

*Special  
Double Issue*



# Women in Libraries

Volume 24, Numbers 1 & 2

January 1995



**Philadelphia  
Midwinter 1995**

## Midwinter Meeting Schedule

### FTF Meetings

The Feminist Task Force meeting schedule for ALA midwinter:

- Saturday, February 4. 2—5:30 p.m.,  
Marriott Exhibit Hall Level 4, Table 14
- Monday, February 6. 8—11 a.m.,  
Marriott Grand Ballroom, Salon K

We will be planning the Feminist Author Breakfast for the 1995 annual conference, furthering our mentorship program for women of color interested in librarianship, and planning our annual program. If you are interested but cannot attend, contact, Deb Gilchrist, Feminist Task Force Coordinator, by phone at 206-964-6553, or by e-mail, [dgilchri@ctc.edu](mailto:dgilchri@ctc.edu).

Social Responsibility Round Table meetings are:

- Saturday, 9:30—11 a.m., Wyndham C
- Tuesday, 9:30—11 a.m., Ritz Carlton,  
Directors Room

### Other Women's Groups

*Refer to your conference program for changes or corrections.*

#### **Friday, February 3.**

8—10 p.m. Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Task Force Steering Committee. Wyndham Franklin Plaza, Philadelphia S.

#### **Saturday, February 4.**

9:30—11 a.m. Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL). Convention Center, Room 107A.

2—4 p.m. Women's Studies Section (WSS) Executive Committee. Warwick Hotel, Crystal B.

2—4 p.m. Committee on Pay Equity. Convention Center, Room 300.

*Continued on page 2.*

## Women's groups at midwinter

*Continued from page 1.*

### Sunday, February 5.

11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. COSWL Research Subcommittee. Omni Hotel, Room 110. *Editor's note: The subcommittee has opened this meeting to all interested for the special purpose of inspiring people to do more research on women's issues in librarianship. James Carmichael and Martly Shontz, authors of "Homophobia, Sexism, and the Social Responsibility Mandate: Perceptions of 1993 LIS Graduates," will lead the discussion.*

2—4 p.m. COSWL, Convention Center, Room 109A.

2—4 p.m. COSWL Bibliography Task Force. Convention Center, Room 107A.

### Monday, February 6.

11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. COSWL, Convention Center, Room 112B.

11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. LAMA Women Administrators' Discussion Group. Four Seasons, South Ballroom.

2—4 p.m. Committee on Pay Equity. Convention Center, Room 300.

2—4 p.m. WSS Executive Committee. Holiday Inn Independence Mall, Jefferson Room.

## Women celebrate: 75 years of voting

This year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving us the right to vote. The National Women's History Project has prepared some materials rich with ideas for planning programs.

One of the publications, *Women win the vote*, includes a history, timeline and analysis of the women's suffrage movement, plus biographies of several prominent activists. It also contains a calendar of anniversary events, a bibliography and a list of resources.

Another item is a "Suffrage Anniversary Organizing Kit" filled with organizing ideas, programming tips, and resources. The kit is available for \$11, which includes shipping as well as a copy of *Women win the vote*.

For more information or help in publicizing your program, write the National Women's History Project, 7738 Bell Road, Dept. S, Windsor, CA 95492; phone 707-838-6000; or fax 707-838-0478.

## Presses launch library project

A group of independent presses have joined to form the Women's Presses Library Project. The women-owned presses, whose books deal with subjects for women and girls not often addressed by mainstream publishers, have formed the coalition in an effort to increase the visibility of their titles in libraries in the United States and Canada. The project plans to work closely with librarians individually and through ALA and other organizations. The project will work to keep librarians posted on new titles as they are published to seek input in order to maintain an awareness of the needs of librarians.

The group's plans include work with book jobbers, exhibits, catalogues and reference materials. Eighteen publishers have joined so far, including Aunt Lute Books, Astarte Press, Cleis Press, Firebrand Books, Seal Press and others. For information or to be added to the mailing list, write Mev Miller, 1483 Laurel Ave., St Paul, MN 55104-6737; phone 612-646-0097; or fax 612-646-1153.



### Women in Libraries

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

Madeleine Tainton, Editor  
West Texas A&M University

Diedre Conkling, Managing Editor  
Lincoln County Library District

Contributors: Bonnie Beyer-Houda, West Texas A&M University and Dorothy Granger, Pacific Oaks College.

Send articles, comments, or materials for review, but not subscription questions, to:

Madeleine Tainton  
Media Services Librarian  
West Texas A&M University  
WTAMU Box 736, Canyon, TX 79016-0736  
Phone: 806-656-2407; Fax 806-656-2213.  
E-mail: mtainton@wtamu-library.wtamu.edu

To subscribe, inquire about your subscription, or to change your address, write to Diedre Conkling, Managing Editor, *Women in Libraries*, c/o ALA, SRRT, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Subscriptions are \$5 for individuals, \$8 for institutions (prepaid), or \$10 for invoiced subscriptions.

# For Your Winter Reading: Book Review Section

## *On the shoulders of women*

Phillipson, Ilene J. *On the shoulders of women: the feminization of psychotherapy*. New York: The Guilford Press, 1993. Cloth, ISBN 0-89862-017-1, \$21.95.

*On the shoulders of women: the feminization of psychotherapy* presents an overview and analysis of developments in the mental health field today. Statistics have shown an increase in the number of women entering the mental health professions. At the same time, the number of men entering the field are on the decline, transforming the practice of psychotherapy into a women's field. This book looks into the future and presents an analysis of what this shift may mean for the profession and therapy in general.

About 160 pages long, *Shoulders* comprises seven chapters, beginning with an historical overview of gender participation in the profession. A discussion follows, considering the effects the feminization of psychotherapy may have on theoretical development as well as on practitioners in the field. Phillipson projects paradigm shifts in how psychopathology and human development are viewed based on the feminization of the profession and discusses the implications for practice.

Phillipson presents an interesting and statistically accurate analysis of changes in the field of psychotherapy and the future consequences this may hold for therapists and clients. The book will be of interest to mental health practitioners and readers concerned with women's issues.—B. Beyer-Houda

## *Not June Cleaver*

Meyerowitz, Joan, ed. *Not June Cleaver: women and gender in postwar America, 1945-60*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1994. Cloth, ISBN 1-56639-170-9, \$49.95; paper, ISBN 1-56639-171-7, \$19.95.

*Not June Cleaver: women and gender in postwar America, 1945-60* is a collection of fifteen essays reconsidering the roles of women as mothers, workers, and activists. It provides the reader with a new view of women in the postwar era, far removed from the stereotypical white, middle-class women seen in popular television shows of the 1950s. Discussions of race, gender, ethnicity, politics, alternative lifestyles, religion, and occupations create for the reader a new and more accurate view of the struggles of women in the years from 1945-1960. The book provides an insight into the unique impact women's activities had on political and social decisions of the era. *Not June Cleaver* will be of interest to historians, sociologists,

and anyone concerned with women's issues in 20th-century United States.

Essays were contributed by Xiaolan Bao, Ruth Feldstein, Deborah A. Gerson, Joan Meyerowitz and others.—B. Beyer-Houda

## *Skin*

Allison, Dorothy. *Skin: talking about sex, class & literature*. Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1994. Cloth, ISBN 1-56341-045-1, \$26.95; paper, ISBN 1-56341-044-3, \$13.95.

Dorothy Allison is still doing things with the English language most of us can only dream about. In *Skin*, she compiles a collection of essays previously published in such venues as *New York Native*, *New York Times Book Review*, and the *Village Voice*. As surprising as ever, and satisfying, Allison doesn't just react, she cogitates, never accepting the face value of anything. As a result, some of her insights are truly delightful. At times she shakes the foundations of day-to-day thinking and makes us reconsider many of the concepts and ideologies we take for granted, including those that describe ourselves.

She is afraid of writing, she says, because "anything I write will reveal me as the monster I was always told I would be." In taking back her power to decide for herself, "Writing is an anct that claims courage and meaning, and turns back denial, breaks open fear, and heals me as it makes possible some measure of healing for all those like me," and so she reclaims it for all of us who don't "fit in." It's hard to believe Allison feels this fear, because her work is some of the most fearless we've read.

Allison also writes about the work of writing and growing as she experienced it in some of her best-known work, including *Trash* and *Bastard* out of Carolina. These essays will be of interest to readers of Southern and Lesbian literature.—M. Tainton

## *Second to None*

Moynihan, Ruth Barnes, Cynthia Russett and Laurie Crumpacker, editors. *Second to none, a documentary history of American women*, Volumes I and II. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1994. Cloth, ISBN 0-8032-3167-9, \$45; paper, ISBN 0-8032-8205-2, \$20.

*Second to none* is a fantastic compendium of excerpts of original writings by women. The first volume includes material from the 16th century to 1865; the second volume covers 1865 to the present. The collection is rich with accounts of American experience and

cultures, from Navajo myths to textile factories, from enslavement to abolition, including suffrage, poverty, and war. Each original text is preceded by a short description of the circumstances in which it was written, and each chapter begins with a longer essay describing the historical events surrounding the texts within it.

The collection is a treasure trove of original material presented in a readable and useful format, and would be a worthwhile addition to collections concerning American history as well as women's studies. It would be especially useful in high school and college libraries, and public libraries serving students.—M. Tainton



### Bias-Free Dictionary

Maggio, Rosalie. The dictionary of bias-free usage: a guide to discriminatory language. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1994. Paper, ISBN 0-89774-653-8, \$25.

Another entry in the field of discriminatory usage, the *Dictionary* is a good effort. Maggio is interested in a broad range of issues, including words and phrases that demean minorities, the poor, and women. The book is broadly inclusive, but Maggio uses specialized words without defining them, like entryman and endman, offering instead substitute terms. Some of the meanings she used may be regional uses. For example, "dick," could mean a malicious person, but this meaning is not included. When Maggio defines "circumcision," she describes male and female circumcision accurately but fails to take the opportunity to say that "female circumcision" is a euphemism that should be replaced, perhaps, with "female genital excision," or even mutilation

On the whole, however, the entries are interesting, occasionally turning into short treatises with fascinating background facts and historical detail. Many of the meanings cannot help but be loaded with political connotation, and there is plenty of room for disagreement. The *Dictionary* would be useful for those who do not see how they are using, according to Maggio, "hundreds of male-oriented terms that give the language an overwhelming male 'voice.'" It's too bad that the people who will use it are probably the ones who need it least.—M. Tainton

### New Victoria Cross mystery

Sumner, Penny. *Crosswords*. Tallahassee, FL: Natad Press, 1994. Paper, ISBN 1-56280-064-7, \$9.95.

Following *The end of April*, *Crosswords* is the second entry in a series following the life of fictional London private eye Victoria Cross. Half the fun of books like

these is the geographic location, and Sumner writes evocatively of life in London, all its wealth and poverty, together with a thriving night club scene. Sumner also makes her main characters believable, and likable, as Cross must work out the difficulty of leading a dangerous life and trying to have a love life at the same time.

The mystery is well-worked out, involving a missing Chinese vase and a 25-year-old disappearance associated with it. And the reader is left wondering, till the end, just exactly who is who? *Crosswords* is light but pleasurable, just the thing to curl up with on these long winter nights.—M. Tainton

### Sexual identity

Irvine, Janice M., editor. *Sexual cultures and the construction of adolescent identities*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1994. Cloth, ISBN 1-56639-135-0, \$44.95; paper, ISBN 1-56639-136-9, \$19.95.

As teacher of an upper division college course on human development, I have been less than thrilled with current theories on adolescent development, including identity formation, but I have been totally disappointed with what I have read regarding how sexual identity is formed . . . until now. *Sexual cultures and the construction of adolescent identities* has provided me with a new text that examines the whole picture of sexual identity development in a nonjudgmental, straightforward manner. In this collection of essays examining the sexual experiences, feelings, and development of Asians, Latinos, African-Americans, gay men, lesbians, and women with disabilities, the authors do not presume a heterosexual identity development for adolescents. They acknowledge all options, don't assign "aberrant" development to some sidebar, and examine sexual identity within a cultural context. As Irvine says, "Adolescent sexuality is informed by a complex set of factors, including gender, race, class, and sexual identity; and the meanings teenagers attach to sexuality and relationships will vary based on different messages and imperatives from their myriad social worlds."

The first part of the book critiques theories of adolescent sexual development from various cultural perspectives. Part two examines various issues which impact adolescent development such as AIDS, ethnic issues, and disability. The final part attends to the contexts of female friendships, desirability, sex talk and other differences. This collection is a valuable resource and I, for one, will place it on my class reading list.—D. Granger



Women in Librartes

# Women in the News

## Conferences, past and future



### NGO conference to be held in Beijing

August 30—September 8, 1995. Non-Governmental Organizations Forum on Women, in Beijing, China. Held in conjunction with the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, September 4—15, 1995. The Forum hopes to influence the framing of a document called the "Platform for Action," set to be adopted by UN member states. A second goal is "to hold a substantive and celebratory Forum highlighting women's vision and strategy for the world in the 21st century," according to a brochure.

The deadline for registration is April 30, 1995. For more information or to be added to the Forum's mailing list, write to the NGO Forum on Women Office, Suite 1500, 211 East 43rd Street, New York, New York 10017.

If you are planning to attend the NGO conference, there may be a possibility of organizing a program or exhibit through the ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship. If you are interested in participating, write to Margaret Meyers at ALA, 1-800-545-2433, ext. 4278, or write her at 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Please note that there are no travel funds available through ALA.

### Women to be heard from in Beijing

The Schlesinger Library International Conference on "Women, information, and the future," held in June 1994, led to this statement to be submitted to the UN conference in Beijing:

"We encourage the participants in the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing to urge their governments

- 1) to make women's access to information and to the means of dissemination a priority of public policy;
- 2) to expand their collection, dissemination, and preservation of data and documents on women;
- 3) to take advantage of new technologies and assure women's equitable access to them;
- 4) to utilize the skills of women in creating and maintaining networks."

The 218 participants at the conference represented 46 countries on six continents.

### IFLA to meet in Turkey

August 20—26, 1995. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is set to meet in Istanbul, Turkey, with the theme "Libraries of the Future." The Round Table on Women's Issues (RTWI) is calling for papers that concern the status of women in librarianship or deal with the information needs of women. Presentations are typically 45 minutes long. Submit an outline or short abstract, or write for more information, to Eva Trotzig, IFLA TRWI, National Library for Psychology and Education, Frescati Hagvag 10, PO Box 50063, Stockholm S-10405, Sweden; or fax +46-8-15-55-81.

In 1996, the conference will convene in Beijing, China, with the theme, "The challenge of change, libraries and economic development."

IFLA also publishes a newsletter. For more information about IFLA, write to Yoko Taguchi, Kyoto Seika University, 137 Kino, Iwarkur, Sakyo, Kyoto 606 Japan, or fax her at +81-75-722-0838.

### Stanton anniversary to be celebrated in conference

October 6—8, 1995. Columbia College of South Carolina is planning a conference called "The life and leadership of Elizabeth Cady Stanton: a centennial celebration of *The woman's bible*." The interdisciplinary conference will focus on Stanton's contributions to social activism in the 19th and 20th centuries with particular emphasis on her book. The organizers are calling for papers and panel proposals on any aspect of Stanton's life and work. Proposals must be post-marked by March 1, 1995 and should include a 150-200 word abstract.

Dr. Gerda Lerner, author of *The creation of patriarchy*, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the conference. Dr. Lerner spoke at a panel named for her book at ALA's annual conference in 1988. For more information, write to Vivia Fowler, Chair, Department of Religion, Columbia College, 1301 Columbia College Drive, Columbia, SC 29203; phone 803-786-3776; or fax 803-786-3789.

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



### *Back on Track*

We're almost back on schedule with *Women in Libraries*, and this is a double issue filled with reviews and information about new publications of interest to women. If you thought you had lost track of us, we're back! And it may be time to renew your subscription.

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/FTF, and note on the check, "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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

-----



*Catching up on  
our reading.*

*See special review  
section inside.*