

# Women In Libraries

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ALA/SRRT FEMINIST  
TASK FORCE

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WOMEN HELPING WOMEN, by Adele Stich, © 1986

In the past, women library workers served everyone's needs except our own. Fueled by the women's movement and angered by working conditions, feminist groups in librarianship now address our financial, political, and emotional concerns.

The Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL) has drafted resolutions on comparable worth and child care. Thanks to its efforts, ALA advertising contains non-sexist language and prints salary ranges. To insure consideration of women's rights, the group monitors libraries' affirmative action programs as well as the programs of units within ALA. It also deals with legislative issues of concern, such as abortion referral information. With other ALA groups, it has co-sponsored conference programs on feminist authors, censorship of women's health materials, indexing of women's collections, ERA, and sexual harassment. It has contacts with non-library women's groups such as 9 to 5. Work continues on collection development about Hispanic women, women's history, and women in the community. Anyone interested in this group may contact Margaret Myers, ALA, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, (312)944-6780.

Calling attention to women's rights in libraries and in ALA is the role of the Feminist Task Force. Sharing of experiences and resources leads to strategies for improvement, discussed at meetings and ALA annual conferences. The Task Force coordinates activities with other ALA women's groups and monitors the treatment of collections. (Ed. Note: You are reading the official publication of the Feminist Task Force.)

Elimination of sex role stereotyping, improvement of our image, and increased pay are the goals of the Wisconsin Women Library Workers. They encourage membership of clerks, support staff, librarians, administrators, educators, and trustees of both sexes, linking them with the women's movement. Write to Wisconsin Library Workers, P.O. Box 1425, Madison, Wisconsin 53701.

Women in leadership positions discuss concerns with the LAMA Women's Administrators Group. Improving negotiation and management skills and dealing with power have been issues examined. LAMA encourages women to become leaders. Contact Donna Nerbose, New York University, Graduate School of Business Administration Library, 19 Rector Street, 2nd Floor, NY, NY 10006, (212) 285-6236.

Since women are underserved as a group in libraries, the RASD Discussion Group on Women's Materials and Women Library Users

aims to improve services and collection development. Recent topics of investigation included special women's libraries, collections and services for Hispanic women, and indexing of women's-interest literature. This group sponsored the Carnegie reading list on women's legal rights, published recently by ALA. Contact Donna Nerboso, New York University, Graduate School of Business Administration, 19 Rector Street, 2nd Floor, NY, NY 10006, (212) 285-6236.

The ACRL Women's Studies Section deals with academic collections and services for women. Members critique online databases, develop and distribute bibliographic instruction materials, and are working on a thesaurus for women's studies and a reading list in this area. They published a new edition of the SHARE Directory of Feminist Librarians as well as a collections development checklist. Along with the National Women's Studies Association's Librarians' Task Force, the Section encourages women studies groups to pool materials for easier access and helps to communicate needs of librarians, faculty, students, and women's organizations. At recent conferences, members discussed technical services issues of concern to women's studies librarians and examined women's studies in Western Europe. Contact Sarah Watstein, Hunter College Library, Reference Division, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021.

Risk-taking literature that should be published is the cause of City Fiction, a New York feminist writers group. This year, authors Carol Ascher (Simone de Beauvoir, A Life of Freedom), Jane Lazzare (The Mother Knot and Loving Men), and Carole Rosenthal, whose stories have appeared in Transatlantic Review, Minnesota Review, and numerous anthologies, described the experience of being a woman writer in today's fiscally and politically conservative climate. City Fiction's ALA program in New York was sponsored by the RASD Discussion Group on Women's Materials and Women Library Users.

Another non-ALA group, the Librarians' Task Force of the National Women's Studies Association, fights censorship of women's materials, gathers collections for those who are discriminated against racially and sexually, and suggests feminist reference tools. Topics at meetings have included such subjects as librarians as activists. Contact Lori A. Goetsch, Information/Reference Librarian, Michigan State University Libraries, East Lansing, Michigan.

Women library workers are no longer powerless, thanks to our individual efforts and to those of organizations such as the Committee on the Status of Women, the RASD Discussion Group on Women's Materials and Women Library Users, Wisconsin Library Workers, the Feminist Task Force, LAMA Women's Administrators Group, the ACRL Women's Studies Section, City Fiction, and the Librarians' Task Force of the National Women's Studies Association.

#### BRAGGING ON OURSELVES--LOCAL GIRLS MAKE GOOD

The cover story of Serials Review, 11:4 (Winter 1985) is a look by Feminist Task Force member Joan Ariel at Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies.

"Reference Librarians as Teachers: Ego, Ideal and Reality in a Reference Department" is the title of Task Force member Ellen Broidy's article in The Reference Librarian, #14 (Spring/Summer 1986).

Susan Searing's Introduction to Library Research in Women's Studies (Westview Press, \$19.50) has received splendid reviews indicating its importance in academic and public libraries alike.

### SUPPORT SERVICES

In addition to the good offices of ALA, academic librarians in need of strategic and emotional support can turn to the Status of Women Committee of the American Association of University Professors.

Founded in 1974, the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) works "within the framework of the labor movement to achieve social, economic, and workspace equality for women." Write to CLUW, 15 Union Sq., New York, NY 10003 for a packet of information.

### AND WE'RE NOT GONNA TAKE IT

Only 5% of U.S. senators and representatives and 15% of the members of state legislatures are women. Considering that, of those, not all are feminist, please vote this month.

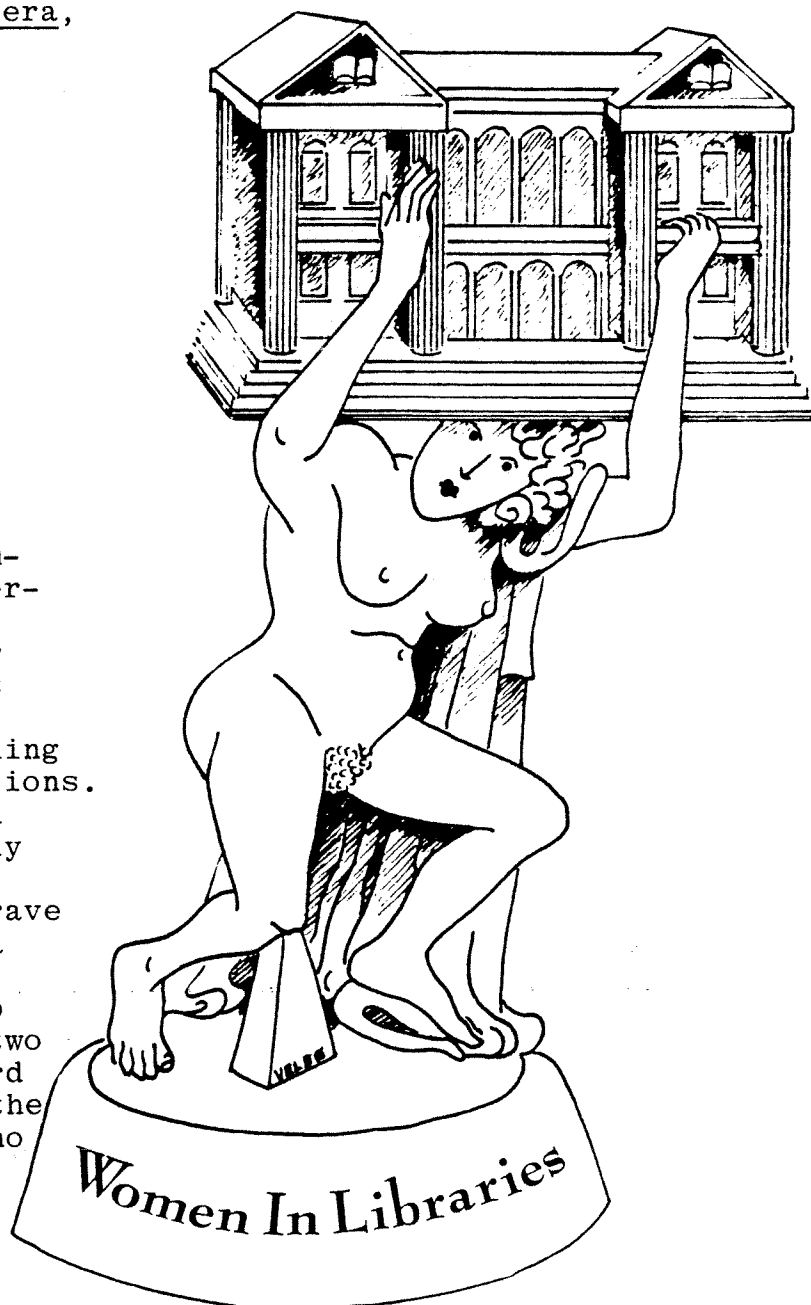
If you recall the days before feminist agitation, when rape victims' names and addresses appeared in local newspapers, you may take special interest in Hera,

the women's paper from Binghamton, NY. Its June 1986 issue carried a list of names and addresses of men accused of sex crimes against women. Hera, a monthly, is \$6/year from The Women's Center, P.O. Box 354, Binghamton, NY 13902.

Another Immaculate Deception: Librarians at the Newark (NJ) Public Library have observed to teenage admirers of "Papa Don't Preach" Madonna-of-the-Trinity-of-Styles-from-One-Haircut that the singer-actress is childless.

Be on the lookout for so-called abortion clinics which actually discourage abortions and receive funding from anti-choice **organizations**. A file of local ones would make a nice service for any public or college library.

But Some of Us Are Brave Revisited: A search for a student on the subject of Black female librarianship in the U.S. yielded only two true hits. We look forward to the COSWL project (in the works) about librarians who are women of color.



Kay Jones has been asked to write the essay on Women in Librarianship for the ALA Yearbook. She plans to concentrate on the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship and its 10th year anniversary celebrations. If you have any information on this or on related subjects, please send it to Kay at the University of New Mexico Library, Albuquerque 87131. "Thank you very much!"

Thanks also to Julia Koehler for sending us Wall Street Journal clippings. The first, "With Problem More Visible, Firms Crack down on Sexual Harassment," by Cathy Trost, 28 Aug. 1986, p.17, helped to answer a reference query: Someone wanted to know the name of the distributor of a training videotape called "Shades of Gray."-- It's Learning International, Stamford, CT (203) 965-8477.

Julia sent page one material from 9 Sept. 1986 too, about a Harris Poll, which found that 75% of Americans recognize pay inequities between men and women but 65% imagine the work of comparing the worth of jobs too hard to accomplish.

Trusting that such problems occur only in school, public, and parochial libraries, the director of a college library met with unexpected efforts at censorship when the library added materials about lesbians and gays. For a description of the smooth handling of the challenges, see John B. Waves, "Collection Development Against the Grain," Technicalities 5:12 (Dec. 1985), p.12-13.

#### A-V MARIA

Feminist flicks include The Global Assembly Line, a one-hour documentary by Lorraine Gray, (referred for a previous film, With Babies and Banners), which examines the plight of working women in the "free trade zones" of developing nations. Obtain information about this film from New Day Films, 22 Riverview Dr., Wayne, NY 07470.

"Material girls" of the Twenties were the Flappers. The Cinema Guild, 1697 Broadway, NY, NY 10019, has released Lauren Lazin's The Flapper Story, an educational and entertaining 16mm. film, which rents for \$55, sells for \$450; the videotape is \$350. Also from Cinema Guild is Holy Terror, an investigation of the Christian Right, especially of its anti-abortion and anti-childcare activities along with its position on violence in the service of its causes. The rental fee is \$100; purchase is \$895 for the 16mm. film, \$595 for the videotape.

If you and your library are not on its mailing list, send now for the new catalog from Laydslipper, distributor of women's music, records, and tapes by women. The annotated catalog is a fine tool for reference.

Kid stuff: The Eclectic Company, 261 E. Fifth St., suite 318-19, St. Paul, MN 55101, produces Women of Courage, a bimonthly for \$24, (\$65 for the teachers' edition). Provided is a booklet to accompany each 45-rpm record with a song and story about an important woman. Coverage of women of color, differently abled women, and women in traditionally male fields is emphasized.

The new edition of Resources for Educational Equity is now available from the Women's Educational Equity Act Publishing Center, 55 Chapel St., Newton, MA 02160. This free catalog includes print and nonprint materials for all levels of learning.

In this Texas Sesquicentennial year, Texas Ranch women are celebrated. The essay will not speak of their solitude as women deprived of the company of other women and lonely for the company of other women, or loneliness so often romanticized in novels, but of the circumstances in which they found themselves and the traditions they left for others to follow.

On the northern frontier of New Spain, far removed from cities and courtly life there evolved a unique society which eventually became less caste ridden and exploitative than most colonial societies of the world. These first settlers of northern New Spain represented the ethnic and regional diversity that characterized Spain in the sixteenth century, (Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups). The Spaniards brought with them horses, cattle, and the concept of land grant ownership. Spanish women of privilege were well educated, able to own land, and to inherit, administer, buy and sell property. In this ambiance the following Texas Ranch women built their ranches. The women may be categorized as women who owned and/or shared the land with their husbands and may have been left alone to operate the ranch; and women who owned and/or managed their own or others ranches.

Among the early Spanish/Texas Ranch women were Rosa Hinojosa Balli and Dona Maria de Carmen de Cavello. Upon her husband's death, Rosa Hinojosa Balli inherited his full authority. Left with an estate heavily encumbered by debt and three sons to support she had a land grant completed in her name and succeeded in obtaining several other large grants in order to become the wealthy holder of one-third of the lower Rio Grande Valley, (Finders Guide to the Texas Women: A Celebration of History Exhibit Archives). Dona Maria de Carmen de Cavello, a descendant of San Antonio's Canary Island settlers, inherited Las Cabras Ranch from her father. She married, later to leave her 'worthless' husband, never to return to him. She survived in spite of the fact that she was cherished by no one and ostracized by all women. She managed the ranch herself, rode a large white horse on the range with her crew, and paid off hostile indians with tributes of beef in order to keep the peace, (Women In Early Texas) (Finders Guide to the Texas Women: A Celebration of History Exhibit Archives).

Other early Spanish Texas Ranch women included Dona Manuela Montes de Oca, widow of Juan Arocha, who operated Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe de Chayope in 1791; Dona Josepha Quinones, widow of Miguel Guerra who operated the San Miguel de Amoladuras Ranch; Maria Robaina de Betancourt and Maria Feliciana Duran who owned San Antonios del Cibola Ranch and Rancho de las Hermanas San Andres, respectively, (Drama and Conflict the Texas Saga 1776).

Among the Texas Ranch Women who followed the Spaniards, there were wives such as Mrs. Jack Miles, Mrs. Ben Miskimon, and Mrs. C. C. West. Mrs. Jack Miles speaks of throwing her "suggins" (bedding) in the buckboard on the range with her husband as a man would. Mrs. Ben Miskimon was nineteen years old when she married W. A. Miskimon. She had property and cattle of her own. "My husband wasn't no cowman;" she claimed, "I tried to teach him about cows, but he never could learn, not even to feed one." She was the business woman as well as a cow puncher when it came to the ranch. Mrs. C. C. West helped her husband set up a sheep ranch in Schleicher County. She began her ranch life by living under a tree, herding sheep with her "babe" in arms and using one big skillet for her "whole" kitchen outfit. She claimed to have done most every kind of work known to man or woman, (Texas Cowboys: Memories of the Early Days).

Other ranch wives helped on the range and joined their husbands on the trail rides. Among them were Mary Ann Goodnight, second ranch woman in the Texas Panhandle to go on a cattle drive (in 1877) from Pueblo, Colorado to Palo Duro Canyon; Mary Bugbee, who assisted her husband in driving cattle from Lakin, Kansas to Texas; and Amanda Burks, who rode in a two-horse buggy on the cattle drive from Nueces County, Texas to Newton, Kansas in 1871.

Later, in 1886, Mary Taylor Bunton, as a bride, joined her husband (on impulse she claimed) on the trail ride from Sweetwater, Texas to Cooldrige, Kansas. She traveled at the head of the herd and wrote: "To me it looked as if a dark-red velvet carpet with its wide border of green grass was stretched just as far as the eye could

see." Of the cowboys, she said she was amazed that they felt sorry for her and humored her whims. The fear she shared with the other women who rode on the trail was the fear of indians, (Women on the Cattle Trail in 1886). Mrs. George Cluck, expecting her fourth child, joined her husband on the trail with their three children, ages 7-2, (The Chisholm Trail).

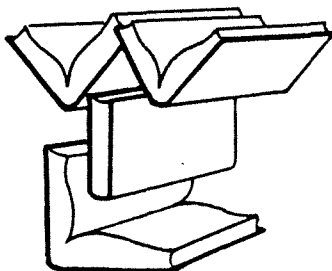
There were many more ranch wives who assisted their husbands: they included Mrs. S. G. Miller, who bought 4,482 acres to bring their ranch up to 20,000 acres, (Sixty Years in the Nueces Valley); Mrs. Millie Jones Porter, who described her ranch life in Memory Cup of Panhandle Pioneers; Mrs. Sallie Reynolds Matthews, who chronicled her life on cattle ranches as a child and later as an adult in Interwoven: A Pioneer Chronicle; Mrs. Mary Almos Blankenship, who claimed the west in The West is for Us: The Reminiscences of Mary A. Blankenship; and Mrs. Henrietta King, characterized as an excellent helpmate and hostess in The King Ranch.

More independent wives were Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson Williams and Mrs. Mabel Day. Mrs. Williams kept her property separate from her husband and insisted that they run their businesses separately. It has been recorded that they traveled the Chisholm trail together as husband and wife and as two independent cattlemen. She often loaned her husband money to help him out of a difficult situation. However, she required that she be repaid, (Women on the Cattle Trail and in the Roundup). After her husband's death, Mrs. Day found an encumbered inheritance consisting of 77,550 acres, \$33,000 worth of cattle on the trail contracted to Mr. Day's brother, \$2,000 in a bank, and \$117,500 in claimed debts. Mrs. Day struggled through what seemed like a Victorian melodrama to gain control of her assets and succeed. She said "I hope you (Colonel Booth) will not suffer uneasiness, for I am bound to succeed. I will think of nothing else, I will go to the ranch and be so economical I will get out of debt." (Bankers and Cattlemen).

Not all Texas Ranch women were wives and daughters. Some made it on their own. Fanny Seabride secured a job as a cowhand at the Horseshoe XX Ranch. She was reported to kill wild animals for bounty in order to buy land and cattle for her own ranch. Nadine Parmer became a cattle baroness after having received money and cattle (both of which multiplied over the years) from Old Bill Ferguson, (Cowgirls & Women of the American West). The English visitor, Anthony Trollope, wrote in 1862 that ranchwomen were "sharp as nails and just as hard," (Westering Women and the Frontier Experience 1800-1915). No woman was more exemplary of that statement than Sally Shull. Born Sarah Newman, she married five times. She had two children whom she visited in their New Orleans school. A superb horsewoman, she rode astride, roped and used the whip as well as any man. Dressed in trousers, armed with a rifle in her saddle, and two pistols strapped to her waist, she bossed her armed employees. She inherited her ranch and herd from her father. She was a horse trader and later hauled cotton and fitted out several wagons for a mule train, (Legendary Ladies of Texas).

Now, what of the Texas ranch women today. The two selected are ranch women and more. Electra Waggoner Biggs, for example, is the heiress to the Waggoner Ranch, the largest piece of land within one fence in the U.S. She is also a sculptress, (The Richest Women in the World). Another, May West, became a rancher and a lawyer. She gave up the legal profession to become a full time ranch woman. In the tradition of other ranch women, she has even helped at roundup.

There are many Texas Ranch women who deserve to join Grace Woodruff Cartwright Weatherford, farmer/rancher, in the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.



This article, by Mary Vela-Creixell, concludes with a bibliography, to appear in the next issue of WOMEN IN LIBRARIES.

### YOU COULD BOOK IT UP

Library users who appreciate the Black Book Club (P.O. Box 40, Fanwood, NJ 07023, 201-889-4732), may also relish Y.O.U.R. Feminist Book Club. The \$9.95 annual fee entitles members to special savings. Write Pandora Book Peddlers, 68 W. Palisade Ave., Englewood, NJ 07621.

The Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development, 179 South St., Boston, MA 02111, has published A Manual on Transitional Housing, describing a program for developing something more than temporary emergency shelter. Illustrated, with a resource list and annotated bibliography; \$10.

Activist Merle Woo, of U-C Berkeley, declares, "All Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies students should read this book--as a history of the Sixties and Seventies and as a blueprint for change in the Eighties." "This book" is Socialist Feminism: The First Decade, 1966-76, by Gloria Martin, \$9.95 (includes \$1 handling) from Freedom Socialist Publications, 5018 Rainier Ave. South, Suite D, Seattle, WA 98118.

Free from the Feds is Facts on U.S. Working Women, ten brochures on a wide variety of topics. Get the series by sending a self-addressed mailing label to the Women's Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Wash., DC 20210.

The Economic Literacy Project of Women for Economic Justice publishes pamphlets such as "When the Rich Get Rich and the Poor Get Poorer, What Happens to Women and Children?" Send \$1 to 145 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111.

Gerda Lerner, with the assistance of Marie Laberge, has completed the 4th revision of Women Are History: A Bibliography in the History of American Women, 1,358 entries with an index. Make a \$5.00 check payable to Women Are History Fund and mail it to The Graduate Program in Women's History, History Dept., Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, 3211 Humanities Bldg., 455 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

Oryx Press, Suite 103, 2214 North Central, Phoenix, AZ 85004, offers two new items of relevance to women. The Directory of Child Care Centers, vol. 3: West continues the guidance of volumes 1 (Northeast) and 2 (North Central) in identifying licensed centers; it costs \$62.50. The \$15 bibliography, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, 2nd ed. abstracts articles, books, and pamphlets.

Anyone interested in Black, women's or British studies will want to read A Dangerous Knowing: Four Black Women Poets (Barbara Burford, Jackie Kay, Grace Nichols, and Gabriela Pierce), published by London's Sheba Feminist Publishers and available for \$6.95. An example of the anthology's power is this, by Barbara Burford: "Woman / guard well your mystery: / Your own creative fruitfulness. / It is a bloody, an ancient, / and a dangerous knowing."

What do women want? Library Services for the Woman in the Middle, by Peggy Glover, is available from Library Professional Publications of Hamden, CT for \$22.50 (\$16.50 pbk.) and helps public librarians to serve our middle-aged female populations. Information, consciousness-raising, and plans are available herein. A nice supplement to COSWL's slide-tape program Women as an Under-Served Population, which rents from ALA's Interlibrary Loan Dept. for \$15, sells for \$50.

SERIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Send for a subscription to the free bimonthly Vocational Equity Project Newsletter by writing: 3550 Anderson St., Madison, WI 53704.

WHISPER (Women Hurt in Systems of Prostitution, Engaged in Revolt) is well written and varied, and its cost is \$15 (\$35 for institutions). P.O. Box 5514, Rockefeller Center, Station, NY, NY 10185.

For a report of the Women in Libraries Sixth Annual Conference in England, see the Library Association Record, 88:8 (Aug. 1986), p. 385-6.

THE PRESSES, UNITED...

Aunt Lute, formerly of Iowa City, has merged with another of the best feminist publishers, Spinsters Ink. Address requests for their catalog to P.O. Box 410687, San Francisco, CA 94141.

LESBIAN STUDIES

The Lesbian Herstory Archives maintains a superb library and issues a newsletter. For information, contact L.H.E.F. at P.O. Box 1258, New York, NY 10016 (212) 874-7232.

Formed last year to promote lesbian studies through its publications, speakers' bureau, conferences, etc., the Institute of Lesbian Studies has released its first book, Lesbian Philosophy: Explorations, by Jeffner Allen (\$9.95) to excellent reviews. To order, write I.L.S., P.O. Box 60242, Palo Alto, CA or call (415) 941-3722.

CREDIT Velde Elliott, Library Artist, Sussex County Library, RD 3, Box 76, Newton, New Jersey for the illustrations in this issue.

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, The Newsletter of the American Library Association Feminist Task Force, is published five times a year, from September to June. Send articles or comments or books for review to:

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Newark, NJ 07104

Subscriptions are \$5 for individuals, \$8 for institutions prepaid, \$10 for invoiced institutions. Send checks, payable to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, to

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