

Women In Libraries

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT FEMINIST
TASK FORCE

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MIDWINTER IN WASHINGTON

It was chilly in Washington for the ALA midwinter conference, January 4-8, 1985. There was little precipitation and even the cold wind could not dampen the warmth and enthusiasm with which the feminists met.

FEMINIST TASK FORCE

The FTF met three times; all meetings were chaired by Gail Warner. The guidelines on the roles and responsibilities of the steering committee members have been completed with the exception of those for the SRRT Action Council representative. From Ellen Broidy's introduction: "These guidelines are neither comprehensive nor prescriptive. They represent an attempt to formalize what we have been doing, occasionally by the seat of our pants, without making rigid requirements about how things must be done. The guidelines are a working draft for a group whose priorities and needs change as the perceptions and energies of the membership change, and in response to the needs of women in librarianship." Guidelines were prepared for the coordinator, recorder, the chairs of the elections, programs, coalitions, and sexism awareness committees, and the Women in Libraries editors. This document will be passed on to new committees and officers to smooth the period of transition.

Mary Rosenthal of the SRRT Library Union Task Force presented the idea of FTF cosponsoring their sexual harassment program at the annual ALA convention. The program will consist of a talk by a representative from AFSCME and a movie. FTF agreed to cosponsor and help with some publicity.

Julia Koehler reported on the program ideas for Chicago. The final title is "Gender Gap: Building on our Successes for the Public Good." Dr. Marjorie Lansing who is credited with originating the term, "Gender Gap," will do an analysis of the successes of the 1984 election and give us a sense of direction as to where we go from here. There will be ten or so discussion groups led by Ellen Broidy, Carol Staff, Beth Stafford, Lorene Ludy, and others. More on this exciting program later. Pat Lucas has identified a possible place for a women's night out to be held after the Membership Program on Monday night; this is a bar owned by the son of a librarian! He would be happy to set aside a room for our festivities if we want. We agreed to work with COSWL on a big program in celebration of their tenth anniversary in 1986; Janet Freedman, Donna Nerboso, and Susan Vaughn volunteered to work on it.

FTF received \$450 from SRRT for 1985 and \$600 for 1986. SRRT will have a table at annual and would like some help in staffing it. If you can spare some time, just check in at the table and sign up! We could put copies of the FTF brochure, WIL, the SHARE Directory (or a sign-up sheet for it) and our buttons out on the table.

FTF Continued

Mary Beth Minick gave some background on the Indianapolis anti-pornography legislation. The mayor and city council members passed an ordinance which would prohibit violation of civil rights through the sexually discriminatory use of pornography. ACLU and the Urban League opposed the law; a coalition of feminists and fundamentalists supported the April, 1984, action. A court case filed by book sellers to overthrow the law was supported by the Indiana Library Association. On November 19, 1984, the female judge in the case handed down a 58-page decision that the law violated civil rights, was too broad and unnecessarily vague, and interfered with due process. The City will appeal. FTF feels this is a very important issue, and we will have a broad-based discussion of the pros and cons at Chicago. If you have information for the "Issues of Pornography Legislation" information packet, send a photocopy or citation to Sandy Warmington, Texas A & M Library, Reference Department, College Station, TX 77840, or to Christine Jenkins, 321 Eighth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. The Freedom to Read Foundation has voted to recommend that ALA file an amicus curiae brief in the case, so it is imperative that FTF be fully informed so as to take a stand.

At the time of this writing, FTF is endorsing candidates for election. PLEASE do not return your ballot until you have received the next issue of WIL; there may be petition candidates which FTF will want to support and those names are not available to us yet. Gina Minudri has often shown her support of women and women's issues; therefore, we support her for president. Sarah Pritchard is running for chair of MARS; she is one of our hardest working and most dedicated feminists and deserves our votes. Because of their commitment to women's causes, we endorse the following candidates for Council: Kay Ann Cassell, Linda D. Crowe, Marva L. DeLoach, Barbara Ford, Virginia Mathews, Albert Milo, Carol Starr, and Susan Vaughn. If there are other feminist candidates on the list of Council nominees deserving of our support, they should be made known to Susan Beck, FTF's elections committee chair.

Quickies: Stephanie Kreps reported that the sexual harassment committee has reworked the proposal for a goal award, narrowed its scope, and will resubmit by the March 1 deadline. The SHARE Directory is done and will be out right away. The fine journal, Women Library Workers, is in dire need of more subscribers; insist that your library subscribe right away. Diane Kadanoff will follow up on "Button, button, who's got the FTF button?" Jody Bush and Maureen Enders will be nominated for FTF representatives to the Equality Awards Jury. The Peace Information Exchange Task Force has put a resolution before Council, stating that library collections should include information on the nuclear war and arms race debate; FTF supports this resolution.

RASD DISCUSSION GROUP OF WOMEN'S MATERIALS AND WOMEN LIBRARY USERS

The Midwinter meeting of the RASD Women's Discussion Group focused on the group's future. According to new RASD rules, all discussion groups must re-petition every five years. Since the Women's Discussion Group was founded in 1977 (it is RASD's second oldest group,) RASD has requested a petition as soon as possible. Discussion centered on the group's history and role in ALA. Program topics over the years have included services and materials for Hispanic women, special women's libraries, self-funded humanities programs in public libraries, the National Archives, and "In Reference to Women," the panel discussion on indexing that sparked the movement toward a data base on women's materials. The group felt that, despite the increasing number of women's groups in ALA, there is still a need for a discussion group that addresses women's services and materials in all libraries, including public and special libraries. It was therefore decided to re-petition to continue the RASD Women's Discussion Group, and to look forward to a super program at the 1986 New York Conference. If you are interested in participating, please contact the new coordinator, Donna Nerboso, at 69-10 Yellowstone Blvd., Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375.

ACRL-WSDG

The ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group had two lively meetings, both chaired by Joan Ariel. As a follow-up to a discussion at Dallas, Ariel contacted Magazine ASAP about the absence of feminist magazines in their full-text database and recommended Ms, Essence, and New Directions for Women for consideration. She received the response that negotiations were underway to include Ms and Essence. Ariel later learned that New Directions had been contacted about possibly joining the list of titles indexed in Magazine Index, which is where Magazine ASAP comes from.

The North American Collections Inventory Project (a name change from the National Collections Inventory Project) discussed developing an RLG conspectus on women as a result of another Ariel suggestion. This collection evaluation tool is now being studied by two Yale librarians.

The discussion group endorsed making the membership list available for mailings for a modest fee; Oryx Press, UMI, and the University of Massachusetts Press had already requested and received the list.

The ALA Yearbook on Library and Information Services will include a paragraph on the discussion group in the article on women.

Charlotta Hensley, University of Colorado, is newly appointed to the editorial board of Frontiers and made two announcements: the journal is seeking expansion of its subscription base (it's only \$24 for institutional subscriptions; order from Women Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309), and a special tenth anniversary edition will be put out on the theme, "Women's Studies in Colleges and Universities." Hensley and the board hope to see some good manuscripts on library programs in women's studies. There will be a summer deadline for receipt of manuscripts. Watch for the Spring issue; its theme is "Peace."

Sue Searing, University of Wisconsin, has an article in the first issue of Feminist Teacher. Searing reminds us to consider feminist journals outside librarianship as publishing outlets. Libraries need to become more visible in women's studies.

Leslie Werner at Christopher Newport College has requested correspondents interested in contributing to an annotated guide to resources on American women artists.

The Special Collections issue on women's studies is still forthcoming. Sue Searing announced the availability of her publications, Feminist Collections, and Feminist Periodicals. She is also working on a videotape, "Women in Science: Issues and Resources." Searing also announced that the University of Wisconsin has a very strong collection on nine major American women writers and others less comprehensively covered. A catalog, Cairns Collection of American Women Writers, 1620-1900, is available from the Madison campus library.

Sarah Pritchard, Library of Congress, showed us the new Women's Annual which she edited. It has ten good review essays and is available in hard copy or paper from G.K. Hall. Elizabeth Snapp announced that the fine exhibit on women's contributions to Texas history at Texas Women's University now has a finder's guide available. The Librarians' Task Force of the National Women's Studies Association has two great programs lined up for their annual convention in Seattle, June 19-23. The subjects of the panel discussions are "Censorship" and "Feminized Professions."

ACRL-WSDG Continued

The Collection Development Checklist for Women's Studies is nearing completion and publishing avenues are being explored. Subjects yet to be covered are databases and approval plans. The checklist is aimed at selectors in university, college, public, and selected special libraries, plus women's service agencies and organizations. Ariel commended the contributors for the quality work they are producing.

At the second meeting, Beth Stafford from the University of Illinois, Urbana, announced that she is willing to coordinate a survey of ARL (and perhaps other) libraries to see how women's studies are handled. A subcommittee is being formed; contact Stafford if you want to help.

Meetings at Chicago were discussed. It was decided that one will be a discussion on librarians as resource people to feminist teachers, students, researchers, and others. The program meeting is co-sponsored with WESS and will be on Western European Women Studies. Eva Sartori, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, would like to hear from people interested in preparing or contributing to a bibliography on the subject. Lori Goetsch, University of Illinois, Chicago, and Sue Searing, University of Wisconsin, volunteered to run for Chair-Elect of the discussion group. Because of the cooperative spirit of feminism (and their geographical proximity,) they were elected co-chairs by acclamation.

Sarah Watstein led a discussion on the pros and cons of remaining a discussion group or becoming a section of ACRL. The main points of difference seem to be that the discussion groups are less formal and hierarchical while the sections have more visibility and status and receive budgetary support. We will decide at annual in Chicago.

GAY TASK FORCE

We're all thinking about it: censorship versus pornography which subjugates us. At a program of SRRT's Gay Task Force, we heard an announcement that one of the two featured speakers at that group's program did not dare to attend after a gay man's murder and the subsequent indifference or cheering of it in his New England college town. The remaining speaker, Susan Bryson, a teacher of library science at the Shippensburg (PA) State College, gave a spirited talk about library service for gay and lesbian people in small communities. (Someone pointed out that many big cities are in the same situation.)

After describing her sociological view of small town life, Bryson invited the group to brainstorm for all the reasons why a small town library should or should not provide representative materials about gays and lesbians: a balanced collection, the unserved minority, curiosity provoked by AIDS, etc., or the demand theory of collection development, interlibrary services, job security for the librarian. Bryson next sketched a scenario about a teenager and a book that used the word "gay" in the title. We explored community standards and community reactions to the incident. Members of the audience considered access to information by means of the periodicals collection and reference materials. A woman told of how in her town no one cared about her lesbianism because she's a nice person and anyway everybody in her neighborhood is some kind of "character." Another comment was that when a person hears about a "dirty" book, he or she is as likely to want to read it as not; circulation for a controversial title may soar. In closing, Bryson, admitting risks, advised, "Don't sell your communities short; they may surprise you."

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN LIBRARIANSHIP

COSWL had three meetings, all chaired by Katharine Phenix. For the last several years, COSWL has been compiling demographic characteristics of people nominated for Council. Ellen Broidy distributed the analysis of 1985 nominees with breakdowns by type of library, position, and geographic areas. Notation is made of membership in round tables and divisions. Broidy and Phenix will write a narrative piece and submit for publication. Betty Carol Sellen will compile next year's statistics.

COSWL will co-sponsor two programs at Chicago. One is with the Feminist Task Force which will be a presentation by Dr. Marjorie Lansing on the "Gender Gap: Building on Success for the Public Good;" the second is with the SRRT Union Task Force. The latter program will be a movie and discussion of sexual harassment. \$30 was approved for the Union Task Force to help with expenses. J. Koehler of FTF asked for \$150 for brochures for this and other programs; it was approved.

Bruce Miller reported for the VDT Study Group and handed out a memo and reviews of four pertinent sources. He pointed out that 9to5 and Service Employees International lobby against the big businesses who oppose regulatory legislation. Miller recommends that COSWL stay informed and support the lobbying efforts. A possible new development involves the unverified risk of "pulsed" magnetic fields generated by VDTs, but more research needs to be done on this. Miller feels there is little additional work for the study group at this time, but he will report any new information at annual, at which time the need for the group will be reevaluated. (The reviews were for Video Displays, Work, and Vision; Health Hazards of VDTs?; Video Display Terminal Workstation Ergonomics; and the new bimonthly newsletter, VDT News.)

Marnie Warner showed the brochure she edited on the re-entry woman in librarianship and accepted some suggestions for changes. When the brochure is ready for distribution, it will be announced in WIL. Mary Walters and Barbara Ford worked on a draft of a resolution for Council to try to get a policy statement on re-entry workers. Katharine Phenix has written a summary article on the re-entry project and will send it out for publication.

Neel Parikh reported on the Carnegie bibliographies. The eight bibliographies, the work of about 25 people, are nearly ready. The design is not definitive yet. Still to come: bibliographies on pay equity, women in politics, and black women. Distribution was discussed; it should be free to national associations and COSWL-sponsored programs, and perhaps bring a small fee from other groups. Parikh plans to have them done by summer. The output should be 5,000 brochures and 2,000 bibliographies.

Sarah Watstein updated the sexual harassment project which COSWL co-sponsored with FTF. Watstein, Stephanie Kreps, and Mary Beth Minick drafted a proposal and sample questionnaire and worked with ALA Office of Research to improve it. The Working Women's Institute helped clean it up. The committee is trying to meet the March deadline for a goal award submission.

The seven original fact sheets of the legislative subcommittee are available. Topics include pensions, pay equity, nondiscrimination in insurance, health effects of VDTs, ERA, abortion, and child care. They can be obtained from COSWL, ALA headquarters. Please send SASE. Marnie Warner brought a draft of a new fact sheet on social security which will be available soon. Kay Cassell is the new chair of the legislative committee.

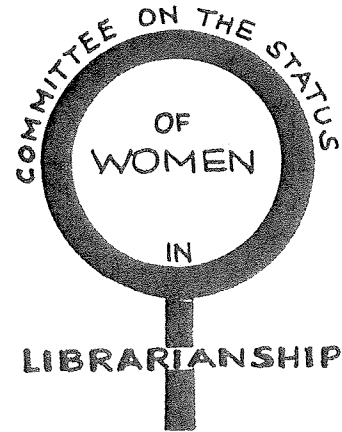
Betty Carol Sellen and Mary Walters will be COSWL's representatives to the Equality Award jury. Forms for nominations will be out earlier this year, probably by annual.

COSWL Continued

Diane Kadanoff reported on the fledgling Speakers' Bureau. 65 questionnaires were sent out; 17 have been sent back. M. Walters reported that some women contacted did not want to send previous speeches; Kadanoff said it wasn't really required. If you are interested in being listed as a potential speaker, please write Kadanoff, Norwell Public Library, 64 South Street, Norwell, MA 02061, and ask for a profile form to fill out. If you know of good speakers who might like to be included, nominate them to Kadanoff. Speakers are needed on a wide variety of women's issues.

Barbara Ford presented the chapter survey to find out what's been done on women's issues at that level. The survey and cover letter were endorsed by COSWL. Ford suggested we send to chapter councilors. Discussion ensued on whether to include bibliography, brochure, re-entry information, fact sheets, and other information. It was decided to send only the survey at this time and prepare a follow-up package. Bring ideas to annual of what to include in the follow-up mailing.

Forms were distributed displaying various ingenious and creative suggestions for logos for COSWL. This is the one which was selected. It will be appearing soon on letterheads, brochures, and bibliographies. Ellen Broidy discussed the revision of the COSWL brochure which she prepared. It needs a little more work. Broidy will add the logo and get the brochure professionally type-set and will bill COSWL for the type-setting. Jane Arvanities agreed to work with COSWL on color coordination for a multi-color design.



Mike Leber discussed the preconference being planned for 1986 on Pay Equity for which a goal award is being sought. The intent of the conference is to train librarians to select the most effective methods to establish pay equity in their libraries. It will cover the legal, administrative, and legislative approaches.

It was announced that the National Committee on Pay Equity is in severe fiscal trouble. Individual memberships are only \$15; won't you consider joining? They are the only national coalition of organizations and individuals who have announced their intent to achieve economic equality for women and minorities through pay equity. For more information write: National Committee on Pay Equity, 1202 16th Street, N.W., Suite 422, Washington, D.C. 20036.

LIBRARIANS' TASK FORCE OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the Librarians' Task Force of the NWSA is to facilitate and enhance the flow of information among women and to provide a framework within which individual women can effectively meet their information needs. They have an admirable list of goals including reexamining traditional concepts of information, developing a feminist approach to the practice of librarianship, informing the feminist community about the role of librarians as information specialists, and initiating new reference tools. Project ideas include development of a computerized women's studies database and library instruction aids for women's studies, and establishment of columns on librarianship in feminist journals. For further information, contact Connie Miller, Chair, LTF/NWSA, University of Illinois at Chicago, Library-Box 8198, Chicago, IL 60680.

YALE WORKERS STRIKE FOR EQUAL PAY

According to Peace & Freedom, a publication of the U.S. Section of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, 1600 clerical and technical workers at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, are out on strike. This is reportedly the first time in the nation's history that a private employer is being forced to address the issue of comparable work. The workers are members of the Federation of University Employees, Local 34, and include receptionists, secretaries, computer specialists, medical researchers, technical writers, lab assistants, and library assistants. At Yale, minority employees average \$12,616 after six years, males average \$14,194 after five years, and white females \$13,615 after five years. The 950 members of Local 35, the food service and maintenance employees at Yale, have refused to cross the picket lines. So far, about 640 strikers, students, faculty members, and community people have been arrested in support of the strike. The strikers feel they are out for equal pay and other economic issues such as pensions, health benefits, and job security, and, perhaps the hardest to define, respect. **HOT FLASH:** The strike has been settled. More in next issue...

"WOMEN OF COURAGE" EXHIBIT

The instigator of the 1955 bus boycott in Montgomery, the prominent painter of Southern plantation life, and the physician who founded a clinic for thousands of migrant workers, are among the 71 black women, from age 49 to 99, portrayed in "Women of Courage," an unusual exhibit of color portraits at the New York Public Library, from December 7 to February 28. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College, which in 1976 began the Black Women Oral History Project to document the lives of black women across the U.S. who were leaders in their professions or communities and whose accomplishments would otherwise be inadequately recorded. The exhibit, which goes on national tour after its premiere at NYPL, features color portraits by Judith Sedwick. A 64-page, full-color catalog, with an introduction by historian Linda M. Perkins, will be available at the Library gift shop (Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street) for \$5.95. If you are in the N.Y. area, you still have time to visit this fine exhibit.

NEW (OLD) BOOK

"Wake up! assert your right to yourselves, and live it. Harken! do you not hear the declarations of the Universal Life whispering through Mother Nature's attractions: 'You belong to yourselves!'" In another of her writings (The Curse of Christian Morality), nineteenth century American feminist Lois Waisbrooker thus enjoined women to take control of their lives. Her book, A Sex Revolution, goes further, suggesting that women take the lead in overcoming the evils of church, state, and commerce. Specifically, she proposes that women take charge for a period of just fifty years with a view toward abolishing war. With particular force, the author takes on the inequities of marriage and connects them to the issues of alcohol abuse and prostitution. This novel, first published in 1893, seems to promote the theory of the intrinsically civilizing nature of Woman. Whether or not you agree with that premise, you may enjoy its fiery rhetoric. Newly issued by New Society Publishers, the text is preceded by a fine introduction by peace activist Pam McAllister.

BED & BREAKFAST

If Chicago hotel prices are too steep for you, you may want to take Pat Lucas up on her offer to provide bed and breakfast for at least a couple of librarians. If you are interested (\$10!) call Pat at (312) 973-5160 (home) or 679-1380 (work).

FINANCIAL AIDS FOR WOMEN

There are literally millions of dollars of financial aid scholarships, grants, and loans available to students each year to help pay for their college education. A newly revised version of Financial Aid: A Partial List of Resources for Women is designed to help women learn about and obtain their fair share of these financial aid dollars. Published by the Project on the Status and Education of Women of the Association of American Colleges, the Financial Aid booklet details programs available to high school students applying to college, older women, minority women, women considering nontraditional careers, and others at all levels of postsecondary education. The booklet is available for \$2.50 prepaid from the Project at 1818 R St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. Make check out to AAC/PSEW. Bulk rates are available.

The Money for Women Fund Inc. announces the availability of small grants to feminists in need of financial assistance who either seek through projects, writing or artistic expression to analyze or examine or by some other means to shed light upon the condition of women; or seek to achieve greater self-development or self-realization, especially in the arts. Deadlines are February 1 and July 1, 1985. Contact Money for Women Fund, Inc., 207 Coastal Highway, St. Augustine, Florida 32084.

Radcliffe Research Support Program awards grants to postdoctoral scholars utilizing the materials at Schlesinger Library. The grants amount to \$1500 or less and may be applied for February 15 or April 15, 1985. Information on application procedures may be requested from the Library.

Send articles or comments to Kay Jones, UNM Library, Albuquerque, NM 87131. 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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