

**The Coalition
for Western
Women's
History**

Steering Committee

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NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2008

From the Steering Committee Chair

Welcome, everyone, to the inaugural edition of the CWWH newsletter.

This newsletter is one of the exciting new ventures undertaken by members of the Coalition for Western Women's History in celebration of our 25th anniversary in 2008. Discussion at our last few Business Meetings has led to the conclusion that, as an organization, we need to find a way to stay connected throughout the year. Thanks to Lori Lahlum's efforts, we hope this twice-yearly newsletter will become a venue to do just that—sharing our organization's news, celebrating publications and promotions, and keeping members updated on relevant conferences.

But there is so much more going on! This year the CWWH celebrates its 25th anniversary, a truly wonderful achievement. Kathleen Underwood and Paula Petrik are co-chairing the committee to celebrate the event through, during and after the 2008 WHA in Salt Lake City, Utah. Please look for events to be posted in the September newsletter. In 2007 Dee Garceau-Hagen directed the first, and very successful, Writing Group, pairing readers with authors of works-in-progress (book chapters, journal essays, dissertations, and so forth). Lynne Getz and Susan Wladaver-Morgan have been active in compiling a database of our members and working on a membership drive to attract new members to the CWWH. Our proposal for the Graduate Student Support Fund, to help graduate students off-set the cost of attending WHA meals, awaits consideration at the WHA Council meeting in March

The CWWH continues to sponsor the Wednesday afternoon Round Table, which by tradition is held on the opening day of the WHA annual meeting. The Salt Lake City session involves a wonderful array of scholars who will discuss the pleasures and pitfalls of oral history research. In an effort to encourage attendance at the Business Meeting (open to all CWWH members), it will be held immediately following the Round Table. We will keep you posted on combined CWWH/WHA events via the next newsletter, slated for September 2008, and the 2008 WHA print program.

Yes, 2007 was a busy year, and 2008 will be even busier. Between our traditional events like the Breakfast, Round Table and Silent Auction, and new initiatives, this is an exciting time to belong to the CWWH. I encourage you to get involved and help the organization grow for the next twenty-five years.

Renee Laegreid
Chair of the Steering Committee

CWWH and the WHA

Graduate Student Support Fund

In January, the Coalition submitted a proposal to the Western History Association for the establishment of a Graduate Student Support Fund. This fund would provide graduate students with tickets to attend various meal events at the WHA annual meeting. Attendees to the annual meeting would be able to support the fund when they register for the Western. If adopted, this program will encourage greater graduate student participation at WHA annual meeting social events and foster greater inter-

action between graduate students and established scholars. We requested that the program be implemented for this fall's meeting in Salt Lake City.

WHA Annual Meeting Program

The CWWH has also proposed that the Western History Association designate two slots (in addition to the current Wednesday Roundtable) on the annual meeting program for Coalition sessions. These sessions would be organized by the CWWH and submitted to

the program committee; they would be a part of the regular program process. If accepted by the program committee, these sessions would appear on the program as being sponsored by the Coalition for Western Women's History, in the same manner as is currently done for the Mormon History Association, the Westerners International, Broderlands/Fronterizos, and the Ninth Judicial Circuit. In this way, the CWWH can further highlight important work in western women's and gender history. If approved, this would go into effect with the 2009 meeting in Denver.

Members' Activities

In January 2008 **Mary Ann Irwin** joined the Editorial Board of the [Pacific Historical Review](#) (University of California Press), and gave a presentation on "Teaching the (Digital) History of the American West" at the AHA conference in Washington D.C.

Suzanne Kelley, PhD student in history at North Dakota State University, advanced to candidacy

status January 14, 2008. Dr. Mark Harvey is chair of her dissertation committee, and her areas of study are the American West, Rural & Agricultural History, and Public History. Her first peer-review publication is due out in January from the Swedish American Historical Quarterly, "Coffins, Carnivals, and Country Stores: Emily Lunde's Memory Paintings."

Darlis Miller's book, *MATILDA COXE STEVENSON, PIONEERING ANTHROPOLOGIST*, was published by the University of Oklahoma Press in October 2007.

Send news on member activities to Lori Lahlum at lori.lahlum@mnsu.edu.

Join Us for the First Annual CWWH Reading Group

The Coalition has organized a gender studies and feminist theory reading group as a part of our ongoing effort to foster lively discussion, shared knowledge, and a spirit of intellectual community among all who are interested in the history of women and

gender in the West. Meeting annually at the Western History Association Conference, the CWWH reading group offers a forum for reading and discussing recent (or foundational) works in gender studies and feminist theory.

To suggest an article or monograph for this year's meeting, please contact Mandy Taylor-Montoya at ataylor-montoya.ou.edu.

Look for additional details in the Fall 2008 newsletter.

Join CWWH

CWWH welcomes the membership of anyone interested in the history of women in the North American West. New members may join at any time. An application form can be found on page 4 or at: www.WesternWomensHistory.org/mbrshp.htm.

Our membership year runs October to October, from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting (which is held in conjunction with the WHA's annual meeting). We encourage members to renew their membership by com-

ing to the Annual Meeting, especially the CWWH Breakfast. Dues are pro-rated to members' annual income. No one will be excluded from membership in CWWH because of inability to pay.

Dues schedule:

Students: \$15

Income under \$40,000: \$30

Income over \$40,000: \$45

Institutions: \$100

Membership dues and contributions to the Jensen-Miller Prize fund or the Irene Ledesma Prize fund should be sent to:

Susan Wladaver-Morgan

Treasurer, CWWH

487 Cramer Hall

Portland State University

Portland, OR 97207-0751

Membership Committee Update

Lynne Getz, Chair of the Membership Committee, is spearheading the effort to expand the CWWH membership. As a part of that effort, she has been sending out letters to former members. The letter highlights the Coalition's work promoting western women's and gender history, and it en-

courages former members to re-join.

While Lynne has been sending out letters, Susan Wladaver-Morgan, CWWH Treasurer, has been busy updating the membership list.

Lynne and Susan may be the most involved with member-

ship activities, but we can all invite colleagues who do western women's and gender history to consider membership. Also, think about purchasing memberships for your graduate students as a means of fostering the next generation of scholars.

From the Editor

Dear Members and Friends:

I hope that you are enjoying this newsletter, one of the Steering Committee's new initiatives. We plan to put out two issues a year—one in February and one in September. The purpose of the newsletter is to facilitate communication between CWWH and its members and to keep members abreast of

CWWH initiatives, members' activities, conferences, seminars, fellowships, funding for graduate students, and job announcements. Please pass on such information to me for inclusion in the newsletter. I would also like short articles, book reviews, and film reviews that are related to western women's and gender history.

If you have suggestions for content or organization, please let me know. I have never used Publisher before, and I welcome suggestions.

Best regards.

Lori Lahlum

lori.lahlum@mnsu.edu

COALITION FOR WESTERN WOMEN'S HISTORY

Membership Information

CWWH welcomes the membership of anyone interested in the history of women in the North American West. New members may join at any time. Our membership year runs October to October, from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting (which is held in conjunction with the WHA's annual meeting). We encourage members to renew their membership by coming to the Annual Meeting, especially the CWWH Breakfast. Dues are pro-rated to members' annual income. No one will be excluded from membership in CWWH because of inability to pay.

Name: _____
Address: _____
E-Mail: _____
By providing CWWH with your e-mail and street address, you agree that CWWH may contact you for purposes of requesting or sharing information about your professional activities and those of the CWWH. CWWH will not distribute this information outside the organization.
/ / Please check this box if you do not wish CWWH to share your email address with other CWWH members.
Telephone: _____
FAX: _____
Affiliation: _____
New Member _____ or Renewal _____

Annual Dues (Dues are the same in U.S. and Canadian dollars.):

Students.....	\$15.00	
Income under \$40,000.....	30.00	
Income \$40,000 and over.....	45.00	
Institutions.....	100.00	
Contribution:		
Jensen-Miller Prize.....	\$ _____	
Irene Ledesma Prize.....	_____	
Unrestricted.....	_____	
TOTAL ENCLOSED:		\$ _____

Please send to:

Susan Wladaver-Morgan, Treasurer, CWWH

487 Cramer Hall

Portland State University

2008 Irene Ledesma Prize

For Ph.D. graduate student research in western women's history.

Deadline for submission: May 1, 2008.

The \$1,000 prize supports travel to collections or other research expenses related to the histories of women and gender in the American West. Applicants must be enrolled in a Ph.D. program and members of the CWWH. The prize honors the memory of Irene Ledesma whose contributions to Chicana and working-class history were ended by her untimely death in 1997.

The CWWH will award the prize at the CWWH Breakfast during the 48th Annual Western History Association conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 22–25, 2008.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

How well the applicant stated her/his research question and the significance of the overall project.

How well the applicant demonstrated her/his knowledge of the primary source materials related to the proposal.

How well the applicant framed her/his project in terms of the broader theoretical/historiographic issues significant to the topic.

How well the proposal addressed issues of gender and/or women's history in the U.S. West.

How well the proposed budget dovetails with the applicant's stated research

agenda.

To apply submit three copies of the following: a CV; a brief description of the research project and an explanation of how the prize funds would support the research (not exceeding three pages, double-spaced), a line-item budget, and a letter of support from the student's major advisor by May 1, 2008 (postmark) to:

Lori Ann Lahlum
Chair, Ledesma Prize Committee
Department of History
AH-110
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Mankato, MN 56001

E-mail: lori.lahlum@mnsu.edu

2008 Jensen-Miller Prize

The Coalition for Western Women's History is pleased to announce the 18th Annual Joan Jensen - Darlis Miller Prize for the best article published in 2007 in the field of women and gender in the trans-Mississippi West. The \$500 prize is funded by a generous donation from the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University.

To be eligible for consideration, submissions must be scholarly articles published in the calendar year of 2007 and may include previously unpublished articles appearing in anthologies. The work must deal with the history of women and gender in the North American West, including Mex-

ico, Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Deadline: May 1, 2008

The winning article will be judged by:

- Its significance to the understanding of gender and the experience of women in the North American West.
- The skill and imagination with which the author conducts research in original materials or has reinterpreted a major problem in the field.
- Its gracefulness and style.

The CWWH will award a \$500 cash prize and Storyteller figurine at the CWWH Breakfast during the 48th Annual Western History Association conference at Salt Lake City, Utah, October 22-25, 2008.

Please submit five offprints or copies of the article by May 1, 2008 to Ann Gabbert, Chair of the Committee, at the address below. Inquiries may be directed to the street address or e-mail address listed below.

Contact information:

Ann Gabbert, Ph.D.
Entering Student Program
University of Texas El Paso
Undergraduate Learning Center,
Room 344
500 W. University Ave
El Paso, TX 79968-0723

915-747-5329

agabbert@utep.edu

Western History Association in Salt Lake City, Utah

I hope that you are looking forward to attending the Western History Association meeting in Salt Lake City in October. Utah has a rich tradition of women's history, which includes Native Americans who supported their families in the area for years, Mormons who came for religious freedom, Holy Cross Sisters who came to establish a hospital and school for the Catholic miners and their families, Presbyterian school teachers who started schools to convince children of the evilness of the Mormon way, Eastern European wives and mothers who came with their husbands to work in the mines and on the railroad, and of course, many other women who found homes in the Great Basin.

Who were these women? This article highlights some interesting facts about Utah women's history.

Emmeline B. Wells published a Mormon newspaper, *Woman's Exponent*, in which she wrote about women's rights. (See Carol Cornwall Madsen's award winning biography for a great read.)

Utah women received the vote shortly after Wyoming, but an election occurred first in Utah. So Utah women were the first to exercise their right to vote.

Martha Hughes Cannon was elected to the state legislature in 1896, the first election after statehood. She defeated women and men, including her husband.

Mormon and Protestant women divided on the need for women's suffrage. The U.S. Congress felt if women were given the vote they would eliminate polygamy. Mor-

mon women did not vote against plural marriage, so the vote was taken away. Protestant women were placed in the awkward position of not supporting women's suffrage because it gave Mormon women the vote. (Susan B. Anthony faced the same dilemma.)

After statehood Mormon women became Republicans and Democrats and no longer voted as a unit.

Mormon and non-Mormon women started clubs and worked closely together to improve life in Utah as part of the City Beautiful Movement.

Utah women worked together and improved the health of women and infants with the Sheppard-Towner Act. For example, the Mormon Relief Society built Cottonwood Hospital. (Intermountain Health Care has just replaced Cottonwood with a new state-of-the art hospital in the center of the Salt Lake Valley.)

Amy Brown Lyman, who served as president of the Mormon Relief Society, studied at Hull House.

Belle Spafford, who replaced Lyman as president, was president of the National Council of Women.

The International Year of the Women state conference in Utah was a heated discussion between those in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment and those who opposed it. Rather than uniting most women, it pulled them apart.

Positive outcomes of the IWY meeting though were the sessions on women's history and the creation of the Utah Women's History Association, which for almost ten years provided a forum for women

historians and those studying Utah women to become better acquainted.

Of course, there are many more stories of Utah women. As a historian at Brigham Young University, I have focused a little too much on the Mormons. But each group has a remarkable story. For example, the Holy Cross History Association will be meeting in Salt Lake City in June. The organization is excited to come because of the legacy of the Holy Cross Sisters in Utah starting hospitals and schools. Although the hospitals have been sold to for-profit-organizations, they continue the tradition of caring started by the Sisters. The HCHA meetings will include a reception at Salt Lake Regional Hospital—formerly Holy Cross Hospital—where the Sisters trained many of the nurses in the Utah area (including my mother). The Holy Cross Ministry continues to support education and health needs in Utah.

I look forward to seeing you in Utah and sharing more about the rich women's past in the state.

Jessie L. Embry, Associate Director
Charles Redd Center for Western Studies
Brigham Young University

WHA 2009 Call For Papers

49th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE WESTERN HISTORY ASSOCIATION
DENVER, COLORADO, OCTOBER 7-
10, 2009

WIRED WEST

**Submission Deadline: September
1, 2008**

The program committee for the WHA 2009 annual meeting invites papers on the theme of *Wired West*.

Wire conducts and symbolizes western history. We seek papers that explore the development and interconnection of the North American West, a region divided by barbed wire and border wire and yet one of the first whose subregions were united by telegraph, telephone, electric line, and fiber optic cable.

We are interested in the wiring of the world to the West metaphorically and materially. No country in any part of the world is untouched by what happens in the western provinces of North America. Western industries in mine,

ranch, farm, and forest, Hollywood and dude ranch, Silicon Valley, Denver, and elsewhere, have drawn immigrants, generated exports, and reconfigured the world's economies, cultures, and politics. So the world has been wired west, constantly rebuilt, retooled, and rejiggered to accommodate the realities of the rapidly growing and changing region.

Our interests encompass the changing relations of western peoples with the earth, from which wire itself is made, and over which western peoples have fought to determine how best to live. We are equally compelled by the social and cultural wiring of the West—the struggles of natives and immigrants for justice, equity, and autonomy, of women and men to understand sexual, racial, ethnic, and class identity and connections from the most intimate human bonds to the most formal relations, and the constant effort to make and re-make the good society.

We encourage innovative presentations, including performances,

workshops or moderated discussions. Submissions may be for an entire session, a panel discussion, or an individual paper. When submitting an entire session, include an abstract that outlines the purpose of the session, if any, and designate one panelist or participant as the contact person. Each paper proposal, whether individual or part of a session, should include a one-page abstract and a one page c.v., including the address, phone, and email address for each participant. Indicate equipment needs, if any. The committee will assume that all listed individuals have agreed to participate. Send all program submission materials to Colleen O'Neill either electronically: colleen.oneill@usu.edu or by mail service: Colleen O'Neill, History Department, Utah State University, 0710 Old Main Hill, Logan, Utah 84322-0710. **Submissions should be postmarked by September 1, 2008.**

CFP: Northern Great Plains History Conference

43rd Annual Northern Great Plains
History Conference

September 24-27, 2008

Brandon, Manitoba

Papers in ALL AREAS OF HISTORY are welcome. (Please attach proposal, a brief vita and a list of any equipment required). Please send

proposals for individual papers or for panels to:

James Naylor

Department of History

Brandon University

Brandon, MB

Canada R7A 6A9

Email: History@BrandonU.ca

The deadline for proposals is March 31, 2008. A prize will be awarded to the best graduate student paper presented at the conference.

Conference Website:
www.brandonu.ca/history/ngphc.mht



The Coalition for Western Women's History

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Hastings College
701 North Turner Avenue
Hastings, NE 68901

E-mail: rlaegreid@hastings.edu

Visit the CWWH Webpage:

www.westerenwomenshistory.org

Contact information for other members
of the Steering Committee

Lori Lahlum: lori.lahlum@mnsu.edu
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Patti Loughlin: ploughlin@ucok.edu
University of Central Oklahoma

Melody Miyamoto: mmiyamot@coe.edu
Coe College

Amanda Taylor-Montoya: ataylor-montoya@ou.edu
University of Oklahoma

Mary Ann Irwin, Ex.Officio:
misinform@comcast.net

Independent Scholar

CFP: National Coalition of Independent Scholars 2008 Biennial Conference

The National Coalition of Independent Scholars will hold its 2008 Biennial Conference from October 24-26, 2008, at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. We welcome participation by all scholars whose research is not supported by employment in an academic or research institution; this includes adjunct faculty and graduate students. Presenters need not be members of NCIS.

The Program Committee invites proposals for individual papers, formal sessions, and short panel discussions for either the practical track, on independent scholarship itself; or the scholarly track, focusing on presenters' individual research and findings.

Proposals should consist of an abstract of not more than 250 words; a brief scholarly biography, including degrees, scholarly fields and no more than two publications (50-100 words); any audio-visual requirements; and full contact information. Proposals must be submitted as an email attachment (Word only) no later than 12:00 a.m., April 1, 2008, to Kendra Leonard, Program Chair, at caenen@gmail.com