

# Women In Libraries

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ALA/SRRT FEMINIST  
TASK FORCE

Volume 14, Number 2

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Leslie Kahn

## ALA MIDWINTER MEETINGS

This is the last issue of WIL before midwinter in Washington, so the meetings of interest to women as reported in the Preliminary Schedule of Meetings are reported here. The Feminist Task Force will have three meetings:

4:30 - 5:30	Saturday, January 5
9:00 - 11:00	Monday, January 7
9:00 - 11:00	Tuesday, January 8

Other groups scheduling meetings of special interest to women are:

### Saturday:

9:00 - 11:00	ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group
2:00 - 4:00	Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship
4:30 - 5:30	RASD Women's Materials and Women Library Users Disc. Group

### Sunday:

4:30 - 5:30	ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group
8:00 - 10:00 pm	COSWL

### Monday:

11:30 - 12:30	COSWL
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### Tuesday:

4:30 - 5:30	ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group
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Please spread the word that all of these meetings are open to any interested person. We would like to have new, active participants.

## ALA EQUALITY AWARD

Katharine Phenix, Chair of the ALA Equality Award Jury, has provided WIL with a copy of the 1985 nomination form which is reproduced on the following page. The award is to recognize an individual or group for an outstanding contribution toward promoting equality between men and women in the library profession. The award may be given for an activist or scholarly contribution in such areas as pay equity, affirmative action, legislative work, or non-sexist education. The \$500 cash award is donated by Scarecrow Press. Any librarian or person who works in a library, a library-related institution, organization, or association, or a subdivision of any of these, or a trustee, is eligible. Send the completed form to Phenix at the Westminister Public Library, 3031 W. 76th Avenue, Westminister, CO 80030.



ALA EQUALITY AWARD

1985 NOMINATION FORM

I wish to nominate the following for the ALA Equality Award:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a short narrative description of the activities of the individual or group which you feel qualify the nominee for the ALA Equality Award.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following categories best represent the area in which the contribution was made? (You may check more than one.)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination in librarianship | <input type="checkbox"/> Group effort (institution, professional association) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comparable worth/pay equity     | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minority concerns               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research/publication            |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational                     |   |

When/where did the activity (ies) occur? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any other documented reports of the activity (ies)?

(Attach if possible) If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What impact do you believe this work has or had on individuals? On the library and information science profession? Outside the profession?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Attach additional information as available.

Deadline: December 1, 1984

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## FEMINIST CALENDARS

Order your 1985 feminist calendars now. The ones you might consider are:

Western Herstory...54 thought-provoking, funny, inspiring lives that are Herstory!. This year's calendar includes stories about women from Western states including: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. The 5½ by 8½ engagement calendar also features a complete bibliography and quotes. Order from Planned Parenthood Association of Idaho, 4301 Franklin Road, Boise, ID 83705. The price is \$8.95 for 1-12 copies; for fund raising projects, order 13-99 copies at a 30% discount or 100 or more at a 40% discount.

"Celebrating Women," the Women's Health Calendar...a beautifully designed 8½ by 11 wall calendar that celebrates the courage and determination of many American women whose lives and work have influenced and shaped women's health care in the past 100 years. Black-and-white photographs, contemporary and historical, portray women of all ages engaged in the art and practice of healing, living and loving. Price is \$3 in quantities of 1-50, \$2.85 for 51-100, and \$2.75 for over 100. Order from Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts, Inc., 16 Center Street, Northampton, MA 01060.

"Can't Kill the Spirit," the 1985 Peace Calendar...twelve uplifting images, 8 in full color, including a La Pena mural, community land trusts, a Nicaraguan mural, pieces of "The Ribbon," the Great Jim Thorpe Longest Run; and Sadako peace cranes from Hiroshima. Includes people's history dates, lunar cycles, resource pages. 14 by 11 folded. \$6.75 each; order from Syracuse Cultural Workers Project, Box 6367, Syracuse, NY 13217. You may also want to ask for their catalog which includes posters and greeting cards on a peace theme.

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## NATIONAL WOMEN'S MAILING LIST

A data bank of individual and organization names is being prepared to facilitate a feminist network of information. You can identify the kind of organization and/or individual who can mail to you. The claim is that the mail you get as a participant in the network is feminist mail from women's organizations that you may not otherwise receive.

The kinds of information you receive may be from women's literary, art, scholarly, and political magazines and journals; women's publishing houses; producers and distributors of women's music; political groups doing significant work on progressive feminist issues; announcements of spiritual retreats; nontraditional workers' organizations; national women's studies programs; tours for women; and more.

This is an unfunded grassroots project which depends upon donations from women to survive. A donation of \$3.50 will pay for the costs associated with processing your registration form. "The Moral Majority can mail to over 5 million of their supporters. Feminists, too, must have this capability." If you are interested, ask for a registration form from National Women's Mailing List, 1195 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, or call (415) 824-6800.

### SIG ADOPTS EQUITY IN COMPUTER EDUCATION STATEMENT

The Special Interest Group on Research in Women in Education of the American Educational Research Association has adopted a statement on equity in computer education:

As computers play an increasingly central role in our society, inequitable access to computers will contribute to inequitable participation in nearly all careers. To ensure equitable participation in society it is necessary to ensure the participation of females, minorities, and those from low socio-economic backgrounds in computer experiences.

Since many libraries are providing or have plans to provide access to micro-computers, librarians should consider steps to ensure equity of access. Careful selection of software and design of instruction are also needed. SIG reports that in California, only 37% of the students registered in 1982 for computer programming classes in high schools were female. Since computer skills are necessary for many careers, a gender difference in skill level could become a basis for discrimination. Should this become a library or feminist issue?

### WOMEN IN PRINT 1985

Bay Area Women in Print is organizing the third National Women in Print conference which will take place May 29 - June 1, 1985, in San Francisco, right after the American Booksellers' Association (ABA) conference. WIP 1985 is open to all feminist women now working in the print trades: editors, publishers, printers, librarians and archivists, booksellers, reviewers, agents, women in marketing and distribution, self-publishers. The organizers are interested in what workshops would be popular, who can facilitate workshops, what needs exist for childcare and other services. They're trying their best to keep the costs as low as possible, but need help in organizing the conference and providing scholarships to women who might not otherwise be able to attend. For more information on the conference, write Women in Print, P.O. Box 3184, Oakland, CA 94609.

### JANE ADDAMS PEACE ASSOCIATION CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

Rain of Fire (Clarion Books, 1983), by Marion Dane Bauer, has been chosen for the 1984 Jane Addams Peace Association Children's Book Award. Since 1953, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award has been given annually by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Jane Addams Peace Association for a book that most effectively promotes peace, social justice, world community and the equality of the sexes and all races.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Women's Research Institute is sponsoring an Interdisciplinary Conference on "The Challenge to Feminism in the Future" and is soliciting papers on the upcoming issues for feminists in law, government, self-growth, medicine, public policy, and education. The deadline for submission is February 4, 1985, and the conference is April 20. Contact Sharon Toffey Shepela, Director, Women's Research Institute, Hartford College for Women, 50 Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

## WOMEN AND STRESS

9to5 recently conducted a national survey on women and stress, with the cooperation of four leading women's magazines. Forty thousand women responded and supplied important new data on what makes a job stressful; how women respond to stress, and what are the most effective ways to deal with stress. Over 32% of all respondents described their jobs as very stressful. Interestingly, managerial women report their jobs as stressful but do not exhibit the symptoms shown by women in lower level jobs. Clerical, service, and blue collar women experience the symptoms of stress: eyestrain, headache, nausea, insomnia, sore muscles, fatigue, and stress-related illnesses such as heart disease, high blood pressure, gastritis, ulcers, and colitis. Apparently, one of the main causes of stress in the workplace is having a lot of responsibility and very little authority. For the complete results of the National Survey on Women and Stress, write to 9to5 Stress Report, 1224 Huron Road, Cleveland, OH 44115. Copies are \$6.50 for individuals, \$5 for 9to5 members, and \$10 for institutions. Add \$1.50 for postage and handling.

## DISABILITY AND SEX DISCRIMINATION HAMPER WOMEN

Most disabled women did not participate during the 1970s massive movement of working-age women into the labor force, according to Disabled Women in America, a new statistical report published by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. Based on Census Bureau data, the report was compiled and written by Frank Bowe, Ph.D., author of several books on disability. Less than one-quarter of the nation's disabled women have overcome the dual barriers of disability and sex discrimination and found work. They have fewer jobs, smaller incomes, and less education than nondisabled women.

Significant data from the report:

The number of women in the general labor force increased from 45% to 64% during the 1970s, an increase of 19%. The number of disabled women in the labor force declined from 26% to 23.5% during the same period, a decrease of 2.5%.

Women without disabilities reported an average income of \$7,000 in 1980. Two-thirds of the nation's disabled women had an income of less than \$4,000 in 1980.

Disabled women are half as likely as nondisabled women to have some college education: 15.7% for disabled women; 30.9% for nondisabled.

The picture is beginning to look brighter for young disabled women. One in three young disabled women (ages 16 to 34) have jobs while one in four in the general population of disabled women hold jobs. Of those disabled women who do obtain a college education, more than one third have found jobs.

Single copies of the complete report on the disabled women in America are available free from the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Washington, D.C. 20210.

## LOGO NEEDED

A logo is needed for COSWL letterhead, pamphlets, and other publications. It might incorporate the concepts of women and ALA. Please send ideas to Katharine Phenix before Midwinter.

### LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS '84

The National Organization for Women has initiated a project called "Lesbian and Gay Rights '84." The purpose of the project is the passage of state gay and lesbian civil rights legislation. The first target state under the new program is New Jersey. The bill which has been introduced in both the New Jersey Senate and Assembly would prevent discrimination on the basis of "affectional or sexual orientation" in the areas of housing, employment, education, and public accommodations.

Christine Riddiough, NOW's Director of Lesbian Rights, contacted ALA about issuing a statement of support and Margaret Meyers of headquarters sent the letter to WIL. WIL cannot issue an official statement of support, but will pass along any information received on the project. Any New Jersey readers who are interested in supporting the project by writing to state legislators can take direct action.

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### CITIZEN'S COUNCIL RELEASES REPORT

The Citizen's Council on Women's Education was established in 1982 by the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education when President Reagan replaced the experienced, bipartisan membership of the official National Advisory Council with a new group, most of whom lacked background in women's issues or educational equity. The Citizen's Council, composed of 12 men and women with broad experience in education and public policy, is committed to protect the guarantees of educational equity in Federal legislation, make recommendations to Congress, and inform the public about educational equity and attempts to halt progress toward this goal.

The Council has issued a report on the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) program which has repeatedly been the subject of administration attacks and Congressional support. Catching Up: A Review of the Women's Educational Equity Act Program provides information on the wide range of projects designed to help women and girls achieve equality of opportunity at all levels of education. With the Act expiring in 1984, the Citizen's Council recommends expansion and better funding for the renewed Act. Members of Congress and others seeking information about this program will find this report to be comprehensive and concrete. Copies of Catching Up are available for \$3.00 from the Citizen's Council on Women's Education, 2401 Virginia Avenue, N.W., Room 401, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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### DIRECTORY OF MINORITY WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AVAILABLE

Although there are numerous minority organizations which have as a major concern the economic and general welfare of minorities, there are fewer organizations which focus on the educational needs, professional development and related concerns of minority women. A recent paper, "Minority Women's Organizations and Programs: A Partial Annotated List," published by the Project on the Status and Education of Women, describes organizations that serve these educational and career needs of minority women. Over 70 groups are listed along with a brief description of their goals, activities, and publications. For \$2.00, you can get the directory from PSEW, Association of American Colleges, 1818 R Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

## NEW BOOKS

Three fascinating feminist books have been published by Crossing Press. Cris South's Clenched Fists, Burning Crosses: A Novel of Resistance deals with brutality in domestic situations and by the Klan; some of its reflections on the experience of rape are especially true-to-life. The Work of a Common Woman: Collected Poetry 1964-1977, by Judy Grahn is deeply moving; the author is regarded by many lesbian-feminists as the contemporary movement's first poet. Ruth Geller's well written Triangles is about a Jewish lesbian who, in coming to terms with her identity, also overcomes despair over the death of her small daughter. The Crossing Press women's series editor, Nancy Boreano, is doing superb work.

Another new title from Crossing Press, Abeng by Michelle Cliff, is reviewed here by Valerie Austin, Library Assistant at Newark Public Library:

Twelve-year-old Clare Savage, the protagonist of this novel, does not conduct herself like a proper buckra (half-white) according to her severest critics: her parents, grandmother, and the poor Blacks of Kingston, Jamaica. The author comes straight to the point about Clare's misadventures: "She had been caught in rebellion. She was a girl. No one was impressed with her." We are, however, impressed with Michelle Cliff, a wonderfully economic writer, who wastes no words and lavishes no extraneous metaphors. Abeng belongs on the library shelf along with the author's previous book, Claiming an Identity They Taught Me to Despise, and with her excellent essays about poetry, feminism, and racism.

Published in celebration of the centennial of Eleanor Roosevelt's birth, Without Precedent: the Life and Career of Eleanor Roosevelt is a comprehensive and authoritative study of her public career. The authors examine her views and actions against the background of both her personal life and the general circumstance of women in American society during those years. It is a book for the student, scholar, and all those who admire or remember "the first lady of the world." Edited by Joan Hoff-Wilson and Marjorie Lightman, forward by Joseph P. Lash, the book is available from Indiana University Press for \$17.50.

The Index/Directory of Women's Media is an annual publication of the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press and has a mission of aiding networking among women, women's organizations, and women's media, nationally and internationally. It lists over 400 women's periodicals, over a hundred women's presses or publishers, news services, women's columns, radio and television groups, and library collections on women. There is also a section listing individual media women and media-concerned women. Order your copy from the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, 3306 Ross Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

In a highly readable and lively text called Language and the Sexes, authors Francine Frank and Frank Anshen explore the way language mirrors our cultural assumptions, especially those concerned with gender distinctions. Focusing on contemporary issues, they draw on their knowledge of socio-linguistics and other languages to illustrate how sexism may be hidden by habits of language. The book concludes with suggested projects related to reform of discriminatory language use. For \$7.95 you can get a paperback copy from the State University of New York Press, 300 Raritan Center Parkway (CN 94), Edison, NJ 08818.

## JOURNALS

Beginning with the Fall, 1984 issue, Women's Studies Quarterly will include Women's Studies International. This merger brings about a change in focus, too, as alternate issues are to be thematic; the first thematic issue, "Teaching about Mothering," appeared in Winter, 1983. The journal emphasizes teaching and includes reviews of scholarship, course syllabi, and bibliographies. WSQ is an educational project of The Feminist Press, under the general editorship of Florence Howe. Order from WSQ, Box 334, Old Westbury, NY 11568, at a cost of \$18 per year for an individual or \$25 for an institution.

InterFem is the new national newsletter for women in higher education. This monthly publication will include news of women on campus, descriptions of women's studies programs, research in progress at the women's research centers, news of women's issues, and much more. InterFem is a new effort at creating a national publication for women with information to keep you current and up-to-date on women's issues on campus. The newsletter costs \$48 a year and can be obtained from InterFem, Inc., P.O. Box 17379, Milwaukee, WI 53217.

Feministas Unidas Newsletter is available to members of Feministas Unidas, a network association of women scholars in the fields of Chicano, Puerto Rican, Spanish Peninsular, Spanish American, Portuguese, Brazilian, and Portuguese African Studies. One purpose of the association is to address the issues of employment and discrimination as they affect women who work in the departments listed above in colleges and universities in the U.S. and elsewhere. Dues range from \$3 for students to \$12 for professors. For more information write Marilyn Cuneo, 4622 Bloomington South, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, Newsletter of the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table Feminist Task Force, is published 5 times a year from September to June. Subscriptions are \$4 for individuals, \$6 for institutions prepaid, and \$8 for institutions invoiced. Send checks, payable to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES to:

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