



Women in Libraries

Volume 19, Number 1

November 1989

The Presidency

This summer's ALA elections saw Rebecca Bingham lose the presidency to Richard Dougherty by approximately 500 votes. While both are highly qualified, in this organization of women it is interesting to continue to watch the positions of power and authority go to men. Bingham is a powerful woman and a respected librarian who, as president of ALA, could have provided a positive and encouraging model to the membership and leadership to the field in general. Bingham can continue to provide support and encouragement, but from a different tack. Dougherty too is a powerful person who hopes to provide support for the ALA membership. He has equally vivid goals and ideas for the future. The following is an excerpt from interviews with both of the candidates concerning their goals and future plans.

One of the first things Bingham said was that she has no plans to run for the presidency again. She was disappointed not so much at losing this race as she was in the voting record of school librarians. She feels that in the last election they may not have voted for her because they didn't "know she was one of them." This year they simply did not get out the vote. Dougherty would concur in that he too is concerned over the low numbers of people taking an active part in the organization. He is afraid that ALA has grown too remote for the membership, making it difficult for members to vote responsibly.

Bingham had much to say about the recent years' elections and plans to take an active part in moving ALA to examine the recent trend toward the "campaigning" that is becoming the way to win in ALA. She wants the organization to move away from the concept of "selling oneself to the highest bidder." Running for the presidency is quickly becoming an expensive endeavor and she doesn't like the move away from "professional volunteerism." She is afraid people are

paying to win, though Dougherty said he spent only \$3,000 on his campaign and accepted no money from outside sources. It is not only a matter of money needed to carry on a campaign. The amount of time needed to make a candidate visible to the membership is quite extensive. Personally, Bingham is committed to her job and believes she has neither the time nor the money to fly here and there to be available for some "hospitality" event. Dougherty stated that the furor over money spent on campaigns may well be "overreaction to past elections" but rumor has it that some campaigns have run into the tens of thousands. While he does have plans to create a handbook for "running for the presidency" as a way to help people understand the process, the election issue is not really on his agenda.

Dougherty is concerned with the lack of respect given to school librarians in particular and hopes to make his year as ALA president one in which we recognize school librarians for all they have accomplished in their work with young people. He sees them as very instrumental in literacy programs and in helping people to succeed. He plans to acknowledge and enhance the role of all children's librarians in this society today.

Bingham also spoke of continuing her struggle to empower school librarians. She will maintain her active status in ALA particularly in working from within the committee structure, hoping to have an effect on the direction for ALA. Like Dougherty, she encourages people to become more active in the organization. She suggests two avenues, voting and voicing:

- VOTE and don't sit back when resolutions are made.
- VOICE your concerns on issues which affect you and ALA.

She encourages activity at three levels, at the "continuing" education level (establishing competencies), in the library (developing attitudes for effective service), and finally within the organization itself. Dougherty would add another, the societal level. He admits it is difficult to gain anyone's attention in this day and age, but he hopes to do

just this through his active campaign of acknowledging the work done by children's librarians.

Perhaps with these two dynamic individuals working from within, we will soon have a membership that is unified and empowered. — DG *

Dallas '89 Report on FTF meetings

Programming for Dallas: Programming this summer was intended to support a network with other ALA similar interest groups to co-sponsor events. It was somewhat successful in that we let others know who we are and what FTF is about. The group felt that we are beginning to build some tenuous coalitions. It remains to be decided whether we should continue these efforts. Some money remains in the programming budget.

SHARE directory: Now the directory is little more than a mailing list. Betty-Carol Sellen is working to get more suggestions for its compilation and uses. In this issue a form is included for those who want to be listed. Bethany Lawton has been working hard to increase money for the project; we haven't received any news yet from the grant proposal she wrote. Surplus programming money could be directed to this project. COWSL may contribute \$500, yielding a total possible budget of \$1000-\$1500 to date.

Programming for Chicago and 1990 annual: Several ideas circulated. An idea for a 1990 program including mystery writer Sara Paretsky, who spoke at the Michigan Library Association meeting, was entertained. A program along the line of women's mysteries or women mystery writers might not be very political but would surely be fun! A more political proposal for a 20-year retrospective, either for midwinter or for the 1990 annual meeting was also suggested, a complement of groups recognizing two decades of activism. The Feminist Task Force (FTF), Gay and Lesbian Task Force (GLTF), Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) and the Black Caucus, among others, could be invited to work together, resulting in a document of political activism in librarianship. The program would be a panel with three or four speakers and a reception afterward, a celebration and renewal of ourselves with a sense of our roots combined with our mission of developing coalitions with other minority groups. Each group could make a presentation showing their history, present plans and future projects. Another FTF plan was for a program on feminism in libraries with strong feminist librarians as speakers. This would involve long-time active FTF members in planning. (This discussion spanned the two days of the meeting.)

Women in Libraries report: We are trying to make the publication more stimulating and expand our mailing list

at the same time. An accounting report showed a positive balance. The suggestion went out again to perhaps use some of the money for a mailing for the *SHARE* directory. At this point, circulation is approximately 300.

SHARE directory: The money left over from coalition efforts in programming would be useful for *SHARE*. ALA central offices may help with the printing and distribution. Two FTF representatives will go to Action Council to ask to carry over FTF's remaining money from programming to the next fiscal year for the directory.

Awareness report: We are continuing to look at sexism in the journals. The group has already compiled a bibliography, and, using the McGraw-Hill definition of sexism and racism, a coding system is being developed which will be reliable when going through the journals. The plan is to mesh the qualitative data with the quantitative to make it more interesting. The final report may be ready by midwinter.

Margaret Randall's trials: Margaret Randall, a radical social theorist and writer who has lived in Latin American countries for many years, has been trying to regain her US citizenship—what can FTF do? After some discussion, it was decided to approach the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) about making a statement and writing letters, since the IFC could do this work in the name of ALA. The FTF, through *Women in Libraries*, would encourage subscribers to write letters to legislators and to put additional words in with the IFC.

Election:

Chair: Sherre Dryden
Coalitions: Kay Jones
Awareness: Lucinda Zoe, Noncy Dennis,
Georgen Coyle, Amy Beth
Elections Monitor: Nancy Dennis
Scribe: Dotty Granger

Special Announcement:

Betty-Carol Sellen retired from her position at Brooklyn College Library in September 1989. We wish her the best! *

Women in the News

Librarian freed

News from South Africa has it that Thiswlandi Rejoice (Joyce) Mabudafhasi, librarian, was again released under restriction on September 9, 1989. At the last Midwinter meeting, ALA resolved to urge release of Ms. Mabudafhasi. She was detained by security forces from October 28, 1986 until January 30, 1989, released "under restriction" and again detained on August 15, 1989. She has been arrested several times since 1976 and, the victim of a bomb attack in 1986, sustained severe injuries for which she still receives medical treatment and therapy.

Kowalski committee succeeds

The National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski announced that it achieved its primary objectives and disbanded. Kowalski, who sustained brain injury in a car accident in 1983, is now receiving rehabilitative care near Minneapolis and receives visits from Karen Thompson and other friends. Her father had placed her in non-rehabilitative nursing home and forbade visits from her lesbian lover and gay and lesbian friends. As a result of legal action and public support, Kowalski's father has withdrawn as guardian and relinquished control. --From *The Lavender Express*, August 1989

Coming events

November 12, 1989. The National Organization for Women is organizing a follow-up to the April 9 pro-choice rally on Capitol Hill with another rally entitled "**Mobilize for Women's Lives.**" The rally begins at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on November 12, 1989. NOW is proud of the positive results of the last mobilization. The next assembly is intended to keep pressure on at the national level, to add weight in considering the volume of abortion issues likely to be addressed in Washington this fall. President Bush, the Supreme Court, and Congress must be aware that women will not tolerate dismantling the Roe v. Wade decision. The program is scheduled to begin at noon and end by 4:30 p.m. ALA is not sending a delegation, but individuals may participate. For more information, write NOW at 1000 Sixteenth Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20036-5705, or telephone 202-331-0066.

Other ways to mobilize

- Work with and support national and local organizations concerned with reproductive health and women's right to choose.
- Write to state and federal representatives and ask that they keep abortion legal and available for all women.
- Question candidates for public office on their positions

on safe and legal abortion; work for those who support reproductive choice.

- VOTE— and let the candidates know that you are voting for choice.
- Run for state elective office; 20% of all seats are unopposed.

Sources: *The Alan Guttmacher Institute, Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights Education Fund, Inc.*

June 25-28, 1990. "**Holding Up Half The Sky**" is the first Sino-American conference on women's issues. To be held in Beijing, People's Republic of China from June 25-28, 1990, it is a joint effort of both the All-China Women's Federation and Global Interactions, Inc., to encourage the sharing of research, information and ideas on four key women's issues: education and training, employment and career advancement, family and childcare, and health and well-being. Global Interactions, Inc., an independent nonprofit organization based in the U.S., has developed a



Women in Libraries

Women in Libraries, the Newsletter of the American Library Association's Feminist Task Force, is published five times a year, from September to June.

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To subscribe, write to American Library Association, Office for Library Outreach Services, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Subscriptions are \$5 for individuals, \$8 for institutions prepaid, or \$10 for invoiced subscriptions. Make check payable to ALA/SRRT/FTF and note "For *Women in Libraries*."

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travel package for the conference including hotel, airfare, and sightseeing. Registration is limited. Send letters to Jerrie Ueberle at Global Interactions, Inc., 3332 W. Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85017, or call 602-272-3438.

January 1990. The School of Information and Library Studies in the State University of New York at Buffalo is calling for articles for a collection on women in the history of American libraries and librarianship. Qualifying papers would address theoretical aspects of the topic, as well as those on women who founded libraries, users and workers. The publishers are especially interested in works about women of minority groups. Deadline for abstracts is January 2, 1990. Write Suzanne Hildenbrand, School of Information and Library Studies, SUNYAB, Buffalo, NY 14260, or call 716-636-2412.

March 3-4, 1990. "OutWrite '90," the first National Lesbian & Gay Writers Conference, will meet on March 3-4, 1990 at the Cathedral Hotel in San Francisco. "Conference

panels, workshops and informal meetings will promote the development of the lesbian and gay writing community and help authors, editors, publishers, and others get to know one another." Cost for one day's participation is \$15; \$25 for both days. Write to Jeff Escoffier, c/o Outlook, PO Box 460430, San Francisco, CA 94146, or call 415-626-7929.

June 20-24, 1990. The University of Akron will host the **National Women's Studies Association Conference** June 20-24, 1990. The forum will include scheduled presentations, a feminist book exhibit, and an array of cultural events including concerts, theatre, films, and formal and informal meetings of affiliated groups. All feminist scholars, primary and secondary school educators, community activists, and students are welcome. Conference scholarships are available to NWSA members to help cover the costs of registration and lodging. Write to National Women's Studies Association, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-1325.

Boycotts: Regular and Reversed

So-called Right-to-Life groups have been using boycott and pressure on commercial firms to control the points of view portrayed on television. It's time to put a stop to this insidious form of control of the mass media. We can use mail campaigns and boycott, as they do, or reverse boycott, such as pledging support to those companies that dare to present opposing sides.

It's also time to be aware of commercial support of the anti-choice movement. We begin with Thomas Monaghan, the man who built Domino's Pizza and receives a percentage of the profits from each franchise. He has used his fortune to buy the Detroit Tigers and a collection of houses and, especially in recent years, to agitate against women's right of choice. Most recently, he gave \$50,000 to Operation Rescue. Domino's Farms, the pizza chain's parent firm, gave \$10,000. Monaghan also gave \$50,000 to the Michigan State Committee to End Tax-Funded Abortions.

Several months ago, the National Organization for Women (NOW) issued a call for a boycott, and local chapters, college students and the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) have begun to respond. So far NOW chapters have organized picket lines in college towns and distributed placards and flyers. Staffers for the national office say the Supreme Court's decision in the Webster case has kept them from devoting enough attention to the boycott, but that outraged college students will soon be making a difference.

Though the franchisees are independent owners, every vendor and every customer ultimately puts money in Monaghan's pocket. Now we must make decisions about boycotting, making phone calls, sending money, writing

letters or, using an alternative to boycotting, giving extra support to daring companies.

A few months ago, when NBC aired its docudrama *Roe v. Wade* in spite of antichoice groups that were threatening to boycott, the surprise was the number of sponsors that refused to back down. To show your appreciation you can pledge in a letter of support to NBC to continue buying those sponsors' products that you use—and ask pro-choice friends to do the same. You can also pledge support to General Foods, which, in spite of anti-choice pressure to remove her, retained Linda Ellerbee as spokesperson for Maxwell House Coffee. Here's a list of relevant sponsors, products and addresses:

Acutrim	Lanacane
Airwick	Mennen
Arrid Extra Dry	Mrs. Dash
Butterball	Murphy's Oil Soap
Carpet Fresh	Olympus Cameras
CD 101.9 radio	Paramount Pictures
Contadina	PoliDent
Cortaid	Riunite Wines
Dare	Slim-Fast
Dexatrim	Sundance
Dodge	Suzuki Swift GT
Duracell Batteries	Syms
English Leather	Tri-Star Pictures
Evian Waters of France	United Artists
General Foods	Vagisil products
General Motors	X-14 Cleanser
Gordon Company	

Brandon Tartikoff, President, NBC Entertainment

3000 North Alameda Avenue, Burbank, California 91523

Robert C. Wright, President, NBC
30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10112

Raymond Vault, President, General Foods
P.O. Box 45140, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-9973

The Right to Life Committee proclaimed in a recent letter to supporters that General Foods should be "especially ashamed of its sponsorship" of *Roe v. Wade*, in light of Linda Ellerbee's participation in the April 9 March for Women's Lives and her pro-choice commentaries on Cable

News Network (CNN). Right to Life also castigated the actresses Holly Hunter and Amy Madigan. Hunter, who played Norma McCorvey in the television movie, is a member of the California Abortion Rights Action League, and Madigan, who played Sarah Weddington, marched on April 9. *Roe v. Wade* took home two Emmy awards.

Letters to big wheels can make a difference, especially those written by people representing themselves instead of organizations. Assistants to legislators never tire of pointing out to us that since anti-choicers are the ones who take the time to write to them, they are the ones who really seem to be committed. —KF *

Acquisitions Notes

Feminist clearinghouse catalog

The new Feminist Institute Clearinghouse has begun to offer materials on feminist social change and is developing national resource files on feminist activities. Materials include conference proceedings, posters, wall charts and books on such topics as AIDS, rape and rape prevention, self-defense and a list of national women's organizations. To find out more about the clearinghouse or to receive a catalog, write to FIC, PO Box 30563, Bethesda, MD 20814, or call 301-951-9040.

African journal

Network, a Pan-African Women's Forum is the title of a new scholarly journal published semiannually in Harare, Zimbabwe. The journal is to be a forum for the exchange of resources, ideas, information, research, strategies, methodologies and skills among women of African descent. The first issue is a thematic one dedicated to "Women in Southern Africa: Struggle within Struggle." To subscribe, write NETWORK, PO Box 648, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe. Make checks or international money orders payable to Pan-African Women's Form. Rates are \$30 for individuals and \$40 for institutions outside of Africa.

Women from the Third World

Women's International Resource Exchange (WIRE) has a new catalog. WIRE, established in 1979, is a small, non-profit women's collective committed to reprinting and distributing, in monograph and booklet format, information on and analyses of the problems, struggles and achievements of women in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific Islands, with most entries in English and some in Spanish and French. The group also publishes creative work by women from those areas. For the catalog, write to WIRE, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 570, New York, NY 10115, or call 212-870-2783.

Latin America by way of Canada

Aquelarre is a new bilingual magazine from Vancouver, B. C. for women who have links with Latin America by birth, ancestry, residence or affinity. The journal aims to further cross-cultural awareness, so most material is written in both English and Spanish. The first issue includes an article about a feminist play and the women who wrote and perform it in Victoria, an interview with Isabel Allende and individual portraits of women coping with the difficulties of daily life in the political climate in Central and South America. To indicate its audience, the journal says, "*Aquelarre* means 'illegal gathering of witches'" and elaborates, "They used to call us witches. What do they call us now? Arpilleristas, weavers, union leaders, women in exile, political prisoners, mothers of the disappeared, artists . . ." Write to *Aquelarre* at P.O. Box 65535, Station F, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V5N 5K6.

Mexican American life for young adults

Arte Publico Press, specializing in materials on Hispanic Americans, has released two new books by women for young adults.

Hernández, Irene Beltrán. *Across the great river*. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press, 1989. Paper, \$8.50. Written for young adults, it is told in the present tense by a young girl who matures rapidly when her parents become separated from her and her brother during an illegal crossing into the United States.

Ponce, Mary Helen. *The wedding*. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press, 1989. Paper, \$8.50. This is the tale of Blanca, just 18, and the Mexican American subculture she lives in. Through lavish detail, using dialect and slang, the author provides a window on the social relationships and customs of Blanca's world, including those that divide men and women:

When high, the batos liked to compare chicks, especially those who refused to go out with them, chicks who hated pachucos and even hated "squares" who wore drapes. The guys had their favorites too, chicks not worth the price of a movie and others too ugly to be seen with.

Arte Publico Press is at the University of Houston, Houston, Texas 77204-2090.

The Irish at war

McCafferty, Nell. *Peggy Deery: an Irish family at war*. Pittsburgh: Cleis Press, 1989. Paper, \$9.95. In *Peggy Deery*, McCafferty tells the story of an Irish woman and her family, scarred by tragedy, dominated by war. Through Deery, the reader learns what it is to be a Catholic living in Northern Ireland, to be regarded as a second class citizen there. Quiet and cheerful, Derry was persistent in her efforts to improve life for herself and her family. She was on Derry's first Civil Rights protest in 1968 and was disabled by a British army bullet on Bloody Sunday, 1972. She died in 1988. The book is a thorough study of her life, her family, and the effects of the violence in Ireland.

Short stories

Martinac, Paula and Carla Tomaso. *Voyages out 1: lesbian short fiction*. Seattle: The Seal Press, 1989. Paper, \$8.95. In the first volume of its new series showcasing lesbian fiction writers, The Seal Press has chosen eight stories by easterner Paula Martinac and six by Carla Tomaso of California. Martinac uses different narrative voices, a Brooklyn landlady, a homeless woman, and young lesbians trying to work out feelings and relationships. Tomaso writes about the small, everyday details that express much deeper themes.

Self help audiotapes

The Seal Press has also launched a new audiotape series with two tapes, each 60 minutes, \$9.95. *Lesbian couples*, based on a book of the same title, is narrated by the book's authors, therapists D. Merilee Clunis and G. Dorsey Green. It is a guide for lesbians who want to strengthen their partnerships, dealing with issues from intimacy and sexuality to housework, children and money. The authors also discuss homophobia and its impact on relationships.

Getting free, for abused women, is narrated by Ginny NiCarthy and based on her book of the same title. On the tape, NiCarthy helps the listener decide if she is in an abusive relationship and analyzes reasons for staying. She also gives advice for leaving and seeking help.

Getting free inspired not only a tape but a handbook, *You can be free*, paper, \$6.95. Adapted for women with basic

reading skills, it is a simplified version of the earlier book. NiCarthy and her coauthor Sue Davidson help the reader identify battering, both emotional and physical, give advice on getting help, and include exercises to help women gain self esteem and overcome fears.

Women's history in America

Sara M. Evans, a professor of history and director of the Center for Advanced Feminist Studies at the University of Minnesota, has written a new book, *Born for Liberty, A History of Women in America*, The Free Press, \$24.95. In it she takes a look at the diversity and richness of the various roles American women have portrayed: pioneers, slaves, immigrants, flappers, factory workers, mothers, activists, and professionals. Gerda Lerner, a fellow feminist writer and historian, writes, "Sensitive to differences of race, class, and ethnicity, rich in detail, firmly grounded in the best scholarship in the field and strongly analytical—this is the best one-volume history of American women available to date."

The costs of fear

The Female Fear, by Margaret T. Gordon and Stephanie Riger, The Free Press, \$19.95, explores the social and psychological costs of the pervasive fear of rape. One reviewer wrote, "This careful analysis of women's fear of rape raises and answers questions of great general interest: what makes people afraid to live in the big cities; how they deal with those fears; what the consequences are for the fabric of society. It exemplifies the rewards of integrating knowledge of women's lives into our understanding of society." The book could be used for counseling, law enforcement, and social work. Write to The Free Press, A Division of Macmillan, Inc., Attn: Dino Battista, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY, 10022.

Lesbians on video

A new video presents the lives of several lesbian couples and attacks the homophobic attitudes of many people. The program, *Out in suburbia*, was named Best Documentary for 1989 at the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. The video presents some lesbians' feelings about men, aspects of the stereotypes, mothers of lesbians, one lesbian's struggle with religion, a couple's decision to have children, and several other lesbian's experiences. The program intends to encourage viewers to take personal responsibility for revising homophobic attitudes and behavior. The 28-minute video is \$295, sale, or \$55, rental. Write Filmmaker's Library, Inc., 124 East 40th Street, Suite 901, New York, NY 10016, or call 212-808-4980.

— MT and LW

SHARE form

Hello! We are in the process of compiling a new edition of the *S.H.A.R.E. (Sisters Have Resources Everywhere) National Directory of Feminist Librarians and Library Workers* and invite you to submit your name and other information to be included. The directory will include indexes for location and type of library. This is a project of the Feminist Task Force of the American Library Association. Please feel free to photocopy this form and pass it along.

THANK YOU

Name _____
please print

Work Address _____
street city state zipcode

Work Telephone _____
area code

Home Address _____
street city state zipcode

Home Telephone _____
area code

Type of Library or Alternative Workplace _____

Professional Skills/Interests/Projects I'd like to work on: _____

Memberships/Affiliations (Please give full name - not acronyms!) _____

Hobbies/Avocations _____

Comments _____

DEADLINE TO RETURN FORM IS JANUARY 1990

Please return to:
Bethany Lawton, *SHARE Directory*, Gallaudet University Library, 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002

One Woman's Political Art

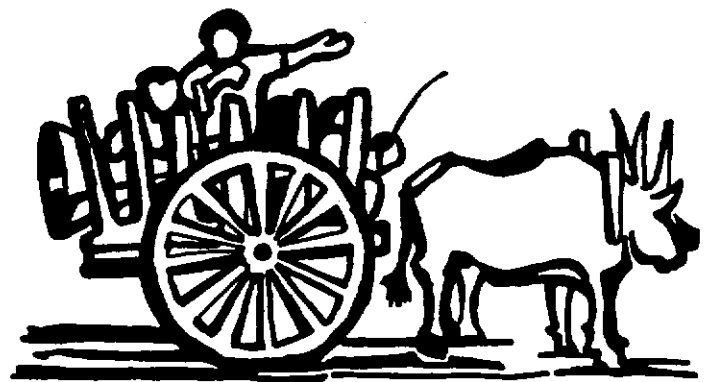
El arte de / The art of Rini Templeton. Mexico, D. F.: Centro de Documentación Gráfica Rini Templeton, 1989. Paper, \$14.95. *El arte de / The art of Rini Templeton*, an international publication project by Centro de Documentación Gráfica Rini Templeton, and The Real Comet Press, Seattle, Washington, is a loving testament to the work and art of a great woman. With a foreword by John Nichols and several accounts of her life by friends and admirers, the bilingual book presents Templeton's political and personal art and

life. Using letters and a chronology of events, the editors show Templeton to have been a woman so completely committed to improving the lives of citizens and workers in Mexico and Latin America that she seemed to have almost no personal life aside from this work.

Though the book is produced economically, the bold, simple graphics are clear and well displayed. Templeton was a total artist who adapted her work to its purpose.



For ten years Templeton lived in northern New Mexico. In her many landscapes of the area, she expressed delight in its unending variety.



In 1981, Templeton helped publicize a march for land reform by owners of small farms on the anniversary of Zapata's death. Since then, a coalition of farmers have organized several nationwide movements under the motto, "Today we are fighting for land; tomorrow for power."

Copper miners in the Clifton-Morenci area of Arizona struck on July 1, 1983 to oppose wage cuts. On May 5, 1984 the Women's Auxiliary organized a rally to celebrate this Mexican holiday. The strike ended in 1986, but Templeton's images remind us that the struggle is not over.

While she "used silkscreen, linoleum, wood and metal engraving techniques, and sometimes color, she was at heart a black-and-white artist who made India ink images to be reproduced on the most accessible copy machines. At times she adopted the Japanese *sumi* method of swiftly creating, with a fine brush, drawings filled with intense physical movement and emotion. For the covers of publications she would use the scratchboard technique, which produce images that look like woodcuts but at much less cost." She taught others and built many workshops where

people could create graphics for themselves. In that spirit, activist organizations working for the same human rights or socialist causes are invited by the editors to use these drawings in newsletters, signs and other printed materials. This inexpensive, thoroughly illustrated and well-designed book is thus a wise investment for such groups. It is also a warm and inspiring tribute to a woman who dedicated herself to the battle for human rights, justice and peace. Her art is featured below. — MT

✽

Templeton affirmed that people on both sides of the border are brother and sister. Here she sketched people caught between importation and deportation, hope and terror. Her drawings are used today in the fight for immigrant and refugee rights.



Zapotec Indians in southern Mexico are fighting to keep their cultural identity and customs of communal property. Templeton's images helped their political coalition win elections in 1981, though two years later the opposition party forced them out illegally.

Reviews

A new landscape

Yamada, Mitsuye. *Desert Run: Poems and Stories*. Latham, NY: Kitchen Table/Women of Color Press, 1988. Paper, \$7.95. *Desert Run* is a perfect title for this collection of Mitsuye Yamada's works. These poems and stories are filled with the same beauty and starkness, family and loneliness, and warmth and coldness which are found in the desert. The shifting of the sands and the shifting between cultures work together to form a new landscape and a new culture which exists for the moment and then changes again with the wind.

Yamada's works are surprising. The story seems to be going in one direction and then she throws in a twist and goes off into a completely new direction. Her works are educational. In *obon: Festival of the Dead*, she describes a yearly ceremony which seems to keep those who have as a continuing part of the family.

*Aunty and I, stranger
together, have come to know the real Obasan on this
day, Obon, Festival of the Dead.*

She shows us the continuing concerns of people in *Guilt* on both counts:

'Yurushite yatte?'
Will you forgive her?
This is August
She is from Hiroshima
Tondemo nai koto dakedo...'
This is outrageous but
you see . . .
her whole family . . .
I stop her with a wave of my hand.
I understand I say
'America demo. . . .' In America too many people blame
me, you
for Pearl Harbor.

Though this is a collection of poems and stories, it is difficult to separate the poems from the stories. The poems are filled with stories and the stories are filled with poetry. Yamada is able to use the power of the word to bring you into her world. There are no weaknesses in this collection. Add this book to your library at work and at home. — DC

Triptych

Piercy, Marge. *Summer people*. New York: Summit Books, 1989. Cloth, \$19.95. Marge Piercy's *Summer people* is the story of the relationship between three artists. Susan and Willie have a conventional marriage until they let Dinah into their lives. They each become her lover, settling into a

relationship which, while not very "deep," is comfortable and satisfying for all three. Years into the relationship, Susan grows dissatisfied with her life and begins to fantasize a privileged existence which would make her happy. She loses touch with Dinah and Willie and a crisis ensues. Susan is like a willful child who through her actions tries to make everyone around her feel guilt. Because the characters don't truly know each other they are easily manipulated by Susan's destructiveness, and in the end, everyone does indeed feel guilty.

As I read the book, I wondered if Piercy even knew her own characters. They all read as wooden and superficial people, lacking any depth or purpose. Piercy's idea of giving depth to a character is to overwhelm the reader with loose details. It is easy to get lost in her descriptive jaunts which lead nowhere and add nothing to the characters or the story. With this novel, it seems she is writing only to see herself write. She no longer knows what is good about her writing. Her style is disjointed and lacks fluidity, making it difficult to understand any point she may be trying to make. I do not recommend Piercy's latest novel as a way to learn more about human nature as her characters are shallow and empty. There are numerous other titles which touch more deeply on the human condition such as Susanna Moore's *Whiteness of bones*, to be reviewed in a later issue of *Women in Libraries*. — DG

Antebellum diaries

Fox-Genovese, Elizabeth. *Within the plantation household: black and white women of the old South*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1988. Paper, \$12.95, cloth, \$34.95. In this well-written, meticulous study of class relations between black and white women in the antebellum South, Fox-Genovese describes everyday life through diaries, handed-down oral accounts, and Works Progress Administration narratives. She is careful to define terms and discuss her limitations. She describes the lives of individual women in efforts to find a pattern but not to generalize from them, and she uses the women's own words as much as possible. Written by a scholar for scholars, the book is readable and accessible to those with a more general interest in women's history. — MT

Asian voices

Asian Women United of California, eds. *Making waves: an anthology of writings by and about Asian American women*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1989. Paper, \$16.95. Responding to a growing interest in the history of American women who trace their roots to Asia, *Making waves* has assembled a variety of these women's voices to explore their common experiences and celebrate their diversity. The book contains poetry, essays, short stories and first-person accounts

of passing history. Organized thematically, the work treats immigration, war, work, family, injustice and identity from both historical and personal perspectives. The section on injustice gives a rich sampling of experiences and ideas, from Renee E. Tajima's essay, *Lotus blossoms don't bleed: images of Asian women*, which discusses portrayals of Asian women in modern western literature and film, to Venny Villapando's article, *The business of selling mail-order brides*, a scathing report on the catalog companies that make fortunes selling women's "addresses," to a raw and bitter short story based on a real event, the gang rape of a tourist by policemen in a city in India, *Mosquitoes in the main room* by Meena Alexander. This book provides a broad spectrum of viewpoints and would be a valuable addition to any library. — MT

Lesbian stories and poems

Weathers, Carolyn and Jenny Wrenn, eds. *In a different light: an anthology of lesbian writers*. Los Angeles: Clothespin Fever Press, 1989. Paper, \$9.95. Reading *In a different light* was a pleasure. The editors have taken great care in assembling this collection of poems and stories. This anthology is consistently good from beginning to end, with sections to appeal to every reader. Each will find something personal; none will leave the book disappointed.

It would be hard to choose any favorite works from the variety contributed by the twenty-nine women represented here. You may enjoy Eloise Klein Healy's poem, *To speak for human feelings*:

*Every word I put on Paper
is a shout against the distance
between us all,
and I'll be human
that much deeper
if my saying so
makes arms around your shoulders
and our silence come undone.*

Brenda Weathers presents a moving story about life and death in *Communion*:

"She never knew whether the whales heard her music, the Bach she played, or the Mozart, or, sometimes, the music she made up for herself. But she played as if they did. She played with her breath and her fingers and her heart, wanting to believe they heard and, like her, were mystified and curious and filled with longing."

In a different light begins with laughter, Nancy Tyler Glenn's *Book People*, and ends with warmth, Pauline Moore's *Good Friends*. The images developed by these craftswomen will stay with you for a long time. — DC

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Since 1977 Navajo Indians have been fighting removal from mineral-rich land. Energy corporations want to relocate the Indians in order to stripmine coal and uranium, a form of mining which would make it impossible to reclaim the land. The opposition has been headed by the elder women who fight for the survival not only of their people but of life on this planet. Art by Rini Templeton. For more see page 8.