

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT TASK
FORCE ON WOMEN

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Ed. Kay Cassell

TASK FORCE ON WOMEN AT 1979 MIDWINTER

The Task Force on Women held several meetings at the recent ALA Midwinter Conference. At Sunday's meeting, Rick Eggleton from the University of North Carolina told of research that Rosann Collins, a student of his, had done on fear of success among librarians. Using a survey group of 86 library school students, she found no difference in fear of success between male and female students. Fear of success seems to be a dynamic variable, increasing or decreasing with changes in age and lifestyle. Persons who want a copy of a lengthy article on this survey may write to: Rick Eggleton, Atkins Library, UNCC Station, Charlotte N.C. 28223.

Kay Cassell brought to the Task Force attention a report on three reader surveys in the December issue of American Libraries which contained editorializing derogatory to women. A letter protesting this article was sent to AL's editor, Arthur Plotnik.

At the Monday, January 8 meeting, the Task Force discussed the Executive Board's decision to return to the Palmer House in Chicago for the 1980 Midwinter Conference. Members unanimously endorsed a motion, later presented at Council one, to overturn the Executive Board's decision.

When Peggy Sullivan, a nominee for ALA president, appeared before the TFW that afternoon, she stated that she would vote in council to overturn the board's decision. Both she and Alice Ihrig, the other presidential nominee, did so vote. (Mrs. Ihrig spoke to the TFW on Wednesday, after the council had voted to overturn the Executive Board's decision).

Both candidates felt that more women should be appointed to ALA committees and that the types of committees to which they are appointed are very important-- more women need to be on significant committees. Describing herself as "action oriented", Alice Ihrig stressed the need for ALA to cooperate more with other organizations and her belief that libraries and librarians need to be more visible-- ALA can help this, she feels. Both candidates answered numerous questions from the audience. Jean-Anne South, a petition candidate for ALA president, entered the race too late to appear at a task force meeting.

TFW - 1979 MIDWINTER cont.

Following it's past policy, the TFW did not endorse a presidential candidate. It did, as in previous years, endorse candidates for ALA Council whose views are compatible with those of the TFW membership. This year eight candidates were endorsed: Linda Bretz, Ellen Gay Detlefsen, Barbara Ford, Cynthia Johanson, Diane Kadanoff, Joan Marshall, Regina Minudri, Pat Schuman and Ilse Moon.

A planning committee for the 1980 pre-conference on women to be held before the 1980 annual conference in New York City has been set up. Betty Carol Sellen is chairing the planning committee. The subjects to be dealt with at the pre-conference will include: horizontal career development, women in management, sexual harassment, the usefulness of professional associations, and services and resources to women in the community.

Two programs are planned at the Dallas Conference --- one featuring an author and another on comparable work/comparable pay.

The possibility of offering a women's speaker's bureau to library schools was discussed. Guidelines are yet to be established.

THE ERA IS THE ISSUE

As most of you know, the American Library Association has affirmed since 1974 its support of the Equal Rights Amendment as well as of the move to extend the time for ratification of the ERA. It has also supported the National Plan of Action from the Houston National Women's Conference.

In 1977 the ALA moved not to meet in any unratified states after 1981 which was the date beyond which the Association had made no site commitments. However, many ALA members met most unhappily in Chicago in June 1978 where the week before, the Illinois Legislators had once again failed to ratify the ERA. As almost an afterthought, following a heated debate concerning the possibility of moving ALA headquarters out of Illinois, the ALA Council voted to move the 1979 ALA Midwinter out of Chicago. This left only one Chicago meeting between 1979 and the 1981 resolution. As a result, many people went to Washington, D. C. in January determined to see that the site of the January 1980 conference be moved to a state which had ratified the ERA. The Executive Board at its first meeting in Washington reaffirmed the ALA contract with the Palmer House in Chicago for Midwinter 1980. Those voting to move the meeting out of Chicago were: Eric Moon, Thomas Galvin, Don Trottier and Norman Horrocks. (no women voted to move out of Chicago!!) The issue then went to the floor of Council, where a tie Council vote was broken by President Russell Shank who voted with the people asking to have the conference moved out of Chicago. Presidential Candidates,

THE ERA IS THE ISSUE cont.

Ihrig and Sullivan also supported the move out of Chicago. The issue is a complex one. The Palmer House has indicated it might sue for our failure to meet in Chicago in January 1979, though it has not, to date, done so. Our lawyer, Mr. Newton Minow, says we do have a binding commitment with the Palmer House both for 1979 and 1980, but there are holes in that commitment.

It is also a serious situation for all people who support the ERA economic boycott. For such a large association to break the economic boycott by meeting in Chicago could be viewed as the first sign of the boycott's failure. It is indeed a difficult situation.

A mail ballot is now being prepared with statements pro and con, to allow the ALA membership to voice its opinion on this important issue.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

An international conference to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the publication, The Second Sex, will be held September 27 - 29, 1979 at the New York Institute for the Humanities at New York University. The conference aim is to bring together individuals from different countries and different fields to discuss the tasks of feminist theory today. Conference attendance will be by pre-registration only, beginning April 1. For further information, contact, Jessica Benjamin, The New York Institute for the Humanities at New York University, 19 University Place, New York, N.Y. 10003.

The first annual conference on "Women in Crisis" will be held in New York City, May 17 - 19. This conference will address the issues and needs of disadvantaged women caught up in the additional problems of alcohol, drugs, crime or mental health disabilities. For further information write: Women in Crises, First Annual Conference, 444 Park Avenue S., New York, N. Y. 10016

"Feminist Visions of the Future" is a conference which will be held March 2-4, 1979 at California State University in Chico, California. Speakers will include Robin Morgan, Dr. Mary Daly, Dorothy Bryant and Z Budapest. The fee is \$35. For more information, write Gayle Kimball, Women's Studies 420 California State University, Chico, Ca. 95929

The National Conference of the National Women's Studies Association will be held at the University of Kansas at Lawrence, May 30 - June 3. NWSA is presently inviting program proposals. For more information, contact Emily Abel and Peg Stroebel, % Women's Studies Program, California State University, Long Beach, Ca. 90840

SUSAN B. ANTHONY DOLLAR*****

The Susan B. Anthony dollar coin will be put in circulation July 1979. An information packet on this special coin is available from: The Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint, Warner Bldg., 501 13th St., N.W. Marketing Division, Washington, D.C. 20220

SPECIAL NOTE

Information on the ERA ratification efforts is available from ERAmerica. Write them at 1525 M. Street, N.W. Suite 602, Washington, D.C. 20005

PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

The Women's Equity Action League has announced publication of a revised edition of Equal Rights Amendment for Equal Justice Under the Law, a pamphlet examining the history, present status and future ramifications of the Equal Rights Amendment. Copies of the report are available for 75¢ each from WEAL, 805 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Special bulk rates are available upon request.

Womanbooks, a New York City women's bookstore, has published a 12 page annotated "Lesbian Booklist". Write them at 201 W. 92 St. New York, N.Y. 10025 for a copy. Cost per copy is 25¢.

International Books for Children Bulletin vol. 9, no. 8, entitled "Title IX: A Tool To Change Your School" is an excellent resource for those interested in this issue, and is available from The Council on Interracial Books for Children, 1841 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023 for \$2.00 an issue.

Chicago Women in Publishing has compiled, Equality in Print, A Guide for Editors and Publishers, which covers the use of nonsexist terminology in advertising, business, educational materials, newspapers and periodicals. This pamphlet is available for \$1.50 per copy from Chicago Women in Publishing, P.O. Box 11837, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

The Passionate Perils of Publishing is issue no. 17 of Booklegger Magazine. It includes guides to the independent press, the feminist press, the library free press, and non-sexist children's books as well as articles on the literary-industrial complex and a guide to publishing your work yourself. This informative and useful issue is available for \$3 pre-paid and \$4 invoiced by writing Booklegger Press, 555 29th Street, San Francisco 94131

PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE cont.

The Helen Review is " a magazine edited by women and sensitive to the poet outside the literary establishment.." They publish poetry, book reviews and critical articles on poets and issues involving poetry. Their first issue includes an interview with Susan Fromberg Schaffer and poetry by Lyn Lifshin and Marilyn Hacker. The Helen Review is published three times a year and is available by writing 2039 Mill Ave, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234. Subscriptions are \$6/ year

Flexitime, a new type of work schedule, improves employee morale and reduces tardiness and absenteeism, reports Catalyst in a newly published study. The Catalyst Report on Flexitime describes the origin and variations of flexitime and its effect on employers, workers and their families. Catalyst reports that large numbers of European companies use flexitime, but as yet only 8% of the American workers are on the system. The study includes case histories of companies that have adopted flexitime and a selected list of companies using the system.

The report is now available from Catalyst, 14 E. 60th Street, Box WIL, New York, N.Y. 10022. Price \$3.00

BOOKS ** BOOKS ** BOOKS ** BOOKS ** BOOKS ** BOOKS ** etc.

New from Daughters Publishing Co. Inc. MS 590, P.O. Box 42999, Houston Tx. 77042:

X : A Fabulous Child's Story by Lois Gould (\$7.50) is a delightful story for both adults and children about the experiment to raise a child in a completely non-sexist fashion.

Shedding by Vernon Stefan (\$5.00) was originally published in Germany and was "The Bible of the Women's Movement" there. It's the story of a woman's self-exploration through her relationships with both men and women ending with her realization that she has gained a new sense of self.

Kittatinny: A Tale of Magic by Joanna Russ (\$5.00) is a new fantasy written for young people in which young Kit visits a land of fabulous creatures including a woman warrior and tests her skills and bravery.

Elsewhere on the book scene:

Love Stories by New Women, edited by Charleen Swansea and Barbara Campbell (Red Clay Books, 63366 Sharon Hills Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28210 \$5.50.)

BOOKS cont.

Red Clay Books, a publishing house run by women, has published a rather unique collection of short stories presenting a variety of women's views on love. They deal with women's passions, their fantasies and their love of men. Some are funny and others more biting. This collection comes your way with high recommendation.

A Purchasing Guide To Products of Companies Employing Women in Non-Traditional Positions 1978 - 1979 by Kathleen P. O'Donnell, 103 Byrn Mawr Ave. Lansdowne, PA 19050 has been compiled to provide a way to give economic support to companies having women in non-traditional positions. The companies listed all have headquarters in states that have now ratified the ERA. The book also includes useful tools for those seeking employment.

Guide to Women's Publishing by Polly Joan and Andrea Chesman is an invaluable source of information. It is divided into: Feminist Journals, Women's Newspapers, Presses, Distribution and Additional Resources. There is an essay at the beginning of each section and all entries are annotated. It is by far the most comprehensive directory of its kind. (Dustbooks, PO Box 100, Paradise, Ca. 95969, \$4.95/paper; \$9.95/cloth.)

In Appalachian Winter Betsy Sholl writes poems about incidents from her own life. She writes in easily accessible terms which should gain her a wide readership. (Alicejamesbooks, 138 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138 \$3.50)

Women Working: An Anthology of Stories and Poems, edited by Nancy Hoffman and Florence Howe, contains thirty-four stories and poems. It is divided into four sections- Oppressive Work, Satisfying Work, Family Work and Transforming Work. The introduction provides "a brief history of women's work" and an essay on "recurrent themes in the experience of women's work". It is an excellent anthology including both well known writers such as Toni Cade Bambara, Tillie Olsen and Dorothy Canfield Fisher as well as new writers. This will be a well-used and well-loved anthology- perfect for a library discussion group (Feminist Press and McGraw-Hill Book Co. \$5.50)

AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

Side by Side: Reenactments of Scenes from Women's History, 1848 to 1920, is a new recording from Galaxia, Box 212 Woburn, Mass 01801. This two-record album has brought to life 23 scenes from the history of women. Speeches by Sarah Grimke, Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott and others are included. Recommended for all library record

AUDIO VISUAL cont.

collections. (\$8.95) Also available from Women in Distribution.

Babydance is a film on pregnancy. Its message is given by a woman dancer who is eight months pregnant. Babydance is available for rental for \$30/2 days or purchase for \$225 from the Stansfeild House, 12381 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 203 Los Angeles, CA 90025 (15 min. color)

INDEX TO WOMEN IN LIBRARIES AVAILABLE

An index to the first six volumes (1970-1977) of Women in Libraries is now available for \$3.50. Copies of volumes 1-7 are also available for \$4.00 for individuals and \$6.00 for institutions (per volume). Orders should be sent to Women in Libraries, % Kay Cassell, 44 Nathaniel Blvd., Delmar, N.Y. 12054. Checks should be made payable to the ALA/SRRT Task Force on Women.

FURTHER PUBLICATIONS

Women in Libraries is listed in the 1978 Media Report to Women Index/Directory. The directory is an invaluable source of information on women's periodicals, presses, film, video and cable groups, art, music, bookstores, library collections, etc.. It can be ordered for \$8.00 from the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, 3306 Ross Pl. N.W. Washington, DC 20008.

The New Women's Times Feminist Review is a new national publication which will be published six times a year as a regular supplement to the New Women's Times. Subscriptions to the dual publication can be purchased for \$10/yr. from New Women's Times, 1357 Monroe Ave. Rochester, NY 14618. Single copies of the New Women's Times Feminist Review are \$1.00 plus 25¢ postage.

The Urban and Social Change Review has published a special issue on women and work. Single copies of this issue may be obtained for \$5.00 from: The Urban and Social Review, room 202, McGinn-Hall, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167

Sex Stereotyping in Institutional Materials and Television: Awareness Kit by Matilda Butler is available from the Women's Educational Equity Communications Network, 1855 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 for \$2.50. Also available from WEECN is the Guide to Organizations Working For Women's Educational Equity: An Initial Directory (\$5)



ALWAYS USE ZIP CODE

FURTHER PUBLICATIONS cont.

Displaced Homemakers: A CETA Program Model - Fitchburg, Massachusetts is available free from the Women's Bureau, U. S. Dept. of Labor, Washington, DC 21210. This is a model of a program designed to meet the special employment related needs of displaced homemakers.

The second edition of Professional Women and Minorities A Manpower Data Resource Service is now available. It is designed to provide statistical manpower information on the professional workforce in the U.S. and availability data for women and minorities within this professional workforce. Over 350 tables and charts are included as well as an annotated list of recruitment resources for women and minorities. The Service can be purchased for \$75 from the Scientific Manpower Commission, 1776 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

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