

# THE CCWH NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter for the Coordinating Council for Women in History

## CCWH AWARDS LUNCHEON: "CONFESSIONS OF A 'JOURNAL GIRL'"

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The Saturday luncheon was a great success. Co-president Janet Afary started off the event by introducing board members, including Executive Director Jen Scanlon, Co-President Eileen Boris, Outgoing Executive Director Hilda Smith, Newsletter Editor Karol K. Weaver, Assistant Editor Christopher Corley, Outreach Coordinator Rebecca Nedostup, Treasurer Maureen Elgersman Lee, and Prelinger Award Committee Chair Peggy Renner. She then turned the podium over to Peggy Renner.

Renner was pleased to present the 2002 Prelinger Award winner Lisa DiCaprio, who received her Ph.D in 1996 from Rutgers University. DiCaprio

is co-editor of *Lives and Voices: Sources in European Women's History*. Her current work focuses on women's roles on the Nuremberg War Crime Tribunal, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and the International Criminal Court. DiCaprio thanked the women at the luncheon who have inspired her work, her advisor at Rutgers University Bonnie Smith, the donor of the Catherine Prelinger Award, the war crime survivors with whom she works, and the women in civil society in Belgrade. Renner then introduced Linda Reese, the recipient of the 2003 Prelinger Award. Reese received her Ph.D. from the University of Okla-



Professor Leila Rupp,  
Featured Speaker at the CCWH Luncheon

homa in 1991 and her work concentrates on African American women of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory from 1840 through

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## SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS

BY EMILY K. ABEL

*Emily K. Abel is Professor of Health Services and Women's Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles and author of Hearts of Wisdom: American Women Caring for Kin, 1850-1940 (2000).*

Maureen S. Reed's excellent series on parental leaves compels us to focus on the need to support other groups of caregivers—those who tend sick and disabled relatives and friends. Some observers argue that recent demographic changes have vastly increased the amount of such care. That argument ignores the history I and other researchers have uncovered. If nineteenth-century women had fewer elder care responsibilities, obligations to birthing women

and to sick, disabled, and dying people of all ages were constant and unremitting.

Nevertheless, the rapid aging of the population has dramatically altered the shape of caregiving today. Although most people sixty-five and over can tend themselves and their households without assistance, approximately one-quarter require at least occasional help, and the prevalence of disability rises steeply with age. Physicians can now save the lives of

many people who previously would have died quickly from those conditions, but the survivors frequently live with severe disabilities over extended periods. The major causes of death in the elderly—heart disease, cancer, and stroke—are chronic conditions that often inflict years of infirmity. And many elderly people suffer from multiple chronic ailments, including cognitive impairments.

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## HISTORIANS FILL ROOM FOR CCWH PANEL ON THE RED SCARE

BY CHRIS CORLEY

Despite the brisk temperatures and biting winds, close to one hundred historians attended this CCWH-sponsored session on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The panel, entitled "Domestic Insecurity: Revisiting Red Scare Politics in the United States, 1930s-60s" dove into the debate about the place of gender and the role of political elites in the Red Scare crises of the "long 1950s".

Michael Heale, professor emeritus from Lancaster University (UK) and a prolific author of several books and articles on American history in the 1950s and 1960s, started the discussion by revisiting the debate initiated by Richard Hofstadter about the origins of the Red Scare. Heale argued that the urban populations have been given little attention in this history, and provided several examples of city governments, including Los Angeles, Detroit, and Birmingham, that established anti-communist legislation well before their state legislatures became actively involved. Challenging the notions that McCarthyism was either a rural phenomenon or one pushed totally by political elites, Heale explained how poorer, urban Catholics in the northern United States often

encouraged their representatives to initiate legislation. Heale described the process as "reactionary populism" by many people who probably voted for FDR. Heale later explained that these changes in the late 1940s and 1950s reveal the inherent weakness of the New Deal coalition.

In the second presentation, Landon Storrs (University of Houston) presented another aspect of her research on the Federal Employee Loyalty Program. Readers interested in Storrs' research might review her recent article, "Red Scare Politics and the Suppression of Popular Front Feminism: The Loyalty Investigation of Mary Dublin Keyserling," *Journal of American History* 90 (September 2003): 491-524. Quoting Hofstadter's argument that the Red Scare was created by deeper problems in American society, Storrs argued that people who "feared pluralism and the secular state" were "probably not too keen on feminism, either." Storrs thus places gender and feminism at the heart of Red Scare politics through an interesting and archive-rich analysis of professional women who worked in the Roosevelt and Truman administrations.

While many of the New

Deal policies shifted power from legislators to government bureaucrats, critics of these developments often expressed their dismay in gendered terms. Conservatives questioned the masculinity of male civil servants. By 1947, 45% of government bureaucrats were women. While many were administrative assistants, Storrs highlighted several women who held very influential positions. Conservatives lambasted this situation, labeling the government a "femocracy" comprised of "g-girls" who "slept their way to the top" and who ruined the foundations of the American family by taking positions in government.

Women held 3% of upper-level positions, but formed 15% of the accusations that questioned their loyalty to the government. While some of these women may have had leftist political leanings, accusations against them focused not on party politics, but instead on their support of feminism, or the fact that many of them had kept their family names even after marriage. While Soviet espionage was a real threat, Storrs argued that conservative criticisms along gendered lines, especially in government departments where women held

leadership positions, thwarted women's access to important positions and ultimately blocked policies and programs intended to help poor women.

Stacy Braukman (Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study) could not attend the panel session, but Ellen Schrecker (Yeshiva University) read her paper for the audience. Braukman's essay complemented Storrs in stressing the place of gender and sexuality in anti-communism legislation. Braukman showed how Florida legislators pushed for anti-communist legislation in the years following the war and gradually included prohibitions on other "un-American" activities, including exposure to nudity and/or pornography. The argument was that youth exposure to pornography undermined the family and left the door open to moral corruption and eventually communism.

Lively conversation followed the papers and commentary by Nancy MacLean of Northwestern University. The crowd only dispersed after a request by the hotel managers so that the hotel could prepare for an evening session.

### REMINDER!

#### THE CCWH CATHERINE PRELINGER AWARD APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 2, 2004

- The award will be \$20,000 to a scholar, with a Ph.D. or A.B.D., who has not followed a traditional academic path of uninterrupted and completed secondary, undergraduate and graduate degrees leading into a faculty position.
- Although the recipient's degrees do not have to be in history, the recipient's work should clearly be historical in nature.
- In accordance with the general goals of CCWH, the award is intended to recognize or to enhance the ability of the recipient to contribute significantly to women in history, whether in the profession in the present or in the study of women in the past.
- The application form is available for download at [www.ccwh.org](http://www.ccwh.org).

## CCWH SPONSORS SESSION ON PRESERVING WOMEN'S HISTORY SITES IN THE UNITED STATES

BY: CHRIS CORLEY

On Saturday, 10 January a CCWH-sponsored panel addressed the challenges and opportunities that face historians and advocates wishing to preserve history sites related to women for the general public. The presentations were very informative, and they undoubtedly raised issues of much greater importance and interest for the general public than the other sessions that ran at the same time.

Dorothy Guzzo of the New

Jersey Historic Preservation Office described her experience preparing the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail Project. Among the first of its kind in the nation, Guzzo and her team received federal and state funding to find, map, and hopefully preserve sites significant to women's history in the state. "It is hard to protect something if you don't even know it was there," Guzzo stated. The project was greeted enthusiastically by legislators hoping to unearth some signifi-

cant spot in their own districts, but Guzzo described a project that also faced difficulties. Some sites sat on private land, while others, such as buildings associated with suffrage and temperance meetings, are no longer extant. Moreover, many existing sites are significant for men's and women's history, but until now only the male domain has been described for the public.

This was also the main theme of Heather Huyck's paper. Huyck, a regional chief historian

for the National Park Service, argued that while 200 million tourists visit national park historic sites each year, many of the sites "make it appear that women have had little part in the American experience." This is despite the fact that other than forts and battlefields, most of the other sites are domestic. Huyck noted with irony that "people come to [the domestic sites to] find great men, [they] find candles,

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## SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 1)*

Despite the growth of the older population, slightly more than half of all sick and disabled people needing care are under the age of sixty. Medical achievements have changed the nature of responsibilities for younger dependent groups as well as for older ones. As a result of advances in acute care, the mortality rate for severe traumatic brain injuries has dropped dramatically; many survivors experience permanent impairments, requiring long-term care. The growing sophistication of neonatal intensive care has enabled doctors to save many extremely premature infants who would have died twenty years ago but a significant proportion of surviving "preemies" have major, lifelong disabilities. Improvements in health care are also partly responsible for the increasing life expectancy of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The AIDS epidemic has created additional caregiving challenges. Some caregivers have themselves been diagnosed as having HIV or perceive themselves as especially vulnerable to the disease. Unlike most people who care for the frail elderly, most AIDS caregivers are

under forty. At a time when other people their age are building relationships and work lives rather than dealing with mortality, caregivers may feel jarringly disconnected from their contemporaries.

Public policies also affect the amount of care required. Medicare is based on an acute-care model and thus provides minimal assistance for chronic diseases and disabilities. Almost by default, Medicaid has become a primary funding source for long-term institutional care, but public funding of any kind of community- and home-based services is paltry. And many recent policies seek to shift care from institutions to homes. Deinstitutionalization occurred first and most dramatically in the mental health field. Since the mid-1970s, states have attempted to curb Medicaid expenditures by keeping people out of nursing homes. Acute care also is leaving the hospital. The rapid growth of managed care has resulted in a drop in the length of stay, shifting care back to the home. Patients arrive home sicker as well as quicker, increasing the intensity of services family members must deliver.

High-tech equipment often

follows patients out of the hospital. Some technologies must be constantly monitored, and many require family caregivers to perform tasks that are more complex than those managed by licensed vocational nurses in hospitals. But some hospitals discharge technology-dependent patients without providing more than a few minutes of instruction to family members.

Family and kin also have new responsibilities for institutionalized patients. The same fiscal concerns that encouraged shorter hospital stays led to reductions in the size of nursing staffs. At the same time, early discharge has contributed to a rise in the average level of patient acuity. Because patients are sicker and staffing levels lower, nurses have increased workloads. Some find that they are no longer able to respond to the personal and social needs of patients. As nurses withdraw such services, family participation becomes crucial.

Caregiving work is divided unevenly between men and women. The gendered allocation of elder care has been especially well documented. Daughters are far more likely than sons to serve as caregivers, live

with dependent parents, and take time off work to provide care.

If caregiving is primarily women's work, however, it opposes the interests of different groups of women. Poor women, immigrant women, and women of color represent the overwhelming majority of home care workers and nursing home assistants. Because many people pay privately for home health care and nursing home care, caregivers benefit when agencies save money by keeping wages low. Some caregivers in affluent families turn for assistance to the large pool of marginal workers who cannot secure better employment. Companions and attendants hired through ad hoc, informal arrangements, typically receive extremely low pay and no benefits.

As we press our institutions to respond to the enormous and varied caregiving responsibilities of their faculty and staff, we also should ensure that the work of care is spread more equitably throughout all sectors of society rather than imposed on the most socially marginalized groups.

## HISTORY AND ACTIVISM

BY KAROL K. WEAVER



Lisa Duggin, New York University

The CCWH sponsored an excellent session, entitled “Historians as Activists: A Roundtable Discussion,” at the American Historical Association Meeting. Felicia Kornbluth, assistant professor at Duke University and activist, served as chair of the session. She noted that the roundtable was the idea of Co-President Elieen Boris. She hoped that the session would bring to light the pleasures and pains of combining scholarship and activism.

Jesse Lemisch, professor

emeritus at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York, was the first presenter. Lemisch concentrated on the activities of radical scholars/activists in the wake of the Iraq War. He discussed his participation in and the work of Historians Against the War (HAW) and the Alliance of Radical Academic and Intellectual Organizations. He noted that antiwar activists must continue to organize and that HAW needs to connect with larger issues of social justice. He closed his presentation by giving a brief history of the life and activism of scholar Marc Bloch, who founded the *Annales* school, participated in the French Resistance, and died at the hands of the Nazis in June 1944. Lemisch described Bloch as “an astonishing example of historian as activist.”

Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and former chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights Mary Frances Berry explained her efforts and actions as an activist-scholar. She participated in acts of civil disobedience in support of the Free Africa

movement. She also met with the Pope in order to seek support for Haitian refugees in Florida. As a result of their meeting, the Pope agreed to assist the refugees. Berry helped to shape public policy by writing briefs for the Supreme Court and via her historical research. She remains dedicated to being “a public intellectual,” or someone “engaged in the struggle not... huddled in the academy.”

Lisa Duggin, who teaches history and women’s studies at New York University, spoke about historians of social movement activism. She noted that such scholars have often been criticized for pursuing social and cultural history by colleagues who specialize in economic and diplomatic history. She said that, despite a rapprochement between the two sides in the 1990s, a split continues. Duggin stated that scholars who concentrate on lesbian and gay history, likewise, are alienated (such historians tend to work in American Studies and Women’s Studies departments) and their topics are identified as “narrow.”

The next presenter, Cynthia Harrison (George Washington University) talked about her participation in feminist politics in Washington DC. She is active in welfare issues and she has seen “history deployed as ammunition” by men and women involved in the political process. She concluded that activists “protest because that is what you must do.”

The last speaker was Thomas Sugrue, who teaches at the University of Pennsylvania and who wrote a brief for the University of Michigan Affirmative Action case. He said scholars must learn that “ideas matter.” He encouraged the would-be activist-scholar to write jargon free prose in order to reach many different audiences, even one’s opponents. Finally, he said that historians must strive to be engaged scholars and to think critically about their scholarship. A lively and dynamic questions and comments period followed.

## SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO CCWH PANEL FORUM

Building on our effort to bring together CCWH members for the Berkshire Conference, we solicit panel proposals and queries on an ongoing basis. Use the CCWH network to seek out scholars working on related projects in other disciplines and fields, or to reconnect with colleagues. The Panel Forum will post calls for sessions at regional, area studies, inter-disciplinary and special conferences and workshops, as well as the major annual meetings. Send a brief

(100 words or fewer) announcement along with your name, affiliation and contact information to Rebecca Nedostup, CCWH Outreach Coordinator, at [nedostup@bc.edu](mailto:nedostup@bc.edu), or mail c/o Department of History, Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Ave., Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Please include relevant information about deadlines, etc. Proposals received by April 23 will be printed in the Summer 2004 newsletter.



## INTERVIEWING AT THE AHA

BY KAROL K. WEAVER

The Coordinating Council for Women in History co-sponsored a session, "Interviewing in the Job Market in the Twenty – First Century," with the AHA Professional Division and the AHA Committee for Graduate Students. Vice-president of the Professional Division and leader of the session William Cronon stated that the goal of the session was to "help candidates on the job hunt."

Mentors and advisors familiar with the job search process met with men and

women who were interested in learning more about landing a job in history. Each table in the ballroom of the hotel represented a different type of historical career. Participants had opportunities to "interview" for positions at research institutions, four-year public colleges, interdisciplinary programs, two-year colleges, four-year private colleges, high schools, and public history institutions.

I decided to serve as a mentor and advisor to individuals interested in learning more about interviewing at a research institution. I was joined by professor Terry Seip (University of South-

ern California) and several eager job candidates. Seip and I offered suggestions on how to prepare for interviews and what questions might be asked. Those seated at the table then took part in a mock interview; each potential job candidate was asked to briefly describe his doctoral research and his second project. I was intrigued and impressed by the quality and creativity of the research projects and the confidence that the job candidates exhibited. The future of history is in good hands.



William Cronon, Vice-president of the AHA Professional Division

## TRANSNATIONAL FEMINISM AND SEXUAL POLITICS: A CCWH-SPONSORED PANEL AT THE AHA

The CCWH sponsored an excellent panel, "Transnational Feminism and Sexual Politics in the Middle East and Africa." Participants included Janet Afary (Purdue University) and Elizabeth Thompson (University of VA). A thought-provoking and insightful commentary was offered by Abram Fouad Khater (University of North Carolina State U.)

Afary's paper, "The Construction of Homosexuality at turn-of the Century Iran and Central Asia" showed how proscribed sexual mores in Iran and Central Asia changed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Afary traced the history of status-defined homosexuality in Iran, and noted that Iranian sexual mores were similar to the Greco-Roman sexual ones. Using Michel Foucault's later work on sexuality, Afary compared Persian homoerotic poetry to classical Greco-Roman sources, and identified related themes, such as an "ethics of male love," the use of sex as a political weapon, and the economic significance of status-

defined homosexuality. She concluded that women's rights advocates in early twentieth-century Iran criticized same-sex relationships and child marriage as pre-modern traditions that needed to be obliterated. A few decades later homosexuality was seen as an inherently Western practice and deemed inherently immoral. As a result of these criticisms, homosexuality retreated behind closed doors and homoerotic allusions in Persian literature were reread as heterosexual ones.

Elizabeth Thompson presented a fine paper, entitled "Scarlett in Damascus: Cinema, Women's Liberation and Wartime Mobilization in the Middle East." Thompson concentrated on how women in the Middle East watched and interpreted *Gone with the Wind*. She wondered whether the films were viewed as corrupting encounters with the West or as beacons of progress for women. Thompson suggested that the dichotomy between the East and the West was only one dominant discourse that

marked other ways of talking about the film. Using varied primary sources, including periodical, memoirs, government documents, and the papers of David O. Selznick, Thompson concluded that Syrian women identified with numerous elements of *Gone with the Wind* including the strength and determination of Scarlett O'Hara and the deprivation that the film's characters endured.

Commentator Abram Fouad

Khater congratulated Afary and Thompson for their abilities to consider the dynamics of gender identity in the Middle East and some of the unforeseen results of a new Western discourse on modernity in the region. Noting that both papers concentrated on elite experiences, he urged the presenters to consider issues of class. A lively question and answer period then followed.



Janet Afary (Purdue University) and Elizabeth Thompson (University of Virginia)

## GENDER RECONSTRUCTION AND CONSUMER CULTURE IN INTERWAR EUROPE

BY ADAM C. STANLEY



Adam Stanley,  
Ph.D. Candidate,  
Purdue University

The question of whether European societies “reconstructed” their gender ideologies following World War I has become an important issue in scholarly literature. The concept of a postwar reconstruction of gender is based upon a perceived rupture in gender roles as a result of the Great War. This school of thought asserts that women’s appropriation of erstwhile masculine public spaces and roles during the war led to a backlash against such changes in the gender order once the conflict ended. Popular discourse sought to reconstruct femininity in order to negate the gains made by women in wartime and to restore broader social and political stability in the postwar era. After enjoying sway for most of the last decade, this view has recently been called into question, and the merits of approaching gender in the

interwar period from a standpoint of reconstruction have been challenged. A resolution to this issue, I would argue, resides in an approach centered upon consumption.

The publication of works such as Susan Kingsley Kent’s *Making Peace: The Reconstruction of Gender in Interwar Britain* (1993) helped to signal the ascendancy in European historiography of the concept of a reconstruction of gender ideology after the First World War. Analyzing the chaos and upheaval unleashed in British society by the conflict and its aftermath, Kent sees in the immediate postwar years a societal effort to restore prewar notions of gender, allegedly skewed in wartime, as a means of recapturing a larger sense of stability. Kent asserts that many feminists accepted and contributed to a discursive relegation of women into more traditional roles following the conclusion of the Great War.

The need to grapple with gender roles as a means of dealing with larger societal instability is also at issue in Mary Louise Roberts’s *Civilization without Sexes: Reconstructing Gender in Postwar France, 1917-1927* (1994). Her work demonstrates the existence and cultural currency of three discursive models of femininity in postwar France: the mother, the single woman, and the modern woman. Roberts shows that the ideologies surrounding such categories of femininity were rooted in the specific circumstances of the postwar age. The dislocations and tensions ef-

fected by the Great War led to newly defined constructions of womanhood as French society attempted to negotiate the nature of women’s changing roles.

More recent work casts doubt on the validity of reconstruction as a premise for exploring interwar gender ideologies, most importantly Susan R. Grayzel’s *Women’s Identities at War: Gender, Motherhood, and Politics in Britain and France during the First World War* (1999). Despite the fact that thousands of women went to work in previously male-dominated jobs after 1914, the prevalent conception of women throughout the war remained the well-established figure of the mother. There was no major rupture in gender ideology that would have demanded a postwar reconstruction. Grayzel maintains that studies of interwar Europe purporting to examine a reconstruction of femininity are misguided since the predominant cultural view of women was not altered during the war. Future scholarly literature must take into account Grayzel’s concerns, but without discarding entirely the notion of a reconstruction of gender. Although women continued to be defined above all as mothers and wives, the meanings attached to these categories shifted considerably in the aftermath of World War I.

The key to resolving this problem rests in the realm of consumer culture. Newly

available consumable goods facilitated a redefinition of masculinity and femininity without necessitating a departure from pre-existing gender categories. Some scholars downplay the importance of consumption in the interwar years given the financial dislocation of many Europeans in this period and the absence of mass consumption in Europe before 1945. Where cultural discourse is concerned, however, what becomes most important is the establishment of a consumer *mentality* rather than a consumer *economy*, a crucial distinction raised by Robert L. Frost. Although the dissemination of consumer goods fell short of mass consumption levels, cultural definitions of gender nonetheless hinged upon inextricable links to commodities and consumerism. Women were consistently defined through commercial products, whether it was a vacuum to maintain the household or a nutritional item to ensure the health of one’s children. Given the vital role played by consumption in interwar constructions of femininity, a more pronounced focus on the interplay between gender ideology and consumer culture should become central to scholarly analyses of gender discourse between the World Wars.

### SYLLABUS SPOTLIGHT

CCWH Newsletter welcomes submissions of syllabi concerned with the history of women and gender history. In the June issue of the news-

letter, we will spotlight an innovative and intriguing syllabus. If you are interested in sharing a syllabus, please send three copies of your syllabus

and a brief statement on the objectives of your course to Karol Weaver  
CCWH Newsletter  
Purdue University

108 University Hall  
672 Oval Drive  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
by April 15, 2004.

## PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

BY: MARLA MILLER

Three years ago, in January 2001, the AHA created a Task Force on Public History, charging it with identifying ways the AHA can more effectively address the interests and concerns of public historians both within the Association and at large, as well as ways of deepening an understanding of and appreciation for the activities of public historians within the profession. Just before this year's annual meeting of the AHA, the Task Force (which includes chair Linda Shopes, historian and program administrator at the Pennsylvania Historical & Mu-

seum Commission, as well as Victoria Hardin, Director, Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum, National Institutes of Health; Maureen Murphy Nutting, professor of history at North Seattle Community College; Noel Stowe, professor and chair of the History Department and senior director of the Graduate Program in Public History at Arizona State University; Jamil Zainaldin, executive director of the Georgia Humanities Council; and Michael Frisch, professor of history and American studies at the State University of New York at Buf-

falo) delivered a 36-page report making more than 50 recommendations. The AHA Council has accepted the report and in 2004 the Task Force will be working with the Council and the AHA staff to begin to implement these recommendations. Watch the AHA website, where the full report may be posted (the website also has past articles related to this initiative); meanwhile, I am grateful to Linda Shopes for sending along the following report of the Task Force's work and recommendations, based on her remarks at the 2004 annual meeting.

### THE CCWH PUBLIC HISTORY COMMITTEE

- Marla R. Miller, Assistant Professor and Public History Program Director, University of Massachusetts- Amherst
- Briann Greenfield, Assistant Professor, Central Connecticut State University
- Julie Richter, Project Manager, Virtual Jamestown
- Mary Logan Rothschild, Professor of History and Interim Director of Women's Studies Arizona State University
- Beverly Schwartzberg, Adult Literacy Coordinator, Santa Barbara Public Library
- Anne Mitchell Whisnant, Mellon Project Manager, "Making the Humanities Central" John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute

## THE AHA TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC HISTORY

BY: LINDA SHOPES

Within our broad mandate, the Task Force was charged with reporting to the Council on five specific matters:

1. The size and nature of the current membership of public historians in the association
2. Whether degree offerings in higher education institutions adequately take into account the role public history can and does play in the nation's cultural life and within the profession
3. What professional needs are voiced by public historians that membership in the AHA could and should address
4. The degree to which professional standards and practices published by the AHA adequately reflect and serve the needs of public historians
5. Ways in which the AHA could cooperate on public history issues and initiatives with public history organizations, particularly the National Council on Public History and the Society for History in the Federal Government.

We addressed each of these matters in turn in our report and structured our recommendations

around them. These recommendations fall into several key areas, including:

- advocacy for greater attention to public history in undergraduate and graduate training; for public history involvements in the evaluation of faculty; and for the importance of hiring trained historians doing historical work
- greater attention to a range of employment issues
- expansion of member services to public historians
- development of professional development opportunities that bring academic and public historians together to mutual advantage
- enhanced advocacy for history at the state level, paralleling the work of the AHA and the National Coalition for History at the national level
- development of ways to enhance public understanding of history, especially through the media
- revision of professional standards and practices to take more deliberate account of public history
- collaborations with public

history organizations to advance a public history agenda within the AHA and within the profession.

Our work over the past 2+ years has been shaped by two key assumptions: First, we understand public history not as a distinct subset or constituency of the historical profession, but in the broader sense of education for and engagement with the public and, as such, a legitimate dimension of the work of all professional historians. Second, we believe that the AHA and the profession need to take deliberate and active steps to value public history and serve public historians. There is admittedly a tension in these two assumptions: on the one hand we embrace the notion that "we are all public historians," on the other, we recognize that public history defines a specific kind of historical practice and that public historians do have specific interests.

Yet, to quote from the report, "we would also suggest that there is an underlying coherence to our understanding of public history and public historians. A broad conception of the public dimension of the

historical profession recasts the place of public historians within the Association and profession, shifting the focus from an estranged or [even] antagonistic relationship between academic and public historians to one that is more balanced, respectful, and dialogic. As the Task Force envisions it, the AHA would become a place where historians with different professional relationships to the primary functions of teaching, research, and public presentation learn to work together as equals."

To inform our report, to hear what others had to say about public history and the interests, needs, and concerns of public historians, the TF conducted two on-line surveys: one of AHA members and one of public historians not necessarily affiliated with the AHA. The responses to this survey were summarized in the September issue of *Perspectives*. Here let me highlight just a few points: Among respondents to the AHA survey, most indicated some level of involvement in public history, ranging from an occasional lecture or consultation to significant and sustained involvement on major oral history

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## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

RMIT University's International Centre for Graphic Technology has great pleasure in inviting you to participate in:

**THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF THE BOOK**  
Beijing, China, 29-31 August 2004. <http://www.Book-Conference.com>

Following the success of our 2003 conference, held in Cairns, Australia, the Book Conference 2004 will provide a forum for participants academics, educators, librarians, researchers and teachers from around the world to discuss the future of the book. It will also provide a window to the past and the future of the book in China.

The conference will include a mix of keynote address, paper, workshop and colloquium sessions, with speakers discussing topics as varied as: the effects of print on demand and ebooks; written text in the context in the new communications environment; the future of the book from a library perspective; computers in education and e-learning; reading, books and the Internet; teaching and learning literacy in school and at home; and trends in the publishing industry.

### CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

**CONSECRATED WOMEN: TOWARDS A HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND**

SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2004

TO BE HELD IN CAMBRIDGE  
in conjunction with  
The Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology

Themes will include:

- Women Religious in the Community: assessing social and pastoral activism
- Authority and Governance
- Writing Biography: challenges, issues and approaches.

#### For more information:

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### THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE HUMANITIES.

Full details of the conference are to be found at <http://www.HumanitiesConference.com>

The conference is to be hosted by the Monash University Centre in Prato (30 minutes by train from Florence, and 15 minutes from the Florence International Airport) and the Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements, in association with the Globalism Institute at RMIT, Melbourne. It is to be held from 20 to 23 July this year. Confirmed speakers include Juliet Mitchell, Professor Psychoanalysis and Gender Studies and Head of Department in Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cambridge and Jack Goody, Fellow of St John's College and Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. Visit the conference website for a listing of other speakers

as they are announced.

Conference papers will be published in print and electronic formats in the peer refereed International Journal of the Humanities. If you are unable to attend the conference, virtual registrations are also available allowing you to submit a paper for publication, as well as providing you with full access to the full text of the electronic edition of the Journal for that year.

### FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT SYMPOSIUM

**Call for Papers: First Woman President Symposium, September 24-25, 2004.** Minnesota State University Moorhead will hold an interdisciplinary conference that unites leaders in politics, media, and academia to explore the history, culture, and future possibilities of electing a female president of the United States of America. This two-day conference will feature special invited guests who are active in national and international politics and media as well as prominent academics in the arts, humanities, and social sciences who have substantially contributed to our knowledge of women in politics. Laura Liswood, Secretary-General of the Council of World Women Leaders at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, is the keynote speaker. Paper proposals are invited in the following categories: the history of women in politics, analysis of party platforms, creation of candidates, missed opportunities, mechanisms and forces of exclusion, international examples of women in politics, media and cultural representations of women in power, the demonization of women in politics, and the role of the "First Lady," among others. The conference organizers especially encourage paper proposals

from all levels of academics in American Studies, Economics, History, Mass Communication and Journalism, Multicultural Studies and Humanities, Political Science, Sociology, Speech Communications, and Women's Studies. If you are interested in presenting a paper or organizing a panel, please submit an abstract of 250 words and a c.v. (including phone, fax, and e-mail addresses) by April 1, 2004 to Dr. Christopher Corley, c/o Dean of Arts and Humanities, 250 Bridges Hall, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Moorhead, MN 56563, ATTN: First Woman President Symposium. For more information, please contact Chris Corley at [corley@mnstate.edu](mailto:corley@mnstate.edu).

### SYMPOSIUM ON NORTH AMERICAN SEXUALITIES/ POST-WORLD WAR II

The Department of History of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst invites you to its **Symposium on North American Sexualities/post-World War II** on April 24, 2004 in Amherst, Massachusetts. Keynote Speaker: Regina Kunzel, Williams College Endnote Speaker: Angus McLaren, University of Victoria, Canada

Focusing on works in progress, this event will provide a forum for junior researchers and graduate students to interact with established scholars in the field. We hope that it will contribute to the formulation of new research questions and facilitate intellectual exchange and collaboration across institutional lines. The symposium is generously funded by the Sexuality Research Fellowship Program of the Social Science Research Council, the University of Massachusetts, and the UMASS Five College Graduate Program and History Fund. Presenters will connect sexual matters to broad historical contexts, including domestic politics and foreign policy; the history of gender, race, and ethnicity; popular beliefs and everyday life; and intellectual and artistic movements. We seek to actively integrate the audience in the discussion of the mate-

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

rial. All papers will therefore circulate in advance, available to registered participants on a password-protected website. Please consult the conference website at <http://www.umass.edu/history/postww2sexualities> for further information and instructions on how to register and receive

your password. We are looking forward to seeing you in Amherst!

### THE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN AND THE CIVIL WAR

The Society for Women and the Civil War proudly presents

The 6th Conference on Women and the Civil War (CWCW), which will be held June 25-27, 2004, in Richmond, Virginia.

For a brochure, contact [womencivilwar@aol.com](mailto:womencivilwar@aol.com) or visit our website at [www.womenandthecivilwar.org/](http://www.womenandthecivilwar.org/)



## PRESERVING WOMEN'S HISTORY, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 3)* cradles, and cook pots instead." But the interpretation available for the public fails to include insights from women's history generated over the last thirty years. The battlefield sites often present the events as if women didn't accompany the soldiers on their travels. The result is that the interpretive framework available for the public merely "perpetuate nineteenth-century separate spheres" ideologies. Huyck called for a "meshing together" of the thirty years of

women's history scholarship with the interpretive framework of the historic sites. She said that this is a perfect time for this collaboration, since many historians are experimenting with artifacts and new kinds of sources in their research. She cited the recent development of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, which three years ago identified 537 potential sites of interest for women's history, and she argued for better training of National Park Service personnel, few of

whom have had any formal education in women's history.

The commentary, offered by the Chief Historian of the National Park Service, Dwight Pitcaithley, provided an interesting description of how far the Park Service has come since the 1970s. Pitcaithley suggested that someone should write a book about the lag time that develops between professional research by historians and the knowledge that preservationists incorporate into their work. In the 1970s, Pitcaithley, stated, the National Park

Service was "sort of a militaristic organization" that was "uncomfortable" with women's history. This was despite the fact that the Park Service had traditionally hired many women guides for its sites. Changes emerged in the 1980s, Pitcaithley argued, and he described several projects completely devoted to women's history which the National Park Service staff is especially proud, including the recent "Rosie the Riveter Park" in Oakland, California.

## THE CCWH EDITORIAL TEAM

The CCWH editorial team bids a fond farewell to Editorial Assistant, Adrienne Renberg, who will be studying in Tokyo, Japan. Renberg was an instrumental part of the newsletter team and will be missed. Heather Baumgardt,

a Purdue University Fine Arts and Women's Studies major, has replaced Renberg. Welcome Heather!



## HELP WOMEN MAKE HISTORY: SUPPORT THE CCWH

- Next time that you receive an honorarium--from reading a book manuscript, giving an invited lecture, or gaining your own royalties--make a donation to the CCWH.
- \$150.00 alone may not buy much these days, but 20 or 30 of us contributing that amount (or more) will add up and help CCWH maintain and expand its activities--like the web page, mentoring, and scholarships.

## CCWH AWARDS LUNCHEON CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

1890. Reese said she was honored by being chosen for the award and was deeply grateful to the donor of the Prelinger award.

Rebecca Nedostup announced that the winner of the CCWH/Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Graduate Student Fellowship is Tiffany A. Thomas-Woodland, a doctoral candidate in History at the University of New Mexico. Thomas-Woodland's project is entitled "Desiring Nation: Prostitution and the Struggle for a Cuban Identity, 1880-1930." Graduate Awards Committee members said that Thomas-Woodland's work is "an imaginative blending of issues related to the history of sexuality and questions of national identity, two areas seldom linked." Nedostup also introduced Dana Simmons, the recipient of the Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Fellowship and a graduate student in the Department of His-

tory at the University of California. According to the committee, Simmon's project, entitled "Minimal Frenchmen: Science and Standards of Living, 1840-1960," was "one of the most impressive dissertation proposals the committee had ever seen, both for its interdisciplinary perspective and the breadth of its chronological coverage." Simmons thanked the Coordinating Council for Women in History for the honor of receiving the fellowship.

Co-president Eileen Boris presented out-going Co-president Janet Afary with a small gift and thanked her for her hard work. Boris also stated that the CCWH labors to make the American Historical Association Meeting a more comfortable place for graduate students via the graduate student drop-in room, the reception, and the luncheon. She announced that this year marks

the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CCWH and encouraged scholars to submit proposals for next year's meeting that analyzes the significance of the CCWH and its efforts over the past 35 years. Finally, Boris introduced the featured speaker, Professor Leila Rupp (University of California, Santa Barbara). Rupp spoke on "Confessions of a 'Journal Girl' or What Editing the *Journal of Women's History* Tells Us About Where We Are Now." Rupp noted that the phrase, "journal girls," referred to the associate editors and managing editors of the journal, described how editing the journal the journal was a non-hierarchical process and endeavor, and indicated the determination of the editorial staff to have fun. She said the place "where we are now" can be defined in several different ways. Her work as editor of the

journal taught her that scholars need to be more reflective about theory. She also said the journal needs to see more work about women outside of the modern era and outside of the field of US history. Although scholars do note differences among women, she encouraged historians to think about intersectionality. Rupp also wondered about what the classic articles of the future would look like, what new methods scholars might develop, and what new conceptual frameworks would be created. Finally, she pushed thinkers to incorporate theoretical insights from other disciplines, to integrate theory as well as empirical evidence, and consider both gender history and women's history.

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Endowed Chair.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill announces the **James Kenan III Distinguished Professorship in Modern European History**. The Department of History seeks the appointment of a historian

of Modern Europe, with an outstanding record of publication and teaching. Preference for a specialization in the 19th or 20th century. The starting date could be as early as January 1, 2005. The reading of files will begin April 1, 2004, and applications will continue

to be received until the position is filled. Letter of application, curriculum vitae, and four letters of support should be sent to: Professor Christopher Browning, Search Committee, Department of History, Campus Box 3195, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,

Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3195. Email address: cbrownin@email.unc.edu. The University of North Carolina is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

Julie Wosk's book *Women and the Machine: Representations From the Spinning Wheel to the Electronic Age* (Johns Hopkins University Press) is now available in paperback. It has over 150 illustrations, many in color, and includes chapters on women and automobiles, bicycles, airplanes, women in wartime, women and sewing machines,

typewriters, computers and more. Wosk is Professor of Art History, English, and Studio Painting at the State University of New York, Maritime College.

Margaret Lowe proudly announces the following publications:

Sakela, Sandra J., Ross, Susan Mallon, and Margaret A. Lowe, *From Megaphones to Microphones: Speeches of American Women, 1920-1960* (Praeger Press, 2003).

Lowe, Margaret, A. *Looking Good: College Women and Body Image, 1875-1930* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003).

## THE AHA TASK FORCE CONTINUED

(Continued from page 7)

projects. Most also think that AHA should increase its involvements in public history and do a better job of serving public historians. Indeed they expressed an overarching need for the profession to recognize, validate, legitimize, and reward the work of public historians and, in general, work to improve relations between public and academic history. Many expressed deep and passionate desire for historians to reach broader audiences with their work. Many also regretted the naïve understanding of history among large segments of the public and the poor quality of what passes as popular/public history and urged action on this front.

Public historians expressed many of these same concerns, interestingly enough, including a lack of support for the value of good history within their own institutions. They identified the overriding institutional challenge facing public history as “funding, funding, funding,” and urged the profession towards greater advocacy for funding especially at the state level. They also stated the need for a revolving door between the academy and the diverse world of public history; and urged the AHA to publish review articles that digest recent scholarship.

Also as part of our information gathering, the AHA staff tabulated the size and nature of the current membership of public historians within the Association.

- Approximately 17% of AHA’s members can be reckoned as public historians. This includes the more than 1,700 members who identify their “principal area of employment” as outside of the academy; and an additional 660 who identify their principle area of employment as w/in the academy, but also note public history employ-

ment, primarily as researcher consultants and independent historians.

- Among those employed primarily outside of the academy, almost a third are self employed; many others are employed in business or industry, the U.S. government, nonprofit organizations, and research centers, libraries and archives.
- Almost half also list an academic position, primarily as graduate student, doctoral candidate, or adjunct.
- They are somewhat less likely than all AHA members to have a PhD and slightly more likely to have an MA as their terminal degree.
- Their research specialization approximates that of all AHA members in many fields. They are, however, considerably overrepresented in legal, military, and public history and the history of science and technology; and considerably underrepresented in the fields of cultural, gender, intellectual, religious, social, and women’s history.
- They have considerably lower incomes than all AHA members.

Let me conclude by highlighting key recommendations among the 51 embedded in our report to the AHA Council.

1. Reopen the discussion of what “counts” in the work of history faculty, with the goal of encouraging history departments to recognize a wide range of scholarly activities in hiring, tenure, and promotion decisions.
2. Change the substance and form of the annual meeting to be more inclusive of public history and public historians
3. Develop a broad advocacy program to encourage employers to hire professionals trained in history to do historical work
4. Initiate conversation with

the History Channel, and perhaps American Heritage, to measure interest in more systematically connecting with historians with particular expertise; and to consider opportunities for collaboration

5. Consult with the media to consider ways of developing more systematic channels of communication between journalists and historians and, more generally, how to encourage better representation of history in the media
6. Revise the Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct to more accurately reflect the circumstances and concerns of public historians.

As originally constituted, the Task Force on Public History was to disband upon submission of its report. Its tenure has been extended by a year, however, to work with AHA staff, divisions, and committees to begin to implement recommendations in the report. The report also identified several possible new initiatives and commended to TF itself the task of considering them further, identifying those that are most viable and can most effectively promote a public history agenda. Among the possibilities are

1. Discussion with AHA’s Teaching Division about possible new initiatives broadly related to teaching public history
2. Creation of a professional development project in collaboration with other history organizations, designed to bring academic and public historians together in ongoing, collegial relationships (analogous to professional development projects that bring K-16 teachers together for long-term collaborative work)
3. Discussions with the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and perhaps with other organizations, about potential collaborations,

which might assess ways historians have worked with communities in the past, consider specific resources historians might offer local communities and look toward the development of joint projects.

4. Consideration of ways to develop resources and networks for advocacy for history at the state level, analogous to what the National Coalition for History does at the national level
5. Consideration of a symposium on “making histories public,” as a means of encouraging dialogue between academic and public historians about the relationship between scholarship and public audiences.

I welcome your comments, reactions, suggestions and questions, and also your thoughts on where the TFPH might most fruitfully direct its attention in the next year and how the AHA might best address the public history agenda we are putting forth. Please feel free to contact me at [lshopes@state.pa.us](mailto:lshopes@state.pa.us).

*Linda Shopes is chair of the AHA Task Force on Public History, and works as a historian and program administrator at the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission*

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