



The Networker

the newsletter of the Western Association of Women Historians

Navigating Work-Life Balance in Higher Education Jessica Weiss

When my daughter was born in 2001, I was the first tenure-track faculty member to explore taking the limited maternity leave available at the time. After I shared my summer due date, colleagues and HR expressed surprise that I intended to take the fall quarter off. (I could not use the maternity leave as it was then constituted, because by the time fall quarter began too many days past birth had gone by.) I soon became the faculty member to whom colleagues directed the few women who expected children for advice. But when my colleagues with small children asked me how to parent while teaching at the CSU, I had no real answers, since the release time I had used—with responsibilities that allowed me to work at odd hours, from home, and on my own schedule—had evaporated in the wake of budget cuts.

Fast forward to 2014 and I am now parenting an infant once more (and a twelve-year-old). The CBA of the CFA with CSU improved the parental leave options available to faculty significantly and I was able to choose between 6 weeks of leave or a full quarter at a reduced schedule and then work a reduced schedule the following quarter as FMLA. Because I am in an administrative role and the particular geography of my current office permits it, I am able to bring my son to work and have his caregiver meet me on campus. This still requires the forbearance of nearby officemates who have been more than hospitable, but is not an option available to many. With crawling the next milestone, this setup is also time-delimited.

Once upon a time there was childcare on campus open to faculty in theory, but filled by students in practice. When I return to teaching, in theory, online teaching will provide flexibility;

however, the time commitment required to teach online is daunting. Colleagues more senior than I have talked about the “rhythms” of productivity across lengthy careers. It looks like I will have the benefit of weaving periods of campus service and the slow accretion of research and material with bouts of publishing productivity interspersed with caring for my family, young and old. However, sitting, as I now do, in the position to counsel and, too often, comfort rising junior faculty, I wonder whether they will ever be able to veer even slightly off the path of publish or perish.

A recent gathering for women’s history month on our campus reminded me that those of us raising children or caring for family members are often so busy we don’t talk about the challenges we face and our sense of professionalism communicates to others that we have it figured out, which can lead to isolation and self-doubt, and certainly obstructs any collective response to what we know as feminists and historians are political issues with ramifications for us as individuals, members of campus communities, and as a society.

Several panels at our upcoming conference at Cal Poly Pomona address the issues I raise here—the challenge of ongoing scholarly accomplishment (beginning in graduate school), the temptations and pressures and benefits to “leaning in” and the satisfactions and sacrifices of opting out. I hope members share birth share both the joys and hurdles of parenthood in academia with candor and pay careful attention to commonalities—the “leaky tenure pipeline” continues to exist for a reason (<http://ucfamilyedge.berkeley.edu/leaks.html>). Talking about these issues when we gather to conference and supporting one another when we return to our home institutions is something at which WAWH excels.

Executive Director's Column Amy Essington

The 2014 conference will be held at Kellogg West at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in Pomona, California, the weekend of May 1-3, 2014. The keynote speaker will be Nan Alamilla Boyd, professor of Women and Gender Studies at San Francisco State University. Her talk is titled, "Cruisin' the Castro: From Gay Liberation to Tourist Destination." The full conference program is online at <http://www.wawh.org>.

A printed program will not be mailed to the membership, but will be distributed to all of the conference attendees. If you would like a printed program and are not able to attend the conference, contact me at amyessington@wawh.org and I will send you one.

The conference pre-registration material and hotel information is available online on our website, www.wawh.org. The pre-registration deadline is March 20, 2014. Onsite registration will be available, but the rates will be higher, and meals may not be available. I encourage you to pre-purchase meals for the conference. Meals provide a valuable time for attendees to mingle, get to know one another, and network. Only a few extra meals are ordered. Every year I have people who want to add meals once they have come to the conference, but they are not available for purchase.

With the conference registration period comes a new membership year. Membership in WAWH runs from conference to conference. It is now time to renew for the 2014-2015 membership year. The deadline to renew your membership is May 3, 2014. All renewals will be done online through Eventbrite. When you renew, please considering giving a donation to one or more of the awards and prizes. Donations of any amount will help keep the awards and prizes financial secure.

The conference means the end of the term of service of several positions and will bring new opportunities to volunteer for Executive Board or committee positions. If the proposed changes to

the constitution are approved by the membership at the business meeting at the conference (see page 6), the volunteer opportunities will include the new position of Digital Communications Coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering

for this or any of the other positions, or would like to help and are not sure how, please contact President Jessica Weiss at jessica.weiss@csueastbay.edu to express your interest.

I am filled with mixed feelings as I write this, my last

column as the WAWH Executive Director. I first joined WAWH in 1999 the spring semester of my first year as a doctoral student. That year, with some of my fellow students from Claremont Graduate University, I attended my first conference, the WAWH conference at Asilomar Conference Center. The next year I presented my first academic paper when WAWH met at the Huntington Library.

I first volunteered for WAWH in fall 1999, when I was elected the Executive Board as treasurer. Through the course of my second term as treasurer, I began taking on additional responsibilities with the organization. In 2004, my role became the Executive Director, a position that was ad hoc for two years and then, with a constitutional revision, a new elected position in 2006. I was elected for my first four-year term in 2006 and a second in 2010. This year marks my tenth year as Executive Director and my fifteenth year of service to the organization on the Executive Board.

When I first joined the organization we did not have a website, conferences were only held in California, and ran Friday-Sunday. The organization had four awards and no set terms for award committee members. We now have six awards and a three-year award committee cycle. We are an affiliate of the American Historical Association. We have a formal agreement with California State University, Sacramento, for them to house our archives, which now

“
I am filled with mixed feelings as
I write this, my last column as the
WAWH Executive Director.
”

Executive Director's Column

Amy Essington

includes a copy of every newsletter (thanks in part to Texas Women's University archiving them) and almost all conference programs (thanks in part to long-term members for hanging on to them). During the last fifteen years, I have worked with eight different WAWH presidents and dozens of dedicated volunteers who have served the organization in various ways. I have made numerous friends whom I see not only at the WAWH conference, but also at other conferences throughout the year. The year I attended my first conference, WAWH was celebrating its thirtieth year. This year, WAWH will recognize forty-five years as an organization. It is hard to believe that I have been a WAWH board member for one-third of the life of the organization, but it was the work and dedication of those who came before me who got it to the thirtieth anniversary, a place I could build from with my fellow board and committee members. I am looking forward to being able to participate in WAWH conferences in a different way. I hope that WAWH will continue to support women historians for many years to come and I look forward to the new ways I can help make that happen.

Welcome New (and Returning) Members!

Welcome to members who joined between October 13, 2013, and February 2, 2014.

Lucienne Auz	Kathleen Feeley	Meghan McClellan	Linda Shay
Monica Bilka	Maddie Fitch	Celeste Menchaca	Silvana Siddali
Peter Blodgett	Andrea Germerg	Sarah Miller-Davenport	Courtney Spikes
Shelley Brooks	Erin Gray	Irene Olivares	Stephanie Fuglaar Statz
Margie Brown-Coronel	Victoria Grieve	Lindsay Parker	Lisa Stern
Bari Burke	Caroline Bunnell Harris	Katherine Paugh	Carrie Streeter
Maria Raquel Casas	Rachel Hynson	Janet Rankin	Gabriella Treglia
Kathleen Casey	Linda Ivey	Diana Reilly	Rebecca Wagner
Catherine Christensen	Victoria Jackson	Jennifer Ring	JoAnna Wall
Sascha Cohen	Jill Liddington	Blain Roberts	Samantha Williams
Nancy Cooper	Jerry Limberg	Ashley Rockenbach	Stephanie Ann Wilms
Sarah Cornell	John Lloyd	Kayla Schott-Bresler	Alison Wyrnn
Vanessa Crispin-Peralta	Sonia Mariscal	Susan Schulten	
Maura Cunningham	Sara Mattiason	Elizabeth Searcy	

Thank You, Donor!

Many thanks to those who donated between October 13, 2013, and February 2, 2014.

Susannah Baxendale

Please Donate!

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.

Member News

Karen Blair, former president of WAWH, will retire from Central Washington University in Ellensburg in June 2014. She will relocate to Seattle.

Conevery Bolton Valencius (UMass Boston) just published *The Lost History of the New Madrid Earthquakes* (University of Chicago Press, 2013), which traces the little known and surprising earthquakes that hit the middle Mississippi Valley in the winter of 1811–1812. We often think of earthquakes as only being a West Coast event, but this history shows how seismic activity has affected the Midwest as well—and continues to affect disaster planning in mid-continent.

Marion Dumont graduated from the California Institute of Integral Studies in December 2013 with a doctorate of Philosophy & Religion. Her dissertation title is “Reclaiming Women’s History in the Region of Marion, Montana through a Hermeneutic of Place and the Stories of Three Individuals: Kau’xuma’nupika, Gail Peters Little and Arlene Wehr LaPierre.”

An exhibit at the California Historical Society museum in San Francisco about Juana Briones has much information and many objects that were the basis of **Jeanne Farr McDonnell’s** research for her biography of Briones published by the University of Arizona Press in 2008. McDonnell’s first introduction to Briones was a newspaper article about her house in Palo Alto. She had started the Women’s Heritage Museum project (which is no more), and thought to get involved somehow in letting people know about Briones and her house that still existed where she had lived in the 1840s. That began several years of docent-led tours of the house, a state historic plaque for her at Washington Square in San Francisco, and even now, this superb exhibit that even contains a wall from that Palo Alto house, most wisely and with great difficulty saved by preservationists.

Lori Flores recently published a preview of her forthcoming book in her article, “A Town Full of Dead Mexicans: The Salinas Valley Bracero Tragedy of 1963, the End of the Bracero Program, and the Evolution of California’s Chicano Movement” in the *Western Historical Quarterly*. She also received a Sam Fishman Travel Grant Award from the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University and a Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (FAHSS) individual research grant from SUNY Stony Brook, where she currently teaches.

Valerie Sherer Mathes’s article “New York Women and Indian Reform” was published by *New York History* (Winter/Spring 2013): 84–109; and her article “Helen Hunt Jackson, Amelia Stone Quinton, and the Mission Indians of California,” will appear in the summer 2014 issue (vol. 96, no. 2) of *Southern California Quarterly*. She has also just signed a contract with the University of New Mexico to publish an anthology she is editing on the Women’s National Indian Association. The following scholars are contributing: Lori Jacobson, Lisa E. Emmerich, Rose Strelau, Cathleen D. Cahill, Helen Bannan, Larry E. Burgess, and Gordon Baaken.

Member News (cont.)

Maureen Nutting contributed a chapter on interdisciplinary learning to the latest volume in the Wiley series, *New Directions for the Community Colleges*. The volume, *Fostering the Liberal Arts in the 21st Century Community Colleges*, edited by Keith Kroll, came out in December. Nutting also had a book review in *Columbia: The Journal of Washington State History* in its latest issue.

Karen Offen had an article, "Kaethe Schirmacher: Investigative Reporter & Activist Journalist: The Paris Writings, 1895-1910," published in the "Forum" on French women journalists published at the end of December in the *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History*, vol. 39, which is available online via your university library at <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/w/wsfh> or through the organizational website www.wsfh.org. The other authors and articles are **Mary Lynn Stewart**, "Marcelle Capy's Journalism and Fiction on War, Peace and Women's Work, 1916-1936," and **Sara L. Kimble**, "Popular Legal Journalism in the Writings of Maria Vérone," with a commentary by **Marilyn J. Boxer**.

Priscilla Pope-Levison's latest book, *Building the Old Time Religion: Women Evangelists in the Progressive Era*, was recently published by NYU Press.

Vicki Ruiz is now president-elect of the American Historical Association.

Share your accomplishments! Include your professional news in the next newsletter. Send submissions for Member News to the newsletter editor 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 February 15, June 15, and October 15 each year.

Society for the History of Children and Youth (SHCY)

Scholars who are interested in the history of girlhood may be interested in joining the international Society for the History of Children and Youth (SHCY). Membership in the SHCY is for two years and includes a subscription to the six-year-old tri-yearly *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. The next biennial conference will be in 2015 at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Members are eligible to apply for Outreach Grants for public programming related to the histories of children and youth and are eligible for "best article" prizes. See <http://shcyhome.org/> for more information about SHCY and the field. You can join online: https://associations.press.jhu.edu/cgi-bin/shcy/shcy_membership.cgi.

Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws

We are currently revising the constitution and award bylaws. The process, as required by our own constitution and the IRS, requires that we print any changes to the constitution or bylaws in the newsletter before the conference. The proposed changes will be discussed and voted on by the membership at the business meeting at the 2014 annual conference at Cal Poly Pomona on Saturday, March 3. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to comment or have questions, please email Executive Director, Amy Essington at amyessington@wawh.org.

There are five awards to which we would like to add, "Entries must be in English": the Barbara Penny Kanner Award, the Founders Dissertation Fellowship, the Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize, the Judith Lee Ridge Prize, and the Keller-Sierra Prize. The sixth award, the Gita Chaudhuri Award, already includes this language.

The original text is:

Section 4. The management of the business of the Association shall be vested in an Executive Board composed of the officers, the Immediate Past President, the Networker Editor, Graduate Student Representatives, and award committee chairpersons, or other representatives as appointed by the President and approved of by the officers. Each person appointed shall be a member in good standing, as stipulated in the By-Laws.

The suggested change is:

Section 4. The management of the business of the Association shall be vested in an Executive Board composed of the officers, the Networker Editor, the Digital Communication Coordinator, Graduate Student Representatives, the chair of the Conference Committee, award committee chairpersons, the Immediate Past President, or other representatives as appointed by the President and approved of by the officers. Each person appointed shall be a member in good standing, as stipulated in the By-Laws.

Additionally, the WAWH Constitution has suggested revisions as well to reflect changes the Executive Board has implemented on an ad hoc basis for two years to help the planning for the annual conference be more reasonably distributed over Board members.

The original is:

6. Be responsible for selecting, in cooperation with the president, and securing conference sites, drafting and circulating the call for papers, coordinating with the local arrangements chair, and the program chair.
7. Supervise the printing and mailing of program material.
8. Be responsible for overseeing conference registration.
9. Oversee the design, maintenance, and updates of the organizational web page.

The suggested revision is:

6. Be responsible for the following related to the annual conference:
 - a. Coordinate with the president and the Future Site Coordinator in the selection and securing of future conference sites.
 - b. Coordinate with the Program Chair and Secretary in drafting and circulating the call for papers.
 - c. Coordinate with the Program Production Coordinator in creating and distributing the conference program.
 - d. Be responsible for conference pre-registration.
 - e. Coordinate with the Onsite Registration Coordinator in managing onsite conference registration.
7. Coordinate with the Digital Communication Coordinator in overseeing the design, maintenance, and updates of the organizational web page.

WAWH Executive Board 2013-2014

President

Jessica Weiss
Calif. State Univ., East Bay
25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.
Hayward, CA 94542-3014
jessica.weiss@csueastbay.edu

President-Elect

Rebecca Plant
Department of History
Univ. of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive MC 0104
La Jolla, CA 92093-0104
rplant@ucsd.edu

Executive Director

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

Secretary

Lindsay Blake Wilson
Northern Arizona University
History Dept., Box 6023
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-6023
lindsay.wilson@nau.edu

Treasurer

Pamela Stewart
Arizona State University
School of Letters and Sciences
441 N. Central Ave., 341
Phoenix, AZ 85004-0696
pamela.stewart@asu.edu

Networker Editor

Brittany Ferry
1190 Union Ave. NE, Apt. F-9
Renton, WA 98059
networker@wawh.org

Past President

Gayle Gullett
Arizona State Univ., History Dept.
P.O. Box 872501
Tempe, AZ 85287-2501
gayle.gullett@asu.edu

Graduate Student Reps.

Jennifer Robin Terry (2012-2014)
University of California, Berkeley
jenterry@berkeley.edu

Andrea Milne (2013-2015)
Univ. of California, Irvine
andrea.milne@gmail.com

2014 Program Co-Chairs

Eileen Wallis
Cal Poly Pomona, History Dept.
ewwallis@csupomona.edu

Päivi Hoikkala
History Dept, Cal Poly Pomona
phoikkala@csupomona.edu

2014 Local Arrangements Chairs

Hend Gilli-Elewy
Cal Poly Pomona, IGE Dept
hgillielewy@csupomona.edu

Georgia Mickey
History Dept, Cal Poly Pomona
gamickey@csupomona.edu

Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize Chair

Jennifer Thigpen (2011-2014)
Dept of History, Wash. State Univ.
Wilson-Short Hall 311
Pullman, WA 99164
jthigpen@wsu.edu

Founders' Dissertation Fellowship Chair

Carla Bittel (2011-2014)
Loyola Marymount University
Department of History
One LMU Dr., Suite 3500
Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659
cbittel@lmu.edu

Judith Lee Ridge Prize Chair

Rebecca Kluchin (2011-2014)
Department of History
3080 Tahoe Hall
CSU Sacramento
6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819-6059
rkluchin@csus.edu

Barbara "Penny" Kanner Award Chair

Lisa Sousa (2011-2014)
Occidental College
1600 Campus Road
Los Angeles, CA 90041
lsousa@oxy.edu

Frances Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize Chair

Tanis C. Thorne (2011-2014)
University of California Irvine
Department of History
200 Murray Krieger Hall
Irvine, CA 92697-3275
tcthorne@uci.edu

Gita Chaudhuri Prize Chair

Kathryn Anderson (2011-2014)
Fairhaven College
Western Washington University
516 High Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-9118

The Networker

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