

# CCWH Newsletter

www.theccwh.org

The Newsletter for the Coordinating Council for Women in History

## MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT: EILEEN BORIS

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Life as an Independent Scholar	2
Women's History Organizations...	3
The CCWH at the AHA	3
God Sleeps in Rwanda Film Review	4
Transnational Feminism in History, 1920-1975	7
The MIND Database	7
CCWH Welcomes New Board Members	9

This year's AHA belongs to our own Linda Kerber, whose Presidential address on Friday evening will consider the construction of statelessness in relation to citizenship. We congratulate Linda on her achievement and welcome Barbara Weinstein as her successor. The AHA remains the place where CCWH members come together across geographical and field specialties to address questions of women, gender, and women historians.

We have a full menu of activities at the meeting, including joint sessions with the AHA, the Western Association of Women Historians, and the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History. This year we focus on conditions of labor in

the profession, featuring our annual drop in room for graduate students and others on the job market, a joint session on interviewing in the job market session on Friday morning, a joint session to continue a *Journal of Women's History* forum on "Conditions of Work for Women Historians in the Twenty-first Century" on Friday afternoon, and a Saturday afternoon joint session on work and family balance. In addition, our session on Saturday morning with the AHA and WAWH asks whether women's history organizations still have a place today, given the success of women's history and women's historians. How does the need for such groups look from different standpoints—



CCWH Co-President, Eileen Boris

generational, institutional location, and field? How can the various organizations keep their unique identities but work together to advance common interests?

These sessions address such crucial issues that we decided not to (*continued on page 3*)

## AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN GEORGE W. BUSH'S AMERICA

BY ROSA MARÍA PEGUEROS

Have you ever watched the newspaper hoping that the next federal judge, Supreme Court Justice, cabinet member . . . is somebody like yourself? Have you seen your sisters strive to achieve only to smash their heads against a glass ceiling? Forty years after the advent of affirmative action there are still too many tokens and too few open doors.

A token is person who is of a racial, ethnic, gender, class, or sexual minority who has ad-

vanced to a position of high visibility primarily because the organization wants to be seen as progressive or because they are half-heartedly trying to comply with a governmental mandate. Most of the people who are tokens are as ambitious as any white male but their advancement is impeded by the color of their skin or their sex or any one of the other group characteristics or identities that make them different from most Americans. They may be exceptional, very

competent or they may brown-nose their way to the top, earning the "Oreo" (black on the outside, white on the inside) or "Coconut" (brown on the outside) sobriquet from people of their own backgrounds.

George W. Bush would have us believe that racial and gender discrimination no longer exist, so he cajoled a very respected black general and former chair of the joint chiefs of staff, Colin Powell, into being his Secretary of State. Then he tied his hands

and made him lie for him. What made it possible for Powell to rise to those positions? Well, first President Harry Truman had to desegregate the armed services. Powell would never have gotten to first base without Truman's executive order. Personally I dislike the general because of his policies in Nicaragua during the Contra war but I think that his treatment at the hands of W. was disgraceful.

(*continued on page 4*)

## “LESS EASY TO PEG”: LIFE AS AN INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR

BY CHANA REVELL KOTZIN

In a series of articles, I will be describing, philosophizing and sometimes fulminating about my life as an Independent Scholar. In this column I describe my academic background and how I made the decision to work outside a college or university setting. In forthcoming columns I will outline what I've done and what I have learned on an 'alternative' academic track.

What is an Independent Scholar? The National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS) describes such an individual as one “whose research, unlike that of full-time faculty, is not supported by an institution.” (www.ncis.org). Lucy Snowe, the pseudonym of a former adjunct Professor of English - now functioning outside academia, describes her new niche as “less easy to peg”. (Lucy Snowe, “The Long Goodbye”, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 20, 2006, p. C3) Life as an historian outside of the ivory tower is harder to categorize not only for oneself sometimes, but more especially for others -- family, friends, ‘traditionally’ employed academics, prospective colleagues -- and anyone else one meets who asks the question, “and what do you do?” Most of what I've done as an Independent Scholar has been based on circumstances, engineered or accidental, usually circumscribed by geographical as well as personal considerations. Luck and timing have sometimes played a role in a direction taken. Over the last six years I have worked in public history settings, held a fellowship, presented papers at conferences and workshops, written articles, won grants and taught courses in adult education settings.

Part of my willingness to look outside of a college or university setting related to my own untraditional path to history scholarship, slightly later on in life. I was born and grew up in Britain and

followed a British educational model that, by American standards, was less flexible and more focused on a specific career path early on. By the time I finished my first degree in Geology, I was thoroughly ensconced in the ‘hard’ sciences, spending three years studying variations on paleontology and petrology, and not a liberal arts subject in sight! On graduation I worked in brick manufacturing and then on offshore oil rigs in the (British) North Sea, finally taking an onshore job with an oil company in London. With a more fixed working life (I was no longer flying to oilrigs every other two weeks) I was able to indulge my passion for Jewish history with adult education courses and a summer course at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel.

Having found my ‘calling’, I now needed a plan to fund academic study in Jewish history. In Britain at this time (1990s) I was regarded as a ‘mature student’ (at 26!) and having already been state funded for a first degree, I was ineligible for funding for another first degree. A higher degree could be funded but my lack of a humanities background meant I failed the criterion for application. In addition, my mother was seriously ill and needed ongoing care and financial support. Given these considerations, I made an intermediate move into academic administration. Then serendipity intervened. I saw an advert for full-time studentships for a one-year postgraduate course in Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the Oxford Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies based in Yarnton, Oxford, UK. Despite my degree in Geology, I was able to demonstrate a commitment to a liberal arts education by my adult education partici-

pation, an historical essay, and a personal statement. A few months later I was awarded a place with full funding. Good fortune smiled again, and at Yarnton, I met two remarkable visiting American academics, both women. The first was Emeritus Professor, Dr. Alice Eckardt who sparked my interest in Jewish-Christian relations and encouraged me to go onto a Ph.D. The second was Dr. Gertrude Dubrovsky (an Independent Scholar!) who gave a fascinating lecture on the *Kindertransporte*, a movement to bring Jewish refugee children to Britain during the 1930s. On completing the course, I spent another year raising more funds and then went onto a Ph.D., at the University of Southampton, in the south of England, UK. My advisor there was an immensely generous individual, as well as a brilliantly prolific and boundary pushing historian of antisemitism: Professor Anthony (Tony) Kushner. Utilizing new and original sources from groups as diverse as Christadelphians, Quakers, Unitarians and Methodists as well as the Church of England, I completed my Ph.D., on their varied responses from Britain to the plight of Jewish refugees during the 1930s.

Unlike my fellow graduates in 2000, when I earned a Ph.D., in History, I did not plan an immediate move into traditional academia. Indeed, I embraced the opportunity to combine scholarly work with public history, to get the story of my research out there for public consumption and education. This was both helped and hindered by a move to the United States from Britain just as I was finishing up my Ph.D. Helped, in that there were more opportunities to build an ‘alternative’ career in America, and hindered by the fact that the carefully nurtured network of contacts built up in England was

more or less useless in this new setting. Yet, I was initially very lucky, for as it turned out, a small job opening at the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore, Maryland, where I moved to soon after my initial US relocation, put me on the inside track for a guest curator position six months later. For three years I worked nearly full-time on a project that culminated in an exhibition and catalogue entitled “*Lives Lost, Lives Found: Baltimore's German Jewish Refugees, 1933-1945.*” Making a subject accessible to a wide range of audiences yet still scholarly was a useful lesson to learn. So to was the opportunity to grow outside my specific subject area. The background research, the resulting exhibition, and the publication that resulted (in which I contributed an article), drew heavily on a subject area I was familiar with -- Free World responses to Jewish refugees -- albeit in a different geographical context. It was a ‘lucky’ break that not only provided me with work at the time, but continues to drive the research I do today.

Overall, my experience in the alternative track has taught me that one's research is often dictated by who you work for even if you are acting as an independent consultant. If you want to get paid for the work you are doing, you follow the research agenda of a job, albeit to the standards you determine/assert. In this instance, I was very lucky to work both in and beyond my own area. In my next column, I will outline the range of work I have done as an independent scholar since then, as well as the advantages and limitations to work without affiliation.

## “WOMEN'S HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS: ARE THEY STILL RELEVANT IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY? TWO GENERATIONS RESPOND”

BY AMY ESSINGTON

At the 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association (AHA), the CCWH will co-sponsor Session 107 with the Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH). The session titled, “Women's History Organizations: Are They Still Relevant in the Twenty-first Century? Two Generations Respond,” includes panelists from the CCWH, WAWH as well as the Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH) and the Southern Association of Women Historians (SAWH). Nupur Chaudhuri, Texas Southern University, (WAWH), will chair the session. Panelists will include Kathleen C. Berkeley, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, (SAWH); Amy Essington, California State University, Long

Beach, (WAWH); Jill Massino, Indiana University, (CCWH); Karen Offen, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, (WAWH); Jacqueline Rouse, Georgia State University (ABWH); Robyn Spencer, Penn State University, (ABWH); and Gerhard L. Weinberg, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (CCWH).

This panel was created to explore the experiences of two generations of members of women's history organizations. In the 1960s and 70s, regional women's history groups were established to give women historians a voice in academia. WAWH was founded in 1969 with the first conference held in June. In the same year, the

CCWH was established as the Coordinating Council on Women in the Historical Profession (CCWHP). The CCWH today is the result of the combination of the CCWHP and the Conference Group on Women's History (CGWH). In 1970, the women historians in the South gathered at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association. Founded in 1979, the goal of ABWH is to support black women historians in the historical profession. The last four decades have seen major changes in the profession and evolving expectations in the new generation of members participating in regional women's history organizations. The different generations may

have come to the organizations with similar needs or expectations, but the academic world is a different kind of frontier than in previous generations.

Participants in this roundtable will present both data and anecdotal information about the founding of and participation in regional women's history organizations in contemporary academia. The central argument is that these organizations fulfilled a need in the historical profession and continue to do so today. The goal of the roundtable is to explore the problems and successes of regional women's history organizations and look toward their future.

### THE CCWH AT THE AHA

#### Thursday, January 4

5:00-7:00 P.M. Hilton, Cobb Room. **CCWH Board Meeting**

#### Friday, January 5

7:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M. Marriott, International Meeting Room 1. Graduate student Drop-In Room for graduates on the job market.

9:30-11:30 A.M.

Hilton, Grand Ballroom C,

Session 1. Joint with the AHA Professional Division and the AHA Committee for Graduate Students. *Interviewing in the Job Market in the Twenty-first Century*

2:30-4:30 P.M.

Hilton, Crystal Ballroom E, Session 2. Joint with the AHA. *Conditions of Work for Women Historians in the Twenty-first Century: Keeping the Conversation Going.*

5:30-7:30 P.M.

Hilton, Gwinnett Room  
**CCWH Reception**

#### Saturday, January 6

9:00-11:00 A.M. Marriott, International Ballroom 7. Session 3, Joint with the AHA and the Western Association of Women Historians. *Women's History Organizations: Are They Still Relevant in the Twenty-first Century?*

*Two Generations Respond.*

12:15-1:45 P.M. Hilton, Madison Room. **CCWH Awards Luncheon**

2:30-4:30 P.M. Hilton, Grand Salon C. Session 4, joint with the AHA and the Committee on Lesbian and Gay History. Balancing Work and Family in the Academic Work Place.

### MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT, CONT.

(continued from page 1) sponsor additional sessions this year. But we will have our usual reception on Friday night 5:30-7:30 in the Crystal Ballroom at the Hilton and our awards luncheon on Saturday at 12:15. Please look in the AHA program for details on obtaining tickets. I am pleased that Tera Hunter of Carnegie Mellon University, known for her brilliant study of black women domestic labor in post-emancipation Atlanta, will discuss “Until

Death or Distance Do You Part’: Slavery and Marriage in the Nineteenth Century.” Introduce friends and students to the CCWH at these eating, greeting and honoring events.

I also call your attention to the upcoming conference of the International Federation for Research in Women's History, for which the CCWH serves as the U.S. affiliate. Last March I had the privilege of visiting with its President, Krassimira

Daskalova, in Sofia, Bulgaria—where this meeting of women and gender historians from around the world will gather at St. Kliment Ohridski University, August 8-12, 2007. Under the theme of “Women, Gender, and the Cultural Production of Knowledge,” the conference aims to bring together an interdisciplinary group of scholars at all stages of their careers to consider “historical aspects of production, signification and recep-

tion of culture – all from a gender perspective.” For more details, visit <http://www.ifrwh-bulgaria2007.org>. The official deadline for abstracts was November 30, but I urge you to inquire if there are spaces still available for presentation. Sofia is a fascinating place, a crossroads of cultural systems over the centuries, and should be beautiful in August!

## WOMEN MAKE MOVIES FILM REVIEW: *GOD SLEEPS IN RWANDA*

BY: MARY K. FAULKNER

The word – Rwanda – now transcends any political or geographic boundaries. It can evoke shame and serve as a warning. It is the legacy of Rwanda that has ensured that another word – Darfur – has become a call to action. *God Sleeps in Rwanda*, a documentary directed by Kimberlee Acquaro and Stacy Sherman, presents the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide by focusing women's attempts to rebuild their lives, their families, their communities and their nation. Nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Short in 2005, the film is a collection of interviews with five women who discuss the ways in which they come to terms with their losses and their newfound opportunities. These women speak candidly about formerly taboo topics such as rape and HIV/AIDS. They invited the film crew into their homes to meet their families, and they also allowed the cameras to follow them to the places where they mourn.

Rosario Dawson's narration

rehearses the all-too familiar, yet still shocking toll of the Rwandan genocide: over 800,000 people killed in the span of 100 days. The film, however, offers an equally surprising set of figures. The population of the country is nearly 70% female. Before the genocide, 6% of college graduates were female. Now, women account for half of the student body on Rwandan college campuses. Finally and most remarkably, the Rwandan Lower House of Parliament is 49% women – the highest percentage of women in any parliament in the world. The directors are interested in the personal stories behind these statistics.

Acquaro, a photojournalist, explains the importance of documenting the survivors' experiences, "I wanted to make a film that would give a voice to these women who had been silenced for so long and whose stories deserved to be told. They opened their hearts to us." The imagery of the documentary offers glimpses of the larger trag-

edy, but on the whole, it conveys intimate portraits. The women speak about their experience uninterrupted by questions in their own language with the translation provided by subtitles. Often the camera is tightly focused on the woman, giving the viewer the feeling of engaging in a private conversation.

While the film promotes greater understanding and empathy for the survivors of genocide, Sherman also hopes that it will lead to financial assistance. She says, "I will never forget the kindness they extended toward us and hope that monies raised will benefit them in any way possible." The film's website encourages its visitors to make the donations to Avega (Association of Genocide Widows and Orphans) at [www.avega.org.rw](http://www.avega.org.rw).

The film comes full circle with its final frame. I had speculated that the title *God Sleeps in Rwanda* might be the answer to those in mourning who ask, how could God let this happen? I thought that it might

be a way to understand. Perhaps, an all-too human deity became the scapegoat in order to make sense of such an enormous tragedy. Instead, the phrase is part of a beautiful Rwandan proverb, and this conclusion offers us another word to associate with Rwanda – hope.

Film Information:

*God Sleeps in Rwanda*. Directed by Kimberlee Acquaro and Stacy Sherman. 2004, Rwanda, 28 minutes, color, VHS/DVD. Kinyar-

**Mary Faulkner is a PhD candidate in Early Modern History at Pennsylvania State University. She is completing a dual degree in early modern history and women's studies. She is currently working on a dissertation on expressions of civic pride during the French Revolution.**

## AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, CONT.

(continued from page 1)

Condoleezza Rice is a woman of great achievement who succeeded Powell in the critical position of Secretary of State—Bush's second appointment of an African American to that post—but like Powell she is in the unenviable position of carrying out the incompetent president's flawed foreign policies. Like Powell, she spoke out in support of affirmative action but neither of their declarations had much effect on the president. Yet she shows no signs of resigning; an Oreo, perhaps?

Some women have fared better than others under affirmative action. Women now serve in almost all positions in the armed services, in business

and industry. Women are a presence in the academy but only 27% have achieved tenure. Most of the adjunct faculty members are women in a time when there are fewer and fewer tenured positions. Contingent faculty members are the workhorses of academia, teaching more classes than regular faculty and often lacking benefits and security in their employment. One can herald the fact that many more women have doctorates but too few are fully-employed.

Clarence Thomas, Alan Keyes, retired Justice Sandra O'Connor, the late Thurgood Marshall, even Barack Obama are also tokens. Obama is only the second black man (and third black person) to serve as a

United States senator. We have ONE black Senator and one black U.S. Supreme Court justice. Some might say that some of these individuals are truly exceptional so they shouldn't be considered tokens. Until mediocre black, Hispanic and other minorities can rise to the level of mediocre white men, there won't be true equality. Why is it still so tough to get minorities into the unions, into universities, into decent housing? For the last six years, the very real disabilities of race, gender, ethnicity, etc. have been dismissed as minor concerns. They are not minor, and they aren't over because the gate-keepers are still white, male, and unenlightened. Thus we end up with people of color

in positions of power, like U.S. attorney general Alberto Gonzales, or black anti-affirmative action campaigner Ward Connelly, who have risen to their positions because they have turned their backs on the struggles of their own people.

Everybody faces hardships and challenges; high achievers overcome huge obstacles to attain their dreams. The difference is that a person who is marked as a minority has to endure an additional layer of adversity that non-minorities cannot fathom. Some things have changed but in the George W. Bush world, picking tokens instead of throwing open the gates continues to be the rule.

*COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR WOMEN IN HISTORY*  
*Advocates for Women in the Profession and Practice of History*

**APPLICATION FORM**  
**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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Message Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Status: A.B.D. \_\_\_\_\_, or Ph.D. \_\_\_\_\_

If Ph.D. has been received, institution and date: \_\_\_\_\_

If A.B.D., give date of receiving and signature of departmental representative to verify:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Departmental Representative)

Applicant certifies to being a member in good standing of the Coordinating Council for Women in History, that this application is complete and includes the materials listed.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant)

**DEADLINE for receipt of applications: March 16, 2007**

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

E-mail for information only; e-mailed submissions will not be accepted:

Carol Gold, Prelinger Committee Chair: [ffc@uaf.edu](mailto:ffc@uaf.edu)

Nupur Chaudhuri, regarding receipt of applications: [nupurc@earthlink.net](mailto:nupurc@earthlink.net)

For membership information, contact Julie Gallagher,

Dept. of History, Philosophy & Religious Studies, Antioch College, 795 Livermore St., Yellow Springs, OH 45387.

E-mail: [jgallagher@antioch-college.edu](mailto:jgallagher@antioch-college.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 opposite.
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.

**March 16, 2007:        deadline for receipt of applications**  
**July 1, 2007:         winner is announced and check mailed**  
**January 2008:         award is formally announced at the CCWH luncheon at the AHA meeting**



## TRANSNATIONAL FEMINISM IN HISTORY, 1920-1975

BY KATHLEEN SHELDON

Memorial Day weekend (May 26-27, 2006) marked the gathering of international feminist scholars at UCLA, in an outgrowth of Ellen DuBois's interest in the topic of twentieth-century feminist organizing across national boundaries. With funding from the University of California Humanities Institute, the UCLA Center for the Study of Women, and a variety of other UCLA programs, the conference brought in women from Holland, Australia, Mexico, Korea, New Zealand, and from across the U.S. For two days people heard reports on research that illuminated the many complicated global intersections of organizations, individuals, and feminist activism. Papers on organizations included Rumi Yasutake and Fiona Paisley with separate presentations the Pan-Pacific Women's Association (PPWA), Gabriela Cano speaking on the League of Hispanic and Hispanic American Women, and Lisa

Materson on the African-American women of the League of Women of the Darker Races and other U.S.-based organizations that attempted to delineate a broadly-defined racial identity as a basis for action. Some of the individual women who were discussed included Guatemalan-born American labor activist Luisa Morena (a paper by Vicki Ruiz), New Zealand lesbian and PPWA promoter, Elsie Andrews (Alison Laurie), Margaret Cousins, an Irish theosophist active in India (Catherine Candy), and Minerva Bernardino, the controversial Dominican Republic politician who was an early United Nations supporter (Robin Derby and Ellen DuBois).

Other presentations discussed a range of topics such as Islamic feminism in Egypt (Margot Badran), social feminism and social work in Eastern and Central Europe (Berteke Waaldijk), the presentation of women in rural and traditional dress at inter-

national meetings (by Mineke Bosch), the role of international law and the League of Nations (Diane Hill), and women's rights during the formative years of the United Nations (Felice Gaer).

As might be evident from the catalog of topics, there was much opportunity for cross-panel discussion and intersecting ideas. Some of the warmly debated themes included the issue of class, especially as was made evident in the biographical papers; the use of the term "feminism," which does not have the same meaning or nuanced understanding in different world areas or periods of history, and the continuing ties that were embodied in the specific individuals who reappeared in different organizations and activities.

Each paper brought new dimensions to the history of international feminist organizing. The role of personal infatuations was evident in Elsie Andrews' experience of meeting another woman at the 1934 Honolulu PPWA conference, and that highlighted the importance of private and even intimate connections between women in

developing the international links. The essential element of class background was seen in such varied stories as Luisa Morena forsaking a privileged life in Central America to organize cannery workers in California, to Elena Amendariz who found the British aristocrat Nancy Astor appealing. In addition, the crucial access to funding that allowed some women to travel extensively to promote a feminist political practice was a factor in who was able to play a role on the international stage. Another theme was the variety of perspectives that women brought to the struggle for women's rights, from the occultist theosophy of Cousins, to those who willingly worked behind the scenes in the UN, inserting pro-woman language into the founding documents, to the Central European women who saw social work as a path to reaching women, and to others who focused their energies on working women or women of color. Our feminist "mothers" would have been pleased to know that their work is being carried forward by the scholars now studying their history.

## THE MIND DATABASE

A new database from the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center will guide researchers on where to find invention-related documents and collections. The MIND (Modern Inventors Documentation) database identifies the invention-related holdings of hundreds of archives across the United States and is the nation's first database devoted exclusively to such documents. The collections in the database cover a variety of subjects, with many from medical, consumer, scientific, household and legal fields. With more than 1,700 records when it debuted in May, it is continuing to grow daily as more archives, museums, libraries and historical societies report the contents of their invention-related collections to the Smithsonian for inclusion in the MIND database. Users simply submit a key word to search and if the invention is in

the database it will note what materials exist about the invention, which museum, archive or library holds the collection, and how to contact them for more details.

Where possible, there is also information on how to access the collection and a direct web link to the collection or its holder. Advanced search options allow the user to search by repository, inventor name, or collection title. Users can also search for inventions from a list of over sixty subjects.

To access the MIND database, please visit: [invention.smithsonian.org/MIND](http://invention.smithsonian.org/MIND).

Repositories with relevant collections are invited to contribute information about their holdings. Requests to participate in the database can be sent to: Alison Oswald at [oswalda@si.edu](mailto:oswalda@si.edu).

The Coordinating Council  
for Women in History now  
advertises job announce-  
ments (\$25.00 per ad) on its  
website. Please send ad  
copy to  
[weaverk@susqu.edu](mailto:weaverk@susqu.edu).

## CCWH PRELINGER AWARDED TO LINDA RUPERT

The Coordinating Council for Women in History is pleased to announce that Linda Rupert has been awarded the ninth annual CCWH-Prelinger Scholarship Award of \$20,000. Dr. Rupert has just defended her dissertation on "Creolization and Contraband: Curaçao in the Early Modern Atlantic World." She will be starting as an Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in August 2006.

Dr. Rupert will be using the Prelinger Scholarship for a two-part project. The first part will focus on archival research to supplement the material in her dissertation with the intention of writing a book on *Creolization*

and *Contraband*, illuminating the role of women and people of African descent in the contraband trade. The second part of her project is a public history component to return the story to the people of Curaçao. She will develop a museum exhibit with accompanying booklet about the central role of the black majority during the island's glory days as a Caribbean trade center in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This material will be presented in Papiamentu, the island's local language. Additionally, Dr. Rupert is planning a series of radio shows and newspaper articles, as well as workshops for educators on this topic.

In keeping with the guide-

lines of the Prelinger Award, Dr. Rupert has taken a winding road to her present academic position. As a young woman in the 1970's and 1980's, she worked as an adult educator in urban shantytowns and peasant communities in Peru. Her work cut short by a human rights crisis in the Andes, she moved to New York City to study at the New School for Social Research, supporting herself working full time for the Ecumenical Committee on the Andes, a small human rights organization. Now married, she followed her husband, an anthropologist, back to his native Curaçao, where she spent the next fourteen years, bringing up two daughters, founding a text-

writing business and working as Program Director for the Curaçao Women's Center. When commissioned by the Curaçao Chamber of Commerce to write about the island's commercial history, she found herself following sources to uncover the contributions of market women, sailors and slaves. This encouraged her to return to graduate school to learn more about academic research so that she could do better justice to the sources and stories which she had uncovered. Now beginning a new, academic career, she is determined to return these stories to their true owners, the people of Curaçao.

## CATHERINE PRELINGER AWARD UPDATE: LINDA RUPERT

I am deeply honored to be the recipient of the CCWH's Catherine Prelinger Award. Carol Gold's timely phone call early last summer, as I was making the transition away from graduate school, allowed me to modify my summer plans to begin to accomplish some of the goals I set forth in my application. I was able to travel to archives in Coro, Venezuela, where I found several amazing documents related to the role of women of

African descent in exchanges between Curacao and the mainland--documents which strengthen my impression that there is an entire untold story to discover here. Later in the summer I traveled to Curacao where I gave a presentation at a conference on the Dutch Atlantic, proposing alternate narratives of Curacao's early history. In both Venezuela and Curacao I met with a variety of people to strategize ways of disseminating my research findings in schol-

arly and journalistic publications, and developing networks of area scholars with similar research interests. I also published the first in a series of newspaper articles in Curacao, and I began to sketch the outlines of a short history book aimed at high school students and the general public. I am planning a follow-up visit to Venezuela over winter break and possibly also spring, with a return visit to Curacao, and a trip to European archives next summer. I will send you a more complete

report, and a copy of the Curaçao article, shortly. In the breathlessness of beginning a new academic job I'm embarrassed to see that the months have gotten away from me, and I didn't want to let any more time go by without expressing my gratitude for your generosity and letting you know that I have jumped right into the project.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

*Victorian Studies* seeks essays for a special issue on "Victorian Emotions." Possible topics include-but are not limited to-the role of the emotions in Victorian notions of psychology, physiology, science, history, politics or art. This special issue will provide a forum for discussing Victorian concerns about the emotions that remain at issue today:

What are the political states involved in the emotions? What is the relation between emotions and reason? What is the role of historical specificity in emotional experience? It will also engage questions that arise for intellectual, literary, and social historians of the emotions-as well as for those working in the field of Victorian studies more

generally. What are the limits to what we can know about other historical moments? What tools are available to use for reconstructing past understandings or experiences? To what extent do these tools necessarily cross or complicate disciplinary boundaries?

Deadline for submissions: 1 February 2007. Please direct all queries to guest editor Rachel Ablow (rablow@buffalo.edu). Essays may not exceed 8,000 words. Please send hard copies of each submission to Rachel Ablow, Department of English, University of Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, NY 14260.



## CCWH WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS IN 2007

### Public History Representative

Nishani Frazier has joined up as the new public history representative to the CCWH. Nishani, a visiting lecturer at Bates College, is completing her Ph.D. at Columbia University. She is on the job market this year, and she looks forward to the post-dissertation, post-job-market season when she will be able to help us reach out more effectively to the public history community.

Nishani worked as the Associate Curator of African American History at Western Reserve Historical Society and is com-

pleting a dissertation on the philosophical evolution of the Cleveland chapter of CORE (Congress on Racial Equality). She is replacing Briann Greenfield.

### Newsletter Editor

Amy Essington will be taking over as the new CCWH Newsletter editor. Amy is an instructor in the history department at California State University. She is a doctoral candidate at Claremont Graduate University, completing her dissertation, "Segregation, Race, and Baseball: The Integration of the Pacific Coast

League, 1948-1952." Amy also serves as executive director of the Western Association of Women Historians. She replaces Karol Weaver.

### Treasurer

Katherine Parkin has joined CCWH as the new treasurer. Katherine is an assistant professor of history at Monmouth University. Her recent book, *Food is Love: Food Advertising and Gender Roles in Modern America*, University of Pennsylvania Press, examines the history of food advertised in gendered terms. She replaces Maureen Elgersman Lee.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CCWH NEWSLETTER EDITOR

BY KAROL K. WEAVER

My tenure as newsletter editor ends with this issue. I wanted to say thanks to the women who helped me. Janet Afary was the co-president who asked me to take on the task of editing *The CCWH Newsletter*. I am grateful she asked me because the work allowed me to meet many wonderful people and make several new friends. I also gained a greater appreciation for the hard work that editors do for their fellow historians.

I also owe a word of thanks to my student assistants, especially Adrienne Renberg with whom I worked at Purdue University and Jenn Siegenthaler with whom I worked at Susquehanna University. Student editors helped with layout, by proofreading early drafts, by sending gentle but prodding emails to late contributors, and by calming their frazzled editor.

In addition to these fine young people, I also would like to thank two newsletter con-

tributors who could always be counted on to send in articles: Rosie Pegueros and our co-president Eileen Boris. I have enjoyed publishing and reading Rosie's thought-provoking and thoughtful commentaries. Eileen Boris, award-winning historian, scholar, and activist, always took time out of her hectic schedule to send our readers a message from the co-president.

Finally, I want to send special thanks to Jen Scanlon, our executive director, and Maureen

Elgersman Lee, our outgoing treasurer. After getting to know them via email, I got to meet them in person at the American Historical Association Meeting. I know I will always count them as friends. I look forward to reading future newsletters edited by Amy Essington. I also hope that the board will ask me to assist the organization in the future.

## CCWH BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Director  
Jennifer R. Scanlon

Co-Presidents  
Eileen Boris  
Carolyn Brown

Newsletter Editor  
Karol Weaver

Treasurer  
Maureen Elgersman Lee

Outreach Coordinator  
Nancy Robertson

Graduate Student Coordinators  
Pamela Lash  
Jill Massino

International Coordinator  
Sima Fahid

Public History Comm. Chair  
Briann G. Greenfield

Membership Coordinator  
Julie Gallagher

Catherine Prelinger Award Chair  
Dr. Carol Gold

Graduate Students Award Chair  
Ann LeBar

**Please visit CCWH  
on-line for contact  
information for  
board members:  
[www.theccwh.org](http://www.theccwh.org)**

**CCWH MEMBERSHIP FORM**

\_\_\_new membership \_\_\_membership renewal \_\_\_gift membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current position and institutional affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Research and professional fields: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues	Income	Donations and Purchases
__\$20	Student, part-time employee or low income	___National History Day Prize
__\$50	Full-time employee	
__\$75	Income over 75,000	
__\$50	Institutional Membership	
\$ _____	TOTAL	PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO <i>CCWH</i>

DONATIONS [for accounting purposes, please submit each additional contribution using a separate check]

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate Student Awards  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ CCWH Catherine Prelinger Award  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ National History Day Prize

**Dues and Donations should be sent to:**

Coordinating Council for Women in History, Inc.  
 211 Marginal Way, #733  
 PO Box 9715  
 Portland, ME 04104-5015

PRST STD US  
 POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT 399

Coordinating Council for  
 Women in History, Inc.  
 211 Marginal Way, #733  
 PO Box 9715  
 Portland, ME 04104-5015