

Society for the Study of American Women Writers Newsletter

VOLUME 10
ISSUE 1

SPRING 2009

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at Greensboro

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Every April when I was small, my grandfather gathered me into his turquoise Chevy station wagon with the tools rattling in the back (he was a mason and carpenter, doing hard physical labor into his 80s), and we rode to a nearby marsh to listen to the sleigh-bell call of the tree frogs. I try to preserve our ritual every spring, and to notice the daily news outside my window. Unlike (and like) Dickinson, I am eager to see the first robin and to get outdoors.

Spring underscores change while it confirms the cycle of the seasons. Another cycle that I hope resonates with both new opportunities and continuity is the impending arrival of our fourth Society conference. In spite of the economic, professional, and personal challenges of recent months, members (and prospective members) have submitted numerous exciting proposals for panels, papers, and roundtables; and Carolyn, the Conference Committee, and I are looking forward to assembling a program that we hope will have appeal for everyone.

As we prepare for October, we are alert to the economic challenges facing our members, and we hope to make this event as affordable as possible, especially given tight conference budgets and cuts in fellowships and travel funding. Some members are more able than others to contribute to the well-being of the conference and its participants; we request those who feel comfortable doing so to contribute to our traditional graduate student travel fund, and we invite graduate students to apply for support. Many members may be unaware that when the Society contracts to hold a conference, it guarantees a certain number of rooms will be filled for each night of the conference, and if it fails to meet a high percentage of the contract number, it is subject to a substantial penalty. With

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

ADVISORY BOARD

Elizabeth Archuleta (2010)

Arizona State University

Faith Barrett (2011)

Lawrence University

Carmen Birkle (2010)

University of Marburg

Rita Bode (2011)

Trent University

Deb Clarke (2009)

Arizona State University

Maria Cotera (2009)

University of Michigan

Betty Booth Donohue (2011)

Cooweescoowee District,
Cherokee Nation

John Ernest (2010)

West Virginia University

Janet Floyd (2009)

King's College, London

Diane P. Freedman (2011)

Univ. of New Hampshire

Susan Stanford Friedman

(2009)

Univ. of Wisconsin

Theresa Stouth Gaul (*Legacy*)

Texas Christian University

Tina Gianquitto (2011)

Colorado School of Mines

Carmen Gillespie (2009)

Bucknell University

Kirsten Silva Gruesz (2010)

University of California,
Santa Cruz

this concern in mind, we also ask those who are able to do so to book at the conference hotel, the Sheraton Society Hill, for as many nights as you can, even if you are sharing a room, so that the Society can continue on the sound financial footing we are privileged to enjoy. Please check our website regularly for updates and more information on the conference.

One important milestone that we will celebrate at the conference is *Legacy's* twenty-fifth anniversary. Many of us remember the journal from its inception, when it provided an electric sense of possibility, exciting new scholarship, and vital connections with each other in a field that as yet had little visibility or cultural capital. The emergence and growth of the Society confirms the vision of the journal's founders and supporters, as it has remained an invaluable resource for many of us in many different ways.

Another symptom of change is the upcoming election for a new president. I have been privileged to serve the Society and its members for the last five and a half years, and I am eager to see where new leadership will take us. Please take the time to vote in this important election; the ballot is printed in this issue of the newsletter.

May you all have a healthy and happy summer. I look forward to seeing you at the conference!

— Karen Kilcup

SSAWW CONFERENCE NEWS

The Program Committee has finalized its decisions regarding the 2009 Conference, and is in the process of contacting participants.

Accepted panelists should continue to check

<<http://www.ssaww.org>>

(or <http://www.wsu.edu/~campbelld/ssaww/index.html>) for updates regarding the conference.

— Carolyn Sorisio

L E G A C Y N O T E S

The year 2009 marks a significant milestone in the history of *Legacy*. Twenty-five years ago, in 1983, three enterprising and brave graduate students, Martha Ackmann, Karen Dandurand, and Joanne Dobson, founded the first scholarly journal devoted to an historically based study of American women's writing. Soon thereafter, in 1984, Joanne Dobson, Judith Fetterley, and Elaine Showalter initiated the Rutgers University Press American Women Writers reprint series. These two events, which formed the nucleus of a community of scholars and opened venues for our work, have had an immeasurable impact on our scholarly lives and identities.

So first, a heartfelt thanks is in order to these scholars, whose time and energies went into a visionary enterprise. The current editors of *Legacy* are fortunate to be able still to consult with these founders, who work with us as consultants and consulting editors and who advise us as interested friends.

We will mark this occasion with a special edition of *Legacy*. Volume 26.2 will contain features designed to review the journal's history, assess its impact on the field of the study of women writers, and discuss future directions our scholarship might pursue. A group of *Legacy* supporters has been involved in an electronic conversation about these matters: their ideas will appear as a roundtable discussion. As well, this issue will feature an excerpt from *Anna's Book*, a new work of fiction by one of the founders, Joanne Dobson; Shawn Michelle Smith's meditation on how archival photographic collections can enrich cross-disciplinary scholarship on women writers; a new feature titled "On Culture," introduced by Robin L. Cadwallader, in which we explore the material cultural backgrounds that might inform our readings of texts by early women writers; and essays by Karen Kilcup and Theresa Strouth Gaul reviewing several new resources for teaching American women writers.

We will celebrate our anniversary with two special sessions and a reception at the fourth conference of the Society for the Study of American Women writers, scheduled for 21-24 October 2009 in Philadelphia.

As the journal's gift to you, our readers and contributors, we are pleased to announce the redesign of a feature of our website, the *Legacy* author portrait gallery, prepared by Lisa M. Thomas. Here we have begun to post images and archival information about the writers we have profiled and studied over the past twenty-five years of the journal. We have taken great care to be sure that we have copyright permission to display these images, and we offer links

(continued on page 5)

A D V I S O R Y B O A R D

Deidre Hall (2008)

Univ. of North Carolina at
Greensboro

Allison Hedge Coke (2009)

University of Nebraska at
Kearney

Annie Merrill Ingram (2009)

Davidson College

Sherrie Inness (2008)

Miami University of Ohio

Laura Hyun Yi Kang (2009)

University of California,
Irvine

Shirley Geok-lin Lim (2009)

University of California
at Santa Barbara

Cherise Pollard (2011)

West Chester University

Jodi Schorb (2011)

University of Florida

Carol Singley (2010)

Rutgers University,
Camden

Angela Sorby (2011)

Marquette Univ.

Nicole Tonkovich (*Legacy*)

University of California,
San Diego

Jennifer S. Tuttle (*Legacy*)

University of New
England

Hanna Wallinger (2009)

University of Salzburg

Karen A. Weyler (2011)

Univ. of North Carolina at
Greensboro

A F F I L I A T E D O R G A N I Z A T I O N S

American Humor Studies Association (AHSA)	Evelyn Scott Society
American Women Writers of Color	Harriet Beecher Stowe Society
Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures (ASAIL)	James/Susan Fenimore Cooper Society
Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)	Katherine Anne Porter Society
Carson McCullers Society	Margaret Fuller Society
Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society	Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers' Study Group
Charlotte Perkins Gilman Society	Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers' Research Group (UK)
Children's Literature Society	Research Society for American Periodicals
Constance Fenimore Woolson Society	Society for American Jewish Literature
Edith Wharton Society	Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP)
Elizabeth Bishop Society	Society of Early Americanists
Ellen Glasgow Society	Susan Glaspell Society
Emily Dickinson International Society	Willa Cather Society

N E W S F R O M S S A W W R E G I O N A L S T U D Y G R O U P S

Southern California Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers Group

The Southern California Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SCSSAWW) held its first official meeting on Sunday 15 March 2009, hosted by Denise MacNeil at the University of Redlands. Cindy Weinstein led discussion of E.D.E.N. Southworth's novel *The Fatal Marriage*. Our next meeting will be held on Sunday 27 September 2009, hosted by Nancy Strow Sheley at California State University, Long Beach. We will be discussing Julia Ward Howe's novel *The Hermaphrodite*. Those interested in receiving further information or joining this group may contact <scssaww@ucsd.edu>.



L E G A C Y N O T E S , C O N T I N U E D

to the institutions that own copyright so that scholars interested in reproducing the images may also obtain permission to reprint. Each author's page includes an image, information about where that author's papers may be studied, and live links to archives and to *Legacy* Profiles and critical articles about that author. We invite you to help enhance that page by contributing information, images, and corrections and updates. Please see the portrait gallery at the *Legacy* website at <http://legacy.ucsd.edu>.

Another gift is in preparation. In response to many requests from readers, we are preparing a *Legacy* index that will also soon be posted on the website. This will be a complete index to all volumes of the journal and will have live links to all electronic versions of the journal's contents.

Finally, an announcement. As the field continues to evolve, the Modern Language Association has issued a new edition of the *MLA Handbook*. As of this date (January 2009), the third edition of the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, released last spring, is available. The paperback, classroom edition, the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, is expected to be published in spring 2009. The changes laid out in the new edition are few, but significant, designed to make citation of electronic sources easier.

Consistent with the MLA's plans, we ask those submitting papers to *Legacy* to follow the guidelines of the third edition of the *Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*. For more information about these revisions, see the MLA Web site <http://www.mla.org/style>.

— Nicole Tonkovich

S S A W W N E W S L E T T E R A N D W E B S I T E

The calls for papers, news from regional study groups, and other information in this edition of the *SSAWW Newsletter* can also be found on our web site, <http://www.ssaww.org>. Please send all announcements for the web site and the newsletter directly to Donna Campbell at campbelld@wsu.edu or ssaww.web@gmail.com. Please send the announcement in the body of the message rather than as an attachment.

The *SSAWW Newsletter* is published twice a year, Spring and Fall. The Newsletter is distributed as a benefit of membership to SSAWW members, and a copy is sent to a representative of each affiliated organization. Back issues are available at the SSAWW site. For information on membership, contact Melissa Homestead, mhomestead2@unl.edu. Organizations interested in affiliation with SSAWW should contact Karen L. Kilcup, President, academic@karenkilcup.org.

Deadlines for submissions for the *SSAWW Newsletter*:

Spring issue: **March 15** ; Fall issue: **September 15**

**C A L L S F O R P A P E R S
A N D C O N F E R E N C E A N N O U N C E M E N T S**

C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists. The Penn State Center for American Literary Studies will host a state-of-the-field conference for a new academic society, C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, the first academic organization dedicated to nineteenth-century American literary studies. The conference will be held from May 20 to 23, 2010, at The Nittany Lion Inn on Penn State's University Park campus in State College, Pennsylvania. The theme of the conference is "Imagining: A New Century." Session proposals and individual abstracts are due by **September 30, 2009**. <www.c19americanists.org>

New Journal: *The Journal of Research on Women and Gender*. The Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies and the Women and Gender Research Collaborative at Texas State University-San Marcos will launch a peer-reviewed electronic journal March 25, 2009. *The Journal of Research on Women and Gender* will be published annually and available for free over the World Wide Web. For more information and submission guidelines see the announcement at <http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=167831>. Submit manuscripts and questions no later than **June 30, 2009** to the following email address: <WGRC@txstate.edu> or contact Terri Pantuso, Managing Editor at <tp22@txstate.edu>.

New Journal: *The Researcher: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. *The Researcher* is an interdisciplinary journal and welcomes scholarly research in all disciplines. For information on submission requirements, visit <<http://www.jsums.edu/RESEARCHER/submissions.php>> Email submissions should be sent by May 15, 2009 to <editor.researcher@jsums.edu>; compact disc submissions should be sent to: Patsy J. Daniels, Editor, *The Researcher*, Box 17929, Jackson State University, 1400 John R. Lynch Street, Jackson, MS 39217.

Women in the Archives: Using Archival Collections in Research and Teaching on U.S. Women.

A Symposium Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Maine Women Writers Collection.

June 11–14, 2009, University of New England, Portland, Maine.

Please join us on the scenic coast of Maine for a symposium about the practical, theoretical, and ethical aspects of using archival sources in research and teaching on women of the United States. The Symposium features

- Panels on Recovering Archival Sources; Collecting, Archiving & Curating; Material Culture & Ephemera; Photography & Visual Culture; Pedagogy and the Archive; and Private Writing & Biography
- Presentations by established and emerging scholars in the humanities and interdisciplinary studies, as well as by curators and archivists from a range of libraries and special collections related to women
- The premiere of a documentary film about the first 50 years of the Maine Women Writers Collection
- A 50th Anniversary Reception

To register for the Symposium and for more information, consult the Symposium web page at

<<http://www.une.edu/mwwc/conferences/2009acadconf.asp>> or contact Jennifer Tuttle at <jtuttle@une.edu>;

207-221-4433. Registration fee discounted if you register by May 1.

BALLOT FOR SSAWW PRESIDENT

Candidate for the Office of President

Deb Clarke

Professor of English

Arizona State University

A professor of English at Arizona State University, I work in twentieth-century American fiction, primarily women writers and Faulkner. My first book, Robbing the Mother: Women in Faulkner, was a feminist psychoanalytic study of Faulkner's presentation of bodies, language, and gender. My second, Driving Women: Fiction and Automobile Culture in Twentieth-Century America, explored women and cars, and the ways that fiction reflects and shapes American automobility. I remain interested in the intersection of literature, gender, and material culture, and am now beginning to map out a project on credit and debt in twentieth-century fiction. As a member of the Advisory Board of SSAWW for the past couple of years, I have been an advocate for building on and extending the Society's current strength in nineteenth century studies into the twentieth century and beyond. I'd like to see all periods equally represented, particularly since building greater visibility in the post-1900 period will help us to bring in more scholars working on non-white literature. I'd also like to consider ways of bringing a stronger international focus to the group, situating American women writers in a global context. SSAWW has a robust core; we need to make sure, however, that we continue to build and evolve as a group, recruiting and supporting the next generation of scholars—and scholarship—as well as profiting from the expertise of the current membership.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR APPROVAL BY CIRCLING NAME:

Deb Clarke

Write-In Candidate:



Please return this official ballot by July 1, 2009 to:

Karen Kilcup, President
Society for the Study of American Women Writers
PO Box 929
Seabrook, NH 03874

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