

The CCWH Newsletter

The Newsletter for the Coordinating Council for Women in History

WHAT IS PHILANTHROPY?

BARBARA RAMUSACK

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A few years ago, the American Historical Association (AHA) as well as my university raised the minimum for an endowed award from \$25,000 to \$50,000. As a member of the fundraising committee for the John Richards Prize of the AHA for the best book in South Asian history that required \$50,000, I thought it was likely that the AHA would ask the CCWH to increase the endowment for the Joan Kelly Prize for the best book in women's history. Late last year, James Grossman, the executive director of the AHA, advised the CCWH officers that the endowment for the Kelly Prize hovered around \$35,000.

Consequently he asked the CCWH, a founder of the prize, to lead the campaign to secure at least another \$15,000 to ensure that the amount of the annual prize would continue to be \$1000. Under the leadership of Nupur Chaudhuri, the very effective fundraising member of the Executive Board, we began our campaign in late 2011. By late April we had raised approximately \$5,000 from contributions ranging from \$5 to \$1,000. As announced in the AHA Perspectives, we recently learned that an anonymous donor will double contributions made after May 1 up to \$10,000. If the CCWH raises \$5,000, this very generous donor will contribute \$10,000 for a total of \$15,000 that would cushion fluctuations in income from the endowment. Consequently, I am urging those who have not contributed to donate now and those who have already contributed to kick off the campaign to made a second, albeit more modest, contribution. The CCWH could maximize this extraordinary example of philanthropy from a donor who seeks no public acknowledgment.

This challenge led me to think of other forms of philanthropy that we as historians in varied institutional situations may do in our professional lives. Checking the Webster Dictionary (1955) that my father gave me when I left for college in September 1957, I found

that philanthropy was defined as "a desire to help mankind" (emphasis added). We have obviously come a long way from that definition. For me, as a professional historian, philanthropy means encouraging and sustaining women and men who are undergraduate and graduate students, other historians, and organizations that work to enhance opportunities for women and men from various classes, sexual orientations, ethnic and "racial" backgrounds to know history and to work as historians. In other words, mentoring is a significant form of philanthropy as is service to the professional organizations.

In this, my last presidential column (as my term ends in January 2013 in New Orleans), I want to acknowledge and thank the members of the CCWH Executive Board and especially Sandra Dawson, our tireless executive director, and Susan Wladaver-Morgan, our judicious co-president, for their philanthropy to me, to our members, and to the historical profession. They have contributed much time, energy and good counsel to my work as a co-president and to ensuring that the CCWH continues to support its members and women historians who work both in and beyond the academy. They are philanthropists who are magnanimous with their time, organization skills, and humor as well as with their monetary contributions.

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SANDRA TRUDGEN DAWSON

I was recently asked to give a talk about the American Historical Association and the Coordinating Council for Women in History to our undergraduate History Club at Northern Illinois University. I gave a brief history of the AHA and then our own organization and the way it emerged from the frustrations of women historians in the 1960s and 1970s. I listed some of the key ways the CCWH has worked consistently to alter some of the patriarchal culture of the profession and the way our organization promotes women's history and supports women historians through our various annual fellowships and awards. I stressed that the CCWH was still important and then illustrated this through a personal story about my own experience as a newly graduated history major applying for graduate school in 1999.

As an undergraduate I had worked as a grader for a very senior full professor at the City College I attended. I continued to grade for this male faculty member after I transferred to the University of California, Santa Barbara, to finish an undergraduate degree in history. I graduated in 1998 and planned to apply for a PhD program the following year. I needed three letters of recommendation and asked this man to write one of them. I assumed he would write about the scholarly potential I showed as an undergraduate as well as my abilities as a grader. I sent my applications to several programs along with the filing fees. Shortly before the application deadline, I contacted all three referees to remind them of the deadlines. The City College faculty member asked if he could read the letter he had written to me over the telephone. I agreed. As he read the letter, I began to feel nauseous. It contained nothing about my grading abilities or potential as a historian. Rather, it was a detailed description of my personal appearance. I was horrified. My first reaction after hanging up was to cry. The

second reaction was anger that this man had dared to be so unprofessional. Finally, I realized I could not allow anyone to read his letter and so I pulled my applications from all the graduate programs I had applied to. This was personally devastating. Not only had this man not supported my desire to become a historian, he had used his position of power to undermine the application process and cost me the many application fees. I reapplied the following year after choosing three faculty members I knew would write more suitable letters of recommendation.

The students in the History Club were appalled at the story and kept asking which year this had occurred. It was 1999. After the initial expressions of horror, I used my story as a way to illustrate the fact that all students should take care to ensure the faculty or employers they ask to write letters of recommendation have their best interests at heart and to remember my story as a cautionary tale.

I also used this story to highlight one of the reasons the CCWH exists. Our organization is open to anyone who desires to support women in history and who wishes to promote the history of women. This joint mission remains as vital today as it did almost forty-five years ago.

This brings me to my final thought—how shall we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the CCWH? In 1999, to celebrate the 30th anniversary (the same year I aborted my applications to graduate school), Eileen Boris and Nupur Chaudhuri edited *Voices of Women Historians: The Personal, The Political, The Professional* (Indiana University Press). Fifteen years later, how would you, as members, like to celebrate our organization's forty-five-year life? Please email me your ideas at execdir@theccwh.org.

CALL FOR REVIEWERS

We would like submissions of book and media reviewers for sources relevant to women's history and women historians! Please consider telling us about a new source you've recently discovered, both its usefulness and its limitations, for future publication. Our book and media review editor, Whitney Leeson, can be reached at wleeson@roanoke.edu.

CCWH MEMBER NEWS

Sandra Dawson published “‘Going ‘Stateside’: The Beatles, America and the Meanings of Class,” in *Blue Collar Pop Culture: From NASCAR to Jersey Shore*, edited by Keith Booker. Praeger: 2012. She also presented a paper, “Marketing Professional Maternal-child Health Services to Working Women in Britain, 1880–1939,” at the History of Women’s Health Conference at the Philadelphia Hospital, Philadelphia, 18 April 2012.

Deborah Dinner just completed her first year teaching at Washington University School of Law. She has enjoyed getting to know colleagues in the law school as well as the History and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies departments. She recently completed her dissertation, “Pregnancy at Work: Sex Equality, Reproductive Liberty, and the Workplace, 1964–1993” and expects to receive her PhD in May 2012. In August 2011, she published an article titled, “The Costs of Reproduction: History and the Legal Construction of Sex Equality” in the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*.

We are delighted to announce the arrival of **Leora Kimble Peterson** to our website coordinator **Sara Kimble**, born April 23 at 11:16AM (8 lbs, 9 oz; 20 inches long). We welcome her with great love.

Carolyn Herbst Lewis has been awarded a 2012–2013 American Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship from the American Association of University Women. She will be working on a history of the Chicago Maternity Center.

In February, **Karen Offen** gave a keynote address at the Swiss conference, “Success Without Impact? The Women’s Liberation Movement in post-’68 Societies,” at the University of Bern. She also lectured at the University of Fribourg on “Adventures in Writing the History of the International Women’s Movement: Tracking Mlle Glaisette from Geneva to ??? to Paris to the League of Nations.” In late March, Karen was honored by her colleagues with a dedicated session at the Society for French Historical Studies annual meeting in Los Angeles. In June, she will receive recognition as an Alumnae Achievement Award winner at the national convention of her collegiate sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, in Jacksonville, Florida.

Carla Gardina Pestana (currently the W. E. Smith Professor of History at Miami University in Ohio) has accepted a position at UCLA as the first Joyce Appleby Chair in American History.

Kerry Pimblott has accepted a Visiting Assistant Professor position in African American & Diaspora Studies at the University of Wyoming beginning this fall.

Rochelle Goldberg Ruthchild published the following article: “From West to East: International Women’s Day, the First Decade,” *Aspasia* 6 (2012): 1–24. In the same issue, she translated and wrote an introduction for the pamphlet describing the March 19, 1917, women’s suffrage demonstration in Petrograd, Russia, which won the vote for Russian women after the fall of the tsar and before the Bolshevik Revolution: Introduction and Translation, “Olga Zakuta, *Kak v revoliutsionnoe vremia Vserossiiskaia Liga Ravnopraviiia Zhenshchin dobilas’ izbiratel’nykh prav dlia russkikh zhenshchin*” (How in the revolutionary time the All-Russian League for Women’s Equal Rights won suffrage for Russian women), *Aspasia* 6 (2012): 117–124.

In January, **Patricia Schechter** published *Exploring the Decolonial Imaginary: Four Transnation Lives*, a book that looks at empire and citizenship with a focus on race and racialization through the lives of four women whose careers crossed national borders 1880–1965: Liberian missionary Amanda Berry Smith, author Gertrude Stein, feminist arts impresario and publisher Josefina Silva de Cintrón, and labor activist Maida Springer.

CCWH MEMBER NEWS (CONT.)

Kathleen Sheldon was an area editor for the six-volume *Dictionary of African Biography*, edited by Emmanuel K. Akyeampong and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (Oxford University Press, 2012). She was responsible for developing a list of African women to be included as subjects, and she helped find authors to write the entries and edited submissions for more than two hundred entries on African women. She also contributed to translating and editing entries on people from Mozambique and Angola, and wrote two dozen entries on women and Mozambican individuals. The completed volumes include over two thousand scholarly entries with references. She is also a member of the Biographers International Organization (BIO), and will be participating in their annual meeting, May 18–20, 2012, held at the University of Southern California.

This spring, **Marisa Patulli Trythall**, an historian and researcher connected with the Sapienza University of Rome, has organized two conferences in Italy. The first, “Natural Rights and Positive Law,” involving the Faculty of Canon Law of Rome’s Pontifical Oriental Institute, took place in Velletri, Italy, on April 28. The second conference, which is also the second edition of “The Role of Women in Monotheistic Religions,” will be held in Rome on May 24. This year’s conference will focus on matrimony and discuss a variety of issues ranging from inter-faith marriage to same-gender marriage. Speakers will include theologians of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths, historians, journalists, and representatives of various gender associations. The conference is co-sponsored by Rome’s Sapienza University and the Casa Internazionale delle Donne.

If you have a new book, article, conference presentation, have recently graduated or won a recent promotion, teaching award, have completed professional service, or have other professional news to share, send it to newsletter@theccwh.org.

CONSTANCE ISABELLE ASHTON MYERS, 1926–2012

Connie, a longtime CCWH member from 1969 to the 1990s, was born in New York City and was raised in her mother’s ancestral home in Columbia, Tennessee, after her father’s death in 1936. Connie’s pursuit of a career in scholarship began after she married and was well into raising four children. She earned a BA from California State University, an MS from Claremont Graduate School, and a PhD from the University of South Carolina after the family moved to the state in the mid-1960s.

Her limitless curiosity and love of learning drove her scholarship in American social and intellectual history and fueled a passion for social justice at the dawn of the American women’s movement. She authored a book on American Trotskyists, and contributed reviews and articles to other scholarly works. In South Carolina, she identified a wealth of primary source material on America’s suffragist movement and an urgent need to capture it before these South Carolina women and their recollections were lost forever. Connie traveled the state and recorded interviews with such notable South Carolinians as Eulalie Salley, Mabel and Carrie Pollitzer, Clara Hammond Buchanan and Marguerite Tolbert. These recordings and many of Connie’s important documents are held in the South Caroliniana Library.

Connie taught at Augusta College, the University of South Carolina Aiken and Columbia campuses, the University of Charleston, Midlands Tech, and Voorhees College in Denmark, SC. She was always eager to challenge authority and test boundaries, and was one of the founders of the University of South Carolina’s Women’s History program. After retiring, Connie threw her considerable energy into mastering Spanish. She studied in Guatemala and moved to Nicaragua to pick coffee after the Sandinista revolution. She came home to teach Spanish and English as a second language. She was active in the USC Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution including a stint as vice-regent. She was a member of Colonial Dames and a proud card-carrying member of the American Civil Liberties Union. Until her untimely death, she led English and Spanish language tours of the Columbia Art Museum.

2011 PRELINGER AWARD RECIPIENT PROFILE

LA SHONDA MIMS, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

I came to the University of Georgia as a nontraditional student both in age and circumstance. Neither of my parents completed a college degree, none of my grandparents graduated from high school, and I am the first in my family to pursue a graduate education. I completed my BA in history, but did not return to graduate school for several years. Due to a happenstance meeting with the graduate coordinator of the history program at UNC Charlotte—we met over peanut butter sandwiches at our children’s preschool field trip—I was offered an assistantship in the MA program. When I was subsequently accepted to the University of Georgia’s PhD program and had the opportunity to work with Dr. Jim Cobb, my long path to graduate school seemed abundantly clear. Studying women in the southern United States—women like me who have never fit the Southern mold—is my passion.

This passion translates nicely to the classroom. I have worked as an adjunct instructor for several years while pursuing my graduate career. The first time I taught, I included music in my lecture and have since remained committed to finding innovative ways to promote learning. In my briefcase, I carry a complimentary note from a student who asked me to mentor her as she pursued her academic interests. This reminds me, especially on the bad days, of the responsibility we have as historians and as educators.

When I am not doing history, I am a committed mom and wife. My family is a constant source of encouragement and fun. When I was still taking classes, my son’s continuous page count questions made me laugh: “How many pages now, Mommy?” Now, as a teenager, his interest in my work has waned and we often spend our time discussing his favorite films, watching every movie that we can agree on, and shopping to maintain his fashionable edge.

The overwhelmingly generous Prelinger Award has allowed me to focus completely on writing. I have been amazed at how productive life can be when you are able to wake every day and think about your research. This semester has been an unimaginable indulgence and I am deeply grateful to the CCWH. I am happy to report that because of this award, I am now on track to defend my dissertation, “Drastic Dykes: New South Lesbians in Hotlanta and the Queen City,” this summer.

“
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The story I aim to tell is one of twentieth-century Southern identity—created at the highest and lowest levels of power. Within the social spheres of Atlanta and Charlotte, lesbians formed communities that changed over time in response to the shifting urban landscape. But, my dissertation is more than a lesbian community history; it is a history of the New South. The development of Charlotte and Atlanta as bastions of the Southern Sun Belt ideal rested on political and economic decisions that were heavily informed by religious influences. Religious conservatives held sizeable power in both cities, and often challenged economic or political commitments to seemingly immoral causes. These challenges necessarily informed identity and community creation for lesbians. By taking apart the familiar concepts of Southern femininity and the Southern belle, my work upends historical narratives of Southern women, reframing them in a feminist, sexual, activist, and social light. Women who chose to live their lives with women in the twentieth-century New South challenged the traditional structures of gender, and created spaces that defined urban economies and reshaped the urban landscape.

CCWH PRIZE INFORMATION

The CCWH Catherine Prelinger Award is a \$20,000 award to a scholar whose career has not followed a traditional path through secondary and higher education and whose work has contributed to women in the historical profession. Deadline: September 15, 2012.

The CCWH Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Prize is a \$1000 award for the first article published in a referred journal by a CCWH member. The prize was created in 2010. Named to honor long-time CCWH board member, former executive director, and 1995–1998 co-president Nupur Chaudhuri, the article must be published in a refereed journal in one of the two years proceeding the prize year. An article may only be submitted once. All fields of history will be considered, and articles must be submitted with full scholarly apparatus. Deadline: September 15, 2012.

The CCWH/Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Graduate Student Fellowship is a \$1000 award to a woman graduate student completing a dissertation in a history department. Deadline: September 15, 2012.

The Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Fellowship is an annual award given to a graduate student working on a historical dissertation that interrogates race and gender, not necessarily in a history department. Deadline: September 15, 2012.

CCWH Sponsored Award

The National History Day Prize in Women's History, Junior Division, goes to a pre-collegiate student participating in the National History Day competition. Please visit <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org/SpecialPrizeinfo.htm> for more information.

A CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS AMY ESSINGTON

Founded in 1969, the Coordinating Council on Women in the Historical Profession joined the Conference Group on Women's History to form the Coordinating Council for Women in History (CCWH). Today, the CCWH works for the missions of both groups by supporting women's historians and women's history. Since 1969, these organizations have worked to change the historical profession to include women historians and treat them fairly and include women's history. As Susan writes in her president's column, while the profession has changed, women historians still face challenges and need support in many ways. The CCWH is an organization which has offered that support and can continue to do so. The CCWH operates on membership dues. The more current members we have, the more the organization can do. In the last few years, the CCWH has faced a drop in membership. With a declining economy and tightening budgets, we have to make choices about expenditures. You have chosen to be a member of the CCWH because you value our activities. As the membership coordinator, I would like to encourage you to spread the word about the CCWH by telling a new colleague about the organization, asking a former CCWH member to rejoin, or giving a graduate student a gift membership. If each current member just found one new member, we would double the size of the organization. A larger organization would allow the CCWH to continue to sponsor its awards, cosponsor sessions at the AHA annual meeting, and continue its work with its affiliate members. Finding a new CCWH member can be one small way we can each help support the organization that has worked to support each of us.

BOOK REVIEW

NUPUR CHAUDHURI, TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

The Ephemeral History of Perfume: Scent and Sense in Early Modern England. Holly Dugan. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011. 259 pages. \$65.00. ISBN 978-1421402345.

The subject of the study is a fascinating read, as the author examines perfume in the context of “smelling subjects, scented objects, and the airy boundaries between them” (16) in early modern England. In this study, Dugan includes spices, flowers, herbs, animal parts, trees, resins, and other ingredient used to produce artificial scents, smokes, fumes, airs, balms, powders and liquids. The book consists of six chapters. Dugan has organized each chapter around three connected themes: a scent ingredient, a container to distribute, and an environment in which it was used.

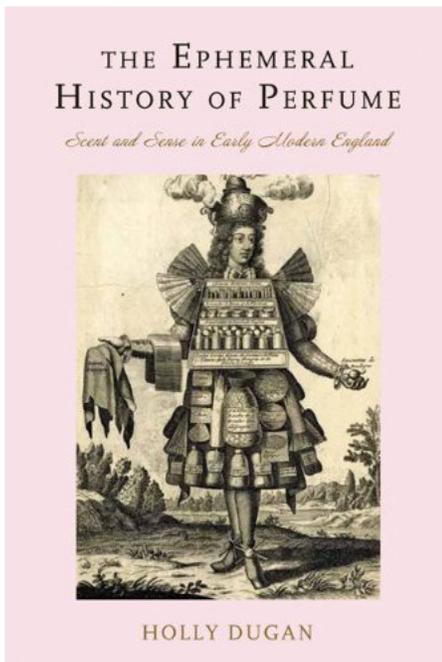
Chapter 1 focuses on scents of incense in church, especially in England. Here, with various examples, the author shows that in England, the sweet scent of incense is used to “dramatize conversion of religious others, particularly Jews, Muslims, even whorish women like sinful Magdalene,” who in their own way threatened

Christian religious faith (41). Chapter 2 describes the ways rose attar defined Henry VIII and Elizabeth I’s royal power and defined emerging English identity through smell. Crusaders brought Damask roses, first bred in Syria, to the continent and in 1522, Dugan claims, the Damask rose came to England. Eventually, it became the symbol of the Tudors. The Damask rose, mixed with “grains of musk, ambergris, civet, and cloves,” created a perfume that became known as rose water (49). By using the Damask rose as a Tudor symbol and by creating a perfume from it, the author suggests, England appropriated Damascus, Alexandria, and Persia into English space. The monarchs put this perfume in small bottles and carried those bottles so they would smell nice. Chapter 3 concentrates on sassafras in the British colonies of North America. Chapter 4 deals with the smell of rosemary during the plague; people carried rosemary in a bottle so that they would not become victims of plague. Chapter 5 covers the scent of ambergris in luxury shopping markets and chapter 6 highlights the smell of jasmine in English pleasure gardens. By the seventeenth century, the present of rose perfume became linked with sex. Gradually, the perfume became a part of the London luxury market and women tried to make perfume at home with

spices, herbs and other flowers. The discussion of usage of perfume in this environment also led to the discussion of air quality of London and England in the early modern era. In this respect, this book also contributes to the study of environment.

However, I have a problem with the author’s use of the term Anglo-Indian in chapter 3 (84). Usually, in the British imperial history of the eighteenth and nineteenth century, “Anglo-Indian” refers to the British domiciled in India and after 1911 the term “Anglo-Indian” referred to biracial children. The term for the early inhabitants/original inhabitants is Native Americans or First Nations (in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand).

In spite of this confusion, I found this book very interesting and the scholars of the early modern Europe should read this book.



BOOK REVIEW

ALEXANDRA M. NICKLISS, CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

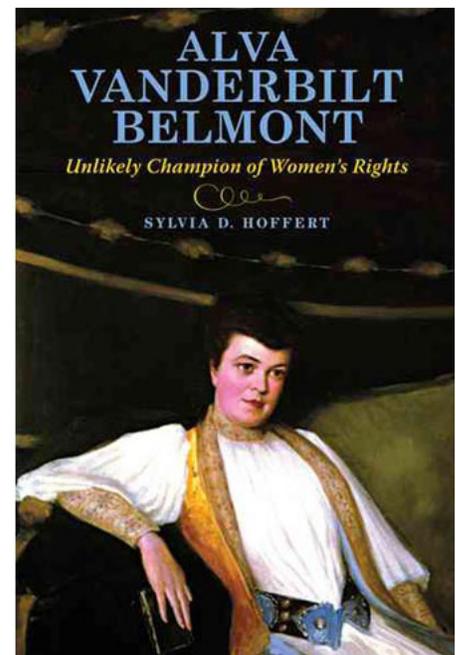
Alva Vanderbilt Belmont: Unlikely Champion of Women's Rights. Sylvia D. Hoffert. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012. 272 pp. \$30.00. ISBN 978-0-253-35661-1.

It is tempting to think of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century upper-class women as nothing more than socialites feeding the hunger of the press for news about how they spent vast fortunes frivolously on ostentatious social entertainments to make it in fashionable society. Caroline Schermerhorn Astor, the undisputed leader of high society in New York, comes to mind. But there were women of Astor's class who became serious philanthropists, directing money toward projects and political causes of personal interest. Sylvia D. Hoffert's recently released biography of Alva Vanderbilt Belmont joins the growing list of books on upper-class women who spent large amounts of time, energy, and money as publicly active philanthropists—for example, Ruth Crocker's biography on Olivia Russell Sage and Kathleen Sanders's on Mary Elizabeth Garrett.

Hoffert, Professor Emerita of Women's History at Texas A&M University, relies on Belmont's autobiographical memoirs, court records, letters, and interviews to take the reader into the "self-making" (ix) life of Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, a rich, self-absorbed New York socialite who becomes, according to Hoffert, an unlikely champion of women's rights. Born in early 1853, Alva Smith grew up in Mobile, Alabama, in a prosperous neighborhood. Deprived of affection and attention, she became rebellious, stemming, she claimed, from childhood experiences. Early on, she realized that "that misbehaving is an effective way to get what she wanted" (3). Moreover, she resented the devaluation of girls and the freedom boys had to express themselves. In 1875 she married William Kissam Vanderbilt, grandson of railroad tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt whose estimated wealth topped \$100 million. Outraged at being humiliated publicly by his extramarital affairs, she divorced him in 1895.

Determined to make something of herself, Alva achieved celebrity status by skillfully holding social entertainments, accepting invitations, and working to build and decorate houses. Shortly after her divorce, she married Oliver Hazard Perry Belmont, a younger man, also divorced, and son of German Jewish banker, August Belmont. She had a happy marriage and a fun-filled, self-indulgent life with Belmont. Prior to his death in 1908, Alva "engaged in the conventional sorts of philanthropy" (71) but steered clear of social reform or women's and men's politics. One year after O. H. P. Belmont's passing, her anger at dominant male power and privilege reemerged. She spent the rest of her life devoted to, and a large part of her fortune on, the suffrage cause and women's rights. Among other things, Alva criticized wealthy women who refused to become leaders for women's rights, wrote suffrage articles, joined a 1912 suffrage march in New York City to get politicians to take the vote for women seriously, testified before the New York State legislature, and met Cristabel Pankhurst and Alice Paul.

Wanting to be seen as more than a money machine and have her views count, Belmont received an appointment to the Congressional Union's advisory board and, later, sat on the National Woman's Party (NWP) board. Paul exploited her fundraising, administrative, and networking skills, ideas, and ability to get press coverage and bring respectability to the suffrage cause. In 1921 Belmont became president of the NWP. Five years later, she represented the NWP at the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Paris. In 1930, she worked for the



BOOK REVIEW (CONT.)

ALEXANDRA M. NICKLISS, CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

removal of legal disabilities against women at the Hague Conference on the Codification of International Law.

Hoffert sheds a bright light on the life of the imperious, irascible, opinionated Alva Vanderbilt Belmont. The author posits that Belmont was an unlikely champion of women's rights and that her work was crucial to the success of women's rights. Belmont's money and political connections benefitted women's causes; her social and celebrity status brought press attention and additional financial support. But why was Belmont an unlikely champion of women's rights? She had resentment toward men at an early age that resurfaced later—a sign that she was likely, rather than unlikely, to champion women's rights. So, what was it that made Belmont an unlikely champion? Was it her wealth and social status? But why would those be key? Other wealthy women, like Sage, Garrett, and Phoebe Apperson Hearst, supported suffrage, attracted press attention and financial backing for women's rights, had connections to powerful people, in and out of politics, and enjoyed celebrity status. Was it the fact that Belmont was militant? Were other rich women willing to risk scandal and damage to their

reputations and public image by taking such militant action against dominant male power and in support of women's causes? We are left to wonder exactly why Belmont shunned women's rights early on and took up women's causes only after O. H. P. Belmont's death. Yes, after her husband's passing, her circumstances had changed—she was divorced, widowed, and wealthy. But her resentment and anger toward men had roots in her childhood experiences and continued into her mature, adult life. Hoffert shows Belmont's personal struggles as she managed her fortune, explains her militant actions, and indicates her lack of sophisticated knowledge to understand the broader impact of her work. The author claims in 1912 Woodrow Wilson “was no supporter of woman suffrage” (85). A statement clarifying Wilson's support for state suffrage would help readers better understand the relationship between his bid for the presidency in 1912 and the suffrage movement. Setting aside these criticisms, Hoffert ably tells the fascinating story of Belmont's rise to celebrity status and her crucial contributions to suffrage and the women's rights movement.

BOOK REVIEW

ASHLEY BAGGETT, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Feminine Touch: Women in Osteopathic Medicine. A. Thomas Quinn. Kirksville, MO: Truman State University Press, 2011. 194 pp. \$34.95. ISBN 978-1-035503-12-2.

For much of its existence, the medical community in the United States endeavored to acquire the respect and authority associated with the status of a profession. Professionalization often included licensure, college, and training requirements. Groups, such as the American Medical Association (AMA), lobbied the local, state, and federal government to support efforts at restricting the practice of medicine to credible and educated individuals, and quite often in mainstream medicine, women's roles were diminished in the process. Osteopathy, however, developed differently. In *The Feminine Touch*, Thomas Quinn reveals the unique history of osteopathy and women's critical role within it.

Quinn begins by situating women and osteopathic medicine within its historical context, specifically within the overall attempts at consolidating and professionalizing medicine. This approach enables the reader to make better comparisons and see the consequences for women in mainstream and alternative medical practices. The general narrative is one medical historians know well. Despite an initial foothold in practicing medicine, women

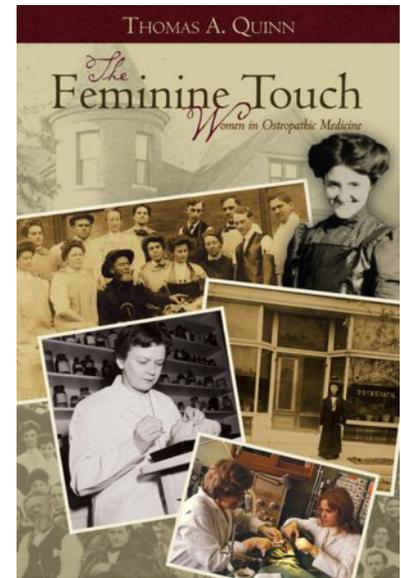
BOOK REVIEW (CONT.)

ASHLEY BAGGETT, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

were increasingly squeezed out of the profession by the end of the 1800s, yet, as Quinn shows, Dr. A.T. Still founded osteopathy during the same period. Osteopathy, unlike mainstream medicine, welcomed female students and more than simply a token few. As an alternative medical practice, osteopathy relied heavily on the skill of palpitation. Dr. A.T. Still believed “that women had a special quality, a gentleness of touch, which...made women natural healers” (x). Women assisted in osteopathy’s founding by more than being students and earning their doctor of osteopathy degree (DO). They helped to establish osteopathic colleges, teach classes, engage in intensive research in the field, provide funding, and give emotional support. In these various roles, women functioned as an essential component to forming the profession of osteopathic medicine.

From 1930 to 1964, osteopathy faced challenges. The Great Depression and World War II created severe financial problems, and the number of students at medical colleges declined until after the war. With the GI Bill, enrollment increased, at least for male students. Gender norms advocated relinquishing jobs to returning veterans and embracing the role of domesticity for women. In spite of these changes, Quinn shows how osteopathic schools continued to appeal to women, quoting an osteopathic journal, “Doctors Wanted: Women Urged to Apply” (84). Osteopathy, however, had other issues that came to predominate. DOs came under attack from the AMA as the AMA declared osteopaths “cultists” and forbade MDs from professional association with DOs (81). This approach did not work since osteopathic physicians had flourished on the homefront during the war, and by 1959, the AMA chose a path of assimilation. A large contingent of osteopaths in California broke away and merged with the AMA. Interestingly, osteopathy recovered rather quickly. To absorb osteopathic colleges, the AMA had to admit the credibility and skill of DOs, and osteopaths utilized this confession to gain equal licensing in all states. By the mid-1960s, osteopathy had rebounded. As Quinn illustrates in a useful chart, female osteopathic students have steadily grown over the years to comprise over half of current osteopathic students (107). Clearly, osteopathy had not crumbled under pressure from mainstream medicine.

The Feminine Touch gives a good overview of the osteopathic profession and an excellent examination of women’s place within it. Thomas Quinn’s book, moreover, is written clearly and is accessible to the general reader. At the end of each chapter, Quinn includes several short biographical sketches of female DOs and influential women in the profession. Some of these are incredibly engaging, such as the story of Carry Nation (the barrel-smashing temperance crusader who also studied osteopathy) and Zoe Wilkins (an osteopathic physician who had affair after affair and extorted her clients for money until her murder). *The Feminine Touch*, however, could have expanded more on professionalization of the medical profession. For instance, Quinn did not mention early American medicine and midwifery, which was initially a female-dominated field that was appropriated by male physicians. Also, the increased specialization in the profession and debates over mainstream medicine could have shown why osteopathy and other forms of medicine were ostracized in the quest for control over the medical community. Even so, Thomas Quinn’s *The Feminine Touch* adds a needed component to the history of medicine—the overlapping struggles of women and osteopathy to be accepted in the medical profession.



THE SOPHIA SMITH COLLECTION AT SMITH COLLEGE

The Sophia Smith Collection is pleased to announce the following research grant recipients for 2012–2013:

Grierson Fellowships:

- Leigh Goldstein, PhD candidate in Screen Cultures, Northwestern University
Project: “Special for Women: Postwar Popular Media and the Rise of 1960s Feminism.”
- April Haynes, Assistant Professor of Women’s and Gender History, University of Oregon
Project: “Riotous Flesh: Gender, Race, and the Solitary Vice in Antebellum Physiology.”

Bain Fellowships:

- Sarah Lynn Jones, PhD candidate in Communication Studies, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Project: “Rhetorical Peace-building Strategies: Organizing the Global and Local through the International Women’s Tribune Centre.”
- Lisa Levenstein, Associate Professor of History, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Project: “U.S. Women in Beijing: The Fourth World Conference on Women and the Global Politics of American Feminism.”

Travel-to-Collections Grants:

- Victoria M. Grieve, Professor of History, Utah State University
Project: “Radical Women and Working Class Journalism, The Federated Press, 1928–1955.”
- Joan Marie Johnson, Instructor in History, Northeastern Illinois University
Project: “Funding Feminism: Wealthy Women, Philanthropy, and Power in Late 19th and 20th Century America.”
- Wendy Kline, Professor of History, University of Cincinnati
Project: “Birth in Transition: Modern Midwifery and the Controversy over Home Birth.”
- Melissa Walker, George Dean Johnson Jr. Professor of History, Converse College
Project: “‘The Heyday of Woman’s Life’: Women and the Experience of Aging in Twentieth-Century America.”

The Sophia Smith Collection is also pleased to announce that the records of Arise for Social Justice, a western Massachusetts grassroots advocacy organization, have been fully processed and are open for research. The Arise for Social Justice records provide a remarkably detailed accounting of the activities, decision-making processes, and political foundation of the organization and its work in coalition with regional, state, national, and international groups. In addition to materials documenting the work of Arise, the records contain a wealth of mailings, newsletters, and other resources produced by wide variety of organizations working for social and economic justice in late-twentieth-century America. Because Arise also served as an information clearinghouse, the records are rich with resource lists and reference files on a wide variety of subjects compiled to provide background information and serve as source materials for future activities. Major topics found in the records include criminal justice, economic justice, HIV/AIDS prevention, homelessness, housing, poverty, social justice, and welfare rights. For a link to the finding aid, see: http://asteria.fivecolleges.edu/findaids/sophiasmith/mnsss428_main.html

GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER AND AFFILIATE NEWS, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2012

1. For the website and newsletter, *descriptions of affiliate organizations* are limited to 100 words plus a weblink. They cannot advertise any product for sale, but they can provide general information about a journal or newsletter that is published regularly. The descriptions and their placement are subject to the editorial control of the newsletter editor, the executive director, and the website coordinator. Example: "The Coordinating Council for Women in History was founded in 1969 as a networking organization to provide support for women in the historical profession. Since then, the CCWH has been committed to exploring the diverse experiences and histories of all women. Its primary goals are to educate men and women on the status of women in the historical profession and to promote research and interpretation in areas of women's history in the United States and internationally. The CCWH offers a variety of annual awards and scholarships, and publishes a member newsletter four times a year. www.theccwh.org."
2. Members and affiliates may *advertise* job openings for ninety days on our website or in an issue of the newsletter for the nominal rate of \$25 per ad. Calls for contributors or panelists for conferences, fellowships, special issues of journals, or similar items may be posted without charge for ninety days, and are subject to the editorial control of the newsletter editor, the executive director, and the website coordinator.
3. For the website and newsletter, submissions for *member or affiliate news* are limited to 250 words. The content cannot advertise a particular product for sale and is subject to the editorial control of the membership coordinator, newsletter editor, executive director, and outreach coordinator. At present, this material will not always be included on the website. Longer contributions may be solicited from members and affiliates. Conference reports may be 400 words and are subject to editorial control of the newsletter editor, the executive director, and website coordinator.

The CCWH newsletter will now be published four times a year with the following submission deadlines:

The February issue has a submission deadline of February 1.

The May issue has a submission deadline of May 1.

The August issue has a submission deadline of August 1.

The November issue has a submission deadline of November 1.

WOMEN'S HISTORY RESOURCES

The Women's Research Institute of Nevada, <http://wrin.unlv.edu>. This website serves as the central place to access research undertaken by the WRIN. Researchers may find information about Nevada women's history by theme or name (eventually users will access information by dates). In addition, icons by each name indicate if audio, photos, or video are available. Anyone who would like access to more extensive oral interviews of an individual may contact WRIN directly at 702-895-4931.

The Litchfield Historical Society announces the availability of *The Ledger*, a new online resource funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Council on Library and Information Resources, the Connecticut Humanities Council, and the Seherr-Thoss Foundation. It can be found at <http://www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org/ledger/>. *The Ledger* presents the stories of the Litchfield Law School (founded 1784) and Litchfield Female Academy (founded 1792) and the founders and students of these institutions. The words, artwork, and personal belongings of the students and instructors are presented together with biographical and genealogical information. Needlework, portraits, personal effects, and other items associated (*cont. next page*)

WOMEN'S HISTORY RESOURCES (CONT.)

with the school or its students appear on the pages. *The Ledger Studies* section contains overviews of Litchfield during this era and histories of each school. The Society will continue to add pertinent essays to this section. For further details about the project or a complete list of students, or to submit information to be included, please contact the curator, Julie Leone, at curator@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org or archivist Linda Hocking at archivist@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org.

Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600–2000 is an online resource for students and scholars of U.S. history and U.S. women's history. Organized around the history of women in social movements in the United States between 1600 and 2000, the collection seeks to advance scholarly debates and understanding at the same time that it makes the insights of women's history accessible to teachers and students at universities, colleges, and high schools. The collection includes more than 102 document projects or archives and 4,050 documents and 145,000 pages of additional full-text sources, written by almost 2,200 primary authors. It also includes book, film, and website reviews, notes from the archives, and teaching tools. It continues to grow with two new issues/releases annually. For more information, visit <http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com/>.

In January, Barbara Winslow (CUNY Brooklyn) gave a talk to an undergraduate class on Communication and Social Change in U.S. History at the Evergreen State College, in Washington State. The title of the talk was "Challenging Every Assumption: The Living Legacy of Women's Liberation." There is a video recording for those interested: <http://blogs.evergreen.edu/ccam/blog/2012/04/05/barbara-winslow/>.

NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY SITES

NCWHS members have much to report. Recently, NCWHS members were thrilled to find out that US Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has committed to increasing the number of women's history sites and the interpretation at existing ones...naming the NCWHS a model partner. He made that announcement on March 17 when he hosted a Town Hall discussion at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center as part of Interior's ongoing efforts to capture and tell a more inclusive story of America. In addition to two top National Park Service officials, Ms. Peggy O'Dell and Dr. Stephanie Toothman, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, First Lady of Maryland Judge Katie O'Malley, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Rachel Jacobson, and more than sixty leaders in the women's history and heritage movement attended. They focused on efforts to preserve and highlight the many contributions of women throughout American history. Secretary Salazar's statement can be seen at www.ncwhs.org. NCWHS memberships are now due!

NCWHS will be quite active at the upcoming OAH conference. Members of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites will have their annual meeting on Friday, April 20, at the 2012 OAH conference. The annual meeting will start with a continental breakfast (with free coffee and muffins) at Frontier Airlines Center at 8:30AM and the annual meeting will start at 8:45AM continue until 10:00AM. At 10:30AM, NCWHS' OAH/NCPH session will start in the same room. The title of the session is "Lessons Learned in Researching, Preserving, and Interpreting Women's History at Historic Sites." The speakers are Peg Strobel (University of Illinois-Chicago and ex-co-president of CCWH), Heather Huyck (President-NCWHS and a member of CCWH), Beth Boland (NPS Heritage Education Services), and Pam Sanfilippo (US Grant NHS); Connie Sexauer, University of Wisconsin-Marathon County, is the commentator. Please come, attend our panel, and join us at the session.

That evening, join us in the Hilton lobby at 7PM to go to Alem restaurant for a Dine About.

Find out more about us and the membership from our website: www.ncwhs.org.

AFFILIATE ANNOUNCEMENTS, MAY 2012

MEMBER NEWS FROM THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS

- Lynn A. Bonfield addressed the annual meeting of the Society of Pioneers Auxiliary and the Bay Area Labor History Workshop on the Journal of Alfred and Chastina W. Rix.
- Eileen Boris is the PI of a ten-person UC working group, “Work-ing at Living: The Social Relations of Precarity,” funded for 2012 by the UC Humanities Research Institute Project on the Humanities and Changing Conditions of Work.
- In December, for Bill of Rights Day, Fox-LA did a story on Judy Branfman’s documentary about her aunt Yetta’s precedent-setting free speech case.
- Jill Fields, editor, recently published *Entering the Picture: Judy Chicago, the Fresno Feminist Art Program and the Collective Visions of Women Artists* (Routledge).
- Estelle Freedman currently has a Guggen-heim Foundation fellowship to complete a book on redefining rape in American history.
- Mary Ann Irwin appeared on the Travel Channel’s *Hidden City*, discussing San Francisco’s 1851 and 1856 Committees of Vigilance.
- Asuncion Lavrin has been appointed correspondent member of the *Academia Mexicana de la Historia*.
- The Organization of American Historians has appointed Alexandra M. Nickliss as chair of the Committee on Community Colleges for 2012–2013.
- The Rancho Bodega [California] Historical Society has commissioned Jackie Pels, editor/publisher of Hard-scratch Press, to write the official poem for the 200th anniversary of the founding of Port Rumiantsev, now Bodega Bay.
- Jennifer Stevens was elected chair of Boise City’s Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Elizabeth Watkins was named Dean of the Graduate Division at the University of California, San Francisco.

AFFILIATE LIST AS OF APRIL 2012

Africa Knowledge Project, *JENdA: A Journal of Culture and African Women Studies*

<http://www.africaknowledgeproject.org/>

The Africa Knowledge Project (AKP) is an initiative by Africa Resource Center, Inc., dedicated exclusively to academic research on Africa and its Diaspora. AKP focuses on critical Africa-centered, evidence-based knowledge and research from a diverse range of disciplines. AKP publishes several online journals, including *JENdA*, an award-winning peer-reviewed journal which focuses on the social, political, economic, and cultural concepts and categories that shape the lives of women in different African societies. *JENdA*’s archives and a list of forthcoming issues are available online via the Africa Knowledge Project.

American Historical Association (AHA)

<http://historians.org/>

The AHA is a nonprofit membership organization devoted to the promotion of historical studies. The largest historical society in the United States, the AHA has nearly 14,000 members representing every historical period and geographical area, and including professionals in a variety of fields and occupations. The Committee on Women Historians was organized in 1971 and continues to advocate for the interests of women in the profession and within the AHA, to advocate for women’s and gender history, to foster an inclusive scholarship that challenges and transforms the practice of history, both substantively and methodologically.

AFFILIATES AS OF APRIL 2012 (CONT.)

Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS)

<http://www.awsshome.org/>

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies sponsors research and teaching for scholars interested in women's and gender studies in Central/Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia. Committed to the study of this region across disciplines, AWSS welcomes members from all areas of the humanities and social sciences. AWSS serves as a networking resource for those concerned with the problems, status, and achievements of women in the academic and related professions. The Association also seeks to improve the general public's understanding about women and gender in these regions. The AWSS offers several annual awards and publishes a quarterly newsletter.

Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH)

<http://www.abwh.org/>

Founded in 1979, the Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH) is a dynamic network of scholars representing every region of the country. The organization's goals are to support black women in the historical profession, disseminate information by, for and about black women and promote scholarship by and about black women. The ABWH holds an annual meeting and luncheon each year in conjunction with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History conference. Other ABWH projects and activities are local in character and focus. The ABWH offers numerous awards and fellowships as well as an online newsletter, *Truth*.

Canadian Committee on Women's History - Comité canadien de l'histoire des femmes (CCWH-CCHF)

<http://www.chashcacommittees-comitesa.ca/ccwh-cCHF/en/>

With over 200 active members, the CCWH-CCHF is the largest committee affiliated with the Canadian Historical Association. Founded in 1975, the organization's goals include promoting teaching and research in the field of women's history; disseminating information about sources, current research and publications; encouraging the preservation of archival sources in women's history; linking researchers, professors, teachers and students with each other and with other similar organizations in other countries; monitoring the status of women in the historical profession and working to raise that status. The CCWH-CCHF offers scholarly awards and an online newsletter.

Coalition for Western Women's History (CWWH)

<http://www.westernwomenshistory.org/>

The CWWH has, from its inception in 1983, encouraged the field of Western history in the directions of expanded time frames and multicultural inclusiveness. CWWH currently sponsors the western women's history breakfast at the annual Western History Association Conference (WHA), a workshop at the WHA, the Jensen-Miller prize for the best article in western women's history, and the Irene Ledesma Prize which provides funding for graduate student research in western women's history. The organization also provides materials to aid in the study of western women's history and builds networks of scholars focusing on women's many pasts in the region.

Listening to Louisiana Women Oral History Project (LLWOHP)

The Listening to Louisiana Women Oral History Project has been collecting oral histories from Louisiana women since 2009. Originating in a service-learning history of sexuality course taught by Professor Alecia Long at Louisiana State University, the LLWOHP currently includes the oral histories of nearly fifty Louisiana women, ranging in age from 22 to 92, who were interviewed by Long and her students with regard to how they felt their

AFFILIATES AS OF APRIL 2012 (CONT.)

gender affected them economically, civically, legally and socially. The interviews will be housed at the LSU T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History so others may access it for educational efforts.

National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS)

<http://www.ncwhs.org/>

The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS) was created in October 2001 by representatives of more than twenty historical sites linked to American women and some twenty others from organizations devoted to preserving women's history. The NCWHS publishes *Women's History: Sites and Resources*, a 142-page reference designed for travelers, teachers, and students who want to discover more of American women's past. This volume features forty women's history sites and projects, plus travel itineraries, teaching plans, and websites. Additional extensive information about the volume and all of the sites is available on the organization's website.

Oklahoma Oral History Research Program

<http://www.library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/index.htm>

The Women of the Oklahoma Legislature Oral History Project was developed in 2006 to capture the oral histories and record additional information about women who have served or are currently serving in the Oklahoma Legislature. Between the years of 1907 and 2008, only 77 women were elected to the Oklahoma Legislature. Over forty of these remarkable women have shared their stories as part of the project. Along the way, photographs of all 77 women were located and are now included on the website.

Organization of American Historians (OAH)

<http://oah.org/>

The OAH is the largest professional society dedicated to the teaching and study of American history. The mission of the organization is to promote excellence in the scholarship, teaching, and presentation of American history, and to encourage wide discussion of historical questions and equitable treatment of all practitioners of history. The OAH represents more than 7,800 historians working in the United States and abroad, including professors, teachers, archivists, museum curators, public historians, students, and scholars employed in government and the private sector. The Committee on the Status of Women in the Historical Profession considers all professional concerns bearing upon women in the historical profession.

Rural Women's Studies Association (RWSA)

<http://www.uncp.edu/rwsa/>

Founded in 1998 as an outgrowth of the Sixth Conference on Rural and Farm Women in Historical Perspective, the RWSA is an international association for the advancement and promotion of farm and rural women's gender studies in historical perspective. The Association aims to encourage research, to promote existing and forthcoming scholarship, and to establish and maintain links with contemporary farm and rural women's organizations. The RWSA aims to encourage scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds and countries to communicate about their research and all other activities that are supportive of the Association's goals.

Society for Advancing the History of Southeast Asia (SAHSA)

<http://sahsa.uchicago.edu/>

The SAHSA was founded to promote scholarship on the history of the South Asian region in the United States. The organization enhances the profile of South Asian history within the wider historical profession, fosters the

AFFILIATES AS OF APRIL 2012

study of South Asian history across disciplinary and methodological boundaries, encourages the study of South Asian history in relation to global histories, provides venues for scholars to communicate with one another, and promotes excellence in scholarship. Membership is open to all teachers and scholars of South Asian history. SAHSA resources for scholars include regular conferences and an email discussion list.

Southern Association of Women Historians (SAWH)

<http://www.h-net.org/~sawh/sawh.htm>

The SAWH supports the study of women's history and the work of women historians. SAWH especially welcomes as members all women and men who are interested in U.S. Southern history and/or women's history, as well as all women historians in any field who live in the U.S. South. SAWH meets annually in conjunction with the Southern Historical Association, publishes a newsletter, awards publication prizes, and sponsors the Southern Conference on Women's history every three years. SAWH also moderates the h-SAWH online discussion network.

Upstate New York Women's History Organization

<http://unywho.org/index.html>

UNYWHO was originally formed in 1970s to provide support, an intellectual base, and a spirit of camaraderie to women's historians throughout New York State. From the 1970s through the early 1990s, UNYWHO also held regular conferences to facilitate personal and intellectual exchange. In the spirit of grassroots organizing, we are pleased to announce the revival of UNYWHO. The new incarnation of UNYWHO includes a host of original members as well as graduate students, new faculty, independent scholars, documentary editors, and public historians. UNYWHO has planned a number of initiatives on the local and national level. The organization expects to organize regular regional conferences and support local women's history projects.

Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH)

<http://www.wawh.org>

Founded in 1969 to promote the interests of women historians both in academic settings and in the field of history generally, the WAWH is the largest of the regional women's historical associations in the United States. Although the majority of our members come from the western states, we have members from across the United States, Canada, and other countries. The WAWH holds an annual spring conference for the presentation of scholarly work, new research, and the discussion of teaching methods, writing, and other issues of importance to women scholars. The organization offers numerous awards and the quarterly newsletter *The Networker*.

Women's and Gender Historians of the Midwest (WGHOM)

<http://department.monm.edu/wghom/>

WGHOM is an organization devoted to promoting women's and gender history in the Midwestern United States. Our goals are to provide a platform to showcase academic work in progress by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates at Midwestern institutions of higher learning, to sponsor a conference every two years at colleges and universities around the Midwest, and to provide a forum for networking and discussion for those associated with Midwestern institution.

CCWH FACEBOOK QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear CCWH Members,

The CCWH Board is considering creating a CCWH Facebook site for members as a forum to connect professionally and we would like to hear from members. Please answer the following questions and let us know if this is something you would utilize and contribute to. Please let us know by July 1, 2012.

1. Do you ever use social networking sites like Facebook? If so, what organizational pages do you subscribe to or like (ex: American Historical Association, Newberry Library, etc.)?

2. Would you consider a CCWH Facebook site a useful way to connect with other members about professional events, conferences, panel proposals, syllabi, etc.?

3. Would you be willing to contribute information to a CCWH Facebook site?

Any additional suggestions for content would be greatly appreciated. You may email your responses to ccwhfb@gmail.com or send them to:

Camesha Scruggs
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Thank you for your assistance and input.

Sincerely,
Camesha Scruggs
Graduate Student Representative, 2011–2014

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