

# Women In Libraries

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ALA/SRRT FEMINIST  
TASK FORCE

Volume 10 Number 1

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Ed. Kay Cassell

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEMINIST TASK FORCE MEETINGS AT ALA IN NEW YORK CITY

Three meetings of the ALA/SRRT Feminist Task Force were held at ALA in New York City. Actions taken during the week included the following:

1. The Task Force voted unanimously to change its name from the Task Force on Women to the FEMINIST TASK FORCE.

2. Seven resolutions from the Preconference were presented to the Task Force. The Task Force voted to support all seven resolutions and to present them to ALA Membership for its support. The resolutions were:

a. "Resolved, that the Executive Director of the Association find the funds for two members to be trained at the University of Washington's Career Development and Assessment Center who will in turn train others to staff the ALA Placement Office at annual conferences and midwinter meetings. These people will give individual professional counseling to those seeking jobs. In lieu of payment for their services, these counselors would receive a stipend covering room and board. This program will be administered by OLPR."

b. "Resolved, that the Office for Intellectual Freedom and the ALA Washington Office work together to prevent the passage of the Family Protection Act."

c. "Resolved, that the phrase "(including discrimination and sexual harassment)" be inserted in Policy #54.13, Program of Action for Mediation, Arbitration, and Inquiry, of the ALA Policy Manual, line 6, following "fair employment practices."

d. "Resolved, that ALA provide free child care services at annual conferences and midwinter meetings and that the funds come from the Conference budget."

e. "Resolved, that the Council of the ALA direct the Committee on Accreditation to revise the 1972 Standards for Accreditation to include Affirmative Action reports with regard to faculty, staff, and students."

f. "Resolved, that the American Library Association support the world-wide Nestle boycott."



g. "Resolved, that Council charge the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship with the responsibility for developing continuing coalitions of occupational organizations in professions in which women predominate, including unions, professional associations and organizations of clerical workers, hospital workers, teachers, etc. The coalitions should look at the area of unemployment and should propose and lobby for economic and social solutions through legislative, educational and social service programs. The Council further charges the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship to report to Council on the development of coalition activities at the 1981 Midwinter meeting in Washington and at future conferences and meetings of ALA."

(NOTE: All resolutions were passed by ALA Membership. Resolutions b, c, and g. were passed by Council. Resolution a. on the Career Development and Assessment Center was referred to OLPR for a report at Midwinter; resolution d. on child care was referred to the Executive Director for a report at Midwinter and implementation at the annual conference; resolution e. on accreditation was approved in principle and referred to COA for a report at Midwinter and resolution f. on the Nestle boycott was withdrawn from the Council agenda.)

3. Four subcommittees were formed: Sexual Harassment, Jobs, Nominating and Coalition.

4. A resolution was written and presented to ALA Membership commending the Office of Library Personnel Resources for its fine work.

5. The following people were elected to the Task Force's Steering Committee: Sue Searing, Sarah Pritchard, Carole Leita and Diane Davenport.

6. Elizabeth Futas is the new coordinator of the Task Force.



#### PRECONFERENCE ON WOMEN HELD

"Women in a Woman's Profession - Strategies II", a preconference on women, was held in New Brunswick, N.J. June 25 - 27. Keynote speakers were Kathleen Weibel, Patricia Schuman, Gina Minudri, Diane Kadanoff, Kathleen Heim and Leigh Estabrook. Workshops on the first day emphasized politics within library associations and included workshops on coalition building, Roberts' Rules, group dynamics and political action in ALA. The second day was devoted to politics in the workplace and included workshops on feminist values and conflicts, feminist management, alternative work schedules/job sharing and sexual harassment. Proceedings of the preconference will be available this fall.

#### ERA TASK FORCE

The ERA Task Force has funds to help librarians with ERA related projects in unratified states. They also have an exhibit and brochures which are available for state and regional library conferences. For more information, contact Kay Cassell, 44 Nathaniel Blvd., Delmar, NY 12054.

PROGRAMS AT ALA

Marcia Fox, author of PUT YOUR DEGREE TO WORK, spoke on career stress and career change at a program cosponsored by the Feminist Task Force, the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship and the LAMA Women Administrators Discussion Group. Two bibliographies on these subjects were prepared and are available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Women in Libraries.

Sharon Percy Rockefeller spoke on the Equal Rights Amendment. She congratulated ALA for its efforts on behalf of the ERA and urged its members not to give up. A copy of her speech is available by writing Women in Libraries.

At one of the Feminist Task Force meetings both Sheila Hess and Barbara Haber spoke. Sheila Hess spoke on the development of library services to women. Barbara Haber of the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe spoke on a proposal which she has submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities which would develop programs on women in ten communities. Teams of four - a public librarian, an academic librarian, a scholar and a community person - would be trained in a week-long institute at Radcliffe and would then plan programs on women's issues in their own communities.

At the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship meeting Leigh Estabrook and Kathleen M. Heim gave a preliminary report on the results of their ALA Goal Award funded study of "Career Development of Members of the American Library Association." A sample of 3,000 personal ALA members were surveyed by mail for this study. Final results will be available this fall.



FEMINIST TASK FORCE NEEDS MEMBERS FOR SUBCOMMITTEES

The Feminist Task Force needs members for its three action oriented subcommittees. The subcommittees are as follows: Sexual Harassment which will study the problem of sexual harassment in libraries, Jobs which will study and document sex discrimination in hiring and Coalitions which will begin building coalitions with other groups both within and separate from ALA. If you would like to have more information about these subcommittees, contact Task Force Coordinator, Elizabeth Futas, Division of Librarianship, Emory University, 407 Candler Library Bldg., Atlanta, Georgia 30322.

ON MARITAL RAPE

Laura X of the Women's History Research Center has set up a National Clearinghouse on Marital Rape. A brochure is available on this new project by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Women's History Research Center, 2325 Oak St., Berkeley, CA 94708.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

WomanFair, the third annual conference of the South Central Women's Studies Association, will take place at the University of Texas at Arlington, October 18-19, 1980. For further information, contact Jeanne Ford, WomanFair Coordinator, P.O. Box 19528 UTA Station, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas 76019.

BOOKS ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

Rape: Social Facts from England and America by Donna Iven Qureshi includes a detailed comparison of the two countries' rape laws, methods of apprehending a rape suspect, time lapses between the apprehension of a suspect and the trial, and payment of the victim's medical expenses. This work was published by Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625.

Ain't No Where We Can Run: A Handbook for Women on the Nuclear Mentality is a "book written by women for women who are concerned about the destructive path of nuclear power and weapons, and who want to engage their energy in efforts to create a nuclear-free future." The book includes chapters on "patriarchy and the nuclear mentality," the health effects of nuclear development, comments by women who have been "in the forefront of the anti-nuclear movement" including Grace Paley, Karen Silkwood and Holly Near, future directions and a resource list. Single copies are \$2.50 plus \$1.00 postage and handling from Women Against Nuclear Development, Box 421, Norwich, Vt. 05055.

Women's Studies; A Checklist of Bibliographies, compiled by Maureen Ritchie, is as the title suggests a bibliography of bibliographies directly relevant to women's studies. This compilation is restricted to English language publications except for a few from bilingual organizations and countries. It is arranged by subject including anthropology, arts, criminology, economics, health and medicine, history, literature, psychology, sex roles, sociology, etc. There are author and keyword indexes. Published by Mansell, 3 Bloomsbury Place, London WC1A 2QA. \$23.



The Odyssey of Katinou Kalokovich by Natalie Petesch has been reprinted by Motherroot Publications and is available for \$5.00. (Motherroot Publications, 214 Dewey St., Pittsburgh, PA 15218.

Earth Rites, a two-volume work, edited by Sherry Mestel, is available from Earth Rites Press, %Mestel, 398-8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Volume 1, Herbal Remedies, is a collection of various remedies which have been used successfully by women around the country and volume 2, Rituals, is a collection of amulets, chants, dreams, songs and rituals. The volumes are \$3.00 each.

New from Naiad Press are The Black and White Of It by Ann Allen Shockley (\$5.95) and Lesbian-Feminism in Turn-of-the-Century Germany, edited and translated by Lillian Faderman and Brigitte Eriksson. (\$5.95). Naiad Press, 7800 Westside Drive, Weatherby Lake, MO 64152.

Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood; Our Goddess and Heroine Heritage (volume 1) by Merlin Stone includes goddess and heroine legends from Africa, China, Mexico, Central and South America, Australia, Polynesia, Celtic Europe, etc. - original rituals, prayers, symbols, shrine sites, customs and much more. New Sibylline Books, Inc. - P, Box 266 - Village Station, New York, NY 10014. (\$5.95)

PUBLICATIONS WORTH NOTING

Litigation on Behalf of Women by Margaret A. Berger reviews the successful and unsuccessful lawsuits brought by women on constitutional issues and on discrimination in employment and education. It discusses several areas, such as credit and mortgage lending, criminal law, and occupational health and safety, in which as yet there has been little or no litigation; evaluates both the shortcomings and the value of litigative efforts on behalf of women and details ways in which those efforts can be made more effective. Order from the Ford Foundation, P.O. Box 559, Naugatuck, CT 06770. \$4.50. Payment must accompany order.

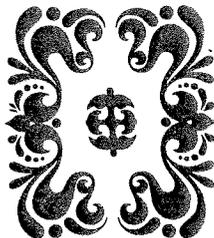
Results of a comprehensive survey by the Women's College Coalition provide a telling indicator of how women's expanding personal and professional aspirations are changing the shape of higher education. The study, funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation, provides descriptive data on the nation's 117 women's colleges. Copies of the full study, A Profile of Women's Colleges, may be obtained from the Women's College Coalition, Suite 1003, 1725 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

The Ford Foundation has supported research and experimentation over the last 10 years to expand and improve the quality of child-care services, and a report of their efforts, "Minding the Children: Ford Foundation Assistance to Child Care Programs," is available, without charge. Ford Foundation, Office of Reports, 210 E. 43rd St., New York, NY 10017.

Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1979 details several major changes in American living arrangements including more single women between the ages of 20 and 24, more unmarried men and women living together, more one-person households, and more single-parent families. This report is available for \$3.75 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Series P-20, No. 347.

Three new publications are available from the Women's Educational Equity Communications Network (WEECN). They are "Information on Women's Educational Equity: A Legislator's Guide to Sources" by Matilda Butler and Sharon Strover (\$6.25); "Directory of Organizations Work for Women's Educational Equity: 1980 Edition" (\$6.00); and "Funding For Women's Educational Equity" (\$6.75). Orders must be prepaid. WEECN, Far West Laboratory, 1855 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

A new 19-page clearinghouse report has been released by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights called Characters in Textbooks: A Review of the Literature. It examines the findings of more than 200 scholarly studies completed since 1974 on the portrayal of minorities, women and the elderly in textbooks used in elementary schools, high schools, and colleges. This report is a companion to the Commission's recently issued 444-page bibliographic compendium on the treatment of minorities and women in textbooks, Fair Textbooks: A Resource Guide. Single copies of these publications are free from: USCCR Publications Warehouse, 621 N. Payne St., Alexandria, VA 22314.



PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE (continued)

"Women Helping Women: A Guide to Organizing a Post-Mastectomy Program in Your Community", published by the National Council of Jewish Women, is a 32-page booklet with specific instructions on how to organize a program to enable women to overcome the physical and emotional handicaps caused by breast surgery. The program uses a combination of physical exercise and discussion sessions, under the guidance of a team of volunteers - including health-care professionals. To order, write to the Order Dept., National Council of Jewish Women, 15 E. 26th St., New York, NY 10010.

"Approaches to Women's History" is a resource book and teaching guide. It contains a variety of information on women's issues as well as a list of resources. The 143-page looseleaf notebook is \$5 from the American Historical Association, 400 A St. SE, Washington, DC 20003.

"Sexual Harassment: How to Recognize and Deal with It" is a small booklet that gives strict definitions of various behaviors, differentiating sexual harassment from other social behavior, and providing very specific examples of sexual harassment in specific settings. Suggestions on procedures for dealing with harassment are also given. The 52-page booklet, written by Mary M. Fuller, is available from What Would Happen If...Inc., 1993 Moreland Pkway., Annapolis, MD 21401, \$3.50 per copy plus 50¢ for first-class postage.

"Adult Female Human Being in the 1980's: A Handbook for Lifelong Education," written by Fran Murray and Mildred Erickson, is a 52-page booklet that describes and analyzes the growing number of women in the work force, the costs and benefits of jobs and careers, the best ways of getting a job, laws affecting women workers, and educational opportunities. For copies, write to MSU Lifelong Education Program, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824 (\$1.75 plus 25¢ for mailing).

"On Their Own," the first in a series of business and professional handbooks published by Resources for Women, includes interviews with 27 self-employed women in Santa Cruz. The women provide practical advice for those who wish to start their own business. This publication is available for \$3 from Resources for Women, 104 Walnut Avenue, Suite 212, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

"Flexitime: Where, When, How?" is a 56-page pamphlet on flexible work schedules. It is available for \$3.50 from the New York School of Labor and Industrial Relations, Cornell, Box 1000, Ithaca, NY 14853.

"Preliminary Memorandum on Pay Equity: Achieving Equal Pay for Work of Comparable Value" by Nancy D. Perlman and Bruce J. Ennis is a 64-page paper which includes a clear definition of pay equity, a history of litigation, a bibliography and contact list. For information on the subject, contact the Center for Women in Government, Room 302, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222.

Womenstudy: Guides for Research. Compiled by Katherine J. Amato. This work is an annotated guide to over 200 works in the fields of history, psychology, politics, philosophy and sociology. It is divided into 14 subject areas plus a section on film. Each section includes books, magazine articles, bibliographies and relevant indexes and abstracts. It's a good practical guide that librarians will find most useful. \$3.00 per copy. Prepaid orders only accepted. Make checks payable to Lake Forest College and send to Womenstudy, Donnelley Library, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

LIBRARIANS AND THE NWSA (NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION)

In the introduction to the NWSA conference program, the conference coordinators refer to the necessity of building networks, disseminating new information and research, launching new campaigns for change, stirring new insights, and nurturing our growth as individuals. These concepts could form a feminist librarian's motto. Many libraries are bureaucratic monoliths which may seem impervious to change, but change is occurring because feminist library workers are challenging institutional policies and practices which form barriers to both women workers and women library users. Feminist librarians join NWSA for the same reason as anyone else--"to further the social, political and professional development of women's studies at every educational level and in every educational setting" (NWSA Constitution)--but with a special emphasis on libraries.

Feminist librarians came to the second NWSA conference to communicate to other women the importance of libraries in the women's movement, to develop a supportive network which would serve as a steppingstone for projects designed to build a stronger information base for women's studies research and practice, and to share ideas about methods for implementing change. By participating in this organization, feminist librarians wanted (and will continue) to make themselves visible not only within NWSA but also in their respective communities--the university or college, the city or town, the school, and the publishing industry.

Information gathering was an important aspect of the conference. We discovered new publications, films, and archival resources which do not appear in the reviewing media. We talked to publishers who are feminists. We attended the sessions and experienced the excitement of learning about and sharing our knowledge with women.

The development of communication between librarians and other participants in the conference was as important as the process of collecting information. In joint sessions with colleagues from other disciplines, and in informal conversations in the hallways, dining rooms, and buses, we stressed the role of librarians in the development of women's studies as a discipline: acquisition of feminist source materials for research; organization of collections for research; dissemination of information about collections; development of informational programs for women; and creation of bibliographic tools. A growing enthusiasm emerged as faculty, students and librarians exchanged information about new research, previously unknown resources, and the development of new methods of access to traditional materials.

Librarians actively participated in the conference. We delivered papers and presented panels on library services to women, feminist publishing, development of networks to acquire and to preserve feminist literature. We formed a Librarians' Task Force to coordinate our program proposals for next year's NWSA conference, to develop a voice for our concerns within NWSA, to sponsor projects relating to the development of reference sources about women, and to work with the feminist caucus of the American Library Association.

NWSA provided an important forum for feminist educators to debate, explore, synthesize, and shape new ideas about women--a process in which librarians were actively involved.

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ARTICLES OF NOTE

"The Women's History Research Center Collections -- Access and Utility" appeared in the October-December 1979 issue of Serials Review.

"Women in U.S. History - Beyond A Patriarchal Perspective" by Mary Kay Thompson Tetreault is an interesting article about the author's textbook for secondary students, Women in America: Half of History. The article is in the volume 11, No. 5, 1980 issue of Interracial Books for Children Bulletin.

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

A color slide show is available from the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, the NGO (Non-Governmental Organizations) Alternative Conference, and the International Festival of Women Artists held in Copenhagen, Denmark, July 1980. This historical show contains 60 full color slides and a complete script for lectures and presentations. For more information, send a SASE to: Mary McNally, 626½ N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90004.

Three new videotapes on women's issues are available from the California State College at Chico. They are: "Feminist Visions of the Future," "Male-Female Relations," and "Parenting." They can be purchased for \$250 each. Address inquiries to Dr. Gayle Kimball, Coordinator, Women's Studies Program, CSU, Chico, Chico, CA 95929.

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