Dear WAWH Members,

As I sit down to write this summer’s column, I hold in mind the fresh memory of the “Keep Families Together” protests that took place across the country on June 30. Organized both to protest the current administration’s practice of separating immigrant families at the border and to insist that families that have already been separated be reunited, the marches drew thousands of participants nationwide. Marchers’ signs ranged from the poetic to the pithy to the political, but some common values emerged: the sanctity of family and compassion for the world’s children.

In my own small town, the march was a decidedly family event, designed to highlight the human stakes of this political policy. School-aged children held hands with parents and grandparents while younger children were carried. Both offered poignant reminders of the vulnerability and dependence of children and of the situation of children currently detained without a family member to care for them. Speakers at our local event kept us focused on the experience of children; they included a Cambodian-American woman who came to the US as a child refugee after the war in Vietnam, the daughter of a Mexican immigrant, a therapist who works with survivors of childhood trauma, and an immigration activist. Among those speakers was also a historian. Although he provided important and necessary reminders of the long history of family separation in the US, I was also struck by the way in which every one of the event’s speakers relied upon historical example to trace the long origins of this policy, its effects on children, and to point the way toward change.

The event reinforced my belief in the important role historians must play in modern life. Indeed, our organization has responded to recent events by centering that responsibility, spotlighting the activists among us and providing tools for continued political engagement. Anita Casavantes Bradford’s stirring and inspiring keynote address at our 2018 conference—which drew connections between scholarship and activism, personal and political—offers a shining example. It is important to note that the 2018 WAWH conference program demonstrates this commitment with panels, roundtables, and workshops aimed at contextualizing and addressing some of our most pressing current issues. I look forward to renewing this commitment both in the 2019 program and in years to follow.

The program committee is already hard at work organizing an exciting, thought-provoking slate of events for the 2019 conference. (Please see the Call for Papers and take note of the deadline for submissions—October 15, 2018). In 2019, we will gather in Portland, Oregon on April 25–27 to celebrate the conference’s 50th anniversary. In recognition of this milestone, the program committee encourages panel proposals that reflect on the history of women’s and gender history and those that point to future directions in the field. The program committee is joined by the 50th Anniversary Committee and the Fundraising Committee in preparing a truly special gathering for 2019. I hope that you will join us!

– Jenny
Letter from the Executive Director
Sarah Gold McBride

Hello everyone! I am thrilled to begin my service as WAWH’s Executive Director. To introduce myself briefly: I am a lifelong Californian originally from San Diego, and have lived in the Bay Area for the last thirteen years. I received my B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, and currently work in the History Department as a Visiting Lecturer. I first became a member of WAWH thanks to my friend (and current WAWH Treasurer) Jennifer Robin Terry, who was in my cohort in graduate school!

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my predecessor, Cheryl Krasnick Warsh. Cheryl has gone above and beyond in sharing her knowledge and experience with me during this transition. I can only hope to serve this organization as ably and generously as she has for the last four years.

In addition to Cheryl, three other members of the executive board are retiring this summer: Erica Ball, Program Committee Co-Chair; Abigail Feeley, Future Sites Coordinator; and Sunu Kodumthara, Digital Communications Director. Thank you to Erica, Abigail, and Sunu for your service to WAWH! I’d also like to thank Ellen Hartigan-O’Connor and Lorena Oropeza, our 2018 Local Arrangements Co-Chairs, for putting on such a fantastic conference in Davis.

Finally, we were thrilled that our President-Elect, Ula Taylor, agreed to serve as this year’s WAWH Luncheon speaker at the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association’s annual meeting, which was held last weekend at Santa Clara University. Ula, who will begin her term as WAWH President in 2019, is Professor and H. Michael & Jeanne Williams Department Chair in the Department of African American Studies at UC Berkeley. Her luncheon talk was entitled, “Sun Wrapped Beauty: Sonia Sanchez and the Nation of Islam.” Thank you for representing WAWH at the PCB, Ula!

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you over the next four years. WAWH is an exceptional organization, and I am thrilled to be a part of it.

– Sarah

A Special Thank You to Cheryl Warsh

As many of you are already aware, Cheryl Warsh completed her final year as WAWH’s Executive Director in 2018. Cheryl occupied the ED position from 2013-2018, working with three different WAWH Presidents. She did so, as Rebecca Plant (WAWH President 2015-2017) remarked, with a seemingly endless supply of “energy, efficiency, and humor” that each of us came to reply upon.

As Jessica Weiss (WAWH President, 2013-2015) observed, “Cheryl brings...energy and skill to whatever she does!” Yet her real “superpower,” as Jessica quickly learned, is as a negotiator. With her eye always on WAWH’s bottom line, Cheryl “negotiated key aspects of conference contracts”—from catering, to AV and beyond. This was but one way that Cheryl “gave unstintingly of herself to the organization.”

Jessica, Rebecca, and I are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Cheryl within this organization. Indeed, as Rebecca noted, we are indebted to Cheryl for the “enormous amount of work she did for WAWH as executive director.” We hope that those of you who know her will reach out and offer her your thanks for her service to WAWH!

– Jenny
Welcome to New Members

These members joined between January 19 and August 2, 2018

Juily Phun                      Clayton Finn
Myra Santiago                   Rachael Wyant
Jasmine Wade                    Amanda Schumaker
James Hudec                     Kelly Sharp
Kathleen Berrin                 Melanie Reimann
Giulia Giamboni                 Shannon Gavin
Amanda Cannata                  Charlotte Greenhalgh
Linda Kim                      Anita Casavantes Bradford
Max Speare                     Rebecca Bales
Amy Langford                   Amy Robinson
Katherine Kitterman            Kimberly Killion
Eva Sheppard Wolf              Jenny Schultz
Lorena Marquez

Thank you to our donors! (donations made since January 19, 2018)

Barbara Molony
Susan Wladaver-Morgan
Marguerite “Peggy” Renner
Nupur Chaudhuri
Febe Pamonag
Carol Gold
Betsy Perry

Help us Celebrate WAWH’s 50th Anniversary!

WAWH will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019 and we are planning a celebration you won’t want to miss. The date is set for April 25th, 26th and 27th and we will meet in Portland, Oregon.

Please be sure to mark your calendars and save the date.

We hope that many of you will consider submitting a proposal for this very special conference. In addition to the panels on the scholarly topics we explore as historians, the 2019 meeting will feature panels that celebrate our history as an organization.

Peggy Renner is revising the “Histories of the Western Association of Women Historians 1969-1994” and welcomes thoughts you would like to share about WAWH.

If you have photos from past meetings, please consider sharing them with us by contacting Sarah Gold McBride, WAWH’s Executive Director. We have grown in so many ways in the last 50 years and want to make sure we leave that history for future historians.

Be sure to join us for this milestone meeting and this exciting conference!
This spring **Miroslava Chávez-García** published her new book *Migrant Longing: Letter Writing across the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (University of North Carolina Press, 2018). In 2017, she was awarded WAWH’s Judith Lee Prize for her article “Migrant Longing, Courtship, and Gendered Identity in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands” (published in 2016 in *Western Historical Quarterly*), which formed the basis for this book.

**Cynthia Prescott** received a Public Engagement Seed Grant from the Whiting Foundation to support her project “Pioneer Monuments in the American West.” She will use the GIS-enabled app Clio to create detailed historical entries and walking tours of 200 sites in the West, with an emphasis on controversial public monuments and shifting representations of race and gender, and develop her website, [PioneerMonuments.net](http://PioneerMonuments.net).


**Alexandra (Alex) Ketchum** successfully defended her doctoral dissertation “Serving Up Revolution: Feminist Restaurants, Cafés, and Coffeehouses from 1972–1989 in the United States and Canada” this summer at McGill University. She is also the author of *How to Start a Feminist Restaurant*, available from Microcosm Publishing.

In June, **Amy Essington** published her book, *The Integration of the Pacific Coast League: Race and Baseball on the West Coast* (University of Nebraska Press, June 2018).

**Alison Lingo** edited a scholarly translation and edition of *Diverse Observations* by Louise Bourgeois, Midwife to the Queen of France. This edition, published by ACMRS Publications in 2017, is the first complete English translation of the text, which was first published in Paris in the early seventeenth century.

In May, **Diane M.T. North** published her new book, *California at War: The State and the People during World War I* (University Press of Kansas, 2018). That same month, the University of Maryland University College honored Diane with its highest teaching award, the Stanley J. Drazek Teaching Excellence Award.
Member Announcements

In June, Carol Gold published her new book: Women in Business in Early Modern Copenhagen, 1740–1835 (distributed by University of Chicago Press and published by Museum Tusculanums Forlag, 2018). This book discusses women who worked in their own names in pre-industrial Copenhagen. It challenges the standard narrative of a “family economy,” in which women worked with husbands or fathers. Based on official records—business licenses and permits, travel permits, tax records—this book tells the stories of married, widowed, divorced and single women who worked legally and were an integral part of the economy during Copenhagen’s “Golden Age.”

After graduating with her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in August 2017 and spending the last year as a post-doc at Texas A&M, Rachel Gunter recently accepted a position as a Professor of History at Collin College in Plano, Texas, beginning this fall.

This year, Natalia Molina was awarded the 2018 China Residency at Wuhan University by the Organization of American Historians. Given in partnership with the American History Research Association of China, the residency will see Natalia—Professor at the University of California San Diego—present a summer seminar on race and politics in the context of the United States.

On May 22nd, Laura Ping passed her dissertation defense in the Department of History at The Graduate Center at City University of New York. Her dissertation is entitled, “Throwing off ‘the Dragling Dresses’: Women and Dress Reform, 1820–1900.”

This spring, Jennifer Robin Terry completed her dissertation and earned her doctorate in the Department of History at UC Berkeley. Her dissertation is entitled, “A Century of Denying Child Labor in America.”

Deirdre Cooper Owens was was promoted to Associate Professor of History at Queens College, was selected as an Organization of American Historians (OAH) Distinguished Lecturer, and is the new Director for the Program in African American History at the Library Company of Philadelphia, the nation’s oldest cultural institution. She also published her first book: Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology (UGA Press, November 2017), which won the 2018 Darlene Clark Hine Award from the OAH.
New Editors for WASM & Graduate Student Essay Competition

Alexander Street is happy to announce that, as of January 2019, Rebecca Jo Plant, Associate Professor of History at the University of California, San Diego, and Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, Professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Irvine, will be assuming co-editorship of the database and electronic journal: Women and Social Movements of the United States, 1600 to 2000 (http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com/)

They may be contacted immediately (rplant@ucsd.edu and j.wu@uci.edu) regarding potential projects for WASM. Plant and Wu will be taking over from the founding editors, Kathryn Kish Sklar and Thomas Dublin, Distinguished Professors emeriti at SUNY Binghamton, who have built and co-edited this critical resource in U.S. women’s and gender history for the past two decades.

The Dublin/Sklar Graduate Essay Competition: To thank the founding editors and to recognize emerging scholars of women’s, gender, and sexuality history, the incoming editors of WASM and Alexander Street are pleased to announce an inaugural WASM graduate essay competition. The winner will be awarded $500 and receive recognition at the WASM luncheon at the Organization of American Historians Annual Conference. The selected essay will be peer-reviewed and eligible for publication in the WASM Journal.

Essay Due Date: Jan. 1, 2019 to rplant@ucsd.edu & j.wu@uci.edu
Submission:
- A cover page with the essay title, author’s name and contact information.
- An essay of 8,000 words maximum, double-spaced, paginated, with one inch margins, using Times Roman 12 point font, and the author’s name removed.

Guidelines:
1. Use one or more of the WASM primary source collections as the basis for the research paper.
2. The author may choose to conduct additional research beyond the WASM collections.
3. Essays will be evaluated based on the originality and significance of intellectual contribution, the quality of writing, and the use of primary sources.

In addition, Donna Schuele, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Political Science at California State University, Los Angeles, and Katherine Marino, Assistant Professor in the departments of History and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at The Ohio State University, will be assuming the role of WASM’s book review co-editors. To express interest in becoming a book reviewer for WASM, please contact dcsclv@pacbell.net and marino.118@osu.edu.

Member Reflection
From a First-Time Conference Attendee
Elizabeth Shaw, MA Student
Eastern Washington University

When a faculty member in my department, Dr. Hedlund-Tyler approached me about WAWH, it is safe to say that I was nervous about attending. I had never traveled by myself to a conference before. I will always treasure my experience at WAWH. First, I didn’t realize how impactful it would be to attend a conference for female historians. I found myself listening to panels or roundtables excited just to know that the women speaking exist. It helped me better envision the profession I would like for myself and realize that being a professional historian, as a woman, is possible. Secondly, it was a joy to both hear references to books I had read and to learn about new books I had not heard of. This conference changed and challenged my perception of what a historian does, can do, and even should do. I was shown a way of approaching history outside of the white male gaze and it has made the past more complex, colorful, dynamic, and sometimes horrendous.

I came home with stories and enthusiasm that I hope have not annoyed the female faculty in my department who have not attended WAWH too much. I hope they attend next year. I will be forever grateful to Dr. Hedlund-Tyler for inviting me to attend and for WAWH’s hospitality and warmth. It was truly an empowering experience and it was an honor to be among such powerful, strong, and intelligent women.
Call for Papers

50th Anniversary Conference

Portland, Oregon

April 25-27, 2019

The Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH) invites proposals for panels, roundtables, posters, workshops, and individual presentations in all fields, regions, and periods of history.

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the WAWH, this annual conference also welcomes panel proposals that both reflect on the history of women’s and gender history and point to future directions in the field.

We particularly encourage non-traditional formats and topics. These could include panels and roundtables focused on pedagogy, on women in academia, on public history, digital humanities, academic publishing, career paths, activism, etc. We expect that all panels will be diverse in their composition.

We strongly encourage participants to replace the traditional 20-minute paper reading with shorter and more interactive presentation styles. Priority will be given to proposals for complete or partially complete sessions.

Individual papers will be considered secondarily.

We strongly encourage individual paper givers to:

a) look for panelists via our online spreadsheet;
b) get in touch with the program committee early to ask about possible chairs/commentators.

WAWH welcomes scholars at all career stages and in all career choices.

Proposals Due: Monday, October 15, 2018

For guidelines, FAQ on WAWH conferences, submissions, and information on finding co-panelists, please see http://www.wawh.org/conferences/2019.

Membership and Registration Requirement:

WAWH membership and 2018 conference preregistration will be required of all program participants. Membership runs conference to conference and is open to all.

Founded in 1969, the Western Association of Women Historians is the largest regional women’s historical association in the United States.
The Networker
Western Association of Women Historians

WAWH Executive Board, 2018–2019

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Jennifer Thigpen
president@wawh.org

Immediate Past President
Rebecca Jo Plant
rjp@ucsd.edu

President-Elect
Ula Taylor
uyt@berkeley.edu

Executive Director
Sarah Gold McBride
executivedirector@wawh.org

Secretary
Lindsay Blake Wilson
lindsay.wilson@nau.edu

Treasurer
Jennifer Robin Terry
treasurer@wawh.org

Eventbrite Coordinator
Pamela Stewart
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Conference Program & Networker Production Coordinator
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Andrea Milne
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Laura Ping
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Susan Schmidt
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2019 Conference Program Committee Co-Chairs
Sharon Block
sblock@uci.edu

Terri Snyder
snyder@exchange.fullerton.edu

Marne Campbell
marne.campbell@ulm.edu

Anita Casavantes Bradford
acasavan@uci.edu

Future Sites Coordinator
Currently vacant. Interest in this position? contact president@wawh.org

2019 Local Arrangements Co-Chairs
Brenda Frink
bfrink@pdx.edu
(Chairs TBA)

Book Launch Coordinator
Anne Reid
anreid@calpoly.edu

Carol Gold Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize Chair
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Founders’ Dissertation Fellowship Chair
Kate Jarvis
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Judith Lee Ridge Prize Chair
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Gita Chaudhuri Prize Chair
Ana Elizabeth Rosas
arosas1@uci.edu

Frances Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize Chair
Paula Michaels
In April 2019, the Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH) will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of our founding with a conference in Portland, Oregon. The years since that first meeting at Asilomar have seen WAWH grow from a handful of members to several hundred and from an original focus on California to serving the western regions of the United States and Canada. Over the years, we have offered ever more awards that recognize excellent published scholarship in the form of articles, books, and research tools, as well as cutting edge work by graduate students in the form of prizes for poster sessions and conference papers and a $1000 fellowship for dissertation research.

To celebrate this milestone, we are establishing a Fund for the Future that will allow us to continue serving women historians for many years to come. The Fund will have three main purposes:

1. To establish annual travel awards to enable grad students and others who lack access to institutional support to attend our yearly conferences to share their work. Grad students are literally the future of the profession and our organization; adjuncts do the lion's share of educating the next generation of new history students, and independent scholars continue to do innovative research with or without official backing. Our conferences offer many a first opportunity to participate in a professional meeting and to experience collegiality beyond home institutions. Helping to fund their participation will ensure that they can make their contributions as professional women historians.

2. To keep bringing outstanding and inspiring keynote speakers to our conferences in order to honor our past and to point the way to the future.

3. To broaden our outreach through working with other organizations that share our mission; through social media; through supportive networks of women historians, especially grad students, at the campus level; and through other channels as they become available.

We have set an ambitious goal of raising $10,000 toward the Fund for the Future by next year’s conference in Portland. To that end, we are asking those who can afford it to make a one-time donation of $50 (or more!) this year—one dollar for every year that WAWH will have been serving women historians since 1969. Think of what WAWH has given YOU over the years: the chance to share your work with women historians who understand your struggles because they have been there themselves; the helpful criticism; the professional and personal contacts; the encouragement; the chance to serve as officers and graduate student representatives; and recognition for your excellent work.

Please consider making a generous gift to the Fund for the Future now to help continue this tradition for those who come after us. You can make your tax-deductible donation at https://www.wawh.org/donate/ Those who prefer to make a donation by check may contact our Treasurer, Jennifer Robin Terry at treasurer@wawh.org.
2018 Business Meeting  
Western Association of Women Historians  
50th Annual Conference

The regular annual business meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians was held on Saturday, April 28th, 2018, 5:30–6:30 p.m. at the University of Davis Conference Center.

**Board Members Present:**  
Jennifer Thigpen, President; Ula Taylor, President-Elect; Sara Gold McBride, Executive Director Elect; Lindsay Wilson, Secretary; Jennifer Robin Terry, Treasurer; Terri Snyder, Sharon Block, and Erica Ball, 2018 Conference Program Co-Chairs; Laura Ping and Susan Schmidt, Graduate Student Representatives; Susan Schmidt, 2018 Conference Local Arrangements Co-Chair; Abigail Feeley, Future Site Coordinator; Susan Wladaver-Morgan, Founders’ Dissertation Fellowship Chair; Barbara Malony, Nominating Committee and 50th Anniversary Committee.

**PROCEEDINGS:**  
Call to Order  
Approval of Agenda  
Approval of 2017 Business Meeting Minutes

**Announcements:**

The International Association for Research in Women’s History will meet in Vancouver August 9-13 at Simon Frazer University.

Our 50th anniversary celebration will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Portland next year.

Executive Board meeting: We voted to raise membership dues slightly.

It was suggested that we raise the life-time membership to $550-600. We would announce the year in advance. This idea needs to go to the Executive Board.

Someone asked, “Why should we raise the fee for graduate students/low income people?”  
Answer: We had late graduate student withdrawals, as late as Monday. By raising the fee, we want to discourage withdrawals. We also encourage advisors to pay the fees for their students.

**Election of New Board Member:**  
Sara Gold McBride as Executive Director
Executive Board Reports:

Jennifer Thigpen, President:
Jennifer seeks new board members for every prize committee, the local arrangements committee, 2 new program committee members, and a digital communications specialist.

Ula Taylor will be the co-AHA/PCB presenter for next year.

Jennifer met with graduate students.

Rebecca Plant reported that the transition to Jenny went smoothly.

Ula is shadowing Jenny.

Dissertations by Women Historians will be having a meeting in the fall. We should link to them. We could have a panel at that meeting.

Sara Gold McBride for the Executive Director:
Sara described what Cheryl did: processed mail; advised treasurer; worked on membership; collected donations; managed Eventbrite; processed registration; wrote a column for The Networker; advised local chairs; coordinated conference and awards. As of the end of last year: 486 members; 224 members now. 188 people registered for the conference.

From the Floor: Ideas for Enhancing Communications:
Ask members retiring to write about their careers.
Ask for a 1st-timer’s report.
Publish panel reports and some papers, especially those that address teaching and careers beyond academia.
Interview book authors prior to the book launch.
Reformat the Networker.
Reach out extensively to presses.

Lindsay Wilson, Secretary: Themes from Last Year’s Meetings:
Should we solicit contributions to the Networker?
Ask members to join Facebook (219 are already members).
Create a mentorship environment on research and publishing, including all ranks.
Use the Networker for students to put together panels. This will bring better cohesion of panels.

Jennifer Terry, Treasurer
We transferred accounts from B of A to Chase, saving us $300 in fees.
We pay a listing fee with the AHA. We voted to give the president the authority to decide if we should continue doing so. We may ask PCB to reciprocate.
From the floor: Try promoting our organization on Twitter/Facebook with hashtag historians. Our unrestricted funds are declining each year because WAWH has been
subsidizing the conferences. Hotels charge a lot more for meals than do institutions.
The prize accounts are doing very well

**Susan Wladaver-Morgan: The Fund for the Future**
These grants will fund travel by graduate students, pay for honoraria for conferences, and support outreach. The group will contact all members to solicit donations. They will request $1 for every year WAWH has been in existence, i.e. $50 for next year. Perhaps we could give each donor a free copy of the “Histories of the WAWH Historians 1969-1994” as an incentive. The goal is to raise $10k the first year. Minimum of $200 from the president?

**From the floor: Membership Fees and Registration**
We should follow CCWH’s model for solicitations for funds: They offer lots of categories from which to choose. We should preferably solicit membership fees at a different time than when we solicit registration fees. (Currently January-March is the time that we register).

**From Pamela Stewart, Eventbrite Coordinator** in absentia:
Pamela has streamlined Eventbrite. There should be better coordination between the Eventbrite manager and the program committee.

**Laura Ping, Graduate Student Representative:**
Laura surveyed graduate students and found that they consider meals and hotels to be too expensive. Graduate student mentoring is desirable. Students said that they are interested in how to present a paper and other career development. We should ask how people are learning about WAWH: more likely by Facebook than by advertising. To facilitate room sharing, we will try to get rooms with 2 queen beds vs 1 king.

**Abby Feeley, Future Site Coordinator:**
Next year’s conference will be from 4/25-27 2019 in Portland. For the future, we should consider the U of Redlands for 2020. We could stay in a dorm. If not, try to stay in the Ayres hotel.

**Program Committee:**
They have created forms and Google docs that can be renewed each year. These docs are useful to create a pathway to chart changes in the program. They request panels, not just single papers. They would like people to apply for the book launch. They received 13-15 submissions this year. The 50th anniversary committee is hoping to have 5 complete panels to fill. We should have intergenerational panels, more teaching panels and teaching secondary school panels, and more panels on careers outside academia. Teaching surveys is a topic in which graduate students are particularly interested.
Maybe there should be a panel with lightning rounds during which the audience moves around a choice of teaching scenarios.

50th Anniversary Committee:
Let’s have tote bags in the registration packet; other items like t-shirts for a fee.
“Women with a past”?

2017 Book Prizes:
Carol Gold Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize:
Jaclyn Schultz, “William George’s Junior Republic, Progressive Childhood and Capitalist Training as Cure.”

Founders’ Dissertation Prize:

Judith Lee Ridge Prize:

Chauduri Prize:
There was only one submission, which did not satisfy all the requirements of the Chauduri Prize.

Kanner Prize:

Keller-Sierra Prize:
Sue Peabody, Madeleine’s Children: Family, Freedom, Secrets, and Lies in France’s Indian Ocean Colonies Oxford University Press.

Honorable Mention:
Karissa Haugeberg, Women Against Abortion: Inside the Largest Moral Reform Movement of the Twentieth Century, University of Illinois Press.