Spreading the News:  
Publicizing Useful Women’s History Websites

Carole Srole

Recently, I spent a typical week for a twenty-first-century historian. I gathered articles from digitized newspapers for my research, searched the online catalog at another university, skimmed a digitized book from the Schlessinger Library at Harvard’s Open Collection, and read an e-book chapter, a Google book chapter, and a few digitized articles received from interlibrary loan. Then, I flipped through a few book reviews from databases and immediately ordered two books and requested an article through interlibrary loan. Using ancestry.com resources, I traced my subjects through census, marriage, military, and death records.

“Digital women's history has its own, different trajectory.”

For my classes, I uploaded three documents for Blackboard, checked out the website History Matters for a new primary source, searched Google Images for a PowerPoint part of a class session. I also experimented with Google’s Ngram (http://ngrams.googlelabs.com), which graphs patterns of Google book searches by historical era. To make a Women’s History Month display on California’s centennial anniversary of woman’s suffrage, I combed through newspapers for pro- and anti-suffrage articles in the Chronicling America website and the Los Angeles Times database.

And, of course, there’s email, which has replaced some of our office meetings. I sent students comments on an assignment, arranged other meetings with current and past students, mailed announcements for an in-class activity, coordinated my campus’s Women’s History Month in-class program, and engaged in consultations about the upcoming WAWH conference. I skimmed through a number of digitized databases and websites to help my students search for topics in an undergraduate research class. What a transformation in our working lives from just fifteen years ago!

Now that our professional lives have changed so much in so few years, professional associations have begun to recognize digital history sources. Reviews of websites and periodic articles on the internet have become more frequent, although we still often find digital materials haphazardly or through word of mouth.¹ AHA prizes have given more attention to digital sites. Since 2002, the AHA’s biennial James Harvey Robinson Prize for a teaching aid has gone to website designers, like the Valley of the Shadow, History Matters, World History Matters, Historical Thinking Matters, and German History in Documents and Images. In 1999, the AHA established the Roy Rosenzweig Prize for Innovation in Digital History. (cont. on page 9)

Welcome New (and Returning) Members!

Welcome to members who joined or renewed between October 2, 2010, and February 12, 2011!

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The WAWH is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Your donations are tax-deductible. Donations of any size are welcome. Donations can be directed to a specific fund or award. Thank you for your continuing support.
Executive Director’s Column
Amy Essington

It is time to make plans to attend the 43rd annual conference. We will meet at the Huntington Library from April 7–9, 2011. The keynote speaker will be Barbara Young Welke, University of Minnesota. The full program, which includes all sessions and hotel information, is online at http://www.wawh.org. A printed program will not be mailed to the membership, but will be distributed to all of the conference attendees. If you would like a printed program and are not able to attend the conference, email me and I will send you one. The pre-registration material is also available online. The pre-registration deadline must be postmarked by March 3, 2011. Onsite registration will be available, but the rates will be higher, and meals may not be available. I encourage you to pre-purchase meals for the conference. Meals provide a valuable time for attendees to mingle, get to know one another, and network. Only a few extra meals are ordered. Every year I have people who want to add meals once they have come to the conference, but they are not available for purchase.

On page 7, you will find the revised section of bylaws for the Barbara “Penny” Kanner Prize, which are being revised for clarity and to include submissions to the web. The original bylaws are available on the WAWH website. They will be discussed and voted on at the business meeting at the conference.

With the conference registration period comes a new membership year. Membership in WAWH runs from conference to conference. It is now time to renew for the 2011–2012 membership year. All current members should have received a membership renewal form in the mail. The date on your mailing label is the year your membership expires. For example, if 2011 appears on your mailing label, your membership expires with the 2011 conference and you need to renew your membership now for the 2011–2012 year. If the date on your mailing label is 2012 or later, you do not need to renew your membership at this time, but you should update your information for the membership database by returning your Member Information Update Form. The final deadline to renew for the 2011–2012 year must be postmarked by April 9, 2011. Memberships not sent by that time will be considered expired.

A 2011 Member Information Update Form specific to you was included in your packet. Please return this form whether or not you register for the conference, whether you need to renew your membership or not, or whether or not you make any changes. This form shows the information that is currently listed in the membership database and what will appear, depending on your print options, in the 2011 Membership Directory. If you need to make any changes, please do so on the right side of the form. If you do not have any changes, check the “No Corrections” box in the upper right and return the form with your payment. All information received by March 3, 2011, will be included in the 2011 Membership Directory.

It is not too early to think about the 2012 WAWH conference. We will meet May 3–5, 2012 at the Doubletree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center at the Berkeley, California. A beautiful setting in the Berkeley marina, the Doubletree will serve as both our hotel and meeting space.

WAWH Conference Book Recognition

The Friday reception at the WAWH conference will celebrate those WAWH members who have had a book published in 2010. Please email me at amyessington@wawh.org by March 15, 2011, to let me know if you have a book we should recognize.
Member News

Independent scholar Dr. Tisa M. Anders will present her work, “Gender and Labor: Betablers and the Western Nebraska Sugar Industry,” at the annual meeting of the Agricultural History Society, in Springfield, Illinois, June 2011.


Sandra Trudgen Dawson’s book will be published in February as part of the MUP Popular Culture Series: Holiday Camps in Twentieth Century Britain: Packaging Pleasure (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2011).

Inge S. Horton, an independent scholar with a background in architecture and city planning, announces the publication of her book Early Women Architects of the San Francisco Bay Area: The Lives and Work of Fifty Professionals, 1890–1951, by McFarland & Company, as a richly illustrated reference book. The book closes a gap in architectural history by showing that Julia Morgan, the eminent California architect, was not the only one and that many other women practiced architecture in late 19th and early 20th century in the liberal climate of northern California. The aim was to provide role models for young women interested in architecture as a professional field, outlining the professional legacy of women architects as well as providing rich sources of information for researchers. For further information, please see http://www.womenarchitectsca.com/.

Former WAWH Secretary Mary Ann Irwin announces the release of two books and one article. The books are Robert W. Cherny, Mary Ann Irwin, and Ann Marie Wilson, eds., Women and Politics: California from the Gold Rush to the Great Depression, with University of Nebraska Press; and, with Richard B. Rice, William A. Bullough, and Richard J. Orsi, a fourth edition of the McGraw Hill college history text, The Elusive Eden: A New History of California. The article is “Sex, War, and Community Service: The Battle for San Francisco’s Jewish Community Center,” which will appear in the special “Gender and the City” issue of Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies. All are scheduled to appear in May 2011.

Melissa Johnson is one of the two new graduate student representatives for the Coordinating Council for Women in History.

Carolyn Herbst Lewis is the new outreach coordinator for the Coordinating Council for Women in History.

Thanks to organizer Carol Loats, Colorado State University, Pueblo, held its seventh annual Young Women’s Real World Conference on November 3, 2010. The focus of this conference is to bring together the campus and larger community and to encourage high-school-age young women to seek higher education at CSU Pueblo and beyond, to make good decisions for a healthier future.
Member News (cont.)


Phylis Cancilla Martinelli published “From Acceptance to ’Not Quite White’ in Bisbee, Arizona, a White Man’s Town, 1880-1920,” in Luciano Iorizzo and Ernesto Rossi, eds. Italian Americans, Bridges to Italy, Bonds to America, by Cambria Press, in 2010. In March, she will be on a panel at the Tucson Festival of Books discussing race and ethnicity in the borderlands, and, in April, will present her research on the coalitions of Spaniards and Mexicans in southwest Mining at the National Association of Ethnic Studies. Finally, she has been chosen to participate in the 2011 Charles Redd Center for Western Studies seminar on immigration in the Far West in August.

Barbara Corrado Pope has written two literary mysteries which deal with major historical issues in late 19th-century France. Cezanne's Quarry (2008) poses questions about religion and science, and the condition of women; the rise of a virulent “new” anti-Semitism and issues of national identity are the driving force in The Blood of Lorraine (2010). Barbara will be on a panel at the April conference and would be glad to talk to anyone who also wants to try the fiction route.

Patricia Schechter, with Avel Louise Gordly, edited a book released this February: Remembering the Power of Words: The Life of an Oregon Activist, Legislator, and Community Leader (Oregon State University Press, 2011).


Nancy Taniguchi has retired after 21 years as a history professor at California State University Stanislaus and is devoting herself to long-postponed research and writing. As professor emerita, she continues her association with the university as archivist for the papers of the California Institute for Peruvian Studies.

Susan Wladaver-Morgan is the new co-president for the Coordinating Council for Women in History.

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.
Creating Women's History Tours in Cities
Mary Melcher, PhD Historian, Arizona Women's Heritage Trail

Throughout the U.S., women's historians and history buffs are creating women's history tours that link historic sites with women's stories. These walking tours provide a means for members of the general public to learn about the women who built their community's libraries, hospitals, schools, and businesses.

The first city trail was organized in 1989 by a group of Boston Public School teachers, librarians, and students who founded the Boston Women's Heritage Trail (BWHT). The Freedom Trail and Black Heritage Trail already existed, and this new group was determined to "remember the ladies." Through educational programs, publications and outreach initiatives, the BWHT is dedicated to weaving the lives and work of women back into the story of Boston. The BWHT is a nonprofit organization with an all-volunteer Board of Directors and Advisory Board as well as consultants. Polly Kaufman, editor of Her Past around Us, has been involved with this trail and several others in Maine.

While most of the early women's history trails are in the East, others have been organized in the West. The Tucson Walking Tour in Women's History winds through three old neighborhoods and features a Hispanic theatre founded by Carmen Soto de Vasquez, a school where Catholic nuns taught from 1880 to 1982, a shrine, and a maternity home.

Those who go on these tours often have little understanding of the women who shaped their towns. They do not know that orders of nuns often founded the first hospitals and schools in western cities. They are not aware of the women's club members who wrote grants to the Carnegie Foundation to begin libraries all over the nation. Many know little about the excellent women teachers who taught in segregated schools or worked for reform. By creating a walking tour and informing the general public about these women's stories, we can excite their desire to learn more. While the history shared on tours is not in depth, it can lead participants to read books, take classes, and generally expand their knowledge of history.

Scholars involved in the Arizona Women's Heritage Trail have developed an extensive bibliography of sources related to Arizona women's history that is available online at womensheritatrail.org. By providing additional resources for students and the general public, and by placing the lives of individual women in historic context, organizers of women's history tours expand the audience for public history and open a window for further exploration.

Visit these websites to see examples of trails and to learn more creating one in your town or city:
- Boston Women's Heritage Trail: www.bwht.org
- The Brunswick Women's Trail: http://community.curtislibrary.com/pejepscot/bwhc/index.html
- Tucson Women's History Trail: http://www.womensheritatrail.org/tours/brochure.pdf

This new group was determined to "remember the ladies." Through educational programs, publications and outreach initiatives, the BWHT is dedicated to weaving the lives and work of women back into the story....
Graduate Student Representatives: Report

Andrea Thabet and Cynthia Scott

Please be sure to attend the Graduate Student Panel at this year’s conference on Friday, April 8, at 1:30PM in Friends Hall: “Perspectives from the Ground: A Roundtable on Finding Jobs in and out of Academia.”

Chair: Amy Essington, California State University, Long Beach

- “True Stories of the Tenure Track,” Carolyn Herbst Lewis, Louisiana State University
- “If You Love to Teach, or Choosing an Academic Life at a Community College,” Danielle Swiontek, Santa Barbara City College
- “A Tale of Trailing Spouses, or the Problem of Two Careers in Academia,” Sandra Dawson, Northern Illinois University
- “Taking your History Degree Outside Academia,” Alyssa Lebetsamer, Autry National Center

We were happy to spread the news about the upcoming WAWH Conference, and the graduate student resources available on the WAWH website. In February, we sent an announcement to Los Angeles–area history departments and to H-Net, inviting graduate students to discover or reconnect with WAWH at the conference in Pasadena. We now encourage all WAWH members to reach out to graduate students and we invite you to contact your department webmasters to create a link to the “Online Resources for Graduate Students” web page: http://www.wawh.org/resources/gradstudent.html.

We are working to develop a draft list of “Guidelines for Graduate Student Representatives” to be presented to the executive board at its annual meeting this spring. It is hoped that these guidelines will provide a blueprint outlining the responsibilities of and expectations for future graduate student representatives. When finalized, we anticipate that the guidelines will be posted on the WAWH website. We invite graduate student members to contact us with any concerns or suggestions on how the WAWH can improve outreach to graduate students. Feel free to contact us via email, or please come see us at the conference. We would love to hear from you!

athom@umail.ucsb.edu                       cschott@cgu.edu

Kanner Prize Revision

Section three of the current bylaw for the Barbara “Penny” Kanner Prize for Understanding Primary Sources about Women reads:

“The Kanner Award is intended to promote the practice of bibliographic and research skills. The research guide award should reflect the essential tools of the historian’s craft (historical knowledge, bibliographic and research skills) as they have been used to construct a research guide focused on women and/or gender history; the prize is not intended for a standard library catalogue. Substantial published guides of less than book length (e.g. articles or relevant chapters from a book) will be considered. The work submitted for the autobiography award should focus on women’s history and/or gender history. Critical or annotated editions of autobiographies should reflect the essential tools of the historian’s craft (historical knowledge, bibliographic and research skills). Learned studies of a person(s) autobiographical writings set in historical context will also be considered; the prize is not intended for autobiographical material presented without scholarly analysis. Entries may only be submitted for consideration once.”

The revision for section three will read:

“The Western Association of Women Historians awards a prize to the best scholarly historical research that promotes the understanding of a particular primary source or a category of primary sources (i.e., diaries, letters, etc.) on women or gender published by a WAWH member. The Kanner prize is open to books, articles, and websites.”

We will vote on the revision for the bylaws at the business meeting at this year’s conference.
ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

Call for Papers: National Coalition of Independent Scholars

The National Coalition of Independent Scholars is now inviting applications for its 2011 Grants and Awards Committee. This year the Committee will award the Eisenstein-DeLacy Prize for the best published article by an NCIS member. This prize will be awarded with a $200 honorarium. Additionally, there will be three travel awards each of $200 for travel to an academic conference to assist travel related to research. A copy of the article to be considered must be included, with information on place and date of publication, along with a CV. More than one article may be submitted. For the travel awards, a travel and expense budget and description of research project must be submitted. If the travel is to a conference, all related materials must also be included. The deadline for submitting applications is July 15, 2011. The decisions of the Grants and Awards Committee will be announced by September 15, 2011, and will be posted on the NCIS website, along with profiles of the winners. All applications should be sent to the chair of the Awards Committee, Christopher Robinson, at chrisrobinson@rocketmail.com.

Call for Prizes: The Coalition for Western Women’s History

The new Susan Armitage-Elizabeth Jameson Prize ($1,000) honors the best book about Western women and gender history. The first winner of the prize was Margaret D. Jacobs (who will be our luncheon speaker at next year’s AHA) for White Mother to a Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, and the Removal of Indigenous Children in the American West and Australia, 1880–1940.

The $1,000 Irene Ledesma Prize supports travel to collections or other research expenses related to the histories of women and gender in the American West. Applicants must be enrolled in a PhD program and members of the CWWH. The prize honors the memory of Irene Ledesma, whose contributions to Chicana and working-class history were ended by her untimely death in 1997. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- How well the applicant stated her/his research question and the significance of the overall project.
- How well the applicant demonstrated her/his knowledge of the primary source materials related to the proposal.
- How well the applicant framed her/his project in terms of the broader theoretical/historiographic issues significant to the topic.
- How well the proposal addressed issues of gender and/or women’s history in the U.S. West.
- How well the proposed budget dovetails with the applicant’s stated research agenda.

The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2011; the winner will be announced at the CWWH breakfast at the Oakland meeting of the Western History Association. For complete information on the submission process, please consult the CWWH website: westernwomenshistory.org.

Conference: Agriculture and the Environment in History

The conference “From the Ground Up: Agriculture and the Environment in History” will be held at California State Polytechnic University’s Kellogg House, May 6–7, 2011. There will be a reception Friday evening and a conference on Saturday. Speakers will include Hal Barron of Harvey Mudd College and Ken Pomeranz of UC Irvine. More details will be available in March. For more information, please contact Eileen V. Wallis at Cal Poly Pomona, evwallis@csupomona.edu.
Spreading the News (cont.)
Carole Srole

Digital women’s history has its own, different trajectory. In 1997 Kathryn Kish Sklar and Tom Dublin began the projects that resulted in their behemoth website, Women and Social Movements in the United States, out of concern that documents about women weren’t making it on to the internet. Fortunately, government institutions and agencies like the NEH and libraries, as well as enterprising faculty and dedicated individuals, have produced some remarkable websites. Still, I worry that the websites on women’s history do not get enough publicity, nor do we encourage the production of even more of them.

I’d like to propose that the WAWH plays a role in publicizing good websites for women’s history. We could institute a column in the Networker to recommend websites. We could print reviews of websites and databases in women’s history. We could even give a yearly award for an excellent website in women’s history with the award as the publicity of the website, not a monetary amount. As we prepare to meet for our 42nd annual conference in April at the Huntington Library, let us brainstorm about other ways to spread the word about excellent websites and databases and ultimately promote the production of more of them.


Announcements (cont.)

Call for Papers:
Uncovering the Stories of Midwestern Women Artists, 1840–1940

This interdisciplinary conference, which will be held October 13–14, 2011, at Bradley University, in Peoria, Illinois, will explore the art and experiences of women artists working in the Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) between 1840 and 1940. Papers considering these issues, as well as those that deal with aspects of collecting, exhibiting and publishing the work of these women are welcomed. The symposium is held in conjunction with the exhibition Skirting Convention: Illinois Women Artists, 1840 to 1940 at Lakeview Museum, Peoria, from October 1, 2011 to January 14, 2012. Please submit a 300-word abstract for a 15- to 20-minute paper by May 1, 2011. Proposals should include the title of the paper, presenter’s name, institutional and departmental affiliation (if applicable), CV and any technology requests, to Sarah Glover (sglover@bradley.edu) and Channy Lyons (illinoiswomenartistsproject@gmail.com). More information can be found at the event website: http://iwa.bradley.edu/symposium

Mark Your Calendars!

WAWH 2011 Conference
Huntington Library
San Marino, CA
April 7–10, 2011

WAWH 2012 Conference
Doubletree Hotel & Meeting Center
Berkeley, CA
May 3–5, 2012
Announcements (cont.)

Call for Papers: Southern Association for Women Historians

The Southern Association for Women Historians invites proposals for the Ninth Southern Conference of Women’s History, to be held June 6–9, 2012, at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. The conference theme is “Women at the Borders of Southern History” and the program seeks to reflect the diversity of our profession and the best in recent scholarship, including by young scholars, graduate students, museum curators, and public historians. We invite sessions on any dimension of southern woman’s and gender history and particularly welcome panels that test traditional boundaries—for example, geographic, thematic, sexual, and conceptual. Plenary sessions will explore the geographic borders of southern history, LGBT history in the South, and the Native Southwest. The program committee seeks proposals for traditional panels as well as workshops and roundtable discussions. We prefer to receive proposals for complete sessions, but will consider individual papers as well. Panel proposals should be submitted in a single Microsoft Word document and include a cover sheet with the session title as well as the names, affiliations, email addresses, and mailing addresses of all participants, including the chair and commentator; a 300-word summary of the session as a whole, a 300-word description for each paper or presentation; a 500-word vita from each participant. Scholars interested in chairing or commenting on a session are invited to submit a 500-word vita. All materials should be emailed to the program committee at SAWH2012@gmail.com. Please include your name, affiliation, and email address in the body of your message. Inquiries may be directed to Lorri Glover, program committee chair, at lglover1@slu.edu. The submissions deadline is August 1, 2011.

Rhymes, Rhythms, and Rituals: Twenty-Five Years of Rural Women’s Studies Revisited

The Triennial Conference of the Rural Women’s Studies Association (RWSA) will be hosted by the University of New Brunswick and Saint Thomas University, in Fredericton, New Brunswick, in cooperation with Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Nova Scotia, Canada, on July 26–28, 2012. The theme of the conference is “Rhymes, Rhythms, and Rituals: Twenty-Five Years of Rural Women’s Studies Revisited” and the RWSA seeks proposals for individual papers, panel sessions, workshops, and roundtable discussions on topics related to the conference theme. The RWSA especially welcomes proposals for panels that provide an overview of sub-themes in rural women’s history, such as those that examine the relationship between gender and labor, health, the professions, cultural heritage, leadership, and creative expression in rural contexts. Proposals that are inter-, trans-, or multi-disciplinary are encouraged, as are those that develop connections between rural women’s history and present-day social and economic concerns, worldwide. Alternative methods of presentation, such as workshops, interactive sessions, posters, performances, readings, and/or audiovisual presentations are encouraged and welcomed. Please submit the following information by May 15, 2011: the title of paper/session/workshop/performance; a one-page abstract of paper or brief description of proposed session/workshop, etc.; and a brief vita/bio of paper presenter or session participants and complete contact information. Submissions should be sent electronically to: pedersjm@uwec.edu. For information on travel grants and letters of invitation, contact Rebecca Montgomery, rm53@txstate.edu. For additional information on the RWSA, please go to the website, http://www.unm.edu/rwsa/.
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