

WOMEN

in libraries



Newsletter
of the ALA/SRRT
Task Force on

WOMEN

Vol. 4 No. 4

March 1975

Ed. Kay Cassell

ALA MIDWINTER - REPORT ON THE TASK FORCE ON WOMEN MEETING

Three business meetings of the Task Force On Women were held at Midwinter with an attendance of over 60 women per meeting.

Final plans for the one day women's conference in San Francisco were made. The conference will take place on Sunday, June 29, at the San Francisco YWCA. In the morning there will be action tactics workshops on working within the organizational structure followed by a buffet lunch. In the afternoon, there will be exhibits of feminist presses and organizations and a panel discussion with women who have been involved in change activities. Women's entertainment - poets, folk singers and a rock band - will be a part of the evening's celebration. A registration form for the conference is included in the newsletter.

The Task Force followed up on resolutions which had not been passed at the July ALA in New York. Another resolution on using non-sexist terminology in ALA documents and publications was submitted and did pass the last session of Council. Liz Futas and Pat Schuman discussed with President Holley the report from the Accreditation Committee which we had found unacceptable. The chairperson of the Accreditation Committee was brought into the discussion and introduced a resolution to Council saying that the Accreditation Committee would make an annual report to Council on affirmative action within library schools. A third resolution which was not discussed by Council due to the lack of time asked for the establishment of a standing Committee of the ALA Council on the status of women in librarianship which would collect and investigate issues of concern to women in librarianship, disseminate the information collected to the appropriate ALA committee or office and to any other appropriate body and serve as a clearinghouse for women's concerns which are the responsibility of various units of ALA.

Betty Turock is proceeding with the "role models" project proposed at the pre-conference. Wilson Library Bulletin has agreed to publish articles on women we see as good role models in librarianship. Betty and other women will be writing the articles.

Betty-Carol Sellen and Betty Turock will be writing a letter to the Council on Library Resources asking for a management program for women librarians similar to the one they now have for black librarians.

There was a great deal of discussion concerning the formation of a Feminist Caucus. No final decision has been reached. Women wishing to better understand the caucus concept should read "Cutting the Marshmallow" by Pat Schuman in the January 1975 SLJ. Any woman wishing to comment on the caucus idea should write to Liz Futas immediately. (51 Huntington St., New Brunswick, NJ 08903).

Pre-conference proceedings will be published shortly. They hope to use a feminist printer. The videotapes of the pre-conference will be ready by San Francisco.

There will be another small press fair in New York City over the Memorial Day weekend with an emphasis on International Women's Year.

The Task Force met with Mr. Donald Stewart, Associate Executive Director for Publishing for ALA, to discuss the appointment of the American Libraries editor. Mr. Warren Kuen was also invited but did not attend. The Task Force's concern was whether affirmative action procedures had been used in appointing the AL editor. Mr. Stewart's report indicated that only Mr. Plotnick had been interviewed by more than one person and that although the position was advertised, no one who answered the ads was interviewed. Mr. Plotnick was obviously the only serious candidate, and it was equally obvious that no women who fit the image wanted for AL were interviewed. The members of the Task Force present indicated their disapproval of the lack of affirmative action measures and stated that they hoped this practice would not continue.

ALA COUNCIL ELECTIONS

There are a number of excellent women candidates running for Council this year. The Task Force urges you to vote for them. Please remember that it is not necessary to vote for the maximum number of candidates. Only vote for those persons you personally want to see elected. According to the way votes are tallied, it is better to vote for a small number of people since that will give them a better chance of being elected.

SAN FRANCISCO PLANS

In addition to the women's conference, the Task Force on Women will hold three meetings at the annual ALA conference.

June 30 (Monday) 4:30 - 6 p.m. - Task Force business meeting
July 1 (Tuesday) 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. - Meeting to discuss
possible Feminist Caucus

v4 N4

July 2 (Wednesday) 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. - Task Force Mini-Workshop
Committee on Acquisition of
Feminist Materials for Libraries.

There will also be a meeting of the Task Force's Committee on
Sexist Subject Headings on July 1 (Tuesday) from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Task Force will have a Women's Suite at the El Cortez Hotel
beginning Sunday, June 29. The room will be listed in the names of
Liz Futas and Kay Cassell and will be available for small meetings
and get togethers.

YASD PROGRAM ON SEXISM AT ALA

"Women on the Move" is a high school organization of concerned
women students at Redwood High School in Marin County. The group is
four years old and has achieved an astonishing array of accomplish-
ments -- an article in MS; many programs presented at their high
school (Anais Nin, believe it or not, and Flo Kennedy, karate for
women, films, etc.); appearances on the TV show "Youth Inquires";
on the radio; newspaper articles; establishment (February 1975) of
a day-care center at their high school for three to thirty-three-
month-old children where shop, English and homemaking classes will
interrelate, take care of and learn from/with the children; co-ed
homemaking classes with lots of male students as a result of ex-
tensive publicity and recruitment; plus serving as a clearing house
for high school women (through MS) across the country and answering
the many, many letters they receive, often establishing a regular
correspondence. They will be a part of YASD's program at ALA on
Monday, June 30, 1975, "Sexism in Adolescent Lives and Literature" --
for those who want to hear them.

The main speaker for the YASD program will be Dale Carlson,
author of Girls Are Equal Too (Atheneum).

REPORT ON THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The semiannual report of the LC Federal Women's Program was
published in the January 17, 1975 Library of Congress Information
Bulletin. It showed that in Grades 16-18 (the highest Civil Service
grades) only 13% of those employed were women while at the lowest
levels Grades 1-4, 63% were women. You might want to refer to the
Bulletin for the complete report.

ACCOMODATIONS FOR ALA SAN FRANCISCO

The YWCA Hotel (for Women) in San Francisco is one option
available for those not wishing to stay at one of the conference
hotels. The rates are \$6.50 per day for a single and \$10 for a
double - both with hall bath or \$9 for a single and \$12 for a
double with private bath. Reservations should be made two months
in advance and accompanied by a money order or bank draft for the
first night's rent. The address is 620 Sutter St., San Francisco,
CA 94109.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY SEMINARS

Four regional Affirmation Action/EEO Seminars are being presented by the National Consortium for Black Professional Development. One was held in January at Tuskegee Institute. The second will be at Washington State University on April 15-17, 1975, the third at Iowa State University on June 17-19, 1975, and the fourth at Texas Southern University on August 19-21, 1975. For more information, write Hanford D. Staffor at the National Consortium, 1816 Norris Place, Louisville, Ky. 40295.

NEW YORK NEEDS CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINERS

The State of New York is constantly seeking qualified individuals to serve as oral board examiners for various administrative and technical specialties. They are particularly interested in recruiting women and minority group members for service on these oral panels.

If individuals would be interested in serving as examiners, send a resume to V. James Gutowski, Associate Staffing Services Representative, N.Y. State Dept. of Civil Service, The State Office Building Campus, Albany, N.Y. 12226.

MICROFILM OF WOMEN'S HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER AVAILABLE

The following collections are now available on microfilm from the Women's History Research Center (WHRC):

WOMEN AND LAW MICROFILM

- I. Law General (completed) (ERA; Credit; Divorce, etc.) - 10 reels
- Still in process:
- II. Politics (Peacemakers; Politicians; Suffragists, etc.) - 14 reels
- III. Employment (Women in Business; Housework, paid, Labor History, Equal Pay, etc.) - 8 reels
- IV. Education (Sex Bias in Public Schools; AFT; AAUW; Sesame Street Protest, etc.) - 2 reels
- V. Rape/Prison/Prostitution - 3 reels
- VI. Black & Third World Women (in all above topics and more) - 3 reels

Contact Joanne Schulman at WHRC; section which is completed may be ordered now; standing orders are needed to complete the sections now in process.

Price: \$30/reel; reel guide \$10/section.

Women and Health/Mental Health Microfilm covers over 150 subjects, with an appendix of 100 special issues of magazines.

- I. Physical and Mental Health
- II. Physical and Mental Illnesses (includes material on sex roles)
- III. Biology, Women, and The Life Cycle

V4 N4

- IV. Birth Control/Population Control
- V. Sex and Sexuality
- VI. Black and Third World Woman
- VII. Appendix: Special issues of magazines.

Contact Sheryn Sofia at WHRC. All sections of Women and Health are complete; they may be ordered separately. Price: \$30 per reel or portion of reel; reel guide: \$20 for complete film guide; \$10 per section. (WHRC, 2325 Oak Street, Berkeley, CA 94708)

The Herstory Serials Microfilm has been updated by WHRC to June 1974.

WOMEN IN ACTION: STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE

Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, Ill) will hold a conference on April 17-19, 1975 on Women In Action: Strategies For Change. This conference is designed for all persons concerned with women today and where they are going. Emphasis will be on continuing education for women and how to prepare women for better and more challenging positions in life.

The cost is \$90 which includes registration fees, lodging for 2 nights, all meals, coffee breaks, and all materials. For more information contact: Anita C. Madison, Conference Coordinator, Adult Education Division, Northern Illinois University, Stevenson Towers South, DeKalb, Ill. 60115. (815) 753-1292.

BARNARD CONFERENCE ON FEMINIST IDEOLOGY

The Barnard College Women's Center is sponsoring a second academic conference entitled The Scholar and the Feminist II: Toward New Criteria of Relevance which will be held at Barnard on Saturday, April 12, 1975. The papers presented at the conference will provide both a critique of the assumption underlying traditional scholarship and an exploration of new directions. The relationship between feminist ideology and the research process will constitute the central focus of the day.

The conference will be limited to 250 people. Further information about the conference is available at the Women's Center, 100 Barnard Hall, Barnard College, New York, N.Y. 10027. (212) 280-2067. Academic Coordinator, Professor Nancy K. Miller.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR LAUNCHED IN UNITED STATES

On January 11, the U.S. Center for International Women's Year 1975 launched IWY in the United States. Officially designated International Women's Year in the United States by Presidential proclamation last January, this year promises to be one of focus on the goals and activities of women. Nationally, the U.S. Center for IWY will be disseminating information about the year, providing materials on what is being done here and abroad, and coordinating governmental and voluntary activities in observance of IWY.

V4N4

Before selection as a kick-off date, January 11 was already a celebrated day in the annals of women's history. It was on this early January date in 1935 that Amelia Earhart made her pioneering flight from Hawaii to California. Because of Miss Earhart's profound belief in sexual equality and women's ability to make their contribution to the well-being of mankind and take their share in social and economic life, and in world peace, it seemed fitting to choose January 11 as U.S. IWY launching day.

In proposing an IWY Calendar of Months, the U.S. Center has suggested that each month be devoted to some special activity for women: January--aeronautical science, astronomy, atomic science, the atmosphere and space, and aviation; February--business, industry, and labor; March--communication in all its forms--press, radio, television, and magazines; April--doers--the volunteers, volunteer organizations, and service organizations; May--education; June--farming and agribusiness; July--government; August--homemakers; September--the international scene; October--joy--women in the arts, sports, recreation, drama, music, and literature; November--law, medicine, nursing, secretarial work, librarians--all the careers not already covered; and December--the minds and hearts of people--spiritual and aesthetic values.

The IWY U.S. Center is located at 1630 Crescent Pl., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

Posters are available from the International Women's Year Office at the U.N., Br. 4004, 605 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

SHARE DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

Sisters Have Resources Everywhere: a directory of feminist librarians, has just been published by the ALA/SRRT Task Force on Women as a result of the SHARE network formed at the Women's Pre-conference at ALA New York, July, 1974. A limited first edition of 500 was published. Some copies are still available for \$1 (pre-paid) to cover handling. For copies of the directory and/or for information concerning participation in the second edition (planned to coincide with the 100th anniversary of ALA, July, 1976), contact TFW Directory Coordinator, Carole Leita, 555 Duboce, San Francisco, CA 94117.

TRANSPORT 7-41-R - A REVIEW

Transport 7-41-R by T. Degens (Viking, 1974) is an exceptional teen novel both for its strong female protagonist as for its superior writing. In 1946, a 13 year-old German girl has been sent back to Cologne by her parents, all of them evacuees from the heavily bombed city. She is traveling alone, having learned independence the hard way during the war, and she obviously intends to stay independent. However, she becomes involved with an old couple on the transport and discovers the husband has promised his terminally ill wife that he will bury her beside their daughter in Cologne. When the wife dies en route, the man leans more than ever on the teenager to help

V4 N4

him fool the officials, the fellow passengers get food and shelter, and disguise the body during the interminable, infuriating transport delays and checks. The girl resists the involvement along the way, acting more out of a matter-of-fact compassion than commitment, but by the end of the book, she has realized that total independence is very lonely and caring for someone is possible. The book is much more sophisticated in its characterization and setting than most written for the junior high crowd, and the protagonist worth knowing by feminists. It serves as an example of how to write a full-bodied teen novel rather than a tract, something T. Degens obviously understood implicitly.

-- review by Mary Kay Chelton
Westchester Library System

INFORMATION ON THE ERA

The following list of materials on the Equal Rights Amendment was compiled by Dede Newport (Illinois Valley Library System) to assist librarians wishing to have materials in their libraries.

- "How and Why to Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment." National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., 2012 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.
- "The American Way: Ratify the E.R.A." NOW National Office, 1957 E. 73rd St., Chicago, IL 60649.
- "What the Equal Rights Amendment Means." National Association of Women Lawyers. E.R.A. Central, 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.
- "The Equal Rights Amendment." Communications Workers of America.
- "Equal Rights Amendment." E.R.A. Central.
A four page fact sheet done for Illinois Women which could be adapted by women in other states.
- "NOW ERA Bibliography." NOW Legislative Office, 1107 National Press Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20004.
This is a must for all libraries. If you have trouble obtaining it, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Women in Libraries for a photocopy.

TASK FORCE ON WOMEN JOB ROSTER REPORT

In July of 1974 the TFW resume screening service was discontinued in favor of a new format. At that point the TFW BULLETIN BOARD, a bi-weekly listing of above beginning level and specialist library job openings, began publication. The BULLETIN BOARD is sent on an at cost donation basis (\$5 for 6 months or 12 issues to women librarians and to a few institutions)

Task Force members feel that the job listing service puts more control over the job search process into the hands of the women seeking

V4N4

employment. Under the old service a woman did not know that her resume had been submitted to an employer unless she was contacted by the employer. Women now initiate employer contacts and deal directly with employers at all stages of the process. The new format also takes some time pressures off of the roster coordinator.

As of February 15 the BULLETIN BOARD had taken in \$718.50 in subscriber donations. A total of \$477.16 was paid out for duplicating, supplies, postage, etc., leaving a balance of \$241.34.

Currently 133 subscribers receive the BULLETIN BOARD. A few women have sent in responses to a questionnaire mailed with resubscription notices. (About 50 have been sent out and about 20 have been returned.) None of the respondents apparently have found new jobs as a result of the roster, although several have interviewed or are finalists for positions listed in the BULLETIN BOARD. Women with several years of experience tend to follow up more jobs listed in the BULLETIN BOARD than do women who are fairly new (with less than 5 years) in the field. The experienced women also show more employer response from their queries than do less experienced subscribers.

Most of the comments regarding the BULLETIN BOARD are favorable, but there are shortcomings as well. Many of the jobs currently listed in the BULLETIN BOARD are also published in major library journals, N.Y. Times, etc. This duplication occurs largely because the major academic libraries with well established personnel departments are the main listers in the BULLETIN BOARD. The BULLETIN BOARD is short on public and special library listings, a situation which might be partially remedied through more publicity of the service. The lack of smaller library representation in the BULLETIN BOARD might be attributed to: 1. The hiring officials of smaller libraries do not know of our existence or they are too limited in staff or funds to follow through on services such as ours. 2. Posting and search times are often so short for non-academic library vacancies that there is no time to do adequate nationwide searching. 3. Many public and special libraries lag behind the large academic libraries in developing affirmative action programs. 4. Most libraries-- all types and sizes-- still use the "old boy" channels in hiring for key positions.

To make the TFW BULLETIN BOARD more effective here's what you can do:

1. Circulate this issue of WOMEN IN LIBRARIES to your staff so that other women librarians can read about the roster service and other Task Force projects. Encourage your friends (especially those with experience who want to make a move) to send for a subscription.
2. Make sure that your library's personnel officer knows about the roster. When the library posts an above-beginning level or specialist position, remind the personnel officer to send a job notice to the BULLETIN BOARD. Let them know that job notices may be listed in the BULLETIN BOARD free of charge and that they should include complete information including salary range and application deadline.
3. Send a copy of this report to your local public library and to other major libraries in your area. Also get a copy to your library school placement service.

√4N4

4. Contact the roster coordinator if you can help to put out more formalized publicity on the roster service to some of the major public, special and academic libraries that have never listed with the roster, to affirmative action coordinators of major institutions and to library school placement officers. Liz Dickinson and Barbara Carlson, BULLETIN BOARD co-editors, cannot manage a major publicity campaign without help.

5. Liz Dickinson has been roster coordinator for almost two years and would like to see it revitalized with fresh blood after the San Francisco conference in July. The BULLETIN BOARD requires a few hours of work each week, but its rewards are many-- voluminous correspondence with lots of interesting people, a creative opportunity to manage all aspects of a small publication, and, of course, a chance to see all the job listings first.

If you have the time, interest and creative energy to run the roster service, if you want to help with roster publicity or you have suggestions for the BULLETIN BOARD-- or you want to send a donation for a subscription--contact: Liz Dickinson, Task Force on Women roster coordinator, c/o Technical Services Division, Hennepin County Library, 7001 York Ave. So., Edina, Minnesota 55435. (Make checks for at cost subscription at \$5 for 6 months payable to Task Force on Women Job Roster.)

LETTERS

TO: Glide Publications

FROM: Social Responsibilities Roundtable Task Force on Women

RE: Ad for Alternatives in Print

The Task Force through one of its members has been shown a copy of the yellow brochure which you have been handing out as an ad for Alternatives in Print, which is done by one of the other SRRT task forces. We find the use of the term Women's Lib offensive and denigrating and urge you to change it either to its correct terminology Women's Liberation Movement or to the more acceptable term, Feminism. We of the task force are trying very hard to fight the long and hard battle to prevent prejudice of language as well of as action, and since we know you to be a socially concerned press we hope you will adjust your literature.

Elizabeth Futas
Coordinator
SRRT TFW

TO: Elizabeth Futas
SRRT TFW

FROM: Ruth Gottstein
Glide Publications

RE: Ad for Alternatives in Print

Since receiving your memo of January 29 regarding the phrase "Women's Lib" in our brochure, I have discussed it with other aware women, and discovered for the first time that many women are unhappy with the term. Although I have some private reservations about its offensive character, due to the fact that we all abbreviate whenever we can, (i.e. Frisco for San Francisco, L.A. for Los Angeles, and right here in our office we never say Alternatives in Print-- only AIP) we are of course prepared to delete it from any further publicity or use, and to stand corrected.

However, I must take this opportunity to object to the peremptory, aggressive tone of your memo; it carries the same feeling tone of the many men who throughout my life have been my bosses and sent me memos, letters and directives. I feel you've been "prejudicial of language" and I hope women can get away from this in their communications with each other and the world.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A Working Woman's Guide to Her Job Rights is a Woman's Bureau publication for sale through the Government Printing Office for \$1.60. It covers everything from discrimination when you apply for a job to social security and pensions. Equal pay, maternity leaves, overtime pay, minimum wages, child care, unemployment, insurance and unions are all discussed. Every woman should have this information available.

The D.C. (Washington) Rape Crisis Center has produced a ten page mimeographed Bibliography on Rape. It includes articles on the legal, medical and psychological aspects of rape. It is available for \$1.50 from the Rape Crisis Center, P.O. Box 21005, Kalorama Street Station, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Careers for Women in Culture and Society will begin publication in September 1975. Among the areas to be dealt with in this new publication are sexuality and sex roles, marriage and the family, the work force, building social institutions, psychological theories of masculinity and femininity and the function of power. The editors would appreciate suggestions of potential topics and contributors. Charter subscriptions are \$13 for institutions and \$9 for individuals. Send checks to Signs, The University of Chicago Press, 11030 Langley Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60618. Send suggestions and manuscripts to Signs, Box 20, 307 Barnard Hall, Barnard College, New York, N.Y. 10027.

The Liberty Cap is a monthly bibliography-newsletter of recently published non-stereotyped children's books and resources. Approximately 50 children's books are annotated each month. There is also a listing of articles, books, bibliographies, catalogs and newsletters

✓ 4 N4

which contain information on sexism, racism and human liberation in children's literature and publishing. Liberty Cap costs \$4 for six issues. Send your checks to Enid Davis, 1050 Newell Rd., Palo Alto, Calif. 94303.

The Resource Center on Sex Roles in Education is a project of the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education (Suite 918/1156 Fifteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005). This Center has produced some very impressive materials on sexism in the schools including "Combating Discrimination in the Schools; Legal Remedies and Guidelines" and "The Awareness Game". You may ask to be on their mailing list for their continuing newsletter, Research Actions Notes (free of charge).

The Center for Continuing Education of Women of the University of Michigan publishes a newsletter on its program. There is no charge for being added to its mailing list. Write the Center at 330 Thompson Street, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48108.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT ALA - REGISTER NOW

The ALA/SRRT Task Force on Women will be holding an all-day Women's Conference on Sunday, June 29 in San Francisco. It will consist of morning workshops on action tactics in the work place, buffet lunch, afternoon panel discussion and evening celebration. In addition, there will be an exhibit area of women's presses and organizations. For further information about exhibiting at the conference contact Francie Gilman, 410 Fairmount, #301, Oakland, CA 94611.

A registration fee of \$10 for the conference will cover the cost of the day's events. The last day for registration is May 15th. Checks payable to SRRT/TFW Women's Conference should be sent to Helen Josephine, 2569 Hilgard Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709. REGISTER NOW! Enrollment in the workshops will be limited. Further information concerning the Women's Conference will be sent to registrants after the May 15 deadline.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Child care needed? yes () no ()
(If yes, you will be contacted after May 15.)