

Women In Libraries

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT FEMINIST
TASK FORCE

Volume 12 Number 5

June 1983

Editor: Michele Leber

ALA AT LA

The ALA Annual Conference in Los Angeles has a lot to offer women, from programs (including two co-sponsored by the Feminist Task Force) to the first meeting of the newly-formed ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group to a women's night out.

Pay equity, particularly from the point of view of labor unions, is the theme of the FTF-SRRT Library Unions Task Force co-sponsored program "Up Your Wages: Practical Steps Towards Pay Equity" which will be held Saturday, June 25 from 2 to 4 pm. The program will include presentations by three speakers from unions which have been actively involved with campaigns for pay equity; small group sharing of experiences, ideas, and techniques; and distribution of materials about pay equity.

Feminist author, educator, and consultant Sheila Tobias will speak on "Guns or Butter: Society's Share of the Pie" Saturday, June 25 from 8 to 10 pm in a program co-sponsored by FTF, the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL), and the SRRT Peace Information Exchange. The impact of defense spending on social programs - including libraries - will be addressed both in Ms. Tobias' formal presentation and during the question and answer period following. Sheila Tobias has written on such topics as math anxiety, women's history, and affirmative action; her latest book is What Kinds of Guns Are They Buying for Your Butter?

FTF business meetings will be held Monday, June 27 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and Tuesday, June 28 from 9:30 to 11 am. Agenda items include electing five new members to the FTF Steering Committee (self-nominations are welcome), monitoring conference exhibits, and naming a new editor for WOMEN IN LIBRARIES.

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The new ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group, approved by the ACRL Board at Midwinter, will meet Tuesday, June 28 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. The purpose of the group is to discuss, promote, and support academic library services and collections in women's studies; to investigate and develop bibliographic instruction, faculty liaison, and database searching in this cross-disciplinary field; to encourage cooperative collection development and access for women's studies materials; to foster cooperation among women's studies librarians, scholars, and students; and to work with other ALA groups to promote library service to women. For more information contact Joan Ariel, Women's Studies Librarian, University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA 92713, telephone (714) 833-6970.

AND MORE....

A Women's Night Out in L.A., while not formally sponsored by any ALA group, has been planned by FTF members for Monday, June 27, beginning at 8 pm at The Flamingo, described by FTF member Joan Ariel as a "very nice, not sleazy" women's bar (with patio) 10 minutes from conference hotels at 3626 W. Sunset Blvd. More information about this social event will be available at FTF meetings.

The RASD Discussion Group on Women's Materials & Women Library Users will hold a program on "The Hispanic Woman: Collections and Services" Sunday, June 26 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. The discussion on the information needs of Hispanic women and how libraries can meet these needs will feature Martha Cotera, Consultant, Mexican-American Library Project, University of Texas at Austin and author of The Chicana Feminist and Mary-Vela Creixell, Houston Public Library.

Following is the full list of meetings of interest to women, compiled by Margaret Myers, ALA Office for Library Personnel Resources and staff liaison to COSWL. (Note: LACEC indicates Los Angeles Convention and Exhibition Center.)

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| Sat. 6/25 | 8-11am | Women's National Book Assn. breakfast meeting: "Censorship: the Devastating Cost" \$11.00 | Hilton Garden Rm West |
| | 9:30-11am | COSWL Legislation Subcommittee (meeting with other groups to discuss political action committees) | LACEC Rm 214B |
| | 2-4pm | FTF-SRRT Library Union Task Force program "Up Your Wages: Practical Steps Towards Pay Equity" | LACEC Rm 214B |
| | 8-10pm | FTF-COSWL-SRRT Peace Information Exchange program "Guns or Butter: Society's Share of the Pie" Speaker: Sheila Tobias | Hilton Golden State Rm |
| Sun. 6/26 | 9:30am-12:30pm | COSWL committee session | LACEC Rm 209 |
| | 2-4pm | Library Research Round Table "Research of Special Interest to Academic Librarians" (includes report on sex structuring in academic libraries) | Biltmore Colonnade Rm |
| | 4:30-5:30pm | RASD Women's Materials & Women Library Users Discussion Group program "The Hispanic Woman: Collections and Services" | LACEC Rm 209 |
| Mon. 6/27 | 9:30am-12:30pm | FTF business meeting | Hilton Wilshire Rm E |
| | 11:30am-12:30pm | LAMA Racism/Sexism Awareness Discussion Group | Hilton Washington Rm |

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| | 11:30am-12:30pm | RASD Women's Materials & Women Library Users Discussion Group | Hilton Assembly Rm East |
| | 2-4pm | Library Research Round Table "Research of Special Interest to Public Librarians" (includes report on a management development program for women) | LACEC Rm 216A |
| | 2-5:30pm | COSWL committee session | Hilton Wilshire Rm E |
| | 8pm - | Women's Night Out | The Flamingo 3626 W. Sunset Blvd |
| Tues. 6/28 | 9:30-11am | FTF business meeting | Hilton Wilshire Rm C |
| | 9:30am-12:30pm | LAMA Women Administrators Discussion Group program "Political Savvy: Do Women Administrators Have It?" | Biltmore Music Rm |
| | 11:30am-12:30pm | Women's Committee, 1992 World's Fair (to discuss what should be recommended for inclusion in the fair relating to women's library/information services) | Biltmore Roman Rm |
| | 4:30-5:30pm | ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group | Hilton Mission Rm |

MORE ON GUNS OR BUTTER

More publications pertinent to the FTF ALA program are available from the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. Among them:

"Women, Taxes and Federal Spending." A manual describing how federal spending priorities are dramatically affecting the lives of women; from day care to public transportation, from subsidized housing to education loans, the women of the U.S. are caught in a revolving door of economic constraint. \$2.00; 10 or more copies \$1.50 each.

"Balancing the Budget on the Backs of Women." Flyer compares social program cuts to specific military expenditures; also gives statistics on how Regan budget affects Black, Hispanic, and other minority women. 10¢; 100 for \$3.50.

"Neither Jobs Nor Security." A 16-page study showing the impact of the Pentagon budget on women's job opportunities state by state; only in Virginia did women gain jobs from military spending, which in 1980 cost more than one million women their jobs nationwide. \$2.00

Postage and handling costs are, for books, \$1 for the first and 50¢ for each additional copy; for other orders, add 20%.

UPDATES

On OPM standards (WIL, January 1983, p.5) - Ann Heanue of the ALA Washington office reports that there's nothing new to report. The Office of Personnel Management has not yet published its proposed final standards for the federal library service series, despite OPM Director Donald Devine's expressed desire for haste. And the General Accounting Office review of the standards is still ongoing; Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, when suggesting guidelines to GAO, had requested a July 1, 1983 deadline, Heanue said, and GAO is working fast and being very circumspect about its findings to date.

On the Nestle boycott (WIL, November 1980, p.1) - INFACT (Infant Formula Action Coalition) reports that because Nestle is still violating the World Health Organization and UNICEF infant formula marketing code, the boycott is now concentrated on Taster's Choice, Nestle's top selling product in the U.S. INFACT is circulating petitions (to get one million signatures, representing the one million babies who die each year from improper bottle feeding) and conducting a media campaign. ALA voted to support the Nestle boycott at the annual conference in June 1980.

Boycott Taster's Choice.

Nestlé's #1 moneymaker is also the best way to force them to reform their infant-formula marketing in the Third World and save thousands of newborn lives. It's really up to you. Join the Nestlé Boycott now. Crimes like theirs demand a boycott of Taster's Choice. Write INFACT, 1701 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis MN 55414. Contributors receive bumper-sticker and progress reports.



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CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Journal of the National Association for Women Deans, Administrators, and Counselors (NAWDAC) is seeking manuscripts on topics of interest to people whose professional activities involve the education and personal development of women and girls. During 1983, NAWDAC would particularly welcome papers on: women and sports, women's studies programs, women's life cycle, women and politics, dual career families, women's education in other countries, the effects of budget constraints on women's programs and women's educational needs, and women in science, technology, math, computer literacy.

Manuscripts should not exceed 3,000 words (about 12 typewritten pages) and should follow APA style and be submitted in triplicate. Contact Dr. Patricia A. Gartland, Editor, NAWDAC Journal, The American College Testing Program, P.O. Box 168, Iowa City, Iowa 52243.

The Office of Women in International Development at Michigan State University seeks manuscripts about development issues affecting women in relation to social, political, and economic change for a new series, Working Papers on Women in International Development. The series publishes reports of empirical studies, theoretical analyses, and projects on such topics as women's traditional roles, gender identity, and changes in the sexual division of labor. For details contact Rita Gallin, Editor, WID Publication Series, Office of WID, 202 International Center, Michigan University, East Lansing, MI 48824. Publications, at a nominal cost, and a list of Working Papers also are available from the Office of WID.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A new program, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and conducted under the auspices of Hood College in collaboration with the Project on the Status and Education of Women, Association of American Colleges, will disseminate information about exemplary programs and policies that promote sex equity at colleges and universities to other institutions that may be interested in adapting them. The project seeks information about any effective programs and policies, old or new, that address specific equity needs of women on campus, including minority women - such as those which increase recruitment, hiring and promotion of women faculty and administrators; encourage women students to choose nontraditional careers in mathematics and science; or combat subtle discrimination in the classroom and in other learning situations.

Send descriptive materials such as brochures, newspaper articles, reports, letters of commendation, and any other information about the effectiveness of the program or policy and changes which it has helped bring about to Karen Bogart, Ph.D., Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychology and Project Director, Hood College, Frederick, MD 21701.

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The Womyn's Braille Press, Inc., offers over 75 feminist and lesbian books on tape to women who are blind or physically disabled. WBP also circulates several feminist periodicals on tape. Subscribers receive a quarterly newsletter in Braille, print, or on tape. For more information, or to make a contribution, contact Womyn's Braille Press, Inc., P.O. Box 8475, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

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The Catalyst Library has produced the first specialized bibliographic database on women and employment. The database, called Catalyst Resources for Women (CRFW), is accessed through Bibliographic Retrieval Services (BRS) and is available to any location with an online terminal and access to BRS databases. The CRFW Database, currently containing over 3,000 published documents, has royalty fees of \$15 an hour, 25¢ for offline citations and 15¢ for online citations. A thesaurus of terms used in CRFW will be revised bimonthly and available through Catalyst or BRS. For people without access to a terminal, searches will be conducted at the Catalyst Library, after a personal pre-search interview. The Catalyst Library and Audio-visual Center is at Catalyst headquarters, 14 E. 60th St., New York, NY 10022.

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The Seneca Women's Peace Encampment will be held July 4 through September 6 near the Seneca Army Depot. The site was chosen for its proximity to the Seneca (NY) Army Depot, a major shipment site for U.S. weapons sent to Western Europe and storage site for the U.S. neutron bomb arsenal, as well as for its history. In 1590 women of the Iroquois Nation met in Seneca to demand an end to war among the tribes; in the 1800s Seneca County was a major stop on the underground railroad, and in 1848 the first Women's Rights Convention was held at Seneca Falls.

The encampment, for women only (with children welcome), will require camping out with only very simple sanitary facilities available. A reception area on the site, and some of the workshops, will be open to men. Families wishing to stay together could camp at Sampson State Park, one mile from the encampment site; motels are available in Geneva, 8 miles away. For more information contact WILPF, 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, telephone (215) 563-7110.

HEALTH & SAFETY

A factsheet from the Women's Occupational Health Resource Center, Columbia University School of Public Health lists potential hazards of library work. Physical hazards noted are visual fatigue, (from small print, poor lighting, visual display screens); muscle strain (from lifting and carrying heavy books, reaching or stooping for books); and excessive standing or sitting.

Potential environmental hazards and toxic exposures listed are dust and spores, which can cause allergy and respiratory problems; talc, used to treat some book paper, which has been linked to cancer of the lungs; benzene, used to restore faded print, associated with various blood diseases; toluene, in rubber cement and some spray fixatives, which can cause drowsiness; methanol and ammonia, used in many duplicating machine solvents, which can irritate eyes, nose, and throat; and ozone, a toxic gas with a sweetish smell generated by many copying machines, which can irritate sinuses and lungs.

And then there are VDTs. There is growing concern about the health effects of video display terminals:

- * On the August 4, 1982 broadcast of "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio, a high incidence of miscarriages and birth defects was found among women working on VDTs at several sites in Canada since 1978. Low level radiation and PCBs were cited as possible VDT hazards.
- * 9to5, National Association of Working Women, cites similar problem pregnancy reports from Atlanta and Dallas in its May/June 1983 Newsletter, which includes a petition with a bill of rights for the safe use of VDTs. 9to5 urges research on VDTs and taking all possible safety measures: workers' rights not to use VDTs during pregnancy, metal shielding and periodic testing for VDTs, safe and comfortable furniture, limited use of VDTs by workers, and employer-provided eye examinations
- * For workers concerned about VDTs, 9to5 has established a national VDT hotline - 1-800-521-VDTS (in Ohio, 1-800-522-VDTS).

What to do? While it's no protection from radiation or toxic fumes, a little paperback from Tilden Press (publisher of Office Hazards: How Your Job Can Make You Sick) offers sensible advice. Do It At Your Desk: An Office Worker's Guide to Fitness and Health by Shelley Liebman suggests stretching exercises to be done at a desk, more strenuous exercises for breaks, relaxation tips, and proper sitting, lifting, breathing, and eating. And a brisk 20-minute walk at lunch.

Liebman is director of The Home Stretch, a creative fitness program based in Washington which gives exercise classes and workshops to office workers, and his 47-page manual ought to put exercise within the reach of the most deskbound. Do It At Your Desk is available by mail for \$2.95 plus 75¢ postage and handling from Tilden Press, 1737 DeSales St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20036.

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NEWSWORTHY, a series of selective bibliographies focusing on contemporary movements, events, and issues citing publications from the Contemporary Culture Collection in the Central Library System of Temple University in Philadelphia, by Patricia Case, Curator of the Contemporary Culture Collection, is the new successor to The Not in THE NEW YORK TIMES Bibliography Series which Case compiled at the University of Connecticut Library, Storrs. The first three numbers of Newsworthy are The Freeze: Calling for an End to the Production of Nuclear Weapons;

The Freedom of Information Act: Using It & Losing It; and Union Busters: Labor and the Left Look at Labor Management Consulting Firms.

Newsworthy will be issued irregularly during the two major semesters and will cite alternative and small press publications which are not listed in standard indexes and bibliographies, yet which offer information and opinion often not available elsewhere. The series is distributed to libraries, faculty, and other interested people and institutions to increase the visibility and encourage the use of these publications and the Contemporary Culture Collection. To be put on the mailing list for Newsworthy, or to request any of the 22 issues of The Not in THE NEW YORK TIMES Bibliography Series, contact Patricia J. Case, Contemporary Culture Collection, Temple University Libraries, Philadelphia, PA 19122.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Newman, Joan E. Girls Are People Too! A Bibliography of Nontraditional Female Roles in Children's Books. Scarecrow Press. 1982. \$12.50

To counter sex role stereotyping in children's literature - the sweet but bumbling old lady, the beautiful but helpless young heroine, the powerful but wicked witch - Newman lists 540 children's books selected primarily for the female character's nontraditionalism. In these books, most of them published within the last 10 years, Newman notes in her introduction that "the characters are not only different, but also possess dignity and intelligence." Annotated entries are arranged in general fiction and nonfiction categories, then by age level, with books about minorities (blacks, native Americans, handicapped) split out; asterisks indicate level of literary quality. The book concludes with a 32-page Chronology of Notable Women, with entries marked if there is a bibliography entry about that person or event, though the detailed index slips occasionally in making these links. This is a welcome update to earlier bibliographies and a valuable source for its intended audiences - parents, teachers, librarians, and - particularly - children.

Rodieck, Jorma. The Little Bitty Snake. Open Hand Publishing. \$9.50; paper, \$4.00.

A charming, colorful story by a 9-year-old author about a snake and an ant and the whole issue of struggle for survival, available in three bi-lingual editions - English/Spanish, English/French, English/Japanese - from a publisher recently relocated to the east coast. Available from Open Hand Publishing, 210 7th St. SE, Suite A-24, Washington, D.C. 20003 or at 5 Securities Building, 1904 3rd Ave., Seattle, WA 98101; add \$1 for postage for each 5 copies.

Harvey, John H. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson, eds. Librarians' Affirmative Action Handbook. Scarecrow Press. 1983. \$18.50.

The thirteen original chapters in this handbook, written by library affirmative action activists, include a strong case for affirmative action in libraries, with good statistical backing; views of affirmative action from various parts of the field (public, academic, and special libraries and library education) and from various viewpoints (women, blacks, native Americans, handicapped); concrete guidelines for developing an affirmative action program; and a review of ALA and AA. Some timeliness is sacrificed for individual expertise in such a multi-author project (the cutoff here appears to be late 1981), and the 3-page index is of little help; fortunately the book's organization makes it easy to use anyway. This is an important book for libraries and librarians, for its wealth of bibliographic resources, its detailed review of significant progress made in affirmative action in libraries, and its clear message that there is more work to be done.

LIBRARIAN PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

On March 8, 1983, International Women's Day, Amnesty International USA focussed efforts on behalf of five women Prisoners of Conscience - and one of the five chosen to symbolize the many is a librarian.

Hanna Mykhalenko, 45, from Odessa in the Ukraine, is a librarian and an advocate of the rights of Ukrainians to read, write, and speak their native language. Because of her nationalist activities and her long support of the Ukrainian Helsinki Monitoring Group, she was repeatedly harassed by the KGB and arrested in 1977 and in 1979, after which she lost her library job and was required to do manual labor to pay her fine to the state. She was arrested again in February 1980 and has not been released since. Charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and judged "non-accountable for her acts," she has been confined to the Kazan Special Psychiatric Hospital, known for its routine use of powerful neuroleptic (mind-altering) drugs. Her case is of particular concern since she has cancer, for which she had a mastectomy while in pre-trial detention.

In February 1982 the California Federation of Teachers passed a resolution of concern on her behalf, and later that year the American Psychiatric Association expressed its concern to the Directors of the hospital in which she is incarcerated. Courteously worded appeals on her behalf - for her release and about the state of her health - can be sent to:

Dr. Churkin, Head of the Psychiatric Section
of the Ministry of Health
Raghamovsky Peruelok 3
Ministerstvo Zdravookhraneniya
Moskva
SSSR (USSR)

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - August 15, 1983

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. Send checks, payable to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, to:

Michele Leber
4927 Gadsen Dr.
Fairfax, VA 22032