Dear WAWH members,

As our spring conference is fast approaching, we find ourselves reckoning with a political reality that appears more frightening by the day. Instead of the United States’ first woman president, the electoral college system has given us Donald Trump – a man who entered the political arena propagating a racist lie, and whose contempt for women was patently obvious even before we heard the tape of him boasting of committing sexual assault. Yet we have also seen a grassroots and global uprising to protest the notion that such a noxious and dangerous man should occupy the most powerful office in the world. Many (probably most!) of you participated in the myriad women’s marches held on January 21 and found them to be reassuring, galvanizing and inspiring.

Sandra Dawson of the Coordinating Council for Women’s History is collecting photographs that members and supporters took at marches in different cities around the world, as well as interesting anecdotes and thoughts or recollections. Together, we hope to create a book capturing and commemorating the event(s) that we can sell at the Berks and other conferences, with all profits going to Planned Parenthood. So please, send your best photos, along with any stories and thoughts you’d like to share to Sandra at: execdir@theccwh.org

How can we translate the outpouring of anger and idealism into sustained and well-coordinated activism? How can we think about our roles as scholars and teachers within the new political context? These are among the questions we’ll be discussing at our conference in San Diego this coming April 27-28. We very much hope you will attend, as it’s more important than ever to share our ideas and draw energy and insights from one another.
Our program committee—co-chaired by Erica Ball, Sharon Block and Terri Snyder—has put together a fantastic program, jam-packed with stimulating panels, roundtables, and special events. Our annual Thursday night book launch features readings by Alejandra Dubcovsky, Marisa J. Fuentes, Ann M. Little, Allison Perlman, and Nick Syrett. We will be hosting two special luncheon events. On Friday, Associate Director Tram Le will speak on the Vietnamese American Oral History Project, and on Saturday, we will host a very timely workshop entitled: “Activist Engagement: Historians Strike Back.”

Additionally, Prof. Allyson Hobbs, the author of *A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life*, and a contributing staff writer to *The New Yorker* magazine, will be delivering our keynote address.

Finally, our Local Arrangements Committee, co-chaired by Molly McClain and Victoria De La Torre, worked to ensure that conference goers step outside the hotel to experience some of the pleasures of balmy San Diego. Most generously, the Women’s Museum of California will host a reception for all WAWH conference attendees at Liberty Station, a former Naval Training Center that has been transformed into a cultural center and waterfront park. It is located just a few trolley stops away from our hotel, the Town & Country Resort and Conference Center, which has a trolley stop on site.

We scheduled the conference earlier than usual this year, because we know that many people will want to attend the Berks in June. Late April, unfortunately, can be a difficult time for people to get away. When I’ve sign up to attend conferences at times that feel inconvenient, I usually cycle through a familiar set of reactions as the date approaches: 1) a month out: “I can’t believe I put myself this position again;” 2) a week out” “Why did I put myself in the position again”? 3) the night before leaving: “This is downright irresponsible! I have too much to do! I shouldn’t be going away now!” But almost every time, I’m not just glad that I went, I come feeling renewed and reinvigorating, having learned new things, met interesting new people, and experienced the sense of affirmation that comes from being with others who share many of my interests and commitments. I am confident that our conference this year will have that effect for you. We are so looking forward to being together and gaining energy and inspiration from one another to face the difficult road ahead.

Professor Allyson Hobbs will be our keynote speaker in San Diego. She is the author of *A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life.*
From the Executive Director

Cheryl Krasnick Warsh

We have a terrific program for San Diego coming up, and it looks to be a well-attended conference. If you are planning to attend, please book your rooms at the Town & Country Inn as soon as possible. They are already filling up. You can book through the link at: https://aws.passkey.com/e/48971971 or call the hotel directly at: 1-800-772-8527.

Welcome to New Members

These members joined between August 6, 2016 and January 17, 2017

Annual Members
Amy Arata
Leah Batstone
Rosie Bermudez
Nadine Boulay
Anita Casavantes Bradford
Emily Braum
Kacey Calahane
Lisa Cardyn
Sarah Carter
Patricia Chappine
Miroslava Chavez
Su-Shuan Chen
Victoria Delatorre
Nicole DeSilva
Marie Duggan
Suzanne Dunai
Kimberly Earhart
Laura Endicott
Samantha Edgerton
Jamie Fogg
Patricia Franzen
Elizabeth Hawley
Kate Imy
Katrina Jagodinsky
Amy Johnson
Alexandra Ketchum
Laura Kimbell
Candice Klein
Ivana Kurak
Kera Lovell
Lisa McGunigal
Cynthia Mariott
Melanie Methot
Laurie Mercier
Polly Michel
Katherine Morris
Katherine Morrissey
Cristina Nigro
Amy O’Keefe
Ndidi Okpara
Katherine Oldberg
Lisa Orr
Krisha Perkins
Elizabeth Petersen
Birte Pfleger
Caitlin Rathe
Melanie Reimann
Emilee Shindel
Kelly Silva
Elizabeth Sine
Alexandra Stern
Kenneth Surles
Gina Tam
Heather Thieken
Renee Torres

Three-Year Members
Lauren Anderson
Veronica Castillo-Munoz
Anne Hyde
Carol Srole

Lifetime Members
Cheryl Krasnick Warsh

Donations
Nancy Fernandez – Founders $200; Keller-Sierra $100
WAWH 49th Annual Conference

Town & Country Resort • San Diego, California

April 27-29, 2017

The deadline for Pre-Registration is February 1.
Complete your registration at www.wawh.org

photos by Hilary Coulson
Kitty Sklar and Tom Dublin are pleased to announce the near completion of their new online database, “Women and Social Movements in Modern Empires since 1820.” With 75,000 pages of primary sources plus extensive audio and video materials, assembled by forty-seven scholars, the database offers new ways to explore imperialism and post-coloniality through the eyes of women. About a third of the materials pertain to U.S. empire—including Cuba, the Philippines and Guatemala. Another substantial portion on Native Women in North America provides documents about women’s leadership in diverse tribal and geographical settings. The database also features women’s voices in the Habsburg Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Japanese Empire, the British Empire in India and South Africa, the French Empire in North Africa and post-colonial Indonesia. All documents not in English are accompanied by an English language abstract. Available through library subscription or purchase from Alexander Street.

The University of Nebraska Press has just published Kathleen Cairns’ new book, The Case of Rose Bird: Gender, Politics, and the California Courts. It traces the rise and fall of California’s first female state Supreme Court chief justice. Appointed in 1977 by Gov. Jerry Brown (yep, that Jerry Brown), Bird ran into a buzz saw of opposition, due to her youth, inexperience and perceived sympathy for hardened criminals, particularly those sentenced to death. Conservative operatives spent a decade targeting Bird via direct mailers, high-paid consultants, and attack ads, before ultimately convincing voters to oust her in November 1986. The success of that campaign fueled similar campaigns across the country, costing millions of dollars, and sending a chilling message that judges had better cater to public opinion, or pay the price.

The Swedenborg Foundation invited independent scholar, Dr. Tisa M. Anders, to write three blog articles for their Scholars on Swedenborg series. The first two were published in 2016 (http://www.swedenborg.com/tag/tisa-anders/): "Bringing Comfort and Hope to Others through Swedenborg’s Ideas of the Afterlife" (April 5, 2016) and "L. Maria Child: Visionary Antislavery Crusader Changed a Church by Leaving It" (October 7, 2016). The third one will appear in 2017 and discusses Child’s and Emanuel Swedenborg’s ideas of the importance of individual conscience. Swedenborg Foundation is the publisher of Anders’ forthcoming book chronicling Child’s spiritual life. She was one of the most well-known authors and activists of 19th-century United States.

Hilary Coulson accepted a position as Assistant Professor in History at Harrisburg University.

Angela Rothman will graduate in June from the University of Oregon with her bachelor’s in history and political science. She is weighing offers from public history graduate programs, and is excited to begin her master’s program in 2017. Her paper "Revolutionary Theatricality: Dramatized American Protest, 1967-1968" recently won the Oral Presentation Award at the UO Undergraduate Research Symposium (2016)."
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