

President's Column:

As I sit down to write this message, our conference at the Huntington Library is exactly one month in the past. Now with all the preparations and frantic activity of that weekend behind me, I can appreciate what a great conference it was! Program committee chair, Tamara L. Hunt, with the able assistance of Paivi Hoikkala and Alexa Nickliss, put together fifteen exciting panels, all of which drew appreciative and knowledgeable audiences. The papers, the commentaries, and the audiences' questions were consistently excellent. Including those who commuted in for the conference, we enjoyed an attendance of well over 150 people, hardly any of whom played hooky to stroll through the beautiful Huntington Gardens. I cannot thank the program committee enough for all their good work.

Several high points stand out in my memory. On Friday evening, Anita Johnson's one-woman show about three generations of African American women, "Whip 'Em With Your Wit," introduced us to an extraordinary talent. If you missed this performance, you may yet have another chance to see it, for Anita will probably repeat the show at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and at Arizona State University next year.

Joanne Lafler, who spoke at the President's Dinner on Saturday evening, vigorously challenged all of us who are not "dependent scholars" (those employed full-time, tenure track, at four-year institutions) to make two important choices. First, we need to join the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, an organization that works to ensure access to collections, libraries, and funding for all scholars. Second, we must identify ourselves proudly as independents who continue to produce important work with minimal institutional support--no easy feat!

Our plenary session on Saturday morning officially got the scholarly portion of the conference off to a great start. Addressing the subject "Telling the Truth History," Drs. Janet R. Fireman and Joyce Appleby discussed the many controversies about history that have erupted in the past few years, in terms of museum exhibits, national history standards,

Disney's America, education for patriotism, and questions about the legitimacy of "revisionism." This stimulating session drew an especially large audience because the Huntington Library Women's Studies Seminars co-sponsored the plenary jointly with the WAWH. As a result, a wide spectrum of historians and people from the community became better acquainted with both our organizations. Special thanks for this memorable morning go to Nancy Page Fernandez, who chairs the steering committee of the Women's Studies Seminars and came up with the idea of a joint plenary, and to Robert C. Ritchie, the Director of Research at the Huntington Library, who made this session possible. (Continued on Page 2) &

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History Standards Revised

"Just what was all the fuss about?" See for yourself in a single, concise volume, the updated edition of National Standards combines standards for grades K-4 with standards in both United States and World History for grades 5-12.

The National Standards for History, Basic Edition is available for \$15.95 ea., plus \$5 shipping & handling for the first book. Add \$1 shipping & handling for each additional book. Calif. residents add 8.25% tax. For check or credit card orders, call UCLA Bookstore, (310) 206-0788. You can also mail your order to: UCLA Book Zone, 308 Westwood Plaza, Ackerman Union, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1645.

NCC BRIEF ON NEH

National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History

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In 1995, NEH had a budget of \$177 million and supported a wide range of programs that promote the best of teaching, research, and public programming in the humanities. However, in FY'96 the budget for NEH is \$110 million, a cut of almost 38%. Attempts to pass reauthorization legislation for NEH have failed; however, NEH was funded in Fiscal Years 94-96 without authorization. In asking for a partial restoration of funds, the NCC requested a funding level of \$136 million which is still 20% less than the FY'95 level of \$172 million.

What Can You Do?: Letters of support to key members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and to your members in the Senate and the House urging support for partial restoration of NEH funding at the President's request of \$136 million.

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President's Column *(Continued from Page 1)*

One of the most enjoyable tasks after any successful undertaking is thanking those who have shared the work. Along with Tamara, thanks to Regina Lark who handled the hundreds of logistical details, large and small, anticipated potential problems and solved them before they became serious, coordinated dozens of volunteers, and made sure that everything ran smoothly. (I've told her I think she probably ran a small country in a previous life.)

Many others also contributed so much. Carol Gold, our membership secretary, and Emily Rader, our treasurer, put together our new membership directory, complete with up-to-date e-mail addresses. This directory is well worth the price of \$5.00, which includes postage and handling; to order, send your request and check to Emily Rader, 436 Lime Avenue, #6, Long Beach, CA 90802. Katie Pearce-Sassen, one of our two graduate student representatives, went well beyond the call of duty by flying in from Utah the morning after her qualifying exams to participate in the conference and meetings of the executive board. Jackie Braitman was an invaluable resource both as newsletter editor, helping to publicize the conference, and as our previous program chair, sharing her hard-earned experience with this year's committee. Our prize committees (see *Here's to the Winners!* - Page 5), chaired by Nupur Chaudhuri, Ruth Alexander, Sherry Smith, and Karen Blair, did an outstanding job in selecting works of excellence. And, finally, our past presidents, Karen Offen and Peggy Renner, and our president-elect, Sarah Stage,

were always there with much-needed moral support and advice. Thank you all!

Summer is a time when people disperse for research trips, vacations, and just getting away from the office so they can write. But let me suggest two activities for your summer plans that have to do with the WAWH. First, please consider coming to the meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA in San Francisco, August 8-11. I especially invite you to attend the luncheon sponsored by the Western Association of Women Historians on Friday, August 9, when our speaker will be Joan Jensen, of New Mexico State University and President-Elect of the PCB. She will speak on "Women and Creativity in the West," with particular reference to a new museum on Women and the West being built in Colorado.

Second, two days before the conference at the Huntington, we at last confirmed that our next conference will take place at Asilomar, near Monterey, May 30-June 1, 1997. Although the official call for papers will not go out till fall (our deadline for submissions is November 30), summer makes an ideal time to start thinking of the panels you might put together with new people you encounter at the Berks or the PCB; consider the scholars you get to know on research trips to archives around the country. Complete panels submitted with a coherent theme and commentator stand a much greater chance of acceptance and usually provide a better experience for the participants and the audience alike. To facilitate your planning, the board has chosen an overarching theme for the Asilomar conference: "Difference and Power." Although we have often had a special emphasis on women's history, we suggest that members may also wish to think of difference in terms of race, ethnicity, class, religion, age, education, or any other relevant category, including gender.

Let me close by again thanking all the people who contributed to the success of our conference at the Huntington and by encouraging you to help make the meeting at Asilomar just as fine. Have a great summer!

Susan Wladaver-Morgan, President
WAWH

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W E L C O M E

New Members

Margery Enix, Chapman University, Orange; Professor of Music (see also, *Member News*)

Marilyn Tobias, Independent Scholar, public historian; fields of interest: education, history, culture and politics (see also, *Member News*)



Editor's Note: The increasing number of submissions for announcements of current work and accomplishments has grown tremendously. This clearly attests to the dynamic scholarship and professionalism of our diverse organization!

Constance Chen gave a paper "Thinking Gender," at UCLA's Center for the Study of Women Conference (1996).

Margery Enix, Chapman University, Professor of Music, has published Rudolf Matz: Cellist, Teacher, Composer (Dominis Press, Ottawa, 1996)

A book by **Mary Felstiner** of SFSU, To Paint Her Life: Charlotte Salomon in the Nazi Era was awarded the American Historical Association's Joan Kelly Prize for "the best book in women's history" of 1995. She says, thanks to all who helped create my book.

Suzanne W. Hull has published Women According to Men: The World of Tudor-Stuart Women (Alta Mira Press/Sage Publications, April 1996). The book covers proper behavior, health habits, household remedies, theories on conception, the care of children, the raising of daughters, and the making of food, fashion and cosmetics.

Brenda Jackson of San Jose State University received the 1995-96 Outstanding Thesis Award for "Women's Lives on the Overland Trail, 1830-1860."

Edna Johnston of University of Virginia has co-edited a book Lawn Resident Directory: 1895 to the Present (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Office of Development, 1996).

Karen Kidd, Ph.D. candidate in History at Claremont Grad School; received a fellowship at Yale University Pew Program in Religion and American History for work on dissertation, "Smashing: The Life and Faith of Carry Nation."

Karen Ward Mahar has a new appointment as Assistant Professor of History at Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi. She will also be a J. Franklin Jameson Fellow at Library of Congress 1996-97.

Margaret J. Moody received her Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Los Angeles in March 1996.

Barbara Bennett Peterson, Emeritus Professor at University of Hawaii and Adjunct Professor at Hawaii Pacific University has published John Bull's Eye on America (1996)

Emily Rader, Ph.D. candidate in history at USC has been awarded a fellowship in historical document editing from Nat'l Historical Pubs & Records Commission. She will work on the Marcus Garvey/UNIA papers publishing project at UCLA during 96-97. She has also received a Littleton-Griswold grant from the AHA for research in American legal history.

In March 1996, **Lynn L. Sharp** was awarded her Ph.D. in History at UC Irvine. Dissertation: "Rational Religion, Irrational Science; Men, Women, and Belief in French Spiritism, 1853-1914." Lynn has been hired at Whittier College as an Assistant Professor of European History.

Marilyn Tobias, Independent Scholar, public historian, has published an article for a joint project of The New York Historical Society and Yale University Press, "Sullivan & Cromwell," and "Cravath, Swaine & Moore," in Encyclopedia of New York City (Yale University Press, 1995)

Kathleen Whalen of UC Davis gave two papers: "Robert Boyle, Experiment Reporting and Agricultural Literature," at the History of Science Society Meeting, Nov. 1995; and "Sex, Lies and Plants: Gender in the Vegetable Kingdom," at UC Davis Cross-Cultural Women's History Speaker Series, May 1996.

CSCSCS

Here's to the Winners !!

As you know, the WAWH offers four prizes annually, and it is with pleasure that we announce the winners. The Sierra Prize, for the best book published by a member in the preceding year, goes to Susan L. Smith, for *Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired: Black Women's Health Activism in America, 189-1950* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1995). Wendy Gammers' article, "Reduced to Science: Gender, Technology, and Power in the American Dressmaking Trade, 1860-1910," published by the Society of the History of Technology, has received the Judith Lee Ridge Prize for best article; Dr. Gamber has generously donated her prize money to the graduate student fellowship fund—a contribution we deeply appreciate. And Jennifer L. Green, a Ph.D. candidate at UCLA, has received our graduate fellowship of \$1,000 toward the completion of her dissertation on charitable giving in twelfth-century Spain. The Executive Board decided to postpone the award of the Barbara Penny Kanner Prize for bibliomethodology for a year or two until the pool of applicants is larger; all books submitted this year will be included for consideration at that time.

Special thanks go to the members of the prize committees, who gave much thought and care to choosing our winners: Sherry Smith (chair), Barbara Molony, and Francesca Miller for the Sierra Prize; Ruth Alexander (chair), Florence Baker, and Nancy Fitch for the Judith Lee Ridge Prize; Nupur Chaudhuri (chair), Mary Murphy, and Lois Huneycutt for the Graduate Dissertation Fellowship; and Karen Blair (chair), Candace Falk, and Sharon Sievers for the Barbara Penny Kanner Award. We couldn't have done it without them.



Deadlines and Data:

The UN Women's Conference One Year Later, a National Conference via satellite for all those interested in the advancement of women and girls Saturday, September 28, 1996. For Information Contact: The President's Interagency Council on Women at (202) 456-7350 or Council web site at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/Women/IACW/html/IACWhome.html>

FYI: *The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, authorized under CEDAW, cooperates with ratifying governments on issues such as: domestic violence against women, policies affecting women's ability to work, and protection of women during times of armed aggression. Support for ratification of CEDAW in the U.S. has always been bipartisan. In 1994, by a bipartisan vote, the Foreign Relations Committee recommended with qualifications approval of CEDAW, but, unfortunately, acted too late in the session for the treaty to be considered by the full Senate. WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please write the members of the Foreign Relations Committee today. If your Senator is a member of the Committee, your letter as a constituent is even more powerful. For Information, contact: Billie Heller, Chair, UN/CEDAW 520 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210-3202*

Research Grant awarded to Tamiment Institute Library and the Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives at New York University titled "Finding Our Past: Documenting the Women's Health Movement in New York." Funding is provided by New York State Documentary Heritage Program for a part-time Field Archivist to conduct a Women's History Records Survey (WHRS) of at least forty women's health-related organizations in the New York City area. For more information contact Lucina Manning, Archivist, United Federation of Teachers (212) 598-9213; or Belinda R. Blum, Archivist, WHRS Project (212) 989-9354. ☉

WAWH Networker Calendar

September 1, 1996

Deadline for submissions to *Networker*.

November 30, 1996

Deadline for conference submissions.

May 30 - June 1, 1997

WAWH Conference (to be announced) Asilomar

Call for Papers

The Southern Association for Women Historians invites proposals for the Fourth Southern Conference on Women's History to be held June 12-14, 1997, at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. The conference provides a forum for the delivery of presentations and the exchange of ideas relating to all aspects of women's history. It seeks to reflect the best in recent scholarship, especially by young scholars and graduate students. It also seeks to reflect the diversity of women's experiences and to document the history of women from a wide variety of racial, class, and ethnic backgrounds. This call for papers includes proposals for individual papers and complete sessions as well as panel discussions, roundtables, and media presentations.

Each proposal, whether for individual papers or panels, should include two copies of a one- to two-page synopsis and a brief curriculum vitae for each participant. Those interested in chairing sessions or commenting on papers are also invited to forward a c.v. Although the conference is regionally based, proposals from all parts of the country are welcome. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope or postcard to ensure notification of receipt by the program committee. Proposals should be submitted to Professor Jan Turner Censer, Department of History, MSN3G1, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030-4444; telephone 703-993-1250. Proposal deadline is September 15, 1996.

Published Guides

Revealing Women's Life Stories

The publication of *Revealing Women's Life Stories: Papers from the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the SOPHIA SMITH COLLECTION* (Smith College, Northhampton, MA 1995) brings together the papers delivered at the celebratory symposium at Smith College honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Sophia Smith Collection. The 80 page volume includes addresses by Nancy F. Cott on Mary Beard and women's history, Ellen Chesler on re-interpreting Margaret Sanger and Carolyn Heilbrun on writing a biography of Gloria Steinem and is available for \$12.50 a copy. Contact Nancy DeHapenna, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northhampton, MA 01063, FAX 413-585-2904.

Guide to African American Manuscript Sources

The Special Collections Department, Emory University announces the availability of a new subject guide to its manuscript holdings entitled *Manuscript Sources for African-American History*. The 51 page guide contains 189 entries for literary and historical manuscript collections from the 1820s to the present; historical collections predominate. The guide includes a name and topic index and is available at a cost of \$3.00 by writing to African American Guide, Special Collections Dept., Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322. Make checks payable to Emory University. Other guides to manuscript sources currently available include: Civil War History (\$3.00); Women's History (free); Methodist History (free); and Atlanta, Georgia (free). ●

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Last May, Katie attended the annual WAWH conference at the Huntington in Pasadena. Graduate student participation in paper submissions and presentations was extraordinary. The work presented by graduate students was solid historical research and we would like to congratulate you! The WAWH conferences are great places for graduate students to present their work and network with other historians both inside and outside their fields of interest. As budding historians, we should always be looking for opportunities to make important connections with supportive organizations like WAWH. We have both found that our affiliation with WAWH has provided us with excellent intellectual support and access to knowledge about how the "system" works on a friendly and non-intimidating level.

As the graduate student representatives, we would like to better serve your individual interests and concerns. In order to do this, we would like to know more about you! Please fill out the following questionnaire and either send it along by regular mail or via e-mail, (our addresses are listed later in the newsletter). Your feedback is important to us, please take a moment to respond. Thanks. (Survey on Page 6)

Katie Pearce-Sassen & Erika Bsumek ✍

GRADUATE STUDENT SURVEY:

Name: _____

Age: _____

Professional Affiliation: _____

Stage in Graduate Career: _____

Fields of Interests: _____

What are your most immediate concerns and interests as a member of WAWH? (networking, paper presentations, financial aid information, etc.)

As your graduate student representatives, what kind of information would you like us to include in our newsletter columns?

Do you plan to attend or present a paper at the next WAWH conference?

Would you be interested in participating in a Dissertations in Progress Panel at the next conference?

Would you be interested in serving as a graduate student liaison for your university?

Other suggestions??

SPITHRA, The informational network

SPITHRA is for scholars who wish to locate matching paper proposals so that completed panels can be proposed to conference program committees. With or without a computer, you can enjoy the benefits of a computer-recorded network simply by filling out the following form and sending it to Emily Rader, 436 Lime Ave., #6 Long Beach, CA 90802-2678 or email the information to rader@scf.usc.edu. To access SPITHRA, if you have a computer connected to a university computing system, log onto Gopher. You will then see: "Other Gopher Systems; there you will eventually find "University of So. California (USC). If you are not connected to a university system, log on to cwis.usc.edu; this will bring you to the Gopher menu. At USC Gopher, make the following menu choices: (1) #3 "University Information"; (2) #1, "Academic Departments"; (3) #15 "Social Sciences and Communications"; (4) #3, "History; and finally (5) #1, "SPITHRA"

Name _____

Address _____

City, state, zip _____

FAX/e-mail: _____

Telephone (daytime) _____

evening: _____

Region of interest (circle one): Africa Asia Europe Latin America Middle East No. America

Country in region _____

Time period of interest _____

Title or topic of proposed paper _____

Willing to travel to conference to present papers? Yes No

[Co-sponsored by the Conference Group on Women's History (CGWH), the Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH), and the Department of History, University of Southern California (USC).]

Member News - *The Networker*

Name, affiliation: _____

Notice of publication or other member news:

(Use an additional sheet if necessary. Send to Jacqueline Braitman, 23250 Mariano Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367)

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New 1996 WAWH Membership Directory	\$5 (includes \$2 postage)

(Clip and send with your check to: Emily Rader, WAWH Treasurer, 436 Lime Ave., #6 Long Beach, CA 90802-2678.
email: rader@scf.usc.edu Reminder: Membership runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Membership dues are tax-deductible.)



Western
Association
of
Women
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Asilomar


May 30-June 1
1997


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