

# WOMEN IN LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ALA/SRRT TASK  
FORCE ON WOMEN

Vol. 7, No. 2

November 1977

Ed. Kay Cassell

## TASK FORCE ON WOMEN MEETINGS AT MIDWINTER 1978

The Task Force on Women meetings at ALA Midwinter in Chicago are scheduled for Sunday, January 22, 8:30 - 10:30 pm.; Tuesday, January 24, 2:00 - 4:00 pm. and Wednesday, January 25, 10 am. - noon.

The Task Force will sponsor two career decision workshops on Monday, January 23, from 9:00 - 12:00 and from 2:00 - 5:00 pm. The cost is \$5.00 (materials provided). Send your registration to Margaret E. Lowe, Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706, no later than January 6, 1978. For further information, contact Lynne Erickson or Kathy Leide, 419 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53706.

## ON SEXISM/RACISM AWARENESS IN LIBRARY SCHOOLS

M.P. Marchant, chair, LED Research Committee, recently sent a questionnaire to all library school deans to ascertain the sexism/racism awareness training presently being done. One question read as follows: "Considering the time available in your program and the many instructional demands involved, should you increase your emphasis on discrimination awareness, or are you (and your faculty) doing about what can reasonable be expected?"

## ON THE ERA

The Clearinghouse International Newsletter reports that the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau's Board of Directors passed a resolution urging Illinois legislators to support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. This active support is a result of the lost booked business and the loss of the opportunity to bid for certain groups over the past year.

## LC INFORMATION BULLETIN USES SEXIST LANGUAGE

When Cynthia Johanson (Descriptive Cataloging Division of the Library of Congress and a member of the Task Force on Women Steering Committee) complained that the Library of Congress Information Bulletin (LCIB) referred to women as chairmen, she was informed that as a matter of style the LCIB does not use either the terms chairperson or chair, nor the designation Ms. It is interesting to note that the Library of Congress affirmative action guidelines

for 1978, published by LCIB, calls for the use of non-sexist language.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE

A short bibliography useful for women new to feminism is available by sending a self-addressed envelope to Women in Libraries.

#### LIBRARIAN CARRIES THE TORCH

Professor Julia Emmons of Emory University's Division of Librarianship faculty carried the torch being carried to the National Women's Conference in Houston for a two-mile run in Atlanta. Three cheers for Julia!

#### CAREER INSTITUTE BEING HELD

The University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences is offering an intensive three-week institute designed to train professional librarians in the collection and evaluation of career materials, communication and counseling skills, and techniques for developing a low cost-career information center tailored for a specific library in a particular community. The Institute on Career Collections Development and Counseling, scheduled from February 13 through March 3, 1978, will bring together a group of 25 public and state librarians selected from a nationwide pool of applicants. It is funded under Title IIB of the Higher Education Act. For more information and applicant forms contact Dr. Sara Fine at the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, GSLIS Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

#### FROM THE WOMEN'S HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

The Women's History Research Center has announced that it is now its own distributor. The Center has compiled a list of 200 libraries in 8 countries which have some or all of the Center's microfilm available. Copies of this list can be obtained by sending 25¢ and a stamped self-addressed envelope to Women's History Research Center, 2325 Oak St., Berkeley, CA 94708. The Health, Law and Herstory (serials) microfilms are also available from the Center.

#### ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The Freedom to Read Foundation is lending financial support to a federal suit aimed at enjoining a local school board from removing a poem from the school library. The suit against the Chelsea (MA) School Committee also seeks to enjoin the board from retaliating against the school librarian who ordered and defended the book in which the poem appeared. In an editorial (August 2) the Boston Globe described the poem "The City to a Young Girl" (from the anthology Male and Female Under 18) as "a savage attack on the crude attitudes of men toward women, a vivid expression of a sentiment shared by many who care about the real issues of feminism. Its language was as crude as the words millions of thoughtless men have applied to women for years."

## FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE DRAGONWOMEN

One has only to read Pamela Sargeant's introduction to Women of Wonder (Vintage, 1975) to understand the deplorable position women have held (pun intended) in science fiction. The presence and stature of Anne McCaffrey in the field today is, therefore, reassuring, not only because she has made it as a woman writer in a previously male field, but because her storytelling is so superb and has such a broad appeal to adult and YA readers alike.

Although McCaffrey was first known for her award-winning Ship Who Sang (Ballantine) about a deformed girlchild who was turned into a sentient spaceship, she is especially beloved for her Dragon series set on the mythical planet of Pern. Flying, fire-breathing dragons have been developed to fight the ravaging "thread" which falls from a neighbor planet every 200 "turns" (years) and an intricate society supports the dragonrider warrior class with a variety of social, sexual and economic (un)conventions. Dragonflight and Dragonquest (Ballantine) form the first two parts of the adult (and older YA) trilogy-in-progress on the subject, but thanks again to the genius of Jean Karl in Atheneum's juvenile department, a juvenile trilogy in the same setting is also in progress for younger readers.

In Dragonsong and Dragonsinger (Atheneum), the focus is on teenage Menolly, the musically gifted student of the harpen in her remote seahold (village). Because being a harpen is strictly a male occupation on Pern, both books deal in sequence with the price Menolly pays in being true to herself and her talent. Anne McCaffrey told me she rewrote the first chapter of Dragonsinger 14 times until her teen readers in Ireland said that it was right. That kind of care shows in the book which is a delight to read and beautifully written. I urge WIL readers to treat future "Dragonwomen" and themselves, to Anne McCaffrey's work as soon as possible.

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

## WOMEN'S PRESS PUBLICATIONS

A Directory of Women Writing, edited by Andrea Chesman and Polly Joan, was designed to help women writers who wanted to communicate with other women writers. Over 750 women writers who are interested in contacting other women are listed. Personal comments and poetry from many of the women are included. The annotated listing is arranged alphabetically with an index by state. The Directory is available for \$3.50 from Women's Writing Press, R.D. 3, Newfield, NY 14867.

Write On, Women! A Writers' Guide to U.S. Women's/Feminist/Lesbian Alternate Press Periodicals is a listing of 45 women's periodicals. For each publication, the annotation indicates the type of articles carried; the periodical's interest in receiving manuscripts; the amount of payment, if any; and the requirements

for submission. There are very useful indexes in the back which list by subject the type of material published such as local and national reporting, book reviews, poetry, etc. For a copy, write Lynne D. Shapiro, 92 Horatio Street, 4S, New York, NY 10014. The price is \$3.50.

Silhouettes of Woman by Phyllis Shanken is a chronological series of compositions and poems, each designed to look at one facet of a woman's life. The writings are personal and poignant with lovely line drawings by Anne Bell Greenberg. Copies are \$3.00 from Philmer Enterprises, 617 Wayfield Road, Wynnewood, Pa. 19096.

For Those Who Cannot Sleep by Ruth Ikeler (New Woman Press, Box 56, Wolf Creek, Ore. 97497, \$3.50) is "a collection of poems about one woman's inner journey and struggle in the land of alone." Written during the years when the author was 28 to 31, it describes her period of struggles and her rebirth. "Out of this winter Of the easter Out of this death Being begins."

Fire Under Water by Miriam Dyak is the first publication by New Victoria Publishers, Inc., 7 Bank St., Lebanon, NH 03766. Ms. Dyak's poems are mostly about women, men and nature. Her imagery is sharp and powerful. A poet to watch. (\$3.00)

Vanilla Press (2400 Colfax Ave. S, Minneapolis, Minn. 55405) has published two new volumes of poetry. Women Poets of the Twin Cities is an anthology of women writing. (\$3.60) Rites of Ancient Ripening by Meridel LeSueur is a collection of 33 chants and songs that celebrate life on the American plains. Meridel LeSueur was widely published in the thirties and forties and blacklisted in the fifties. A unique and powerful volume. (\$3.60)

The Toilet Book by Helen McKenna (Harmless Flirtation with Wealth, \$3.00) is a guide to fixing your toilet. It has excellent diagrams and easy to follow instructions. (Order from Women in Distribution, P.O. Box 8858, Washington, DC 20003).

The Maimie Papers. Historical editor: Ruth Rosen. Textual editor: Sue Davidson. Feminist Press. \$6.95. The letters of a Jewish ex-prostitute, Maimie Pinzer, in Philadelphia to Mrs. Fanny Quincy Howe, a distinguished Bostonian, at the beginning of the century are indeed a remarkable collection. Maimie's letters provide a fascinating autobiographical account of the life of a working woman. Another of Feminist Press's important contributions to our knowledge of women of the past. (Order from Women in Distribution)

The Godfathers; Freudians, Marxists and the Scientific and Political Protection Societies by Naomi Weisstein, Virginia Blaisdell, Jesse Lemish (distributed by Northwest Matrix, 1628 E. 19th Ave., Eugene, Ore. 97403) \$3.00. A view of the scientific establishment from the far left as well as discussions of Freudianism and Marxism. Weisstein's comments on feminism and science are most interesting. A point of view well worth reading and thinking about.

Sibyl-Child Press has begun a Women's Literature Series which will include poetry, fiction, plays and essays by writers who have not previously published in book form. Their first publication is a chapbook of poems, Magdalen, by Ruthellen Quillen. The poems are often bitter and filled with vivid images. Quillen writes both of people and of nature. The book is available for \$2.25 from Sibyl-Child Press, Box 1773, Hyattsville, Md. 20788.

#### WORKING WOMEN UNITED INSTITUTE

The Women United Institute is developing a project dealing with the problem of sexual harassment on the job. For more information, contact WWUI, 593 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021.

#### PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

Two new publications are available from the Women's Bureau. "American Indian Women" is a fact sheet on the labor force participation, education, income and marital status of Indian women workers. "Minority Women Workers: A Statistical Overview" is a revision of the 1975 "Facts on Women Workers of Minority Races." Both pamphlets are free from the Women's Bureau, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210.

Prime Time, By and For Older Women is now five years old. It contains articles on aging and ageism. Prime Time is available for \$7 a year (for 6 issues) or half-price for those on Social Security or unemployed. Write Prime Time at 420 W. 46th St., New York, NY 10036.

The Journal of Research and Development in Education devoted its Summer 1977 issue to "Changing Roles of Women." Gertrude Berger (Brooklyn College School of Education) is the editor, and Renee Feinberg and Susan Vaughn (Brooklyn College Library) are contributors. The journal is available for \$3.00 from the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602.

Women's Studies, a Guide to Reference Sources by Kathleen Burke McKee (University of Connecticut Library, Bibliography Series No. 6) is an annotated bibliography arranged by subject with a supplement on feminist serials by Joanne V. Akeroyd. This bibliography is especially useful because it lists not only works on women but more general works which may be useful in researching women's issues. The serials listing is a most comprehensive one. Copies are \$5.00. Make checks payable and send to: Acquisitions Dept., University of Connecticut Library, Box U-5, Storrs, Conn. 06268.

Booklets describing the Legal Status of Homemakers have been released for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. They are \$1.25 per post-paid copy from the Supt. of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

The American Association of Community and Junior Colleges has issued a report on women's access to non-traditional (men only) fields. This report is available for \$3.00 from the AACJC Publications,

621 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

The American Association of University Women has published a 33 page booklet, "Educational Financial Aids, A Guide to Selected Fellowships, Scholarships and Internships in Higher Education." It is available for \$1.00 from the AAUW Sales Office, 2401 Virginia Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

A report on the Ford Foundation's program in the field of civil rights litigation, Nine for Equality Under Law: Civil Rights Litigation, has been issued. The report notes that women's rights is an expanding program at the Foundation. For a copy, write the Foundation at 320 E. 43rd St., New York, NY 10017.

Spare Rib is a feminist magazine from England. Each issue includes feature articles, news notes, book and film reviews, fiction and poetry. Spare Rib c/o Linda Phillips, 114 George St., Berkhamsted, Herts, England (\$15.00 seammil)

Window Dressing on the Set: Women and Minorities in Television is a report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on the role of women and minorities in network television programming. The report said it "blamed the networks for the stereotyped portrayals of women and minorities in programming." The report is available at no charge from the Commission, 1121 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20425.

"Men and Women: the Consequences of Power," edited by Dana V. Hiller and Robin Ann Sheets, is a collection of papers from the conference, Pioneers for Century III. Copies are available for \$4.50 from the Office of Women's Studies, University of Cincinnati, 1116 Crosley Tower, No. 164, Cincinnati, OH 45221.

Some WEAL (Women's Equity Action League) publications you will want to acquire are "Guidelines for Preparing Resumes" (\$1.00); "The Small Group Concept" (\$1.00) - suggested readings for discussion groups arranged by subject; and "Women and Health" (\$2.00) which presents background information on several women's health issues and follows up with a list of community and/or individual projects as well as a list of relevant legislation. All are available from WEAL, 733 15th St., NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Organize! A Working Women's Handbook (Union WAGE Educational Committee, P.O. Box 462, Berkeley, CA 94701, \$2.50) is a pamphlet on how to organize a union, writing and negotiating union contracts and on how to build a caucus. Union WAGE is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of working women fighting discrimination on the job, in unions and in society. Write for a publications list.

Women and Work is a study prepared by Patricia Cayo Sexton for the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration. It is a comprehensive review of all that has been learned about women and work from ETA research projects. Copies of the study are free from the Inquiries Office, U.S. Department of Labor, Rm. 10255, 601 D St., NW, Washington, DC 20213.

Meeting Ground is an independent feminist publication supported by contributions. It is an outgrowth of responses to the publication, Feminist Revolution. Its editor is a member of Redstockings though the publication is not a Redstocking project. Meeting Ground's articles deal mostly with issues of radical feminism. For further information, write P.O. Box 7, New Paltz, NY 12561.

#### RECOMMENDED READING

Women: Roles and Status in Eight Countries, edited by Janet Zollinger Giele and Audrey Chapman Smock (John Wiley, \$15.00) A comparative study of the status of women in eight very different countries.

The Female Spectator: English Women Writers Before 1800, edited by Mary R. Mahl and Helen Koon (University of Indiana and Feminist Press, \$15.00) An anthology of early women writers adding greatly to our knowledge of talented women of yesteryears.

Games Mother Never Taught You: Corporate Gamesmanship for Women by Betty Lehan Harragan (Rawsen Associates Publishers) A highly recommended book which gives tips for women on how to get to the top and work successfully in a corporate atmosphere.

Looking Ahead: A Woman's Guide to the Problems and Joys of Growing Older, edited by Lillian Troll, Joan Israel and Kenneth Israel. (Prentice-Hall, \$8.95) Twenty-four essays on older women including ones on sexuality, family roles, economic problems and friendship.

Women in Media: A Documentary Source Book, edited by Dr. Maurine Beasley and Sheila Silver, includes 30 documents on women in media ranging from "Jane Swisshelm: Abolitionist Newspaper" to "Monitoring Prime Time: United Methodist Women." Copies are \$5.95 from Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, 3306 Ross Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

Dimity Convictions: The American Woman in the Nineteenth Century by Barbara Welter (Ohio University Press, \$4.50) A readable account of the climate of female opinion in which Margaret Fuller grew and developed her ideas.

#### INFORMATION NEEDED ON ANTI-RAPE DEVICES

Tallahassee Science for the People is evaluating anti-rape devices and in particular the "Paralyzer" (a tear gas defense weapon). This research includes a literature search and talking with people who've had personal experiences with the "Paralyzer". Anyone with information of use to this group, contact Tallahassee Science for the People, Progressive Technology Co., P.O. Box 20049, Tallahassee, FL 32304. The group plans to publish and make available its findings.

MEDIA OF NOTE

In the Best Interests of the Children, A Film About Lesbian Mothers and Child Custody is available from Iris Films (Box 26463, Los Angeles, CA 90026). The 52-minute documentary is obtainable for \$60 rental or \$550 for sale.

Her Social Security, a series of four half-hour broadcast tapes, has just been released by the University of Michigan Television Center. The series explores inequities in the Social Security system. Her Social Security is available to television stations, educational institutions and other interested organizations, in 3/4" video-cassette format. For more information, contact Eleanor B. Forlenza, Promotion and Marketing Director, U-M Television Center, 400 S. 4th St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

A variety of audiovisual materials as well as pamphlets on family planning are available from the Educational Materials Program, Carolina Population Center, University Square, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Write for their publications list.

The American Personnel and Guidance Assn. has produced a two part film entitled "Assertive Training for Women". Part 1 is especially appropriate for high school and college students and part 2 is for college students and older. Both use a series of vignettes of inter-personal situations to stimulate discussion. The films are available for a \$25 rental fee or \$250 for sale. American Personnel and Guidance Assn., Film Dept., 1607 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009.

NEXT NEWS DEADLINE IS JANUARY 1, 1978.

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES is published 5 times a year from Sept. to June. Subscriptions are \$4 for individuals and \$6 for institutions. Make checks payable to ALA/SRRT Task Force on Women and send to Kay Cassell, 44 Nathaniel Blvd., Delmar, NY 12054.

Kay Cassell  
44 Nathaniel Blvd.  
Delmar, NY 12054

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL