



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

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Spring 2008

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

***Make the personal political!***

***By Carol Gold, University of Alaska, Fairbanks***

I have been trying for some time to avoid writing about the election in this column, but I just read an AP story headlined, "Women push back in support of Clinton," and realized that as a feminist historian, there is no way I can – or should – ignore what is happening politically in this country. So I apologize in advance if you are tired of reading about the election, and suggest that you jump immediately to the end of the article.

That said, how can one ignore the fact that this is the first time in our history that a woman has made it even-this-far in a presidential election? But I am, once again, of mixed feelings as to the meaning of this. Does it mean that we have, finally, overcome the sexism in our nation so that we are able to see candidates as candidates and not as categories? Or does the current push to have the woman candidate withdraw in favor of the man reflect the realities of a sexism so deeply ingrained that we have difficulty recognizing it? Because, if Senator Clinton withdraws, in favor of Senator Obama, we are once again left with a choice of two male candidates for President. As one of my students cogently remarked, this would be "historical, because black men got the right to vote before any women." I would only hope that we would not have to wait another half century for a woman president, if the parallel were to hold.

One final thought on the media coverage of the campaign -- matching the discussion of Hillary's cleavage, has there been any discussion of any of the men's bunchage?\*

On another, albeit related, subject, this seems to be the season for conferences on women's history. WAWH is, of course, holding its 40<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Vancouver, B.C., May 15-18, 2008. (Please make sure you have your passports.)

The Berkshire Conference on the History of Women is holding its 14<sup>th</sup> conference in Minneapolis, June 12-15, 2008. (No passports needed for Minnesota.) And, the Nordic Women and Gender History Conference is holding its 9<sup>th</sup> conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, August 11-14, 2008. (Passports and money needed. The US dollar does not go far these days.) I am encouraged that our discipline is so alive and flourishing.

Over the past months, I have been discussing the need for continued and on-going mentoring. So I am trying something a little different at our conference this year. The Presidential Session will be a mentoring roundtable – *How to Negotiate Your Way through the Academy*. We hope to address issues that face women colleagues at all levels of their academic experience. We have purposely skipped over "finding your first job," because that is discussed in other venues, and have, instead, concentrated on different facets of the academic enterprise. We hope that you will attend and find the session helpful.

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\*Bunchage – term used in the Jane Austen fanfiction world. I assume the meaning is obvious.

## WELCOME NEW (AND RENEWING) MEMBERS

Welcome to the members who have joined or renewed between October 2, 2007 and April 1, 2008!

Katherine Adams	Robynne Rogers Healey	Jennifer Preisman
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Leslie Dunlap	Lyndsay Miles	
Caryll B. Dziejziak	Kathryn Miller	
Wendy Ewbank	Mary Jane Mossman	
Monica D. Fitzgerald	Polly Myers	
Helen Glew	Carol Pal	
Gayle Gullett	Leslie Paris	
Jane G. Haigh	Rachel Petrocelli	
Kevin Hanken	Rachel Pierce	

## THANK YOU DONORS

Thank you to the people who have made donations to WAWH between October 2, 2007 and April 1, 2008.

Florence Baker	Paula Eldot	Barbara Molony
Susannah Baxendale	Monica Fitzgerald	Carole Srole
Joan Casale	Linda Kerber	Jessica Weiss
Linda Clark	Judy Kutulas	Siv Wheeler
Caryll Dziejziak	Francesca Miller	Liz Willis-Tropea

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 final preparations for the 2008 WAWH conference are coming together, thanks to the work of Program Chair, Karen Blair, and the program committee: Naomi Andrews, Lara Campbell, Elise Chenier, Kathleen Kennedy, Barbara Molony, and Susan Wladaver-Morgan. The unsung heroes of a conference are the Local Arrangements Committee. Chair Shirley Yee and committee member Cheryl Krasnick Warsh have worked hard with UBC in coordinating myriad details to make this conference, our first in Canada, another dynamic and memorable one.

A highlight of each conference is our awards banquet, when the Awards Committee announces the 2008 prize-winners. WAWH is honoring the many contributions of Frances Richardson Keller, who died in June 2007, by increasing the amount of the award named in her honor from \$800 to \$1000. This increase was made possible by donations in Frances's name by family, friends, and WAWH members, as well as a contribution to the prize fund by the organization itself.

Since the last issue of the *Networker*, WAWH has lost another former president. Donna Boutelle, a medievalist at CSU, Long Beach, died in January 2008. Donna's presidency ran from 1972-1973. She was instrumental in the early years of the organization, and she was a key contributor to WAWH's development. Her last WAWH conference presentation was in 2000. She taught me as an undergraduate, and we became colleagues when I began my current position as lecturer at CSULB. Donna never kept her opinions to herself. She had a personality best described as "unique," which scared some students away, but pushed others toward excellence. More information about Donna is on page 5.

Last spring, Susan Kullman unveiled a much-needed redesign to our website, and this spring we have rolled out a new online membership system. This system allows individuals to renew their membership, update their profile, see the contact information of other members, register for

the conference, and make donations. Over time, we will introduce some of the other features this web system offers. Thank you for patience with the implementation of this new system. There have been a few glitches, but many successes. Members are still able to access the website ([www.wawh.org](http://www.wawh.org)) and print a membership renewal form to mail.

The organization now accepts credit cards in addition to checks or money orders for both online and mail memberships. If you have not yet logged into the new system, please do. You can also update your profile at any time and see contact information for the other current members. Members may make parts or all of their profile hidden at any time.

Do not miss your chance to save on a subscription to *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*. WAWH members will receive a 20% discount. The subscription information is available on the WAWH website.

It is not too early to mark next year's conference on your calendar, as it will be our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We will meet April 30 - May 3, 2009, at Santa Clara University.

As members, you know the value of WAWH. I know it has been of great benefit to me in creating a professional network outside of my department. When I attend conferences, the people I share a hotel room with, dine with, and put panels together with, are almost all women I have met through my association with WAWH. The activities of WAWH rely on your membership dues. In the last year we endowed the last of our four awards, redesigned the website, sponsored sessions and receptions at three different national conferences, planned for our fortieth conference, and continued to support the work of women historians by growing the organization.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Call for Papers

#### Eighth Southern Association of Women's Historians Conference on Women's History, June 4-6, 2009

The Southern Association for Women Historians invites proposals for the Seventh Southern Conference on Women's History, to be held June 4-6, 2009, on the campus of the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. The conference provides a stimulating and congenial forum for the discussion of all aspects of women's history. Its program seeks to reflect the best in recent scholarship, especially by young scholars and graduate students. The program also wishes to reflect the diversity of women's historical experiences and to explore the histories of women from a wide range of racial, class, and ethnic backgrounds. Proposals in Public History are especially welcome.

The Program Committee solicits proposals for complete panels and individual papers, as well as roundtable sessions. *Proposals for panels or sessions* should include the following: a) a cover sheet with the session title, paper titles, and name, address, affiliation, and email addresses of the chair, panelists, and commentator, b) a 300 word summary of the panel or session as a whole, c) a 300 word proposal for each paper or presentation, and d) a brief (one page) curriculum vitae for each participant. *Individual paper proposals* should include the following: a) a cover sheet with the paper title, and name address, affiliation, and email address of the panelist b) a 300 word proposal, and c) a brief (one page) curriculum vitae. Those interested in chairing a session or commenting are also invited to send a c.v. to the Program Committee.

All materials and attachments should be emailed to the program committee at SAWH2009@gmail.com. The body of your email should include your name, affiliation, phone and email address; please send the supporting materials (cover sheet, proposal and cv) in a Microsoft word attachment. (Email inquiries may be directed to committee co-chairs Joan Johnson at joanmjohnson@comcast.net or Allison Sneider at sneider@rice.edu.) The deadline for receipt of all materials is **August 1, 2008**. [www.h-net.org/~sawh](http://www.h-net.org/~sawh)

#### SUNY Press Dissertation/First Book Prize in Women's and Gender Studies

SUNY Press is proud to announce a new competition for the best single-authored dissertation or first book manuscript in the field of women's and gender studies. We welcome nonfiction manuscripts that exemplify cutting-edge feminist scholarship, whether the area of focus is historical or contemporary. The competition is open to scholars from all disciplinary backgrounds, but we especially encourage work that speaks effectively across disciplines, and projects that offer new perspectives on concerns central to the field of women's and gender studies. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Feminist knowledge production; Feminist politics; Activism; Intersectionality; Gendered experiences of people of color; Global and transnational feminisms; Institutions and public policies; women of color feminisms; Theories and practices of coalition; Gender and globalization; Coloniality, postcoloniality and neo-imperialism; Girls studies; Gender and queer sexuality; Transgender studies; Gender and violence; Feminist philosophy and theory; Gender and disability; Gender and militarism; Gender and labor practices; Feminist science and environmental studies; Feminist pedagogy; Cultural production (media, film, music, literature).

If a winner of the competition is selected, he or she will receive a publication contract with SUNY Press and a \$3,000 advance. Runners up may also be considered for publication with SUNY Press. All submissions must be postmarked by **July 1, 2008**, and should include the following materials:

Cover letter; C.V.; proposal, including a 4-5 page overview of the scope of the project and analysis of competing titles; complete manuscript, at least 150 double spaced pages, 12 pt. Courier font. Please mention the competition in your cover letter, and also indicate if any material from the manuscript has been previously published. The winner will be announced in the Fall of 2008. All submissions must be exclusive submissions to SUNY Press for the duration of the contest, and finalists will be notified by **September 1, 2008**.

Please direct all questions and submissions to: Larin McLaughlin, Acquisitions Editor, SUNY Press, 194 Washington Ave., Ste. 305, Albany, NY 12210; or [larin.mclaughlin@sunypress.edu](mailto:larin.mclaughlin@sunypress.edu)

# DONNA BOUTELLE

1933-2008



Donna Boutelle, Professor Emerita of History at California State University, Long Beach, and a past president of WAWH, died on January 17 following a lengthy illness. She was 76 years old.

After receiving her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, she taught at CSULB for nearly forty years before retiring in 2004. Her field was medieval history. She also served as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

She had a reputation as an independent and fearless woman who often was perceived as brusque, but those who knew her best also recalled a gentle and generous woman; one who freely gave her possessions for the asking.

One of her former students, Dennis Kortheuer, later became a colleague when he joined the CSULB faculty. He recalled in an interview with the *Daily 49er*, "To sit with her and listen to her talk about whatever we talked about was always refreshing and enlightening. She had the keenest sense of people of anyone I ever have known. She also taught me more about what it is to be a historian than anyone else I ever studied with, including during graduate school."

A remembrance of her life was held on February 24 at her home in Long Beach.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Gordon Morris Bakken** published "Justice in Los Angeles: The City Attorney and the Courts," in Tom Sitton, ed., *The Development of Los Angeles City Government: An Institutional History, 1850-2000*, 2 volumes (Los Angeles: Los Angeles City Historical Society, 2007). This chapter contains material on women serving on the municipal bench. On June 30, 2008, Greenwood Press will release the two-volume *Icons of the American West: From Cowgirls to Silicon Valley*, containing numerous chapters on women's achievements.

Prentice-Hall recently published *California: a Multicultural Documentary History* by **Lauren Coodley**. This new textbook integrates many of the women uncovered by the second (and third) waves of feminist historical research into the master narrative of California.

**Amy Essington** presented "Beyond the Baseball Diamond: Racial Integration in Professional Basketball, Football, and Hockey" at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting (January 2008) and "Including African Americans and Latinos in the Pacific Coast League: West Coast Baseball Integrates," at the Organization for American Historians Annual Meeting (March 2008). She received travel grants from Claremont Graduate University and the history department at California State University, Long Beach.

In March, **Estelle B. Freedman** presented the 2008 Virginia C. Gildersleeve Lecture at Barnard College on "Coming of Age at Barnard, 1968." Freedman introduced and edited *The Essential Feminist Reader*, which was published in 2007 by The Modern Library, and includes over 60 documents from feminist history, 1405-2004.

**Carolyn Herbst Lewis** has accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of History at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. She finished her Ph.D. in the fall of 2007 at UC Santa Barbara. Her dissertation, *Coitus Perfectus: The Medicalization of Heterosexuality in the Cold War United States*, examined the definitions of sexual health maintained by the American medical profession in the mid-20th century. In January, she presented a paper at AHA, and chaired a panel at OAH in March. She will be participating in a roundtable discussion of the perils and pleasures of combining parenthood and graduate work at this June's Berkshire Conference on the History of Women.

**Sandra Mathews's** second publication, *American Indians in the Early West*, was published in March 2008 by ABC-CLIO. Her next book, a textbook on New Mexico history, co-authored with Robert Torrez and Richard Melzer, will be published in 2009 by UNM Press. Her chapter on Zebulon M. Pike's encounters with women of the Borderlands has been accepted for inclusion in a book celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pike's Southwest Expedition.

**Susan Oliver** has published a new biography. *Betty Friedan: The Personal Is Political* (AB Longman, October 2007), re-examines Friedan's contributions to second-wave feminism. Oliver is also developing a website that features a bibliography, primary sources, photographs, and student activities on Betty Friedan and Second Wave Feminism.

**Phyllis Peet** produced the exhibition catalog, *Eight Over Eighty in 2008*, for the exhibition of the same name at the Pajaro Valley Art Council and Gallery, February 27 - April 20, 2008.

In July, 2007, **Donna Schuele** joined the faculty in the Department of Criminology, Law & Society at the University of California, Irvine.

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

Send submissions for Member News to Annie Russell at [networker@wawh.org](mailto:networker@wawh.org).

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

A reminder e-mail is sent to the organizational e-mail list before the submission due date.

Due dates are listed on the Calendar section of the newsletter.

THE WAWH  
40th ANNUAL CONFERENCE



MAY 15-18  
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
MERRY WEISNER-HANKS  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MILWAUKEE

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### WAWH 2008 Conference

May 16-17, 2008  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

### WAWH 2009 Conference

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

### WAWH 2010 Conference

TBA

## VOLUNTEER FOR THE WAWH

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

### Award Committees

As stated by the newly approved Constitution (2006), beginning next year, 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 2007-2008

**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**

Linda Mollno  
Cal Poly Pomona  
3801 West Temple Avenue  
Pomona, CA 91768  
linda.mollno@sbcglobal.net

**Networker Editor**

Annie Russell  
networker@wawh.org

**Past-President**

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

**Graduate Student Reps.**

(2006-2008)  
Karin Huebner  
USC  
517 Raymond Avenue #2  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
310-452-5999  
klouhue@aol.com

(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 Program Chair**

Karen Blair  
Central Washington University  
800 East University Way  
Ellensburg, WA 98926-7553  
509-963-1656  
Karen.Blair@cwu.edu

**2008 Local Arrangements Chair**

Shirley Yee  
University of Washington, Women  
Studies  
B110 Padelford, Box 354345  
Seattle, WA 98195-4345  
206-685-4073  
sjyee@u.washington.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**

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

**Barbara Penny Kanner  
Award Chair**

Maria Elena Raymond  
17400 Amethyst Drive  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
kannerchair@wawh.org

**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

### 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.

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## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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Circle one: Visa or MasterCard      Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

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Please clip form and send with payment to:

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# 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](mailto:networker@wawh.org).  
Your information will be included in the next *Networker*.

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# *The Networker*

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