



Women in Libraries

Volume 23, Number 2

June 1994

Mab Segrest to speak at FTF breakfast

Mab Segrest, feminist, lesbian, activist and author is scheduled to speak on these aspects of her life and her writing at Sunday breakfast with the Feminist Task Force, at the ALA's annual conference. Ginny Daley, Women's Studies Archivist at Duke University, and Lolie Hayes, editor at Segrest's publisher, South End, will also speak.

Segrest will read from her latest work, *Memoir of a Race Traitor*. In this book, she explores her heritage as a Southerner and her activism against the Klan and neo-Nazis in North Carolina during the 1980s. "I come to writing as an organizer and I come to organizing as a writer," she says. "There are strengths and weaknesses in the approach," she concedes, but "my book has its own role in the world." She hopes it will encourage others in their political work.

Segrest has had lots of responses. "Racism and homophobia affect us in intensely personal ways," she says, and a lot of her responses have been similarly personal.

"So much of my work is autobiographical and journalistic," Segrest says. *Memoir* is based on her own experiences during a period of intense organizing work as well as her background from an old Alabama white family with a long tradition of racism. This means it included personal details about her family, her coworkers, and her opponents. Part of the work in getting it to publication involved delicate negotiations concerning privacy issues and meticulous research.

The archivist and the editor

Ginny Daley was instrumental in establishing Segrest's archives at Duke's Special Collections Library. She plans to address specific issues she and Segrest faced in setting up the archival collection in relation to Duke's overall efforts to document women writers, feminist and lesbian activism, and small

presses in the South. A major hurdle in establishing the archive was the need for privacy for individuals mentioned in the papers. "Mab's intensely personal writing coupled with her keen sense of justice, forced us to come up with some creative solutions regarding access and privacy," Daley says.

On the whole, however, the experience has been positive. Daley says, "working with Mab to preserve her papers has been an incredible delight as well as a challenge." She says, "Mab is such an important figure in lesbian literature, contemporary feminist activism, and Southern race relations that acquiring her personal papers and literary manuscripts was high priority for Duke."

(Continued on page 2)

Annual Conference Feature:

Special pullout calendar page.

*Listed are meetings and programs
pertaining to women's issues*

Pages 3 and 4

Words on *Memoir of a Race Traitor*

In *Memoir of a Race Traitor*, Segrest examines the complex interrelation of racism, misogyny, homophobia, and capitalism, both in her own family and in the South, against the background of the extreme right-wing activities of the Klan and the neo-Nazis in the 1980s. Several authors and historians wrote recommendations for Mab Segrest's new book.

Historian Howard Zinn declared Segrest's work "extraordinary." He said her memoir "has enormous political power, even while it tells the intensely poignant story of a white Southern girl as she discovers her lesbianism, becomes a radical activist against a murderous Klan, and deals with her family's deep conservatism in ways that instruct all of us. It's a political memoir, but its language is poetic and its tone passionate." When he read the work, he said, "I started it with caution and finished it with awe and pleasure."

Poet and author bell hooks had this to say about her success: "Courageous and daring, this work testifies/documents the reality that political solidarity forged in struggle can exist across differences."

Adrienne Rich, who wrote the introduction to another of Segrest's books, *My Mama's Dead Squirrel*, considered *Memoir* "a unique document and thoroughly fascinating." Rich said "Mab Segrest is of a younger generation than I, another kind of family. But her essays speak to the whispers in my bones, and

Segrest to speak for FTF

(Continued from Page 1)

Lole Hayes, Segrest's editor, will talk about South End Press and her experience working with the author on *Memoir*. All three speakers will respond to questions.

Segrest's other work includes *Feminary: A Lesbian-Feminist Journal*, which she co-edited, and *My Mama's Dead Squirrel: Lesbian Essays on Southern Culture*. She has been at work co-editing a new book, *The Third Wave: Feminist Essays on Racism*, due out soon from Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press.

Order tickets Now!

To order tickets, see page 6. Tickets may also be purchased at the conference. Order soon to make sure you have a reservation.

they both remind and instruct me. To understand this country—and its women's history—we need to know the American South from the perspective of those who, . . . like Mab Segrest, have lived real lives there all along."

Please see page 6 to order tickets to the Feminist Task Force's annual program, the Women's Author Breakfast.

Notes from elsewhere

In a commentary on a Supreme Court ruling on jury selection by syndicated columnist James Kilpatrick: "Blacks historically have been subject to discrimination, but no such claim can be successfully made for women."
Editor's note: Huh?



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Subscriptions are \$5 for individuals, \$8 for institutions (prepaid), or \$10 for invoiced subscriptions.

ALA Annual Conference Calendar

Feminist Task Force Meetings

Meetings of the Feminist Task Force are listed here along with meetings and programs of other groups involved in minority and women's issues. Check later schedules to confirm times and room numbers and for more details on programs and receptions.

Some common abbreviations

ACRL: Association of College and Research Libraries
COSWL: ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship

MBCC: Miami Beach Convention Center
SRRT: Social Responsibilities Round Table
WSS: Women's Studies Section, ACRL

June 24, 1994. Friday

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. RASD Services to User Population Section: Women's Materials and Women Library Users Discussion. Fontainebleu—Conference 6.

June 25, 1994. Saturday

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. COSWL program: Women & Technology: The virtual library and the disadvantaged majority. Intercontinental—Sevilla.

8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Progressive Librarians Guild panel: The NII: Universal Access or Information Apartheid? Room to be announced.

June 26, 1994. Sunday

8:00 - 11:00 a.m. **FTF program: Women's Author Breakfast. See pages 1, 2 and 6.**
Crowne Plaza Miami—Douglas.

2:00 - 5:30 p.m. **Feminist Task Force meeting.**
Alexander Hotel—Le Cafe.

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. ACRL WSS general orientation and membership meeting.
MBCC—B217.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. ACRL WSS Social Hour.
Governor Hotel lobby bar. 435 21st Street, Miami Beach.

June 27, 1994. Monday

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. **FTF meeting.**
MBCC—D231.

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ACRL WSS program: Making the Net*Work: Is there a Z39.50 in Gender Communication?
Fontainebleu—Voltaire.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. LAMA Women Administrators Discussion Group meeting.
Ramada Resort Deauville—Charlemagne.

June 28, 1994. Tuesday

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. **FTF meeting.**
MBCC—C226.

Don't be left out in the cold!



Don't find yourself on the outside looking in! Sign up now for the Women's Author Breakfast Sunday morning. Besides hearing an inspiring speaker, Mab Segrest, we'll have french toast, lots of yummy pastries, and all the coffee you can drink. Don't wait until it's too late—send for your tickets today! Turn to page 6 for ordering information.

ALA Conference News

Turock wins!

Betty Turock won the election for president-elect. The Feminist Task Force and the Social Responsibilities Round Table had endorsed her candidacy. As ALA president, she has promised to continue her activist stance against racism, sexism, and homophobia.

Gay/Lesbian book award winners announced

The Gay and Lesbian Task Force will present two awards at the annual conference, one for fiction and one for non-fiction.

Phyllis Burke has been selected in the non-fiction category for her work, *Family Values: Two Moms and Their Son* (Random House), about the author's transformation from the closet to activism through the catalyst of lesbian parenthood.

Leslie Feinberg will be the recipient for her fiction work, *Stone Butch Blues* (Firebrand Books). In the novel, Feinberg explores transgendered identity in the years surrounding the Stonewall uprising.

The awards have been given to outstanding works with gay or lesbian content since 1971. This year, ten finalists were selected from a field of 47 nominees. The awards will be presented in a ceremony on June 27 in Miami. Check your conference program for details.

COSWL plans new book

The Bibliography Task Force of the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL) will meet in Miami to begin planning a new edition of *On Account of Sex: An Annotated Bibliography on the Status of Women in Librarianship*. The new edition will include citations for the years 1993-97. The task force may need additional members.

If you are interested, notify Betsy Kruger, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Check your ALA program for meeting times for the task force or COSWL.

Focus on the Internet

The Internet is big news these days, and ALA is not waiting for others to create policy. At least three programs will target the internet for discussion. COSWL and WSS are cosponsors of a program Saturday afternoon at 2:00. Cheri Kramarae, University of Illinois; Gladys Smiley Bell, Kent State University; and Leigh Estabrook, University of Illinois, will discuss women and technology, with an eye to the ways in which women are a disadvantaged group.

The Progressive Librarians Guild plans to look at issues of universal access in a panel at 8:00 Saturday evening. Speakers include Itibari M. Zulu, UCLA Center for Afro-American Studies; Howard Besser, UC/Berkeley; and Laura Powers, Libraries for the Future. The focus will be on access for all populations.

ACRL's Women's Studies Section will consider gender communications in a program at 9:30 Monday morning. Dr. Becky Mulvaney, Florida Atlantic University, Dr. Susan Herring of the University of Texas, Arlington, and Dr. James Carmichael, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, will explore issues of gender and communication in the electronic environment.

Conferences coming up

July 20-27, 1994. Reframing Women's Health: An Intensive Summer Institute. Sponsored by the Center for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Illinois at Chicago, this institute focuses on multidisciplinary approaches for educators, researchers, practitioners, policy shapers, advocates, and others. Write to the Office of Continuing Education and Public Service (M/C 165), The University of Illinois at Chicago, 1033 West Van Buren Street, Suite 700N, Chicago, IL 60607-2929.

November 17-20, 1994. North American Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Studies Conference. The sixth annual conference is called "InQueery, InTheory, InDeed," and the keynote speakers include activist Lani Kaahumanu, co-editor of *Bi Any Other Name*, and Gloria Anzaldua, author of *Borderlands*. Write to Center for Conferences and Institutes, Iowa Memorial Union, University of Iowa, Iowa City 52242.

Panel and paper proposals must specifically address bisexuality and/or the lives of people of color. To present, send work to Kevin Kopelson, 308 English-Philosophy Bldg., University of Iowa, Iowa City 52242.

Women in Libraries
American Library Association
Office for Library Outreach Services
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611



Join us for French Toast and a Southern author

Eat breakfast with Mab Segrest and FTF!

The Feminist Task Force's Annual Women's Author Breakfast is set to bring you Mab Segrest, Southern author and thinker. She will speak and read passages from her latest work, *Memoir of a Race Traitor*.

For more information and insight into her work, see articles on pages 1 and 2. Join your friends and meet new ones, and get ready for a stimulating Sunday morning!

Breakfast will be served at the prestigious Crowne Plaza Miami, Sunday, June 26, from 8 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$12 in advance, \$7.50 for students, or \$15 at the conference. Send your check, payable to ALA/SRRT/FTF, to:

Dotty Granger
Norman Library
Pacific Oaks College
5 Westmoreland Place
Pasadena, CA 91103



The food will be good, too!

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