

# The CCWH Newsletter

The Newsletter for the Coordinating Council for Women in History

Volume 40, Issue 2

Fall 2009

## CCWH MEMBERS BURNING UP THE BOOK PRESSES

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This spring, an exciting collaborative effort by several current CCWH members will showcase how creative and innovative uses of sources can shed more light on women's history. *Contesting Archives: Finding Women in the Sources* will be published in hardback and paperback editions by the University of Illinois Press.

The co-editors are **Nupur Chaudhuri** (Texas Southern University), **Sherry Katz** (San Francisco State University), and **Mary Elizabeth Perry** (Occidental College), all members of the CCWH. Nupur and Betsy are also former co-presidents. Nupur contributed an article entitled "Finding an Archive in Krishnobhabini Das's *Englande Bangamohila*." Betsy wrote "Finding Fatima, a Slave Woman of Early Modern Spain," and Sherry's chapter is "Excavating Radical Women in Progressive Era California."

Other CCWH contributors to the volume include **Kathy Sheldon** (Center for the Study of Women, UCLA), **Jo Goodwin** (UNLV), and **Janet Afary** (UC-Santa Barbara). Sheldon provided "Creating an Archive of Working Women's Oral Histories in Beira, Mozambique." Goodwin's article is entitled "Revealing New Narratives of Women in Las Vegas." Afary, who is also a former CCWH co-president, contributed two articles: "A Glimpse into Sexual Practices," and "Women and Gender in Qajar Archives of Iran" which she co-authored with Mansoureh Ettehadieh.

*Contesting Archives* is one of many book projects by CCWH members rolling off the presses this year. The following is a list of some of the recent publishing achievements of our members:

In addition to contributing to *Contesting Archives*, **Janet Afary** recently published *Sexual Politics in Modern Iran* (Cambridge University Press). The book charts the history of

Iran's sexual revolution from the nineteenth century to today. Through her detailed research, Afary paints a picture of a resilient people who are drawing on their rich social and cultural heritage to defy the repression and hardship imposed on them by the current Iranian state as well as its predecessors. This resilience is the foundation of a sexual revolution that is promoting reforms in marriage and family laws, and demanding more egalitarian gender and sexual relations.

A reviewer for *Foreign Policy* has high praise for the work: "Afary does a spectacular job explaining, as well as detailing, sexual attitudes and practices from the 19th to the 21st century. Her account gives an excellent feel for how Iranian society works and that has changed under the impact of modern times."

**Noralee Frankel** (American Historical Association) has published the first biography of the legendary stripper, Gypsy Rose Lee. *Stripping Gypsy, The Life of Gypsy Rose Lee* (Oxford University Press) examines the struggles Lee faced in making a lucrative and unconventional career for herself while maintaining a sense of dignity and social value.

Famous for her strip-tease act and film career, Lee was also an author, political activist, playwright, and artist who exhibited her work in Peggy Guggenheim's gallery.

Frankel examines Lee's many reinventions

*Continued on page 5*



## CCWH NEWS

### Newsletter by Email

Members now have the option of requesting an email copy of their newsletter rather than a paper copy. If you would like to request to receive an email copy of the newsletter, just email [newsletter@theccwh.org](mailto:newsletter@theccwh.org). If you have signed up for an email newsletter, please add [newsletter@theccwh.org](mailto:newsletter@theccwh.org) to your email address book so you won't miss an issue.

**The Coordinating Council for Women in History now advertises job announcements (\$25.00 per ad) on its website.**

**Please send ad copy to [newsletter@theccwh.org](mailto:newsletter@theccwh.org)**

If you have a new book, article, conference presentation, graduation, recent promotion, service, teaching award, or other professional news to share, send it to [newsletter@theccwh.org](mailto:newsletter@theccwh.org).

**SPRING DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2010**

## CCWH MEMBER NEWS

In April, **Nupur Chaudhuri** (Texas Southern University) will present a paper entitled "Childcare in Colonial Bengal, India, as Gleaned from Women's Writings" at the European Social Science History Conference in Ghent, Belgium. Additionally, Chaudhuri has been re-elected for a third term as chair of the Education Outreach and Membership Committee of the National Women's Studies Association. She was also appointed secretary/treasurer for the European History division of the Southern History Association.

**Lisa Fishman** (York College, City University of New York) presented "From Canada to Brazil: A Comparative Analysis of Seventeenth-Century French Missionary Texts" at the annual conference of the French Colonial Historical Society in San Francisco in May, 2009. Fishman was also promoted to Professor of History and elected chair of the Department of History and Philosophy at York College, SUNY.

## OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Organization of American Historians (OAH)** would like to extend an invitation to the Coordinating Council for Women in History and your patrons to submit a session or single paper proposal for the 2011 OAH Annual Meeting, to be held in Houston, TX, March 17-20, 2011.

The theme of the conference is: *Americans Divided and United: Multiple and Shifting Solidarities*. The Committee invites proposals that cover any and all periods within the full chronological sweep of the American past, from pre-Columbian years to the twenty-first century, and the rich thematic diversity that has come to characterize contemporary American history writing and teaching. The program will feature sessions on the ways in which Americans have been separated from and united with one

another in a variety of historical contexts, but the Committee welcomes proposals on topics beyond this year's designated theme.

The call for papers and a link to the proposal system is available on the OAH website at: <http://www.oah.org/meetings/2011/>

**Jeanne Petit** (Hope College) is the new book review editor of the website *Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000*, published by Alexander Street Press. Along with book reviews, this online journal contains document projects, teaching tools, a dictionary of social movements and organizations as well as over 35,000 pages of sources pertaining to women and social movements. If you are interested in writing a book review for a single book or a book review essay, please

contact Dr. Petit at [petit@hope.edu](mailto:petit@hope.edu).

*Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal* is encouraging graduate submissions and subscriptions, particularly from students working in Early Modern/Renaissance studies. This academic publication takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of women and gender during the years 1400-1700. The editors encourage the submission of essays that appeal to readers across disciplinary boundaries. Essays may cover literature, art, history, art history, history of science, music, politics, religion, theater, cultural studies, and any global region. For more information, visit [www.emwjjournal.umd.edu](http://www.emwjjournal.umd.edu).

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We have had a busy summer at the CCWH. Board members approved bylaws for a new prize to be awarded for the best first article published by a CCWH member in a refereed journal. The award is called the "Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Prize" in honor of all of the work that Nupur has done for the organization as well as her mentoring of young scholars. We also have two board members whose tenures end at the January AHA: Julie Gallagher who has served as our membership coordinator, and Katherine Parkin who has been our treasurer. Thanks to both Julie and Katherine for their many contributions. Amy Essington will move from web coordinator to membership coordinator. Many thanks to Amy for the work she has done. These changes mean we are looking for a new web coordinator. Additionally, the CCWH needs members - especially senior members - to serve on prize committees. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact me.

The board has also been finalizing plans for the annual meeting of the American Historical Association which will take place January 7-10 in San Diego. As most of you know, food costs at hotels have increased dramatically in recent years. To make our luncheon affordable to as many members as possible, we are proposing a three tier system for our lunch tickets: \$30.00 for graduate students; \$40.00 for those whose income is below \$40,000 or who simply cannot afford to pay full price; and \$55.00 for those whose income is above \$40,000. If you send me your check before December 15, I can send you your ticket before the AHA but I will need a final count by December 24. Also let me know if you have dietary restrictions. If you can include a stamped self-addressed envelope that will help me as my department is also suffering from major budget cuts and I do not have secretarial help available. Also remember that we will hold our reception on Saturday evening during the conference. Please bring your friends, as the more we drink, the less we pay. If you are interested in volunteering to sit at the CCWH table or collect and distribute lunch tickets, please contact me at Kathleen.Kennedy@wwu.edu.

Below is a schedule of the signature events sponsored by the CCWH. All of our events will take place at the San Diego Marriott. Consult the AHA program for specific room locations. The CCWH is also co-sponsoring several other panels.

Thursday, January 7, 5-7 p.m.

### **Business Meeting**

Friday, January 8, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

### **Roundtable:** *President Obama's Economic Liberalism: Historical Perspectives on Race, Gender, and Economic Policy*

Chair: Julie Gallagher, Penn State University

Participants: Michele Mitchell, New York University; Elizabeth Faue, Wayne State University; Nelson Lichtenstein, University of California Santa Barbara; Felicia Kornbluh, Duke University

Saturday, January 9, 12:15-1:45 p.m.

### **CCWH Luncheon**

Presiding: Carolyn Brown, Rutgers University, co-president CCWH  
Kathleen Berkeley, University of North Carolina-Wilmington, co-president CCWH

Address: "Global Flows of Feminism" by Ellen Dubois, University of California Los Angeles

Saturday, January 9, 7-9 p.m.

### **Reception**

The CCWH is already looking ahead to 125th annual meeting of AHA which will take place in Boston, January 6-9, 2011. Any CCWH members who plan to submit panel proposals for this meeting should get in touch with me if they would like the CCWH as a sponsor. Also, please contact me with ideas for panels that the CCWH might help facilitate.

Have a productive fall and I look forward to meeting you in San Diego at the AHA.

~ Kathleen Kennedy

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR REPORT

Thanks everyone for all your submissions and ideas for the newsletter. You are truly the ones who make this publication happen. Please keep the ideas and information coming. Thanks also for your patience when I importune you for material. The deadline for submissions for the spring newsletter is March 1, 2010. You can send materials to me at newsletter@theccwh.org or art5sv@virginia.edu.

~ Anne Throckmorton

## CO-PRESIDENT CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT: BARBARA RAMUSACK

Barbara Ramusack, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Cincinnati is running for co-president of the CCWH. Ramusack is a notable historian of Asian women, particularly Indian women, and has been instrumental in bringing Asian history into the academy. She and Sharon Sievers co-edited *Women in Asia: Restoring Women to History* (Indiana University Press, 1999) the first published volumes that synthesized the history of Asian women into the broader narrative of the continent. The following is Ramusack's candidate statement:

Because of the significant achievements of past officers and members of the Coordinating Council of Women in History, I am highly honored to be nominated for its co-presidency. My goals for the Council are twofold. While acknowledging that the CCWH and its predecessors have achieved remarkable advances in gender equality over the past four decades, I would work to maintain and improve the situation of women within the historical profession broadly defined. Individual and group mentoring is crucial at all career stages from teaching and mentoring undergraduate and graduate women to become articulate public historians, effective teachers, productive researchers and to enjoy legitimate recognition for their accomplishments. Simultaneously we must strategize on how to help the most vulnerable women, especially those in adjunct and part time positions, to survive and thrive in these difficult economic conditions.

I also want to expand the membership of at least two underrepresented groups within the CCWH—recent MA and Ph.D. graduates and those of us who teach what my Department calls 'The Other.' Beyond the existing AHA sessions to prepare men and women for the interviewing process and encouraging advisers to sponsor an initial year of CCWH membership for one or two students, we might consider some electronic means of developing networks to enable women not only to obtain non-academic and academic positions and subsequently tenure but to avoid being marooned as associate professors. For the second group of historians of 'The Other' I would encourage even more transnational and comparative panels at the AHA, more CCWH members to attend panels focusing on one major area such as South Asia or China, and to support the teaching of the history of 'The Other' at all levels from elementary to graduate school.

~ Barbara Ramusack

## CCWH OFFERING A NEW PRIZE

The CCWH announces the **Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Prize** to be awarded to the best first article published in a refereed journal during the calendar years 2008 or 2009 by a member of the CCWH. The prize comes with a cash award of \$1,000. Please send three copies of your article to Kathleen Kennedy, Department of History, Western Washington University, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98230 by **December 1, 2009**. You may also send questions to [Kathleen.Kennedy@wwu.edu](mailto:Kathleen.Kennedy@wwu.edu).

## CCWH HAS A NEW TREASURER

**Kathleen Banks Nutter** has agreed to serve as CCWH treasurer for a three-year term beginning in 2010. Kathleen earned her Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Her research focuses on American women at work since the late nineteenth century. She is a lecturer in the History Department at the State University of New York Stony Brook and has a manuscript entitled *Women and Chocolate: Production and Consumption in Twentieth-Century America* under review. Welcome aboard Kathleen!

# Don't Forget to VOTE in the CCWH Election!

The Enclosed ballot is due to Kathleen Kennedy by November 21, 2009

## MEMBER PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

faced in making a lucrative and unconventional career for herself while maintaining a sense of dignity and social value. Famous for her strip-tease act and film career, Lee was also an author, political activist, playwright, and artist who exhibited her work in Peggy Guggenheim's gallery.

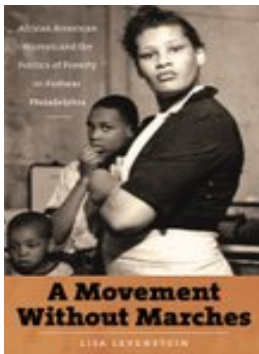
Frankel examines Lee's many reinventions in what History News Network calls "a fine scholarly entertainment biography which should serve as a model for historians." *Stripping Gypsy* removes the hyperbole surrounding the renowned stripper and unveils the struggles of this intelligent and ambitious woman to push the boundaries of gender and class in twentieth-century America."

*The Chronicle of Higher Education, Washington Post, Bust Magazine, Financial Times* (London), and a number of other publications have also favorably reviewed *Stripping Gypsy*.

**Lisa Levenstein** (University of North Carolina Greensboro) published her first book, *A Movement without Marches: African American Women and the Politics of Poverty in Postwar Philadelphia* (UNC Press, 2009).

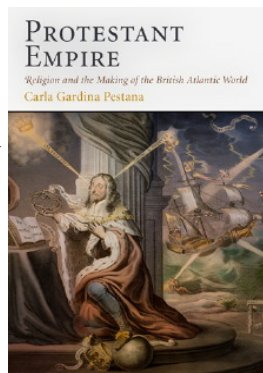
In this book, Levenstein re-frames the highly charged debates over the origins of chronic African American poverty and the social policies and political struggles that led to the postwar urban crisis.

*A Movement without Marches* follows poor black women as they traveled from some of Philadelphia's most impoverished neighborhoods into its welfare offices, courtrooms, public housing, schools, and hospitals, laying claim



to an unprecedented array of government benefits. Levenstein uncovers the constraints that led women to public institutions, emphasizing the importance not only of deindustrialization and racial discrimination but also of women's experience with sex discrimination, inadequate public education, child rearing, domestic violence, and chronic illness.

**Carla Pestana** (Miami University) published *Protestant Empire: Religion and the Making of the British Atlantic World* (Penn Press 2009). She also won a



Guggenheim for work on her next project, on the origins of imperialism in the seventeenth-century Atlantic.

In *Protestant Empire*, Pestana surveys the dramatic clash of peoples and beliefs that emerged in the diverse religious world of the British Atlantic, including England, Scotland, Ireland, parts of North and South America, the Caribbean, and Africa. Beginning with the role religion played in the lives of believers in West Africa, eastern North America, and western Europe around 1500, Pestana shows how the Protestant Reformation helped to fuel colonial expansion as bitter rivalries prompted a fierce competition for souls.

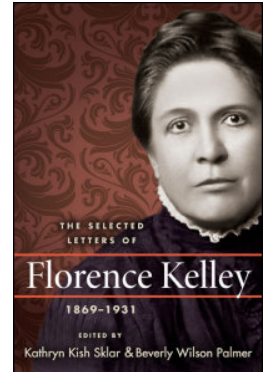
**Kathryn Kish Sklar** (Binghamton University) co-edited with Beverly Palmer *The Selected Letters of Florence Kelly, 1869-1931* (University of Illinois Press, 2009). The book's 270 letters from Florence Kelley highlight the new paths she forged for the creation of social rights in the decades before 1930, and how she and other women reformers laid the foundation for the

New Deal.

As head of the National Consumer's League, Kelley led campaigns that led to the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, as well as laws providing for an eight-hour workday and a minimum wage.

She was a crusader for federal health legislation for women and children, a vocal foe of child labor, and a founding member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The letters' extensive annotations offer useful examples of historical detective work.



**2011 is coming  
faster than you  
think!**

**It's not too soon to  
think about AHA in  
Boston.**

**If you have ideas about  
a session, contact  
Kathleen Kennedy to  
arrange co-sponsorship  
or to connect with  
other interested  
Members.**

**She can be reached at  
Kathleen.Kennedy@wu.edu**

## **BALLOT FOR CCWH CO-PRESIDENT**

**Barbara Ramusack** \_\_\_\_\_

**Write-in** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail by November 21, 2009 to:**

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