

Women In Libraries

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT FEMINIST
TASK FORCE

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APOLOGIES

The WIL editors would like to apologize to the readers for the unseemly delay of your September issue. In the change of editor responsible for reproduction, mailing, and subscriptions, computer programs and other assorted problems led to unforeseen hangups. We have every intention of seeing that you receive your WIL promptly now.

ALA MIDWINTER MEETINGS

The Feminist Task Force has scheduled three meetings:

11:30-12:30 Saturday, January 18
2:00- 4:00 Monday, January 20
9:30-11:00 Tuesday, January 21

Other groups scheduling meetings of special interest to women are:

Friday, January 17:

2-4 Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship

Sunday, January 19:

9:30-11:00 ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group
2:00- 4:00 COSWL

Monday, January 20:

9:30-11:00 ACRL WSDG
4:30-5:30 COSWL

Tuesday, January 21:

2-4 COSWL

ALA EQUALITY AWARD

Joan Ariel, Chair of the ALA Equality Award Jury, has provided WIL with a copy of the 1986 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 Ariel, 12 Gibbs Ct., Irvine, CA 92715. The deadline is December 2, 1985.



ALA EQUALITY AWARD

1986 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 2, 1985

Submitted by _____ Address _____
_____ Phone _____

NWSA LIBRARIANS

Lori Goetsch, chair of the Librarians' Task Force of the National Women's Studies Association, has provided the following summaries of panels to be given at the NWSA Annual Conference, June 11-15, 1986, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She wants to hear from librarians with interest/expertise in:

"Working for Change: Librarians as Activists"

Throughout the history of librarianship, librarians have assumed an advocacy role in many social and political arenas such as illiteracy, nuclear war, equal rights, occupational health, comparable worth, ageism, and intellectual freedom. What role should librarians and libraries play in furthering these social and political goals? Can librarians be criticized for "censoring the right" by supporting "liberal" issues? These questions, as well as descriptions and analyses of librarian activities in specific movements, will be addressed by the panelists in this session.

"Bringing Global Feminism into Libraries"

As our world becomes smaller, libraries take on a critical role in responding to information needs about other cultures, yet information about women is often oppressed through the systems of library organization that have been created. Librarians need to assist users in interpreting or circumventing these systems and to develop more equitable means of accessing information on the status of women in other countries. Library services and resources such as online searching, bibliographic instruction, government documents and archives are useful tools for accomplishing these tasks. Panelists will address both the practical problems and theoretical issues of bringing this global feminism into libraries.

If you are interested in participating on either of these panels, contact Goetsch at the Information/Reference Department, Michigan State University Libraries, East Lansing, MI 48824-1048 or call (517) 353-8705.

LIBRARIAN HONORED

The October 15-28, 1985, issue of the Minnesota Women's Press features Grace Belton, head librarian at the Summer Community Library, Minneapolis, in their "Woman at Work" series. Belton is quoted as enjoying a challenge, especially when a library patron asks her for assistance which requires extensive searching. She recommends cultivating wide interests, saying, "the broader a person's interests are, the happier that person is likely to be."

NEW CALENDAR

Have you ordered your feminist calendar yet? Consider the offering of the Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts whose third annual Women's Health Calendar honors Women of Yesterday, the outstanding history of women in medicine. This 8½" x 11" wall calendar features twelve outstanding black-and-white photographs of women in school, women at play, women at work circa late nineteenth century and early 20th century. Your purchase supports quality health care to women in Western Massachusetts. \$7 each or 3/\$18, order (prepaid please) from FPCWM, 16 Center St., Northampton, MA 01060. Order soon; they ran out last year. Write for information on bulk orders (75 calendars or more).

LEGISLATIVE POLICY REVISIONS

The ALA legislation Committee is considering revision of the 1983 edition of the ALA Federal Legislative Policy document and is seeking suggestions from all ALA units. They are looking into whether revision is needed, whether new issues should be added, or whether any sections need major revision. This should perhaps be a topic of discussion at Midwinter meetings, since specific recommendations need to be made by March 15, 1986. There is a section supporting the ratification of an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States which should be retained. Are there other feminist issues which should be introduced?

BOOK BANNING IN BRITAIN UPDATE

It was reported in the August 21, 1985, issue of the London Times that the nine defendants in "what is emerging as the biggest test of censorship laws since Lady Chatterly's Lover in the 60s" have been committed for trial. These directors and employees of Gay's The Word Bookshop were arrested for having shipments of books delivered to their homes to avoid having the books confiscated at the point of import. They face charges of "conspiracy to evade prohibition on the import of indecent material" which could result in heavy fines or jail sentences.

WOMEN WRITERS

Pen Names of Women Writers by Alice Kahler Marshall lists the pseudonyms of women writers from 1600 to the present. In addition to the well-known literary authors, such as novelists, poets, and dramatists, it includes journalists, diarists, and "miscellaneous writers." It's cross-referenced, listing by pseudonym and by actual name. Dates are given for almost all authors. The author has also included a section of illustrations and quotations from male views of women writers. This collection, subtitled "Why she chose to remain anonymous," includes sketches, cartoons, and quotations from the last two centuries, and gives an overview of the often disparaging attitudes towards women writers. Although most of the information would be available in the various dictionaries of biographies and pseudonyms, this book brings it all together, saving considerable searching time. It's a useful and interesting source. It's available for \$7.95 from The Alice Marshall Collection, 211 N. 17th Street, Camp Hill PA 17011.

Review by Linda K. Lewis, UNM Library

A BAD APPLE

There are several positive reviews of materials included in WIL this month; here is a negative one. There is a vicious little piece called "Women's Studies, Ersatz Scholarship," by Michael Levin in New Perspectives (U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Summer, 1985). Levin attacks the rationale supporting the creation of Women's Studies courses, the syllabi and readings for such courses, the standards maintained for them ("Women's Studies courses are decidedly easier than standard college courses on Shakespeare or chemistry.") Levin sums up, "Suffice it to say that feminism has contributed to the 'decline of standards' which is now so fashionable to deplore." Levin is a professor of philosophy at City College of the City University of New York. His criticisms of Women's Studies courses and scholars are full of cute oversimplifications and show a total lack of sympathy or understanding of the motivations of half of the human race. He is sure to be widely quoted by like-minded professors and, unfortunately, by tenure review committees.

MIDWEST WOMEN'S CENTER

The Midwest Women's Center and City of Chicago Department of Economic Development co-hosted an Open House on September 24, 1985, to release the Midwest Women's Center's studies on women's economic development in Chicago. The open house marked completion of a year of research, funded by the Chicago DED. DED's primary responsibility is to support business development, job growth and retention in Chicago. In the past two years, DED has supported a variety of research projects and financial assistance programs to encourage the development of small, minority and women-owned businesses in the city. This research consisted of identifying economic development opportunities for two groups of women in low income communities.

Midwest Women's Center's interest in economic development evolved from a nine-year commitment to women's empowerment. The Center believes the achievement of economic parity is the most important issue facing women today due to the fact that women do two thirds of the world's work for one tenth of the world's income and still earn only 59¢ to every dollar earned by men. Women business owners are the fastest growing sector of small business owners. Midwest Women's Center research findings show women business owners face the usual difficulties of finding capital for start-up or expansion, but also face discrimination and harassment from conventional lenders, venture capital groups and even government loan guarantee programs. Midwest Women's Center examined neighborhood-based development to see how it involved and impacted on low income women in Chicago. A close look at local communities suggested that the lack of affordable safe family-sized housing units makes housing an immediate development priority for women. The results of the research provide valuable information for anyone interested in economic development programs targeted to meet women's needs. The following reports are ready for distribution: 1985 Survey of Women Business Owner Lists (23 pp.), Research on Women Business Owners (35 pp.), Research on Women Business Owners/Executive Summary (5 pp.), Community Economic Development Efforts in Two Chicago Neighborhoods (50 pp.), Economic Development Literature Collection Guide, with annotations (30 pp.), Full Project Executive Summary (3 pp.). Although the reports are free, a tax-exempt donation to the Midwest Women's Center to cover postage and duplication of the studies requested would be appreciated. Order from MWC, 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1015, Chicago, IL 60604.

\$\$ FOR THE SCHLESINGER

Radcliffe College has been awarded a \$750,000 grant from The Pew Memorial Trust toward the \$3.4 million expansion and renovation of the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America. The library is the nation's leading resource on the history of women in America. The renovations will double the space the library now occupies and completely modernize its facilities. Among the planned improvements are new reading rooms, a centralized catalog, reference, and reader services area, additional open stacks and climate-controlled storage areas, a conference room and offices for visiting scholars and special projects, expanded use of computers and audio-visual material, new environmental and security systems, and improved access for the handicapped. In 1969-70, the library recorded 247 research visits; now there are approximately 5,000 annually. The library's holdings include more than 600 collections of unpublished papers of notable and less well-known women, families, and organizations; several hundred oral history tapes and transcripts; more than 28,000 books and 8,000 titles in microform; 50 file drawers of clippings and ephemera on women's issues; and 395 current periodical subscriptions.

'TIS THE SEASON

Since it's time to finish up your Christmas purchases, consider giving peaceful games or nonsexist books to the children on your list. The following is a resource list you may find helpful:

Animal Town Game Company: The Kolsbun family develops and sells games which deal with Mother Nature, cooperation, simplicity, self-sufficiency, conservation, and human values. Order catalogs for your friends--these are truly wonderful games: P.O. Box 2002, Santa Barbara, CA 93120, (805) 962-8368.

Audobon Society: Sells coloring books, field guides, bird houses and feeders, and bird calls. Call your local chapter for a listing, or write Seattle Audobon, 619 Joshua Green Building, Seattle, WA 98101, (202) 622-2295.

Bear Tribe Catalog: Features over 500 items sold to support this holistic intentional community including excellent children's books which reflect native legends and philosophy and coloring books about a variety of Native American nations. P.O. Box 9167, Spokane, WA 99209.

Greenpeace: A variety of earth and peace related items, many of which are of special interest to children. Their merchandise is handled through Greenpeace Pacific Southwest, Fort Mason Building E, San Francisco, CA 94123, (415) 855-6128.

New Seed Press: Angel Island Prisoner. How Wai Ching, her mother and other Chinese people were held like prisoners waiting to enter America in 1922. In Chinese and English. Ages 8 and up. \$7.

Red Ribbons for Emma. Emma Yazzie, Navajo grandmother and sheep herder, is a modern day heroine fighting the pollution of reservation lands. For ages 8 and up. \$5.

Silas and the Mad-Sad People. His parents' separation upsets Silas, but together they learn new ways to live and grow. Ages 4-10. \$3.50

My Mother and I are Growing Strong; Mi mama y yo nos hacemos fuertes. Emilita's father is in prison. She and her mother take on his gardening jobs and learn a lot about themselves. Ages 4-10. \$5.

A Book about Us. Four friends are unhappy with their school books and decide to write their own--and do it! Ages 6-11. \$2.50.

My Father Raped Me: Frances Ann Speaks Out. In this sensitive dialogue, a young woman shares with her grandmother her feelings about being raped. Ages 11 and up. \$2.50.

Some things You Just Can't Do by Yourself. This book is a whimsical account of some of the ways people need each other. Preschool-7. \$3.50.

Fanshen the Magic Bear. In this fairy tale, Laura solved the kingdom's problems by distributing the land more fairly. Ages 6-10. \$2.50.

Peter Learns to Crochet. With his teacher's help and encouragement. Ages 5-8. \$2.50.

La Aventura de Yolanda; Yolanda's Hike. Four Chicano children have an adventurous day together. In Spanish and English. Ages 4-8. \$3.50.

Payment including postage of \$1.50 for 1 to 3 books must accompany order. Order from: New Seed Press, P.O. Box 9488, Berkeley, CA 94709-0488.

Peace Museum has a catalog featuring items available from other organizations, as well as catalogs from their own exhibits: 364 W. Erie St., Chicago, IL 60610.

GIFT IDEAS CONTINUED

Peace Resource Project has literally hundreds of buttons, posters, T-shirts, bumper stickers, and books, low-priced and suitable for gifts. They'll send the fable, The Hundredth Monkey, to anyone you request. Box 8547, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

UNICEF has acquired a toll-free number, (800) 228-1666, to place credit card orders or locate the outlet nearest you. Their catalog, available from U.S. Committee for UNICEF, 331 East 38th Street, New York, NY 10016, includes gift items for all ages, gifts that promote an understanding of the Earth and all its peoples.

Womankind Books has a series of non-sexist children's books, including these titles: Boy who Wanted a Baby by Wendy Lichtman; Clever Gretchen and Other Forgotten Folk Tales by Alison Lurie; Embers: Stories of a Changing World by Ruth S. Meyers; Sharing Nature with Children by Joseph Cornell; Stories for Free Children by Letty Pogrebin; and Tatterhood and other Tales by Ethel Johnston Phelps. Request their catalog for other titles: Womankind Books, 10 W. Carver St., Huntington, NY 11743.

NEW BOOKS

These books were sent to WIL and are reviewed by Leslie Kahn, Newark Public Library:

From Firebrand Books, Ithaca, NY:

Brant, Beth. Mohawk Trail. 1985. \$6.95.

My favorite of the first generation of Firebrand Books, this one is by a founder of Turtle Grandmother, an information center and archives about North American Indian women. Every one of these stories and poems is marvelous. For a female twist to Native American folklore, read "Coyote Learns a New Trick."

Gatford, Ellen. Moll Cutpurse. 1985. \$7.95.

To be admired for its period (Elizabethan) verisimilitude and lively dialogue, this novel sports a great array of characters. Although the focus is on a lesbian romance, the author considers politics, economics, society, and, of course, the conditions and history of women.

Parker, Pat. Jonestown and other Madness. 1985. \$5.95.

The poem I liked best, "Maybe I Should Have Been a Teacher," tells how hard it is to create when you have pressing work, family, political, and other responsibilities--and when the rewards for art can be so meager. Parker is an outspoken Black lesbian poet/health care worker from California.

From other presses:

Piercy, Marge. My Mother's Body. NY: Knopf, 1985. \$7.95.

As always, Piercy's themes are diverse: love, domestic scenes, nuclear war, feminism, Jewish identity, nature, family. Piercy fans will relish this new collection.

Women Workers in Fifteen Countries. Ed. by Jennie Farley. Cornell international industrial and labor relations report no. 11; Ithaca, NY: ILR Press, 1985, \$24, \$9.95 paper.

Essays about difficulties facing women in industrialized nations (capitalist, communist, and socialist) address the issues of wage inequity, lack of opportunity, poor union representation, inadequate child care, conflicting job/home demands, etc.

BRIEF NOTES

Feminist Press is launching their annual fundraising drive and are adding a new category of friends called "Associates." For an annual tax-exempt gift of \$250 the Associates will receive ten books of your choice from those to be published next year, a subscription to Women's Studies Quarterly for 1986, invitations to book parties and special functions, and invitations to Press seminars. However, as usual, any size gift is welcome! FP, 311 East 94th St., NY, NY 10128.

We have missed noting National Domestic Violence Awareness Week in time; it was October 6-12. However, you may wish to get a catalog from Seal Press and add some of their fine titles to combat this serious problem. 312 S. Washington, Seattle, WA 98104, is the address for Seal Press.

Did you know that 60% of all households in America experience some form of domestic violence? Two to four thousand women are beaten to death by their mates each year. Because of facts like these, National Coalition against Domestic Violence is seeking funding to establish a national free hotline which threatened women can call for help. If you want to help, send your tax deductible gift to Women in Crisis Hotline, NGADV, 1500 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Suite 35, Washington, D.C. 20005.

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 \$5 for individuals, \$8 for institutions prepaid, and \$10 for invoiced institutions. Send checks, payable to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, to:

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