

The Sweet Smell of “Success”: Mainstreaming Women’s and Gender History

Carole Srole

We won, I think. At least for a while women’s history became central to historical scholarship. Let’s take a look at this “victory” in my field of U.S. history.

In the early years of modern women’s history during the 1970s and 1980s when social historians focused on agency and empowerment, experience, binary oppositions of separate sphere and women’s culture, scholarship on women remained relatively segregated from much of history, despite women scholars’ complaints and efforts to show otherwise.¹

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Gender history and discourse analysis brought attention to the construction of meaning, performance (bodies), and representations of difference. The cultural history approaches and topics of study pervaded women’s history, even though many social historians who studied women’s history worried about the loss of female voices.² Despite the tension between social and cultural historians, gender mainstreamed women’s history.

When gender became an accepted and even a required analytical category for historical analysis, studies on gendered discourses pervaded the discipline invading political history and even diplomatic history.³ However, with the mainstreaming of gender history, lots of monographs about gender, and womanhood as well as manhood, seemed to disappear from gender studies. The search terms in *America: History and Life* left out gender or women for books obviously with that as their focus. Jane Kamensky’s *Governing the Tongue: The Politics of Speech in Early New England* on gendered language listed the search terms books, speech, Puritan movements, and law. The search terms for Wendy Gamber’s *The Boardinghouse in Nineteenth-Century America* on the impact of the (cont. page 6)

1. Linda K. Kerber, “Separate Spheres, Female Worlds, Woman’s Place: The Rhetoric of Women’s History,” *Journal of American History* 75, no. 1 (June 1988): 9–39.
2. Lisa Duggan, “The Theory Wars, or, Who’s Afraid of Judith Butler?,” *Journal of Women’s History* 10, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 9–19; Joanne Meyerowitz, “AHR Forum: A History of Gender,” *American Historical Review* 113, no. 5 (December 2008): 1346–1356.
3. Joan W. Scott, “Gender, A Useful Category of Historical Analysis,” *American Historical Review* 91, no. 5 (December 1986): 1053–1075. Of course, there were excellent political histories in women’s history before the “cultural turn,” but afterward, they became crucial for analysis. For example, see Rebecca Edwards, *Angels in the Machinery: Gender in American Party Politics from the Civil War to the Progressive Era* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997); Kevin P. Murphy, *Political Manhood: Red Bloods, Mollycoddles, and the Politics of Progressive Era Reform* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008); Michael Pierson, *Free Hearts, Free Homes: Gender and American Antislavery Politics* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003); Kristin L. Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish American and Philippine-American Wars* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998); K. A. Cuordileone, *Manhood and American Political Culture in the Cold War* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

Welcome New (and Returning) Members!

Welcome to members who joined or renewed between June 2, 2010, and October 1, 2010!

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Abigail Dowling
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Thank You, Donors!

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Member News

Gordon Morris Bakken, Cal. State U., Fullerton published in 2010: *Invitation to an Execution: A History of the Death Penalty in the United States* (University of New Mexico Press, 2010), containing essays by Andrea McDowell, Catherine R. Kaye, Susanne Teepe Gaskins, Mary Marki, Stacy L. Mallicoat, Melody Miyamoto, Vanessa Gunther, and Ellen B. Baumler; and with Routledge Press, *The World of the American West* with essays by Lisa E. Emmerich, Alicia Dewey, Sheila McManus, Elizabeth Kubler-Wolf, Shannon D. Smith, Andrea G. Radke-Moss, and Susan Tschabrun.

Karen J. Blair published "Normal Schools of the Pacific Northwest: The Lifelong Impact of Extracurricular Club Activities on Women Students at Teacher-Training Institutions, 1890-1917," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 101 (Winter 2009/2010): 3-17.

Nupur Chaudhuri, Sherry Katz, and Mary Elizabeth Perry are pleased to announce the publication of their edited collection of essays on women's history methodologies: Nupur Chaudhuri, Sherry J. Katz, and Mary Elizabeth Perry, eds., *Contesting Archives: Finding Women in the Sources* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2010). Global in scope, this volume demonstrates innovative methodologies for research on diverse women from the sixteenth century to the present in Spain, Mexico, Tunisia, India, Iran, Poland, Mozambique, and the United States. Link: <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/74dqd4mf9780252035425.html>.

(cont. on page 4)

Executive Director's Column

Amy Essington

Our 43rd annual conference will be held at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, April 7-9, 2011. The conference keynote speaker will be Barbara Welke (University of Minnesota). We will be reserving hotel rooms at a nearby Pasa-

dena hotel. The conference program and the registration material will be posted in early February 2011.

Program participants will be required to pre-register for the conference and ensure they are current members by January 20. Anyone not complying with this new requirement will be removed from the program before it is published online. The pre-registration deadline for non-program participant attendees will be March 3, 2011. Conference costs will be posted as soon as they become available. Each current member will receive conference pre-registration information with the 2011-2012 membership renewal information.

The executive board has two new members. Pamela Stewart is the new treasurer. Thank you to Lois Nettleship for her service and congratulations on her retirement. Cynthia Scott will join Andrea Thabet as a graduate student representative. If you would like to volunteer for any of the

board or committee positions, please contact me or the president.

In August, at the American Historical Association's Pacific Coast Branch annual meeting in Santa Clara, forty-three people attended

the WAWH Luncheon. Current WAWH President Carole Srole introduced Gayle Gullett, the luncheon's keynote and WAWH's President-elect. Gayle's spoke about "Feminism in the City: Newspaper Women, the Press, and 1910s Los Angeles."

The applications for the 2011 WAWH award prizes are now posted on the WAWH website. Each award has an application with directions for submission. The deadline for all awards is January 15, 2011. The exception is the Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize which is due February 24, 2011.

The WAWH membership year runs from conference to conference. With an earlier than usual 2011 conference, the membership renewal information will be mailed earlier than usual. Be on the lookout for the information to renew for the 2011-2012 membership year after the first of the year.

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Get *Frontiers* for a Discount!

WAWH members can save 20 percent on *Frontiers*, a multicultural and multi-disciplinary feminist journal. Through scholarly articles and creative works, *Frontiers* examines how women's lives are shaped by factors such as race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, and place. Use coupon code FRNWH10 when ordering. This discount is applicable to either a traditional print subscription or their recently introduced and cost-saving electronic subscription. (E subs must be ordered from our web site www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.) For more information, visit <http://www.wawh.org/resources/otheropps.html>.

Member News (cont.)

Amy Essington presented "Crossing Borders to Play Baseball: Pacific Coast League Players in Latin American Leagues" at the American Historical Association's Pacific Coast Branch Conference in Santa Clara, California (August 2010). Her entry on the "Portland Beavers" for the Oregon Encyclopedia is available at <http://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/>. Her short review of *No Girls in the Clubhouse: The Exclusion of Women from Baseball* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, Inc., Publishers, 2009) was published in *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 39, no. 5 (July/August 2010).

Carol Gold has been appointed the "Arthur T. Fathauer Chair of History," the first (and only) fulltime, endowed chair at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Rebecca M. Kluchin published "Pregnant? Need Help? Call Jane: Service as Radical Action in the Abortion Underground in Chicago" in *Breaking the Wave: Women, Their Organizations, and Feminism, 1945-1985* (Routledge).

On November 10, Phylis Jean Martinelli will be in Phoenix speaking on immigration in Arizona's history and how the state's 2010 attitudes and actions have a century of tradition behind them. Her talk is part of the "Inspiring Wonder" series put on by St. Mary's College of Moraga, CA. She will also discuss her new book *Undermining Race: Ethnic Identities in Arizona Copper Camps* and her work on the Center for First Generation to College Studies.

Anna Novakov has been promoted to Associate Professor, History of Art, at Saint Mary's College of California.

Jackie Pels's Hardscratch Press in Walnut Creek, Calif., has won four awards this season for books she edited and published. The Bay Area Independent Publishers Association (BAIPA) chose *Autumn Loneliness: The Letters of Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi* (Tei Matsushita Scott and Patricia J. Machmiller, translators) as Best Memoir; *The Life Story of Henry Ramsey Jr.* (an autobiography) as Best Cultural History; and Jackie's own *Family After All: Alaska's Jesse Lee Home, Vol. II: Seward, 1925-1965* as Best Regional History. Bookbuilders West has just announced its Recognition of Merit award for *Vasco's Livermore 1910: Portraits from the Hub Saloon* (by Anne Marshall Homan and Richard W. Finn). Meanwhile, Jackie's "paper" for the Alaska Historical Society's annual conference in September was a historians' singalong featuring songs from and about Alaska's past.

Rebecca Jo Plant's book, *Mom: The Transformation of Motherhood in Modern America*, was recently published by University of Chicago Press.

During her sabbatical year, Elizabeth Reis (University of Oregon) gave several presentations across the country about her book, *Bodies in Doubt: An American History of Intersex* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009). She also recently published an article, co-written with Suzanne Kessler, called "Fetal Dex and Intersex: Why History Matters" in the September issue of the *American Journal of Bioethics*.

Member News (cont.)

Philadelphia Ricketts published *High-Ranking Widows in Medieval Iceland and Yorkshire: Property, Power, Marriage and Identity in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries* (Brill, 2010).

Alyssa Sepinwall published the following article this spring: "Robespierre, Old Regime Feminist? Gender, the Late Eighteenth Century and the French Revolution Revisited," in *Journal of Modern History* 82, no. 1 (March 2010): 1-29.

Kathleen Sheldon is publishing, "No more cookies or cake now, "C'est la guerre": An American Nurse in Turkey, 1919 to 1920," *Social Sciences and Missions* 23, no. 1 (2010): 94-123.

Jennifer Stevens has an essay, "Feminizing Portland, Oregon: A History of the League of Women Voters in the Postwar Era, 1950-1975," coming out in an anthology being published by Routledge, *Breaking the Wave: Women, Their Organizations, and Feminism, 1945-1985*.

Michelle R. Stonis presented "We Know the Consequences': Negotiating the Conflict between New England Ideals and Active Missionary Work in the Sandwich Islands Mission, 1819-1863" at the 2010 Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association annual meeting. She also recently presented "Consumed by Consumption: The Myth of Sarah Pardee Winchester and the Culture of California, 1884-1922" at the 2010 California American Studies Association annual meeting.

Leandra Zarnow published "The Legal Origin of 'The Personal Is Political': Bella Abzug and Sexual Politics in Cold War America" in *Breaking the Wave: Women, Their Organizations, and Feminism, 1945-1985* (Routledge).

Share your accomplishments! Include your professional news in the next newsletter.

Send submissions for Member News to Brittany Ferry at networker@wawh.org.

Your information will be included in the next *Networker*.

A reminder email is sent to the organizational email list before the submission due date.

Due dates are February 1, June 1, and October 1 each year.

Mark Your Calendars!

WAWH 2011 Conference

Huntington Library

San Marino, CA

April 7-10, 2011

The Sweet Smell of “Success” (cont.)

Carole Srole

language of domesticity on boarding houses included home, but not domesticity, women, or gender. Kristin L. Hoganson’s *Consumers’ Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865–1920* cited consumerism, but that’s it.⁴

Other monographs were never reviewed by women or gender historians, despite the centrality of gender to the scholarship. Our 2011 keynote speaker, Barbara Welke, in her book *Recasting American Liberty: Gender, Race, Law, and the Railroad Revolution, 1865–1920* on the impact of gendered and racial assumptions on tort law, explained how notions of female dependence transformed American law by forcing railroads to pay for white women’s injuries.⁵ Not only does this work show how gender led to legal requirements for corporate responsibility, but it also widened our understanding of gender and the expansion of the state. Even with the use of the word “gender” in the subtitle, journals chose legal and railroad scholars as reviewers for *Recasting American Liberty* over those who specialized in gender/women’s history.

Similarly, no women/gender history journal reviewed Daniel Bender’s *Sweated Work, Weak Bodies: Anti-Sweatshop Campaigns and Lan-*

guages of Labor, despite “women” as one of his search terms and an earlier and related article in the *Journal of Women’s History*.⁶ Bender demonstrated how the language of gender became the means for cross-class coalitions, a key issue for scholars of Progressivism as well as women historians in this era. But women’s historians might not even have run into this book. What will happen with the reviews of Welke’s new major synthetic work, *Law and the Borders of Belonging in the Long Nineteenth Century United States*?⁷ Will women’s historians weigh in on a work that focuses on gender, race, and disability? Will reviewers acknowledge the central role of gender in her analysis or only deal with her major theme of the long nineteenth century?

When I began thinking about this column, I intended to write about how women’s history will respond to the next major trend among historians. Some have engaged transnational, global, and disability studies.⁸ However, I now wonder what will happen with our mainstreaming when some new approaches submerge gender as a key analytical category. At the moment, I’m thrilled with the recent books on women and gender but I worry about the ones I may have missed.⁹

4. Jane Kamensky, *Governing the Tongue: The Politics of Speech in Early New England* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997); Wendy Gamber, *The Boardinghouse in Nineteenth-Century America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007); Kristin L. Hoganson, *Consumers’ Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865–1920* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007).
5. Barbara Welke, *Recasting American Liberty: Gender, Race, Law, and the Railroad Revolution, 1865–1920* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001).
6. Daniel Bender, *Sweated Work, Weak Bodies: Anti-Sweatshop Campaigns and Languages of Labor* (Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2004).
7. Barbara Welke, *Law and the Borders of Belonging in the Long Nineteenth Century United States* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).
8. Allison L. Sneider, *Suffragists in An Imperial Age: U.S. Expansion and the Woman Question, 1870–1929* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008); Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico* (Berkeley: University of California, 2002).
9. Rebecca M. Kluchin, *Fit to be Tied: Sterilization and Reproductive Rights in America, 1950–1980* (Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2009); Rebecca Jo Plant, *Mom: The Transformation of Modern Motherhood* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010); Marlis Schweitzer, *When Broadway was the Runway: Theater, Fashion, and American Culture* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009).

Gentle Didn't Work: The 1844 House of Juana Briones

Jeanne Farr McDonnell

Fighting for a molecule of women's history in the big picture has been a long battle, one aspect of which is the preservation of structures that are first and foremost lessons in women's history. Historic preservation had been a major failure in that regard. Looking at the overall record, one has to admit that stridency may be the needed approach to begin to overcome our huge lack of recognized structures that primarily relate to women's achievements.

The story of efforts to save and open to the public the Juana Briones house in Palo Alto shouts out that something is wrong. The overall record suggests that this remnant of history would never be in such jeopardy had it been constructed for a man of equal status in Hispanic and American society in California. A cadre has expended efforts for more than 25 years to make sure the house and land is saved for public education, and still the courts, the State Historic Preservation Office, the City of Palo Alto, Stanford University, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, PAST (Palo Alto's preservation organization), the former Juana Briones Heritage Foundation, and more have not achieved the logical goal of saving this structure and its adjoining land.

The house and property is in private ownership, a serious error to begin with. Demolition of this historic house is the owners' goal. Just having three rooms remaining that date to 1844, regardless of the prominence of Juana Briones y Tapia de Miranda, who acquired the ranch in a time when women seldom on their own managed to do so, should have been enough to whip up a powerful movement. After so much effort, the thought cannot be avoided that lurking virtually undetected is a slight disinclination to recognize women's achievements of the past.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation named the house one of the 11 Most Endangered Places in 2010. That should be enough to convince most preservationists, but by some odd

quirk the State Historic Preservation Office and its director, M. Wayne Donaldson, have never come forward heartily to confirm what the Palo Alto and surrounding communities have for over a century held—perhaps sacred is too strong a word—incontrovertible: the importance of Juana Briones to the history of California and the value of the property to express that, in addition to the continuity inherent in additions to the structure in the Arts and Crafts and Mission Revival modes of the early twentieth century. Visitors to the state office and

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numerous letters by historians, concerned citizens, mayors, preservationists have so far failed to gain the strong and vocal support by the state that this cause should logically amass.

Such difficulties help explain the reasoning that women may have been overly courteous, that the word demand may be needed, at least in this case. The ideal that has gained interest is that the City of Palo Alto should acquire the land and structures as a City Park and Preserve, and that a nonprofit organization should restore and preserve the place and raise the funds to maintain the structures and use them for many public programs. An intellectual, social, political, economic battle must be mounted. Briones herself achieved so much, always with justice in the forefront of her actions, that she will be an inspiring model for this battle.

Announcements

Cal State Poly Pomona

The History Department at the California State Polytechnic University in Pomona seeks an assistant professor in antebellum United States history, with preference for cultural or diplomatic history.

Duties and Responsibilities: (1) Teaching general and topical courses at the undergraduate and graduate level (2) student advising; (3) participation in programs and activities related to the mission of the department, the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, and the university at large, including teacher-training, community-based learning and outreach, or service learning; (4) engagement in scholarly activities, including publications, presentations, and grant-funded activities; and (5) participation in assigned and related duties.

Required Qualifications: Ph.D. by July 31, 2011; teaching experience at the college level; evidence of scholarly promise.

Date of Appointment: September 2011.

Submit completed application package by December 1, 2010. Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. For complete position description and application instructions, call (909) 869-3860, e-mail evwallis@csupomona.edu, or visit the department website, <http://www.class.csupomona.edu/his/history.htm>.

“Women & Spirit”

The traveling exhibit “Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America” will be coming to two West Coast venues for three-month periods in 2011 and 2012. Currently at the Statue of Liberty National Monument/Ellis Island Immigration Museum where it will close January 22, 2011, the exhibit will be at Mount St. Mary’s College, Los Angeles, June–August 2011; and at the California Museum of History, Women, and the Arts January–May or June 2012. For more information see the exhibit web site at www.womenandspirit.org/new.html.

University of Alaska, Fairbanks

The UAF Department of History seeks to appoint an assistant professor of United States history to a tenure-track position. Preference will be given to those with expertise in Environmental or Women’s History, and the ability to teach a Modern World survey. The successful candidate will provide evidence of excellence in undergraduate teaching, an active research program, and commitment to university service. The primary responsibilities of the position will be to teach lower and upper division undergraduate courses; to pursue research that leads to peer reviewed publications; and to provide service to the University and Fairbanks community. A PhD in History is required by the beginning of the contract period. Application materials include a cover letter, CV, copies of unofficial transcripts from PhD granting institution, contact information for three references, writing sample (30 pages max.), sample syllabi, statement of teaching philosophy, and teaching evaluations.

You may apply at the following address: www.uakjobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=69598
For more information, please contact John Heaton, Dept. Chair (jwheaton2@alaska.edu), or Carol Gold (cgold@alaska.edu).

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