

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT TASK
FORCE ON WOMEN

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Ed. Kay Cassell

TASK FORCE ON WOMEN MEETINGS IN DETROIT

The SRRT Task Force on Women held two business meetings at the ALA annual conference in Detroit. At the first meeting the Task Force endorsed a resolution from the ALA Status of Women Committee on the Library Bill of Rights. This resolution pointed out the need to amend section 5 of the Library Bill of Rights to eliminate sexist language and to add the word "sex". The amended version would read: "The rights of individuals to the use of a library shall not be denied or abridged because of their age, race, sex, religion, national origin or social or political views." This resolution was referred to the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee. The Task Force also endorsed a Status of Women Committee resolution committing ALA to negotiate for future conferences only in states that have passed the ERA.

The proposal for a Task Force steering committee was passed with some revisions. (Text of the proposal follows this report). In accordance with the new steering committee resolution, a steering committee was elected. The following persons were elected to the Task Force steering committee: Donna Epps (Friendship Jr. College, S.C.), Elizabeth Futas (Emory University, Ga.), Karen Jackson (Montclair Public Library, N.J.), Cynthia Johanson (Library of Congress), Diane Gordon Kadanoff (Cumberland Public Library, R.I.), Mike Leber (Virginia Beach Branch Library, Va.), Margaret E. Lowe (University of Wisconsin Libraries), Jean Porter (Ft. Lauderdale Branch Broward County Library, FL), Betty-Carol Sellen (Brooklyn College Library, N.Y.) and Kay Cassell (Bethlehem Public Library, N.Y.), ex officio as editor of newsletter. Four members will have a two year term and four a one year term.

Julie Chase reported on the efforts of the job roster study committee. They proposed having job counseling workshops at Midwinter. This idea was approved, and plans for the workshops are being made. (See details in this issue).

The Task Force endorsed a proposal from the political action committee. This proposal is as follows:

Political Action Committee

Composition - members of the Coordinating Council plus volunteer people willing to work, especially at conferences

Purposes - identify supporters on Council, Executive Board
- report on issues before ALA that have special interest or importance to the Task Force on Women
- publicize TFW's position on issues and candidates
- discover supporters in other divisions, roundtables, etc. in order to lobby for issues and candidates
- begin to work on guidelines for endorsements, political action and a general philosophy for the political activities of the Task Force

Objectives - to provide information to the Task Force on Women for its action and activities

A PROPOSAL FOR A STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee will consist of nine members, each serving a two-year term (excepting the Past-Coordinator who will serve a third year). The role of the Steering Committee will be to carry out the functions of the Task Force, efficiently and effectively.

Roles of the Steering Committee

Coordinator: Presiding officer (in second year)

Program Coordinator: Responsible for planning programs for the annual conference and midwinter meeting (all committee members will share this job, but the coordinator will assume chief responsibility)

Recorder: Internal minutes

Treasurer: In charge of finances

Committee members at large: Will act as liaisons to the Committee on the Status of Women and other discussion groups within ALA centered around women's issues. This will keep the Steering Committee informed of the various concerns expressed by these groups

Editor, Women in Libraries: ex officio member

Elections

Four members will be elected each year to serve a two year term. The steering committee will be composed of the four new committee members, four committee members in their second term and the past coordinator (third year).

During the reorganization (first year), eight committee members will be elected. The four with the highest number of votes will serve two years and the other four will serve one year. Nominations will be made at midwinter, and the ballot will appear in Women in Libraries. During the reorganization, the nominations and voting will take place at the summer conference (Detroit).

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT ALA

The following resolutions were passed by ALA membership and Council in Detroit:

1) Resolution commending Booklist

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SRRT Task Force on Women commends Booklist for its efforts this year to review feminist press books on a regular basis.

2) Resolution on the Equal Rights Amendment and conference sites

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that as ALA continues to negotiate for conference sites, that the Association add its voice and effort to the passage of the Amendment by committing future conferences only to states that have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment.

3) Resolution on Gay Rights

BE IT RESOLVED that Council reaffirms its support for equal employment opportunity for gay librarians and library workers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to combat the current campaign against full human rights for gay American citizens, Council and Membership recommend that libraries re-affirm their obligation under the Library Bill of Rights to disseminate information representing all points of view on this controversial topic.

The full texts of these resolutions are available from Women in Libraries by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope.

SHEEHY AT ALA

Gail Sheehy's presentation at ALA sponsored by the Task Force on Women was most interesting and thought provoking. Among Ms. Sheehy's comments were these: "The chief block to women's development is our own timidity.", "Men punish the weak among themselves and women punish the strong.", "We need a 'new girl' network." and "Women must support other women." Ms. Sheehy's new book will concentrate on people from 45 - 60 years old. She is looking for innovative models for adapting to changes in adult life.

SUMMER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

A July meeting of the Task Force on Women Steering Committee was held at Diane Kadanoff's in Providence, R.I. The steering committee formulated the following plans:

- 1) to monitor ALA division publications for sexist language;
- 2) to investigate ALA's insurance plan for sexism;
- 3) to monitor the implementation of past Task Force resolutions;
- 4) to invite the ALA Presidential candidates to a question and answer session at Midwinter.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS FILE SEX DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

The librarians at Temple University (Pa.) have filed a class action sex discrimination complaint with EEOC against the University administration on the basis of low salaries paid to those who work in a "woman's occupation". For further information, contact Elaine C. Clever, vice president, AAUP, Barton Hall A231, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa. 19122.

SAN DIEGO LIBRARIANS IN SEX DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

The San Diego Municipal Employees Association has filed a sex discrimination complaint with EEOC. The City refused to compensate Librarians in the Professional Unit and certain Administrative Services and Field Support Unit employees on a par with similar occupations in the City pay structure. This inequity, they state, has occurred for reasons of female sex discrimination. The complaint cites the need for re-evaluation of City position and pay levels to reflect equal pay for comparable work...and the need to end the significant difference between the pay of professional men and women in those classifications when comparative experience and education requirements are the same. They further state that salary segregation continues under the City's current system, whereby female dominated job areas receive lower wages while at the same time requiring higher-than-average educational achievements, such as in the particular case of City Librarians.

WOMEN ADMINISTRATORS' DISCUSSION GROUP

The first half of the meeting of the ad hoc women administrators' discussion group at ALA in Detroit was devoted to discussing strategy for the coordinators' meeting with the Library Administration Division's Executive Board. Other discussion topics included: increasing the influence of women in the profession, increasing the number of women in decision-making positions in ALA, developing a women's talent pool, developing new role models in administration, developing a mentor network, developing new administrative patterns, providing access to jobs, encouraging LAD to conduct a survey of women holding administrative jobs and the need to provide resume writing, interview technique workshops and career counseling.

WOMEN'S PRESS BOOKS

The Greasy Thumb Auto Mechanic's Manual for Women by Barb Wyatt (Iowa City Women's Press, 116½ E. Benton St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240) \$5.50. A beautiful illustrated auto mechanics manual. Not just for women!

A revised edition of Feminist Resources for Schools and Colleges, A Guide to Curricular Materials by Merle Froschl and Jane Williamson has just been published by Feminist Press (Box 334, Old Westbury, NY 11568) \$1.95. The invaluable annotated bibliography of nonsexist materials is arranged by subject. A must for library reference collections.

The Lavender Herring; Lesbian Essays from The Ladder, edited by Barbara Grier and Coletta Reid. Diana Press, 12 W. 25th St., Baltimore, Md. 21218. \$5.75. Essays from The Ladder, a national Lesbian magazine begun in 1956. Writers in this anthology include Rita Mae Brown, Mary Phoebe Bailey, Rita Laporte and Sarah Whitworth.

Lesbian Lives, Biographies of Women from The Ladder, edited by Barbara Grier and Coletta Reid. Diana Press. \$5.75. Biographies of well-known and not-so-well-known women who were or probably were lesbians. Among the women included are Queen Christina of Sweden, H.D., Sappho, Sara Teasdale, Rosa Bonheur and Margaret Fuller.

Alicejamesbooks has published two new poetry collections. Green Shaded Lamps by Cornelia Veenendaal is about seeing: seeing the past, one's parents, oneself, the world. Veenendaal's poetry is honest and pure. In Thirsty Day/Permanent Wave we find the poetry of Kathleen Aguero and Miriam Goodman. Aguero writes of the familiar terrors of everyday life while Goodman writes of everyday experiences such as brushing hair, an eviction notice and a public school Christmas concert. Both volumes of poetry maintain the fine quality of work published by Alicejamesbooks. Both volumes are priced at \$3.50. (Alicejamesbooks, 138 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138).

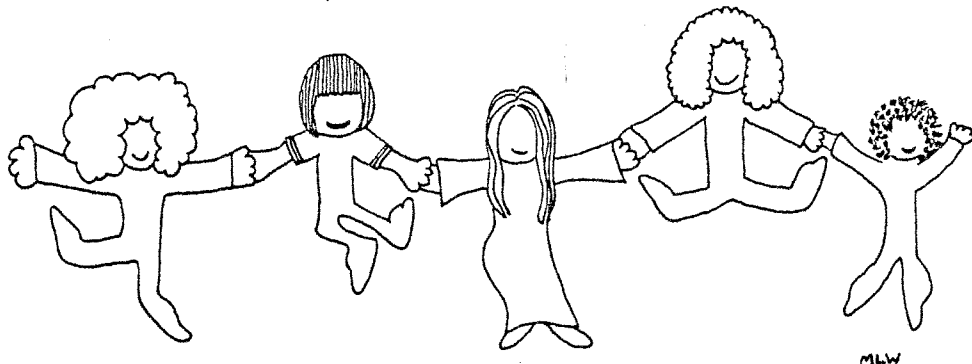
Naiad Press has published The Muse of the Violets, Poems by Renee Vivien. This is the first time that any of the poetry of Renee Vivien (pseudonym of the Anglo-American lesbian, Pauline Tarn, 1877-1909) has appeared in English. Vivien's poems were said to be among the most perfect in form written in French in the first quarter of the century. \$4.00. Naiad Press, 20 Rue Jacob Acres, Bates City, Mo. 64011.

Love Image by Valerie Taylor is a new novel by a writer popular in the 1950's and 1960's. This is Taylor's first Lesbian novel in over 10 years. Published by Naiad Press. \$4.50

CAREER DECISION WORKSHOPS AT ALA MIDWINTER

The SRRT Task Force on Women will sponsor two career decision workshops at ALA Midwinter. These workshops are designed to help in deciding what skills you possess, help in clarifying what interests you have and help in deciding where you want to put your work energy. The morning workshop (9:00 - 12:00) is designed for women entering the profession. The afternoon workshop (2:00 - 5:00) is structured for women who are already librarians and who are considering a change of direction within their careers, or a change of career. The leaders, Luan Gilbert and Nancy Deutsch, have experience in vocational and career counseling for individuals and groups. Both have demonstrated interest in women's issues and have served as counselors for Women's Place, an alternative counseling center for women in Madison, Wisconsin.

The workshops will be held on Monday, January 23, 1978, at ALA Midwinter, Palmer House, Chicago. Anyone may register for this career counseling for women. Registration is limited to 25 persons per session. The cost is \$5.00 (materials provided). Checks should be made payable to Career Decision Workshop. Check must accompany registration. Please specify morning or afternoon workshop. Send your registration to Margaret E. Lowe, Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706, no later than January 6, 1978. For further information, contact Lynne Erickson or Kathy Leide, 419 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53706.



RADIO DRAMA AVAILABLE IN CASSETTE FORM

The Muse, a women's radio collective in Boston, is making available its show, "Tale Without Beginning or End" in cassette form for teachers, librarians and counselors. "Tale Without Beginning or End" is a dramatic rendering of excerpts from women's diaries, based on the book, Revelations, edited by Charlotte Painter and Mary Jane Moffat. The cost of the ½ hour cassette is \$20. Please send check or money order payable to 'The Muse' with complete mailing address to : The Muse, 102 Charles Street, Suite 320, Boston, Mass. 02114. (Recommended by Ellen Sisco)

EMERGENCY LIBRARIAN

Emergency Librarian's May/June 1977 issue is on feminist presses. They include both Canadian and U.S. presses. Don't miss it! (EL, % Sherrill Cheda, 46 Gormley Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4V 121).

Phyllis Yaffe, one of the editors of Emergency Librarian, is now the director of the Children's Book Centre in Toronto.

FILMSTRIP/CASSETTE SET ON TITLE IX

A 15-minute filmstrip and cassette tape on Title IX has been produced by the Human Relations Program at St. Cloud State University. It gives a clear, accurate breakdown of what educational agencies must do to come into compliance with Title IX. This set is available from: Audio Visual Library Service, University of Minnesota, 3300 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis, Minn. 55414. The cost of "Title IX: Implementing the Regulation" (No. E0095B) is \$25.00.

NEW BOOKS

Directory of Financial Aids for Women is available for \$15.95 from Reference Service Press, 9023 Alcott St., Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA 90035. This work identifies scholarships, fellowships, loans, grants and internships designed primarily or exclusively for women.

Women and the Law by Kathleen Willert Paratis is a new publication of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation. Copies are available for \$5.75 from the National Textbook Co., 8529 Niles Center Rd., Skokie, IL 60076.

Women in California is the first comprehensive guide to organizations concerned with women's rights and problems. 1600 governmental and private organizations are described. This work is available for \$16.75 from the Center for California Public Affairs, P.O. Box 30, Claremont, CA 91711.

PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

"Sex Discrimination in Insurance" is available for \$3.00 from WEAL, 733 15th St., NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005.

"Monitoring Title IX: A Guide to Action for the Volunteer Organization" is available for \$1.50 from the AAUW, 2401 Virginia Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

"I'm in Love with Electricity" is a report of women in science and engineering prepared by Nancy Kreinberg. This report finds that sex stereotyping keeps women out of the sciences. A resource list and bibliography are included. For a copy of this report, send \$1 (payable to the Regents, University of California) to Nancy Kreinberg, Lawrence Hall of Science, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, Calif. 94702.

"Feminism in the Mid-1970's" by Maren Lockwood Carden is a discussion of two kinds of feminist organizations - the non-establishment or independent and the newer establishment-related - and the kinds of activities characteristic of each. The report prepared for the Ford Foundation is available from them for \$2.95 (P.O. Box 1919, New York, NY 10001).

The Northwestern University Program on Women is publishing a series of papers on women. For a publications list, contact Arlene Kaplan Daniels, Program on Women, Northwestern University, 619 Emerson St., Evanston, IL 60201.

Betsy Warrior and Lisa Leghorn have published several pamphlets on houseworkers and battered women. A publications list is available from Leghorn and Warrior at 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA 021139.

"American Women Today and Tomorrow", a new survey report released by the National Commission on International Women's Year, confirms that women are still concentrated in clerical and service occupations. Ironically, nearly one out of five employed women interviewed replied that she could not answer questions about equal pay because "No men work in my type job." This booklet (no. 052-003-00249-3) is now available from the Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Musica, Newsletter About Women in Music has just published its sixth issue. For no. 5 and back issues, send a \$6 donation to Indy Allen, P.O. Box 55, Troutdale, OR 97060.

Guide to Alternative Periodicals has just published its second edition listing over 670 periodicals. Order for \$3.00 from Sunspark Press, Box 91, Greenleaf, OR 97445.

NEXT NEWS DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1, 1977.

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES is published 5 times a year from Sept. to June. Subscriptions are \$4 for individuals and \$6 for institutions. Make checks payable to ALA/SRRT Task Force on Women and send to Kay Cassell, 44 Nathaniel Blvd., Delmar, NY 12054.

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