President's Column

By Karen Blair
Central Washington University

Our May conference at Asilomar reminded me afresh of the generosity of our membership. The eagerness of long-time as well as brand new historians to volunteer in this organization is gratifying. Not only do members participate by attending our annual meetings and presenting their ideas, but they offer with zeal to serve on established committees and shape our future by creating new ones. The Western Association of Women Historians finds itself with the delightful prospect of drawing on impressive numbers of experienced historians and excited newcomers, with only a few vacancies remaining. Our committee chairs seek two additional members for the Kanner Prize in Bibliography, one for graduate fellowships, and two for the Ridge Article Prize. These historians will be reading submissions next winter and selecting winners at our Pasadena meeting in June 2000.

Our organization also needs a new Social Action Committee chair to carry on Jo Goodwin’s efforts. In addition, Mary Ann Irwin would like help in devising a new Gypsy Scholar Committee. Nupur Chauduri welcomes help with her new recruitment efforts, an effort to broaden our membership. Finally, the Claremont Collective that produces this newsletter four times a year is initiating efforts to create a Web site for WAWH. Its members welcome suggestions about the materials we might share there. If you feel able to contribute your effort, please contact me soon.

Of course, the easiest way to strengthen this organization is to publicize it, its prizes and its next conference, June 9-11 at the Huntington Library in southern California. Won’t you post the enclosed WAWH flier in an academic setting? Help us secure more nominations for our prizes by publicizing our awards at all the professional history conferences you attend. Invite new women historians, in any field of specialization, on your campus or in your neighborhood, to join. Remind graduate students that our conference has a long tradition of providing a forum for beginners to debut their research. Our growth has been steady, but we thrive on new perspectives and welcome additional participation.

WAWH Bulletins

New WAWH Treasurer Elected
Judy Raftery was elected at the Asilomar Business meeting as the new treasurer, but she has stepped down and the Executive Board voted by e-mail to elect Amy Essington as Treasurer. Amy will be taking over the treasurer position from Emily Rader in September 1999.

1999 WAWH Directory
The 1999 edition of the WAWH directory is now available. The directory includes all active members of the WAWH from 1997 through 1999. The directory is $6 (which includes $1 postage) and can be ordered by filling out the membership form included in the back of directory. 

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WAWH Bulletins

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Please note that we are currently in the process of putting together a directory addendum. If the information listed in the directory is incorrect or no longer current, please e-mail Laura Abeyta-Paulus (laura.abeyta-paulus@cgu.edu) by September 15, 1999 with the changes. The addendum will be mailed to all members in the Fall edition of the Networker.

Part-Time Instructor’s Task Force

The WAWH has initiated a task force to study the growing use of part-time instructors by colleges and universities. The first step will be to collect information. If you are currently teaching part-time, or if you taught part-time prior to attaining a full-time position, please contact the Task Force Coordinator, Mary Ann Irwin, 247 Brighton Avenue, Hercules, CA 94547-3605. Phone (510) 245-8328. Irwinator@aol.com.

“Part-Timer’s Bill of Rights”

Mary Ann Irwin and Rebecca Mead have notified us of a very important piece of legislation in the California State legislature this summer —AB420 (Wildman). This “Part-Timer’s Bill of Rights” would provide equal pay for equal work, rehire rights, and some benefit access for part-timers in the community college system.

In June the AB420 bill passed the Assembly, and is now in the Senate Education Committee, where it will be heard on July 14th. The bill is expected to pass the committee without much trouble but passage in the Senate is anticipated to be more difficult than in the Assembly, so we are urging everyone to please communicate with the Chair, Dede Alpert, and with your own state senator as soon as possible. If you are not sure who your state senator is, or wish to learn more about the bill, start with the Senate’s Web site: www.sen.ca.gov. Alpert may also be reached at (619) 645-3090, www.sen.ca.gov/alpert/opinion.htm and all the state senators have pages like this. For more information on this legislation please contact Rebecca Mead of the WAWH Social Action Committee at rmead@ucla.edu or Mary Ann Irwin of the Part-Time Instructors Task Force.

WAWH Speaker

Gail DuBrow, University of Washington School of Architecture and Urban Planning, will be the WAWH speaker at the American Historical Assos/Pacific Coast Branch conference in Maui, Hawaii on August 6, 1999. Her topic will be “Restoring Women’s History Through Historic Preservation.”

Conference Report

This year’s conference included the usual array of disasters and delays, but thanks to an incredibly supportive board and the help of program committee members Marijke Marsana and Nupur Chaudhuri, we were able to present a wonderful array of high-quality panels. The papers ranged in chronological and geographic diversity from ancient Israel to Cold-War Los Angeles. The roundtables were well-attended and feedback on those sessions was particularly positive. We had a number of first-time presenters, some new to our organization and some giving their very first public presentations. After the conference, I contacted all of the first-time participants and asked for their feedback. Most were quite positive about the organization and their experience at Asilomar. Two raised a few issues that I believe we as an organization need to address. I am going to quote their comments and then add a few of my own: "I enjoyed the panels I went to. I was only sorry that some of the people in panels I missed were present such a brief period, as I wanted to chat about their presentations that I missed" and "The quality of the feedback given to the presenters varied greatly from session to session. In some cases, the commentator made a few cursory comments, in others the participants received truly helpful constructive criticism. Graduate students in particular are quite anxious to hear how their work is perceived within a larger historical community than their own university and it would be nice if there were a way to ensure that every participant would have that opportunity."

As difficult as it is to receive negative feedback, I believe these attendees raised valid issues. We have, over the years, prided ourselves on "Networking." Over the last few conferences, however, I have noticed that our commitment to networking seems to be slipping—and I believe this to be a true feminist issue. How many of us drive or fly in to present our own work or that of our students and never bother attending other sessions? How

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many take the time and trouble to track down our emerging scholars to establish the personal connections that will be necessary to retain their interest in the Association as they enter the profession as faculty members? And finally, as the co-chair of this year’s program committee, I will verify that my toughest challenge was tracking down chairs and commentators for proposed sessions. The new directory will make it easier for future program chairs to identify suitable commentators, so I would like to close with a plea for next year’s program. Please contact me at huneycuttl@missouri.edu NOW if you are willing to chair or comment next year. Senior members, please look at the directory and consider organizing a session in your area of expertise. And to all those who will be giving papers at next year’s conference at the Huntington: please remember deadlines and get your paper proposals in early and also get your completed paper to your commentator early enough to get the valuable feedback you deserve. Lois L. Huneycut, 1999 Program Committee Co-Chair.

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that WAWH remains in healthy financial condition. Some of you know that I was worried that conference expenses would bankrupt us, but happily, I was wrong. While I don’t have a final accounting of our expenses, it appears that we will come close to breaking even, and that means we’ll still have a bank balance of several thousand dollars. We also collected $215 for the graduate student fund. (This money goes towards the $1000 Graduate Student Award.)

I know that some folks who worked on putting the conference together have withheld asking for reimbursement of their expenses because they were worried that WAWH was out of money. Don’t worry anymore! Send those receipts to me!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amy Essington, of the Claremont Graduate Collective, for answering my “ad” for a new treasurer. When she returns from her research trip at the end of the summer, I will turn over the checkbook to her. I would also like to thank the last few presidents and executive boards, along with the rest of the WAWH membership, for making my time as treasurer memorable and so enjoyable.

Finally, as someone who became involved with WAWH’s affairs very quickly, and almost by accident, I’d like to recommend the experience to others. I’ve gotten to know a lot of great folks, much more than if I had just paid my dues and come to the conferences. As a budding (but not so young!) historian, these contacts and friendships have been a great morale booster and support network. Whether you’re an “old” or new member, volunteer to help out in some way. Emily Rader.

Prize Winners

At the Asilomar conference in May of 1999, Florence Baker awarded Kathleen Kennedy with the Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize for her essay, “Casting an Evil Eye on the Youth of the Nation: Motherhood and Political Subversion in the Wartime Prosecution of Kate Richard O’Hare, 1917-1924” which appeared in American Studies 39:3 (Fall 1998). Alexandra Nickliss awarded the Sierra Book Prize to Nina Gelbart for The King’s Midwife: A History and Mystery of Madam du Coudray published by University of California Press in 1998. Candace Falk awarded the Barbara Penny Kanner Award to Karen Blair for Northwest Women: An Annotated Bibliography of Sources on the History of Oregon and Washington Women, 1787-1970 which was published by Washington State University Press. This reference work has also won the American Library Association award for best bibliography in history. Nancy Page Fernandez awarded Lynn Sacco with the graduate student fellowship. She attends the University of Southern California.

The committee chairs also wish to extend thanks to those who assisted in the selection process. For their work on the Sierra Book Prize, Alexandra Nickliss would like to thank Peggy Renner and Jane Slaughter. Florence Baker would like to thank Carole Srole and Janis Appier for their time and effort spent in the careful reading and analysis of article submissions as well as their thoughtful contributions to the numerous discussions that led to the selection of this year’s recipient of the Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize. Florence would also like to thank all those who submitted their work for consideration for the article prize. It was a privilege to have had the opportunity to read the diverse and excellent work of our members. Finally, Nancy Page Fernandez would like to thank all of those who helped select this year’s winner for the Graduate Student Founder’s Fellowship.
Prize Winners
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The Barbara Penny Kanner Award
The WAWH will award $500 to the best scholarly bibliographical and historical guide to research focused on women or gender history. The award is intended to promote the practice of bibliomethodology and 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 (article or book chapters) may also be considered.

The Graduate Student Founders’ Fellowship
Applicants must be members of the WAWH, advanced to candidacy, writing the dissertation at the time of application, and expecting to receive the Ph.D. no earlier than December 1999. The $1,000 award may be used for expenses related to the dissertation.

The Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize
The WAWH will award the 1999 J. L. Ridge Article Prize ($100) for the best article in the field of history published by a WAWH member. The article must have been published in 1998 or 1999. All fields of history will be considered, and articles must be submitted with full scholarly apparatus.

1998 Sierra Book Prize Announcement
The WAWH will award the 1998 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). It must be published in the year of the award (in this case, 1998). Books previously issued as hardback and reissued as paper cannot be submitted. Books cannot be submitted more than once. The prize is open to all fields of history.

**New committees are being constituted for the spring 2000 awards. Each committee will have three members, one from the field of American History, one from European History, and one from another area of world history. These should have some knowledge or experience in the venue they are judging. The new chair of the Graduate Fellowship Prize Committee is Amy Froide in British History. Alexandra Nickliss in American history will also serve. A volunteer for the third position is still sought. Interested members should contact Amy Froide at froideam@muohio.edu. The new chair of the Sierra Prize is Nupur Chauduri, who will serve with Betsy Perry and Jo Goodwin. The new chair of the Barbara Penny Kanner Award is Nancy Slote who seeks two additional committee members with experience in bibliographic work. Volunteers can contact her at nslote@kcls.org. The new chair of the Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize is Janis Appier, Americanist, who seeks two new committee members. She can be reached at appier.1@osu.edu.**

Thank You

Lynn Sacco, this year’s recipient of the Graduate Student Founder’s Fellowship, has acknowledged her appreciation and included some details of her ongoing dissertation work that may be of interest to WAWH members.

WAWH Colleagues,

Thank you for the honor of awarding me the 1999 WAWH Founders Fellowship for my dissertation project entitled, “Not Talking About ‘It’: A History of Incest in the United States, 1900-1940.” My project investigates the ways in which professional and popular beliefs about incest were constructed along race and class lines. It offers a fresh approach to the seemingly irresolvable contemporary psychological debates over incest and memory by exploring the overlooked role of medicine and public health in shaping assumptions about “normative” sexual practices and social positions.

I am focusing on the public health campaign against venereal disease which occurred during this period, which was very similar to the AIDS campaign in its emphasis on education, treatment, and de-stigmatization [there was no “cure” until penicillin became available during WW II]. One result of increased public awareness and treatment was that doctors discovered rates of gonorrhea among school girls so high that most prominent researchers estimated the incidence to be “epidemic” among girls, second only to smallpox and measles. Doctors and social welfare workers had long associated gonorrhea and domestic sexual assault with girls from poor homes, immigrant families, or parents of
Western Association of Women Historians

CALL FOR PAPERS

2000 Conference

The Western Association of Women Historians will hold its annual conference, June 9-11, 2000 at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California. We welcome proposals for panels or single papers on any historical subject, time period, or region. While WAWH has often featured women's history, participants are welcome to present research on any aspect of history. Topics on race, ethnicity, class, religion, gender and age are invited. So are presentations on the nuts-and-bolts of all aspects of professional success, including job-hunting, researching, publishing and teaching. Proposals for complete panels, including commentators, are strongly preferred, but individual papers will also be considered.

Proposals must include THREE copies of each of the following: 1) a cover page that includes the title of the panel, names of the panelists, and the titles of the individual papers and an indication of what, if any audio-visual equipment each panelist will need in order to offer an effective presentation. One person on the panel should be designated as the contact person in the event the selection committee needs any clarification; 2) a one-half to one-page abstract for each paper; 3) a one-to-two page curriculum vitae for each panelist; 4) a list of panelists that includes current addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Please send by December 15, 1999 to Dr. Lois L. Huneycutt, Department of History, 114A Read Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia MO 65211; FAX 573 884 5151; e-mail: huneycuttl@missouri.edu. It is expected that all participants will become members of the Association at the time of the conference.

The Western Association of Women Historians was founded in 1969 to promote the interests of women historians both in the historical profession and in the field of history. Drawing scholars from ten Western states, and with approximately 650 members, the WAWH is the largest of the regional women's historical associations in the United States.

The WAWH holds an annual spring conference for the presentation of scholarly work, new research, the discussion of teaching methods, and debate of issues important to women scholars. Sessions devoted to the work of current graduate students and their general participation in the conference and the WAWH is encouraged. Four prizes are awarded annually at the President's Dinner, for published articles, books, bibliographies, and graduate fellowships.

WAWH membership includes literary scholars, art, theater and film specialists, archivists, librarians, journalists, and museum specialists as well as historians. The WAWH also encourages the participation of independent scholars in our conferences and activities and devotes one or more sessions to their special interests at the annual conference.

The WAWH publishes The Networker four times a year. The newsletter serves as the primary vehicle of communication between officers and the membership. It contains regular news of members, committee reports, information on jobs and conferences, articles on political and social issues of concern to the historical profession and to women historians in particular. The WAWH Networker also publishes bibliographical essays, bulletins on grants for women, and news from other regional organizations of women historians.

To join the WAWH, write to Janet Farrell Brodie, Department of History, Claremont Graduate University, 710 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA. 91711, or e-mail her at janet.brodie@cgu.edu. Membership fees are as follows: Full-Time Employed $20, Part-Time/Retired $15, Graduate Student/Independent Scholar $8.
color. But they were completely unable to explain how so many native-born, white girls from middle and upper-class families had become infected. To think about incest among their peers, as one prominent Chicago physician put it, "tries our credulity."

I will use the award to visit archives in New York City which house the patient records from the major outpatient and quarantine units that treated infected girls. This June I will be at the New York Academy of Medicine, the Columbia University Butler Rare Books and Archives, the New York Weill Cornell Medical Center Archives, and the Municipal Archives of New York. The girls are silent in the medical literature; I hope that my review of the records will not only illuminate connections between race, class, and sexuality, but also give voice to girls and women whose experience has gone unrecognized and unnamed.

I have been a member of the WAWH since arriving in Los Angeles three years ago. My department, and especially my advisor, Lois W. Banner, have been extraordinarily supportive. But support from outside of my own institution and the WAWH is particularly encouraging because of the WAWH's commitment to collegiality and emerging scholars. Thank you. Lynn Sacco, ABD, USC Department of History.

Member News


**Margaret Delacy**'s article "Nosology, Mortality and Disease Theory in the 18th Century" will appear in the Journal of the History of Medicine's April issue. She is president of the NW Independent Scholars Association and welcomes contact from independent scholars in the Portland, Oregon area. The National Coalition of Independent Scholars is sponsoring an H-Net list, H-Scholar, which she is editing. It is open to both independent and affiliated scholars. For more information, see the NCIS Web site at www.hcis.org or the H-Net site at www.h-et.msu.edu.

**Maryanne Horowitz** (Professor of History and Title IX Officer, Occidental College) has been expanding her teaching Web site with a Mellon Foundation Grant: www.oxy.edu/~horowitz/home. She spoke on "Doctoring the Delusions of Women and Doubting Witchcraft in the 1580s" at the conference on "Women, Magic, and Witchcraft" at UCLA April 23, 1999. At the Renaissance Society of America, March 25-28, she chaired "Renaissance Demonology" and presented a paper "Ceiling Decor of Piero de Medici's Studiolo." Her paper on "The Tree at the Center," presented at the American Anthropological Association, December 1998, is forthcoming in Proceedings of the 5th Biennial Conference on Christianity and the Holocaust. Following upon Seeds of Virtue and Knowledge (1998), and her review of "Dora Thornton, The Scholar in His Study," Renaissance Quarterly 21:3 (1998), Maryanne is researching the decorative arts in early modern libraries and museums as signs of the collections, in some cases as pictorial catalogues.

**Margaret Jacobs** (New Mexico State University) published her book Engendered Encounters: Feminism and Pueblo Cultures, 1879-1934 (University of Nebraska Press, 1999).


**Kristie Miller** (Independent Historian) is editor along with Melanie Gustafson and Elisabeth Israels Perry of We Have Come to Stay: American Women and Political Parties, 1880-1960 (University of New Mexico Press, 1999).


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Sara Patterson
Laura Pierce
Jennifer Rincon
### WAWH 2000 Conference Call for Papers

The 31st Annual WAWH Conference  
June 9-11, 2000  
Huntington Library, San Marino, CA

The Western Association of Women Historians will hold its annual conference, June 9-11, 2000 at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California. We welcome proposals for panels or single papers on any historical subject, time period, or region. While WAWH has often featured women's history, participants are welcome to present research on any aspect of history. Topics on race, ethnicity, class, religion, gender and age are invited. So are presentations on the nuts-and-bolts of all aspects of professional success, including job-hunting, researching, publishing, and teaching. Proposals for complete panels, including commentators, are strongly preferred, but individual papers will also be considered.

Proposals must include THREE copies of each of the following: 1) a cover page that includes the title of the panel, names of the panelists, and the titles of the individual papers and an indication of what, if any audio-visual equipment each panelist will need in order to offer an effective presentation. One person on the panel should be designated as the contact person in the event the selection committee needs any clarification; 2) a one-half to one-page abstract for each paper; 3) a one-to-two page curriculum vitae for each panelist; 4) and a list of panelists that includes current addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Please send by December 15, 1999 to Dr. Lois L. Huneycutt, Department of History, 114A Read Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia MO 65211; FAX 573 884 5151; e-mail: huneycuttl@missouri.edu. It is expected that all participants will become members of the Association at the time of the conference.

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### Western Association of Women Historians  
Membership Form

**Name**  
**Mailing Address (include city, state, zip)**  
**Phone (Work)**  
**E-mail Address**

**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
- 1999 WAWH Membership Directory $6 (includes $1 postage)

Clip and send with your check made payable to WAWH: Janet Brodie, WAWH Secretary, Department of History, 710 North College Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711. **Membership Policy:** Please note that memberships run from mid-May to mid-May annually; just remember to renew your membership during the annual WAWH conference.
Member News - *Networker*

Name, affiliation

Notice of publication or other member news:

(Use an additional sheet if necessary. Send to Claremont Graduate Collective, Department of History, 710 North College Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711 or e-mail to: laura.abeyta-paulus@cgu.edu.)

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**WAWH Networker Calendar**

- **September 24, 1999**
- **December 15, 1999**
- **June 9-11, 2000**

#### Deadline for submissions to NETWORKER

Deadline for proposals for the WAWH conference

WAWH 31st Annual Meeting, San Marino, California

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**NETWORKER**

Western Association of Women Historians
Claremont Graduate Collective
Networker Editor
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1999