

# WOMEN IN LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ALA/SRRT TASK  
FORCE ON WOMEN

Volume 9 Number 3

January 1980

Ed. Kay Cassell

## STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Task Force on Women steering committee has decided to experiment with a new format for steering committee elections. It is hoped that this new format will give all Task Force members an opportunity to run for the steering committee and to vote in the election and that it will provide greater continuity since the new steering committee members will be elected before the annual conference.

Steering committee members are elected for two year terms. There are four positions to be filled this year. Terms end at the close of the annual conference. Those presently finishing a two year term are: Suzanne LeBarron, Julie Chase, Gurley Turner and Betty Turock. Those who are completing one year of their term are: Elizabeth Futas, Sheila Hess, Diane Kadanoff and Barbara Schelle (formerly Winch).

The procedures for the nomination process are:

1. Nominate yourself or someone else as a candidate for the steering committee.
2. The person nominated should send in a statement of interest and concerns.
3. The person nominated must be able to attend ALA conferences.
4. The deadline for nominations is February 29, 1980. Send nominations to Kay Cassell, 44 Nathaniel Blvd., Delmar, N.Y. 12054.
5. The election ballots will be included in the March WOMEN IN LIBRARIES.

The steering committee is optimistic that this election process will result in more members participating in the Task Force elections than is possible at an ALA conference. If you have comments about this process, please write Task Force coordinator, Suzanne LeBarron, 334 Manning Blvd., Albany, N.Y. 12206.

## ALA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO BE QUESTIONED

Candidates running for ALA President will be asked to respond to questions related to the concerns of the Task Force on Women. In addition to the two candidates already on the slate, Annette Phinazee, Dean, School of Library Science, North Carolina Central University, Durham, N.C., is running as a petition candidate. The results of the questionnaire will be published in the March WOMEN IN LIBRARIES.



PRECONFERENCE PLANS SET

"Women in a Woman's Profession: Strategies II", ALA Preconference on Women in Librarianship, will be held June 25 - 27, 1980, at Cook College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. The fee is \$75 or \$85 if you wish to request a single room. A registration form is included on the last page of WOMEN IN LIBRARIES. Program details will be in the March issue.

LEBARRON RESPONDS TO SLJ EDITORIAL

Suzanne LeBarron, Coordinator, Task Force on Women, wrote the following response to Lillian N. Gerhardt's November SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL editorial:

Dear Ms. Gerhardt:

We welcome debate but cringe at cuteness.

Your November editorial confused two types of strategies: those used by members within their association and those which are part of movements larger than a single association. The boycott of states that have not passed the ERA Amendment is a national effort which ALA joined very late. Many active, committed librarians regard their participation in this critical national effort as more important than their participation in a single meeting of ALA.

Participation in the boycott was labeled a "sulk." Is the entire boycott strategy by a multitude of organizations a large scale sulk?

You failed to mention that the threatened lawsuit was for our not holding last year's Midwinter meeting at the Palmer House. I hesitate to recommence a debate over issues of a vote that has been completed, but the statement was misleading.

Sulking to Oblivion? Oblivion will hardly be the fate of the Task Force on Women and individual ALA members who are participating in this boycott. We will be active at all future conferences. Indeed, a preconference, Women in a Woman's Profession: Strategies II, is being held before the 1980 conference. Our commitment to the passage of the ERA has strengthened our communication network. Our commitment to the profession and to ALA has not weakened, in spite of the disregard so many members have shown for the rights of women.

Sincerely,

Suzanne LeBarron, Coordinator  
SRRT Task Force on Women

EXECUTIVE BOARD DISCUSSES FUTURE CONFERENCE SITES

As you may have seen from the library media's reports on the fall ALA Executive Board meeting, there was some discussion of future ALA conference sites. They indicated that they would like for Council to discuss and clarify the resolution pertaining to not meeting in states which have not ratified the ERA. The ERA Task Force was also asked to comment on the resolution. There will undoubtedly be more to report on this issue after Midwinter.



ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING THE MOVE OF HEADQUARTERS FROM CHICAGO OFFERED

The following letter was sent to Robert Wedgeworth, Executive Director, American Library Association, on November 16, 1979. To date there has been no response.

Dear Bob:

The Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship and the SRRT Task Force on Women are responding to your request for direction in planning the move of headquarters from Chicago. Your request was in response to a question concerning progress on this matter during the Dallas Council meeting. The Committee and the Task Force, after long deliberation, appointed a joint subcommittee to communicate with you on the issue.

It had been thought that the formation of an Executive Board subcommittee would be the logical first step in beginning planning. This still appears to be the best method by which to proceed on such an important issue.

The other method that had been discussed by our two groups had been to immediately contact Chambers of Commerce in selected cities in ERA states or districts. The requested information would include data on the advantages to our Association of relocating in their cities. Seeking an appropriate site and taking steps to sell the Chicago property are the obvious duties that would be undertaken by the subcommittee of Executive Board when appointed.

If you and the Executive Board prefer, however, the Committee and the Task Force would be more than willing to undertake the entire planning for the relocation of ALA headquarters. Considering the time and energy involved, we project that a reasonable timetable for completion would be 1984. We, of course, will not go ahead with this until we receive the authority to do so.

We would appreciate a written response to our plans and suggestions before Midwinter to allow for discussion at the information meeting of Council.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Futas, Councilor-at-Large  
Suzanne LeBarron, Councilor-at-Large  
Joint Subcommittee of CSWL/SRRT TFW

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The National Women's Studies Association will hold its annual convention at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, from May 16-20, 1980. The program will include panels, seminars and papers in feminist education as well as presentations in the arts. Participants can look forward to discussions of Women's Studies Programs in academic institutions and of feminist alternatives to traditional education. For further information, contact Judy Markowitz and Barbara Fassler, Conference Coordinators, Women's Studies Program, Towson State University, Towson, MD. 21204. Phone (301) 321-2859.



The second annual conference on Women in Crisis will be held at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, June 5 - 8, 1980. This conference will address the issues and needs of women who are confronted with problems of alcohol, drugs, criminal justice or mental health disability. For further information, write Women in Crisis, 444 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. (212) 686-1942

The National Hispanic Feminist Conference will hold its first national meeting on March 28-31, 1980, in San Jose, California. The following areas are to be addressed: research literature and the Hispanic woman, socialization processes, education/bilingual education, guidance and counseling/psychology, political action/educational equity, feminism and the Hispanic woman and higher education and the Hispanic woman. For further information, contact Dr. Sylvia Gonzales, Business Tower 456, San Jose University, San Jose, California 95192.

The Money Show, a major trade and public exposition, will return to the New York City Coliseum February 7 - 10, 1980. A special addition to the 1980 Show is "Woman's Money Expo '80," a pavillion organized around women's money: how to earn, invest, save, protect, spend, produce and enjoy it. Informative seminars will highlight women's financial progress and her contemporary money concerns.

#### TASK FORCE ADDS MATERIAL TO SRRT ARCHIVES

Janette Neal reports that the Task Force on Women Job Roster materials have been turned over to Miriam Crawford, Temple University, for the SRRT archives.

#### NEW BOOKS ON WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ISSUES

WOMEN AT FARAH; AN UNFINISHED STORY by Coyle, Hershatter and Honig is based on more than seventy hours of taped interviews with Farah strikers. This was a two year strike for the right to be represented by a union of four thousand garment workers at Farah Manufacturing Company in El Paso, Texas, 1972-74. 85% of the strikers were women. Copies are \$2.00 plus \$1.25 for postage and handling from the REFORMA - El Paso Chapter, P.O. Box 2064, El Paso, Texas 79951. Make checks payable to REFORMA - El Paso Chapter. A useful resource for teachers of Chicano studies, women's studies, labor history, and oral history.

Out & Out Books has a new catalog of publications which includes AMAZON POETRY, edited by Joan Larkin and Elly Bulkin; HOUSEWORK by Joan Larkin; ON STRIKE AGAINST GOD by Joanna Russ; STARTING OVER by Jacqueline Lapidus; and a series of pamphlets documenting ideas important in the evolution of lesbian/feminism. Out & Out Books, 476 Second Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

Persephone Press was founded in 1976. Their publications include A FEMINIST TAROT; A GUIDE TO INTRAPERSONAL COMMUNICATION by Sally Miller Gearhart and Susan Rennie (\$4.00) and THE WANDERGROUND; STORIES OF THE HILL WOMEN by Sally Miller Gearhart (\$5.00). Persephone Press, P. O. Box 7222, Watertown, Mass. 02172

WOMEN'S ACTION ALMANAC; A COMPLETE RESOURCE GUIDE by the Women's Action Alliance and edited by Jane Williamson, Diane Winston and Wanda Wooten (Morrow, 1979) provides information on 90 subject areas of interest to women. Background information on each issue as well as pertinent books, magazines and organizations is given. A separate directory of national organizations is included. (\$9.95; \$7.95 paper). Don't miss this one.

THE ETHNIC AMERICAN WOMAN: PROBLEMS, PROTESTS, LIFESTYLE, edited by Edith Blicksilver, includes letters, autobiographical sketches, short stories, poems highlighting the Black woman, the Hispanic American, the Native American, the Jewish American and the White Ethnic American with the following themes: the woman as immigrant; alienation and assimilation; stranger in a new world; the woman as daughter, wife, mother: defiant, submissive, dominant; as angel, martyr, monster; what price, liberation. The range of authors included in this anthology is extensive - Maxine Hong Kingston, Leslie Silko, Grace Paley, Mary McCarthy, Nikki Giovanni, Toni Cade Bambara, May Swenson, Alice Walker and many more. An excellent and most interesting work. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 2460 Kerper Blvd., Dubuque, Iowa 52001. \$12.95.

I LOVE MYSELF WHEN I AM LAUGHING...AND THEN AGAIN WHEN I AM LOOKING MEAN AND IMPRESSIVE is an anthology of the work of Zora Neale Hurston with an introduction by Mary Helen Washington and edited by Alice Walker. "Zora Neale Hurston was the intellectual and spiritual foremother of a whole generation of black women writers. This volume - the first anthology of Hurston's work ever published - contains a wide range of fiction, journalism, folklofe and autobiography written between 1926 and 1950." It is a fine introduction to Hurston's work and is to be highly recommended. Feminist Press, Box 334, Old Westbury, New York 11568. \$14.95; \$6.95 paper.

#### CONFERENCE ON PAY EQUITY HELD

A national Conference on Pay Equity was held on October 24, 1979 in Washington, DC to bring together experts in the fields of job evaluation and comparable worth from economic, social, legal and political perspectives. The conference was attended by 150 representatives of unions, research associations, national women's and professional organizations, clerical organizations, civil rights groups, and state, federal and local government agencies. Participants came because of an interest in organizing to educate the relevant public and policy makers about the severe inequities in wages which result from occupational segregation and in devising a strategy to correct this situation. Although no formal structure or funding for a coalition was proposed, the conference steering committee will meet to review the discussion and determine possible further action. For further information contact: Conference on Pay Equity, 1126 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036. Conference proceedings will be published in January 1980 as a "Manual on Pay Equity: A Focus on Equal Pay for Work of Comparable Value" (Contact Conference on Alternative State & Local Policies, 2000 Florida Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009). Margaret Myers from the American Library Assn. attended this conference and will send copies of her summary report to anyone who requests it.

#### PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

A bibliography of Canadian publications concerning working women, day care and the education of women is available from the Canadian Embassy, Public Affairs Division, 1771 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. The bibliography was compiled by the Canadian Status of Women Commission.



The U.S. Department recently published a report, "Rural Women and Education," on the educational status of rural women and the effect of education on their changing work roles. The study includes statistics on educational levels and mean earnings of rural men and women. Request this report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Development Division, Washington, DC 20250.

WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY: A LEGISLATIVE AGENDA not only describes the serious economic problems facing women today, but also details the legislative efforts at the state and federal level to solve these problems. Chapters include displaced homemakers, insurance discrimination, pregnant workers, homemakers economic protection, alternative work patterns and state labor laws. Useful resource lists on each issue, a directory of women's organizations and a general bibliography complete the book. The cost is \$4.95, \$6.95 to institutions, and can be ordered from the Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies, 1901 Q Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

WORKING WOMEN is a newsletter of the National Association of Office Workers. It includes news notes and short articles. Subscriptions are \$5. Working Women, 1258 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115. They also have some very clever posters available.

The Women's Occupational Health Resource Center distributes information on women's employment health and safety problems. They have a list of publications and brochures available. For more information write: Women's Occupational Health Resource Center, American Health Foundation, 320 E. 43rd St., New York, NY 10017.

The Department of HUD and the Women and Mortgage Credit Project announced a major research and education program to determine the nature and extent of discrimination in mortgage lending, educate women on their rights and overcome unawareness of the lending industry about the potential of credit-worthy women. To obtain a list of project publications write to: Women and Mortgage Credit Project, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Room 8124, Washington, DC 20410.

"The Status of Clerical Workers" is a 50-page report prepared through the Women's Studies Program of George Washington University, in cooperation with the National Commission on Working Women. The report points out that almost 80 percent of all clerical workers are women, and they earn less than 70 percent of male industrial workers' pay. The Business and Professional Women's Foundation furnished financial support for the project. Copies of the report are available for \$2.50 from the BPW Foundation (Sales Order Dept., #2802), 2012 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

The WHITE HOUSE NEWSLETTER ON WOMEN is now available to the public. To be placed on the mailing list, write Sarah Weddington, The White House, Washington, DC 20500.

"Employment in Perspective: Working Women" is available free from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Washington, DC 20212



Women In a Woman's Profession: Strategies II  
ALA Preconference on Women In Librarianship  
Cook College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.  
June 25, 26, 27, 1980

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I want to register. Enclosed is my check for \$75.00. I understand that the full registration fee is required and that no refunds are possible after April 25, 1980.

Yes, I want transportation to N.Y.C. from New Brunswick on Saturday morning June 28th.

Note: If you know someone with whom you wish to share a room please note the name here \_\_\_\_\_. This person must also send in a registration card and fee with your name noted on it in this space. (You may duplicate this form).

There are a Very limited number of single rooms available. The fee is \$85.00. If you wish to request a single room, check here  and enclose a check for \$85.00. If no single rooms are available (they will be assigned on a first request first served basis), you will be assigned to a double room and your \$10.00 additional fee will be returned.

All checks should be made payable to the SRRT Preconference on Women and returned to Jody Bush Pitsenberger, 20 Elton Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02906. (No refunds possible after April 25, 1980).

I plan to arrive by:

- Private automobile
- By train/bus to New Brunswick. Approx. time \_\_\_\_\_
- By plane at Newark Airport. Approx. time \_\_\_\_\_

I will arrive:

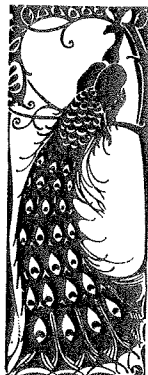
Wed. P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ Thur. A.M. \_\_\_\_\_

AUDIO VISUAL NOTES

The Women's Audio Exchange has a new catalog of spoken word and music recordings. Write them at 49 West Main Street, Cambridge, New York 12816

Ladyslipper has a catalog of records and tapes by women. Write for their catalog at P.O. Box 3124, Durham, NC 27705.

Education Development Center has an extensive listing of films and publications of which many are on women's issues. They distribute such films as GIRLS AT 12 and CLORAE AND ALBIE. Write them at 39 Chapel Street, Newton, Mass. 02160



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - March 1, 1980

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES is published 5 times a year from September 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.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL