



Women in Libraries

Volume 21, Number 2

January 1992

Midwinter Meeting Schedule San Antonio, Texas 1992

Feminist Task Force Meetings

Meetings of the Feminist Task Force are listed below along with meetings and programs of other groups involved in minority and women's issues. Check the conference program for locations and any changes or possible cancellations.

January 24, 1992. Friday

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. COSWL. Advancing Women in Librnshp
8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Gay and Lesbian T. F. Steering Comm.

January 25, 1992. Saturday

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Action Council
9:30 - 11:00 a.m. COSWL
11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Environment Task Force
11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Library Union Task Force
11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Peace Information Task Force
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Feminist Task Force
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. ALA. Pay Equity Committee
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. International Human Rights Task Force
2:00 - 5:30 p.m. Gay and Lesbian Task Force
4:30 - 5:30 p.m. ACRL. WSS. Open Orientation Meeting
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Feminist & Gay and Lesbian Task Forces. Social (details pg. 2)
8:00 - 10:00 p.m. AFL. Chinese American Librarians Assoc
8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Progressive Librarians Guild

January 26, 1992. Sunday

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Refugees, Migration, & the Homeless Task Force
8:30 - 11:00 a.m. Feminist Task Force
9:30 - 11:00 a.m. ACRL. WSS. Open Discussion on Social Concerns
9:30 - 11:00 a.m. EMIERT. Jewish Librarians Committee
9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Environment Task Force
11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Feminist Task Force
11:30 - 12:30 p.m. RASD. Library Services to Spanish Speaking Community

ACRL: Association of College and Research Libraries
COSWL: Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship
EMIERT: Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Round Table
LAMA: Library Administration and Management Association
RASD: Reference and Adult Services Division
WSS: Women's Studies Section

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. International Human Rights Task Force
4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Gay and Lesbian Task Force.
Book Award Comm.
8:00 - 10:00 p.m. ACRL. Women's Studies Conspectus
Disc. Group

January 27, 1992. Monday

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Environment Task Force
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Refugees, Migration, & the Homeless Task Force
9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Feminist Task Force. Author Breakfast (details pg. 2)
9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Program Planning Comm
9:30 - 11:00 a.m. LAMA. Women Lib. Administrators Disc. Group
11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Civil Rights Task Force (details pg. 2)
11:30 - 12:30 p.m. COSWL
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. ALA. Committee on Pay Equity.
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. EMIERT. Membership Mtg and Comm Mtgs
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Action Council

January 28, 1992. Tuesday

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Peace Information Task Force
9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Feminist Task Force
11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Refugees, Migration, & the Homeless Task Force
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Gay and Lesbian Task Force.
Steering Comm.

A Line of Bodies, and Time to Act

What follows is a reprint of a column by Linda Gillan Griffin published in the Houston Chronicle, Section G, Sunday, October 6, 1991. It is printed here upon request.

Recently a caller confronted me. "Whether or not you call yourself a feminist, you are one." She meant it as a compliment, and that's how I took it. For the truth is, I am a feminist— and a mad one, at that.

A mad feminist, unlike a mad scientist, is not glassy-eyed, wire-haired and out to create a monster in her lab. A mad feminist is often quiet, curled and collected. She just wants her fair share, and when she doesn't get it, she gets even.

Right now I'm thinking about getting even with a bunch of men in our nation's capital. With the congressmen who can't get their act together to increase spending on women's health issues. Men who can't get their votes together to override a threatened presidential veto if they ever do get a bill passed. Men who support a president who would veto such a bill.

Why should women have to fight such an uphill battle to get \$40 million more to save their lives in a country that just spent \$6 billion fighting a war? A war that— forgive me, but it's true— only cost 141 American lives.

Breast cancer is costing 45,000 American lives each year.

Stand back and look at that figure. In the most heated decade of the Vietnam conflict, 59,000 Americans died.

In its first decade, AIDS killed nearly 122,000 Americans, more than the Korean and Vietnam wars combined. An average of more than 12,000 per year. And in fiscal '92, government-wide spending on AIDS is forecast at \$4 billion.

But this year— not this decade, but this year— 45,000 Americans will die from breast cancer. That's one every 12 minutes. Placed head to toe, the bodies would form a line 47 miles long.

Look at the bodies.

I know, of course, that many people won't look at them. Especially those congressmen who don't know any of the bodies. Who don't have a wife, a daughter, a sister or a lover who died of breast cancer. Although I bet they would look if there was a 47-mile-long line of male bodies.

Many of the rest of us won't look because we know the bodies too well. We know they aren't the beautiful bodies of our friends and sisters and mothers and daughters the way we wanted to remember them. With breasts and hair and smiles. With all their limbs and strong backbones and quick, vibrant minds unriddled with cancer.

But we're not just talking body parts here; we're talking lives.

Why am I telling you this? Because October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. That's nothing like Yellow Vegetable Month or Teacher Appreciation Day, when we'd pay homage to something or someone who does a good job. We're not paying homage to breast cancer here; we're paying in horror. We're paying with 3,750 female lives in October alone.

This year another 175,000 American women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. If they're lucky.

If they're lucky and their breast cancers are discovered in the earliest stage, 90 percent can be cured. The problem is that many breast cancers are not found early, not before they spread elsewhere— everywhere— in women's bodies. That's why we need increased spending on basic research to learn more about breast cancer. So it can be prevented as well as cured.

And there is another problem. Ovarian cancer. Another 12,000 women died of ovarian cancer last year— a type of cancer that's even more difficult to detect and more deadly.

And how much do you think the government is spending on research into breast and ovarian cancer combined? Maybe \$4 billion? Or \$1 billion? A half billion? The answer is \$70 million.

So what do we women, we taxpayers, have to do to get some money here? Line up our dead body bags along Pennsylvania Avenue?

Yes, I'm a feminist. A mad feminist. And any female who isn't, isn't worth her salt.

All I'm asking is a \$40 million increase in research spending on women's health issues, and if I don't get it, I'm going to get even. Probably with one or both of my breasts. Maybe with my life. And for sure with my vote.



Women in Libraries

Women in Libraries, the Newsletter of the American Library Association's Feminist Task Force, is published five times a year, from September to June.

Beginning with Volume 22, Number 1, Fall 1992, *Women in Libraries* will be published four times a year.

Julia Phipps, Editor
Hamilton College

Dorothy Granger, Contributing Editor
Pacific Oaks College

Diedre Conkling, Managing Editor
Lincoln County Library District

Send articles, comments, or books for review to Julia Phipps, Burke Library, 198 College Hill Road, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY 13323. (315) 859-4480.

To subscribe, write to Diedre Conkling, Managing Editor, *Women in Libraries* c/o ALA, SRRT, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Subscriptions are \$5 for individuals, \$8 for institutions prepaid, or \$10 for invoiced subscriptions. Make check payable to *Women in Libraries*.

Saturday Night Social

The Feminist and the Gay and Lesbian Task Forces are co-sponsoring a Saturday night social from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Cash bar, musical entertainment. A directory of night spots and restaurants will be available to make your stay in San Antonio more enjoyable.

Civil Rights Action Kit

The Civil Rights Task Force will be reviewing materials for the proposed Civil Rights Action Kit. The Action Kit will be looseleaf materials concerning civil rights within the context of librarianship and communication. Items under consideration for inclusion are brief philosophical essays, descriptions of model programs, and bibliographies of selected readings. The kit will be prepared as a low cost publication within ALA.

Acquisition Notes

Short Fiction By Women is a new serial published three times a year. The magazine includes previously unpublished fiction by new and established writers from around the world. Single issue price is \$6; annual subscriptions are \$18. Send orders to: Short Fiction By Women, Box 1276, Stuyvesant Station, New York, NY 10009.

Out In The World: International Lesbian Organizing by Shelley Anderson provides complete addresses and country-by-country listings to facilitate communication between sisters worldwide. Anderson instructs lesbians how to contact each other across intolerant or censorial international boundaries. Out In The World includes descriptions of major lesbian organizing groups and short histories of lesbian activities in each of the selected fifty countries. Out In The World — Firebrand Sparks Pamphlet #4 is available from Firebrand Books. ISBN 1-56341-005-2. \$4.95. 56 pages.

Global Feminist Perspectives on Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health: A Report on the Special Sessions Held at the Fourth International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Hunter College, New York City, June 3-7, 1990 by Rosalind P. Petchesky and Jennifer Weiner is a 60-page booklet presenting the ideas of forty-six feminist researchers and activists from eighteen countries worldwide. The booklet provides a synthesis of the most recent feminist thinking on issues such as fertility regulation, maternal mortality, abortion, prenatal and child health and nutrition, new reproductive technologies and population control. There is emphasis on the differences of culture, class, region and political context. The essays focus on the common aim of securing recognition of reproductive rights

FTF Author Breakfast

The Feminist Task Force is sponsoring its first author breakfast at midwinter. The task force is planning to host an author breakfast during every midwinter and annual ALA conference. Our first guest will be Mary Morell.

Morell and her partner, Anne Grey Frost, manage a feminist bookstore called Full Circle Books in New Mexico. Mary has been an English teacher, a counselor and a travel agency manager. In addition to writing novels, Mary writes poems, plays, and political diatribes. Morell won the 1990 Lesbian Fiction Contest for her murder mystery, Final Session published by Spinsters, 1991.

Call for Reviewers

If anyone has an interest in reviewing books for *Women In Libraries*, please send your name, address, phone number, and an idea of what kind of material you would like to review to the editor.

as international human rights. To receive a free copy of this resource, write to: Reproductive Rights Education Project, c/o Women's Studies Program, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021.

Films and Videos about Women from Around the World

First Run/Icarus Films will send a catalog describing over 300 films upon request. 153 Waverly Place, New York, NY 10014. (800-876-1710).

The following are new releases from the distributor's flier:

Senso Daughters. A film by Noriko Sekiguchi. 54 minutes. Color. 1989.

Chronicles the experiences of Papua New Guinea women and the "comfort women" — military prostitutes— during the Japanese occupation of Papua New Guinea in World War II. Contrasts the memories of the women with the "historical amnesia" of the Japanese soldiers and nurses. Best of Category, 1991 San Francisco Film Festival; Best Documentary, 1989 Japanese Catholic Cinema Club.

Goldwidows: Women of Lesotho. A video by Don Edkins, Ute Hall, and Mike Schlomer. 52 minutes. Color. 1991. Documents the lives of four women whose husbands work in the South African gold mines. Because women and children are forbidden to follow their migrant husbands into South Africa, they spend much of their lives as "widows." 1990 Leipzig Film Festival; 1990 Melbourne International Film Festival.

Chicago, IL 60611
50 East Huron Street
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