

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT TASK
FORCE ON WOMEN

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Ed. Kay Cassell

ALA 1978 - A REPORT ON WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

Many women's groups met at ALA this year, and the reverberations of their activities and programs were felt throughout the conference. An indication of the impact of women's issues on the Association is indicated by the amount of space given to coverage of their programs in the library press.

The SRRT TASK FORCE ON WOMEN held three meetings at the annual conference. At the first meeting the Task Force members agreed to wear and distribute to others black ribbons to be worn as a sign of mourning that the ERA had been defeated in the Illinois legislature the week before. Having noted some blatant sexism in the exhibits at ALA Midwinter, a number of members were assigned to monitor the exhibit area to report on any sexism. It was a pleasure to note that none was found. It was brought to the attention of the Task Force a statement made at the JMRT meeting in discussing a raffle of tickets for their disco dance. They had stated that if a woman won, she would be provided with a male escort. The Task Force sent a letter protesting this sexism.

Nominations for the new Task Force on Women steering committee were accepted throughout the week. A vote taken at the last meeting resulted in the election of the following people to the steering committee: Gurley Turner (Catalyst Library, N.Y.C.), Betty Turock (Doctoral student at the Rutgers Graduate School of Library Service), Julie Chase (Northwest Regional Library, MN) and Suzanne LeBarron (Minn. State Library). Others who will continue their term on the steering committee are Cynthia Johanson (Library of Congress), Mike Leber (Fairfax, Va.), Diane Gordon Kadanoff (Cumberland Public Library, RI), Jean Porter (Broward County Library, FL) and Karen Jackson (Detroit Public Library). Karen Jackson is the new coordinator of the Task Force on Women. A discussion as to whether to change the name of the Task Force was defeated after some discussion. The Task Force endorsed the resolutions submitted by the Status of Women Committee to ALA Council.

Two Task Force on Women programs were held. Two of the authors of Our Bodies Ourselves presented an informative program on the history of the book and discussed current censorship problems. A panel presented and discussed recent letters complaining about the book and actual attempts to censor the book.

Rita Mae Brown, author of Rubyfruit Jungle, proved to be a lively and most interesting speaker. Her speech ranged over a variety of issues. She discussed intellectual freedom, the politics of publishing which is used to keep dissidents from being published, the need for libraries to support local presses and local authors and the issue of pornographic violence.

The STATUS OF WOMEN IN LIBRARIANSHIP COMMITTEE presented several resolutions to the ALA council. All but one was passed. The resolutions were as follows:

1. that the American Library Association support the implementation of the National Plan of Action as amended at the National Women's Conference in Houston in November 1977,
2. that salary ranges be listed in all advertising of library positions in ALA publications,
3. that the ALA Headquarters be moved out of Illinois (resolution defeated),
4. that the American Library Association join other national organizations in support of the ERA Extension Resolution,
5. that the ALA support the concept of comparable wages for comparable work and that the LAD and OLPR assist workers to combat sex discrimination.

Other ALA actions passed with the lobbying efforts of many women and women's groups in ALA were:

1. ALA Council voted to move the 1979 ALA Midwinter to a state or District that has ratified the ERA, and
2. ALA Council voted to send a 44 member delegation to Springfield, Ill. to discuss the concerns of ALA on the ERA with the Illinois legislators when they return to the legislature in November. The committee organizing the trip are Peggy Sullivan, Karen Jackson and Diane Gordon Kadanoff.

RASD DISCUSSION GROUP ON WOMEN'S MATERIALS AND WOMEN LIBRARY USERS

The RASD Discussion Group on Women's Materials and Women Library Users' meeting at ALA featured new reference tools for women's materials. Matilda Butler, Director of the Women's Educational Equity Communications Network and Andrea Hinding of the University of Minnesota's Social Welfare History Archives, shared the platform and outlined their respective projects.

Established in 1977, the Communications Network provides two-way communication between those people and groups with information.

needs and those who are equipped to meet those needs. The Network will provide information on questions such as what opportunities exist for women in career education and legal and economic developments affecting women's equity. Their address is WEECN, Far West Laboratory, 1855 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Andrea Hinding described the excitement of gathering in an organized form a widely scattered clutter of source materials-- correspondence, journals, etc.--from collections whose existences were discovered through a questionnaire devised to elicit information from a whole gamut of repositories. The information is in a two-volume Bowker publication entitled Women's History Sources: A Guide to Archives and Manuscript Collections. The bulk of Hinding's investigation has revealed whole collections of materials by and about heretofore "hidden" women. Unknown or forgotten until this search uncovered their stories are records of 200 congregations of religious women, of the Society of Women Geographers, of the Butterick Fashion Co., of Miss Porter's School back to the 1840's including students' diaries. Hinding said the work has accomplished bibliographical control over material that previously had none; a spiritual satisfaction in finding information on the accomplishments of unknown women; the satisfaction of dispelling the myth that women's work has been static over the generations. This newly-revealed body of knowledge also speaks to the problems of female survival through the ages, despite minimizing, both conscious and unconscious, of individual and collective female roles. (Written by Carolyn Wilson for Wisconsin Women Library Workers Newsletter)

LAD WOMEN ADMINISTRATORS DISCUSSION GROUP

The LAD Women Administrators Discussion Group presented a program entitled "Personal Networking: Ways Women Can Capitalize on their Contacts" which was extremely well attended not only by women administrators but also by women planning on eventually entering administrative positions. Kay Cassell, Janet Freed(woman) and Neosha Mackey spoke on their experiences in forming networks and the importance of networking in helping to inform women about job openings for which they are qualified. The group then discussed how the "old boy" network concept can be adapted to women's needs. The general consensus was that networking in the library field would be a positive step towards the goal of increasing the number of women in administrative positions. In the last part of the program, group members were encouraged to announce the existence of any current job openings at the administrative level in order to inform the participants at the meeting of employment opportunities. (Written by Marge Loch-Wouters for Wisconsin Women Library Workers Newsletter)

INDEX TO WOMEN IN LIBRARIES AVAILABLE

An index to the first six volumes (1970-1977) of Women in Libraries is now available for \$3.50. Copies of volumes 1 - 7 are also available for \$4.00 for individuals and \$6.00 for institutions (per volume). Orders should be sent to Women in Libraries, % Kay Cassell, 44 Nathaniel Blvd., Delmar, N.Y. 12054.

Checks should be made payable to the ALA/SRRT Task Force on Women.

LENA LAKE FORREST FELLOWSHIPS AND BPW FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANTS

The Business and Professional Women's Foundation announces the Lena Lake Forrest Fellowship Program and the BPW Foundation Research Grant Program, which support research pertaining to economic, educational, political, social or psychological factors affecting working women. Awards range from \$500 to \$3000. Applicants must be doctoral candidates or post-doctoral scholars whose proposal for research has been approved by academic authorities in an accredited graduate institutions or persons able to demonstrate that the proposed research will be conducted under standards of scholarship recognized at the doctoral level. Applicants must be citizens of the United States. For further information, contact Terry Odendahl, BPW Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

CONFERENCE ON PROGRAMMING FOR WOMEN STUDENTS

On October 18-20 a conference on Programming for Women Students: Eliminating the Null Environment will be held at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The purpose of the conference is to provide participants with concepts and skills that can be used to encourage women to develop and pursue their individual aspirations. The conference will consist of a variety of formats and will invite the participants to adapt the ideas and concepts presented to their own environments. For more information, contact Ginny Britton, Coordinator of Women's Programs and for registration materials, contact Jeanne Bortz, Division of Continuing Education, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill. 62901.

CONFERENCE FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN ON "MANAGING LIFE-SPACE"

"Managing Life-Space: Selfhood in the Midst of Professional Demands" will be the topic of a weekend conference for professional women to be held October 20-22 at Wentworth-by-the Sea, Mass. The conference will feature Jean Baker Miller, author of Toward a New Psychology of Women; Jacqueline Mattfeld, president of Barnard College and novelist and poet, May Sarton. They and other speakers who are professional women from business, government and academia will be sharing their experiences and insights in managing life-space for personal fulfillment in the midst of professional achievements. For more information, write to Elizabeth Dodson Gray, Bolton Institute, 4 Linden Square, Wellesley, Mass. 02181 (617/235-5320 or 203/481-4889) Conference fee is \$200.

CONFERENCE ON REVIEWERS

"Women Writers Review Their Reviewers: A Speakout" is a daylong conference to discuss the effects of grossly sex-biased reviews on the work and careers of women writers. Among those scheduled to participate are Adrienne Rich, Marge Piercy, Grace

Paley and Alix Kates Shulman. The conference will be held on Saturday, November 4, at the Loeb Student Center of New York University from 10 am. to 5 pm.

MAIL ORDER SERVICE FOR WOMEN

Try Womencrafts mail order service for women's buttons, posters, jewelry, tee shirts, etc. Write for their catalog (\$.50) at Womencrafts, Box 190, Provincetown, Ma. 02657.

ARTICLE ON FEMINIST POETS

The May/June 1978 Emergency Librarian includes a most interesting and useful article on contemporary women poets. The article entitled "A Queer Lot: Contemporary Feminist Poets" was written by Audrey Eaglen. Her extensive annotated list of individual and collective volumes of poetry is one of the best I've ever seen.

AUDIO-VISUAL NOTES

Susan Wengraf received the John Grierson Award at the 1978 American Film Festival for her film, Love It Like a Fool: A Film about Malvina Reynolds. The film is being distributed by Red Hen Films, 1305 Oxford Street, Berkeley, CA 94709.

The Feminist Radio Network produces and distributes audio tape programs by, for and about women. Tapes available include ones on women writers, women's music, the women's movement in other countries and women at work. Write for a catalog at P.O. Box 5537, Washington, DC 20016.

With Babies and Banners: Story of the Women's Emergency Brigade is a 45-minute, 16 mm., color documentary about the women who became the backbone of the Great General Motors Sit-Down Strike in Flint, Michigan in 1937. For further information, contact New Day Films, P.O. Box 315, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417. Rental price is \$60 and sale price \$500.

ERA: A Family Matter is a half-hour color video program that portrays the experiences of two women participating in the recent national ERA march in Washington, DC. The tape is available for broadcast, sale (\$200) and rental from Transcultural Communications, 1508 19th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

Maryann (Buckwheat) Turner has published her Biblioteca Femina: A Herstory of Book Collections Concerning Women. Ms. Turner, who is a librarian, begins by listing the women's collections in the U.S. by state. She used five published sources in compiling this list making it the most comprehensive one I've ever seen. She then goes on to discuss the history of women's

collections in Europe and then in the United States. It is interesting to note that the first documented collection of books written by women was published by Pietro Leopoldo Ferri in 1842 and was entitled The Biblioteca Femminile Italiana (Library of Italian Women) which lists in 411 pages, in Italian, books written by women back to 1585. The short-lived but important Women's History Research Center Library established by Laura X in Berkeley (CA) is described, and the libraries now holding those materials are listed. In addition to discussing actual library holdings, Ms. Turner describes some of the collections held by such groups as the Daughters of the American Revolution, McCall's Magazine and the Center for Women Policy Studies. She also discusses microfilmed collections, oral history projects and archival activity. The second section of the book is a proposal for the establishment of a Mid-Hudson (NY) Women's Library. The information will be most helpful to anyone setting up a women's collection. Information on administration, staffing, budget and cataloging the collection are included. Send orders for this book to Buckwheat Turner, P.O. Box 251, Warrensburg, NY 12885. \$5.00.

The Women's Educational Equity Act Program based at the Education Development Center in Newton, Mass. has developed several programs available to help educators expand opportunities and learning for women at all levels of education. Of special interest to librarians is the Promoting Educational Equity Through School Libraries project which is a training program to increase awareness of crucial issues relevant to sex-role stereotyping in educational institutions and materials. Some modules focus on identifying, selecting and cataloging sex-fair materials. Other sections explore ways to promote the use of sex-fair materials throughout the school and community. This program is sold for \$4.00 a set. For further information, contact the Women's Educational Equity Act Program at 55 Chapel Street, Newton, Mass. 02160.

New Directions for Women is in its seventh year of publication. It has recently taken over Prime Time's subscription obligations and will include a column by Prime Time's founder, Marjory Collins. New Directions includes news stories, book reviews, poetry, special articles, etc. I particularly like its extensive book reviewing. (223 Old Hook Road, Westwood, NJ 07675. \$4/individuals and \$7/institutions)

Communities: Journal of Cooperative Living has published its special women's issue in an effort to reach women living and working in cooperative situations. This issue blends the personal and political, urban and rural, home and business lives of successful and competent women who themselves live or work in the cooperative movement. Send for A Woman's Issue, Communities, Box 426, Louisa, Va. 23093. Price \$1.25.

Proof Press has published a study unit entitled "American Women; 1607 to the Present". The study unit includes six student booklets each representing a chronological period, twelve portrait prints of outstanding American women (10" x 13"), a chronological chart and a teacher's guide. The study unit is \$32. Items may also be purchased separately. For further information, write Proof Press, P.O. Box 1256, Berkeley, CA 94720.

The third edition (1978) of SHARE; A Directory of Feminist Library Workers is now available. Copies are \$3.00 prepaid and \$3.50 invoiced for each copy. Send check to SHARE/WLW, P.O. 9052, Berkeley, CA 94709.

The National Association for Female Executives, Inc. has begun publication of a bi-monthly magazine which includes such information as career aids, profiles of female executives, credit information, programs on careers, management and finance, and feature articles. Volume 1 no. 2 included a special supplement on women's career publications. For subscription information, write 31 Jeremys Way, Annapolis, MD 21403. (\$9 a year or \$1.50 per copy)

"Women in Music History; A Research Guide" by Jeannie G. Pool provides a basic research guide to musicology. Included in this 42 page guide is a list of more than 270 women composers before 1900, a discography of recordings available of works by 80 women composers, an essay on women in music history, a bibliography and a list of possible research topics. Send \$3.00 to Jeannie G. Pool, Box 436, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023.

"We Shall Go Forth" is a directory of resources in women's music. It includes the names, addresses and phone numbers for production, distribution, recording facilities, women's record companies, songwriters, song books, technicians, coffeehouses, radio, publishers and publications. It's available for \$2.00 from Toni L. Armstrong, 12751 Park Place, Apt. H-1, Crestwood, Ill. 60445.

Women's Studies and the Arts is a new publication featuring 29 articles on women and art, including feminism and art history, women's studies art courses, art and gender, planning and architecture, film, American needlework, professionalism in the world of art, working with women prisoners and living and working environments. Order for \$5.50 from Elsa Honig Fine, 7008 Sherwood Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919.

"Guidelines to Ensure Sex Fairness in Education Division Communications and Products" prepared by Women on Words and Images, Inc. for the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs (1832 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036) are an attempt to help in evaluating materials for sex bias. They include sections on language, omissions, roles and traits and graphic/audio-visual. A checklist to use in evaluations is included.

International Journal of Women's Studies is a new interdisciplinary journal for the publication of serious studies of all aspects of women and their role in society. Recent issues have included articles on the current status of women physicians, female crime and delinquency, aids and barriers to feminism in modern China, Tudor women, and the wife. This journal is published bimonthly (\$30/institutions and \$22.50/individuals.) Order from Eden Press Women's Publications, Box 51, St. Albans, VT 05478. They also plan to publish the Journal of Women's Studies in Literature (\$15/individuals; \$20/institutions)

Women's Equity Action League (WEAL) announces a new publication, "Filing a Faculty Grievance", by Phyllis Zatlin Boring, Associate Dean, Rutgers College. The six page monograph presents the psychic, mental and practical processes affecting grievance filing. Copies of the publication are available from the WEAL office at 805 15th St., N.W., Suite 822, Washington, D.C. 20005 for \$1.50 prepaid.

The Spirit of Houston, the official report of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. # 052-003-00505-1.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOVEMBER 6, 1978.

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