President's Column

By Karen Blair
Central Washington University

Members of the Western Association of Women Historians come together only once a year. When we did so last May, at Asilomar Conference Center in lovely Pacific Grove in North California, our encounters were predictable. That is, we learned from listening to our colleagues’ scholarly presentations and we enjoyed discussion of the work. We caught up with old friends and made new ones over meals and a bonfire on the beach. We celebrated the publications of our peers by making awards at the President’s dinner and we basked in an enduring pride in our tradition of welcoming new Ph.D.s to the historical profession by inviting them to make their first scholarly presentations to the WAWH audience.

In addition, we took stock of our progress at our thirtieth anniversary dialogue and resolved to make a collective effort to acquaint new women scholars in the ten western states to the value of our organization. Whether the readers of this newsletter attended the last conference or not, let me remind you of our intention to invite new women to join: high school teachers of history, gypsy instructors, new assistant professors to western colleges and universities, mature scholars who have achieved seniority in the historical profession, and women of color in the field of history. Please urge the newcomers on your campus and those you meet at the specialized scholarly meetings you attend to save June 9-11, 2000 for our Pasadena conference and participate. Ask them if they would like to propose a paper or a panel, offer commentary or moderate a session, submit work for prizes or volunteer for a committee. Dispel the misunderstanding that because we are all women in the historical profession, we study only the history of women. No; true! All fields are welcome. Won’t you play a part now in broadening WAWH membership, to enrich the organization we have already built and to bring its joys to new scholars in the West? The call for papers is out and it is time to marshal additional talent for our next program.

WAWH Bulletins

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 $7 (which includes $2 postage) and can be ordered by filling out the membership form included in the back of the newsletter.

Please note that we are currently in the process of putting together a directory addendum and have extended the deadline. 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 December 15, 1999 with the changes. The addendum will be mailed to all members in the Winter edition of the Networker.

Membership Information Needed
Help! There are several members who are current in their dues but are not receiving our newsletter because we have no mailing information! If any member is in contact with the following members please let them know that we at the Networker would like to hear from them. We are looking for: Donna Alvah, Diane S. Claerbout, Sima Fahid, Patricia Fouquet, Laura Moore, Judith Pfeiffer, Mary Pickering, and Wendy C. Simpson. All mailing information can be e-mailed to Networker Editor Laura Abeyta-Paulus at laura.abeyta-paulus@cgu.edu.

continued on the next page
Volunteers Needed
The WAWH needs volunteer members and friends to participate in a reading/book-signing of their NEW books at Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena on the evening of our June 2000 convention. Any takers for Friday evening, June 9, 2000? Contact Karen Blair SOON at blairk@cwu.edu.

Wanted: Graduate Student Representative
The WAWH is looking for a graduate student representative to replace the exiting Phoebe Kropp. For further information, please contact President, Karen Blair at blairk@cwu.edu.

A Note of Thanks
Nancy Page Fernandez, Chair of The Founders Fellowship Award Committee (formerly The Graduate Student Award Committee) would like to extend thanks to the 1999 committee, Amy Froide and Kathleen Sheldon.

New WAWH Treasurer
My name is Amy Essington. I am a doctoral student in American history at Claremont Graduate University. I have officially taken over treasurer duties from Emily Rader. I would like to thank Emily for continuing with Treasurer duties during the summer until I returned from the Baseball Hall of Fame Library. If anyone needs to contact me I can be reached at 7043 Hanbury Street, Long Beach, CA 90808. (909) 621-4249. My e-mail is aessington@aol.com.

Member News

Please welcome the following new members: Ginette Aley, Naomi J. Andrews, Tani E. Barlow, Victoria C. Belco, Judith Bentley, Katie Benton, Dominique Brummond, Fay Botham, Shannon Crucil, Helen Davies, Anne Breedlove Eldredge, Christina Frausto, Amy M. Friode, Kathleen Fawver, Dr. Donna B. Gavac, Annmarie Hamlin, Jennifer Kerns, Meg Meneghel MacDonald, Carol Magee-Curtis, Andrea Mansker, Jennifer Naccarelli, Karen L. Pare, Sara Patterson, Kathleen C. Peck, Doris H. Pieroth, Diana Selig, Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern, and Jennifer Dawn Thibodeaux.

Margaret DeLacy would like members to please note that the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS) is at www.ncis.org. Their H-Net site is www.h-net.msu.edu.

Sarah Elkind’s Bay Cities and Water Politics: The Battle for Resources in Boston and Oakland (Kansas, 1998) received the 1999 Abel Wolman Award for best book in public works history from the American Public Works Association and the Public Works History Society. The book explores the water shortages and pollution problems that faced American cities in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The regional systems that these cities devised to solve their environmental crises transformed urban policies and forever altered the natural environments of Massachusetts and northern California.


Susan Karant-Nunn (Assistant Director, Division for Late Medieval/Reference Studies, University of Arizona) published "Gedanken Herz und Sinn: Die Unterdrückung der religiösen Emotionen" in Kulturelle Reformation: Sinnformationen im Umbruch 1400-1600, Bernhard Jussen and Craig Koslofsky, eds. (Gottingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, 1999). She also published her article, "Fragrant Wedding Roses': Lutheran Wedding Sermons and Gender Definition in Early Modern Germany" in German History 17.1 (1999).

Judith Raftery was awarded a two-month Huntington Library Fellowship, a Spencer Fellowship, and a California State University Research Fellowship to complete her research on Americans who went to the Philippines, 1898-1914.

Emily Teipe published "Will the Real Molly Pitcher Please Stand Up?" in Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration 31:2 (Summer 1999). Dr. Teipe was also appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the Fullerton Museum.


Jessica Weiss (Assistant Professor of History, California State University, Hayward) published "A Drop-In Catering Job": Middle-Class Women and Fatherhood, 1950-1980" in Journal of Family History 24:3 (July 1999).
Letter to Members

Dear Collective:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent to the National Women's History Project regarding one of their titles, *My Heart is on the Ground*. It appears historically inaccurate, deeply biased, and culturally insensitive. It has great potential danger because of the popularity and general credibility of its publisher, Scholastic, and the potential for wide adoption by schools and public libraries.

I encourage you to alert members to this book and contact National Women's History Project urging them to reconsider it at the least and stop carrying at the best. I have great respect for NWHP and hope they will take action once they are made aware of the potential problems this book may engender. We need to consider our young sisters and ensure they get accurate and fair women's multicultural history.

Thank you. Let me know if anything comes of this.

Natasha Beck

National Women's History Project
7738 Bell Road
Windsor, CA 95492-8518

Dear Sisters:

Thank you for your 20 years of honoring and supporting women's history. I especially appreciate your longtime commitment to supporting women of color, lesbians, and working women. As a multidisciplinary feminist instructor and independent scholar, I have consulted your catalog often and pass along copies to colleagues and activists.

I would like to call your attention to one of your historical novels, *My Heart is on the Ground: The Diary of Nannie Little Rose, a Sioux Girl* (1880), published by Scholastic and written for children ages 9-12. While author Ann Rinaldi certainly had good intentions, this book has been quite controversial. A recent article in *Rethinking Schools*, Summer 1999, featured criticism and concern over the "lack of historical accuracy...lack of cultural authenticity and...stereotypes" contained in the diary. "Fiction Posing as Truth," coauthored by Native educators Marlene Atleo (Nuu-chah-nulth), Naomi Caldwell (Ramapough Mountain), Barbara Landis, Jean Mendoza, et al, asserts:

...In writing this story, Rinaldi has done a tremendous disservice to the memories of the dead children whose names she used, to their families, to Native children today, and to any child who reads and believes this book to be an accurate story about boarding school life. She has cast the government boarding school...as though it were a good thing, when it is not regarded as such by Native Americans, historians, educators, or sociologists. (emphasis theirs)

The authors continue:

Throughout the book, Rinaldi uses the voice of Nannie Little Rose to teach non-Native readers about Native ways. It is an artificial device and...fraught with factual errors...Here are just a few of the errors:

- Sitting Bull was Hunkpapa Lakota, not "of Cheyenne nation" (Dec. 13 entry).
- American Horse was not a "chief of the Red Cloud Sioux." He was a cousin to Red Cloud (Dec. 21 entry).

Wealth is not measured by the number of poles in a tipi (Jan. 30 entry).

The authors go on to cite a number of examples of lack of cultural authenticity, such as a Lakota child in 1880 referring to herself as "Sioux," rather than her band or location; and an "exoticized" entry about the sacred Lakota Sun Dance ceremony.

Evidence of (glaring) stereotyping is apparent in these two examples:

- On Dec. 2, Nannie writes, "Worst bad part is Missus Camp Bell see I am frightened. With my people this is not good. We must be brave."
- Later, "Our men are very brave and honorable. Our women are noble."

The authors conclude with concern that this book will be more widely read and taught than any other book describing the Native boarding school experience, thus humilitating Native children and validating stereotypes for non-Native children.

In light of this review, I urge you to take a look at its entirety on pages 14-16 in the above mentioned journal. The review was adapted from an extensively researched article available at this Web site: www.oyate.com. Finally, a Resources list at the article's conclusion lists numerous accurate and complete accounts of boarding school life.

Thank you again for the fine work you have done for 20 years, and please give this book serious reconsideration.

Natasha Beck
Past Sierra Book Award Winners


1986: *No prize awarded.*


Awards and Fellowships

**Graduate Student Fellowship**

The Western Association of Women Historians invites applications for its 2000 Graduate Student 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 2000. The $1,000 award may be used for any expenses related to the dissertation. Applicants must be members of the WAWH for at least two years to be eligible. A complete application must be received by February 15, 2000. The fellowship recipient will be announced at the WAWH Annual Conference, June 2000. For further information and application forms, please contact Professor Amy Froide, Department of History, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga by e-mail at Amy-Froide@utc.edu. For WAWH membership information, please contact Janet Farrell Brodie by e-mail at Janet.Brodie@cgu.edu.

**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. Applicants must be members of the WAWH for at least two years to be eligible. Please send three copies of submission to Nancy Slote, 1910 Fourth Avenue, North, Seattle, WA 98109 by February 1, 2000.

**2000 Sierra Book Prize Announcement**

The WAWH will award the 2000 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 at least two years to be eligible. Please send three copies of submission to Nancy Slote, 1910 Fourth Avenue, North, Seattle, WA 98109 by February 1, 2000.

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The Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize
The WAWH will award the 2000 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 1999 or 2000. All fields of history will be considered, and articles must be submitted with full scholarly apparatus.

Job Announcements

California State University, Fullerton
The History Department, California State University, Fullerton invites applications for a tenure-track position in Race, Gender and Ethnicity, in the United States, beginning Fall semester 2000.
Qualifications: Preference will be given to specialists in California and Southwest history. Knowledge of immigration, racial, gender and ethnic issues will be necessary. The ideal candidate will be someone with an integrative approach to historical studies and/or expertise in ethnography or material culture. The individual should also be familiar with and have an interest in developing and using innovative technologies in teaching. The successful candidate will be expected to teach courses in historiography and U.S. surveys. He/she should be able to effectively interact with a wide and diverse range of students. A Ph.D. by August 2000 is required.
Rank and Salary: The position will be at the Assistant Professor level with a salary ranging from $37,140 to $43,688. Commensurate with education and experience, and subject to budgetary authorization and any California State University system faculty contract increases.
To Apply: Submit a cover letter describing teaching and research experience and interests, a vita, transcripts, a writing sample, and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. William W. Haddad, Chair; Department of History; California State University, Fullerton; Fullerton, CA 92834-6846; (714) 278-3712.
Application Deadline: All application materials including, but not limited to, letters of recommendation must be received by November 20, 1999.

University of Alaska, Fairbanks
The History Department of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professorship in U.S. history, effective August 20, 2000. Ph.D. required by start of contract period. Preference will be given to those with specialty in the 20th century. Strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and scholarly achievement required. Send a letter of application with a statement of teaching philosophy and research interests, a curriculum vita, names and addresses of three references, graduate transcripts, a sample of written work, and a teaching dossier with sample syllabi to: Carol Gold, Chair; History Department; University of Alaska Fairbanks; Box 756460; Fairbanks, AK 99775-6460. E-mail: Fylist@uaf.edu. Application deadline: November 15, 1999.
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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.

The WAWH is also looking for chairs and commentators. Please give your area of expertise when contacting Dr. Lois Huneycutt, Department of History, 114A Read Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211; FAX 573 884 5151; e-mail: HuneycuttL@missouri.edu.

Become a Member of WAWH Today!

Name__________________________________________
Mailing Address (include city, state, zip)__________
Phone (Work) _____________________________ (Home)______________
E-mail Address______________________________
Current Position and/or Affiliation______________
Research and/or Teaching Fields

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Clip and send with your check made payable to WAWH: Janet Farrell 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.

We include information about members in our directory: one address, one telephone number, and e-mail (if applicable). If you have more than one address or telephone number, please let us know which one you prefer having listed in the directory. If you do not want information listed, it is imperative that you let us know at once. If you would like a copy of the latest directory please note that with your membership information and include $7.00 with your check.
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.)

WAWH Networker Calendar

December 15, 1999
Deadline for proposals for the WAWH conference

December 20, 1999
Deadline for submissions to NETWORKER

June 9-11, 2000
WAWH 31st Annual Meeting at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California

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1999