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Newsbriefs

The Feminist Press

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NEWSBRIEFS

JOBS

Director of Women's Studies. Interdisciplinary program currently leading to certificate at undergraduate level; director will also have academic appointment as associate or full professor, effective July 1, 1979. Qualifications: Ph.D. or equivalent; teaching, research, publications; prior involvement in women's studies; administrative ability. Send inquiries, or vita and three letters of recommendation by October 31, 1978, to Judi Di Iorio, Women's Studies Search Committee, 101 Administration Bldg, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221.

Director of Women's Studies Program, to direct and further develop program (along with faculty-staff-student committee). Candidates should have Ph.D. or equivalent, prior involvement in activities related to women's studies (e.g., teaching, publications, administrative experience, leadership in public or professional associations, participation in feminist groups), and qualifications suited for tenure track appointment. Search begins September 1, 1979. Submit curriculum vitae and names and addresses of at least three references to Women's Studies Search Committee, Box U-86, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06268.

Assistant Professor of American Literature (literary theory/criticism/history) with special consideration for the literature of minorities (women and men) and/or women's literature. Four-year position, with possible two year extension. Person should be able to conduct courses in German after two years. Write to Dr. Milbrandt, J F Kennedy Institute, Free University of Berlin, Lansstrasse 5-9, 1000 Berlin 33, W Germany. Closing date for applications: December 15, 1978. Informal information may also be had from F Howe, English Dept, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH 44074, after September 4.

CONFERENCES/CALLS FOR PAPERS

The third annual Women in German Workshop/Retreat will take place on September 22-24, 1978, at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Participation and contributions are invited for the following sessions: Sexism in the German Language (Pat Russian and Detti Ledochowski), The Women's Question and Aesthetics (Sara Lennox and Pat Herminghouse), Women Authors in the 19th Century (Elke Frederiksen and Kay Goodman), Contemporary Women's Culture (Evelyn Beck and Gisela Strand). Work in progress and collective projects are especially encouraged, rather than formal papers. For further information and to submit suggestions/contributions write to WIG Workshop, GREAL, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056.

Papers on feminist theory are requested for the 1978 Conference on the Current State of Marxism to be held October 19-22 at the Red Feather Institute in Red Feather, Colorado. Send papers to Judi Di Iorio, Dept of Sociology, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, or to Tim Diamond, Dept of Sociology, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65201.

The Philological Association of the Pacific Coast will hold its 1978 meeting on November 11-12 in Seattle, Washington. Papers for the Women in Literature section are invited. Subjects include studies of literary works by and/or about women, issues or methods in feminist criticism, or problems of feminist pedagogy. Membership in the PAPC is required. Write immediately to Leslie Rabine, Dept of French and Italian, University of California/Irvine, Irvine, CA 92719.

A conference on Feminist Utopian Views of the Future is proposed for February 1979 at California State University/Chico. Papers may draw from a wide variety of topics, and it is hoped that a book may result. For information write to Dr. Gayle Kimball, Women's Studies Program, Dept of Ethnic and Women's Studies, California State University/Chico, Chico, CA 95929.

An anthology of criticism on women's autobiographies is being assembled. Papers may treat an individual work, a period in literary history, a thematic survey, or a theoretical approach to one or more autobiographies. Articles should be analytical and critical as well as descriptive. They need not be from a feminist perspective, and both male and female critics are encouraged to submit their writings. Purpose is to collect representative sample of work being done on women's autobiographies, which have traditionally been excluded from critical studies, in order to establish worth of women's contribution to the history and development of the genre. Write at once to Estelle C. Jelinek, English Dept, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 94132.

Manuscripts sought for anthology of current feminist research presenting new visions of women's contributions to, and importance within, preindustrial society. Studies revealing new data on women's activities and social positions within prehistoric, early historic, and indigenous societies are particularly, but not exclusively, sought. Aim is to make available research challenging academically accepted generalization of universal and panhistoric male dominance in all realms of life (religion, politics, economics, etc.). Contributions welcome from all fields of study. Submit abstract to Susan Brown and Elisa Buenaventura, Dept of Anthropology, Boston University, 232 Bay State Rd, Boston, MA 02165, or to Merlin Stone, 184 6th Ave, New York, NY 10013.

An anthology of poetry on the subject of widowhood is being edited by Anita Sken, poet, and Carol Barrett, psychologist. They are interested in poems which explore the diverse experiences of widowhood in various cultures from the perspective of widowed persons themselves, relatives, friends, professionals, and others. Consideration will be given to both published and previously unpublished work. Poems should be sent with self-addressed, stamped
CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

The MLA Commission on the Status of Women in the Profession is seeking participants for a session entitled "Women's Studies: Looking Towards the Eighties" for the 1978 MLA Convention in New York City, December 27-30, 1978. The panel will consist of individuals representing the following perspectives: (1) a director of an established Women's Studies Program; (2) a representative from a new or emerging program; (3) a feminist teaching in an institution without a program; and (4) a feminist working in a community or institutionally based women's center.

Panelists will each make a five-minute presentation, after which Elaine Reuben, coordinator of the National Women's Studies Association, will serve as a respondent and conduct the general discussion.

Prospective participants should prepare an outline or statement (1-3 pages) addressing some of the following questions: (1) What are the pressures confronted by feminists working in the mid- and late 1970s? (2) What strategies, if any, have been effective in meeting problems and pressures? (3) What are the fundamental successes and failures of women's programming (courses, services, etc.) in this decade? (4) What is the role of the feminist/program/center in the larger environment? (5) What do you see ahead in women's studies?

Outlines should be sent at once to Gloria DeSole, Affirmative Action Office AD 344, SUNY/Albany, 1400 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12222.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Data are sought on second-generation teachers of women's studies as an indication of the increasing "academic solidity" and visibility of women's studies courses in the United States. Send names of persons, institutions, departments, titles of courses and how long each person has been offering the courses, to Irene Thompson, Coordinator, Women's Studies Program, GPA 4008, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

DONNA ALLEN HONORED

Dr. Donna Allen, a member of the NWSA Advisory Committee to the Women's Studies Newsletter, was honored in April with a Broadcast Preceptor Award in recognition of her "courageous leadership in the fight to extend First Amendment and other Constitutional guarantees to women in realistic ways," for her "persistence in establishing the Women's Institute for Media Report to Women." The award, which is designated by the faculty of the Broadcast Communication Arts Department of San Francisco State University, honors "those men and women in the broadcasting field, in the educational, literary, or professional sectors, whose contributions and accomplishments are of sustained excellence and highest quality."

Other winners for this year include Walter Cronkite and Mike Wallace.

WOMEN'S RECORDS PROJECT

The Women's Records Project of Georgia is an independent, nonprofit organization working with women's groups and archival depositories to locate, describe, and preserve records relating to women. Project activities and plans include production of slide shows; articles about women's history; and guidebooks for organizations explaining how to identify and keep historically valuable records, how to work with archives, how to write a local or organizational history, or how to conduct an oral history program. The Project is seeking funding from supporters. For more information, write to Women's Records Project of Georgia, Inc, Suite 16DE, 300 W Peachtree St, NW, Atlanta, GA 30308.

NEW FEMINIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

For several months, a group of women has met weekly in Minneapolis to discuss the formation of a women's press in Minnesota. They expect to open—in about 18 months—a publishing house committed to printing writing (and art) by women; and a print shop, as a commercial venture, to pay for publishing costs. The collective needs several shop women with skills in printing and/or camera work, and with experience working with collectives. Write to Minnesota Women's Press, 5208 16th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55417.

$$ FOR WOMEN

Last November, the Business and Professional Women's Foundation awarded scholarships to 173 women across the country for academic programs or vocational training to further their careers. The scholarships are available to women over 25 years of age who want to take job-related courses at accredited institutions. November awards included $30,000 in BPW Foundation Career Advancement Scholarships; $25,000 in Clairol Loving Care Scholarships; $10,000 in Florence Morse Scholarships; and $10,000 in Mobil Oil Scholarships—all administered by the BPW Foundation. For further information, write to
NEWSBRIEFS

Kathleen Parker, BPW Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation announced awards of research grants to 18 graduate students writing doctoral dissertations in the area of women's studies. The projects selected cover such diverse topics as the effect of immigration on Irish and Mexican women and their families, the reasons why married mothers are going to work in greater numbers than unmarried mothers, the special problems faced by older women, and how family lives are affected by the architecture of their homes, as well as studies of individual women in art, music, literature, and history.

Money for Women Fund, Inc., was set up several years ago by Barbara Deming, radical pacifist and feminist writer, to give grants and loans for feminist projects in the arts and education. The Fund is looking for money—large and small—from feminists. Write to Julia Morgana, 207 Coastal Hwy, St Augustine, FL 32084.

Though we have not examined it, there is a new Directory of Financial Aids for Women (200 pages, hardcover, $15.95), published by Reference Service Press, 9023 Alcott St, Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA 90035.

FILMS

Four Women Artists features the art of four women from Mississippi: novelist Eudora Welty, quiltmaker Pecolia Warner, embroiderer Ethel Mohamed, and the late folk painter Theora Hamblett. The film includes interviews with the artists. 25 minutes, 16mm, color. Available for purchase, $300.00; rental, $30.00. Write to Center for Southern Folklore, 1216 Peabody Ave, PO Box 4081, Memphis, TN 38104.

Who Remembers Mama? is a provocative documentary exploring the emotional devastation and the economic plight experienced by millions of middle-aged women who have been displaced from their role as homemaker through divorce. Film can be purchased for $550.00 or rented for $75.00. Video cassette available at purchase price of $150.00 or rental of $60.00. Speaker available to conduct seminar or question-and-answer session after the film (honorarium, $60.00 plus expenses). For information, write to: Women in Communications, Inc, Dallas Chapter, 5215 Homer St, Dallas, TX 75206.

Muriel Nezhnie Helfman is a film portrait of a St. Louis tapestry weaver who balances career and family life. 17 minutes, 16mm, color and black and white. Available for purchase ($300.00) or rental ($25.00, plus $4.00 for handling) from the filmmaker, Carol Greenfield, 30-28 14 St, Astoria, NY 11102, or call (212) 274-6369.

LEGAL NEWS

The Vermont custody case of a lesbian mother and her six-year-old daughter, part of a collective of eight lesbians and three children, has been settled out of court, with the mother keeping custody of the child. For further information: Lesbian Defense Fund, PO Box 4, Essex Junction, VT 05452.

Irene Thompson

AGEISM WAS TOPIC AT MLA

Ageism is being recognized increasingly as a serious form of discrimination, but the more punitive societal attitude toward the aging woman as compared with the aging man is less generally acknowledged. Too often an older woman is what she looks like, whereas an older man is what he does. A session I chaired at the December 1977 Modern Language Association Convention entitled “Women: Aging and Death in Literature” provided an opportunity to explore and challenge the stereotypical image of the older woman, both in life and in literature.

The four participants' presentations (Nancy Hall Rice of SUNY/Albany—“Three Older Women and their Symbolic Function in Folkloric Literature of Chaucer's England”; Kathleen Woodward of the University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee—“Aging and Disengagement: May Sarton’s As We Are Now and Journal of a Solitude”; Marie Jean Lederman of Baruch College/CUNY—“Katherine Mansfield’s Women”; and Mary Sohngen, a Fellow at Scripps Foundation Gerontology Center, Miami University—“The Selfhood of Aging Women in the Contemporary Novel”) inspired an intense and perceptive exchange of ideas.

The papers were particularly significant in the light of an earlier session, “Grey Gardens: Old Age in Film.” The film dealt with the love/hate relationship between an 87-year-old mother and her 66-year-old daughter—and how each viewed the passing years. Albert Maysles, codirector of the film, introduced it by stating that it was about aging and that the subjects simply happened to be women. Some minutes later, however, he alluded rather perfunctorily to an incident that clearly belied that assertion. When Mr. Maysles visited the two women for the first time, a carload of teenagers happened to be driving by and they just happened to shout at the unseen women inside the house, “You damned witches.” Surely such vocal castigations would hardly have been tossed at a building housing two men.

A number of people attending the session on aging had attended the film session as well, so that after the reading of the papers there was an impassioned discussion, contrasting the insensitivity of one session with the sensitivity of the other. A number of the male attendees referred to the earlier meeting as a masculinist rather than a humanist treatment of aging.

Our literary session was scheduled to meet from 9:00 to 10:15 pm, a time we were convinced would be less than conducive to attracting a sizeable audience. However, over 65 persons came and stayed, until 11:20 pm, at which point I announced, “It’s time.” It was an exciting and thought-provoking evening. As women, we did not “go gently into that goodnight.”

Irene Thompson is Coordinator of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Florida.