



Women in Libraries

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FTF Endorses Pat Schuman for ALA President

Because Pat Schuman has demonstrated an outspoken and assertive position on the rights of minorities and women throughout her library career, the Feminist Task Force (FTF) voted to endorse her candidacy for president of ALA. She is hard-working, energetic and determined, and most important, truly committed to women's issues. She has well-rounded experience and a thorough knowledge of the American Library Association and how it works. She served several years as treasurer of ALA and has been on the Executive Board and the Council. Currently she is chair of the Legislation Committee. She is a founding member of Social Responsibilities Round Table, FTF, and the Intellectual Freedom Round Table.

Outside of ALA, Schuman has worked in public, school and academic libraries, and she has taught at library schools at Columbia University, Rutgers University, and St. John's University. She has broad experience in publishing through her own prolific writing, as president and co-founder of Neal-Schuman Publishers, a publisher of books by and for librarians, and as an associate editor of *School Library Journal*.

At the Candidate's Forum at the Chicago Midwinter meeting, Schuman talked not about recruitment of women and

minorities, but said "we need people, regardless of sex or race." She said the cultural boycott of South Africa was necessary to make our stand against apartheid, and to those who say we "are starving young, black minds," she answered it is not American librarians who are starving those minds but the system of apartheid and South African government policies.

Her main opponent, Patrick O'Brien, head of the Dallas Public Library, didn't agree. He didn't disagree, either. He said he would wait for the Council to vote and then take his stand in accordance with the Council. Pat Schuman took a stand without hesitation. The Feminist Task Force believes she is someone who will lead and not follow. She is clearly the candidate to vote for.

Endorsements for council

The Feminist Task Force agreed to endorse the following candidates for Council: Michelle Leiber, Connie Miller, Regina Minudri, Sarah Pritchard, and Sarah Watstein.

Remember that the fewer votes you cast, the more weight each vote carries.

Acquisitions Notes

Victorian women

Caird, Mona. *The daughters of Danaus*. New York: The Feminist Press, 1989. Paper, \$11.95. First published in London in 1894, this novel deals with the constraints imposed upon a frustrated Victorian woman who is possessed of both a fine intellect and musical talent. Caird was a prolific turn of the century feminist author whose work has been largely lost to us. Included is a clever essay in which she uses the irony of gender-role reversal to answer the question of whether marriage hinders a woman's self-development.

Women of color revisited

Timberlake, Andrea, Lynn Weber Cannon, Rebecca F. Guy, and Elizabeth Higginbotham, editors. *Women of color and southern women: a bibliography of social science research, 1975 to 1988, annual supplement, 1989*. Just released is the first annual supplement to this bibliography. The original work, reviewed in the November/December 1988 issue of *WIL*, earned this comment from our reviewer: "Aside from the abundance of duplicate entry cross-references and the lack of abstracts, *Women of color* will be a useful library research tool. The editors are bridging the gap between researchers and the mainstream and more elusive scholarly literature on women of color and southern women." The supplement is consistent in quality and format with the original. It includes material added to the database in the past year, including materials published earlier.

Feminist perspectives from Minnesota

The University of Minnesota Press has been working on a series called "Feminist Perspectives," and a work on educational opportunities for lower-class women in the Victorian era is one of the latest in the series.

Purvis, June. *Hard lessons: the lives and education of working-class women in nineteenth-century England*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989. Cloth, \$45.00. In *Hard lessons*, Purvis examines the kinds of work nineteenth-century women did, the state of public education in general, the kinds of educational institutions that were in place, and the women who worked to open up educational opportunities for other women. She also points out cultural ideologies and the limitations they imposed.

The series has high editorial standards, reflected in the quality of the publications to date which include Susanne Kappeler's *Pornography of representation*, Liz Kelly's *Surviving sexual violence*, Henrietta Moore's *Feminism and*

anthropology, and Sylvia Walby's *Patriarchy at work*. Just published in 1990 is *Women and industrialization* by Judy Low. (See also the review of *Men's work, women's work*, in this issue.) These forthcoming publications will probably be worth investigating: *Women in the Victorian music hall*, by Jackie Bratton, *Gender and power in primary schools* by Katherine Clarricoates, *Feminism and sociology* by Michelle Stanworth, and *Women in the first world war* by Gill Thomas.

If the two works examined in this issue are representative, this serious and scholarly collection makes an important contribution to our resources on women's history and culture. For more information or to order the books, write to the University of Minnesota Press, 2037 University Avenue, SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

Korean stories

Words of farewell. Seattle: The Seal Press, 1989. Cloth, \$20.95, paper, \$12.95. As part of its series, "Women in Translation," Seal Press has published this new anthology of stories by Korean women writers Kang Sok-kyong, Kim Chi-won, and O Chong-hui. Though well-known in Korea, these women are here published in English for the first time. Dealing with social issues from both uniquely Korean aspects and universal ones, the stories concern student protests, prostitution, marriages of convenience and more.

A journal of boycotts

National Boycott News. Seattle: Institute for Consumer Responsibility. *National Boycott News (NBN)* is a journal to live by. When you shop, you need to know which businesses act ethically and which are exploitive. *NBN* lists businesses to boycott, subject-indexed according to areas of offense from human rights to environment to animal rights, including boycotts of Guess Jeans for sexist advertising to Coca-Cola for support of apartheid through investment in South Africa. (Coca-Cola is the largest U. S. employer in that country.) Articles give the details on reasons for action, updates on boycott activities, and responses from the companies, like a promise from Burger King to quit using rain forest beef. Boycotts do have an effect, and as consumers we can use our buying power to create change. All the addresses are included so you can write to these companies to tell them why you refuse to buy their products. The journal is also soliciting volunteers. The recommended subscription rate is \$10 to \$20. Write to 6506 28th Avenue, NE, Seattle, WA 98115, and send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you can; this publication operates on a small budget.

Conference Notes, Midwinter 1990

Celebrations in Chicago 1990

The Feminist Task Force (FTF), the Black Caucus (BCALA), the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), and the Gay and Lesbian Task Force (GLTF), will all be commemorating anniversaries at the 1990 annual conference.

FTF's main program will be held Sunday, June 24, 1990, 8-10 p.m. Open to all who consider themselves feminists, the program to celebrate FTF's 20th anniversary is devoted to feminism in librarianship. Beginning with a panel of three women who will discuss the history of the task force and go on to address ways to incorporate feminism into day-to-day work and the fight against sexism and racism. The panel will be followed by an "open mike" where women will tell their stories or reminisce about being in FTF, including both long-time members and new members. Souvenirs in the form of buttons or ribbons will be designed and given out at the program. Names of the moderator and those who will be on the panel will be announced in the June issue of *Women in Libraries*.

On the same evening, SRRT will also hold a 20th anniversary festival. FTF will adjourn to join them at Sauers, a big Chicago club in an historic building. SRRT plans a cash bar and entertainment, to include the Armstrong Sisters of Chicago and John Held, Jr., a rubber-stamp artist.

BCALA celebrates its 20th with a dinner dance at the Chicago Public Library's Cultural Center Saturday, June 23, 8 p.m. to midnight. There will be awards, a souvenir booklet, and a multi-media show.



The Gay and Lesbian Task Force also plans an anniversary event. More details on this and the above events will follow in a later issue.

SHARE directory

Betty-Carol Sellen is now in charge of coordinating publication of the directory, assisted by Cinder Johanson, Mary Politz and Ann Doyle. By January, 200 names had been collected, with more coming in daily. Plans are to put the directory in a data base for desk top publishing.

Librarian recruitment

The Women's Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) plans to address issues in recruitment of new librarians at a program at the Chicago annual. FTF will act as a cosponsor.

New group formed

The Progressive Librarians Guild has emerged from initial planning stages and found a name for the group at Midwinter. The group hopes to target single issues in librarianship, to address "concerns about the increasing gap between information haves and have-nots, the inherent biases of current library practices, politics of libraries on the international level, new perspectives on library organization, and the emerging redefinition of role of librarians in society." Progressive librarians may write to Elliott Shore, Librarian, the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ 08540, or Elaine Harger, Empire State College School of Labor Studies Library, 330 West 42nd Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY 10036.



Women in Libraries

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Reviews

Glasnost comes to women's literature

Baranskaya, Natalya. *A week like any other: novellas and stories*. Seattle: The Seal Press, 1990. Paper, \$9.95.

Baranskaya, a prominent Soviet writer, makes her American debut with this collection of short stories. The translation is stilted but the stories express themselves. They describe women's problems with work, family, and self and the conflicts among them in the Soviet Union. The title story is of a scientist, married mother of two young children. She struggles to maintain a balance but this is always difficult, for there is not enough time in the day to take care of all her duties. What does she do in her spare time? "Personally, I like to run. I run here and there, with a bag in each hand of course, up and down, to the trolley bus, to the metro, from the metro . . ." Other stories address the uniquely Russian experience. In "Lubka," the title character is on trial for "anti-social" behavior. In all Baranskaya's stories, she forms a complete picture of individuals facing difficult situations in their own ways, and she creates a rich image of Soviet life as well. —MT

Women's magic

Pjerrou, Mary. *Coz*. San Francisco: Spinsters/Aunt Lute, 1989. Paper, \$9.95. Pjerrou treats us to a bizarre mixture of science fiction, fantasy and magic. Coz is a woman moving backwards in time, who once grew old and now grows young again. A mysterious, strange and complex story of a way of change in the universe, too strange to describe, fascinating to read. A midwife goes to the top of a mountain in the midst of a plain where an unusual collection of characters have come to live in solitude. Beginning with a childbirth in a storm, the story moves on to introduce us to these people, their strange mystical religion, and their expectations of the future, and on the way, Pjerrou somehow reminds us of all the mystical feelings we have known and all the fables we have heard. Truly a remarkable book. —MT

Spiritual empowerment

Swan, Bonita L. *Thirteen steps: an empowerment process for women*. San Francisco: Spinsters/Aunt Lute, 1989. Paper, \$8.95. From Swan's experience as a nurse working with troubled people and from her own life, she has developed a special process devoted to the psychic needs of women recovering from dependency and addiction. With each step in her process, from forgiveness of past actions, both one's own and other people's, to celebration of the child self in us, she replaces the male answers provided by most self-help programs with female ones, poetic and spiritual, and offers sayings like prayers to enable us to accept ourselves, to take responsibility and to create

energy. From leaving poor choices behind to taking full responsibility for oneself, the steps make a circle of completeness, a female symbol, with a feminine number, 13. Swan describes the growth experiences of others to assist us. The book provides journal space for the reader at each step. A useful tool for women who wish to escape not only addictive needs of their own but those which have been imposed upon them through their care of others. —MT

Activism and academia

Fraser, Nancy. *Unruly practices: power, discourse and gender in contemporary social theory*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989. Cloth, \$35.00; paper, \$14.95. Fraser begins *Unruly practices* with the observation that attempts to integrate activism and academia are commonly viewed as acts of betrayal among both activists and academicians. Questioning the necessity and desirability of this oppositional stance, Fraser offers this book as a contribution to the ongoing debate over the social role of intellectuals.

She begins with a series of critical essays on the social theory of Michel Foucault, the French deconstructionists, Richard Rorty, and Jürgen Habermas. Rejecting the theorists' own claims regarding the normative political orientations of their work, or the lack thereof, Fraser attempts to tease out the political implications of each approach. She points out, for example, that Foucault has provided an understanding of modern power which is independent of the liberal distinction between legitimacy and illegitimacy. She then asks, however, whether this implies that Foucault has succeeded in providing a value-neutral model of power, or whether he has merely replaced the liberal normative framework with an alternative normative framework. Fraser finds in the work of Foucault evidence that his work does assume an implicit normative framework, and that this social theory does therefore assume a particular political orientation.

In the last section of her book, Fraser develops a social theory of "the politics of need interpretation," which successfully integrates themes found in contemporary academic social theory and contemporary political activism. She illustrates this integration by examining recent political discourse on the topic of woman battering, arguing that the earlier conceptualization of woman battering as an individual problem relegated the issue to the domestic sphere and hence rendered it an unsuitable topic for political discourse. Only by defining woman battering as a social problem were feminists able to introduce the topic into social and ultimately political discourse, within which the question of a political solution might be addressed. By recognizing the concurrent existence of multiple worlds of

discourse and the impact of power relations upon the products and implications of these various discourses, we can use social theory to shed light upon contemporary political developments as well as recognize the political orientation of contemporary social theory.

Unruly practices is an insightful, thought-provoking, and critical look at contemporary social theory. Fraser draws upon the most recent developments in social theory in a successful attempt to reintegrate activism and academia, or perhaps more accurately, to discover and bring into relief the intricate connections which had never in fact been purged. — PR

Women's work

Bradley, Harriet. *Men's work, women's work: a sociological history of the sexual division of labor in employment*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989. Cloth, \$45.00, paper, \$15.95. Bradley analyses the sex-typing of work, and reveals that though women's work varies according to place, culture, or era, there remains a consistent belief that men and women should perform different work. For example, though women were the cooks in the home prior to industrialization, when cooking went public, men became the cooks while women were left with the chores associated with preparing raw materials and cleaning.

Bradley concentrates her study on the period from the Industrial Revolution to the present in Europe, and concludes that though progress has brought changes, changes in women's work are only in the kind of menial work they are left with after all the "skilled" and "technical" jobs go to men. In the "microelectronic revolution," the new jobs for women are "typically degraded and highly automated, located in highly pressurised and tightly policed environments, low-paid and often part-time"—and also "firmly sex-typed." In concluding, she calls for changes in ideas of masculinity at a very basic level which may be achieved partly through education, legislation to end discrimination which is carefully written and monitored by some enforcing agency, and childcare support. She writes that "without some kind of revolution in 'the hearts of men,' the 'second industrial revolution' is likely only to replicate what we have seen to be the outcome of the original one: the rapid establishment of new gender hierarchies." This is a solid piece of research which would be useful in any history collection. — MT

Softball poetry

Clarke, Cheryl. *Humid pitch: narrative poetry*. Ithaca, New York: Firebrand Press, 1989. Cloth, \$18.95; paper, \$8.95. This is not a "literary review" of a book of poetry since I share the view of a character in P. D. James's new book, *Devices and desires*, that, "if you can read it as prose, then it is prose." Poetry or no, this is a wonderful rendering.

Clarke's words are just right; her characters live long in the memory. Add this book to both personal and library collections. — BS

Retiring to the desert

Rich, Cynthia. *Desert years: undreaming the American dream*. San Francisco: Spinsters/Aunt Lute, 1989. Paper, \$7.95. In the fall of 1982, Cynthia Rich and her partner Barbara Macdonald left New England to live in a remote area of the southern California desert, to escape contemporary life with its "consumer culture" and "clutter of products." This book is written from the first three years of her journal entries about this new life. It is a surface rendering of the trailer community and its inhabitants, the desert environment, and the dangers we court while ignoring the environment. While the message may be sound, neither the people nor the place are invested with life. I would not recommend this book. Better to read Anne La Bastille if interested in the environment and in a life removed from what we call civilization. — BS

Return to Lesbos

Frye, Ellen. *The other Sappho*. Ithaca, New York: Firebrand Press, 1989. Cloth, \$18.95; paper, \$8.95. Ellen Frye's tale weaves history with poetry, folklore with song, the goddess with feminism. Using stories gathered from the modern island of Lesbos as a frame, Frye shapes a world of the sixth century B.C.E. to recreate the life of a woman called "the other Sappho." This is Lykaina, a lesbian poet and musician of native skill. Her love of words leads her to the island of Lesbos and to the famous poet Sappho, whose realm is one of cultured skill and intellectual refinement. Lykaina soon finds the clothing, makeup, and manner of these upper-class women confining. There is no room there for someone whose art comes from the earthy part of herself. As a woman filled with a power that comes from the body and from nature, she knows of the goddess's mysteries, yet to belong and succeed, she is required to block this part of herself, leaving her feeling dismembered and incomplete. Lykaina travels to an uncultivated corner of Lesbos, where within a group of women of like mind, she uses her skill to teach women of common birth.

This story has a special relevance to women today, when the path usually taken in the quest for knowledge and the earning of a livelihood so often require the abandonment of a part of ourselves. In Lykaina's recognition of the cost of this separation, her rejection of it, and her reconnection with the goddess, is an inspirational tale. — GC

Women of the world

Rhoadie, Eschel M. *Discrimination against women: a global survey of the economic, educational, social and political*

status of women. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 1989. Cloth, \$39.95. Order from McFarland & Company, Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640. Rhodie has compiled an endlessly fascinating collection of facts, tables and charts concerning the status of women around the world. Rhodie also addresses the social and cultural pressures which act in opposition to legislative efforts. The book is divided into geographic sections, Africa, Europe, and the Arab-Muslim world, for example, and within each section Rhodie presents case studies of particular countries. Rhodie goes into some detail about rights allowed or denied by customary, religious and statutory laws, comparing and contrasting these laws as they pertain to abortion, divorce, family obligations, employment, property, occupational segregation, and political rights. Rhodie also adds a concluding summary, recommendations for action, and suggested research topics. There are complete notes, a bibliography and an index. This is a thorough, well researched work which should itself appear in the bibliographies of many research papers. Every library serving any sort of women's studies program should have it, and everyone interested in human rights should read it. — MT

Lesbian poetry

Pratt, Minnie Bruce. *Crime against nature.* Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1990. Pratt writes elementally, of passion trapped in a culture which denies it, of the wish for peace in a world of death, of rape and rage and love. Pratt is a lesbian who had to give up her children when she left her husband for a woman, and the pain of that separation rings through the book, a cry of outrage and injustice. These poems reach deep into the truth about the hearts of mothers, lovers, women's lives, of one woman's life. Recommended. — MT

Majorcan detective

Oliver, Maria-Antònia. *Antipodes.* Seattle: The Seal Press, 1989. Part of Seal Press's International Women's Crime series, this new entry, translated from Catalan, is a rare treat. In it, a Majorcan detective, a woman, investigates a "white slave" trading ring from Majorca to Australia. A tough, independent woman, Lonia Guiu is on the case when a young heiress disappears in this high-action, suspenseful story. Earthy and lively, she plays out her role to an uncomfortable extreme when she infiltrates the organization. Guiu is no ordinary detective, and her wholehearted pursuit of the truth makes a great tale. — MT

A woman's eye

Robson, Ruthann. *Eye of a hurricane.* Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1989. In these short stories, Robson exam-

ines seeing, the act itself, its repercussions, and the results of its failure. Given the ambience of Florida and the poetry of Robson's language, rich in metaphor, the images in the stories are clear and bright, sometimes beautiful, sometimes harsh. The first story, appropriately first, is "Learning to see." It opens with this picture:

The photograph is of a shoeless Mexican boy, about eight or nine, standing on a vacant, flat South Florida road. He and his surroundings are in gray tones. The single color in the photograph is the large, round orange the boy holds in front of him, as if offering it to the viewer. Orange. The fruit looks as if it is about to ripen and burst from the heat, as if it is about to send bright boiled juices down the boy's gray arm, down his gray ragged shorts to coagulate into a radiant orange puddle on the gray rocks of the sand.

It is the story of a young photographer who must learn to see beyond what is in her pictures, into the lives of those she photographs. Robson pursues this idea in her other stories, looking beyond the surface in relationships, at work, politically. — MT

Bring back radical feminism

Echols, Alice. *Daring to be bad: radical feminism in America 1967-1975.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989. Cloth, \$35.00; paper, \$14.95. Echols has collected oral history, memorabilia, and written records and put them together into a cogent, exciting account of the early radical days of contemporary feminism. With an incisive foreword by Ellen Willis, thorough notes and appendices, lists of individuals and organizations, Echols has made a substantial contribution to recorded women's history. As Willis writes in the foreword, "radical feminists articulated the earliest and most provocative critiques of the family, marriage, love, normative heterosexuality, and rape." They are responsible for many of the freedoms women now have. She also points out that, following the Supreme Court's Webster decision in which legislation on abortion was thrown back to the states, "it is less the act of abortion that so deeply divides us than what that act represents: it is women's freedom." The limitations of women's earlier victory in the Roe v. Wade decision need to be understood in order to bring a determined and decisive end to this continuing battle. Though we never hear the words "post-human rights" people use the term "post-feminism." We need to know why the movement lost so much of its inertia. Echols, as a partisan of the early movement, hopes "that by illuminating the reasons for the movement's decline, this study will help to stimulate discussion on how the movement might be revitalized." Understanding our history better may bring us new resolve. — MT

FTF Renews the Fight Against Racism

At Midwinter the Feminist Task Force renewed our commitment to working on issues concerning racism. Specifically, we decided to devote one of the business meetings scheduled for Chicago in 1990 to an informal workshop, to make racism the theme for our ALA/Atlanta program, and to continue setting aside Midwinter and Annual business-meeting time for anti-racism activities.

A particular area of interest for FTF will be to pursue racial and cultural diversity in the workplace. Lennie Copeland, in a July 1988 article in *Personnel*, outlines ten steps used by companies that value diversity and wish to incorporate it into their operations:

- *Recruitment*: to increase the number of women and minorities hired through improved college relations programs and diverse hiring from the experienced market.
- *Career development*: to expose women and minority employees to the same key developmental jobs that have traditionally led to senior management positions for their white, male counterparts.
- *Diversity training for managers*: to address myths, stereotypes and real cultural differences as well as organizational barriers that interfere with the full contribution of all employees.
- *Diversity training for employees*: to improve the employees' understanding of corporate culture, success requirements, and career choices that will affect their advancement.
- *Upward mobility*: to break the "glass ceiling" and increase the numbers of women and minorities in the

higher salary groups through mentoring, executive appointment, and other programs.

- *Diverse input and feedback*: to move from asking managers what they think minority employees need to asking the employees themselves what they need.
- *Self-help*: to encourage and enable women and minority networks and support groups.
- *Accountability*: to hold managers accountable for the development of their diverse work forces.
- *Systems accommodation*: to respect and support the diversity of cultures through the recognition of different cultural and religious holidays, diet restrictions, and the like.
- *Outreach*: to develop a reputation as a multi-cultural leader (and hence visibility as an employer attractive to women and minorities) through supporting women's and minority organizations and programs.

Copeland has published other articles which may provide more ideas, including "Valuing diversity part 1: making the most of cultural differences at the workplace" (*Personnel*, June 1988, pages 75-81) and "Valuing diversity part 2: pioneers and champions of change" (*Personnel*, July 1988, pages 83-88).

FTF will use this and other information to assist in our greater goals to increase understanding of other ethnic groups, banish stereotypes, and defeat racist practices.

— SD

Dues Increase

The American Library Association has decided to increase dues for members in several increments over the next few years. Some members think the decision to increase dues was handled improperly. The upper levels of administration have also adopted a policy whereby association revenues available to use for membership activities should not include income from the publishing and gift shop ventures.

Some members, however, think that since the membership sponsored the creation of these businesses, revenue from them should all be part of the package rather than separate and untouchable by members. If any *WIL* readers would like to comment, representative letters will be published in future issues.

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