



Women in Libraries

Volume 21, Number 3

March 1992

San Antonio Author Breakfast

At ALA's mid-winter conference in San Antonio, Mary Morell was the guest of the first Feminist Task Force's author breakfast, an event the FTF plans to hold during every mid-winter and annual ALA conference. The author breakfast series is off to a good start. Morell was fun, funny, enlightening, and definitely feminist. Her book, winner of the 1990 Lesbian Fiction Contest sponsored by Spinsters Book Company, is Final Session, a murder mystery in which our hero, Lucia Ramos, is a lesbian police officer who solves the mystery of a San Antonio psychotherapist's death and resolves her feelings for Amy, a child psychologist. Along the way, Morell vents her anger about psychotherapists and others in power who are sexually abusive to their clients and to those who are powerless. This anger, expressed engagingly and unthreateningly in the novel, is channeled in real life into Full Circle Books, a feminist book store in New Mexico which Morell manages with her partner Anne Grey Frost. Full Circle Books specializes in books about childhood sexual abuse.

During the course of the FTF author breakfast, Morell spoke about why and how she writes. Morell wrote Final Session because she is "a trifle irritated with a feminist psychotherapist who slept with her client." The sarcasm is clear. Morell is, in fact, furious that betrayal of trust is as prevalent as it is. She quotes figures from 1988 which indicate that 20 per cent of straight male psychotherapists admitted to being sexually involved with their clients, a figure even more appalling when one realizes that each of these men admitted to having sex with 26 clients (an average figure). Of those 26 clients, 80 per cent were incest survivors. The figure for abusive lesbian psychotherapists is 6 per cent. "I want readers to know," she says. "Prince of Tides is propaganda for therapists fucking their clients — I haven't heard one therapist say this is unethical. Don't tell me Nick Nolte was Barbra Streisand's client." Her conclu-

sion is that therapists don't want to stop it. Licensing boards, those who actually have the power to stop the sexual abuse of clients, are as guilty as the psychotherapists, she says. This point, too, is part of Final Session.

In fact, Morell brings a lot of political issues to her first murder mystery. Homophobia and racism are two she addresses in the novel. "Most mystery writers are not engaged in social change issues," she says. "I want to get people to see the ethical principles of feminist thought. I give them a tablespoon of medicine in a pound of sugar." So why a murder mystery? "Mystery writers have fun and they don't have to be brilliant. Murder is so much fun and mystery writing saves so much money in psychotherapy fees — just think how you can take a person you want to get rid of and actually kill them off."

Of course a mystery novel requires more than one character murdering another, so a mystery writer needs to create several interesting personalities. Here Morell has fun.

"Writing about characters is a lot like raising children — you can mold and control them only in the beginning, then they have a life of their own." Character creation is a way of getting friends into a book. "Writing is community-building because you can put your friends in," she says. Her characters are at least loosely based on real people and some of Morell's friends, who have asked to be written into her stories, can recognize themselves and each other in Final Session.

Morell claims that her biggest weakness as a writer is that she wants to "go on and on," expounding on the feminist themes which are so important to her. She will apparently have the chance. There are three more mysteries in the works. The next, Final Rest, is to be set in New Orleans.

KW

Mentoring Program for New Attendees in San Francisco

Are you a student or new librarian planning to attend the ALA annual meeting in San Francisco this coming June? Would you like to have a mentor at the conference—someone to talk to, to help you acclimate?

Or are you a seasoned conference-goer who would like to share your experience with a student or first-time attendee?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then the Conference Mentor Project is for you! The Minorities Recruitment Committee of NMRT (New Members Round Table) is sponsoring this project to help make new attendees feel at ease at a conference whose size can often be overwhelming and intimidating.

What is a mentor, anyway? A mentor is a wise and trusting guide or counselor. In the context of ALA conferences, it is someone who can help the new librarian or library student negotiate a path amongst the numerous meetings, programs, exhibits and acronyms.

Members of ethnic minority or underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to participate in this program.

Mentees (those being mentored) may be library science students, new librarians, first-time conference attendees, or anyone who would like to feel more comfortable attending the annual conference.

The only qualification for being a mentor is to have a sincere interest in helping someone else get the most out of the conference. This involves being a good listener, a thoughtful advisor, and a role model. Mentors should expect to meet at least once with their mentees during the conference, to answer questions, give guidance, or just listen. This is the minimum; more contact during the conference, or even after it is over, is encouraged. Mentors can be from any ALA division or affiliate group in order to show mentees the many opportunities for involvement in ALA.

In order to participate, just fill out the form and mail it to Laine Stambaugh, Knight Library, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403 by June 1, 1992. Mentors and mentees will be matched based on the information provided; mentors will have the responsibility of contacting mentees before the conference to arrange to get together. ➔

Application for San Francisco Conference Mentor Program

The Minorities Recruitment Committee of the New Members Round Table is sponsoring a conference mentorship program at the ALA annual meeting in San Francisco. The program will match experienced conference-goers with

students and others new to the profession to help them get the most out of their conference experience. If you are interested, please fill out the form below and return it by the deadline.

• Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____ Email: _____

- I would like to be a: Mentor Mentee
- Do you consider yourself to be a member of an underrepresented group? Yes No
- Mentors and mentees, please check the appropriate lines below to help us match you up by areas of interest.

Type of institution you are interested in or have had experience in: Public library Academic library
 School library Special library Other (please specify) _____

Type of position you are interested in or have had experience in Public services Technical services
 Other (please specify) _____

- Please return this form by June 1, 1992 to: Laine Stambaugh, Knight Library, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1299. Tel: (503) 346-1895; Fax: (503) 346-3094 ➔

Speak Out!

Speak Out! is a political speakers bureau affiliated with South End Press and *Z Magazine*. The bureau provides professional speakers (historians, journalists, economists, etc.) and artists (poets, writers, musicians, etc.) for campus,

community and labor audiences throughout the U.S. and Canada. For more information contact Jean Caiani, 2215-R Market St. #520, San Francisco, CA 94114; (415) 864-4561. ↔

Acquisitions Notes

A History of Women's Contribution to World Health by Theodora Dakin illustrates the contributions of women from different social and educational backgrounds who have influenced health issues around the world from classical times to modern. Includes not only the well-known names— Florence Nightingale, Margaret Sanger, etc., but the lesser-known champions of health and medicine as well. Available from The Edwin Mellen Press. ISBN 0-7734-9624-6. \$49.95.

A Road Well Traveled: Three Generations of Cuban American Women by Terry Doran, Janet Satterfield, and Chris Stade. An anthology of the lives of twelve women who arrived in the United States at different points in our recent history. In this rich collection of interviews, the words of immigrants from before and after the 1959 revolution and from second-generation Cuban Americans are presented. Their stories, highlighted by family photographs, provide us with an understanding of the problems Cuban American women have faced in their struggles to be female and Cuban in North American society. A Road Well Traveled is the result of a year-long research project of the Latin American Educational Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana, funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education's Women's Educational Equity Act. Conceived and directed by Dr. Graciela Beecher, a native Cuban and the founder and director of the center, the project interviewed women from New York, Indiana, Florida, and Illinois to provide readers with an awareness of the characteristics, values, experiences, and concerns of Cuban American women as a separate and distinct group. Available from WEEA Publishing Center, Education Development Center, 55 Chapel Street, Suite 264, Newton, MA 02160. \$13.50 plus \$2 S&H.

People With Disabilities Explain It All For You from the editors of the Disability Rag is designed to teach service organizations how to abide by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Illustrative examples are given along with actions which fall within the legal guidelines. Available from The Avocado Press, 1962 Roanoke, Louisville, KY 40205; (502) 459-5343. \$15.95 prepaid (they pay postage and handling).

Dear Lisa, A Letter To My Sister by J. Clements, the director of Man Oh Man. Personal documentary-style interviews with thirteen women who share the events,

thoughts and feelings which have shaped their lives from childhood to womanhood to motherhood and beyond. This is a film which speaks to all women about the dreams, hopes and reality of being female in the 90s. It is a film about how things have changed— and how things haven't changed for women. 45 mins, color. Available from New Day Films, 121 West 27th Street, Suite 902, New York, NY 10001; (212) 645- 8210. Rental and purchase prices, 16mm or video with study guide. ↔



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*.

Contributors: Karen Whittlesey-First, Harvard Law School Library

Protect Abortion Rights NOW!

The April 5th March is the third massive march for abortion rights since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion in the United States. Again we are marching to safeguard our constitutional right to safe, legal and accessible birth control and abortion. We will send a clear message to Congress, the courts and the White House: WE WON'T GO BACK!

In the last decade and especially since the election of George Bush as President, women in the United States have been losing our reproductive freedom. Already 44 million women, including women in the military, young women, poor women, and disproportionately, women of color have already had their right to abortion severely restricted. Soon all women may be in the same position because of the anti-choice majority that now sits on the Supreme Court.

We lost the *Webster* case in 1989, which Bush urged the Supreme Court to hear for the purpose of overturning *Roe v. Wade*. While not overturning *Roe* directly, the *Webster* decision opened the floodgates of state legislation to restrict abortion rights. Pennsylvania, Guam, Louisiana and Utah passed very punitive legislation denying women the right to safe, legal abortion. The legislation was challenged in court. The Third Circuit upheld most of the Pennsylvania legislation and recently the Supreme Court announced that it would review the Pennsylvania law. This and other cases are heading ominously toward a conservative Supreme Court where we believe abortion rights may be overturned as early as this summer. We cannot let this happen! We need to demonstrate now more than ever, and send a clear message that WE WON'T GO BACK and demand that the rights of all women must be protected and in many cases restored. →

WE WON'T GO BACK! March For Women's Lives!

Purpose: To show the nation that the supporters of safe, legal and accessible abortion and birth control are the overwhelming majority. Thousands will march to send an unmistakable message to the nation that WE WON'T GO BACK! We will fight back.

When: Sunday, April 5, 1992
March and Rally Washington, D.C.

March details: Assemble — 10am at the Ellipse
Step-off — 12 noon (March will pass White House)
Rally — the Mall (3rd St. & Madison Dr.) Rally will conclude by 5:30pm

Delegations: Any group having 20 or more participants may be classified as a delegation. Two members of this delegation should be designated as facilitators. Delegations should register no later than March 1st, if the delegation plans to place a banner order. Individual participants are of course welcome.

Special Notes: Participants are urged to wear white clothing in the tradition of the Suffragists and to march in delegations.

Delegations are, upon registration, urged to purchase a banner bearing their name or initials. Banners will be the same style as the purple, white and gold banners used by the Suffragists.

Special transportation will be available for those who are unable to walk or negotiate the March route.

Although ALA is not planning to send a delegation to Washington, D.C. for the April 5th march, individuals who are interested in participating are urged to contact the National NOW Action Center, 1000 16th Street, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20036. Tel: (202) 331-0066. NOW

has arranged special travel fares and housing accommodations to make the march as accessible as possible. There are also other related events planned before and after the march. Ask NOW for specific details. →

Pay Equity

The following is a February 1992 letter sent to Barbara Griffith of the American Association of University Women by Beryl P. Davey, President of PEN. Watch for further details regarding Beryl's presentation at the Common Pay Equity program at the annual ALA conference in June.

I am writing on the behalf of Pay Equity Now (PEN), a group of librarians and library workers employed by the City of Omaha, Nebraska, over 80% of whom are women. As a predominantly-female group of City employees, we have, for years been paid less than men doing comparable work in other City departments. This situation grew to crisis proportions in 1990 and we need your help in addressing this injustice through planned litigation.

Our current contract, passed by the City Council in 1990, changed the wage classification system in a manner which worsened the existing pay disparity and resulted in permanently downgrading our positions. In doing this, the City Council ignored the findings of a prior job evaluation study completed earlier for the City by Hay Associates. We believe that this set of facts presents a case of both intentional and disparate impact discrimination. We also believe our Nebraska state law which forbids paying wages to employees of one sex at a lesser rate than the rate paid to employees of the opposite sex for comparable work in jobs which have comparable requirements has been violated.

To contest the City's action, we filed a Title VII complaint with the Nebraska and federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commissions. Both commissions failed to act on our complaint within six months, so we must now go to court to reverse the effects of these discriminatory decisions and policies.

Our members have voted unanimously to file suit against the City of Omaha in federal court. We believe that the

Supreme Court's *Gunther* decision, established Title VII law, and our own state law provide us with strong causes of action.

However, as you know, having a cause and being able to win a cause in court are two different things. Our attorney has estimated that we can expect litigation costs of at least \$15,000 to \$20,000. Each of us has pledged to support this action through our own financial contributions, but we need additional funds and expert witness assistance.

We understand your organization is one committed to these issues, so we believe you, also, have a stake in the success of our litigation. Indeed, we think that because our case presents both a question of intentional discrimination (because the City ignored its own Hay study) and disparate impact, our case may have national impact on sex-biased wage discrimination cases. Can your organization assist us financially by making a substantial contribution to the PEN litigation fund?

In addition, we believe you may have access to contributory legal assistance (in the form of consultation, etc.) and referrals to statistical expert assistance and job evaluation system analysis. Either type of help would be greatly appreciated.

We will be happy to discuss this further with you and to provide whatever additional information you may require, subject, of course, to our own protection of confidentiality. Please direct your questions and contributions to PEN, c/o Broom, Johnson, Fahey & Clarkson, 1722 St. Mary's Avenue, 310 Flatiron Building, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

We think it would be beneficial to your organization's memberships to join us in our struggle for pay equity here in Omaha. Thank you for your consideration.

Lesbian Connection

Lesbian Connection is a periodical providing a nationwide forum of news and ideas for, by and about lesbians. It is published six times a year by the Helen Diner Memorial Women's Center/Ambitious Amazons. The cost is \$3 per issue and \$18 per year. Each issue is packed with articles, letters, helpful hints, reviews of lesbian music and books, reader responses, ads, etc. The publishers also sell a directory called Contact Dykes which lists the names,

addresses and telephone numbers of women who have expressed a willingness to provide local information to travelling lesbians or to new women in their towns. Direct inquiries and make checks (tax-deductible) payable to: Elsie Publishing Institute, P.O. Box 811, E Lansing, MI 48826. Or call (517) 371-5257 Mon - Fri, noon to six pm, EST.

Women's Studies Section Highlights Publishing Projects

Two new publications of potential interest to readers of *Women in Libraries* are now available from the ACRL Women's Studies Section (WSS): [Publishing Opportunities for Women's Studies Librarianship](#) and the [Women's Studies Section Publication Policies and Procedures Manual](#).

The first is a ten-page listing of library and women's studies periodicals that offer publishing opportunities for articles or bibliographies related to library collections and services in women's studies. Citations to articles previously published in each journal are included to provide examples of the types of material accepted. Produced by the WSS Publications Committee, the guide may be obtained from compiler Susan Williamson, Annenberg School for Communication, 3620 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19104-6220.

The [WSS Publication Policy and Procedures Manual](#), approved by the WSS Executive Board at the Atlanta

Conference, is designed to outline the various policies governing section, division, and association publications and to aid aspiring authors in negotiating the frequently circuitous path between the creation of a work and its publication. Based in part on the manual developed by ACRL/BIS and addressed primarily to WSS officers, committees, and members, the manual also may provide useful information to other ALA constituencies and members. Available upon request from Cindy Faries, Chair, WSS Publications Committee, E108 Pattee Library, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16801; email CSF@PSULIAS.bitnet.

The WSS Publications Committee also anticipates future publication of [Issues in Women's Studies Librarianship: Faculty and Librarians Frame the Questions](#), an anthology edited by Ellen Broidy (University of California, Irvine) and Lori Goetsch (Michigan State University), currently in progress. →

Women's Bureau Announces Completion of Four Research Projects

The Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor announced the completion of four major studies of various aspects affecting the lives of working women.

"In releasing these studies, the Women's Bureau hopes to encourage further discussion by policy makers about these issues which affect working women," said Elsie Vartanian, director of the Women's Bureau.

Vartanian explained that each year the Women's Bureau identifies a few areas affecting women in the workforce and offers competitive bidding among researchers.

"The results of the funded research are made available to government leaders, academia and the general public in the hope it will stimulate dialogue and thought," Vartanian stated. The director indicated she would give consideration to the findings when she develops future priorities for the Women's Bureau.

The titles of the four studies follow.

"Increasing Working Mothers' Earnings" conducted by

Roberta M. Spalter-Roth, Ph.D., and Heidi I. Hartmann, Ph.D., of the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington, D.C.

"Gender and Racial Pay Gaps in the 1980s: Accounting for Different Trends" conducted by Dr. Elaine Sorensen, senior research associate at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C.

"Breaking the Glass Ceiling in the 1990s" conducted by Dr. Terry A. Scandura of the University of Miami.

"Just a Temp: Expectations and Experiences of Women Clerical Temporary Workers" conducted by Maureen Martella of Temple University.

Single copies of these studies are available free of charge by sending a self-addressed mailing label to: Women's Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Box RR, 200 Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C. 20210. Please specify which study or studies you require. →

Lesbian Biography

Below is a reprint of a letter from Options: an Institute for Lifestyle Education.

Dear Friend,

Of the more than seven hundred biographies published in the United States last year, guess how many were written about Lesbians? You guessed it: None. This year, one of "our" publishers will contract with writer Celeste West to chronicle the long-awaited biography of activists Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, surely the Lesbian civil liberties and love story of the century.

Our letter is an appeal to you to financially help sponsor this documentation of our proud Lesbian lineage. Lesbian and gay publishers, unfortunately, are not yet able to offer the advances an author receives from establishment publishers. The latter often do not keep Lesbian books in print, nor do they reinvest the money our books earn into the Lesbian community as our publishers do. To write Del and Phyllis' biography, Celeste needs to put aside her usual income-producing work to be able to devote the next few years to the biography's completion.

This project will be at least two years in the writing, and then possibly filming. It will involve sorting through the massive archives Phyllis and Del collected during nearly half a century of activism and personal relationship. Other archives, personal papers and photos will be utilized. There will be hours of interviews with Del and Phyllis telling their own story, reminiscences with other activists with whom Del and Phyllis created a Lesbian revolution.

We are fortunate that Celeste brings her experience in collaborating with our foremother poet/philosopher Elsa Gidlow to this project. Together they created the first full-length, explicitly Lesbian autobiography ever written, their award-winning ELSA: I Come With My Songs. Celeste is also the author of countless articles and four other books including the wild and witty, much reprinted Lesbian Love Advisor.

Celeste told us, "There is only one thing I hate more than asking for money: it is Phyllis and Del's vital story not being presented for us all to celebrate."

This project honoring the Lesbians who helped to change all our lives deserves your support. Any donation is fully tax-deductible when your check is made out to "Options Institute." Donors of \$100 or more will receive signed copies of the biography by Del, Phyllis and Celeste, and you may elect whether to have your name acknowledged in the book as a sponsor of Lesbian history. Please give what you can, and ask your friends to do the same.

Sincerely, supporters of this project:

*Jan Zobel, Carmen Vazquez, Pat Norman, JoAnn Loulan,
Mamy Hall*

Please send tax-deductible checks to: Options Institute, 555 29th Street, San Francisco, CA 94131. Include your name, address, phone, and indicate whether you would like to be listed in the book as a sponsor and if you have a Lesbiana collection Celeste West could use as a resource.



Chicago, IL 60611
50 East Huron Street
Office for Library Outreach Services
American Library Association
Women in Libraries



We need your support.

Renew your subscription and tell a friend. As always, we continue to bring you news of the activities of women's groups at ALA conferences and information about publications and events pertinent to women's lives.

Clip the subscription coupon and send it to American Library Association, Office for Library Outreach Services, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Enclose your check payable to ALA/SRRT/FIF, and note "For *Women in Libraries*."

Check one.

Enclosed is my check for a one year subscription to *Women in Libraries*, \$5 for an individual, \$8 for an institution.

I wish to be billed, for \$2 additional.

Name _____

Address _____

