



The Networker
The Newsletter of the
Western Association of Women Historians
www.wawh.org

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Summer 2008

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Carol Gold, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

"The central question raised by women's history is: what would history be like if it were seen through the eyes of women and ordered by values they define?" Gerda Lerner, 1976

I have been rereading classic essays on women's history together with a couple of young graduate students. I am both thrilled by how far our discipline has come in forty years and a little shaken by the idea that a mere forty years has created a corpus of material which can already be called "classic." When Gerda Lerner first issued her calls for a new "women-centered" history, she saw it as a step on the path to "a new universal history, a holistic history." "Women's History," she wrote in 1979, aimed "for a new synthesis which will eventually make its continuation unnecessary." I think we can all agree that women's history is indeed alive and flourishing and, equally, that there are few calls today for its disestablishment. This may be because we have not yet fully achieved the paradigm shift that Lerner said was necessary, nor have we yet written a truly holistic history. But even were we to do so, assuming such a history is possible to write, would that then mean that women's history should, or would, dissolve as a discipline?

I believe not; I think we will continue to find women-centered narratives useful, as we continue to find men-centered and human-centered narratives useful. But this raises another issue—what is the relation between women's history and gender history? Because, if we view history through different gendered lenses, does this not lead to a gender history?

So, as we move into a new generation of women's history, I would like us, as an organization, to consider the possibility of including gender history in our purview. Our name labels us as an association of "women historians." It says nothing about the kind of history we do, although many of us are engaged in women's history and our conferences usually focus heavily on women's history. To what extent do we consider ourselves as gender historians, or would we like to reach out to gender historians? How does gender history fit within our definition of ourselves as women historians? I would like to encourage a discussion of this in our newsletter. Please send thoughts, ideas, and letters to the *Networker* at networker@wawh.org. (Please copy me at carol.gold@uaf.edu.) And if you have other ideas about our direction for the next forty years, these would be welcome as well.

We had a very successful conference in Vancouver, which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter. We have two new awards. The Gita Chaudhuri Prize recognizes the best monograph about rural women, from any era and any place in the world. New Graduate Student Prize will recognize the outstanding paper presented by a graduate student at our annual conference.

We are deep into planning for our 40th anniversary conference to be held in Santa Clara, CA, April 30–May 3, 2009. The Call for Papers has been posted. Set aside the date. Further information may be found at www.wawh.org.

And, finally, a follow-up thought to my previous column—as Hillary Clinton said in her concession speech, it is "remarkable" that a woman being taken seriously as a presidential candidate will in the future be "unremarkable."

1. Gerda Lerner, *The Majority Finds Its Past* (Oxford University Press, 1979), 162.
2. *Ibid.*, 178, 180, xv.

WELCOME NEW (AND RETURNING) MEMBERS

Welcome to the members who have joined or renewed between April 2, 2008 and June 26, 2008!

Nancy Beadie, University of Washington
Jennifer Cote, Boston College
Leslie Dunlap, Willamette University
Sierra Gemma, University of British Columbia
Galadriel Mehera Gerardo, Youngstown State University
Kevin Hanken, Washington State Historical Society
Anna Harrison, Loyola Marymount University
Jennifer Hoffman, University of Washington
Shirley Johnston, College of Southern Nevada
Jan Maher, Plattsburgh State University
Katherine Marino, Stanford University
Morna McEachern, University of Washington
Kathleen Nuzum, Western Washington University
Ana Cecilia Rodriguez De Romo, National Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery
Ellen Slatkin, Metropolitan State College of Denver
Veronica Strong-Boag, University of British Columbia
Daniel Vickers, University of British Columbia
Laura Woodworth-Ney, Idaho State University

THANK YOU, DONORS

Thank you to the people who have made donations to WAWH between April 2, 2008, and June 26, 2008.

Judy Branfman
Grace Larsen
Katherine Marino
Mary Elizabeth Perry
Laura Woodworth-Ney

If you made a donation in the last few months and did not receive a card in the mail from WAWH which included a notation of the amount you donated and a statement about the donation for tax purposes, please contact Amy Essington so one can be sent to you.

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

By Amy Essington

The organization held its 40th annual conference in May at the University of British Columbia. It was our first time outside of the United States and the third time out of California. We had beautiful spring weather, but I think it will be the quality and quantity of food at UBC that attendees will remember for years to come. A special thank you to the UBC History Department and department chair Daniel Vickers for their sponsorship of the graduate student reception and their hospitality. Thank you also to the University of British Columbia Press who sponsored the Friday night book reading. The business meeting minutes are included on page 8. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Secretary Sandra Dawson. The minutes include decisions made by the board.

Congratulations to our award winners. Lindsay Holowach, a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Irvine, received the Founders' Dissertation Fellowship to work on her dissertation, "Women in Revolution: A Biography of Rosalie Ducrollay Jullien." The Judith Lee Ridge Prize was awarded to Marilyn Boxer, San Francisco State University, emerita, for her article, "Rethinking the Socialist Construction and International Career of the Concept 'Bourgeois Feminism'," *American Historical Review* 112, no. 1 (2007). The Frances Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize was awarded to Jill Fields, California State University, Fresno, for *An Intimate Affair: Women, Lingerie, and Sexuality* (University of California Press, 2007). The Kanner Prize was not given this year.

WAWH will offer a fifth endowed prize in 2009 thanks to a generous donation by the family of Nupur Chaudhuri. The Gita Chaudhuri Prize will honor the best monograph about rural women's history with a \$1000 award. The website has more details and the award bylaws. The application is due on January 15.

The board voted to establish a second new prize for 2009, the Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize. This prize will recognize the best paper given by a graduate student at our yearly conference. A \$100 prize will be given. Details are posted on the website.

WAWH is an organization of volunteers. Thank you to all who volunteer their time and energy in the support of women historians. The 2008 conference was the end of service for a number of people.

- Naomi Andrews, 2008 Program Committee Member
 - Karen Blair, 2008 Program Committee Chair
 - Lara Campbell, 2008 Program Committee Member
 - Elise Chenier, 2008 Program Committee Member
 - Karin Huebner, Graduate Student Representative (2006–2008)
 - Kathleen Kennedy, 2008 Program Committee Member
 - Linda Mollno, Treasurer (2006–2008)
 - Barbara Molony, Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize Chair (2003–2008) and 2008 Program Committee Member
 - Maria Elena Raymond, Barbara "Penny" Kanner Award Chair (1999–2008)
 - Annie Russell, Newsletter Editor (2006–2008)
 - Patricia Schechter, Sierra Book Prize Member (2002–2008)
 - Cheryl Krasnick Warsh, 2008 Local Arrangements Committee Member
 - Susan Wladaver-Morgan, 2008 Program Committee Member
 - Shirley Yee, 2008 Local Arrangements Chair
- If you want to volunteer for any position, let me know.

Welcome to Brittany Ferry, who will be the new newsletter editor, beginning with this issue. Send any questions or comments to her at networker@wawh.org. Welcome back to Emily Rader who has agreed to serve as interim treasurer. More on the 2008–2009 award committees and chairs and 2008 program committee and local arrangements in the next newsletter.

It is not too early to mark next year's conference on your calendar. It will be April 30 to May 3, 2009, at Santa Clara University. We will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the organization. Linda Kerber will be the keynote speaker. You might ask yourself, "Wasn't the 40th conference in 2008?" Since the organization began with a conference, we end up with a conference year and an anniversary year. The year 1969 was the first conference. The year 1970 was the second conference, but the first anniversary year. So 2009 will be the 41st conference and the 40th anniversary year. Confusing, but true. To continue to preserve our history, I recently added PDF copies of the past WAWH conference programs. There are a few years I do not have. If you have a copy of the program from 1978, 1979, 1980, or 1981, please let me know. I would love to have a complete set of conference programs to add to the complete set of newsletters already online.

One of the major changes of the spring was the inauguration of a new online system for membership and conference registration. Thank you for your patience as we im-

(Continued on page 5)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Frontiers Introduces Interactive Column

Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies announces the introduction of a new interactive column, “Feminist Currents,” by Eileen Boris, Hull Professor and Chair of the Women’s Studies Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara. According to Boris, the column “is a place for feminists to debate pressing and not so pressing (sometimes whimsical but hopefully compelling) issues of the day, to share perspectives and thoughts, develop strategies, and connect scholarship and teaching to social justice.”

The first question offered for discussion is: Political theorist Anne Phillips offers the concept of “the politics of presence” to argue for electing representatives who not only share the ideas and beliefs of their constituents but also reflect their experiences. In light of the 2008 presidential contest, assess the ways that group identity, race, and gender have played out—or should have. Or to put this question more concretely, was Elizabeth Edwards right when she claimed that her husband was more of a woman/feminist than Hillary Clinton? Who should black women support, Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton? Was former presidential candidate Bill Richardson Latino enough for Latina voters? And do you have to be a real man to secure the Republican nomination for president and be elected to the highest office of the United States?

Responses of 300 words or less can be emailed to frontiers@asu.edu by November 7, 2008. Emails should include “Feminist Currents” in the subject line. Responses may be quoted directly or paraphrased in the column and names and affiliations may be published unless the email specifically requests otherwise.

Call for Papers: Organization of American Historians Conference

The 103rd OAH conference will be held 7–10 April 2010, at the Hilton Washington in Washington, D.C. The theme is “American Culture, American Democracy.” The program committee seeks a wide-ranging program—pre-Columbian years to the twenty-first century—that will highlight U.S. cultures, their influence in shaping American democracy, and the diversity that now characterizes contemporary American history and historians. The committee is also looking for creative historians to organize panels.

Call for Papers

The program aims to include public historians, independent scholars, and those teaching at universities, colleges, community colleges, and secondary schools. The program should feature sessions on the shaping of the federal government and its domestic and foreign policies, as well as sessions that emphasize museums, archives, and American politics. The committee urges presenters to continue the ongoing transition from simply reading papers to more actively “teaching” the topic of their sessions and welcomes debate on challenging and controversial issues. It prefers to receive proposals for complete sessions (a chair, participants, and, if applicable, one or two commentators), but will consider individual paper proposals as well.

Submission Procedure

Proposals should be submitted electronically beginning 1 October 2008 and no later than 15 February 2008. Please download proposal system instructions before submitting, which will be available on the OAH website beginning in August. All proposals must include (1) a complete mailing address, email address, phone number, and affiliation for each participant; (2) an abstract of no more than 500 words for the whole session; (3) a prospectus of no more than 250 words for each presentation; and (4) a vita of no more than 500 words for each participant. For more information, see the OAH’s August newsletter

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

Calling All Singers!

Susan Wladaver-Morgan

As part of WAWH's 40th anniversary celebrations, we are preparing our very own more-or-less original musical. Titled *Our Smart Women*, it takes as its inspiration from Lerner and Lowe's *My Fair Lady*, but with a much larger role for Eliza and her female friends and a much smaller role for Henry Higgins. The story begins in 1969 and goes up to 2009, with an eye to the future. The songs include, "I Could Have Typed All Night" and "A Hymn to Her" (Why should a woman / Be more like a man?).

Many of the songs can easily be done as sing-alongs for the whole audience (equipped with song sheets), but we are especially looking for six or eight singer/actors to take the leading parts. We envision Eliza as a soprano, so that lets program chair Barbara Molony and me—2nd altos both—out. It is all in good fun, though, so trained voices are definitely NOT required. We know that we have plenty of good singers among our members, so please contact Barbara or me (swladamor@aol.com) as soon as possible if you are interested in participating. Songs and scripts will be available this fall. You can even include the performance in your vita—as a unique form of service to the profession!

Don't miss this once-in-forty-years opportunity. Awake and sing!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

plemented a new system and worked out the kinks. Current members may log in, change the information in their profile (including mailing address or email), check their expiration date, renew their membership, make a donation, and search the directory for other members. You may choose to make any part of your profile private and not available for viewing. It also offers receipts for any transactions completed on the web. The site offers more services that will be implemented in the future.

While our organization was founded in California and the majority of our members are still in the Golden State, over the last decade the membership has expanded to include people outside of California and the West and in other countries like Canada. To recognize the changing demographics, I proposed that we drop the map of the Western U.S. behind our logo. The board approved a call for a new logo that might reflect the WAWH in the twenty-first century. This is an official call for a new logo. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

We have more and more members from across the country and the world, but we need a greater number of current members. The organization operates on membership dues. As of the writing of this column, about 140 people have not renewed their membership for 2008–2009. This is a typical number compared to previous years, but with

new expenses related to the online site and our acceptance of credit cards (which requires multiple fees), WAWH needs to increase the number of current members. We almost reached our goal of 500 for the 2008 conference. For 2009, I have suggested a goal of 600 members by the 2009 conference. Our ability to reach this goal depends on your assisting with recruitment. Check with colleagues and graduate students, librarians, independent scholars, and K-12 teachers. Give a gift membership or send an email with a link to our website. If each current member brought in just one new member, we would more than meet our goal. The ability of the organization to offer support to women historians requires the support of our members.

WAWH is a special organization. WAWH was the first professional conference I attended and the first place I presented. Many of you have similar connections to WAWH early in your career. This year I presented at the AHA, the OAH, and the Berkshire. At the Berks, it struck me that at each conference I was rooming with, dining with, and, at the Berks, presenting with fellow WAWH members. My graduate program is small, but I have expanded my professional and personal network through WAWH. It is comforting to go to other conferences and see WAWH members with a smile and a hello. Spread the word about WAWH and get people to join to help keep strong the organization that has been supporting women historians for forty years and will continue to do so long into the future.

MEMBER NEWS

Independent historian **Tisa M. Anders** recently received a Lola Homsher Endowment Fund research grant from the Wyoming State Historical Society. She will conduct oral interviews in eastern Wyoming as part of her Sugar Culture Project, recording the stories and experiences of men and women who have worked within the sugar beet industry, in the farming, factory, or related-factor components.

Marilyn Boxer, professor emerita at San Francisco State University, was awarded the Judith Lee Ridge Prize for her article, "Rethinking the Socialist Construction and International Career of the Concept 'Bourgeois Feminism,'" *American Historical Review* 112, no. 1 (2007). It also recently appeared in Spanish translation in *Historia social* 60:1 (2008), published in Spain.

Linda L. Clark, professor emerita at Millersville University of Pennsylvania, has been named to a three-year term as executive director of the Society for French Historical Studies. Her book, *Women and Achievement in Nineteenth-Century Europe*, a volume in the Cambridge University Press's "New Approaches to European History," was published in April 2008.

Amy Essington's book review of *Crossing the Line: Black Major Leaguers, 1947–1959* was published in the inaugural issue of *Black Ball: A Negro Leagues Journal*. She was part of a WAWH-sponsored roundtable, "What's Next?: Policies for the Future," as well as a participant in "Work and Family: The Perspective from Graduate School Roundtable," at Berkshire Conference on the History of Women (June 2008). This summer, she will switch from newsletter editor to web coordinator for the Coordinating Council for Women in History (CCWH).

Diane L. Goesres-Gardner's new book, *Murder, Mortality and Madness: Women Criminals in Early Oregon History*, will be published next year by Caxton Press, which published her last book in 2005.

Kristine Ashton Gunnell, Ph.D. candidate in History at Claremont Graduate University, has been awarded two grants for her dissertation, "The Daughters of Charity and the Development of Social Welfare in Southern California, 1856–1927." They are the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation Dissertation Grant and a Vincentian Studies Institute Research Grant from DePaul University. Using the Daughters of Charity as a vehicle for understanding women's roles in community development, Ms. Gunnell's dissertation explores the ways that Roman Catholic sisters shaped the construction of the social welfare system in southern California in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By analyzing their experiences, scholars can glean new insights into the changing relationships between private charity and the state, as well as women's abilities to cultivate social and political networks to enact their visions of a compassionate and just society.

Anna Harrison has published two articles this year: "'Oh! What Treasure Is in This Book?': Writing, Reading, and Community at the Monastery of Helfta," in *Viator* 39.1 (2008), and "'If one member glories...': Community Between the Living and the Sainly Dead in Bernard of Clairvaux's *Sermons for the Feast of All Saints*," in *History in the Comic Mode: Essays in Honor of Caroline Walker Bynum*, ed. Rachel Fulton and Bruce Holsinger (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2007). Ms. Harrison also published a book review in *Religious Studies Review* of James A Wiseman, *Spirituality and Mysticism: A Global View* (New York, NY: Orbis Books, 2006). Additionally, Ms. Harrison has two forthcoming encyclopedia articles, "Gertrude of Helfta" and "Mechtild of Magdeburg," in *Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*, ed. George Thomas Kurian, Bernard McGinn et al. (Oxford: Blackwell, forthcoming). Professor Harrison was also awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend.

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 listed on the Calendar section of the newsletter.

MEMBER NEWS (cont.)

Dorothy Hewes receive an award at the November 2007 Conference of National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for twenty-five years of coordinating annual history seminars.

Asuncion Lavrin's book, *Brides of Christ: Conventual Life in Colonial Mexico*, was published this year by Stanford University Press. Ms. Lavrin also published four articles this year: "Female Visionaries and Spirituality," in *Religion in New Spain* (University of New Mexico Press); "Seventeenth Century New Spain: A Historical Overview," in *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz* (Modern Language Association); "Devocionario y espiritualidad en los conventos femeninos novohispanos: siglos XVII y XVIII," in *Religiosidad y reclusión femenina en España, Portugal y América. Siglos XV-XIX* (Universidad de León); and "La construcción de la niñez en la vida religiosa. El caso Novohispano," in *Historia de la infancia en América Latina* (Universidad Externado de Colombia).

Jeanne Farr McDonnell's biography, *Juana Briones of Nineteenth-Century California*, has received favorable reviews and will be in print in September by the University of Arizona Press. Additionally, Ms. McDonnell recently was the featured speaker at Ruben Abrica's class, Oral Chicano/a Literature and History, at DeAnza College, and at a rally in a San Jose Park to celebrate the recent court decision that the owners may not demolish Juana Briones's house, constructed around 1844, and now in Palo Alto.

Cordelia Scharpf's recently published book, *Luise Büchner: A Nineteenth-Century Evolutionary Feminist* (Peter Lang, 2008), is about the writer and activist in the German women's movement of the 1860s and 1870s.

Diana Selig was recently promoted to associate professor with tenure in the history department at Claremont McKenna College. Her new book, *Americans All: The Cultural Gifts Movement*, was just published by Harvard University Press. The book explores the origins of multicultural education, analyzing efforts to overcome racial, ethnic and religious prejudices from the 1920s to the 1940s.

Elizabeth Siegel Watkins has been promoted to full professor in the History of Health Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco.

As of July 2008, **Carol Williams** will assume a tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Feminist and Gender Studies at Trent University in Peterborough, where she will be completing an anthology on indigenous women's labor history in the modern era. She is also engaged with a second research project on Native American women's political activism in United States and Canada from 1950 to 1985.

DORIS HELEN LINDER, 1925-2008

Doris Helen Linder, born 29 October 1925, died unexpectedly on 25 April 2008 while traveling in Tunisia. She had a lifelong love of travel, especially in Scandinavia, Africa, and India. Ever adventurous, she taught American history in Nigeria, was a Fulbright lecturer in Ethiopia, and was an academic study tour leader in Scandinavia.

Dr. Linder studied history at Stanford University, where she received a BA in 1946 and an MA in 1949. She received a Ph.D. in History from the University of Minnesota in 1961. She was Professor of History emerita, College of San Mateo. Dr. Linder taught world history courses for more than forty years and was the author of *Crusader for Sex Education: Elise Ottesen-Jensen (1886-1973)*. She continued her scholarly research and writing, and enjoyed the rich San Francisco environment of academic resources, arts, music and politics.

In 1995, building on her prior support of history collections at the Stanford University Libraries, she created and continually supported the Doris H. Linder Book Fund. Charitable gifts in Dr. Linder's name may be made to the Doris H. Linder Book Fund, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, CA, 94305-6004.

ALOOK BACK

Reminiscences of the University of Minnesota
By Carol Gold, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

I just returned from the Berks, this year at the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis. Living on campus for three days revived memories of my experience at and with the University of Minnesota, 1971–1977. The welcoming plenary at the Berks was filled with self-congratulatory messages about women's studies at the university. There is no doubt that the University of Minnesota has become a major center for women's studies, but the process was neither as straightforward nor stress-free as the opening accolades would imply. So this is my story, and the story of how the University of Minnesota discovered that women should be treated equally to men. I think it's important to relate, because we need to remember—and celebrate—our own history.

I was hired by the University of Minnesota History Department in the fall of 1971 to teach Scandinavian History. The department consisted of forty faculty, all men; there had been no women in the department for about ten years. The university had been warned that it would lose federal funding if there was not at least one woman in every department. History was one of only a handful of departments with no women. So a woman (me) was hired—on soft money (through a unit called the Center for Northwest European Area Studies) into a non-tenure track position, to teach Scandinavian history, a subject peripheral to the history department, if not necessarily to Minnesotans.

I was ABD, but so were the men who had been hired the year before me and the year before that. It did not seem to be a major issue at the time. What was, however, quite apparent, was that I was the *only* woman in the department. I was never allowed to forget this. I was informed that women had *never* before been in the Ford Room, where department meetings were held. One of the older men in the department actually started to ask me to do some typing one day. After all, a woman in the hallway must be a secretary. In all fairness, I played into their stereotypes of women. This was 1971 and I had been living in Copenhagen. Miniskirts were in. "Long" miniskirts from northern Europe were still much shorter than even the shortest miniskirts in the Midwest, but I didn't know this. So I showed up, in the famed Ford Room, with very short skirts and knitting. (Knitting in Denmark,

at this time, was a conservative act.) I thought I was acting in a professional and conservative fashion; the men in the department thought I was being provocative. There were no other women around; there were no role models; there was no one to explain what was going on.

The department as a whole was split down the middle. There was a "radical caucus" and the "St. Paul Tories." The split was generational as well as disciplinary—the Europeanists tended to be older, more conservative; third-world historians were younger, more activist; Americanists were split. I was young, activist, but also a European historian. I didn't "fit" with my close-to-field colleagues. As the department's sole woman, I was made the EEO officer. A huge fight ensued when I suggested that women be included in the short list for a vacant position in medieval European history. (No one suggested the inappropriateness of a junior, non-tenured instructor being in a position to "sign off" on older colleagues' decisions.)

While I was in the department, four additional women were hired, each one after an intensive fight. In 1976, when we hired someone in women's history (who turned out to be Sara Evans), one of my colleagues muttered that "let's be sure she can do something else, because in ten years, when the fad's past, we'll be stuck with her." I replied that I thought women would still be with us in ten years. My colleague was not amused.

After my first year, my position was turned into a tenure-track line, with the understanding that the first year would not count on the tenure clock. In 1975, after my fourth year (third on a tenure track), I was evaluated for a two-year contract extension and the department voted to give me a two-year terminal contract instead, thus effectively firing me and denying me the opportunity to go up for tenure. By then I had successfully completed my Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, but the majority of the department claimed that since it had taken me "so long" to finish my doctorate, I would never amount to anything. The vote was split right down the middle. If one more person had supported me, I would have gotten the contract extension. Partly, I think I was also a victim of the divisions in the department; I was certainly the most vulnerable member of the "radical caucus." I appealed, claiming discriminatory treatment. The man hired the year before me had had his dissertation *rejected*

ALOOK BACK (cont.)

by UC Berkeley. The department's response was to offer to stop the tenure clock so that he could go back to South America and do more research. The man the year before that had also taken four years to complete his doctorate, and he was given an additional two years before coming up for tenure, which he was granted. Another man, hired some years earlier, also having taken years to complete his dissertation, was given the full six years and then terminated. And a man hired a couple of years after me, who also took several years to complete his degree, was ultimately awarded tenure. But I was only given four years.¹ It seemed discriminatory to me. The university appeal board did not agree and my contract was terminated.

Meanwhile, Dr. Shyamala Rajender, in the Chemistry Department, sued the University of Minnesota for gender discrimination. This was turned into a class action suit against the university and I joined the suit as an "intervener." This meant that my suit ran parallel to, but was kept separate from, Rajender's. In the discovery phase of the case, it became evident that there was a pervasion pattern of discrimination against women across the campus. We were isolated and mostly unaware of the fact that, among other things, our salaries were woefully under what men were making in the same departments. Rajender and the university came to an agreement which ended the class action suit. In a Consent Decree, which became famous in EEO caselaw, Rajender was awarded \$100,000 and the university agreed to establish a "Special Master" to whom women could apply for redress of discrimination. It was supposed to be an easier process than suing the university individually. I didn't trust the university and continued to sue on my own.

Meanwhile, I had left Minnesota and moved to Copenhagen for two years. I was carrying on a long-distance relationship with a commercial fisherman in Alaska. We decided to start a family; I got pregnant and moved to Alaska. After one year in Anchorage, we moved to Fairbanks, where I still am (although both the guy and the kid have since left the state). Around 1983, I got tired of the suit, which the university kept dragging out, and told my lawyer to settle, which we did. I got \$30,000 and the university admitted no guilt.

I find it encouraging that the University of Minnesota has gone on to become a center for women's studies. How

much of it was due to changing times and how much to external pushes from those of us who sued, I will not attempt to sort out. The lessons I draw from this experience? It's lonely being the only one, and also very vulnerable. So I spend a lot of time now mentoring junior faculty women, trying to create a community. I lacked support and role models. I work to prevent similar situations from happening again.

Epilogue

Thinking over what I have accomplished since I left Minnesota, I have taught thousands of students at four institutions on two continents, started a Women's Studies Program and a Women's Center at the University of Alaska, brought up a wonderful son (he's now 28 and living in Minneapolis), and written the requisite two books. I like to think that I have proved my former colleagues at Minnesota wrong and that I *have* amounted to something.

1. A friend, terminated from the Department of Sociology at Minnesota the same year (because she was working on rape and that was not considered to be a proper subject for research), claimed that the reason I was fired after only four years was that the men thought that I would not finish my dissertation and thus self-destruct. When I finished my degree they worried that I would then publish the requisite book and they would be stuck with me. Better to get rid of me while they still could.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

WAWH 2009 Conference

Santa Clara University
Santa Clara, CA
April 30—May 3, 2009

WAWH 2010 Conference

University of Puget Sound
Tacoma, Washington
May 20-23, 2010

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS

Minutes
Business Meeting
Saturday, May 17, 2008
University of British Columbia

As required by the constitution, the business meeting meetings are printed in the newsletter issue following the meeting. Questions or comments should be sent to the secretary. The minutes will be voted on for approval at the business meeting in 2009.

- I. The business meeting of the WAWH was called to order at 5.35PM, May 17, 2008, in IBLC 182, at the University of British Columbia, with fifteen members present. WAWH President Carol Gold presided.
- II. Approval of Agenda of the Business meeting: moved, seconded, passed.
- III. Approval of 2007 Business Meeting minutes: moved, seconded, passed.
- IV. Report of Executive Board decisions:
 - A. Carol Gold reported that WAWH will continue the arrangement with the journal *Frontiers* which offers a 20% discount for WAWH members.
 - B. WAWH would like to add a prize for the best graduate student paper presented at the conference. The award could be presented at the conference or later? Papers would be submitted early to a committee and the details would be included in the call for papers. The Executive Board will continue an e-mail discussion to decide the logistics of this prize.
 - C. The National Coalition for History has increased its dues from \$300 to \$309. The Executive Board voted in favor of continuing WAWH's membership.
- V. Ongoing Business
 - A. Chaudhuri Prize. WAWH will present the Chaudhuri Prize for the best book in rural women's history beginning in 2009. The prize is \$1000 and is an endowed award. There will be a media blitz to advertise the award. Margaret Jacobs and Laura Woodworth-Ney have agreed to be part of the prize committee. The President is currently looking for a third member to make up the committee.
 - B. 40th Anniversary meeting—Barbara Molony
 - i. The 40th Anniversary meeting will take place at Santa Clara University in San Jose, California. The planning committee hopes for a good turnout.
 - ii. The planning committee hopes to increase the number of panels and have 4–5 concurrent sessions.
 - iii. Special events include a musical by Susan Wladaver-Morgan, titled *Our Smart Women* and based loosely on *My Fair Lady*. The musical privileges smartness and womanhood in parody and song. Karen Blair will play the piano. Any ideas on how to recruit singers should go to Susan Wladaver-Morgan.
 - iv. The Women and Gender Studies Department at Santa Clara University has offered to help sponsor keynote speakers. WAWH is open to other sponsorship to help make the 40th anniversary conference a great success.
 - C. Future conferences: Portland State University or Cal State San Luis Obispo are two possibilities for future conference sites.
 - D. Online membership renewal registration—Amy Essington
 - i. The online system is a great timesaver. There are some glitches to be smoothed out.
 - ii. Members should note that it is possible to get an itemized receipt online for tax purposes—just log in.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (cont.)

- iii. Amy Essington will roll out other features in the future and communicate them to the membership. The membership directory is now online.
 - iv. 102 members pre-registered for the conference plus 3 onsite.
 - E. Consider encouraging senior and interested undergrads to become members of WAWH. Should there be restrictions about who is eligible to give papers? MA or PhD candidates only?
 - F. Redoing logo—Amy Essington. Should WAWH change the logo to better represent the membership of the organization? Remove the map?
- VI. Executive Board Reports
- A. President—no report
 - B. Vice President—no report
 - C. Executive Director—Amy Essington
 - i. Receives and sends hundreds of emails.
 - ii. The idea of having an Executive Director is working well as it prevents having to re-invent the wheel each year by collecting all the information in one place.
 - iii. Next year's project is to compile a handbook of policies to codify practices.
 - iv. The current membership is 481. Membership goes from conference to conference and ends tomorrow. The expected drop in numbers is 150. 30–40% of members do not renew membership. The goal for 2009 is 600 members through a concerted campaign. 600 members will give WAWH a better cash flow and increase participation.
 - v. WAWH brochures will be re-printed and available to anyone interested.
 - vi. There have been enough donations in memory of Francis to increase the Keller Prize money to \$1000.
 - vii. Carole Srole noted that if the best way to get new members is through conference participation, how could WAWH get more submissions?
 - viii. One suggestion to increase the number of young faculty is to provide information about activities for children at the conference.
 - ix. The conference at Berkeley was one of the most successful conferences because of the keynote, the location and the sessions celebrating big names eg. Linda Kerber. Retrospectives are popular. Who is a key person from the Bay Area?
 - x. The CFP deadline is October 15, 2008.
 - xi. How can WAWH reach out to non-US scholars?
 - D. Secretary
 - i. The majority of the secretarial work this year has been to write notes to welcome to new members and notes of thanks for donations.
 - E. Treasurer's report: moved, seconded and passed.
 - i. The Treasurer's report stated that an outside auditor would be hired and this has not yet been done.
 - ii. Linda Mollno has stepped down from the Treasurer's position for health reasons. Emily Rader has agreed to step into the vacancy.
 - iii. The Executive Board is considering simplifying the membership dues structure of the organization. Members would pay according to income rather than academic status.
 - iv. The Treasurer's report raises the issue of the cost of the conference keynote speaker, which has now been included in the overall conference expenditure. WAWH would like to consider ways to endow a keynote speaker fund.
 - F. Newsletter Editor
 - i. WAWH has a vacancy for this position and the President asked members for nominations.
 - G. Graduate Students representatives—no report

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (cont.)

- H. Founders Dissertation Fellowship: There were seven very good applicants. The recipient was unable to attend the conference.
 - I. Ridge Prize: There were fourteen wonderful submissions and the recipient of the prize is here to receive the award at the banquet.
 - J. Keller-Sierra Prize—no report but the prize recipient will be at the awards banquet.
 - K. Kanner Prize: The Kanner prize was not awarded this year despite a number of submissions.
 - L. Program Chair: Karen Blair is not present but the President applauded the committee's hard work and an exceptionally good program this year.
 - M. Local Arrangements Chair
 - i. Shirley Ye reported a good working relationship with UBC. There have been some PowerPoint and other technical difficulties despite prior training of the student volunteers. The cost of an on-call technical expert was \$800 and the decision was made not to spend the money. Next year we will have on-call technical assistants as they are provided free of charge at Santa Clara University.
 - ii. The student volunteers were wonderful and worked very hard.
- VII. Other business
- A. Susan Wladaver-Morgan reported that WAWH currently has six sponsored panels on the PCB program. The current President and Executive Directors of the PCB are very supportive. Carole Srole will be the speaker at the PCB luncheon this year. WAWH must let the PCB know who we would like to sponsor as speaker for next year's PCB by December 2008.
- VIII. Adjournment: moved, seconded, passed

The Business meeting formally adjourned at 6.19PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Dawson, secretary.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE WAWH

There are many ways individuals can help support the WAWH.
Contact Amy Essington at amyessington@wawh.org if you are interested or have ideas to share.

Award Committees

As stated by the newly approved Constitution (2006), award committee members will serve staggered three year terms. This will mean that each year each committee will require a new committee member.

Conference Assistance

Maybe you attend the conference, but are not able to commit to the hours of participating on a program committee or local arrangements committee. There are many smaller jobs that occur at the time of the conference, and volunteers are always needed.

We would like to reach out to members who have never held a board position. If there are board positions for which you would like to be considered, in the future, please contact Amy Essington and submit your name.

WAWH EXECUTIVE BOARD 2008-2009

President

Carol Gold
University of Alaska, Fairbanks
History Department
PO Box 756460
Fairbanks, AK 99775-6460
907-474-6509
carol.gold@uaf.edu

President-Elect

Carole Srole
California State University,
Los Angeles
History Department
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90032-8223
323-343-2027
srole1@aol.com

Secretary

Sandra Dawson
P.O. Box 13750
Santa Barbara, CA 93107-3750
secretary@wawh.org

Executive Director

Amy Essington
3242 Petaluma Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90808-4249
amyessington@wawh.org

Treasurer

Emily Rader
El Camino College
16007 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90506
310-660-3757
elader@elcamino.edu

Networker Editor

Brittany Ferry
P.O. Box 634
Cosmopolis, WA 98537
360-305-5212
networker@wawh.org

Past President

Nupur Chaudhuri
Department of History
Texas Southern University
Houston, TX 77004
nupurc@earthlink.net

Graduate Student Reps.

((2007-2009)
Lilia Raquel Rosas
Department of History
University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station B7000
Austin, Texas 78712
lrosas@mail.utexas.edu

(2008-2010)

TBA

2009 Program Chair

Barbara Molony
Santa Clara University, History Dept.
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053-0285
408-554-4433
bmolony@scu.edu

2009 Local Arrangements Chair

Amy Randall
Santa Clara University, History Dept.
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053
408-551-1778
arandall@scu.edu

Founders Dissertation

Fellowship Chair
Kimberly Jensen
Western Oregon University
345 North Monmouth Avenue
Monmouth, OR 97361
503-838-8318
jenseki@wou.edu

Judith Lee Ridge Prize Chair

TBA

Barbara Penny Kanner

Award Chair
TBA

Frances Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize Chair

Eileen Boris
Women's Studies Program--
South Hall
University of California,
Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California 93106
805-893-2727
boris@womst.ucsb.edu

Gita Chaudhuri Prize Chair

Kathleen Sheldon
925 14th St., No. 24
Santa Monica, CA 90403
ksheldon@ucla.edu

Graduate Student Conference

Paper Prize Chair
TBA

WAWH Membership Renewal Form

The date on the mailing label of your *Networker* is the year your membership expires. Membership runs conference to conference. Thank you for keeping your membership current. WAWH has an online system you may use to become a member or renew your membership, go to <http://www.wawh.org> to use this system.

Become a Member of WAWH Today or Renew Your Membership

This is a 1) _____ new 2) _____ renewal 3) _____ gift membership.

Name _____

Mailing Address (include city, state, zip) _____

This is a HOME or WORK address (Circle one) For renewals: this is an updated address YES or NO

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

E-mail address _____

Current Institution and/or Affiliation _____

Current Department and /or Position _____

Research and/or Teaching Fields (up to 3) _____

(Please Circle YES or NO)

Publish my information YES or NO

Publish my home information YES or NO

Send me an email rather than paper *Networker* YES or NO

Include me on the organizational email list (only info, reminders, announcements) YES or NO

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Membership Level | Fees (U.S. funds) |
| Full Time Employed | \$25 |
| Part-Time/Retired | \$20 |
| Graduate Student/Independent Scholar | \$10 |
| Lifetime Membership | \$500 |

My membership level is _____

I would like to donate _____ to _____

Membership runs conference to conference.

You may pay either by check or by credit card. Make checks payable to WAWH.

Circle one: Visa or MasterCard Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Billing Zip/Postal Code _____ Three Digit Security Code _____

Please clip form and send with payment to:

WAWH, 3242 Petaluma Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90808-4249, amyessington@wawh.org

MEMBER NEWS

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Notice of publication or other member news _____

Use additional sheet if necessary. Send to Amy Essington, 3242 Petaluma Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90808-4249, or email it to networker@wawh.org.
Your information will be included in the next *Networker*.

The Networker

Western Association of Women Historians
3242 Petaluma Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90808-4249 USA