

Women In Libraries

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT FEMINIST
TASK FORCE

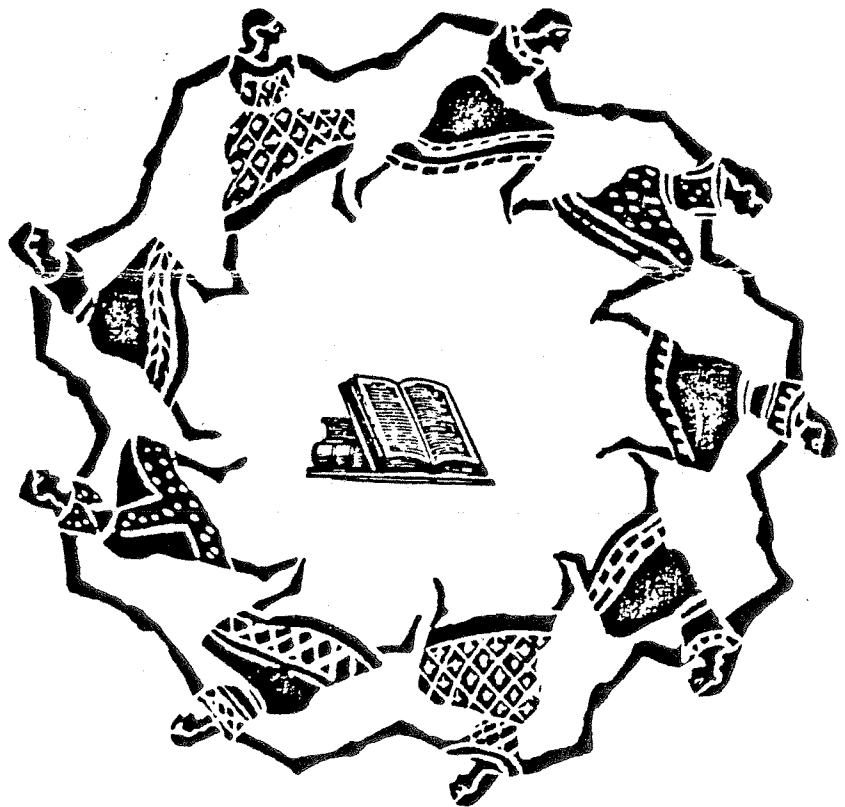
Volume 16, Number 1

September 1986

Editors: Leslie Kahn
Mary Vela-Creixell

COSWL BEGINS YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION OF ITS TEN YEARS OF WORK:

Along with COSWL stickers and a reception in the suite of ALA president Regina Minudri, the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship sponsored, with the support of the Feminist Task Force, a lecture by Black feminist Flo Kennedy, who spoke about "The Power Position of the Librarian in a Pathological Society." Known for her incisive wit, Flo Kennedy did not disappoint her audience. She explained right from the start that her basic message would be, "Kick Ass," that she feared that librarians and women in general too often develop "Nigger nobility," a fear of offending akin to spraying cologne in case the rapist comes; that many of us may have the motto, BOHICA, Bend over, Here It Comes Again. Surrounded by tools of information, we librarians are in positions of power. We should use that power for our own good and for the good of our communities. As outreach, we might encourage our activist patrons to make videotapes within our facilities to broadcast on cable television; our libraries could then circulate the original tapes to the public. Since we are often in public service departments, librarians are in a good situation to stir up people...and to learn from them.



ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES...DISCUSSION GROUP FLIES UP TO SECTION:

Outgoing Group leader Sarah Watstein assisted members in understanding what it means for an ACRL Group to become a Section. As of the annual convention of 1987, this will be a Section. We'll have to navigate through more red tape than we did as a discussion group, but we will receive more attention (important to women's studies as a discipline) and will have more capabilities for programming and publishing. Until the San Francisco meeting, Lori Goetsch (Michigan State University) and Susan Searing (University of Wisconsin-Madison) are the Discussion Group co-chairwomen. Beth Stafford and Ruth Dickstein will be Section leaders. At Midwinter, we shall want to develop other offices, including a nominating committee. Janet Freedman, Sherry Berman, and Bernice Lacks formed a committee to perfect the Section bylaws. Anyone interested in membership in the Section can join by first joining ACRL.

Further meetings reports will appear in the next issue of this newsletter

CHALLENGES:

The Womyn's Braille Press, Box 8475, Minneapolis, MN 55408, serves blind women and their friends with cassettes and Braille books pertaining to feminist concerns. Cassettes include texts used in women's studies courses, feminist journals, novels, poetry, and nonfiction, as well as a Press newsletter. Subscription/memberships are on a sliding scale.

The Women and Disability Awareness Project, Educational Equity Concepts, 450 Park Ave. South, NY, NY 10016, publishes information packets for consciousness raising.

ABLEDATA is a product database from the National Rehabilitation Information Center at Catholic University, 4407 Eighth St. NE, Wash., DC 20017. For each device (ambulation, communication, home management, personal care, recreation, therapy, transportation, vocational/education) is a description with cost and manufacturer.

NEWS:

The Office of Library Outreach Services of ALA is developing a project to provide one-year internships for eight "minority" librarians, who will work in a diversity of ALA divisions. The project aims to redress ALA's 110-year history of having hired only six nonwhite librarians. For further information, contact Jean Coleman at ALA.

The Pornography Resource Center, 734 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN 55407, requests any articles on pornography and racism.

Research about women is no easier than it was 40 years ago, if you rely on the popular press, according to "The Minimal Image of Women in Time and Newsweek, 1940-1980," by Mary L. Matthews and Carol Reuss of the Univ. of North Carolina School of Journalism. Women as a percentage of newsmakers pictured in these illustrated glossies were:

	1940	1960	1980
Newsweek	23%	21%	20%
Time	17%	19%	19%

**Share what you know!--Send news, reviews, etc. to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, c/o Leslie Kahn, 2 Manchester, 2A, Newark, NJ 07104.

COSWL, CONTINUED

In its business meetings, the Committee planned further celebration activities, considered ideas for creating a publication or videotape for public library boards about judicious hiring policies, and chose Betty-Carol Sellen as its new chairperson.

Conferences

National Women's Studies Association

Among the myriad of programs sponsored by NWSA conference, 1986, at the University of Illinois was "Working for Change: Librarians as Activists". The moderator was Lori A. Goetsch, Michigan State University. The panelists and their topic included: Edi Bjorklund (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee), Underground Writing by and for Women Fanzines and Libraries; Michelle Leber (Fairfax County Public Library, Virginia), Pay Equity and Librarians; Beth Sibley (University of California, Berkeley), Peace and Nuclear Weapons Issues; Janet Freedman (Southeastern Massachusetts University), Library Administration; and Mary Vela-Creixell (Houston Public Library), Minority Women in Libraries. Their unifying idea was that librarians can and do identify social issues they wish to be connected with and spend time and energy in order to make a difference.

Law

The American Association of Law Libraries membership adopted the Pay Equity Resolution proposed by Pamela Gregory and Mary Vela-Creixell, Co-Chairs of the Committee on the Status of Women in Law Libraries.

Filipino librarian may sue the Chicago Public Library System for racial discrimination, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled in Erlenda Regner v Chicago. This overturned the U.S. District Court for the District of Illinois. Regner charged that the library promotion practices had a disparate impact on minorities. She offered evidence stating that the % of minorities promoted at the main building is less than the % promoted in the total minority library workforce. The district court determined that Regner tried to "gerrymander" the statistics, stating she used data based on the entire library pool in order to show how many minorities there were; appeals court held that the library must show a business necessity of clustering non-white promotions in branch libraries while promoting whites in the main library.

The Parental & Medical Leave Act of 1986 (H.R. 4300) has received the unanimous approval of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and the House Education and Labor Committee, (FER, May 14, 1986). The legislation provides federal and private employee with leaves of absence for child-care or for serious illness. H.R. 4300 would allow parents to take up to 18 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave upon the birth, adoption, or serious illness of a child. Workers with serious medical conditions would be able to take up to 25 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave. Employers would be required to continue the health insurance of workers taking leave. Write to your congressional rep. or senator.

The Ford and Rockefeller Foundation are funding pay equity research being conducted by the National Research Council's Committee on Women's Employment and Related Social Issues, Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. The project officer is Heide Hartmenn (202) 334-3591. Contact her for information.

NETWORKING:

The Fifth International Women and Health Meeting will take place in Costa Rica, May 23-28, 1986. For details, write CEFEMINA, APDO. 5355, San Jose 1000, Costa Rica.

June 24-28, 1986, at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA, the National Women's Studies Assn. will have as its conference theme "Weaving Women's Colors: A Decade of Empowerment," the intersection of race and gender. A call for papers has gone out from the Librarians' Task Force, which will present a program, "Women and Literacy"; write to Luisa Pasteur, Firestone Library, Princeton Univ., Princeton, NJ 08540 (609-452-5166). Unfortunately, this conference will conflict with the preconference, "Librarians as Colleagues: Working Together Across Racial Lines," planned by the Feminist Task Force along with COSWL.

Write to the National Women's Mailing List, P.O. Box 40070, San Francisco CA 94140, for a registration form to receive mailings from organizations, publishers, etc. in your interest areas: politics, law, sports, health, education, jobs, lesbiansism, race, violence against women, etc.

For information about an October 23 convention on how we are affected in occupational and health care situations by technology, write to Women, Health, and Technology Conference, 417 Whitney Rd., Box U-181, Univ. of Conn., Storrs, CT 06268.

SERIAL RELATIONSHIPS:

Feminist Teacher, 442 Ballantine Hall, Indiana Univ., Bloomington 47405, aims to be "a multi-disciplinary magazine for teachers from pre-school to graduate school, in traditional and non-traditional settings."

NARAL News is a quarterly from the National Abortion Rights Action League, 1424 K St. NW, Wash., DC 20005, membership to which is \$15.00/year, part of which is for this publication. The political coverage is especially good.

For \$3, you can receive a year of the National Boycott Newsletter (6506 28th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115) and do your part to keep your money away from where your heart isn't.

From Belgium (Universite des Femmes, Place Quetelet 1a, 1030 Bruxelles) comes a fascinating magazine of international news, analysis, reviews, interviews, history, and directory information. In French, this is the bimonthly Chronique Feministe.

The Berkeley Women's Law Journal studies the cultural, racial, and socio-economic realities that women face in the U.S. Emphasis is given to the under-represented woman (the poor, lesbian, or woman of color).

To complement the Women's Review of Books with somewhat briefer articles is Belles Lettres, appearing bimonthly and costing \$18 for individuals, \$30 for institutions c/o Deanna Cook, PO Box 987, Arlington, VA 22216.

Kalliope: A Journal of Women's Art features new and already recognized writers and artist. It's \$9/year from the Business Affairs Office, Florida Junior College at Jacksonville, Kent Campus, 3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32205.

The Black Woman Writer and the Diaspora is a special issue of The Black Scholar, \$7.95; Box 7106, San Francisco, CA 94120.

Art and literature by Olga Broumas, Marilyn Hacker, Patricia Forsberg, and others are featured in the latest Calyx, PO Box B, Corvallis, OR 97339. The magazine's thematic issues (most recently on aging) have been especially impressive.

A QUILT FOR COSWL...AND MAYBE FOR YOU

As part of its tenth anniversary celebration, the Committee on the Status of Women is sponsoring the creation of a quilt on the theme, "Celebrating Women in Libraries." The finished coverlet will be the object of a raffle at the 1987 annual conference of ALA in San Francisco.

Library workers are invited to contribute squares, which the experienced Wisconsin Women Library workers will assemble. Ideas for squares include women and girls as library users; library materials by, for, and about females; feminist issues vital to librarians (pay equity, daycare, flex-time, women in management, etc.); women in nontraditional library positions; feminist impact on the profession; countering stereotypes; women in library history. Additional ideas are welcome. Designs may be illustrative or symbolic, simple or detailed, and may feature a wide range of needlework techniques.

Each participant will receive a packet of fabric and instructions. Previous experience is not required...but immediate communication of your interest is essential. Please contact Sue Searing at 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706 (608-263-5754) or 2142 Oakridge Ave., Madison, WI 53704 (308-241-1615).

BOOKS

Four from the University of Minnesota.

The Colonial Harem, by Malek Alloula (Theory and History of Literature, vol. 21) is a historical photojournalistic study of the role of women in Algeria under France. Many of the images are reproductions of French postcards from the early years of this century. \$29.50, \$13.50pbk.

Helene Cixous and Catherine Clement collaborated on the book now translated (eleven years since its original French edition) as The Newly Born Woman (Theory and History of Literature, vol. 24). The authors analyze female sexuality in western culture and explain how it affects our verbal expression. \$25, \$12.95pbk.

Without blaming the victim, German author Barbara Sichtermann examines women's participation in our oppression in Femininity: the Politics of the Personal. Especially interesting is the frank chapter called "The Knight in Shining Armour." \$29.50, \$13.95pbk.

In Victorian Writing and Working Women, Julia Swindells compares the portrayal of working women in the Victorian novel with autobiographies of the period. The class analysis has relevance to the 1980's. \$35.00, \$14.95pbk.

Words in Our Pockets, compiled by Celeste West (Dustbooks, Box 100, Paradise, CA 95969; \$15.95 or \$9.95pbk) is an anthology which confronts the established publishing industry, describes alternative networks, and explores various writing genres.

New from Firebrand Books, 141 The Commons, Ithaca, NY 14850, are Getting Home Alive, by Rosario Morales and Aurora Levin Morales, who discuss the pleasure and pain of being Puerto Rican and Jewish in the USA (\$18.95, \$8.95pbk.); Dykes to Watch out For, by renowned cartoonist Alison Bechdel (\$14.95, \$6.95pbk); and Leslea Newman's novel Good Enough to Eat, a humorous (!) account of a woman's struggle with bulimia (\$18.95, \$8.95pbk).

Also about eating disorders is Biting the Hand that Feeds Me: Days of Binging, Purging, and Recovery, by Lisa Messinger, \$8.95 from Arena Press, 20 Commercial Blvd., Novato, CA 94947.

Sophie Laws, Valerie Hey, and Andrea Eagan have written Seeing Red, a feminist analysis of societal reactions to PMS. This is available for \$5.95 from Hutchinson Press, 51 Washington St., Dover, NH 03820.

MORE BOOKS

Harrington Park Press, 75 Griswold St., Binghamton, NY 13904, offers for \$8.95 Psychotherapy and the Grieving Patient, which includes articles about incest survivors and adult children of alcoholics as well as those who have lost loved ones to death.

The Lavender Couch: A Consumer's Guide to Psychotherapy for Lesbians and Gay Men, by Dr. Marny Hall, is available from Alyson Publications, PO Box 2783, Boston, MA 02208, for \$7.95. The book offers standard information about "shopping" for a therapist, therapeutic schools of thought, patient rights, navigating a counseling course, etc. In addition, it guides the reader in finding a lesbian/gay-affirmative counselor. Lightweight but reassuring.

Wall Tappings: An Anthology of Writings by Women Prisoners, famous and unknown, was edited by Judith Scheffler and is \$25 from Northeastern Press, PO Box 116, Boston, MA 02117.

Women of the Boundary Waters: Canoeing, Guiding, Mushing, and Surviving, by Justine Kerfoot, is available for \$14.95 from Women's Times Publishing, Box 215, Gand Marais, MN 55604. Outdoors-women recommend it.

A resource kit of 50 pamphlets and a reading list, Other Lives, Other Roads, is for adults prepared to examine discrimination by gender, race, etc. ALA's Order Department, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, will send it in return for \$8.

Words to the Wise, by Andrea Fleck Clardy, is a Writer's Market for women. It's \$3.95 from Firebrand Books, 141 The Commons, Ithaca, NY 14850.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom publishes Jane Midgley's The Women's Budget, which takes our nation's military spending and puts that money into programs of benefit to women and other people. Send \$3 to 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

In Case of Sexual Harassment: A Guide for Women Students is an effective booklet about problems from fellow students, faculty, and staff. It is \$2.00 from PSEW, Assn. of American Colleges, 1818 R St. NW, Wash., DC 20009.

With the Power of Each Breath: A Disabled Women's Anthology (Cleis, \$9.95) won the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped 1986 Book Award.

Anna Lee Walters' The Sun Is Not Merciful received a 1985 American Book Award for "the best published work...reflecting the life, history, or heritage of the Western Indian." (Firebrand, \$13.95, \$6.95pbk)

Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, PO Box 2753, NY, NY 10185, has published three new items: "The Combahee River Collective Statement: Black Feminist Organizing in the Seventies and Eighties," a classic, \$3.25; "'Apartheid U.S.A.'" by Audre Lorde and 'Our Common Cause: Freedom Organizing in the Eighties,' by Merle Woo," \$3.50; and "I Am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing Across Sexualities," by Audre Lorde, \$2.95.

Helaine Victoria Press, 4080 Dynasty Lane, Matinsville, IN 46151, distributes postcards and posters about women's history. These materials inexpensively enhance library displays and are popular with teachers.

The Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development, 179 South St., Boston, MA 02111, offers workshops and publications to benefit disadvantaged women and children.

Seal Press, 312 S. Washinton, Seattle, WA 98104, has three books that offer hope to battered. Evelyn White's Chain, Chain, Change (\$4.95) is addressed specifically to Black women; Mejor Sola que Mal Acompanada, by Myrna M. Zambrano is for the Latina (in Spanish, \$7.95); Naming the

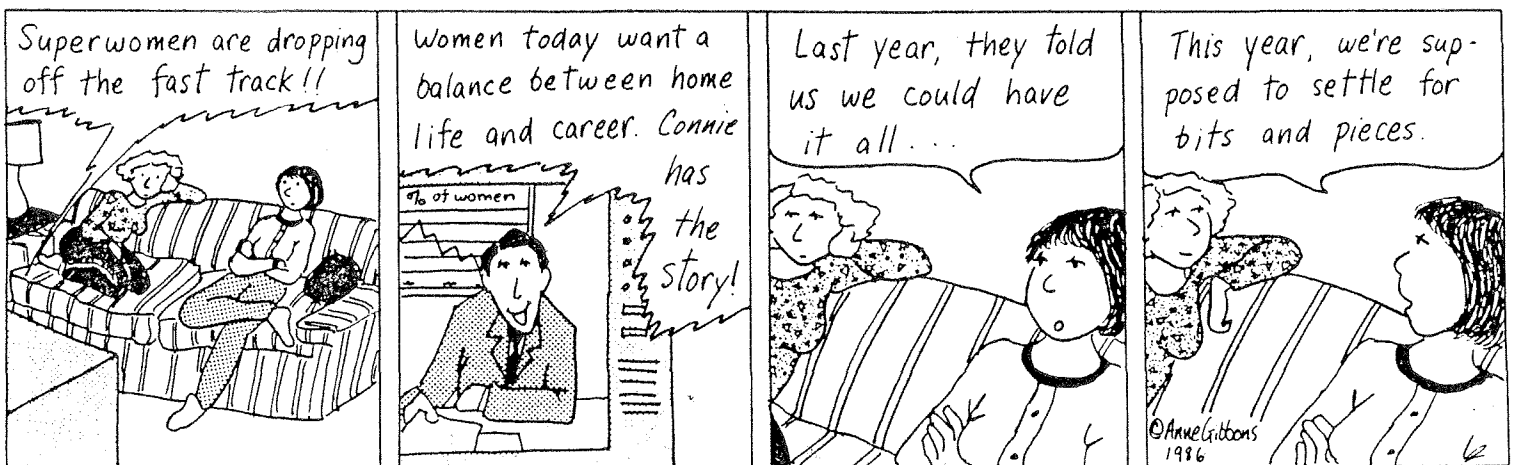
Violence, Speaking out About Lesbian Battering, edited by Kerry Lobel (\$9.95) is newly out. All define abuse, describe family and community expectations, explain how to find assistance for a woman and for children, and advise how to deal with discrimination.

ALA's Gay Task Force presented the 1986 Gay Book Award to Cindy Patton, author of Sex and Germs: the Politics of AIDS, published by South End Press, \$9.50.

Long Overdue

by Anne Gibbons

Number 7.



HOPE YOU GET OUR NAMES

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES now has two new editors, Leslie Kahn and Mary I. Vela-Creixell, who have divided the work of producing this publication. We hope that you and others will be active subscribers. To adapt something that former editor Kay Jones used to quip, "If you have something to say (for publication), send it to Leslie; if you have something to pay (subscriptions, payable to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, of \$5 from individuals, \$8 from institutions, \$10 if invoiced) to Mary. A debt of thanks is owed to the previous editors, Kay Jones and Pat Lester.

Other Feminist Task Force movers and shakers are:

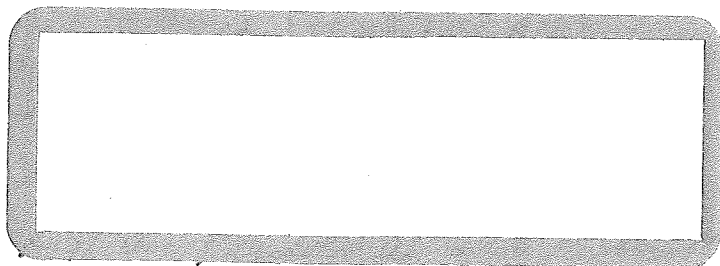
Coordinator: Kay Jones, Univ. of New Mexico Library, Albuquerque
 Action Council: Gail Warner, Whitman County Library, Colfax, WA
 Coalitions: Dee Conkling, Weber County Library, Roy, UT
 Sarah Watstein, Hunter College Library, NY, NY
 Elections: Sheila Glowacki, Beverly (MA) Public Library
 Programs: Lorene Ludy, Ohio State Univ. Library, Columbus
 Polly Thistlewaite, New York University, NY, NY
 Recorders: Julia Koehler, 17 Willow Dr., Olney, IL 62450
 Bethany Lawton, University of North Dakota Library,
 Grand Forks
 Sexism Awareness: Bethany Lawton, Univ. of North Dakota Library,
 Grand Forks
 Pornography/Censorship (new position): Christine Jenkins, 321
 Eighth St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, the Newsletter of the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table Feminist Task Force, is published five times a year, from September to June. Send articles or comments to

Leslie Kahn
 2 Manchester, 2A
 Newark, NJ 07104

Subscriptions are \$5 for individuals, \$8 for institutions prepaid, \$10 for invoiced institutions. Send checks, payable to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, to

Mary Vela-Creixell
 9530 Winsome
 Houston, TX 77063



Library