

The CCWH Newsletter

The Newsletter for the Coordinating Council for Women in History

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MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT: EILEEN BORIS

As this AHA approaches and I end my term as Co-President (passing into the status of past Co-President), I've been reflecting on the transformations in the Women's History Project and the status of women in the historical profession.

The memory of that most generous champion of social justice, Frances Richardson Keller, informs my thoughts. The AHA will be bleaker without her presence. Frances, who passed away last summer, was committed to mentoring women and other underrepresented groups as scholars as well as members of the AHA. I had the pleasure of serving on the steering committee of this organization with her some twenty years ago and subsequently edited her moving and lyrical essay, "A Graduate Student's Odyssey," in *Voices of Women Historians: The Personal, The Political, The Professional*, from which I gained an insight into her determination, an appreciation of her struggles, and an admiration for her achievement. With her dear friend Barbara (Penny) Kanner, she began the CCWH graduate student prize to create an opportunity for women to gain recognition, and ever practical, a line on their vita. In her gracious manner, Frances always was supportive, whether or not she knew what you were working on. The fact that you were a feminist and committed to the advancement of the larger community was enough. She would come up after a talk and give the encouraging word. Sometimes she appeared to have been from another era, so lady-like, so genteel, so earnest, so real. Steadfastness like Frances's is hard to come by and will be sorely missed. But somehow I see Frances looking down upon us and saying it will be all right.

In some respects, these are indeed the best of times. The third woman in a row is about to take the helm of the AHA—we've had Linda Kerber, a U.S. historian; Barbara Weinstein, a Latin Americanist; and now Gabrielle Spiegel, a European medievalist. *The Journal of Women's History* and other women's history and women's studies journals are meeting today's media age, though the new world of publishing challenges authors as well as editors, publishers as well as professors, journals

as well as books. Indeed, we have sponsored an AHA session on that topic for Sunday morning, an appropriate time for reflection at the end of the annual meeting—after you've had a chance to talk with editors at the book exhibit. And, we continue our collaboration with the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History in co-offering a session on journal publishing of transnational histories. Meanwhile, pundits have all about given the Democratic nomination to Hillary Clinton, even before the first primaries. But just because one is a bio-woman doesn't mean one is a feminist and committed to gender and women's history. And just because you are a woman historian, doesn't mean you aren't concerned with other important issues, like "the war machine," the topic of Marilyn Young's luncheon address.

Old issues persist: how to balance work and family, a concern of men as well as women and partners of all sorts; inequalities between women, in which women of color still have a special place that sometimes is an afterthought in both the writing of history and the hiring of historians; the stereotyping of historians by their embodied identities so that women are by definition women historians; the organization of research grants that makes it difficult for parents to take advantage of them, a topic beautifully and movingly discussed by Barbara Weinstein in her first *Perspectives* column; the inhumanity of the job search and the impact of tightening budgets on hiring; and the struggle for academic freedom and the ever retching up of tenure criteria. Life cycle issues, the tenure clock and the biological clock, repeat themselves. CCWH continues to participate in the AHA session on interviewing in the job market. We continue to tell our stories in all their complexity, as do former recipients of the Prelinger Award at a Thursday afternoon session.

CCWH has stood as one place to raise and address these issues, along with the AHA's own Committee on Women and various other women's history associations. The question remains: will a new generation of historians of women and gender

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CCWH NEWS

Newsletter by Email

For the Spring 2007 issue, members had 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 Amy Essington at newsletter@theccwh.org. If you have signed up for an email newsletter, please add newsletter@theccwh.org to your address book so you won't miss an issue.

Election

In this issue, we are conducting the election for the next co-president. You will find one page of the newsletter is a ballot. Please mark your ballot, seal it, apply postage, and send your vote to Jen Scanlon, postmarked by **November 28, 2007**.

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

You mailing label includes the date your membership expires. Please check your expiration date and send in your membership renewal if your membership has expired.

Deadline for submissions for the Spring 2008 newsletter is March 1, 2008. Send information to Amy Essington at newsletter@theccwh.org

CCWH MEMBER NEWS

Willoughby Anderson received an American Association of University Women American Dissertation Fellowship for July 2007 through July 2008. Also, the California Law Review accepted her Comment, "The Past on Trial: Birmingham, the Bombing and Restorative Justice," for publication.

Eileen Boris (University of California, Santa Barbara) became Chair of the Women's Studies Program. With Vicki Ruiz and S.J. Kleinberg, she has co-edited, *The Practice of U.S. Women's History: Narratives, Intersections, and Dialogues* (Rutgers University Press), a collection of seventeen interpretative essays on the state of the field.

"Krishnobhabini Das's *Englande Bangamohila: An Archive of Early Thoughts on Bengali Women's Nationalism and Feminism*," an article by **Nupur Chaudhuri**, will appear in the *Journal of Women's History* in Spring 2008. She received the National Women's Studies Association Women of Color Caucus Service Award for 2007 for outstanding service in promoting the development of Women of Color scholars and activists.

Carol Gold has completed *Danish Cookbooks: Domesticity and National Identity, 1616-1901*, which was published by the University of Washington Press and Museum Tusulanum Press at the University of Copenhagen, 2007.

This summer, **Amy Essington** made presentations of her research on the integration of the Pacific Coast League, the minor

baseball league in the West, at the North American Society for Sport History Annual Conference (May 2007) and the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA (July 2007). At California State University, Long Beach, she is serving as the lecturer representative on the General Education Governing Committee as well as the Faculty Center for Professional Development Advisory Board.

Nancy Robertson's *Christian Sisterhood, Race Relations, and the YWCA, 1906-46* was published this summer as part of University of Illinois's Women in American History series.

Donna Schuele has joined the faculty at the University of California, Irvine, in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society.

Submit your members news for the next issue. Do you have a new book, article, conference presentation, graduation, recent promotion, service, teaching award, or other professional news to share with the CCWH membership? Send it to Amy Essington at newsletter@theccwh.org for publication in the next newsletter.

AWARDS AND PRIZES ANNOUNCEMENTS

The editors of Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000 are now inviting submissions for the first annual prize for the best scholarly use of primary source materials archived on the award-winning website.

We invite work that draws on one of the following three sets of sources: (1) Proceedings of Women's Rights Conventions, 1848-1869;

(2) Published sources related to the woman suffrage movement, 1830-1930, including the six-volume History of Woman Suffrage, 1848-1922; (3) Minutes of the annual national conventions of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, 1874-1898.

Submissions should take one of the following three forms: (1) a scholarly article of not more than 10,000 words, (2) a biblio-

graphic essay illuminating the sources, or (3) a document project. The winning entry will be selected by a prize committee consisting of scholars, archivists, and librarians, and will be published on the Women and Social Movements website.

Faculty are invited to encourage their students to consider making a submission.

DEADLINE: 1 April 2008.

PRIZE: \$500 and publication

on the Women and Social Movements website.

The winner will be announced at the 2008 Berkshire conference.

For more information, please go to <http://womhist.alexanderstreet.com>

or send email to kksklar@binghamton.edu.

EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Asian American and/or Asian Diaspora Studies

State University of New York at Buffalo, Department of American Studies is seeking to hire a tenure-track Assistant Professor, starting August 2008. Area of Specialization: Asian American and/or Asian Diaspora Studies with a focus on the Americas.

We require a scholar committed to interdisciplinary research and teaching with an emphasis on one or more of the following areas: cultural studies, history, law and social policy, urban studies, immigration and labor studies, critical race theory, and/or gender studies. A strong commitment to both research and teaching is required. Faculty members are expected to teach graduate seminars and mentor graduate students as well as undergraduates. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience and credentials. Applicants must have a Ph.D. conferred by August 2008. Deadline for applications: 10/29/2007

Nineteenth-century U.S. The Department of History at the University of New Mexico invites applicants for an Assistant Professorship in nineteenth-century US History. Minimum requirements include: completion of the PhD in History by

August 2008; teaching and research expertise in Antebellum and Civil War eras; ability to teach upper-division courses and both halves of the U.S.; ability to mentor both undergraduate and graduate students at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels Related expertise is preferred in any of the following concentrations: American slavery, race relations, political history, and Old South. This position is probationary leading to a tenure decision. Send signed letter of application, curriculum vitae, transcripts, a chapter-length writing sample, and three letters of recommendation to: Chair of Search Committee, Department of History, MSC06 3760, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001. The application deadline is October 22, 2007. The University of New Mexico is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Russia. The Department of History at the University of New Mexico invites applicants for an Assistant Professorship in Russian history. Minimum requirements include: completion of PhD in History by August 2008; ability to teach an undergraduate survey in Western Civilization and upper-division courses that include the whole range of Russian history; ability to men-

tor both undergraduate and graduate students at the MA and PhD levels; a research agenda with a focus on political, social, economic, or cultural History, in any time period. A sub-field in Central Asia is preferred. This position is probationary leading to a tenure decision. Send signed letter of application, curriculum vitae, transcripts, a chapter-length writing sample, and three letters of recommendation to: Chair of Russia Search Committee, Department of History, MSC06 3760, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001. The application deadline is Friday, November 2, 2007. The University of New Mexico is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

U.S. History Since WWII. The history department at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater seeks a tenure-track assistant professor to teach introductory and upper-level courses in U.S. History Since WWII. Specialization open with a preference for candidates qualified to teach courses on the U.S. and the World. Secondary field(s) should complement existing faculty expertise. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the general education course in 20th century world history and to the second half of

the U.S. History survey. Preference will be given to candidates who have completed the requirements for the Ph.D. by August 2008. Advanced ABD candidates will be considered. Starting date is August 25, 2008. Salary is dependent upon academic preparation and teaching experience. A complete credential packet consists of a letter of application, statement of teaching philosophy, vita, three letters of recommendation, and copies of official graduate transcripts. To ensure full consideration, completed applications must be received by December 7, 2007. The committee hopes to conduct preliminary interviews at the AHA convention. Position is open until filled. Contact Nikki Mandell, Chair, U.S. History Search Committee, Department of History, White Hall, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 800 W. Main Street, Whitewater, WI 53190-1790. (262) 472-1103. Fax (262) 472-5238. Email: mandelln@uww.edu. UWW is an AA/EOE, and actively seeks applications from women, people of color, persons with disabilities, and all veterans.

THE CCWH AT THE AHA

Thursday, January 3

3:00-5:00 p.m. Marriott, Taft Room
Session 1. Sponsored by the CCWH
"Non-traditional Stories: Women in the
Historical Profession—Roundtable"
Chair: Jennifer Scanlon, Bowdoin College
Panel:

Lisa DiCaprio, Boston College
Linda Rupert, University of North Carolina
at Greensboro
Kathleen Sheldon, University of California
at Los Angeles
Rickie Solinger, Independent Scholar
Pamela Stewart, Arizona State University

5:30- 7:30 p.m. Marriott, Coolidge Room
Board Meeting
All members are welcome to attend the
board meeting.

Friday, January 4

9:30-11:30 a.m. Omni, Blue Room.
Session 2. Joint session with the AHA Pro-
fessional Division and the AHA Commit-
tee for Graduate Students.
"Interviewing in the Job Market in the
Twenty-First Century"

9:30-11:30 a.m. Omni, Diplomat Ballroom.
Session 3. Joint session with the AHA and
the Committee on Lesbian and Gay His-
tory
"Transnationalizing Histories of Women,
Gender and Sexuality: The View from the
Journals —Roundtable"
Chair: Antoinette Burton, University of
Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Participants:
Jean Allman, *Journal of Women's History*
Michele Mitchell, *Gender and History*
Victoria Rosner, *Women's Studies Quarterly*
Claire Moses, *Feminist Studies*
Mark Kuefler, *Journal of the History of Sexu-
ality*
Comment: Audience

5:30-7:30 p.m. Marriott, Harding Room
CCWH Reception
The CCWH will remember and recognize
former CCWH President Frances Richard-
son Keller, who passed away in June 2007.
Please come at 6pm for the organizational
remembrance.

Saturday, January 5

9:00-11:00 a.m. Hilton, Monroe West.
Session 4. Joint session with the AHA
"Global Perspectives on Women's Domes-
tic Employment"
Chair: Marc Stern, York University
Swapna M. Banerjee, Brooklyn College of
CUNY
"A Life Less Ordinary and Uneven: Devel-
opments in the Life of Women Domestic
in India"
Premilla Nadasen, Queens College of
CUNY
"African-American Domestic Workers and
Popular Mobilization in the Post-War
United States"
Nara Milanich, Barnard College
"Criaditos: Child Domestic Servants in
Latin America "
Liz Hutchison, University of New Mexico
"Shifting Solidarities: The Politics of Do-
mestic Service Workers in Chile, 1960-
1990"
Comment: Eileen Boris, University of Cali-
fornia, Santa Barbara

12:15-1:45 p.m. Marriott, Harding.
CCWH Luncheon
Presiding: Eileen Boris, University of Cali-
fornia at Santa Barbara and co-president,
CCWH
Carolyn Brown, Rutgers University-New
Brunswick and co-president, CCWH
Address: "The War Machine,"
Marilyn Young, New York University

Award Presentations:
CCWH/Berkshire Conference of Women
Historians Graduate Student Fellowship
Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Fellowship
Catherine Prelinger Scholarship

Luncheon tickets (\$35) should be purchased
from Jennifer Scanlon, Women's Studies,
Bowdoin College, 7100 College Station,
Brunswick, ME 04011 no later than De-
cember 24, 2007. Make checks payable to
CCWH. A small number of tickets will be
available on site.

2:30-4:30 p.m. Marriott, Roosevelt Room.
Session 5. Sponsored by the CCWH
"Uneven Developments in American Femi-
nism"
Chair: Stephanie Gilmore, Trinity College
Papers:
Melissa Estes Blair, University of Virginia
The YWCA and the Promise of Southern
Interracial Feminism
Katarina Keane, University of Maryland,
College Park
Southern Belles and the Second Wave
Marjorie J. Spruill, University of South
Carolina
Armageddon in Mississippi: Feminists,
Antifeminists, and the Mississippi Interna-
tional Women's Year Conference of 1977
Comment: Stephanie Gilmore

Sunday, January 6

8:30-10:30 a.m. Marriott, Washington
Room 1.
Session 6. Joint session with the AHA Re-
search Division.
New World of Publishing: Intellectual
Property, Journals, and the Web
Chair: Eileen Boris, UCSB
Participants:
Joan Captapano, University of Illinois
Press
Alice Kessler-Harris, Columbia University
and AHA Council
David A. Johnson, Pacific Historical Re-
view
Stanley Katz, Princeton University

Next AHA Annual Meeting:

January 3-6, 2008

Washington, DC

THE WOMEN IN WORLD HISTORY WEBSITE - COMMENTS BY ITS AUTHOR, LYN REESE

I am an independent history scholar, a product of three 1970/80s Women's Education Equity Act grants and of curriculum development projects for various school districts. One project made me aware of the glaring lack of women's history materials for world history and global studies courses, in spite of the growing availability of exciting work by women's history scholars. So, in the early 1990s I began to create my own curriculum units for the middle to high school level student. Through alliances formed with social studies organizations, and the teacher workshops I gave, I learned to align my work to whatever themes and skills were being educationally touted. An awareness of the reality of what one needs to do to ensure the accessibility of women's history is important. I believe that working within this reality has helped my materials find their global history niche.

As a way to reach a larger audience, in 1996 I launched my Women in World History Curriculum website- www.womeninworldhistory.com. It has seven categories: classroom lessons, biographies, essays, resource reviews, list of links, question and answers, and an online store which describes my sixteen curriculum units and offers sample activities from each. So far this year, the biographies section has received the most site visitor "hits." One would like to think that by 2007

women's history has moved beyond the great woman approach, but there on my top hit chart sits Eleanor of Aquitaine, with Empress Wu Zetian following not far down the popularity scale. My biographies are limited to "heroes" who have helped define the age in which they lived, to women who achieved the right to rule in their own name, and to Nobel Peace Prize winners. The women rulers list asks site visitors to nominate and give some information about names that were not included (fifty-four have). The peace prize biographies have additional information on past personalities or movements which offer insights into similar approaches to the issues addressed by each winner.

In my mind, the classroom lessons category is my most useful web offering. Of the fifteen offered, the document based lesson called "Plight of Women's Work in the Early Industrial Revolution in England and Wales" is sought the most, followed by "Ancient Tablets, Ancient Graves: Women's Lives in Mesopotamia Through Documents." Of interest is that both lessons have students analyze a collection of primary sources, an approach which I also use in most of my curriculum units. My essay category offers ten thematic pieces on diverse topics from different times and places. These allow me to address timely topics, or

expound on ideas stimulated by projects I am working on. The top hit here is "Historical perspectives on Islamic Dress"; a more recent one I called "Gender Difference in History - Women in China and Japan" comes in second.

My reviews section looks at books, curriculum, and, most recently, historical mysteries. Since I found it impossible to keep up with the growing field of women's history books, I limited my book reviews to works of general history, overviews, or surveys. Examples here are the "Women's History in Global Perspective" series by edited by Bonnie Smith, or "Women Imagine Change: A Global Anthology of Women's Resistance from 600 B.C.E. to Present," edited by Eugenia Delamotte, Natania Meeker, Jean O'Barr. My curriculum reviews remain slight given the continuing dearth of world history lessons for the precollegiate classroom. Any advance I've seen remains within more general curriculum where information on women is integrated into the text. My reviews of historical mysteries featuring female sleuths, I do for fun. Believing in the phrase "history is a story well told," I think well written mysteries offer an engaging way to learn things about the past through the eyes of active, inquisitive female characters. I give high marks to those that provide a good sense of the period while honoring

women's experiences in it.

The most problematic part of my site is my list of links. Keeping up with new internet information is difficult, and unless I happen upon an appropriate site, I no longer purposely search for new ones. I do feel, however, that the annotated list I offer is substantial and solid. In addition to links to sites addressing certain periods, I have a category for those that feature broad historical eras and thematic topics, and another for those dedicated to contemporary international women's issues.

The strength of having my independently owned website is that I can add or change information where and whenever I want. It is important to me, too, to offer a site where everything on it may be downloaded for free. My incentive to continue is the satisfaction of reaching a relatively large audience (about 60,000 site visitors per month), and the positive responses I get from teachers, students, parents, and the lay public. A number live outside the United States. There is also a significant response from homeschoolers, mainly parents and teachers, who often rely on the internet for their lessons. Despite all odds, then, the desire to receive information about women's past experiences seems alive and well, as is my satisfaction in being able to promote and provide some of it.

If you have a comment on any content of the newsletter or books, historical films, or historical website to review or suggestions for articles, contact Amy Essington at newsletter@theccwh.org.

FRANCES RICHARDSON KELLER 1914-2007



On June 25, 2007, Frances Richardson Keller died of a stroke in Cleveland, Ohio. Frances was on her way to New York to inter the ashes of her beloved husband, Bill Rhetta, who died in December 2006, and the ashes of her sister and brother-in-law.

On September 29, 2007, Frances' family, friends and colleagues remembered the mother, grandmother, historian, and organizational builder in Oakland, California. At that service Nupur Chaudhuri spoke about Frances and her work with organizations for women historians. Nupur and Frances were friends and colleagues for thirty-two years. Excerpts of her talk appear below.

After beginning her graduate career in her forties at the University of Chicago, Frances joined the Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH) and the CCWH. She was president of WAWH (1981-1983) and co-president of the CCWH (1986-1988). Her kindness, energy, and unwavering determination in support of women historians will be missed.

In her autobiographical essay "A Graduate Student's Odyssey," published in *Voices of Women Historians: The Personal, The Political, The Professional*, Frances wrote that when she started in the 1960s as a Ph.D. student, "women's history, black history and ethnic history were realms in the future." By the time she died, all of these fields had been strongly established in our academia. Frances' scholarship, her activities, and her teaching have contributed to this growth. In that collection of essays, Eileen Boris and I claimed about Frances and her cohorts as makers of history, both as individual subjects and as professional generation." One thing we failed to mention that many of these women especially Frances, were also institution builders. Today, I am going to talk about Frances Richardson Keller, a maker of history and an institution builder.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, like many of her generations, Frances also experienced political activism—student, civil rights, and women's movements. Her experiences inside and outside the classroom impacted her entire professional life. Two main themes have emerged in all of her writings: gender and race. Perhaps her experiences as a student in the University of Chicago as well as the outside world motivated her to write her dissertation on Charles Waddell Chesnut. Chesnut was an African American novelist and politician who insisted on his African American heritage even though he could

have passed for white—a person who, like herself, tried to build a new course for the marginalized people. Frances published extensively. Her books include: *An American Crusade: The Life of Charles Waddell Chestnut* (Brigham Young University, 1978), *Women in Western Tradition: Viewing Our Heritage* (Edwin Mellen, 1989), *Fictions of U.S. History: A Theory and Four Illustrations* (Indiana University Press, 2002). Last year her translation of Anna Julia Cooper's *Slavery and the French Revolution* was republished by Rowman and Little. In all of her works Frances tried to recover "truth" and bring the marginalized to the center.

Analysis of her professional life and actions shed further light about the professional life of female historians from 1960s to late 1980s. Women historians hardly had any cohorts in their own institutions and rarely had any female faculty teaching them. They were isolated and without any mentors. Because of budget cuts in the 1970s, many women historians worked as adjunct faculty. Frances met the same fate. She taught as an adjunct faculty throughout her life.

In the early 1970s, she joined West Coast Association of Women Historians, which is currently Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH). Here she found other women historians like Barbara Penny Kanner with

whom she established life-long friendship. Frances understood the potential of an organization of women historians to promote the interests of women historians. Among all the organizations she was involved with, WAWH was her first love. Frances always wanted to publish the achievements of the WAWH, especially the annual meetings. Once she invited a male speaker, a well-known Japanese historian for Saturday luncheon during the annual conference. His speech offended most of us because of the non-feminist topic. I told Frances that most of the feminists, including me, were extremely offended. Her response to my complaint was feminists including you will forgive me when we get Natalie Zemon Davis elected as the President of the American Historical Association. I did not understand what she meant. Then she clarified her statement that she had invited this historian with the understanding that he would second the motion when she nominated Natalie's name. Natalie was elected president of the AHA. She taught me how to negotiate to get things done.

But more importantly, Frances wanted to help and mentor younger generation of women historians by spearheading dissertation prize for the WAWH. She knew that women historians hardly received any mentoring. She believed that women historians as individuals and as members of organizations should

nurture and mentor their junior colleagues and graduate students. Hence she took upon herself to mentor her junior colleagues. Her home was open to women historians, whether they were living in the Bay Area or coming to a Conference like the AHA or WAWH. In 2009, WAWH will be 40 years old and the large part of its success was due to Frances Richardson Keller.

Her second love was Coordinating Committee of Women Historians in the profession and Conference Group of Women Historians (CCWHP-CGWH). She served a three-year term as the co-president of this organization. In this organization also, she was one of the initiators for the fundraising for the dissertation prize. As the co-president of the CCWHP/CGWH she wrote numerous letters to various Congress men and women to restore the funds for the NEH and or NHPRC. She lobbied to increase funds for the NHPRC because many of her junior colleagues worked in various archives and museums. During Bork hearing, Frances and her co-president composed a letter and sent 800 members urging them to call their senators against confirming Bork. Frances saw CCWHP-CGWH "as an organization, we represent the very center of a national and now an international, effort to nurture and to explore a broader comprehension of our origins as they contribute to the development of our future."

—Nupur Chaudhuri

REMEMBERING FRANCES RICHARDSON KELLER

My main remembrance of Frances is her taking me aside when I was nominated for the AHA Teaching Division. I did not know her and, as a high school teacher, was then far removed from professional politics. But Frances told me that I was nominated for a reason and that "they" (meaning historians of women's history) expected me to do my duty. Her views changed the way I went into that first meeting of the Teaching Division--not just showing up in the midst of noted historians, but with an agenda in hand.

--Marjorie Bingham
St. Louis Park High School, Minnesota, Retired



In the later 1970's, I volunteered to be the graduate student coordinator of CCWHP (now CCWH). One of my joys in that position was meeting Frances. Always gracious and good-humored, Frances found time for me to discuss my research on Black women. She treated me as an equal even though I was a graduate student. Our last conversation was about our work on biography. I will miss her very much.

--Noralee Frankel
American Historical Association
Assistant Director, Women, Minorities, and Teaching

In the 1980s, annual meeting of the AHA was held in New York City. The main convention hotel was going through a major renovation. During those days, CCWHP board members used to arrive on Thursdays. They would meet for dinner and they would attend the evening sessions. Frances came with her husband Bill Rhetta. I shared room with Mollie Davis.

In the evening, Mollie Davis, Frances Richardson Keller, Penny Kanner, few others, and I went to dinner and then attended the evening session. After that, we met in the bar. We all went to our room around midnight. About 12:30 or 12:45am Frances called me and told me she had misplaced Bill. I asked her what she meant by misplacing Bill. Well, she opened the door of her room, there was another guy sleeping on the bed, and he woke up extremely surprised to find Frances in the room. Frances told him that she has made a mistake and he should go back to sleep. It took the hotel another 30 minutes to find Bill. What happened in their original room, the television was not working so the hotel gave a different room to Bill. Since Frances did not check with main desk, she did not know. When she went back to the hotel desk, the shift changed and the staff did not know anything about it.

--Nupur Chaudhuri, Texas Southern University



Frances and Bill Rhetta

CCWH ELECTION

In this issue, we are conducting the election for the next co-president. You will find one page of the newsletter is a ballot. Please send your vote to Jen Scanlon, postmarked by **November 28, 2007**.

CCWH CO-PRESIDENT CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT KATHLEEN C. BERKELEY

Worried about appearing unoriginal, I briefly considered changing my opening after following Jen Scanlon's helpful suggestion to review the statements of previous candidates for CCWH board positions before submitting mine. In the end, however trite this opening may sound I am as honored to be nominated for the position of Co-President of the Coordinating Council for Women in History as those who have come before me.

Although it has been over twenty years since I was a dues-paying member of the CCWH, the career I have built in the academy reflects the mission, goals, and accomplishments of the CCWH (while my lapsed membership is somewhat of an embarrassment, I promise that my renewal check is in the mail). My mentors in graduate school (UCLA) were Kathryn Kish Sklar and the late Armstead Robinson. In following their lead, my early scholarship, which included two award-winning articles, explored the formulation of race, class, ethnic, and gender identities and tensions as reflected in the transition of Memphis, Tennessee from an antebellum town to a New South city (1860-1880). After a one-year stint teaching at UC San Diego, I took a tenure track position at UNC Wilmington, which has remained my academic home for twenty-six years.

The year of my hire, 1981, marked a watershed moment for what had been a traditional southern regional public institution. Across the College of Arts and Sciences, departments were busy hiring young, newly minted women Ph.D.'s. The vast majority of us were, and still are, feminists and we hailed from every region of the U.S, except for the

South. With less than 4,000 students and maybe a couple of hundred faculty members (the majority of whom were southern white men) we had no difficulty finding one another. Drawn together by our commonalities (most of us worked in departments that had at most one other woman faculty member; most of us had young children or wanted to start a family, and all of us worried about how to balance work and family life), and our feminist politics, we developed a support network, a feminist study group, and a feminist book club. Under the mantle of faculty governance, we petitioned the chancellor to create an Ad Hoc Committee on the Status of Women, which I co-chaired for a number of years; from that perch we set out to transform the university and to a significant degree, we succeeded. The first Women's History Week Celebration took place in 1982; by the late 80s, the celebration had expanded to a month and is still going strong. The steering committee, which I either chaired or served on for almost twenty years, introduced our students and our community to a wide-range of female activists and luminaries (including U.S. Representative Patricia Schroeder, *Boston Globe* columnist Ellen Goodman, historian and civil rights activist Mary Frances Berry, actress Linda Lavin, writers Paule Marshall, Maya Angelou, and Bebe Moore Campbell, and educator Johnnetta Cole). Prior to our arrival at UNCW, only a smattering of courses existed which focused primarily on women's experiences. We changed that

too, by developing courses for our majors and for the Basic Studies curriculum. Our next step was to petition for the creation of a minor in Women's Studies and after that, the establishment of a Women's Resource Center. A founding mother of both entities, I took my turn as coordinator of the minor and have twice served as interim director of the WRC.

During the same years in which I worked collaboratively with my friends and colleagues to transform UNCW, I also joined two regional professional history associations, the Southern Association for Women Historians (SAWH) and the Southern Historical Association (SHA). Between the mid 1980s and mid 1990s I served both organizations in a number of different capacities (as a member of the Committee on the Status of women in the SHA, as a member of the SAWH program committee responsible for the first Southern Conference in Women's History, and as vice-president and then president of the SAWH). The issues I worked on with the SAWH dovetailed nicely with my activism at my home institution: encouraging the study of women through teaching and scholarship, increasing the visibility of scholars already working in the field, and promoting and improving the status of women in the profession.

My feminist politics and activism redirected my scholarly interests from nineteenth century southern women (white, black, and immigrant) to twentieth century feminism. Invited to write a book on the women's liberation movement for a series on the twentieth century pub-

lished by Greenwood Press, I completed this project in 1999 (the book won a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title for 2001) as my career path at UNCW was about to take another twist. Elected by the History faculty to serve as department chair, I became the first woman chair of the department and one of five women chairs in the College of Arts and Sciences (with 26 departments and programs). In addition to the usual "chair" duties, I spearheaded a number of initiatives designed to improve the quality of academic life for students and faculty and am most proud of the creation of a residential Learning Communities program (now in its fifth year) for first-year students, and a restructured university-wide Re-appointment, Tenure, and Promotion governing document that guarantees a fair, open, and transparent process for faculty.

Four years ago, the provost asked me to step out of the department chair's office to accept the position of director of a new center that would develop policies and programs which foster academic leadership. With no blueprint in hand and only a few guiding principles to fall back upon, I have spent the better part of three years creating the Center for Faculty Leadership and Development (www.uncw.edu/cfl/). The center has become a springboard for promoting diversity and inclusion in the hiring and retention of faculty, developing a faculty mentoring program, and formulating and implementing "career flexibility" policies and resources designed to help faculty achieve a balance between work and family life.

Although we like to think of

(Continued on page 12)

CONFERENCE REPORT: WOMEN, GENDER, AND THE CULTURAL PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI", SOFIA, BULGARIA 8-12 AUGUST 2007

KAREN OFFEN

The International Federation for Research in Women's History / Fédération Internationale pour la Recherche en Histoire des Femmes held its 2007 conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, 8-12 August 2007. Organized by IFRWH/FIRHF president Professor Krassimira Daskalova and held at Sofia University under the auspices of the First Lady, Dr. Prof. Zorka Parvanova, the conference focused on the theme "Women, Gender, and the Cultural Production of Knowledge." Pleasant weather, the wonderful, green surroundings, and the stellar historic buildings of Sofia, assured us of an excellent week.

The conference attracted nearly 200 attendees, both women and men, with participants from over 45 countries throughout the world, including Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Colombia, Bangladesh, India, Portugal, Austria, France, Belgium, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Sweden, Iceland, Russia, Canada, UK (including Northern Ireland, and the USA), and Tajikistan. A number of participants and attendees came from countries in the region, not only Bulgaria, but also Romania, Ukraine, Greece, and Turkey.

Following greetings from University authorities, the opening session featured a panel presentation dedicated to the twentieth anniversary of IFRWH. Prof. emerita Ida Blom (University of Bergen) the first president of the organization spoke from a video about the early years. Her presentation was followed by Dr. Karen Offen (Stanford University) a co-organizer and first secretary-treasurer of IFRWH, who spoke about the prehistory of IFRWH,

beginning in 1975 through the Bellagio conference in 1989 and the first publications, and Prof. Mary O'Dowd (Queen's University, Belfast), who reflected on developments during her presidency from 2000 to 2005.

Invited plenary speakers included Prof. Mineke Schipper (University of Leiden) who discussed her findings about women in proverbs worldwide, Dr. Karen Offen (Stanford University), who spoke about the development of IFRWH in the context of earlier international women's organizing efforts, and Prof. Mihaela Miroiu (National School for Political Science, Bucharest, Romania) whose topic was "Priceless Women, a Timeless Story."

Several themes ran through the conference. 1) "Women, Orality, and Memory" (2 sessions); 2) "Women in Traditional Societies" (2 sessions); 3) "Writing Gendered Histories" (2 sessions); 4) "Cultural Significations: Women Represented" (2 sessions); 5) "Women's Movements and Feminisms" (3 sessions); 6) "Cultural Production: Women Writers" (2 sessions); 7) "Women in Professions," (2 sessions); and 8) "Masculinities and Femininities throughout Time and Space" (2 sessions). Other sessions examined topics such as "Gender in Books, Art and Music," "Museum and Performativity of History," and "Women in Art" as images and agents.

Four sessions focused on the theme of "Gender Equity in Secondary and Higher/ University Education in Central and Eastern Europe and the Situation of Women in Academia," with the cooperation of university women's organiza-

tions in South-Eastern Europe. The first session included presentation of a short documentary film, "The Mind Has No Sex," directed by Marian Tjaden.

A session devoted to five papers discussing the "Reception of John Stuart Mill's Ideas in South Eastern Europe and Scandinavia" drew a very large crowd on the final day of a most stimulating conference. Five paper-givers astutely examined the impact of Mill's ideas on liberalism and especially his work on "The Subjection of Women" (1869) in Romania, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Finland.

Historical films (as well as power-point presentations) added a welcome visual element to the program. Two Israeli colleagues presented a moving film on the life of Irma Lindheim (an affluent New Yorker who immigrated to Israel and settled on a kibbutz), and Elena Panayotova presented her documentary about Zheni [Jenny] Bozhilova-Pateva, an activist in the early twentieth century Bulgarian women's movement. Participants also viewed the American HBO film, "Iron-Jawed Angels (directed by Katja von Garnier, winner Golden Globe Award, 2005)" about Alice Paul and the final dramatic thrust during World War I for a federal constitutional amendment to ensure women's vote in the United States. Participants also celebrated the launch of the Bulgarian translation of Scott Macfie's book, *With Gypsies in Bulgaria*, published by the Sofia University Press.

The organizers planned two social evenings, with trips to the National Historical Museum and a viewing of the extraordi-

nary Thracian treasures, followed by a lovely reception next door at the Boyana Government Residence (the former Bulgarian Communist Party retreat and conference center) at the foot of the impressive and densely forested mountains south of Sofia. On the final evening, a second trip took all of us to the celebrated "Vodenitsata," a restaurant and folkloric center on the mountain, where participants at first watched and then took part in Bulgarian folk dancing, followed by a chance to step outside to view the amazing "fire dance," where a woman walks on hot coals with bare feet. In addition to a superbly stimulating intellectual experience, many women's and gender historians made new friends from all over the world at this conference.

The complete conference program, abstracts of papers, photos from the conference, and further information about IFRWH can be consulted on the organization's websites www.ifrwh-bulgaria2007.org and www.ifrwh.com.

The next conference of the International Federation will be held in Amsterdam in 2010, in conjunction with the International Congress on the Historical Sciences. IFRWH/FIRHF is an affiliated external organization of the ICHS/CISH, with voting rights and opportunity to influence the bigger ICHS program. Chairing the IFRWH program committee for 2010 will be Francisca de Haan (Central European University, Budapest). The call for papers will be forthcoming in 2008. For further information, please contact: dehaanf@ceu.hu

2007 CATHERNE PRELINGER AWARD WINNER: ANN MARIE WILSON

The Coordinating Council for Women in History is pleased to announce that Ann Marie Wilson has been awarded the tenth annual CCWH-Prelinger Scholarship Award of \$20,000. Ms. Wilson is a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University and will use the Prelinger Award to complete her dissertation on, "Taking Liberties Abroad: Americans and International Humanitarianism, 1880-1920."

Ms. Wilson's project is "an investigation into the origins of modern American human rights activism." She is looking at how "traditions, tropes and memories of mid-nineteenth century Christian missionary and anti-slavery movements" shaped a civil rights movement in the 1920's and the role played by humanitarian activists, especially women, in shaping American foreign policy. She will be concentrating on three specific "causes"—the massacres of Armenians in Turkey, the Siberian exile system in Russia, and slave labor policies in the Congo Free State. Wilson's work highlights women, both in terms of the American women activists and of the foreign women who were the focus of American humanitarian activities. The Award Committee was particularly impressed by Wilson's interest in understanding trans-Atlantic networks and in putting American history into a larger trans-Atlantic framework.

Ms. Wilson started graduate school at the age of thirty. After completing her B.A. in 1994, she spent several years in San Francisco working freelance jobs in the technology industry, alternating with teaching English, citizenship and history to recent immigrants. Active in the women's movement, she helped organize a Student Forum on Gender and Sexuality at San Francisco State University, where she was a part-time student, co-edited the History Department's graduate student journal, and served on the program committee for the Western Association of Women Historians in 2003. At Harvard, she also worked as co-coordinator of the Gender History Workshop. During this time, she has also been struggling to overcome health problems. The Prelinger Award Committee was impressed with Ms. Wilson's activism and believes she is a good example of the non-traditional academic career path which the award was established to honor.

2008 CCWH AWARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Prelinger Committee

Nupur Chaudhuri, Chair, (Texas Southern University)
Cindy Little (Atwater Kent Museum)
Francesca Miller (University of California, Davis)
Lynn Weiner (Roosevelt University)
Susan Wladaver-Morgan (Pacific Historical Review)

2007-2008 Awards Committee

Whitney Leeson, Chair, (Roanoke College)
Kolleen Guy (University of Texas at San Antonio)
Ann Le Bar (Eastern Washington University)
Rosa Maria Pegueros (University of Rhode Island)
Janice M. Saunders (Roanoke College)
Hilda Smith (University of Cincinnati)
Rachel Sturman (Bowdoin College)

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New graduate student representative, **Julie Holcomb**, is also new this year. She describes herself as a non-traditional student, having returned to school in her thirties. She earned her BA in history and creative writing from Pacific University in 1999. She received her master of library and information science with an archives and visual collections emphasis in 2000. She is currently a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Texas at Arlington. In spring 2009, she is planning on defending her dissertation which examines how ideas, strategies, and relationships, developed and implemented by British and American women in the free produce/abstention movement, influenced the transatlantic antislavery movement. She is also the director of the Pearce Civil War and Western Art Museums at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas, and an adjunct history instructor.

The new chair of the Graduate Award Committee is Whitney Leeson. She is an Assistant Professor of History and Anthropology at Roanoke College. She holds a doctorate in Historical Anthropology from the University of Virginia. Dr. Leeson teaches courses in historical anthropology and archaeology with particular focus on New World contact, the history of witchcraft, the Black Death, and the medieval economy. She is the Book Review Editor for the *Sixteenth Century Studies Journal*. Of her new CCWH position as chair of the Graduate Awards Committee she says, "I am very excited about chairing the Graduate Awards Committee. Over the past several years, I have enjoyed reading the applications submitted for the CCWH award. It really has been a delightful experience—my once a year opportunity to catch a glimpse of the topics and theoretical methodologies inspiring young scholars to write. The young women submitting these applications have had fantastic projects which will soon appear in press and I look forward to reading their first monographs."

The other new graduate student representative, **Carolyn Lewis**, is finishing her Ph.D. in U.S. Women's History at the University of California Santa Barbara. Her dissertation examines the connections between the medical profession, definitions of sexual health, and Cold War anxieties during the 1950s and 1960s. She was a recipient of the Woodrow Wilson Women's Studies Dissertation Fellowship. "Waking Sleeping Beauty: The Premarital Pelvic Exam and Heterosexuality in the Cold War," appeared in the December 2005 issue of the *Journal of Women's History*. For this article, **Carolyn** received the Judith Lee Ridge Prize from the Western Association of Women Historians.

THE CCWH CATHERINE PRELINGER AWARD

The CCWH will award \$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 to a tenure-track 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. It is not intended that there be any significant restrictions placed on how a given recipient shall spend the award as long as it advances the recipient's scholarship goals and purposes. All recipients will be required to submit a final paper to CCWH on how the award was expended and summarizing the scholarly work completed.

DEADLINE for receipt of applications: **March 26, 2008**

Winner Announced: July 1, 2008

Award Formally Announced at the CCWH Luncheon at the AHA Meeting: January 2009

Application available online at <http://www.theccwh.org>

Send applications to: Nupur Chaudhuri, 2210 Dorrington St., #202, Houston, TX 77030

E-mail for information only: nupurc@earthlink.net (e-mailed submissions will not be accepted)

For membership information, contact Julie Gallagher, Department of History, Penn State University, Delaware County, 25 Yearsley Mill Road, Media, PA 19063, 610-892-1464, jag63@psu.edu

ELIGIBILITY for the CCWH Catherine Prelinger Award:

The applicant:

1. must be a member in good standing of the Coordinating Council for Women in History. For membership information contact Julie Gallagher, address given above.
2. must hold either A.B.D. status or the Ph.D. at the time of application.
3. shall be actively engaged in scholarship that is historical in nature, although the degree may be in related fields.
4. shall have already contributed or show potential for contributing significantly to women in history, whether in the profession in the present or in the study of women in the past.
5. has not followed a traditional academic path of uninterrupted and completed secondary, undergraduate, and graduate degrees leading to a tenure-track faculty position.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE for the CCWH Catherine Prelinger Award:

The applicant must submit, in hard copy format only:

1. 5 copies of the completed application form.
2. signature of an appropriate departmental or institutional official to verify that A.B.D. status has been achieved, if applicant has not yet completed the Ph.D.
3. 5 copies of the curriculum vita (limited to 4 pages).
4. 5 copies of a personal statement of the applicant's non-traditional career path and contributions to women in the profession. (Statement limited to one page.)
5. 5 copies of the project statement which
 - a. establishes the work the applicant intends to complete with this award
 - b. outlines the schedule the applicant has developed to complete this work
 - c. states the sources the applicant intends to use to complete this work
 - d. demonstrates the contribution the applicant's work will make to women in history. (Statement limited to 3 pages.)
6. Applicants who are ABD are requested to submit 5 copies of a writing sample, preferably a chapter of the dissertation or the dissertation prospectus.
7. 2 letters of recommendation in separate and sealed envelopes which are signed across the back. Each envelope should contain 5 copies of each letter of recommendation.
8. a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
9. a self-addressed postcard, with the statement, "Your application for the CCWH Catherine Prelinger Award has been received."
10. 1 copy of a statement, which grants or denies the CCWH permission to add the application to the official CCWH archives at the Schlesinger Library. Please note: a decision not to grant this permission will be known only by the chair and NOT by the committee members and will in no way prejudice the application.

MENTORING AS FEMINISM

JILL MASSINO

As I look back on my three years as a CCWH graduate representative, I think of the crucial role played by mentors in my development as a professional historian. From graduate advisors who selflessly guided me through the dissertation process to colleagues who kept up my spirits during my first years of teaching, mentors provide us with not only intellectual and professional, but also moral support. However, not all women historians have the opportunity to develop such relationships. This is why the CCWH and the manifold contributions of its board members are so important. Alongside teaching, conducting research, and

tending to familial responsibilities, CCWH members devote their time and energy to supporting individual women historians and promoting women's position within the historical profession. As such these women are not only model scholars, but model feminist activists. Although we typically associate feminist activism with protests and petition signing, it also manifests itself in more subtle and everyday, but no less important ways. Mentoring is one of these subtle, indeed often hidden, yet crucial ways that scholars can promote greater equality within the historical profession. While the demands of teaching and finishing a dissertation pre-

vented me from accomplishing all I had set out when I first began as a graduate representative for the CCWH, one goal I was able to reach was to set up a mentoring website. To date, a number of scholars have expressed interest in serving as mentors; however, in order to go live with the website additional mentors are needed. This is where you come in. Would you like to be more actively engaged in promoting women in the historical profession? Would you like to be more engaged as a feminist activist? Serving as a mentor to women graduate students and junior scholars is an excellent way of combining the two. If you are interested please

send the following information to the CCWH graduate representatives (Carolyn or Julie) or me at Jill.Massino@oberlin.edu.

- Name
- Institutional/ Organizational affiliation
- Area of academic specialty (please be as specific as possible, e.g. 20th century Italian and Gender history) and for those working outside of the academy their professional title/ area (e.g. archivist, exhibit curator; AP European history)
- Email address

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

make use of these associations for their own ends, or will these groups fade when women like Frances Richardson Keller have passed from this world?

I'd like to personally thank the officers of the CCWH, especially Jennifer Scanlon for her steady hand in guiding the organization back into health; the staff of the AHA for facilitating

our participation at the annual meetings; the Berkshire Conference for its generosity in co-sponsoring one graduate award; the historians who have agreed to speak at our luncheons, share their research at our sessions, staff our table, contribute to our scholarship funds, and pay for outrageously priced drinks at the cocktail party. We are especially indebted to our generous anonymous donor who makes the Prelinger Award possible, and most of all, to you the

members for keeping the promise of telling the stories of women everywhere and at all times while also making gender into a central category for historical analysis. Indeed, it is the turn to global, transnational, and comparative history of gender relations, gender categories, sexualities, labors and migrations, cultural transference and traveling, and other topics that makes up the future of scholarly praxis. One of our AHA panels

addresses household labor by looking at domestic servants globally; another one re-evaluates U.S. feminism. Our multiple missions—social justice for historians and by historians often through the careful reconstruction and interpretation of the past that is our trademark—become renewed as we gather yet again in January for support, enlightenment, and envisioning. I look forward to seeing you in January at AHA and in June at the Berks!

CO-PRESIDENT CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT CONTINUED

(Continued from page 8)

the academy as an entity that promotes a workplace culture that is tolerant and flexible in its practices, the opposite may be a "truer" assessment of the academic work environment. Today's practices date back some fifty years when the "typical" professor was a white male, most likely married to a woman whose *primary occupation*, even if she worked, was to support his career. Yesterday's faculty did

not need spousal/partner hiring practices, reduced schedules, flexible tenure deadlines, and childcare centers to climb the academic ladder. Today's and tomorrow's faculty may be able to succeed without such resources but at a cost that many, especially women, are not willing to bear. Study after study confirms the sad truth: The academic pipeline that moves faculty from tenure track to tenured "leaks" women. Even as the potential pool of women

candidates for faculty positions steadily increases in history (as well as all other disciplines), women are underrepresented at all academic ranks (except for that of lecturer). "Leaks" occur as women do not progress as quickly as they should along the tenure-track; and once they earn their senior status, they are accorded few leadership opportunities at their home institutions. It's long past time for a change, and I believe that women's professional organizations such as

the CCWH should lead the charge.

If elected to serve as co-president of the CCWH, I pledge to continue promoting the teaching and scholarship of women and working to improve the status of women in the historical profession. What I would bring to the co-presidency is my ability to work collaboratively and my vision and determination to transform the workplace culture and practices of the academy.

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Western Assn of Women Historians

President
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