

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT TASK
FORCE ON WOMEN

Vol. 6 No. 4

March 1977

Ed. Kay Cassell

ALA MIDWINTER REPORT

A structure for the Task Force on Women

Future directions for the Task Force on Women within ALA were discussed in depth at Midwinter. A statement of the Task Force's purpose, goals and functions had been drafted by Kathy Weibel and was adopted in a slightly revised form at the Task Force's Wednesday meeting. (This statement is reprinted in this newsletter.) A brochure on the Task Force including this statement will be prepared for the summer conference. A subcommittee chaired by Linda Crowe was established to draft a paper on a possible steering committee structure for the Task Force.

Job Roster

It was announced that the Job Roster has ceased publication due to the feeling of its editors that it was not serving the Roster's purpose adequately. A subcommittee on the job roster suggested exploring the possibility of a job hot line and expressed the need for a feminist oriented counseling service at conferences. This subcommittee will continue to work on proposals and make a final report in Detroit. Comments for the job roster committee can be directed to Janette Neal, EPR Dept., Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Square, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103.

Newsletter

More publicity for Women in Libraries is being planned with special emphasis on ALA publications and library schools. Mike Leber is in charge of this publicity. New prices for the newsletter were established - \$4 for individuals, \$1 for students, unemployed and retired librarians and \$6 for institutions.

Detroit plans

The major Task Force program will be on Sunday afternoon, June 19. The speaker will be Gail Sheehy, author of Passages, a book on crises in adult life. There will be a joint Task Force and Women Library Workers suite in Detroit.

SRRT TASK FORCE ON WOMEN - A STATEMENT

Statement of Purpose: The SRRT Task Force on Women serves as a membership forum within the American Library Association for the exchange of information, concerns, experiences and resources on women's issues and as a vehicle for activism within the profession, particularly within the Association, on these same women's issues.

Goals:

- To design and implement strategies for change to improve the status and role of women within the Association and the profession.
- To act as a stimulus to the Association and its various units in making libraries and librarians more responsive to women's issues.
- To provide a means of communication among those interested in women's issues affecting libraries and librarianship.
- To support and encourage those engaged in the struggle for women's rights within the profession.
- To promote the development and dissemination of library resources reflecting feminist viewpoints.
- To present programs, arrange exhibits and carry out other appropriate activities.

Functions:

- Hold meetings at annual and midwinter ALA conferences
- Publish Women in Libraries
- Publish the bibliography, Women in Librarianship
- Provide the base for organizing within ALA
- Plan and implement special programs and projects
- Cooperate with other groups to achieve the stated purpose
- Coordinate activities with other women-oriented library groups
- Monitor the creators and producers of library resources in their handling of women-related materials

AD-HOC WOMEN ADMINISTRATORS' GROUP - A REPORT

Over 70 women attended the ad-hoc women administrators' group meeting at Midwinter. The group expressed a variety of needs including the need for leadership training workshops, the need for information about advertised jobs (i.e. are they really open or have they been filled before they're advertised, etc.), the need for interviewing experience, the need for a network to find out about jobs, the need for positive role models, the need to get experience useful to one's resume, the need for a network to find out about women to recommend for administrative positions and the need for mentors.

The women attending agreed that the discussion group should petition to be a discussion group or a committee within the Library Administrators Division. A petition will be written and sent to LAD members in the group for signatures.

A FINAL REPORT FROM THE JOB ROSTER

Janette Neal offered the following recommendations in her final report on the TFW Job Roster:

- Plan a conference program on the theme of interviewing techniques
- Have feminists in the "comfort station" at the conference placement center
- Have OLPR (Office of Library Personnel Resources) materials on sources of information about jobs available at TFW meetings
- Provide an opportunity for job seekers to meet for counseling, consulting and commiserating at ALA conferences
- Consider sponsoring a paid job counselor during conferences

Thanks to all the people who participated in the discussions at the Midwinter conference. I'd like to close with a personal statement based on my 1½ years as co-editor of the Job Roster. The Job Roster provided information about jobs and was not effective because a) women weren't applying for jobs, and b) when they did apply, women didn't get the jobs. I think we need to see the Task Force move in the direction of providing job counseling and career guidance - helping women define their career goals, encouraging them to set their career goals high, teaching them about affirmative action laws, etc.

We need your ideas. Send them to me, Janette Neal, EPR Dept., Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Square, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103.

CONFERENCES

"The Dilemma of Self Expression; the Yes and No in Ourselves," a conference sponsored by the International Women's Writing Guild, will take place at Goucher College, Baltimore, July 29-31, 1977. The International Women's Writing Guild is a newly formed alliance of women connected to the written word. The program is open to all women whether or not they are published writers. For further information, write to: Hannelore Hahn, Director, International Women's Writing Guild, 1628 York Ave., New York, N.Y. 10028. Tel: (212) RE 7-7536. Registration deadline: June 15, 1977

The academic conference of the Barnard College Women's Center will be held on Saturday, April 23, 1977. It is the fourth in a series examining the impact of feminism on traditional modes of scholarship. This year's conference is entitled "The Scholar and the Feminist IV: Connecting Theory, Practice and Values". Pre-registration is required. For further information, contact, Women's Center, Barnard College, New York, N.Y. 10027.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION FORMED

The founding convention of the National Women's Studies Ass. took place January 13-16 in San Francisco. Membership is open to learners, practitioners and support and administrative staff of

feminist education. Voting membership will be available to individuals and groups involved in feminist teaching, learning and research. Membership includes a subscription to Women's Studies Newsletter. Membership rates are based on income. For further information, write Sylvia Gonzales, Women's Studies, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192.

REPORT ON WISN

The Women's Information Services Network (WISN) met for 1½ days following ALA Midwinter. Representatives from the BPW Foundation Library, Center for Women Policy Studies, Radcliffe College's Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, the Feminist Press, Catalyst Library, Women's Action Alliance and the SRRT Task Force on Women were among those present. The major item of business was a discussion of the federal government contract awarded the Educational Testing Service under the Women's Educational Equity Act. ETS was awarded \$449,000 to design a Women's Educational Act Communications Network. In discussing this contract with a representative of ETS, it was determined that ETS will base its analysis of need and its subsequent design on only 100 interviews and 300 to 500 replies to a very general letter. This sample is incredibly small for a national user need assessment. It also appeared that ETS had a preconceived plan and did not plan to base the network on the outcome of the user assessment. They also appeared to be ignoring the existing research facilities of women's information. WISN expressed great concern about the expenditure of such a large sum of money in such a manner. They have, therefore, written to U.S. Education Commissioner, Dr. Ernest Boyer, to express their concerns.

Another project of WISN is a directory of women's research facilities. Individual groups present reported on projects. Catalyst is doing a women's corporate talent bank, BPW Foundation is doing an information packet on battered women and Feminist Press is doing a bibliography of women's bibliographies.

NEW YA NOVELS OF NOTE FOR FEMINIST LIBRARIANS

I often feel that feminists, in their zeal to fill in historical gaps, or worse, with revisionist leanings, pay much more attention to sexism in biographies and textbooks for young adults than to the adolescent novel genre which is eternally popular and seems here to stay. Usually published by the juvenile departments of trade publishers and advertised for ages 12 and up, these novels usually feature a teenage protagonist with a problem more adolescent than cosmic in scope, who solves it pretty much on his or her own. Adult help in the solution is usually absent or hindering though well-intentioned. The worst of the genre are mini-sermonettes on friendship, brotherhood, the virtues of pre-marital abstinence, etc., but the best hold their own with, or are better than most popular adult literature, and two of the very best have appeared this past fall which warrant feminist interest.

Home Before Dark by Sue Ellen Bridgers (Knopf) is an exceptionally fine first novel about 14-year-old Stella whose migrant family is returned abruptly to the tenant farm of her father's boyhood. Stella vows she'll never leave for the road again and begins filling in the social experiences she's missed, for although she has helped deliver her younger brother and picked crops for money, she's never gone out with a boy nor explored her own sexuality. Her self-possession unfortunately frightens a shy, sensitive boy initially attracted to her, and she opts for a more superficial, flashier type whom she learns about the hard way. Her mother Ella, old before her time and absolutely terrified by this sudden settling down, dies, and her father decides to remarry the town spinster. Stella resists being uprooted and refuses to leave the farm until her stepmother helps her understand that her real roots are in people, not in things or places. Stella's coming of age is done so superbly as is the depiction of strength in all the women characters that Ms. Bridgers well deserves the raves this book has received.

Very Far From Anywhere Else by Ursula Le Guin (Atheneum) shows an expected master's attention to the genre. 17-year-old Owen, a scientifically-bent smart kid, is suffering from lack of friends and focus when he meets Natalie, one year older, who is working fiercely toward becoming a musician. Through her sensitivity and friendship and through his exposure to her commitment, he decides what he wants to do with his life, and both learn what place a truly loving sexual relationship will play in their pursuit of a mutual life but independent career goals. In a novel just longer than a short story, Ms. Le Guin has pared the complexities of coping with, and being, a new kind of young woman down to an understandable level for young teenagers of both sexes.

-Mary K. Chelton, Consultant, YA Services
Westchester (NY) Library System

FREE FOR THE ASKING

Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Women in Libraries for each of the following items:

1) a reprint of the article, "Beyond Awareness: Women in Libraries Organize for Change" which appeared in the January 1977 School Library Journal.

2) a copy of the pathfinder on Affirmative Action written by Judith King (Grand Valley State College) which appeared in the January 1977 issue of News of Women in Michigan Libraries

NEW BOOKS TO NOTE

New Life Options: The Working Woman's Resource Book by Rosalind K. Loring and Herbert A. Otto (McGraw-Hill, 1976) examines all aspects of the working woman's life by a team of experts representing diverse fields such as education, sports, law, family planning and communications.

Locating, Recruiting and Employing Women: An Equal Opportunity Approach, by Cecilia Foxley. (Garrett Park Press, Garrett Park, Md., 1976 \$7.50 ppd., \$8.50 billed). This volume includes virtually everything you need to know about women workers and laws on employment discrimination. A sample affirmative action program is included.

Working for Your Life: A Woman's Guide to Job Health Hazards by Andrea Hricko with Melanie Brunt is available from the Labor Occupational Health Program, University of California, 2521 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94720.

Battered Wives by Del Martin (Glide Publications, 330 Ellis Street, San Francisco, 1976, \$6.95) is a gripping, enraging account of the violence done to women, not only by husbands, but by social workers, courts, hospitals.

Women and Literature: An Annotated Bibliography of Women Writers (Women and Literature Collective, Box 441, Cambridge, MA 02138, \$3.50 plus 25 cents postage). The much expanded third edition of this valuable bibliography is indeed a welcome event. This annotated list of women fiction writers is arranged by country and by century.

Nobody Speaks for Me! by Nancy Seifer (Simon & Schuster, 1976, \$10.95) is a book of oral histories portraying the lives of ten working class women.

Voluntary Participation Among Women in the United States: A Selected Bibliography, 1950-1976 provides access to information about the nature, extent and political impact of U.S. women's voluntary activities and affiliations. Copies are available for \$3 pre-paid, from the Center for the American Woman and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ 08901.

Getting Your Share, An Introduction to Fundraising describes the steps involved in applying for foundation grants, provides a proposal checklist and lists resource groups and materials. A list of (self-described) change-oriented foundations is appended. This booklet is available from Women's Action Alliance, 370 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017 for \$2.00.

The Lost Bellybutton by Margaret Morganroth Gullette is the story of Coppelia's search for her lost bellybutton. A delightful new book for children ages 4 - 7 from Lollipop Power, P.O. Box 1171, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (\$1.75)

BOOKLEGGERS' RAFFLE

Booklegger is running a raffle to raise sufficient funds to keep itself alive. The winner of the raffle will receive a \$50 gift certificate from either Women in Distribution or the Small Press Book Club. To participate in the raffle, send a contribution to Booklegger today. Please indicate whether you'd like a chance on a gift certificate to WIND or Small Press Book Club. Don't delay since the deadline is March 20. (Booklegger Press, 555 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131).

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

On The Line is a film about people who are on the line today. It is about some of us who are trying to understand and control the economic forces that affect our lives. Persons in the film include the residents of Co-op City and Ford workers at the Mahway NJ assembly plant. Librarian Carol Anshien was involved in the photo production and research. For distribution information, contact: Barbara Margolis (director and producer), 252 W. 75th St., 2B, New York, NY 10023.

Women in Engineering and Women in Management are two new films designed to help junior and senior high school women think more seriously and realistically about possible career choices. The films are available from Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a rental fee of \$25 each. Send purchase order two weeks in advance to Christine Dall, MIT, Bldg. 9, Rm. 315, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Mind Openers, a small publisher of non-racist, non-sexist photographic material, has announced two items: 1) a 20 poster set, "People on the Job", shows women and men in blue and white-collar jobs (\$12 per set) and 2) a 30 minute filmstrip/cassette, "News Media and the Working Woman -- Getting Rid of Stereotypes in Reporting", which describes the stereotypes of working women as perpetuated by the news media and demonstrates practical remedies (\$17.50). To order either of these items, write Mind Openers, Box 2948, Rockridge Station, Oakland, CA 94618.

A number of recordings by and about women are now available from Olivia Records, Box 70237, Los Angeles, CA 90070. These include albums by Chris Williamson, Meg Christian and Kay Gardner. Write for a catalog.

PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

The U.S. Small Business Administration recently released two publications about women and the SBA. "Women and the U.S. Small Business Administration" is a pamphlet outlining services women can obtain from the SBA. "The Facts About Women as Users of SBA Services" includes statistical data on loans made to women-owned businesses in 1975 and 1976 including a breakdown by industry and by race. For more information, contact the SBA, Washington, DC 20416.

"Women in Congress, 1917 to 1976" has been released by the Joint Committee on Arrangements for Commemoration of the Bicentennial. The 121-page publication is a brief photographic reference book with biographical facts and short legislative histories of the women who served in Congress since 1917. Copies are available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20401.

The 1977 edition of Media Report to Women Index/Directory has been released by the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press. The revised edition includes an annotated index of media activities and research reported in the publication during the past five years and a directory of women's media groups and individual media women. The Index/Directory is available for \$8 from the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, 3306 Ross Pl., NW, Washington, DC 20008.

NEW PERIODICALS

The Equal Rights Monitor is a national magazine "dedicated to current reports on Equal Rights Amendment activity and the legal rights of women." Copies and subscriptions are available without charge from Equal Rights Monitor, 926 J Street, Suite 1014, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Sinister Wisdom is published three times a year. It contains essays, fiction, poetry, drama, reviews and graphics. Its stated purpose is to develop a lesbian imagination in politics and art. Volume 1 no. 2 edited by Beth Hodges is indeed an impressive issue. Writings by June Arnold, Susan Griffin, Bertha Harris and Judith McDaniel are included. Subscriptions are \$4.50/individuals and \$9.00/institutions. Send to Sinister Wisdom, 3116 Country Club Drive, Charlotte, NC 28205.

The Woman MBA is a new journal founded to help professional women develop in the corporate work environment. The major objective of the editorial design is to help career women distinguish and cope with the problems uniquely encountered by them. For further information, write The Woman MBA, P.O. Box 6722, Stanford, CA 94305.

ON THE ERA

ERAmerica is a central clearinghouse for information on the Equal Rights Amendment supported by over 100 organizations devoted to securing the ratification of the Amendment. It provides information about the position of each of the organizations as well as current data on the status of the Amendment. ERAmerica, 1525 M Street, NW, Suite 605, Washington, D.C 20036.

Next news deadline is May 1, 1977.

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES is published 5 times a year. Subscriptions are \$4/individuals, \$6/institutions and \$1/students, unemployed and retired. Make checks payable to ALA/SRRT Task Force on Women and send to Kay Cassell, Bethlehem Terrace, Apt. H-181, Slingerlands, NY 12159.

Kay Cassell
Bethlehem Terrace, H-181
Slingerlands, NY 12159

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL