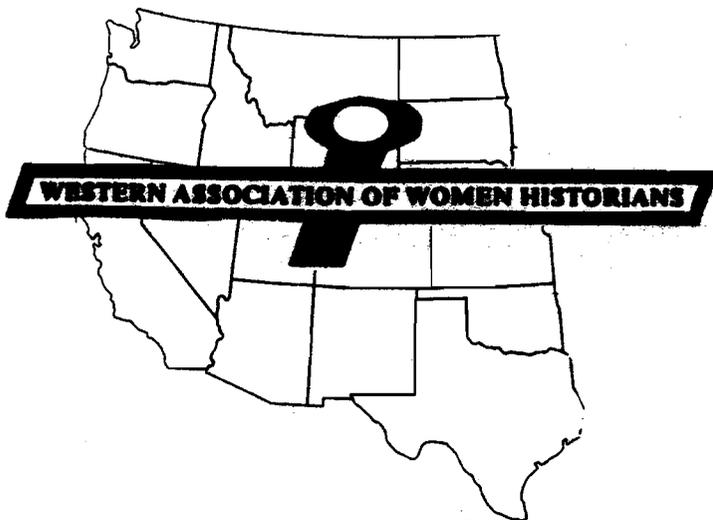
Full-time Employed	\$20
Part-time/Retired	\$15
Graduate Student/Independent Scholar	\$8
Lifetime Membership	\$400
New 1996 WAWH Membership Directory	\$5 (includes \$2 postage)

(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.)



THE Networker

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