President's Column

By Karen Blair
Central Washington University

The Pasadena conference of the WAWH, held June 9-11, 2000, was a great success, due to the efforts of many energetic members, for which the organization can be grateful. The many tasks required to support our many activities could not continue without their generous time, work, and creativity. The Local Arrangements Chair, Marijke Marsana, devoted considerable hours to provide housing near the Huntington Library and meeting rooms and meals for the year 2000 conference. The Program Committee labored for months to produce the rich array of panels we enjoyed at the conference. Lois Hunneycutt, Regina Lark, and Donna Schuele were responsible for the program. The Huntington Library’s Martin Ridge and Roy Ritchie were exceptionally generous in providing a reception on the patio of the gardens for our Graduate Fellowship fund-raiser.

Four prize committees evaluated nominations to present awards at our President's Dinner. The Sierra Prize Committee consisted of Nupur Chaudhuri, Betsy Perry and Joanne Goodwin. They selected not one, but two winners for our book prize: Margaret Jacobs for Engendered Encounters: Feminism and Pueblo Cultures, 1879-1934 and Diane Wolffthal for Images of Rape: The “Heroic” Tradition and its Alternatives. The Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize Committee consisted of Janis Appler, Carol Loats and Emily Teipe. They selected Amy Froide’s article, entitled “Marital Status as a Category of Difference: Singlewomen and Widows in Early Modern England,” from an anthology she co-edited with Judith M. Bennett, as our 2000 winner. The Founders Graduate Fellowship committee consisted of Amy Froide, Alexandra Nicklass, and Martha Few. They selected Chiou-ling Yeh, a graduate student at the University of California, Irvine, as this year’s recipient of our thousand dollar award. The Kanner Bibliography Prize Committee consisted of Nancy Slote, Mary Wright and Maria Elana Raymond. They awarded no prize this year.

Joan Jensen gave a thoughtful presentation on women's expressions of creativity at the President's Dinner on the patio of the Huntington Gardens. Peggy Renner donated her Pasadena house to the Friday evening festivities, even though she had to be out of town! A buffet supper was followed by an evening of readings by two of our members who have published books recently. Karen Offen read selections from her European Feminisms, 1700-1950: A Political History (Stanford University Press, 1999) and Margaret Jacobs read from Engendered Encounters. The Claremont Collective of Graduate Students has provided extraordinary effort to the organization, providing the Networker newsletter three times last year and revising our directory of members. Special thanks goes to Laura Abeyta-Paulus, Mary van Balgooy, Amy Essington, Christine Frausto, Linda Molino, Lara Bickell, Jennifer Hillman, and Sara Patterson. Amy Essington also serves as Treasurer for our organization and had much to do to straighten out our accounts when our California banks were absorbed by new corporations. She also created and established a Web site www.wawh.org.

At the conference, considerable new business was transacted at the Executive Board Meeting and the general business meeting. Lara Bickell was elected graduate representative. The organization decided to seek federal tax-exempt status to encourage donations to WAWH. President-Elect Karen Lystra agreed to organize a publicity campaign to attract more members from the fourteen western states, more applicants for our four prizes, more papers at our conferences, and more listeners at the meetings. After much discussion, we

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President's Column

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determined that we would hold our next conference outside of California. This is a departure from a thirty-three year tradition! Next May 18-20, 2001, WAWH will hold its annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. It is hoped that new Northwest members will participate and our faithful California core membership will travel northward to stay on board. Past-president of WAWH, Susan Wladaver-Morgan, has volunteered to take charge of local arrangements at Lewis and Clark College in Portland.

Only slight change will occur in the composition of our prize committees. Nupur will continue to chair the Sierra Prize Committee, Janis Appier will continue to chair the Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize Committee, and Nancy Slote will continue to chair the Kanner Bibliography Prize Committee. However, Alexandra Nickliss will now chair the Founders Graduate Fellowship Committee. As usual, all committees will have three members, one who specializes in American History, one in European, and one in non-western.

For those who attended the Pasadena meeting, there are intellectual, social and culinary memories to savor. For those who were not able to come, let me urge you to save May 18-20 of next year to travel to Portland to present some research or enjoy the presentations of others. WAWH is healthy, not wealthy, but wise!

Member News


Barbara Miklovich, California State University, Fullerton, just published a history of Minnesota’s Iron Range, It’s Gone; Did You Notice, A History of the Mesabi Range Village of Franklin, Minnesota, 1892-1994. It is based on oral history and newly available primary documents. Questions about ordering the book can be referred directly to the author at jjmbhm@attglobal.net.

Barbara Bennett Peterson, Emeritus Professor, University of Hawaii, recently published Notable Women of China: Shang Dynasty to the Early Twentieth Century (New York: M.E. Sharpe, Inc.) This important reference work contains in-depth biographies of notable Chinese women from the fifth century B.C.E. to the mid-eighteenth century. For ordering information contact the publisher at www.mesharpe.com or (800) 541-6563.

Monica Rico, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley, recently completed her dissertation, entitled “Culture and Capital: British Travel in the Nineteenth-Century American West.”


Jessica Weiss, Assistant Professor, California State University, Hayward, recently published: To Have and To Hold: Marriage, the Baby Boom, and Social Change (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, April 2000). To Have and To Hold is a study of postwar U.S. family life that illustrates the continuities between the boomers and their parents, exploring the topics of marriage, parenting, women’s employment, sexuality, divorce and feminism.

Nancy Weston, Professor of Art History, St. Cloud State University, Minnesota, will publish An Irish Artist in Victorian London: The Story of Daniel Maclise this coming fall through Four Courts Press of Dublin. The book, although it focuses primarily on one Victorian painter, illustrates how Irish artists dealt with their marginalization within British culture and how Maclise’s reputation was tarnished by Charles Dickens’ biased assessment of his Irish friend.
Announcements

Victorian interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States Conference
VISA WUS (Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States) will hold its fifth annual conference at UCLA, October 20-22, 2000. The conference theme is “Artifacts of Victorian Culture: Social, Cultural, and Historical Influences that Shaped a Society.” Professor Sally Mitchell of Temple University will be the keynote speaker. For further information contact Kathleen Peck, 1095 Leonard Avenue, Pasadena 91107, 626-351-0864 or kpeck@lasallehs.org.

The Southwest Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association
The Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association invites papers or panels treating any aspect of Western Landscape Art as part of its annual meeting to be held at the Sheraton Old Town Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 7-10, 2001.

Please submit a one-page abstract or panel proposal and a C.V. by December 1, 2000 to the Area Chair: Dr. Charlene G. Garfinkle, SW/Texas/PCA/ACA, 1030 Kellogg Place, Santa Barbara, CA 93111-1026. Arthistgar@aol.com.

Pacific Historical Review
Individuals interested in contributing articles or book reviews to the PHR are encouraged to contact the Editors at the following address: 487 Cramer Hall, Portland State University, Portland OR 97207-0751; e-mail: phr@pdx.edu.

EWHP Grants
The Episcopal Women’s History Project, an independent national organization, supports and facilitates research and publication on the work and activities of women in the Episcopal Church in the United States and also women whose Episcopal identification influenced their lives and accomplishments. EWHP annually makes awards for research in these areas.

Information about applications for the 2001 Travel/Research awards of $500 and the triennial Frank Sugeno Research Grant of $1,000 is now available. Deadline for applications is December 1, 2000; awardees will be notified in January 2001. Applications may be made for both awards. For information and forms contact: Dr. Jane Harris, 4220 Raleigh Dr., Conway, AR 72023; phone 501-329-7792 (H), 501-450-1392 (O); e-mail: harris@mercury.hendrix.edu.

Proposals can focus on individual Episcopal women or on women’s organizations and institutions in the church in the United States and its overseas activities including the colonial period. Grants may be used for travel, the acquisition of research material, or other research expenses. Previous grants have been awarded to a variety of projects such as: the work of two women in establishing a school in the Ramapo Mountains; an activist in church and social service work in central New York; the work of Atlanta Episcopal women in helping early 20th century working women; the philanthropy of antebellum Georgia women; and a project to identify and document African-American women church leaders.

Conference Report

“The Past, Present and Future of the Western Association of Women Historians: Joanna Cowden and Friends Remember 30 Years of WAWH”

Judith Raftery:
Good morning. How nice to see you today. I am Judy Raftery and we are here for the dual purpose of honoring my colleague and dear friend, Joanna Cowden, a former president of WAWH who retired this May from CSU Chico after 27 years, and providing you with some of the WAWH’s history from 3 former presidents. I am here as convener. Karen Lystra came down with the flu yesterday and is too ill to return and participate. She sends her regards and wanted me to convey how sorry she is that she can not be with us.

I gave my first paper at a WAWH meeting in 1982, here at the Huntington Library when I was a grad student, and this organization has always held a special significance for me. When circumstances presented themselves, I asked Karen Blair if we could do this panel. She agreed. Betsy Perry and I cranked up our e-mail. I was in Washington D.C. and then in the Philippines and we communicated across the seas. We asked Karen Lystra and Penny Kanner to join us and together with Joanna’s help, we put together this panel.

Joanna Dunlop Cowden McCulley hails from Massachusetts, as you will hear when she speaks. Her mother was an old Yankee but her father is a Californian, from Los Angeles, who ventured east to college and returned only for vacations. Joanna followed him to Harvard, well to Radcliffe; Harvard was restricted in the 1950s. After college Joanna married, started her family, Jeannie, Sandy, Rebecca, and Jennifer .... and settled in Connecticut. Jeanne and Rebecca are in the audience. The same year that The Female Mystique was published, 1962, Joanna began graduate school. This was before the term “reentry women” was coined, and I have often wondered if who ever coined it had Joanna in mind. Joanna graduated from the University of Connecticut and wrote her dissertation on Connecticut’s Peace Democrats during the Civil War. But her marriage wasn’t working. After her divorce she took a job at a college about as far from Yankee country as possible, and drove out with her 4 children to do research in these areas.

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daughters in the summer of 1973 to begin her career at Chico State.

During the next 27 years she taught her many classes, served on numerous committees, gave conference papers, wrote articles, served as chair for 6½ years, raised her 4 daughters, became grandmother to 9, soon to be 10, grandchildren, and met and married Kansan Bob McCulley. Bob is in the audience too. Her most recent work, “Heaven Will Frown on Such a Cause as This: 6 Democrats Who Opposed Lincoln’s War,” will be published next year.

One year ago, Joanna was told she had cancer. Last fall she went through chemotherapy and radiation therapy and today she looks well and feels pretty good.

Joanna was chair when I was hired 14 years ago, and since I came to Chico she and I have been best pals. Naturally, I have many anecdotes to tell involving her but my fondest is this one: She and I were driving back from an OAH meeting in Reno in the late 1980s and we stopped for refreshments at the old Nevada City Hotel. It was a Sunday afternoon and a combo was playing in the bar. Shortly after we sat down, Joanna requested they play some tune or other; they pretended they didn’t know the melody and demanded she come up and sing it for them. To my amazement, up she went and began singing. Joanna has a lovely voice and has sung many times in various groups but I had never heard her. That day she sang and sang and all of us in the audience applauded. It was one of the nicest afternoons I’ve ever spent. Driving back to Chico, I got lost, of course, but Joanna found the map and got us home.

Joanna and I have driven to many WAWH meetings together. Last year as we drove back from Asilomar, I managed to get turned the wrong way, heading south rather than north on the freeway. Joanna in her calmest voice reminded me that we NEEDED to go in the opposite way. None of the men I am or have been related to would react with such equanimity. It was the same equanimity that allowed her to lead our often-fractious department.

I did not know Joanna when she was president of WAWH but I have heard some of the stories. I recall something about a meeting that was to be held at a dilapidated hotel in Venice, or was it a brothel in Santa Monica, or was it a convent in the Hollywood Hills? I will turn to Penny Kanner now who can clear up this conundrum. Thank you.

Joanna Cowden:

One of the final sessions at the WAWH this year, held on Sunday, June 11, 2000, was a roundtable discussion titled, “The Past, Present and Future of the Western Association of Women Historians: Joanna Cowden and Friends Remember 30 Years of WAWH.” My close friend and colleague, Judith Raftery organized the session and included Mary Elizabeth Perry, Penny Kanner and Karen Lystra. In our small but responsive audience were two of my daughters, Jean Moore and Rebecca Rogoway and Judith Raftery’s daughter, Jennifer Raftery. I made the following remarks:

First and absolutely foremost, I thank my friend Judith Raftery for organizing this session. Judy is the kind of friend who, in spirit, walks along with me as I trudge through life. We have celebrated the obvious milestones and have shared many of life’s less obtrusive markers. There has been joy and laughter and occasional melancholy. For me, the most fun is our appreciation of life’s most exquisitely demented moments. Judy has created a wonderful opportunity to share memories of WAWH with three other friends: Karen Lystra of CSU Fullerton, Penny Kanner of UCLA and Mary Elizabeth (Betsy) Perry of Occidental College.

My recollections don’t go back quite as long as thirty years—but almost. I attended my first WAWH meeting in 1974 (when it was still the West Coast Association of Women Historians), presented a paper in 1975, was program chair in 1977 and president for a year in 1979. In the 1970s, the decade of the ill-fated Equal Rights Amendment, we spent many hours discussing the discrimination against women that was often more blatant than subtle. Some WAWH members wanted to raise the consciousness of faculty members on hiring committees reading letters of recommendation that included phrases like “spinster type.” We also pinpointed the inappropriate questions sometimes asked of women candidates during interviews, about romances, past, present and future and babies, mostly future but sometimes present. When we discussed feminism, our definitions sometimes clashed. There were those like me who saw the movement in terms of broadened opportunity for women, an effort to break down the barriers we ourselves had encountered. A very distantly related theme was the question concerning papers by women historians that did not focus on topics involving women. Another potentially divisive issue was the temptation to use the organization as a retreat with rest, rehabilitation, shopping and gossip the prime purpose. Most, however, envisioned the more structured annual meeting that we have now. It was to be a forum for members (including an occasional man) who wanted to present research in progress and invite comment and critiques. Rest, rehabilitation, shopping and gossip remained as options for those so inclined.

As for the present, WAWH seems to me to be doing well. I have great faith in Karen Blair and Karen Lystra, who will be at the helm during the next few years. One of our founders’ most important early decisions was to reach beyond tenured women historians and embrace graduate students, instructors in community colleges, K-12 teachers, independent scholars (whose ranks I am joining), and that occasional man. I am certain WAWH will continue to reach out to all who delight in studying the past.

I loved attending WAWH meetings, particularly during my early years at CSU, Chico. That University is a bit...
removed from the Bay Area and distant from Los Angeles and environs. I was a new faculty member fresh out of New England and striving to adapt to California. For me WAWH was an absolute godsend. I met other women whose labors in the classroom resembled mine, discussed all kinds of issues. I also shared my concerns ranging from the pressures of teaching four classes each semester to, in my case, bringing up a cluster of four daughters, three of whom were teen-agers and the fourth on the brink. My focus at those meetings was always divided, almost schizophrenic. I enjoyed the sessions, the discussions informal and otherwise, the food that someone disclosed to me what they were up to while I was away. Believe me, my ignorance was bliss.

While I was struggling to define feminist, often at WAWH meetings, I thought in terms of the universe of human beings who are women, including my own daughters. My desire was that all should be encouraged to find the path through life that suited them best, be it university professor, plumber, carpenter, journalist, marketing executive, organizer of volunteers, and/or mother. Feminism to me was the absence of artificial barriers, those glass ceilings of all kinds that still obstructed the pathways women wanted to take.

As for WAWH's future, I am certain that we will continue to be an inclusive organization embracing all kinds of women who examine the past, teach and write about it and imagine how it might have been. This inclusiveness guarantees the energetic, even boisterous discussion and occasional argument that attracted me. I am certain that WAWH will continue to intrigue women who, like me 26 years ago, wonder what we are up to and join us to find out.

Prize Winners

Sierra Prize
The 1999 Sierra Prize has been awarded to Margaret Jacobs and Diane Woffthal, authors of two superb books that are alike in three respects: both deal with important topics, demonstrate outstanding scholarship, and present original analyses.

Margaret Jacobs is the author of Engendered Encounters: Feminism and Pueblo Cultures, 1879-1934, which was published by the University of Nebraska Press. In this beautifully written book Professor Jacobs presents an interdisciplinary study of gender, cross-cultural encounters, and federal Indian policy. Focusing on the ways that Anglo-American women saw their own sexuality and social responsibilities, the author argues convincingly that these perceptions played a major role in changing views of Native peoples. Her sophisticated and nuanced analysis of region, class, gender, and ethnicity represents a major contribution to what might be called "the next generation" of the "new Western history school."

Diane Woffthal is the author of Images of Rape: The "Heroic" Tradition and its Alternatives, published by Cambridge University Press. Exploring rape as it has been depicted in Western art from the 12th through the 17th centuries, Professor Woffthal makes a major and original contribution to art history, social history, and gender studies. She describes the "heroic" depiction of rape in Italian Renaissance and Baroque images as sanitized, aestheticized, and eroticized. And she contrasts this tradition with a range of usually ignored images that reveal a more sympathetic attitude towards the victim and greater criticism of the assailant. With telling effect, Professor Woffthal shows how these different images still influence contemporary debate about sexual violence.

WAWH is proud of these prize-winning books and congratulates both winners.

Graduate Student Fellowship Winners
The Founders Fellowship Committee would like to announce the winner of this year's Founders Graduate Student Fellowship. The award went to Chiou-ling Yeh, who is ABD at the University of California at Irvine, for her dissertation entitled "Taking It to the Street: Representations of Ethnicity and Gender in San Francisco's Chinatown Chinese New Year Festival, 1953-1993."

Professor Amy Froide, this year's Chair of the Founders Fellowship Committee would like to thank her fellow committee members, Professor Alexandra Nickliss and Professor Martha Few, for their hard work on the committee. Professor Alexandra Nickliss, has been appointed the Chair for 2000-2001 and you can contact her by e-mail at anicklis@ccsf.org.

Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize
The Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize committee would like to announce the winner of this year's prize. The award went to Amy Froide's article "Marital Status as a Category of Difference: Singlewomen and Widows in Early Modern England." It appeared in Singlewomen in the European Past, 1250-1800 (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999), edited by Judith M. Bennett and Amy Froide.
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WAWH Bulletins

Asilomar Labor Dispute Settled
During the annual conference at Asilomar in May of 1997, the WAWH Social Action Committee reconstructed itself to assist Asilomar conference workers in their fight for the basic right to unionize free from intimidation and harassment. The Social Action Committee is happy to report that as of May 5, 2000 Asilomar workers won the right to unionize. The four-year contract includes dramatic increases in wages, free health insurance, the right to retain personal tips, and rights on the job. The Asilomar Organizing Committee and the Staff of HERE Local 483 extends their thanks to the WAWH for their steadfast support.

New E-mail Lists for the WAWH
As discussed at the executive board meeting at the Huntington conference, there are two e-mail lists for the WAWH. One is for members and one is for the executive board. These lists will enable any member of each list to e-mail all other members of that list by simply sending an e-mail message to one address. If you are a member, your e-mail has already been added to the list. By now you should have received an e-mail, if you have not please let Amy Essington know. If you do not wish to receive e-mails from this list or if there are any corrections to be made, please contact Amy immediately at aessington@aol.com.

The first list: wawhmembership@majordomo.cgu.edu is for the general membership. Only members of the WAWH will be able to send and receive e-mails on this list. The second list: wawahexecboard@majordomo.cgu.edu is for the executive board. Only members of the board will be able to send and receive e-mails. You must be a member of the list to post. These lists are free of charge to our organization as they are hosted by Claremont Graduate University. Please keep all postings related to the business of the WAWH. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amy Essington at aessington@aol.com.

2000 WAWH Directory
The 2000 edition of the WAWH directory is now available. The directory includes all active members of the WAWH from 1998 through 2001. The directory is $7 (which includes $2 postage) and can be ordered by filling out the membership form below.

Become a Member of WAWH Today!

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<td>2000 WAWH Membership Directory</td>
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Clip and send with your check made payable to WAWH: Janet Farrell Brodie, WAWH Secretary, Department of History, Claremont Graduate University, 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.)

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**WAWH Networker Calendar**

October 1, 2000  Deadline for submissions to NETWORKER
May 18-20, 2001  WAWH 32nd Annual Meeting at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon

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**NETWORKER**

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