



Women in Libraries

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ALA Midwinter 1993: Denver, Colorado Amendment 2 and the Boycott

"An amendment to Article II of the Colorado Constitution to prohibit the state of Colorado and any of its political subdivisions from adopting or enforcing any law or policy which provides that homosexual, lesbian, or bisexual orientation, conduct, or relationships constitutes or entitles a person to claim any minority or protected status, quota preferences, or discrimination."

The passing of the above amendment with a vote of 53.4% in favor to 46.6% opposed has set off a chain of events which continue to gain momentum throughout the country.

Pre-election surveys predicted Amendment 2, as it is called, would fail, but television advertisements produced by an ultra-conservative group known as Colorado for Family Values seemingly persuaded many Coloradans that a vote in support of this amendment would prohibit gays from having "special rights" under the Colorado law. Perhaps it was this ad campaign or the way the amendment was worded, as some have suggested, which disguised the fact that the amendment was taking away basic civil rights.

The amendment's passing has caused outrage in the gay and the heterosexual communities in and outside of Colorado. Many individuals, organizations, and businesses are choosing to boycott Colorado by cancelling vacation plans, business travel, conferences, etc.

The ongoing debate is whether boycotting Colorado will only hurt the gay communities and the cities which opposed the amendment, including Denver. Those who believe this is the case are opting to make their outrage known in other ways. Gay rights activists are organizing marches, rallies, candlelight protests; and businesses are

posting "hate-free zone" signs to help discerning consumers spend their money in only "friendly" places.

ALA could not cancel its midwinter conference location in Denver due to financial and legal reasons, but there will be discussion on relocating the annual conference in 1998. (If you would like to express your opinion regarding the relocation proposal for 1998, ALA has established an 800 number: 800-545-2433). Not all ALA members believe that Amendment 2 is a library issue— or an issue with which the organization should concern itself. While Amendment 2 may not explicitly refer to librarians, libraries, or access to information, it is fairly easy to see how interpretations of it could have ramifications on hiring practices in libraries, job security, and collection development policies.

Unfortunately, this is not a Colorado problem. There are other states which have had and will continue to have such measures put on the ballot. If Amendment 2 is allowed to stand, other states will follow with similar proposals.

If you are choosing not to attend the midwinter conference due to Amendment 2 (or due to Amendment 1 which limits state taxes and spending budgets and is already having devastating effects on Colorado libraries), let the appropriate people/offices know of your decision by writing a letter or signing a petition. The goal is not only to send the supporters of this amendment a strong message, but also to provide the people/offices who are fighting this amendment (Denver, Aspen and Boulder have already filed suit) with the ammunition and support they need.

If you are attending the conference, note the ways in which you can make your opinions heard in the article entitled GLTF Denver Actions in the following pages. JD

GLTF Denver Actions

The Gay and Lesbian Task Force coordinators Roland Hansen and Karen Whittlesey-First have outlined an action plan which follows below. As of December 10th, some of these actions had not been finalized. You may contact Karen through e-mail for more information: WHITTLES@HULAW1.BITNET or WHITTLES@HULAW1.HARVARD.EDU.

Before the Conference:

A conference call with Peggy Sullivan, exec. dir. of ALA, was requested to urge her to issue an emphatic statement which speaks directly to the connections between the Colorado amendment and library issues. The Task Force was not satisfied with her statement of November 10th.

Letters were sent to branch librarians in Denver to ask that during the conference they consider exhibiting materials from their libraries for which the GLTF has awarded book prizes. The GLTF book award, offered annually, is given to books (long and short fiction, poetry and nonfiction) of exceptional merit relating to the lesbian and gay experience. The awards have been given since 1971, making them the oldest gay and lesbian awards in the United States.

At Conference Registration:

ALA has arranged space to make pins and/or badge labels available. The pins will be a pink triangle containing the words "It's a Library Issue" or "It's a Civil Rights Issue."

Petitions may be available at registration for those people who are committed to minimal spending in Colorado or to future boycott of the state. These petitions would be sent to the boards of tourism, governor, etc.

During the Conference:

There will likely be a rally outdoors in a public place (Denver PL or state capitol) to read letters or documents pertaining to intellectual freedom, censorship, inclusivity, etc. Librarians from the Univ of Colorado, who are better able to check out permits, physical space, etc. are coordinating this with the GLTF.

The GLTF Steering Committee meeting Friday night will likely be well attended. Library Journal is expected to be

there. The Steering Committee will issue a statement which will be sent to the media, etc. The meeting is in the Vista Room of the Hyatt from 8-10. Check programs.

Exhibitors were asked to display medallions or signs indicating their agreement with ALA's policy of non-discrimination. They were also asked to prominently display any of their materials which feature lesbian, gay, or bisexual themes. Visitors to the exhibits are encouraged to make a point of acknowledging the exhibitors who comply and to ask those vendors without a medallion or sign why they don't have one.

Those Colorado libraries which are now forbidden to have inclusive hiring clauses are not eligible to take part in the placement center. The Midwinter 1990 Council Document 44 prohibits employers who will not sign the ALA policy of non-discrimination from recruiting through ALA organs (either the journals or conference placement centers). Amendment 2 prohibits the state universities and public libraries from signing such a statement.

There will be a list of friendly places in Denver where conference-goers can spend money. Support those businesses which supported our common interest.

Colorado Addresses:

Remember, letters are better than phone calls!

Colorado Office of Tourism
1625 Broadway Suite 1700, Denver, CO 80202
(303) 592-5510

Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry
1776 Lincoln Street Suite 1200, Denver, CO 80203
(303) 831-7411

Governor Roy Romer (opposes amendment)
136 State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-2471

Wellington Webb, Mayor (opposes amendment)
City and County Building, Denver, CO 80203
(303) 640-2721

Robert Isaac, Mayor
CAB, P.O. Box 1575, Colorado Springs, CO 80901
(the population of Colorado Springs includes influential supporters of the amendment.)

International Women's Library Conference

The Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, as part of the celebration of its 50th anniversary, is planning an international women's library conference for mid-June 1994. If you would like to be on the mailing list for conference information, send your

name and address, and a FAX number if you have one, to: International Women's Library Conference, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 U.S.A.

Woman's Collection Newsletter

The Texas Woman's University Library has revived its newsletter DATA ENTRIES and is making it available in electronic form through free subscription over the Internet.

DATA ENTRIES will cover events at the Mary Evelyn Blagg-Huey Library in Denton, Texas, as well as developments in public services and the Woman's Collection. Begun in 1932 at the behest of one of the university's presidents, biographies of significant women were collected to serve as role models for the students at Texas State College for Women, later to be called Texas Woman's University. Today the Woman's Collection contains more than 42,000 books and periodicals, 2500 feet of manuscript and archival records, and approximately 20,000 photographs. The historical manuscripts include the personal papers of Hermine

Tobolowsky, the "Mother of the Texas Equal Legal Rights Amendment," Sarah Weddington (Roe v. Wade), and authors Claire Myers Owens, LaVerne Harrel Clark, and Edith Deen. In addition, to add to its growing collection on women in the military, TWU acquired the records of the WASP, Inc., the veterans organization for the Women's Airforce Service Pilots who flew during World War II.

To subscribe to the quarterly newsletter, simply send a note requesting a subscription to one of the following addresses: s_natale@twu (BITNet) or s_natale@twu.edu (Internet).

For questions about the Woman's Collection, contact Dawn Letson 817-898-3754 or at s_letson@twu.edu (Internet). •

Aquisitions

Women's Voices in the Southern Oral History Program Collection

Kathryn L. Nasstom, editor
(xv + 178 pp. Indexed. \$17.00)

Contains abstracts of over 300 oral history interviews with southern women, grouped together by topical series, with an introduction describing each series. Along with the abstract, each entry identifies the interviewee and interviewer, date of interview, life dates and flourish dates of the interviewee, the number of pages in the transcript (if one has been prepared), and the number of tapes available. Explanatory notes follow each abstract with information on other material available on the interviewee, reference to related manuscript collections in the Southern Historical Collection, and an indication of any restrictions placed on the use of the interview. An extensive index allows access to the interviews by subject headings. Introductory materials provide an overview of the collection and a discussion of the value of oral history methodology for researching women's lives. Women's Voices can be ordered from the Southern Oral History Program; CB# 3195, Hamilton Hall; UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3195; 919/962-8076. •

Feminist Pen Pal

Krzysztof Wieckowski would like to discuss the feminist movement in Eastern Europe with anyone who is interested. She is from the University of Warsaw, Poland and her e-mail address is: hubertus@plearn.bitnet •



Women in Libraries

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

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(315) 859-4480.

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

Obituaries

Audre Lorde

Audre Lorde, a black feminist writer who became the poet laureate of New York State in 1991, died after a lengthy battle with cancer on Tuesday, November 17 at her home on St. Croix. She was 58 years old.

From the publication of her first book in 1968, Ms. Lorde's 17 volumes of poetry, essays and autobiography reflected her hatred of racial and sexual prejudice. A collection of essays, "A Burst of Light," won an American Book Award in 1989. Her 1973 collection, "From a Land Where Other People Live," was nominated for a National Book Award. She was given the Manhattan Borough President's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1988, and received honorary doctorates from Hunter, Oberlin and Haverford Colleges.

Ms. Lorde was born in Manhattan and graduated from Hunter College and the Columbia University School of Library Science. She became an English professor at Hunter and lectured widely throughout the United States, Europe and Africa. She was active in many literary and political organizations and a founding member of Women of Color Press and Sisterhood in Support of Sisters in South Africa.

She was an outspoken lesbian and served on the board of

the Feminist Press in New York City and often gave readings of her works at Judith's Room, a feminist bookstore in Greenwich Village.

She is survived by her companion Gloria I. Joseph of St. Croix; a son, Jonathan Rollins, and a daughter, Elizabeth Lorde-Rollins, both of New York City, and four sisters, Helen Lorde, Phyllis Blackwell and Marjorie and Mavis Jones.

(Reprinted in part from the New York Times, Friday, November 20, 1992, p.A23.)

Jacquelyn K. Eubanks

Jackie Eubanks died of complications from AIDS on November 19 at the age of 54. Eubanks had been a professor in the library department of Brooklyn College since 1966. She was founder and editor of Alternatives in Print and a founding member of the American Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table. Ms. Eubanks also chaired ALA's Alternatives in Print Task Force.

(Reprinted in part from Library Hotline, November 30, 1992, p.6.)

Proposals for Publication

The Newcomb College Center for Research at Tulane University solicits proposals for publication in its ongoing Archival and Bibliographic Series in Women's Studies. Previous publications have been a guide to primary sources on women in New Orleans, a bibliography on the higher education of women in the South, and an analysis of

scrapbooks as material culture. The series is published annually each October. For additional information about the series or to submit proposals, contact Susan Tucker, Vorhoff Library, Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118.

Midwinter Meeting Schedule

Check the conference program for locations and any changes or possible cancellations to these and other meetings of interest.

January 22, 1993, Friday

5:00 - 7:00 pm ACRL/WSS Social Hour
8:00 - 10:00 pm Gay & Lesbian T.F. Steering Committee

January 23, 1993, Saturday

9:30 - 11:00 am Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship
9:30 - 12:30 pm SRRT Action Council
11:30 - 12:30 pm SRRT Environment Task Force
2:00 - 4:00 pm Feminist Task Force
2:00 - 4:00 pm ACRL Racial & Ethnic Diversity Committee
4:30 - 5:30 pm ACRL/WSS Open Orientation Meeting

January 24, 1992, Sunday

9:30 - 11:00 am ACRL/WSS General Discussion Meeting
9:30 - 12:30 pm SRRT International Human Rights T. F.
11:30 - 12:30 pm Feminist Task Force
4:30 - 5:30 pm Gay & Lesbian T.F. Book Awards

January 25, 1993, Monday

8:00 - 9:00 am Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship
9:30 - 11:00 am Gay & Lesbian T.F. Program Planning

January 26, 1993, Tuesday

8:00 - 9:00 am SRRT Peace Information T.F.
9:30 - 11:00 am Feminist Task Force
2:00 - 4:00 pm Gay & Lesbian T.F. Steering Committee

Microfilm Collection Titles

The Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Edited by Patricia G. Holland and Ann D. Gordon, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. S3165. 45 rolls of 35mm microfilm with guide. 1991. \$3, 150.00

With publication of this collection, historians for the first time will be able to analyze the leadership of Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) and Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) over a diverse, locally based suffrage movement, and assess their influence in defining the goals of human rights and political equality worldwide. The collection represents the manuscript holdings of more than two hundred libraries and private collectors, and printed matter from approximately 700 periodicals.

This collection spans the years 1831-1906 and contains more than 14,000 documents. Included are such items as legislative testimony, correspondence, diaries, speeches, accounts of meetings, articles, legal papers, and financial papers.

These varied documents are organized in three series. Series I contains a complete run of the Revolution (1868-1871), the weekly newspaper established by the two activists. This collection is the only source for all issues of this publication. Series II comprises the Chicago Historical Society's collection of 1,700 letters and petitions seeking a woman suffrage plank in the 1880 Republican party platform. Series III— the main body of this collection— consists of all the other documents mentioned. They are arranged in a single chronology that interfiles all the types of papers of Stanton and Anthony.

The printed guide includes roll notes, an index, a chronology and explanations of editorial practices. The guide will also be available for separate purchase in May 1992.

The Records of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U.S. Section, 1919-1959. Edited by Eleanor M. Barr, Archivist, Swarthmore College Peace Collection. S3050. 97 rolls of 35mm microfilm with guide. 1988. \$6, 790.00.

This collection chronicles the successor to the Women's Peace Party. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) was established in 1919 and replaced the WPP in the United States. Following the aims originally set forth by the WPP, the group's primary emphasis was "to promote methods for the attainment of that peace between nations which is based on justice and good will and to cooperate with women from other countries who are working for the same ends."

The records are arranged in three series: Historical Records, Correspondence, and Serial Publications. The collection documents the wide range of methods the WILPF used for four decades— government lobbying, demonstrations, letter campaigns, speeches, publications,

and grass-roots organizing— in their work for disarmament, civil rights, conscientious objectors, war refugees, and women's rights.

The Papers of Emily Greene Balch, 1875-1961. Edited by Martha P. Shane, Archivist, Swarthmore College Peace Collection. S3051. 26 rolls of 35mm microfilm with guide. 1988. \$1, 820.00.

Emily Greene Balch (1867-1961), one of only two American women to win the Nobel Peace Prize, played a leading role in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), of which she elected honorary international president in 1937.

The Papers of Emily Greene Balch is organized into three chronologically arranged series: the Biographical Series contains family history and correspondence, articles about Balch, materials collected by Balch about close friends and acquaintances, and material related to her 1964 Nobel prize; the Correspondence Series includes letters to and from such prominent contemporaries as Jane Addams, Ellen Starr Brinton, Gertrude Bussey, Hannah Clothier Hull, Paul Underwood Kellogg, Louis P. Lochner, Lucia Ames Mead, Alice Thatcher Post, Mercedes M. Randall, and Florence G. Taussig; the final series consists of Balch's diaries, journals, notes, subject files, manuscripts for articles and speeches, and other miscellaneous writings.

The guide to the collection includes a history and chronology of Balch's life as well as a listing of roll contents.

The Collected Records of the Woman's Peace Party, 1914-1920. Edited by the Swarthmore College Peace Collection Staff. D3052. 23 rolls of 35mm microfilm with guide. 1988. \$1, 610.00.

The Woman's Peace Party (WPP) was founded in 1915 at a national conference called by Jane Addams and Carrie Chapman Catt. Some 3,000 members of various local women's peace organizations gathered in Washington, DC, and established the WPP on a platform calling for a conference of neutral nations, limitations of armaments, opposition to militarism in the United States, democratic control of foreign policy, and extension of the vote to women. In 1919 the WPP became the U.S. Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

The Collected Records... is divided into two chronologically arranged series, Historical Records and Correspondence. These include annual meeting minutes, executive council minutes, membership lists, literature, speeches, letters, clippings, releases, reports and resolutions.

Please direct your inquiries and orders to Scholarly Resources Inc., 104 Greenhill Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19805-1897 USA. Call toll free 1-800-772-8937. Outside the U.S. call 302-654-7713. ●

Women in Libraries
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