

# the NETWORKER



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Editor : Diane Pritchard

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I write this first message to the membership of the WAWH. I first attended a meeting of the WAWH in 1973 (it was then the WCAWH, and I was a graduate student). The meeting site was the Convent of the Sacred Heart retreat house in Santa Cruz, and was informal by present standards -- I think 99% of us were dressed in blue jeans, boots and serapes; seating at the sessions was apt to be on the floor. Indicative perhaps of our informality, the luncheon was creamed tuna and peas on toast.

But the essence of the conference was an electric excitement about the work in which we were engaged; presentations engendered impassioned discussion, and we shared a sense of the importance of providing a forum for the presentation of women's scholarship.

That essential feeling of collegiality and intellectual engagement also characterized Conference XVII at Mills College, May 10-12, 1985. The program was representative of the rich scholarship and varied interests of the WAWH membership, with sessions on the history of feminism, women in the performing arts, recent research in medieval history, surrealism in art and literature, archival resources, and publication.

A breadth of fields was also evident: among panels on the history of the United States were papers on the Nixon presidency, Afro-American girls' clubs, the public and private life of Margaret Fuller, and Chinese women in rural California. The centennial of Eleanor Roosevelt's birth was celebrated in an exhibit and in a plenary session addressed by ER's personal secretary, Patricia Baillargeon.

Other sessions presented research on British India, women and medicine in early modern Europe, women and culture in 20th century Latin America, resistance and revolution in Italy and China, and theoretical approaches to the gender origins of art.

The use of film for the presentation of historical work was displayed in "Hope: Songs of the Fourth World," by Pat Ferraro; "The Departure," by Emiko Omori, and "Women in the Cattle Culture" by Nancy Kelley.

Jane DeHart-Mathews, Director of Women's Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spoke on "The

Threat of Equality: ERA and the Myth of Female Solidarity" at the Presidents' Banquet. Professor Grant Goodman, University of Kansas, spoke at the Sunday lunch on "Vanguard of Empire: Japanese Prostitutes in Southeast Asia, 1880-1920."

Congratulations and many thanks are due to Program Chair Lorrie O'Dell and her committee for their work and commitment to producing an outstanding conference, rich in scope and rewarding to all who attended.

Conference plans for May 9-11, 1986, are underway. Conference Program Chair is Maryanne Horowitz, Director of Women's Studies, Occidental College, Los Angeles, California 90041. Sue Hull, Director of Administration at The Huntington Library, is liaison with The Huntington. Peggy Renner, 775 North Mentor Avenue, Pasadena, California 91104, is Conference Coordinator.

I look forward to my term in office and to working with the new executive board. I feel that I receive a solid legacy: the WAWH has a proud record of providing a forum for the presentation of the work of women scholars; of working to improve the status of women historians in the profession, whether they be working in academia or as independent scholars; of providing support to one another at all levels. The Sierra Award, the Article Prize, the Graduate Fellowship Fund, and the Graduate Paper Prize are but the most recent and visible evidence of these achievements.

As Jess Flemion turned the gavel over to me, she remarked that the WAWH has reached a point where we can realize whatever "dreams we dream." In her term as president, she did much to make that possibility true through the quality of her leadership, in the creation of the Graduate Fellowship Fund and Article Prize, and in her unstinting dedication of time and energy on behalf of women historians.

In the next years the WAWH will continue to build on the programs so well begun. I believe that at no time has it been more important to provide a sympathetic forum for women scholars. This need is demonstrated by the fact that in recent years the WAWH Conference has attracted more and more scholars from the arts, literature, and other areas of the Humanities and Social Sciences in addition to our original constituency of women in the historical profession.

Additionally, I wish to maintain and strengthen the role

which the WAWH Conference and **The Networker** play in alerting members to issues of professional and political significance, and in offering an arena for debate, discussion, and **communication** among our membership. In keeping with this effort, the new executive board position of Regional Liaison was created to help the WAWH establish good lines of communication with the growing number of regional organizations of women historians, including independent scholars and women's studies programs in the western states.

I enter the office of the presidency aware of the **WAWH's** history of accomplishment, earned through the dedicated efforts of our membership, concerned that there is yet an acute need for vigilance in order to continue to support and promote the interests of women scholars; and, **finally**, with the **firm** intention of enlisting the considerable resources of the WAWH in the realization of whatever "dreams we may dream."

— Francesca Miller

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## 1985 WAWH CONFERENCE REPORT

Conference **XVII** of the WAWH was held at Mills College, Oakland, on **May 10-12, 1985**. Laurie James, with her **interpretive** drama of Margaret Fuller, set the tone for a stimulating and exciting conference, and 146 official registrants shared ideas during twenty-eight separate panels and presentations. Banquet speaker Jane **DeHart Matthews** and luncheon speaker Brant Goodman discussed their research with receptive audiences. Plenary sessions on Eleanor Roosevelt, conducted by her former secretary Pat Baillargeon, **and on** defining feminism sparked both thought and discussion. The fund-raiser for the Graduate Student Fellowship Fund raised a gratifying \$545.00.

I would like to take this opportunity to send many thanks to the WAWH members who gave their time and energy to make this such a successful conference: Arrangements Chair Linda Popofsky, Georgiana Davidson, Jess Flemion, Deborah Frangquist, Ellen Huppert, Joanne **Lafler**, Dorothy Ludlow, and Francesca Miller. It was a pleasure to work with such a talented and thoughtful group.

See you all next year at The Huntington!

— Lorrie O'Dell

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# CONFERENCE REPORT

## AHA-PCB

The WAWH sponsored two events at the **annual** meeting of the American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch, held at Stanford University June **25-28**. S. Barbara Kanner, UCLA, served as chair and commentator for the session, "Toward a Definition of Feminism." Karen **Offen**, Center for Research on Women, Stanford University, spoke on "Toward a Historical Perspective of Feminism," and Judith Albert, UC Berkeley, spoke on "A Philosophical Consideration of Feminism."

Professor Cynthia Brantley, University of California, Davis, was the keynote speaker at the luncheon sponsored by the WAWH. Her topic was, "Women in Africa: A History of Feeding the Family." Professor Brantley's research, carried out in Kenya, Britain, and in archival collections in the United States, addressed not only the role of women in all aspects of providing food for the family, from their work in agriculture to the preparation of meals, but reassessed previously accepted "base" studies which have formed attitudes toward "improving" African agricultural practices and the traditional diet since the **1920's**. Her talk underlined the importance of historical analysis in assessing individually undertaken contemporary studies, as well as demonstrating the critical role of African women in feeding the family.

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As many of our members are aware, the PCBAHA Conference Program did not include the announcement and scheduling of the WAWH-sponsored lunch and speaker, notwithstanding written confirmation of the event and assurance that proper arrangements had been made with the Stanford University Conference Center for the lunch program. The omission was immediately called to the attention of both **AHA-PCB** Program Chair Ian **Mugridge** and Arrangements Chair John A. Shutz. A separate mailing was requested

This request was refused, but the WAWH was assured that posters announcing the event would be prominently displayed at

all conference sites, and that flyers would be distributed in the registration packets. The information for the flyers and posters was sent directly to the Arrangements Chair, who again stated that arrangements for the lunch were in place, and that the omission from the program had been a publication error.

Unfortunately this did not prove to be the case. The two small posters were inadequate, the "flyer" became an obscure item on a xeroxed list of program changes, and the "arrangements" for the luncheon turned out to be a small section of the cafeteria, separated from the main dining room by a folding wall. Not only were the promised podium and microphone missing, but when the Conference Center was contacted and asked to bring one over, they refused, stating they had specifically been told not to provide one **for the "ladies meeting."** Nor could the WAWH rent one on its own — only those already scheduled by the arrangements committee were available.

The immediate results were twofold: First, the WAWH speaker was forced to compete with the general racket of the cafeteria, the din of talking from the main part of the dining room, and, as an added touch, the roar of a weed cutter directly outside a room with no podium and no microphone. Secondly, the audience, which for the past five years has been limited only by the seating capacity of the prescheduled room for the WAWH program, was scant

The omission of the WAWH lunch and program from the AHA-PCB program may be excused: errors can occur in the complex process of putting a conference together. However, the indifferent and misleading manner in which WAWH requests for aid in rectifying the error were met cannot be excused

The incident has been brought to the attention of the Council of the PCB-AHA. The WAWH has asked that a formal apology be extended to our speaker and to our organization, and for written assurance that, at future PCBAHA meetings, the program contributions of the WAWH will be honored in a professional manner.

— F.M.

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## 1984 PRIZE RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following **1984** winners of WAWH Annual Awards announced at the Mills College meeting in May:

**Sierra Prize:** Michele Root-Bernstein, *Boulevard Theater and Revolution in Eighteenth-Century Paris*, UMI Research Press, Ann Arbor, MI.

**Article Prize:** Anne M. Boylan, "Women in Groups: An Analysis of Women's Benevolent Organizations in New York and Boston, 1797-1840," *Journal of American History*, December **1984**.

## 1986 WAWH CONFERENCE FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

The Western Association of Women Historians' annual conference will be held at The Huntington Library, San **Marino**, CA May **9-11, 1986**. We request that panel and paper proposals include three copies of the paper abstract and of the *curriculum vitae* for each participant. Proposals should be addressed to: Professor Maryanne Horowitz, Program Chair WAWH, Department of History, Occidental College, **Los Angeles, CA 90041**. Deadline of submission for proposals is January **15, 1986**.

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

With this issue of **The Networker**, it is my privilege to take over the care and feeding of this newsletter from Carole Hicke, **long-time** editor, in whose thoughtful hands it has taken shape and been nurtured. Carole deserves accolades from us all for her work in bringing our far-flung, diverse membership a little closer together.

You may note some changes in **The Networker**: the healthy financial condition of our organization has made possible type-setting and bulk mailing of the newsletter, and we hope this results in streamlining both its looks and the tedious mailing process. Bulk mailing has not been attempted before due to concern about possible non-delivery and/or delayed delivery, so this issue is in the nature of an experiment. If your copy takes **longer than 8-10 days to reach** you, please let me know so we can determine the ultimate fate of bulk mailing **The Networker**.

We would also like to institute a Recent Publications column to **keep our** members informed of new books and articles that may **be of** interest. We don't envision a book review-type critique, but rather a simple notice of the publication's appearance, its citation, and some indication of its contents. Since such a column will be largely dependent upon support by our membership, I avidly solicit your comments!

Finally, I would like to remind members that news of their activities, publication, etc., is of great interest to us all. I was delighted to inherit a nice selection of member news for this issue of **The Networker** from Carole. Thank you to those who contributed, and please keep the letters coming. Incidentally, two members sent news but no identifying information, and a third member's writing was undecipherable. If you don't see your information in this issue, write me again — but please! Be complete — include the whole picture: who, what, why, where and when. And if you don't type, please print clearly. An all-purpose form for sending information to the newsletter will be published in each issue of **The Networker** for your convenience.

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## NEW MEMBERS

The Western Association of Women Historians welcomes forty-three new members who joined in **1985!** The following list shows academic affiliations and fields of special interest insofar as this information is currently available. It would be appreciated very much if members for whom this information is lacking, or incomplete, would contact the Secretary so that the records will be complete. Updated information from other members who have recently changed address and/or affiliation would also be appreciated.

To record all data changes, as well as to inquire about membership, please just drop a card to: Georgiana Davidson, 1623 Francisco **Street**, Apt B., Berkeley, CA 94703.

**Judith Babbitts**: Yale University; women's history; history of photography; **19th-20th** century cultural history

**Barbara Bair**: American studies; women's literature

**Florence Baker**: **UCLA**; modern European history

**Rev. Sarah Barber-Braun**: Unitarian Universalist women

**Margaret A. Beemer**: **UCLA**; History of religions — specialty, American Indian religions; Native American history; ethnohistory

**Susan Groag Bell**: Center for Research on Women, Stanford University

**Beverly Berg**: Portland State University; medieval history

**Ellen Berger**

**Melinda K. Blade**: Coronado, CA

**Willie M. Coleman**: California Polytechnic State University; Nineteenth century black female activists

**Robert J. Dinkin**: California State University, Fresno; American history; women's history

**Joan Dusa**: **UCLA**; Medieval Balcan history; Italian cities; Byzantium

**Lyla Ferris**: California State University, Sacramento; California history; history of Sacramento

**Lynn Finger**: California State University, Fullerton; American women's history; oral history

**Colleen Fliedner**: California State University, Long Beach; California history; history of western U.S.; oral history

**Edith Gelles**: Center for Research on Women, Stanford; colonial America

**Karen Gernant**: South Oregon State College

**Barbara Gray**

**Elizabeth Griego**: Mills college; women's history

**Alice Hall**: **Cornell** University; labor relations; industry

**Grace Hawes**: Hoover Institution Archives; **Sino-American** relations

**Sherry Katz**: **UCLA**; U.S. labor history

**Daphne Knipe**: San Jose State University

**Rosalie Kuwath**: San Francisco State University; Latin America; U.S. history

**Helen Lara-Cea**: University of California, Davis; Chicano history; Latin America

**Jeanne McDonnell**: Women's Heritage Museum; women's history

**Karen K. Miller**: University of California, **Santa** Barbara; black studies

**Shirley A. Mullen**: Westmont College; Victorian England; modern Europe

**Diane North**: University of California, Davis; U.S. History, particularly the American West

**Jeanne G. O'Brien**: U.S. foreign policy, 1945-85; French history, 1820-1870

**Cynthia Orozco**: American and Chicano history

**Jean Paquette**: **UCLA**; British Empire

**Phyllis Peet**: **UCLA**; American art; American women artists

**Claire Cone Robertson**

**Vicki L. Ruiz**: University of **California**, Davis; Chicano history

**J'Nan Morse Sellery**: Harvey Mudd College; 20th century British and American literature

**Linda Sersch**: California State University, **Hayward**; women's studies

**Anne Simonson**: San Jose State University; Art history — Northern Renaissance, medieval, modern

**Sheila M. Skjeie**: California Department of Parks and Recreation; California history; California and the **15th** Amendment

**Wendy Slatkin**

**Julia C. Smith**

**Autumn Stanley**: Center for Research on Women, Stanford; women as entrepreneurs in U.S. business history; history of technology; comparative mythology

**Hyshka Stross**: American art in **1930's**, 40's; 19th and 20th century American architecture

## WAWH AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Western Association of Women Historians has four prizes open to members:

**SIERRA BOOK AWARD** — The Sierra Award is given for the best book published by a member of WAWH during the year. The prize is \$100, and is announced at the Presidents' Dinner at the annual spring conference. Inquiries about the 1986 award should be made to Dr. Linda Popovky, Department of History, Mills College, Oakland, CA 94613.

**WAWH ARTICLE PRIZE** — This is given for the best article published by a member of the WAWH in 1985. The prize is \$100, and will be announced at the Presidents' Dinner at the 1986 spring conference. Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Ruth Rosen, Department of History, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

**WAWH GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP** — The fellowship is open to graduate student members of WAWH who have completed all work toward the **Ph.D.** degree except the dissertation. The award for 1985-1986 is \$500, and only one will be given. The WAWH is currently working to build a permanent endowment for the fellowship program which will allow us to disperse \$1,000 per year. Inquiries should be sent to Dr. Jacqueline **Barnhart**, Department of History, CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929.

**WAWH GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER PRIZE** — Up to three papers will be selected for presentation at the annual conference from among those submitted by members of WAWH who are graduate students. Each carries a \$50 award. Requests for guidelines should be addressed to Dr. Paula **Eldot**, CSU Sacramento, CA 95819.

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**BOGNA LORENCE-KOT** recently returned from four months in Poland where she researched Klementyna Hormanowa, an early nineteenth century Polish woman. The trip was made possible through an IREX grant.

Oral historian **THERESE M. PIPE** assisted the Berkeley Oral History Project of the Berkeley Historical Society (CA) in completing the manuscript "Margaret Shaughnessy Gordon: Past President of the Consumer's Cooperative of Berkeley, Research Economist, and Community Leader."

**VIRGINIA WARNER BRODINE** is presently writing *Daughters*, the second novel of her planned trilogy dealing with three generations of **American** women between 1830-1930. The first book, *Seed of the Fire*, was discussed at the 1984 WAWH Conference.

*Liberazione Della Donna, A Cultural History of the Contemporary Italian Women's Movement*, by **LUCIA C. BIRNBAUM**, was published in May 1985 by Wesleyan University.

**HELENE S. WEINSTOCK** was appointed to a **three**-year term on the Orange County Mental Health Advisory Board in May 1984. Since then she has served as interim clinical director of the West County Counseling Center, where she has been a member of the board of directors and supervisor of **counselors-in-training** for the past three years.

**ARELENE WOLINSKI** of the History Department at Mesa College, San **Diego**, CA, was the recipient of an NEH summer seminar in classical mythology at **Harvard**. As a result, she prepared an article dealing with animal masks in early Egyptian religious rituals which has been accepted for **publication** by *Archaeology* magazine.

**JEAN ACKERMAN's** award-winning play, "A Pride of Heroes," dramatizing Deborah Moody, **Harriet Tubman**, Lucy Stone and Dr. Frances Kelsey, was chosen for performance at the Second National Festival of Women's Theatre, Santa Cruz, CA in October 1984. Playbooks are available from The Book Tree, 118 Webster, Monterey, CA 93940 (\$5. plus \$1.30 handling and tax).

**YAFFA DRAZNIN**, who received her **Ph.D.** from the University of Southern California in May 1984, has been appointed an affiliated scholar with the Study of Women and Men in Society program at USC for the 1985-86 year.

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## POTPOURRI

Anne R. Kenney, Associate Director of the Thomas Jefferson Library, University of Missouri, is compiling a bibliography of guides and other finding aids (published or available for dissemination) to women's history sources in United States archives and manuscript repositories. The bibliography will be published by Garland Publishing Inc. Please send title, price and ordering information to Ann R. Kenney, Thomas Jefferson Library, UMSL, 8001 Natural Bridge, St. Louis, MO 63121.

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For those interested in local California history, *The Valley of Heart's Delight*, by Yvonne Jacobson (foreword by Wallace Stegner) details the history of the Santa Clara Valley's farming past. The book was published by William **Kaufmann**, Inc., in cooperation with the California History Center at De Anza College in Cupertino, and is available through them

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The February issue of *Comment* magazine focused on the newly-formed Coalition for Western Women's History, and a special mailing has been sent to individuals who expressed interest in the organization. Should you wish further information or **membership**, please write to: CWWH, Women's Studies **Program**, Washington State University, Pullman, **WA 99164-4032**.

The **Annenberg/CPB** Project Council has authorized its staff to enter into negotiations for up to \$425,000 with the Public Media Foundation for the production of a college level audio course on "The History of Women and the Family in America." The course, which will be developed by some of the nation's top scholars on the subject, will consist of eighteen half hour documentary programs. Dr. Ellen Rothman, lecturer in history at Brandeis University, will be the project director. Dr. Elizabeth Pleck of the Center for Research on Women at Wellesley College, will be project historian, and Jan Allison, producer of over 100 radio documentaries and professor of radio at The New School's Graduate Media Studies Program in New York City, will be the executive producer. The audio programs will be designed to engage a double audience: the student taking the course for credit, and the general audience who might simply have an interest in the topic. The project will also develop ancillary print materials for students and teachers. For further information, write Dr. Elizabeth Pleck, 25 Trowbridge Street, Newton Center, MA 02159.

The Center for Research on Women, Stanford University, will sponsor a conference on Autobiography and Biography: Gender, Text and **Context**, on April 11-13, 1986. They solicit theoretical and experiential contributions on autobiographical and biographical texts by and about men and women. Historical, literary, psychological, ethnic and anthropological approaches will be welcome. All submissions, whether on text or context, should contain a gender component as an integral part of the analysis. Please submit two to three page abstracts by **September 30, 1985**, to: Susan Groag Bell or Marilyn Yalom, Center for Research on Women, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305. For further information call (415) 497-1994.

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Seventh Berkshire Conference on the History of Women will be held on June 19-21, 1987, at Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA. While papers on all aspects of women's history are welcomed, the theme for this conference will be "Beyond the **Public/Private** Dichotomy: Reassessing Women's Place in History." The program committee welcomes proposals for sessions that explore how women's consciousness and political activities reflect the links between the public and private realms. The committee also encourages proposals for panels that compare the experience of women in different countries, and of different races, classes, ages, ethnicities and sexual identities.

The committee strongly suggests submission of proposals for complete sessions involving no more than two papers, one commentator and one moderator. Individual papers will also be considered. Proposals should include: the title of the papers; names, addresses, phone numbers, and **one-page** vitae of all participants (with their affiliation or place of residence; and **one-page** abstracts of the papers. Three copies of the proposals on other than U.S. topics should be sent to Dorothy **O. Helly**, Women's Studies Program, Hunter College, 695 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10021 and U.S. topics to Susan Reverby, Women's Studies Program, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02181. Enclose a stamped self-addressed postcard, which will be returned upon receipt of the proposal. The deadline for submission is February 1, 1986.

The 29th Annual Missouri Valley History Conference will meet in Omaha, NE, March 13-15, 1986. Sessions will include topics in American, European and other fields of history, as well as interdisciplinary and methodological studies. Proposals for panels and papers should be submitted by November, 1984, to Prof. Marian P. Nelson, Program Coordinator, 1986 MVHC, Dept of History, University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE 68182. Proposals should include the paper abstracts and brief curriculum vitae of session participants. Persons interested in serving as moderators or commentators are also invited to write to the Program Coordinator and indicate areas of expertise. --





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