President’s Column

Plans are shaping up nicely for the conference at the Huntington Library on May 15-17. The program committee had so many submissions that the conference will run all day Saturday and all day Sunday, so make plans accordingly.

We will gather on Friday evening for a reception at the home of Peggy Renner in Pasadena. You will find directions in your conference program. We so much appreciate Peggy’s hospitality, especially after being stuck in the Holiday Inn basement last time.

I am pleased to announce that Christine Littleton, Professor of Law and Women’s Studies at UCLA, has agreed to give our plenary address on Saturday morning. Her topic is “The Historic Development of Sexual Harassment Law.” The topic couldn’t be more timely. The definition of sexual harassment has increasingly come into question. In a recent piece for the New Yorker (Feb. 9), Jeffrey Toobin argued that sexual harassment law has moved from issues regarding discrimination to a preoccupation with sexual behavior on the job. Toobin pointed the finger at Catharine MacKinnon, who, he implied, was more concerned with policing sexual behavior than with fighting discrimination.

As feminists I’m sure we have all wrestled in the past months over how we define sexual harassment and how we feel it ought to be treated. Judge Susan Wright’s decision to throw out the Paula Corbin Jones case, the army’s lenient treatment of Sgt. Major Gene McKinney, Kathleen Willey’s allegations that President Clinton kissed and fondled her— all raise questions about how sexual harassment is defined and how it should be treated. Gloria Steinem’s recent piece in the New York Times op-ed section (March 22), which argued that Clinton is not guilty of sexual harassment because he “took ‘no’ for an answer,” seems to me too disingenuous to serve as the final word. Chris Littleton’s plenary address should provide a welcome opportunity to reconsider the issue.

Meanwhile I’ve promised an update on the Title IX investigation of sexual discrimination in the history department at UC Riverside. As I mentioned in the last Networker, a panel including one historian and two law professors took testimony on campus in October and filed a report that has not been made public. After reading the
report, the campus affirmative action officer determined that there was no "pattern" of sexual discrimination. However five history faculty members came under investigation for their personal actions and behavior. The names of the five have been kept confidential. Just as the investigation was getting under way, the former chair of the history department died in an automobile accident when his car hit a tree at high speed. While everyone was shocked and horrified by this sudden turn of events, surely the most bizarre response came from several male faculty members who insinuated that the women ("witches") were responsible and urged that the investigation be called off. In this highly charged atmosphere, the Executive Vice Chancellor is continuing with the investigation.

Whatever the outcome, the events at UCR are clear evidence of the damage that can be done when grievances and legitimate complaints are pushed under the rug and when no attempt is made to educate faculty on what constitutes unacceptable, actionable behavior.

**WAWH Networker Calendar**

- **June 10, 1998.** Deadline for submissions to NETWORKER.
- **May 15-17, 1998**
  - WAWH Conference, Huntington Library, San Marino

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**Member News**


Mary Anderson, SNJM, will will publish her article, "The Stones of Prague: History, Pattern and Memory," as an illustrated book by Agentura INFOA in April, 1998, and it is currently being translated into Czech for publication there.


Lauren Codley, received a fellowship to research Upton’s Sinclair’s correspondence with women activists at the Lilly Library, Univ. of Indiana; presented a feminist interpretation of Sinclair at the Institute for Historical Study/Independent Scholar Conference, and contributed entries on Gerda Lerner and Nell Painter for the *Encyclopedia of History and Historians* (Fitzroy Dearborn, London, 1998).

Kathryn K. Edwards, Univ. of Southern Mississippi, won three post doctorates for 1997-1998 and accepted the one at Tanner Humanities Center at the Univ. of Utah; her book Interior Frontiers: Family and Communal Recreation in the Early Modern Burgundies, is under contract at Johns Hopkins Univ. Pr.


Judith M. Hughes, UC San Diego, Yale Univ. Press will publish her book Freudian Analysts/Feminist Issues.


Alison Klairmont Lingo, Dominican College, presented a paper at the Congres Internationale d’histoire de la science in Belgium on “Anger, Self-Control and Disease in the Works of Louise Bourgeois & Anhorsale Pare.”

Gloria Rieie Lothrop, W.P. Whitsett Chair of California History, California State University, Northridge, published “Richard Girid, Man of Many Frontiers,” Brandbook, Los Angeles Corral of Westerners Int’l. (1997), delivered the Annual Negri Lecture at Marymount College, and appeared on “Good Morning America” (ABC) discussing alien internment during WWII.


Barbara Bennett Peterson, University of Hawaii, has received the Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Hawaii Alumni Association and she has published biographical entries on Jean-Henri Dunant, the founder of the International Red Cross, and Asher Brown Durand, one of the notable artists who founded the Hudson River School of Painting in Encyclopedia-USA, Vol. 24, and the supplement to Encyclopedia-USA, Vol. 1 in July, 1997.

Elizabeth Reis, Univ. of Oregon, recently published Damned Women: Sinners and Witches in Puritan New England (Cornell Univ. Pr., 1997) and edited an anthology, Spellbound: Women and Witchcraft in America (Scholarly Resources) out this Spring.


Rosalie Schwartz, has published Pleasure Island: Tourism and Temptation in Cuba, by Univ. of Nebraska Pr., 1997.
"Update on Asilomar Labor Dispute". (375 words)

The Social Action Committee of the WAWH spontaneously reconstructed itself at the annual conference at Asilomar, May 1997. A change in management at the conference center had produced major layoffs and bitter employees. Concerned members responded at the time to the management, and followed up with letters to management and the State Parks Department after the conference. Rebecca Mead has followed the ongoing labor actions at Asilomar and provides the following update for members who would like to engage as public intellectuals to open dialogue and channel action constructively to support Asilomar workers.

Maya Holmes, an organizer with the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 483, writes that workers at the conference center are still working for the basic right to unionize free from intimidation and harassment. The union is asking Delaware North Park Services which manages Asilomar to sign a card check/neutrality agreement. When signed, the agreement would insure that the company would abide by federal labor laws including the right to decide upon union representation. Holmes invites any interested members to write to the general manager at Asilomar. The following sample letter covers the basics.

SAMPLE
Mr. Rick Morrissey, General Manager
Asilomar state Conference Center
PO Box 537
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Dear Mr. Morrissey:

I would like to strongly urge Delaware North Parks Services to do whatever possible to ensure Asilomar employees are allowed to make a decision to unionize or not, expeditiously and without intervention, coercion, harassment or intimidation. My understanding is that the best way to achieve this is for Delaware North Park Services to sign a card check/neutrality agreement. The agreement would demonstrate the company's commitment to our community and to respect workers' rights. It would also prevent a potentially high profile, protracted and contentious labor dispute from developing at the publicly owned facility.

Here on the Monterey Peninsula we treasure Asilomar. We also treasure the working people who make this area what it is. We expect, at the very least for you to do the same. We will be watching very closely your stewardship of Asilomar.

Sincerely,

The union would appreciate a copy of your letter. Mail to: HERE Local 483, 702-C Forest Ave, Pacific Grove, CA 93950, Attn: Maya Holmes.
"The Social Action Committee Awakens" (350 words)

At the last annual conference, many WAWH members expressed an interest in the Asilomar labor dispute (see related article). As historians of women, we understand the history of labor disputes and their impact on workers and families. As public intellectuals our research and teaching provides us opportunities to discuss various social justice campaigns. Numerous issues exist today that affect our membership directly as academics and as women. Yet, the pace and complexity of our daily lives often leaves us with little time to take direct action. The Social Action Committee wants to discuss the possibilities that exist to work on these issues within this committee of the organization.

To begin the dialogue, we are constructing an email list that includes addresses of members from the directory, as well as addresses from those who expressed interest at Asilomar. The list can be used to disperse information and to pull together resources. We cannot offer a discussion forum at this time, but we can certainly network with each other on common interests.

We would like to move beyond an infoserve, however. Rebecca Mead and I brainstormed several potential ways to use our pedagogical and research skills to increase public awareness of contemporary issues. For example:

- A panel at the annual conference featuring research/current events on one (or more) issue. For example, restructuring of university faculty and the reliance on adjunct faculty.
- A panel of WAWH members to discuss various methods of enhancing the public discourse on subjects of concern.
- Creation of teaching modules for secondary or college-level students on subjects like women in the global economy or welfare reform.
- Information on writing op-ed pieces for local or national newspapers.

The focus on topics, professional or of larger social consequence may provide a vehicle to attract graduate students and recent Ph.D.s to the organization. Contact us with your ideas on these and your own suggestions. Of course, good ideas are implemented with volunteers so if you want to join, let us know.

Joanne Goodwin and Rebecca Mead for the Social Action Committee.
WAWH Awards and Prizes 1998 to be awarded at 1998 Conference, Huntington Library:

Each of the following awards is granted at the annual conference of the Western Association of Women Historians. Applicants for these awards must be members of WAWH at the time of submission (beginning with the 1997 awards, all applicants will need to have been members for two years). The deadline for all of these awards was February 15, 1998.

Sierra Book Prize The WAWH will award the 1998 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 three years (not necessarily consecutive years). The book must be a monograph based on original research (not an anthology or edited work); the prize is open to all fields of history. Chair of committee: Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland, Dept. of History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize The WAWH will award the 1998 JLRAP ($100) for the best article in the field of history published by a WAWH member. The article must have been published in 1996 or 1997. All fields of history will be considered, and submissions must include full scholarly apparatus. Chair of Committee: Dr. Florence Baker, 1256 Alameda Ave., Glendale, CA 91201.

Barbara Penny Kanner Award The WAWH will award the 1998 BPKP ($500) to the best scholarly bibliographical and historical guide to research focused on Women’s or Gender History. The award is intended to promote the practice of bibliomethodology and to 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 (articles or book chapters) may also be considered. Chair of Committee: Dr. Candace Falk, 912 Mendocino Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709.

Graduate Student Fellowship The WAWH will award the 1997 GSF ($1,000) to a graduate student, advanced to candidacy, who is writing a dissertation at the time of application, and is expecting to receive the Ph.D. no earlier than December of the calendar year in which the award is made. Chair of Committee: Dr. Nancy Page Fernandez, Department of History, California State University, Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St. Northridge, CA 91330-8250, or email: nancy.fernandez@csun.edu.

Editor’s Message: Please excuse the previous typos and errors in the text of the last and all previous Networkers. The last issue was the first one I actually had to prepare from scratch, and I am still learning the mechanics of the newsletter program, let alone Word, since I have been using Wordstar 5 for the last decade and a half. But, I know, I know, I also didn’t proofread very well. But after I typed in all of the Member News information I then proceeded to lose it and in my frustration I failed to notice that the word processing program was actually alerting me with red lines that some things were amiss. Also, I apologize for the wrong dates in the prize announcements and for announcing the next conference is in Asilomar when in fact it is at the Huntington Library in San Marino. There were also some organizational difficulties that the new board has to work out, so hopefully this issue is better. But let me suggest to submitters of any and all information; Please print clearly or type out your submissions. As a group, your handwriting leaves much to be desired. And, if you have a lot of member news, please be aware that there is only so much space per newsletter, so I may not get it all in. If not, I will try to accommodate in the next issue.
Member News-The NETWORKER

Name, affiliation: _____________________________________________________________

Notice of publication or other member news: ______________________________________

(Use an additional sheet if necessary. Send to Jacqueline Braitman, 5510 Owensmouth Ave. #208, Woodland Hills, CA 91367) or email: jtb@ucla.edu NOTE: PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE!

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Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize
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Chair: Dr. Caudace Falk
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WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

Mailing Address (include city, zip)

Phone: (Work) (Home)

e-mail address

Internet or Bittnet (circle one)

Current Position and/or Affiliation

Research and/or Teaching Fields

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1996 WAWH Membership Directory $5 (includes S/H)

(Clip and send with your check to Janet Brodie, WAWH Secretary, Department of History, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA 91711. (Reminder: Membership runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Membership dues are tax-deductible.)

WESTERN ASSOCIATION of Women Historians

Call to Conference
May 15-17, 1998
Huntington Library, San Marino

Elizabeth Snapp
Box 424093
Denton, TX
76204