

WOMEN

in libraries
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Newsletter
of the ALA/SRRT
Task Force on

WOMEN

Vol. 4 No. 5

May 1975

Ed: Kay Cassell

ALA - SAN FRANCISCO

Don't forget the women's conference on Sunday, June 29, at the San Francisco YWCA as well as the Task Force on Women meetings.

- June 30 (Monday) 4:30 - 6 p.m. - Task Force Mini-Workshop
Committee on Acquisition of
Feminist Materials for Libraries.
- July 1 (Tuesday) 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. - Meeting to discuss possible
Feminist Caucus
- July 3 (Thursday) 2 - 4 p.m. - Task Force business meeting

There will also be a meeting of the Task Force's Committee on Sexist Subject Headings on July 2 (Wednesday) from 2-4 p.m.

The Task Force will have a women's suite at the El Cortez Hotel beginning Sunday, June 29. The room will be listed in the names of Liz Futas and Kay Cassell and will be available for small meetings and get togethers.

FEMINIST CAUCUS?

The idea of a women's or feminist caucus within or outside of ALA was discussed at midwinter. Women were asked to submit statements to Liz Futas indicating their views on this issue.

Betty-Carol Sellen and Joan K. Marshall submitted a statement recommending 1) we should continue as a SRRT Task Force, 2) we should consider becoming an ALA Round Table on the Status of Women and 3) a feminist caucus might sap our energies which could be better used elsewhere. They state: "We think that the basic question at this time should be do we want to spend time on organization that could - at least possibly - be spent on action".

The Bay Area SRRT submitted a proposal for a "Women Library Workers" Coalition which they define as "the growing sisterhood of non-submissive, life-affirming women who are committed to action programs in democratically run libraries." They further state: "We think WLW could operate most creatively as a decentralized network of action oriented Task Forces, originating within local chapters (altho some might become national TFs organized around a common interest). The Task Forces would grow naturally in response to shared needs - building feminist resource centers; combating sexist terminology; affirmative action; whatever. Similar TFs throughout the region/country can keep in touch thru their own newsletter/ meetings and the national WLW paper. Some centralized coordination would be necessary, such as doing the national newsletter/publicity; maintaining a membership roster and the SHARE Directory; managing the budget; organizing a national gathering of the tribes. The women who take on year long coordinating jobs should be paid out of membership dues. They can be selected in July in S.F. and next year elected by total membership."

"WOMEN IN UNIONS" PROGRAM

SRRT'S program at ALA in San Francisco will feature the role of women in the labor movement, especially in public and academic libraries, and in the recent attempts to organize the publishing industry. The panelists will include Maxine Jenkins, a San Francisco labor organizer and participant in Union Wage, a labor women's newspaper. Ms. Jenkins was recently fired from her position at SEIU local 400 by the male director and overwhelmingly reinstated by SEIU membership, in a controversy that centered around women's issues. The other panelists are Jane Ellison, president, Librarians Guild, Los Angeles Public Library, Anne Uthman, president, United Professors of California local 1353, San Francisco State University and Bernice Krawczyk, former president, Association of Harper & Row Employees and organizer for the Publishing Division of District 65, Distributive Workers of America.

CENTER FOR THE AMERICAN WOMAN AND POLITICS

The Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), is a division of the Eagleton Institute of Politics on the Douglass College campus in New Brunswick, N.J. This Center, established in 1971 with the aid of a Ford Foundation grant to conduct research and educational programs, examines the role and the programs of women in public life.

Ruth Mandel is currently Director of the Center. I did not get a chance to personally interview Ms. Mandel, but we did speak briefly via telephone. She sent a packet of literature to me in order to provide me with background information on the Center. I toured the Center's collection of sources, and I was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to speak with Sara Chrisman, who is the Center's Information Services Coordinator.

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Ms. Chrisman explained that the focus of CAWP's specialized collection is contained in a bibliography recently published by the Center entitled Women and American Politics: A Selected Bibliography, 1965-1974. It serves as a guide to information about women's participation in American politics by presenting an idea of what kind of material is available in the world of print.

As for the Information Services program, the Center has been instrumental in the publishing of significant works such as Jeane J. Kirkpatrick's Political Woman, the aforementioned bibliography, and Women and Voluntarism: A Selected Bibliography, 1968-1973. The people at the Center have informally collected names for a network of resource people throughout the country. They also are planning to compile a directory of women in politics.

The beauty of the information services provided by the Center is that they will answer requests for information from the public. The collection of materials is accessible to all, and copies of materials can be xeroxed on request for a small fee which covers xeroxing (10¢ a page), postage and handling costs.

The Center for the American Woman and Politics is a unique, specialized collection of materials. It is an important resource for all librarians. Anyone interested should write for the bibliography on "Women and American Politics" by sending \$2.00 for each copy to the Center of the American Woman and Politics, Rutgers--the State University, New Brunswick, N.J. 08901.

--interview by Lee Chomyk

PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

Mortgage Money: Who Gets It? A Case Study in Mortgage Lending Discrimination in Hartford, Connecticut is a publication of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Clearinghouse Publication 48, June 1974). It examines sex and minority discrimination in mortgage lending and states that for minorities and women the deck is stacked against them. The report recommends amending Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 to prohibit discrimination based on sex. This document is available from the Commission in Washington, D.C. 20425.

Civil Rights Digest's Fall 1974 issue has an excellent article on "The Compounding Impact of Age on Sex" by Tish Somers which discusses the double discrimination faced by the older women.

Women: A Guide to Bibliographic Sources was compiled by Anne Woodsworth at the University of Toronto Library. It is an annotated guide to the student doing research on women. Bibliographies, biographies, course syllabi, directories, encyclopedias, indexes, abstracts and periodicals are among the sources listed. Send a check for \$1.00 made payable to the University of Toronto Library (Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A5) for a copy.

MIT's Humanities Library has published a bibliography of its Human Studies collection which includes newspaper and journal articles, unpublished these and papers and ephemera of both the Women's

Movement and the Men's Movement. Write them for a copy (Humanities Library, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139).

Media Report to Women has published an Index/Directory which indexes the first 2 volumes of their publication and provides a directory of women's media groups. It lists women's periodicals, presses, news services, columns, radio - TV, cable, video, film, art, music, etc. An invaluable library tool. The Index/Directory costs \$6 and Media Report to Women costs \$15 per year or \$10 for individual women. (Media Report to Women, 3306 Ross Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008).

"Out from behind the wheelbarrow; paperbacks for women's studies" by Adele Stern (Media & Methods, February 1975, pp. 26-29 +) has an interesting reading list including both fiction and non-fiction. The same issue has an article by Ron Epple on "Films By/About Women" (pp. 36-37) which is worth a look.

Women Law Reporter provides information on judicial, legislative and administrative actions in sex discrimination law. It is published on the 1st and 15th of each month and costs \$275 per year. The address is 5141 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, D.C. 20016.

The Women's Collection in the Special Collections Department at the Northwestern University Library publishes a periodic newsletter. Contact Bonnie J. Sellak, editor, at the Library in Evanston, Ill. 60201.

Virginia Slims has published a new America Women's Opinion Poll conducted by the Roper Organization. The mini booklet which summarizes the attitudes of women on marriage, divorce, the family and changing sexual morality is free. Write Philip Morris, 100 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

WOMEN'S HISTORY POSTER

Seattle NOW is selling an attractive poster on "Women in History" to celebrate the Bicentennial. The posters are \$2.00 each, 25 @ \$1.00 each, 100 @ \$85.00 all postpaid. Size: 17 x 22. Send order to: Seattle-King County NOW, 2252 N.E. 65th St., Seattle, Wash. 98115.

EMMA GOLDMAN INFORMATION EXCHANGE/EMERGING POPULATION ALTERNATIVES

EMPA is an international network of individuals and groups seeking to promote alternative, non-Malthusian approaches to understanding and action on population and "family planning".

They are collecting information and materials in the following areas:

- government and private programs aimed at altering population trends
- reproduction and the role of women
- contraceptive safety and testing
- population factors in relation to Third World development
- population, pollution and environmental degradation

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-the 'population establishment' including government and private agencies, international organizations and academic institutions.

At present they have two annotated bibliographies, some "fact sheets" (produced for the World Population Conference) and a variety of articles, pamphlets and reprints (including most items on the bibliographies). For further information: Emma Goldman Information Exchange, Emerging Population Alternatives, c/o 278 West 19th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

INFORMATION ON SEX-ROLE STEREOTYPING AVAILABLE

Judith Kram developed for the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, a comprehensive resource, "A Resource for Eliminating Sex-Role Stereotyping in Textbooks" which contains bibliographies of readers, biographies, integrated textbooks, supplementary material and literature on sexism in children's books. Also included are textbook guidelines developed by publishing houses, State Departments of Education, and professional and feminist organizations, as well as legislation and instructional material. This resource is available for consulting in the Commission office: Room 2108, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02202.

For those who are unable to come in to use the resource, Ms. Kram has compiled a list of bibliographies and catalogs of non-sexist children's literature, bibliographies on sexism and related publications. A similar list of guidelines, legislation and Board of Education resolutions is also available. Both of these lists may be obtained from the Commission office.

BAY AREA SRRT ENDORSES JONES

On February 18, 1975 the members of Bay Area SRRT, passed a resolution to endorse Clara S. Jones for the ALA's presidency. They stated: "Her dedicated work in expanding and updating library services to respond to the needs of our society has been met with well-deserved praise and with implementation. She is exactly the person ALA needs, and as we struggle for similar goals, our choice is obvious--we support Ms. Jones, and call on others to do likewise."

NAMES OF WOMEN NEEDED FOR WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

A document "FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE" dated January 30, 1975 from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and on its letterhead (suite 601, 1717 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20036, 202-382-6595. Frederick H. Burkhardt, Chairman) relates to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The Commission "will ask Congress this spring to appropriate the full 3 1/2 million \$ authorized..."

"The Commission's Chairman, Dr. Frederick Burkhardt, told participants at a January conference of the American Library Association that President Ford's signing the White House Conference bill into law on December 31, 1974 now clears the way for Conference preparations.

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The first step, said Burkhardt, will be to assemble the names of persons who should serve on the 28-member advisory committee on the Conference. According to law the committee will consist of the Chairman and at least three Members of the National Commission, five persons designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and five designated by the President Pro-tempore of the Senate and fifteen persons named by the President. Burkhardt urged librarians and others concerned with the Conference to write their Members of Congress and the White House with suggestions of committee members."

NCLIS consists of 12 men and 3 women. So do send suggestions of women for the advisory committee today.

--from Helen R. Wheeler

REPORT ON THE WOMEN IN LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION INSTITUTE

The University of Wisconsin Extension Division sponsored an institute on "Women in Library Administration," November 24-26, 1974. The conference focused on the problems women face who aspire to administrative positions in libraries and on the difficulties women administrators must tackle in order to do their jobs effectively.

The first segment of the institute dealt with women librarians and library administration in Norway, Nigeria and Bulgaria. (The representative from Bulgaria was unable to attend, but her paper was distributed to participants.) Mrs. Ogunshaye, Head of the Division of Library Studies, Ibadan University, Nigeria, stressed that as a result of the strong position of women in Nigeria (women have always worked there) women experience less discrimination than in Western countries. On the other hand, women librarians in Norway face a parallel situation to women librarians in the United States. Cultural biases, lack of mobility among women and the unaggressive mind-set of the women themselves converge to create less-than-favorable conditions for the advancement of women in Western countries, including the U.S.

Cyrena N. Pondrom, Assistant Chancellor, in charge of affirmative action programming at UW Madison, gave a hard-hitting account of discrimination against women faculty and administrators at academic institutions and the self-help steps women can take to counteract the discrimination. She dealt with the practical realities of how to get along within the system without necessarily becoming "one of the boys."

The representatives from the U.S. library administration were Glenora Rossell, Director, University of Pittsburgh Libraries, Allie Beth Martin, Director, Tulsa City-County Public Library and ALA President-Elect, and Margaret Knox Goggin, Dean, Graduate School of Librarianship, Denver (who gave a video taped presentation). It became evident from the talks of these women that the theme of the conference centered more on effective library administration and not on what goes into an effective woman library administrator. They all tended to play down the affect of discrimination in their bids to reach the top, nor had they found it difficult to function in an administrative role as women. (The librarians from Norway and Nigeria also disclaimed any per-

sonal difficulty in attaining their positions of stature in the profession.) I think the deemphasis on aspects of discrimination against women in the profession by most of the speakers at the institute is illustrative. Most of the speakers might be considered "super women," and, for the most part, most are super-competent administrators. The problem is, what about those of us who are not extraordinary. Shouldn't we receive the same opportunities as the not-so-extraordinary men who rise very quickly to the top? What are some of the avenues for upgrading our administrative skills so that we will be prepared to take on administrative responsibilities? These are questions which the speakers and the discussion sessions that followed the talks did not take up in much detail.

--report by Liz Dickinson
Hennepin County Library

NWPC CONFERENCE

The National Women's Political Caucus will meet June 26-29 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel in Boston. For further information, write Anne Lewis, N.W.P.C., 78 Queensberry St., Boston, MA 02115.

STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

The Hawaii Library Association at its spring conference passed a resolution that all future publications and official documents will be written to avoid sexist terminology.

NEW YORK STATE GUIDELINES ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN

John A. Humphry, Assistant Commissioner For Libraries, N.Y. State Education Department, recently issued the following guidelines on equal opportunity for women:

- I. General administrative practice
 - A. There is evidence that the library profession as a whole suffers in terms of salary and prestige as a result of its image as a "woman's profession." By giving support to legal and administrative mandates recognizing the equal abilities and contributions of women, libraries can correct the negative aspects of this position while at the same time advancing their own objectives.
 - B. The library's historic interest in identifying and meeting the information needs of its clientele leads logically to thorough-going efforts in this area affecting a major portion of traditional library users.
 - C. Libraries traditionally have played a constructive role in providing resources and visibility to the struggle of various segments of our society for self-realization. A strong commitment to a policy of Equal Opportunity for Women could advance the cause of libraries as relevant useful forces in society.

II. Employment practices

A. Actively recruit women for higher level positions in libraries.

CORRECTION

Wilson Library Bulletin editor, William Eshelman, twitted the newsletter about his agreement to publish articles prior to their having been written. He stated that he wouldn't make such a promise even to Gloria Steinem. But he did tell Betty Turock he'd be happy to see the articles when completed.

In the meantime Betty Turock informs me that three of the articles on women who are good role models are completed and will be reviewed by the TF at San Francisco.

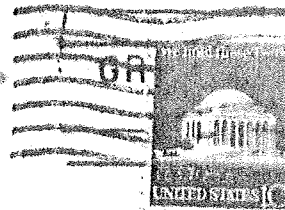
LAW MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON MICROFILM

"The Women's History Research Center, 2325 Oak Street, Berkeley, CA 94708, has been promised \$10,000 in revenue sharing funds to complete the microfilming of their law material, if the Center can raise \$30,000 in donations and standing orders from libraries. Please urge your local libraries to order this collection otherwise the material will have to go to the University of Wyoming un-microfilmed".

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS'S YEAR

The Business and Professional Women's Foundation has prepared a packet of information on women around the world. The packet includes statistics, a bibliography, biographical sketches on women in the U.N. and reprints of the articles, "Lost Women" and the "Third World Woman". Packets are available for \$1.00 from the Business and Professional Women's Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Ms. Kay Cassell
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RE: ANN
TO

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