

Society for the Study of American Women Writers Newsletter

V O L U M E 9 , I S S U E 1 W W W . S S A W W . O R G S P R I N G 2 0 0 8

O F F I C E R S

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Karen L. Kilcup

University of North Carolina at
Greensboro

Vice-President, Organizational Matters

Caroline Sorisio

West Chester University of
Pennsylvania

Vice-President, Publications

Donna Campbell

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University

Vice President, Membership & Finances

Melissa J. Homestead

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vice President, Development

Karen Dandurand

Indiana University of
Pennsylvania

M E S S A G E F R O M T H E P R E S I D E N T

I am delighted to begin by welcoming our new officers, Carolyn Sorisio (Vice-President for Organizational Matters) and Donna Campbell (Vice-President for Publications), and by thanking Karen Dandurand for agreeing to become our first Vice-President for Development. With the excellent continuing work of Melissa Homestead, our Vice-President for Membership and Finances, the Society is well-prepared for the future.

I would also like to convey my appreciation to those of you who responded to my last letter and have expressed interest in founding regional SSAWW research groups. I have forwarded information to organizers in the following areas: Washington, DC/Mid-Atlantic, Florida, Texas, and the Pacific Northwest. I hope that soon we will have available information on the SSAWW website that will facilitate nascent groups and enable other interested organizers to get started. The SSAWW is committed to fostering these rewarding gatherings, and Karen Dandurand, the other officers, and I will do all we can to help.

In related news, at our fall 2009 conference we will be holding a lunch meeting to help develop informal regional networks and assist those who wish to start regular research group meetings. Carolyn has negotiated an excellent contract with the Sheraton Society Hill, and we are very pleased to be returning to this congenial location with easy access to cultural activities and numerous good restaurants. Please mark your calendars for October 21-25.

(continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

ADVISORY BOARD

- Elizabeth Archuleta** (2010)
Arizona State University
- Dorothy Baker** (2008)
University of Houston
- Carmen Birkle** (2010)
University of Marburg
- Lois Brown** (2008)
Mount Holyoke College
- Edward Brunner** (2008)
Southern Illinois
University, Carbondale
- Deb Clarke** (2009)
Pennsylvania State Univ.
- Maria Cotera** (2009)
University of Michigan
- Elizabeth Maddock Dillon**
(2008) Northeastern Univ.
- Gregory Eiselein** (2008)
Kansas State University
- John Ernest** (2010)
West Virginia University
- Janet Floyd** (2009)
King's College, London
- Susan Stanford Friedman**
(2009) Univ. of Wisconsin
- Carmen Gillespie** (2009)
Bucknell University
- Kirsten Silva Gruesz** (2010)
University of California,
Santa Cruz
- Deidre Hall** (2008)
University of North
Carolina at Greensboro

As we prepare, we continue to need volunteers to support the numerous responsibilities that it entails. Thank you to those who have already volunteered; Carolyn and I look forward to hearing from other colleagues.

Ongoing work: Our last conference produced reams of excellent work, some of which will appear in the next issue of *Legacy*, and I hope everyone will have an opportunity to enjoy these essays as we anticipate our next gathering. Donna Campbell is planning to add features to the newsletter and/or website; the results of her survey of Advisory Board members appear later in this issue. After surveying members, she will assess the most popular suggestions and work to implement such features as research notes, a list of members with their current projects and contact information (optional, of course), and teaching materials. She will also be taking on the moderation of the SSAWW listserv. Please join me in thanking Nicole Tonkovich for handling this important job for the last several years. Regarding other publication matters, the Ad Hoc Committee on Publications has completed its report, and I hope to have information for you posted on the website soon. After reading the report, please send me your views on publishing issues as we formulate what initiatives the Society might undertake.

As always I am seeking new members, both individual and affiliates. Please, if you belong to an organization that is not affiliated with us, encourage your officers to contact me (academic@karenkilcup.org) for the very easy form that will provide us with the contact information we need for the Society website. Among other benefits, affiliates enjoy a permanent place on our conference program. For a list of current affiliates, please go to our homepage at www.ssaww.org, and click the "Affiliates" link in the left-hand column. If you have friends and colleagues who are not members, please tell them about the benefits of individual membership and welcome them to attend our 2009 conference. I look forward to offering you more details in our next newsletter. In the meantime, I wish everyone a healthy and productive summer.

—Karen Kilcup

SSAWW CONFERENCE 2009

October 21-24, 2009

Philadelphia, PA

The next SSAWW Conference will be held in fall 2009 at the Sheraton Society Hill in Philadelphia, PA. The conference will begin Wednesday, October 21st and end Saturday evening, the 24th. Currently, we are looking for volunteers for various committees, so please contact Carolyn Sorisio (csorisio@wcupa.edu) if you are interested in helping with the conference. Also, continue to check the SSAWW website for more information about the conference, including an upcoming call for proposals and papers. Thanks to all those who have already volunteered to help with the conference.

—Carolyn Sorisio

LEGACY NOTES

In your next issue of *Legacy* (25.2, to be mailed in January 2009), a selection of some of the best papers read at the 2007 SSAWW conference.

Karen Kilcup, Introduction: Writing in the Real World

Jill Bergman, "The Motherless Child in Pauline Hopkins's *Of One Blood*"

Donna Campbell, "A Forgotten Daughter of Bohemia: Gertrude Christian Fosdick's *Out of Bohemia* and the Artists' Novel of the 1890s"

Linda M. Grasso, "Reading Published Letter Collections as Literary Texts: *Maria Chabot--Georgia O'Keeffe Correspondence, 1941-1949* as a Case Study"

Julie E. Hall, "Writing at the Crossroads: Sophia Hawthorne's Civil War Letters to Annie Fields"

Anna Leahy, "Is Women's Poetry Passé? A Call for Conversation"

Ruth Spack, "Zitkala-Ša, *The Song of Hiawatha*, and the Carlisle Indian School Band: A Captivity Tale"

Caroline Wigginton, "A Late Night Vindication: Annis Boudinot Stockton's Reading of Mary Wollstonecraft's *Rights of Woman*"

Susan S. Williams, "Forwarding Literary Interests: James Redpath and the Authorial Careers of Harland, Alcott and Bonner"

Christine Wilson, "Delinquent Housekeeping: Transforming the Regulations of Keeping House"

Visit *Legacy's* website at <<http://www.legacy.ucsd.edu>>.

—Nicole Tonkovich

ADVISORY BOARD

(CONTINUED)

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

Dawn Keetley (*Legacy*)
Lehigh University

Shirley Geok-lin Lim (2009)
University of California
at Santa Barbara

Carla Mulford (2008)
Pennsylvania State
University

Sarah Robbins (2008)
Kennesaw State
University

Carol Singley (2010)
Rutgers University,
Camden

Nicole Tonkovich (*Legacy*)
University of California,
San Diego

Jennifer Tuttle (*Legacy*)
University of New
England

Hanna Wallinger (2009)
University of Salzburg

Elizabeth Wilkinson (2008)
University of St. Thomas

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

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

Call for Papers on Willa Cather's *The Song of the Lark*. Previously unpublished critical essays are being sought for a new volume in Rodopi Press's Dialogue series on Willa Cather's *The Song of the Lark*. To express an interest and request a more detailed list, please e-mail the editor, Debra Cumberland, at dcumberland@winona.edu. Abstracts of proposed essays (500 words) and a brief professional vita should be submitted as Word attachments by **July 1, 2008**.

Conference Announcement. The 2008 Annual Meeting of the **Emily Dickinson Society** will take place in Amherst, MA, from **August 1 to 3, 2008**. The meeting will celebrate the 20th anniversary of EDIS and will introduce the first Dickinson Discussion Institute. For more information, visit <http://www.emilydickinsoninternationalsociety.org/>.

New E-mail Discussion List for Text Recovery. The recovery@bard listserv has been created to enable conversation among its members regarding issues in text recovery. Current members have used the list to get help with their research on archival texts, and to express interest in convening conference panels, workshops, and interdisciplinary meetings on topics related to working with historical societies, doing basic bibliographic study, book and periodical history, genealogical approaches, copyright issues, electronic text editing, and more. Of course, YOUR interests are most welcome! At present, only list members can post to the list. If you wish to subscribe or if you have any questions about the listserv, please email Jaime Alves at alves@bard.edu.

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

Northwest SSAWW Research Group. Society members are beginning to organize the first meeting of the Northwest SSAWW Research group. To be put on the email list for information, please contact: Lydia Fisher, Department of English, University of Puget Sound, 1500 N. Warner St. #1045, Tacoma, WA 98416-1045, (253)879.3637, lfisher@ups.edu.

Call for Papers. The Green Nineteenth Century. 30th Annual Conference of the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on **March 26-28, 2009**. We welcome papers and panel proposals concerning any aspect of "green" studies in the long nineteenth century, including, but not limited to, "ecocriticism" in nineteenth-century studies; history of ecological science, environmental ethics, and environmentalist activism; nineteenth-century studies and animal welfare; ecofeminist philosophy and gender politics; contemporary discourses on nature; nineteenth-century ecotourism; Romantic "ecopoetics" and the politics of nature; "green" program music and tone poems; sustainability, including sustainable architecture and interior design; landscape painting and nature imagery; dramatic scenery; color associations and color theories; gardening and farming; conservation movements; and the idea of the "natural" or "unnatural." Abstracts (no longer than 250 words) for 20-minute papers that provide author's name and paper title in heading, as well as a one-page c.v., are due by **Oct. 3, 2008** to Christine Roth, Program Chair, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, roth@uwosh.edu.

Call for Papers: Collection on Mrs. Nancy Prince. I am soliciting abstracts now for a collection of essays on Mrs. Nancy Prince's *Narrative of the Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince* (1853). Contributors are encouraged to explore any aspect of Prince's work in tandem with that of contemporaries Anna Wheeler (1785 -1825?), Lucretia Mott (1793-1880), Jarena Lee (1783-1837), Harriet Jacobs (1813-1897), and/or Sarah Grimke (1792-1893), as examples. Abstracts of no more than 250 words are due **June 24, 2008**. Send them as a wps, doc, or rtf attachment to Mary Blanchard, mblanchard@njcu.edu. (The full version of this CFP is available in the SSAWW-L list archives at <https://mailman.ucsd.edu/mailman/listinfo/ssaww-l>.)

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. 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. Announcements should be sent to Donna Campbell, Editor, *SSAWW Newsletter*, at campbelld@wsu.edu.

Deadlines: Spring issue, **March 15**; Fall issue, **September 15**.

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

The SSAWW will continue to send a biannual newsletter informing its members about events, issues, and concerns of interest to scholars of American women writers. As it has done in the past under the editorship of Karen Dandurand, now Vice President for Development, the newsletter will continue to feature a message from the president and information about upcoming SSAWW-sponsored panels and conferences.

We're also considering expanding the role of the newsletter somewhat, depending on the interest of SSAWW members. In the spring of 2008, members of the SSAWW Advisory Board were asked to indicate which of the following features they would like to see in the newsletter, using a scale of "not interested/not necessary," "interested/would be helpful," and "essential." In all, fourteen board members replied. The following information summarizes their responses, but more input from SSAWW members is always welcome.

1. **Short pieces from author societies** about their individual conferences. Twice as many respondents (9) listed this as being potentially of interest as listed these items as being essential (4), with one person finding this feature not useful.
2. **Calls for papers.** Members were equally divided on this issue, with one group (5) being interested, another saying that the CFP section was essential (5), and a third saying that the CFPs could be disseminated more usefully through the web site and SSAWW-L listserv (4).
3. **Abstracts from conference panels.** Most (9) listed this category as not useful or not essential, although a few (5) report that they would be interested in seeing these in the newsletter.
4. **Research notes that would be too brief for inclusion in *Legacy* or other venues but that would be helpful to readers: discoveries of letters, biographical notes, announcements of new resources or archives, and so forth.** The majority (10) were interested, and some (3) found it essential.
5. **Short, informal interviews ("Ten Questions" or "Five Questions") with scholars; these could provide a brief, informative look at scholarship on an author or area of research.** This idea was enthusiastically received, with many (7) indicating some interest and a few (6) marking it as essential.
6. **Short essays on teaching or teaching exchanges, some perhaps gleaned from SSAWW-L, that could serve as a more permanent record of useful resources on teaching. This feature could include the lists of works to teach that are a frequent topic of discussion on the list.** Opinions were divided about this option. Two found it not useful, six were interested, and six found it essential

Respondents had several suggestions for items that should be added to the web site or should continue to be housed there.

- Archived versions of the SSAWW newsletter
- Membership list with contact information and academic specialties
- Lists of new books and articles in the field
- Lists of new books by Society members
- A discussion board or blog environment
- Online payment and membership renewal
- Conference announcements and calls for papers
- Essays on overlooked authors marginalized by race or ethnicity
- Links to archives and libraries
- Links to e-texts
- More archived material from SSAWW
- Links to other sites

If you have additional thoughts on these possibilities or suggestions for additional features to include, please e-mail them to campbelld@wsu.edu. Thanks. —Donna Campbell

SSAWW MEMBERSHIP FORM 2008

Dear SSAWW Member:

Many of you have already renewed your membership for 2008 -- thanks for your support. If you have already renewed, "2008" will appear on your newsletter mailing label (or "2009" if you have paid ahead). If you are a lifetime member, "life" or "lifetime" will appear on your label. If you have not yet renewed for 2008, you will still receive this newsletter, but you need to renew so that you can receive the fall newsletter. If you need to renew, "2007" will appear on your mailing label. Please use the membership form below to send payment.

As I explained in my membership mailing earlier this year, the University of Nebraska Press will now be collecting Legacy discount subscriptions directly from SSAWW members. We hope that this new procedure will be more convenient for members and will simplify book-keeping on our end as well. If you haven't received a mailing from the press, or if you have misplaced your mailing, you can call the press directly at 1-800-755-1105 to place a subscription order or to inquire about the status of your subscription.

If you have any questions about your membership, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Melissa J. Homestead
Vice President-Membership and Finance, SSAWW
Associate Professor of English & Women's & Gender Studies
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
mhomestead2@unl.edu, 402-472-0323

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

You may ___/ may not ___ include my name, address, and e-mail in the SSAWW directory

Your areas of scholarly interested related to American women writers:

Membership category (circle one): Regular (\$15.00) Student/retired/independent scholar (\$5.00)

Please also consider making a contribution to our graduate student conference scholarship fund

Amount of donation (please write amount): _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SSAWW and send to:

Melissa J. Homestead, 202 Andrews Hall, P.O. Box 68588-0333, Lincoln, NE 68588-0333

**SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF
AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS
NEWSLETTER**

**VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1
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WWW.SSAWW.ORG

SAVE YOUR ADDRESS LABEL

It contains information about when
you need to renew your SSAWW
membership.

I N T H I S I S S U E

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- *Legacy* Notes
- Announcements and Calls for Papers
- New Discussion List on Text Recovery
- Northwest SSAWW Research Group
- Web Site and Newsletter Updates
- Membership Renewal Form

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