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Women's Studies Bulletin
February 1996 - Issue 35

NORTHEASTERN'S LIBRARY TO COMMEMORATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT WITH A DISPLAY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS' WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE EXHIBIT DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ON MARCH 11 - 29, 1996.

The staff of the Illinois Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Illinois Commission for the Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the 19th amendment, has created a new exhibit documenting the history of woman's suffrage in Illinois. "Votes for women" consists of photos, newspaper articles, drawings, cartoons, petitions, incorporation papers, letters, laws and voting records which record the actions of the woman's suffrage movement in Illinois from 1855 to 1920. Visit our library's exhibit from March 11 - 29, 1996.

ILLINOIS WAS FIRST STATE EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI TO GRANT SUFFRAGE

by George H. Ryan, Secretary of State and State Archivist

It is widely held that women received their "training ground" for the quest for voting rights from two sources: their involvement in ending slavery and their efforts to aid the injured from the Civil War. These experiences taught them how to organize and how to mobilize groups of workers.

The first suffrage organization in Illinois was established in Earlville in 1855. A cousin of Susan B. Anthony, Susan Hoxie Richardson, served as president. However, at this point in time most women activists were still more concerned with the abolition of slavery.

With the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, many of these women turned their efforts to aiding Union soldiers. Some women, such as Mary A. Livermore, helped establish the Sanitary Commission (which might be considered the forerunner of the Red Cross), through which medical supplies and skilled nursing care were provided to the sick and wounded.

In 1869, Livermore formed the

Illinois Woman Suffrage Association (IWSA) and began publication of the "Agitator", a women's rights weekly newspaper published in Chicago and later Boston. That following year - 1870 - the IWSA met in Springfield, at the same time that efforts were underway to fashion a new state constitution. But the Illinois Woman Suffrage Association failed to convince legislators to incorporate suffrage into the document.

The members of the suffrage movement now chose to focus their efforts on related issues. For example, Myra Bradwell and Alta M. Hulett secured passage of law to admit women to all professions and occupations. Also passed was an 1874 statute allowing women to hold school offices. But many women did not take consolation in these measures as they still could not vote.

The next phase of women's suffrage centered on the temperance movement. When Elizabeth Boynton Harbert took over the Illinois Woman Suffrage Association in 1876, the organization began to lobby the

state legislature to give women the right to vote for local control of alcohol sales.

Core to this effort was the belief that the unchecked sale of liquor weakened the family unit by promoting drunkenness and increasing domestic violence and poverty. It was necessary, the IWSA said, to have "Home Protection Laws" wherein women could vote on whether a given locality could have liquor sales.

This was the focus of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, guided by Frances Willard, former Dean at Northwestern University. Her push for "Home Temperance Laws" was at its height in 1879, when petitions were signed by 180,000 persons - the largest petition believed ever signed - and presented to the General Assembly. Willard herself addressed the legislature, the first woman to do so. But it was to no avail. The measure was defeated.

In 1891, women's suffrage did savor a major victory: The legislature passed a law granting women the right to vote in school elections. This subsequently led to the first female being elected to statewide office: Lucy L. Flower in 1894 captured a seat on the University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

Suffragists under the leadership of Evanston attorney Catharine Waugh McCulloch next set their sights on municipal suffrage; they sought the right to vote in local and presidential elections. Feeling that the state legislature was unresponsive to their needs, in July 1910 the suffragettes took their message directly to the people by touring the major communities of Illinois in "horseless carriages."

Grace Wilbur Trout was elected in 1912 to serve as President of the Illinois Equal Suffrage Association. She received a great deal of help from Elizabeth K. Booth and others in convincing the General Assembly to finally approve the Municipal Bill. It was signed into law on

June 26, 1913 by Governor Edward F. Dunne and gave Illinois women the right to vote for all officials not specifically mentioned in the state Constitution.

Reflecting on the victory, Trout stated:

"The Illinois Legislators in voting for the suffrage measure made themselves forever great - they gave Illinois a place in history no other state can ever fill, for Illinois was the first state east of the Mississippi and the first state even bordering the great father of water, to break down the conservatism of the great Middle West and give suffrage to its women."

Besides the passage of the Illinois Municipal Voting Act, other events made 1913 a significant year for the suffrage movement. In Chicago, civil rights crusader Ida B. Wells-Barnett founded the first African American suffrage organization in Illinois. Wells, and many women from the labor movement and Federation of Women's Clubs, traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the massive March 3 suffrage parade.

With the political, moral and financial support of a wide spectrum of Illinois women, Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the U.S Constitution in 1919. On June 10, Illinois became the first state to ratify this amendment. Fourteen months later it was finally approved by the required three-fourths of the states and signed to law on August 26, 1920. It stated simply:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex"

[Reprinted from a speech by George Ryan. Printed by permission. Researched and written by Mark Sorensen, Illinois State Archives.]

CALL FOR PAPERS

September 5 - 8, 1996, Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel

BEYOND BEIJING: FROM WORDS TO ACTION. The theme of the 1996 Association for Women in Development (AWID) Forum features progress toward implementation of the Platform for Action from the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. The AWID Forum will focus on gender and development issues that were addressed at the UN Conference and the NGO Forum in Huairou, and assess progress made toward implementation at all levels. AWID Forums bring together practitioners, policymakers and academics from around the world in a "dialogue," to examine actions and strategies that enable women to improve the quality of their lives and to achieve equality in society. The 1996 Forum brings this tradition to the consideration of progress in the one year since 30,000 participants in the NGO Forum gathered in Huairou, China and over 3,000 delegates and 2,000 NGO representatives at the UN Conference in Beijing deliberated and approved the Platform for Action. The Program Committee encourages proposals. Proposals should be submitted by March 1, 1996 to Karen Mulhauser, AWID Forum Program Chair, AWID, 1511 K Street, NW, Suite 825, Washington, DC 20005 USA. Tel: (202) 463-0180. Fax: (202) 463-0182. Email: awid@igc.apc.org.

November 15 - 17, 1996, Westin Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio

AGENDA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY LABOR FORCE: IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURE, DIVERSITY AND JOBS. The Kunz Center for the Study of Work and Family, Department of Sociology and the Taft Memorial Fund, University of Cincinnati sponsor this conference. The program will provide a diverse overview on work and family through plenary sessions, workshops, panel and round-table discussions. Participants will address demographic projections, public and corporate policy, strategies to effect practical solutions to labor force problems and ways various professionals in the community can respond to families impacted by change. If you would like to present a paper on these themes, please send one copy with a one-page abstract to: Work & Family Conference, Kunz Center for the Study of Work & Family, University of Cincinnati, P.O. Box 210378, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0378 (Att.: Professor Vannoy.) Deadline: March 31, 1996.

CONFERENCES

February 10, from 2 - 4 pm, Cultural Center, Chicago

CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN MUSIC AND THEATRE. The Chicago Area Women's History Conference celebrates Lorraine Hansberry, Nora Holt, and Lovie Austin. Three presentations will be given by: Gloria Williams-McGowan, Deborah C. Um'rani, Barbara J. Bolden. These presentations will be followed by discussions among the participants and the audience. For more information, call Jean Hunt at (312) 328-0990. Cultural Center: 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago.

February 16 - 17, 1996, Sanford Institute of Public Policy

GENDER & THE HIGHER EDUCATION CLASSROOM: MAXIMIZING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT conference is sponsored by the Duke University, North Carolina.

All the event will be held at the Sanford Institute of Public Policy. For further information, contact Loren Montgomery, Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy, (919) 613-7223. Fax: (919) 613-7231.

March 20 - 23, 1996, Ramada Congress Hotel, Chicago

MAPPING STRATEGIES: NACCS AND THE CHALLENGE OF RACISM is the theme for the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies holding its XXIII National Conference in Chicago. Scholars in attendance include Adelaida del Castillo, Emma Perez, Christine Sierra, Ada Sosa Ridell, Pat Zavella, and many others. Keynote speaker for the Chicana Caucus Luncheon is Ana Castillo, well known writer and poet (an alumna of Northeastern Illinois University). Authors Helena Maria Viramontes and Norma Cantu will read selections from their recent books, and poet Bernice Zamora will read some of her poetry. Tish Hinojosa, Texas singer, will perform at the Noche de Cultura. Many other Chicano scholars and literary authors will be participating. For more information and registration contact: Irene Campos Carr, Women's Studies, NEIU, C-520, x3302.

April 12 - 13, 1996, Albion College in Albion, Michigan

BUILDING COALITIONS. The Great Lakes Colleges Association Women's Studies Committee announces its twentieth anniversary conference. Conference sessions will examine coalitions and alliances on campuses and in the world, looking for effective ways to work toward a more just and peaceful world. Women's Studies have grown through the formation of coalitions across constituencies on the campuses and between the campus and the wider community. Byllye Y. Avery, founder of the Black Women's Health Project, will be their keynote speaker. For more information, contact Ron Cantor, 2929 Plymouth Road, suite 207, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-3206. Phone: (313) 761-4833.

June 6 - 9, 1996, Teter Quad, campus of Indiana University in Bloomington

NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL is a four-day musical and cultural extravaganza that tries to incorporate just about every facet of women's lives. It is a jam-packed weekend where you can choose from more than 250 work shops, 9 structured concerts, 8 unstructured concerts (for performances by festi-goers), an art exhibit, 3 dances, 2 theatre presentations, outdoor sports from golf to Frisbee, a shopping mall, and newly released films and videos. Musicians include: Melanie DeMore, Mrs. Fun, Lea Delaria, Ronnie Gilbert, Swagi Taiko, Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir, Dianne Davidson, Kathryn Warner with Sandy Ayala, Azucar Y Crema, Jamie Anderson. Guest speakers are: Margarethe Cammermeyer, Jewelle Gomez, Ffiona Morgan, Pat Califia, and Luisah Teish. To receive additional information about the Festival for this year or next, send them your address to NWMF, P.O. Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1427, or call the Festival's office at (317) 927-9355. **Brochures available at Northeastern's WSP Office (C-520).**

June 12 - 16, 1996, Skidmore College, New York

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BORDERS / CROSSINGS / PASSAGES: WOMEN REINTERPRETING DEVELOPMENT.**

For its 1996 conference at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, the National Women's Studies Association will consider models and strategies for women's development across cultural, sexual, economic, national, institutional, and disciplinary borders. What models of development have been offered to women? How have women critiqued, reinterpreted, or resisted

these models? How have women defined development for themselves- psychologically, socially, economically, politically, educationally, aesthetically, spiritually? Conference plenaries will explore these questions through cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approaches, broadening the concept of women and development to include multiple meanings and diverse perspectives. The conference will include book and art exhibits, Writers' and Film Series, and entertainment, and the Martha Graham Dance Company will be in residence at Skidmore. For further information please contact Patricia Rubio, site co-coordinator, (518) 584-5000, ext. 2387. E-mail: "PRUBIO@SKIDMORE.EDU". Fax (518) 584-7963. Registration forms available at Northeastern's WPS Office (C-520).

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SECOND ANNUAL WORKSHOP: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACTS OF SEX VIOLENCE will be held in Friday, February 16, 1996 at the Ben Gordon Center, DeKalb, Illinois. This program is sponsored by Sexual Assault - Abuse Services which is staffed by trained volunteer Counselor/Advocates. Sexual Assault - Abuse Services (SA-AS) Counselors help victims cope with the wide range of problems resulting from sexual assault of abuse. For more information, call SA-AS (815) 758-7922.

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS . . . IN THE CURRICULUM. The National Women's History Project will conduct an intensive training on multicultural approaches to incorporating women's history into all areas of the K-12 curriculum. The session, July 14 - 18, 1996, will be held in Rohnert Park, California, gateway to the Northern California wine country. Continuing education credit can be arranged. Registration closed June 14. Enrollment is limited. This will be the Project's fourteenth consecutive summer offering workshops designed specifically for K-12 classroom teachers, librarians and curriculum coordinators, gender equity and multicultural specialists. Participants will learn practical ways to use women's history to address concerns about educational equity in the areas of gender, race and national origin. Guest lectures with expertise in ethnic women's history add the multicultural focus of the workshop. Participants will review hundreds of the latest print and audio-visual resources. For further information about the "A Woman's Place is... in the Curriculum" training, contact the National Women's History Project, 7738 Bell Road, Dept. P, Windsor, CA 95492, or (707) 838-6000, 9-5 Pacific Time.

NEW FEMINIST VIDEOTAPES AT A-V CENTRAL OFFICE, LIBRARY

1. Faith Ringgold: The Last Story Quilt

28 min. color VHS

From the day she learned to draw, Faith Ringgold has worked steadily to master her craft and communicate her vision: to present a realistic view of the black female in society. This is an insider's look at how one woman, through patience, perseverance, and education, has fulfilled her dream of becoming an artist. Ringgold is credited with developing the "Black Light" color palette, spending years painting before working with soft sculptures, masks, murals, and finally, quilts.

2. Frida

108 min. color VHS

On her deathbed, artist Frida Kahlo conjures up images and memories of her life as a painter, revolutionary and woman of the world. Her stormy relationship with muralist Diego

Rivera, her tender hospitality for an exiled Leon Trotsky, her struggle for acceptance as an artist, her affairs with David Siqueiros and others and the travail of her illnesses and injuries are all recalled in a style reminiscent of her own work, simultaneously sophisticated and primitive, flamboyant and delicate. Fusing politics, painting and passion as daringly as Frida did in both art and life, the director mixes poetic invention with revealing fact to provide dramatic and cinematic insights into his subject beyond the capacity of criticism or documentary.

3. Warrior Marks

54 min. color VHS

Warrior Marks is a poetic and political film about female genital mutilation, a practice that affects one hundred million of the world's women. This remarkable film unlocks some of the cultural and political complexities surrounding the issue. Interviews with women from Senegal, The Gambia, Burkino Faso, the United States and England who are concerned with and affected by genital mutilation are intercut with (producer) Alice Walker's own personal reflections on this subject.

4. What's New About Menopause

60 min. color VHS

NOVA tackles a long-taboo subject and helps women weave their way through a remarkable range of medical options that were not available to their mothers and grandmothers. NOVA profiles women confronting "the change" and examines the medical and ethical controversies that arise from the new science of menopause.

5. A Woman's Health (3/1/95)

60 min. color VHS

This special program is a documentary portrait of seven women, involved in fighting the health battles most often confronted by women in America today: heart disease, smoking, breast cancer, osteoporosis, domestic violence and depression. It focuses on critical moments in the lives of these women as they became aware that their health was at risk, and follows their internal debates and decisions about caring for their health. Perhaps even more startling than the statistics are the quiet, matter-of-fact revelations of the women interviewed. Their insights, gleaned from difficult experience, illuminate some of the hidden issues at heart. Introduced by Hillary Rodham Clinton and hosted by actress Rita Moreno, this program is at the center of national public television campaign to raise awareness of women's health issues.

6. Women Warrior (rec'd 10/10/95)

28:20 min. color VHS

The talents and abilities of American military women are held in check as the nation wrestles with the role of women in combat. Beyond the emotional aspects of this question, there are issues fairness and equality involved: General Clara Adams-Ender, U.S. Army (Ret.); Master Sergeant Sarah White, USAF (Ret.).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ITEMS LISTED

**PLEASE CALL THE WOMEN'S STUDIES OFFICE, X3308,
OR STOP BY THE OFFICE AT C-521.**

WOMAN'S WORD is a monthly bulletin published by Northeastern Illinois University's Women's Studies Program. Coordinator: Irene Campos Carr, X3302, C-520
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