

Women In Libraries

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT FEMINIST
TASK FORCE

Volume 11 Number 2

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Editor: Michele Leber

FTF NETWORKING

Eight national organizations have responded positively to the Feminist Task Force Coalitions Committee, which wrote organizations concerned with women's issues "to develop continuing contacts and to share information, ideas, and plans for possible political actions." To date this contact has resulted in exchanges of newsletters with five organizations and some exchanges of materials. The organizations are:

Federation of Organizations for Professional Women, 2000 P St. NW, Suite 403, Washington, D.C. 20036. A "national association of affiliated nonprofit organizations committed to attaining equal opportunity for women in education and employment," founded in 1972 under the leadership of the American Association of University Women and the Association for Women in Science. Essentially a networking and lobbying organization, it publishes WASHINGTON WOMEN, a directory of women and women's organizations, and newsletters ALERT (quarterly) and WOMEN AND HEALTH ROUNDTABLE (monthly). The Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship has been a member of the Federation; FTF was invited to become a Federation affiliate (dues range from \$50 to \$200).

International Women's Tribune Centre, Inc., 305 E. 46th St., Sixth Floor, New York, NY 10017. The IWTC Resource Centre has developed a collection of materials on issues of concern to women, which are used in IWTC publications (quarterly journals, resource handbooks, and training manuals). The collection also is available to individuals and groups seeking information for their own programs and projects. FTF is exchanging newsletters.

Older Women's League, 3800 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94611. An advocacy organization started in 1980 and described in detail in WIL, June 1981, p. 7. Memberships are \$5 a year. Publications include the quarterly newsletter COVER LETTER (\$4 a year), which is exchanged with WIL.

Project on the Status and Education of Women, Association of American Colleges, 1818 R St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and The Ford Foundation, the Project provides information on current issues affecting women in higher education and works with institutions, government agencies and other associations concerned with such issues. Quarterly newsletter ON CAMPUS WITH WOMEN, sent to some 16,000 subscribers, is exchanged

with WIL and is available by writing the Project, including institutional affiliation and special interests relating to women in education. (A selected group of 20 back issues of ON CAMPUS WITH WOMEN, published between 1973 and 1980, is available while supplies last in a specially designed packet for \$15.) The Project also publishes periodic information packets, including papers pertinent to women in academe, at a nominal cost (most recently, "Giving Prizes and Awards: A New Way to Recognize and Encourage Activities that Promote Equity for Women in Academe"); send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a publications list. Individuals are invited to become Associates of the Project with a contribution of \$15 or more.

Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, 3306 Ross Pl. NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

"A place where new ideas about the communications media are encouraged, examined, research, and published; a communication system itself - for women who seek to improve the nation's communications system; (and) a support network for media women (in both male-owned media and women-owned media) and concerned women in the general public acting to expand freedom of the press...." WIFP invites membership of Associates; its publications include the monthly MEDIA REPORT TO WOMEN (exchanged with WIL; \$20 for one year, \$38 for two years, with special rates for individual women paying by personal check or money order); INDEX/DIRECTORY OF WOMEN'S MEDIA (which will include WIL in 1982 edition), \$8; and WOMEN IN MEDIA: A DOCUMENTARY SOURCE BOOK, \$5.95.

Women's International Network, 187 Grant St., Lexington, MA 02173.

A non-profit tax-exempt corporation/clearinghouse/publisher. Quarterly WIN NEWS ("All the news that is fit to print by, for & about women") started publication in 1975 with International Women's Year in support of the implementation of the United Nations World Action Plan for Women. WIN NEWS (\$25 for institutions, \$20 for individuals) transmits international information about women and women's groups and provides names, addresses, and contacts in all parts of the world; contents include health, media, environment, violence, and international career opportunities.

Working Women, National Association of Office Workers, 1224 Huron Rd., Cleveland, OH 44115. The only nationwide membership organization for women office workers, this non-profit organization has thousands of members in more than 40 states. For \$10 annual dues, members receive bi-monthly WORKING WOMEN NEWSLETTER (exchanged with WIL); discounts on Working Women publications and resource materials; advice on job problems; access to skills improvement seminars and personal development workshops, and notices of special events.

Working Women's Institute, 593 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021.

A national, independent resource/research/action center, created in 1975 and devoted to the needs of women from all racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds who work outside the home. "The Institute is committed to furthering the goals of equal employment opportunity, decent working conditions, and full involvement of women in decisions that affect their working lives," with its major concern sexual harassment on the job. WWI has opened the National Sexual Harassment Legal Back-Up Center; it also provides a reprint service, speakers program, and information and referral network, and conducts research. For information about the speakers program and workshops or the Brief Bank maintained by the National Sexual Harassment Legal Back-Up Center, write WWI; for information about WWI's program and a list of resources available through the reprint service, send \$2 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to WWI.

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COGNOTES, CONTINUED

In response to the report in WIL (September 1981, p.3) about ALA conference newsletter Cognotes not publishing an FTF news item, the following letter was received from American Libraries Editor Art Plotnik:

Dear Michele,

I'm glad you raised the question of "just what this new Cognotes is" in reference to its not publishing an item on the FTF's "Most Offensive Exhibit" award in San Francisco. The "new" Cognotes was so new that in fact no one had set down a hard-and-fast editorial policy for it. The idea shared by JMRT and ALA staff was to upgrade the format and general news coverage of Cognotes so as not to be outdone by commercial conference newspapers beginning to appear. So we put together some plans in a hurry to get the product out, and, being people of good faith, we played the editorial policy by ear.

Your thoughtful question has prompted me to assure JMRT that as long as the publication bears the COGNOTES name JMRT will set editorial policy independently. The ALA staff role will be one of editorial advice and operational support.

My own role comes under my responsibilities as ALA's director of editorial development. I advise all ALA publications soliciting my help in developing a superior editorial product. It was my notion of "superior" journalism that led me to advise against publishing the "offensive award" story until the facts could be verified, which turned out to be impossible under the Cognotes deadline. Those who know something about communications law will recognize that publishing a false or partially false defamation of an exhibitor's enterprise can be actionable as libel. Later, when I was able to verify the truth of the event, I could publish it in American Libraries as news. Aside from the matter of libel, I wasn't sure as to whether Cognotes, in its limited space, wanted to stick to news about meetings and scheduled activities or get into broader issues. I imagine JMRT will consider this question soon.

Sincerely,
Art Plotnik
Director, Editorial Development

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK

"Whereas American women of every race, class, and ethnic background helped found the Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways....Whereas American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role.... Whereas despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the body of American history: Now, therefore, be it Resolved ... That the week beginning March 8, 1982, is designated 'Women's History Week'.... (Passed Congress, signed by President Aug. 4, 1981.

Products available from National Women's History Week Project to celebrate Women's History Week, March 7-13, 1982, and International Women's Day March 8, 1982, include organizing and curriculum guides, posters, Supersister Trading Cards, t-shirts, aprons, buttons, and card games. Contact NWHWP at P.O. Box 3716, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

BOOK REVIEWS

Alliance Against Sexual Coercion. Fighting Sexual Harassment. Alyson Publishers, P. O. Box 2783, Boston, MA 02208. \$3.95 (\$4.50 by mail).

This work on sexual harassment was written specifically for social service workers and counselors but has a great deal of useful information for all those interested in the problem. It includes a definition of sexual harassment, general information on sexual harassment, legal information, and the results of a sexual harassment survey.

-Kay Cassell

Blair, Karen J. The Clubwoman As Feminist; True Womanhood Redefined, 1868-1914. Holmes & Meier. 1980.

Cultural and literary clubs were one of the first ways women had of getting out of the home. They provided a meeting ground for women to exchange ideas and to develop new skills such as public speaking. Blair discusses Sorosis and the New England Woman's Club which attracted professional women and provided early women's networking. These groups were more moderate than their contemporary suffrage groups. She also describes the development of the General Federation of Women's Clubs which was a vehicle for homemakers in small communities to meet and who were responsible for setting up many public libraries as well as doing a variety of community projects.

-K.C.

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Hoffman, Nancy. Woman's 'True' Profession; Voices from the History of Teaching. Feminist Press and McGraw-Hill. 1981.

Hoffman has compiled an interesting collection of writings on the history of teaching through the eyes of insiders. The book has developed three main themes. First, is the theme of "the transformation of teaching from a temporary job, usually held by a man, to a profession for women." This section begins with a selection from the autobiography of Emma Hart Willard who founded the Troy Female Seminary in 1821. Letters from teachers on the frontier are also included. The second section tells the "story of teaching as a nineteenth-century social movement." During and after the Civil War some 7,000 teachers went South to teach blacks newly freed from slavery. Letters and diaries of these women have been included. A third section is described by Hoffman as "the theme of simultaneous power and powerlessness." It includes Adele Marie Shaw's 1903 article on the New York Public Schools, excerpts from the writings of Mary Antin and Anzia Yezierska and Margaret Haley's 1904 address to the NEA "Why Teachers Should Organize". This is a fascinating work and should be of particular interest to librarians.

-K.C.

Hosken, Fran P. and Marcia L. Williams. The Childbirth Picture Book. Women's International Network News. 1981. \$7 single copy; bulk rates available.

This 60-page large format paperback - an adaptation for the United States and western countries of WIN's International Childbirth Picture Book Prototype - is a picture story of reproduction from a woman's point of view. Line drawings by Medical Illustrator Williams are clear and just detailed enough, and figures have features of various racial and ethnic groups. Text by Hosken also is clear, generally non-judgmental, but occasionally repetitious. The book explains reproductive organs, fertilization, stages of pregnancy, the birth process, and

(briefly) contraception, and it offers welcome alternatives in such areas as birthing arrangements and the mother's birth position. With a good pictorial glossary, discussion leader's guide, and extensive reading and resource list, this is an excellent source of childbirth information for all ages. A coordinated set of 34 flip charts and additional leader's guide (not seen) is available, particularly for use in training and education, for \$19.50 plus \$2 postage.
-M.L.

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Shulman, Alix Kates. On the Stroll. Knopf. 1981. \$12.95.

In the intersecting lives of a young hustler and an old bag lady in midtown Manhattan, Shulman finds universal female experience. To handsome pimp Prince, 16-year-old runaway Robin is a potential "ho," picked up in a bus terminal, trained to please her man, and sent out on the stroll. To Owl, whose past is documented in her shopping bags and often muddled with the present, Robin is a long-departed daughter. They are unlikely Everywomen - Robin living in foster homes while her alcoholic mother dries out and running away from her irrational father; and Owl, once a daring WAC with lovers all over Europe, now hating an ex-husband who cheated, had her committed, and took her daughter - yet women will find pings of recognition in their experiences. Men are generally negligent or exploitative here, while women are nurturing, but this is no angry polemic; in a canny story of the streets, Shulman has crafted a novel that is feminist in the best and broadest sense.

-M.L.

(Reprinted from Library Journal, August 1981. Published by R. R. Bowker Co. (a Xerox company). Copyright c 1981 by Xerox Corporation.)

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Straayer, Arny Christine. Hurtin & Healin and Talkin It Over. Metis Press, Inc., P.O. Box 25187, Chicago, IL 60625. 1980. \$5.

Straayer's ten stories show women in all their variety, as mother, daughter, lover, and friend, sometimes nameless, but in the end universal. Particularly moving are descriptions of the bonds between women - sisters reunited after years of silence, a mother and daughter connecting again after causing each other pain, an older pregnant woman whose 6-year-old park bench friend chooses her baby's name. A minor celebration.

-M.L.

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EQUITY FOR THE DISABLED

Findings from research by the Non-Sexist Child Development Project of the Women's Action Alliance, Inc. for Project R.E.E.D. (Resources on Educational Equity for the Disabled) include:

- *Books about the disabled written for parents, teachers, or other professionals convey the inaccurate message that most people with disabilities are white male children.
- *In children's books focusing on a major character with a disability, the disabled character is usually portrayed as a white child who has little or no contact with other children with disabilities and no contact with disabled adults.
- *There is a decided absence of images of children and adults with disabilities in early childhood classrooms, even those that serve children with disabilities.

Project R.E.E.D., funded for two years under a grant from the Women's Educational Equity Act Program, U.S. Education Department, has developed prototype classroom materials including puzzles, puppets, and block accessories, which are being field tested nationally after testing in New York metropolitan area classrooms. A training guide, designed to help teachers and parents combat stereotyping on the basis of sex, race, and disabling condition, also being field tested.

The first national conference on issues of educational equity for disabled women and girls, cosponsored by Project R.E.E.D. and the Disabled Women's Educational Equity Project in Berkeley, CA, will take place in June 1982. For additional information about Project R.E.E.D., contact Merle Froschl, Director, Non-Sexist Child Development Project, Women's Action Alliance, Inc., 370 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10017.

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FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

The Business and Professional Women's Foundation Research Grants and Lena Lale Forrest Fellowships, for research on women and work by doctoral and non-doctoral scholars, this year calls for research focusing on economic issues of concern to American Working women. Applicants must write a preliminary letter requesting an application form and including a concise statement about the proposed research subject and the applicant's academic level. Application materials will not be sent out after December 15, 1981, and completed applications must be postmarked before January 1, 1982. Candidates will be notified by April 1, 1982; research is to be done from approximately September 1982 to June 1983. Contact Mary Rubin, Business and Professional Women's Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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All students in graduate or pre-professional programs anywhere in the U.S. are eligible for 1982-1983 Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy, under the auspices of the Women's Studies Program of The George Washington University and the Women's Research and Education Institute of the Congresswomen's Caucus. The program, designed to develop specialists in policy issues affecting women, in an academic/legislative environment, includes one academic year's work at the graduate or professional level spent working for a Member or congressional committee staff on policy issues affecting women.

Applicants must have the approval of their advisors and their home institutions and be able to register at George Washington University for one year. It is recommended that students have completed 9 hours of graduate course work or equivalent and have a demonstrated interest in research or political activity relating to women's social and political status. Fellowships will carry a tax-free stipend of \$8,000 for the academic year August 1982-April 1983; 10 or more fellowships will be awarded, depending on funding. Applications will be available from the George Washington Women's Studies Program by February 5, 1982 and will be due March 12, 1982, with awards announced by April 30, 1982. Contact Dr. Phyllis M. Palmer, Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy, Women's Studies Program and Policy Center, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. 20052.

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FREEBIES

The third edition of language guidelines from the Media Task Force of the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women - "Women, Men, and the New Language" - has a new introduction and new guidelines on language de-gendering in obituaries, sports, non-traditional jobs, and the law. Single copies are free upon request with a self-addressed, stamped (37 cents in the U.S.) envelope sent to Media Task Force, Office of Human Resources, 650 S. King St., Honolulu, HI 96813.

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The National Women's Studies Association has published a 1980 "List of Women's Studies Programs" which includes information about programs at more than 300 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada. The list includes programs offering minors, certificates, and various baccalaureate and graduate degrees. For a free copy, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with request to National Women's Studies Association, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 or to Women's Studies Quarterly, Box 334, Old Westbury, NY 11568.

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Two Department of Labor Women's Bureau publications focus on child care services in the workplace. "Child Care Centers Sponsored by Employers and Labor Unions in the United States" is a 9-page updated report based on a 1978 survey. It includes an exploration of benefits and problems of the child care operations. "Employers and Child Care: Establishing Services Through the Workplace," was developed as an aid to employers, union leaders, and employee groups. The 90-page monograph gives guidelines for planning employer-related child care services, including needs assessment, cost analysis, funding, program components, implementation, and evaluation. Appendices list names and addresses of child care centers sponsored by industry, labor unions, government agencies, and hospitals. Single copies of both publications are free from the Women's Bureau Publications Office, Department of Labor, 211 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm. 53005, Washington, D.C. 20210.

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"Programs in Science, Mathematics and Engineering for Women in the United States, 1966-1978" is an inventory from the Project on Women in Science of more than 300 projects designed to increase the numbers and status of women in science, engineering, and mathematics training and careers. The list ranges from elementary school through graduate school and faculty-employee development and includes National Science Foundation-funded career workshops; it is indexed by state, discipline, funding source, and sponsor. Includes extensive bibliographies and lists of individuals and committees. Single copies of this 292-page volume are free from the Project on Women in Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1776 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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Three flyers may help women choose careers in trade and technical fields. "What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Man's World?" describes vocational school training and requirements. "How to Choose a Career ... and a Career School" has tips on career hunting. "College Plus: Put Your Degree to Work with Trade and Technical Skills" gives information about rounding out academic credentials with intensive short-term trade or technical courses in growth careers. The brochures, which list information about vocational skills, careers, and more than 400 schools, are available free from the National Association

of Trade and Technical Schools, Department CP, 2021 K St. NW,
Washington, D.C. 20006.

The non-profit organization Women's Enterprises of Boston also aims to increase the number of women in skilled and technical occupations. It maintains the Service Center for Women; Project ACT (Access to Careers in Technology), designed for women considering a technical career; consultation and program development, and skill training programs and publications. For further information contact Women's Enterprise of Boston, 793 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116.

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"Women and girls are half the world's population, do two-thirds of the world's work hours, receive a tenth of the world's income, and own less than a hundredth of the world's property."
World Conference, UN Decade for Women, 1980

Women's International Resource Exchange Service is a women's collective created to reproduce published and unpublished accounts and analyses by and about women in the Third World and make them available inexpensively. WIRE notes that "confronting sexism, racism, and classism in the United States requires an understanding of women's struggles and gains in a global context." For a publications list contact WIRE Service, 2700 Broadway, Room 7, New York, NY 10025.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - January 1, 1982.

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, newsletter of the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table Feminist Task Force, is published 5 times a year from September to June. Subscriptions are \$4 for individuals, \$6 for institutions (prepaid), and \$8 for institutions (invoiced). Make checks payable to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES and send to Michele Leber, 4927 Gadsen Dr., Fairfax, VA 22032.

Michele Leber
4927 Gadsen Dr.
Fairfax, VA 22032