

# Society for the Study of American Women Writers Newsletter

Volume 13, Number 2

Spring 2012

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## **President's Letter**

As the 2012 Conference in Denver approaches, our industrious and illustrious conference directors, Sarah Robbins and Maria Sanchez, are working hard to insure that a good and educational time is had by all. Larisa Asaeli and Sara Taylor Boissonneau, our indefatigable graduate assistants, have provided tremendous help. Let me also thank the many volunteers who agreed to read and evaluate proposals. We've had an excellent response to our call for papers, and anticipate a very exciting program.

We've set up a Twitter account for the conference, and I'm going to depend on the more technologically sophisticated among us to inform the rest of us how that works. Finally, I've been in touch with our keynote speaker, Dorothy Allison, who says she is very much looking forward to being there and hopes to attend as much of the conference as possible—and is planning to stay for an extra day to do so.

In other news, some members have inquired about the possibility of paying dues via Pay Pal. We're looking into it; it may involve some significant changes in the way we organize our membership lists, etc. as well as additional fees, but we realize that it would be of significant benefit, especially to our international members. We'll discuss it further at our business meeting at the ALA.

And this brings me to our panels at ALA, posted below. We don't yet have the times, but I urge you to attend both panels; they look terrific. As you can see, they anticipate our conference theme of Citizenship and Belonging. Thanks again to Kristin Jacobson for organizing them (while on sabbatical) and to the many people who volunteered to evaluate the proposals. Our membership rocks!

I hope to see many of you at ALA. Please come to the Business meeting as well as the panels; we'll send out the times once we have them.

--Deb Clarke

## SSAWW Panels at ALA 2012

### SSAWW ADVISORY BOARD

Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman  
(2013)  
Brandeis Univ.

Kristin Allukian (2013)  
University of Florida

Faith Barrett (2011)  
Lawrence University

Rita Bode (2011)  
Trent University

Leslie Bow (2013)  
Univ. of Wisconsin

Christopher Castiglia  
(2013)  
Penn State University

Betty Booth Donohue  
(2011)  
Cooweescoowee Dis-  
trict, Cherokee Nation

Julia Ehrhardt (2013)  
Univ. of Oklahoma

Diane P. Freedman  
(2011)  
Univ. of New  
Hampshire

Theresa Stouth Gaul  
(Legacy) Texas  
Christian University

### American Women Writers and Citizenship

Organized by the Society for the Study of American Women  
Writers

Chair: Aliyyah I. Abdur-Rahman, Brandeis University

1. "Asserting Black Belonging: Women Writers, Lynching Plays, and the Nation's Capital," Koritha Mitchell, The Ohio State University
2. "Zitkala-Ša and the Material Cultures of Citizenship," Gary Totten, North Dakota State University
3. "The Irish are Coming!: Women as Spectators and Citizens in the 1863 New York City Draft Riots," Alice Rutkowski, SUNY Geneseo
4. "(Re)Forming a Nation: Augusta Evans Wilson's *Macaria* Reimagines Citizenship for Confederate Women," Erin Hendel, University of California-Davis

### Women Writers and Belonging

Organized by the Society for the Study of American Women  
Writers

Chair: Leslie Bow, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1. "Romancing the Desert: Landscape and Ideology in Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop*," Julie Williams, University of New Mexico
2. "Writing to Belong in Turn-of-the-Twentieth-Century America: Alice Dunbar-Nelson and the Periodical Press," Jacqueline Emery, Moore College of Art & Design
3. "'an interesting and pathetic subject': Affective Spectacles in Sansay's *Secret History*," M. Alexandra Blair, University of Mississippi

## Legacy Notes

*Legacy* 29.1 is in production and should be available on Project Muse or in your mailbox within the next six weeks. Look for these intriguing essays:

Yael Ben-zvi, "The Racial Geopolitics of Harriet Beecher Stowe's Geography Textbooks"

David Greven, "New Girls and Bandit Brides: Female Narcissism and Lesbian Desire in Margaret Fuller's *Summer on the Lakes*"

Bryan Sinche, "Lydia Sigourney's Sailors and the Limits of Sentiment"

J. Samaine Lockwood, "Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Colonial Revival"

### From the Archives

Melissa J. Homestead, "From Periodical to Book in Her Early Career: E. D. E. N. Southworth's Letters to Abraham Hart"

### Legacy Profile

Sari Edelstein, "Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley (1818-1907)"

And a special memorial tribute to Karen Dandurand.

As I have looked over the above table of contents, I'm struck by the conversation these scholars are having, metaphorically speaking, with each other and with us about the cultural work being done by these writers. Each of the essays yields significant insights about its author or topic; taken together, they offer us as readers a provocative new look at these writers in comparison to each other, and at their involvement in local and global contexts.

The implicit collaboration of these scholars within the pages of volume 29, number 1 of *Legacy* highlights a commonplace that isn't often enough recognized: A scholarly journal is a largely collaborative effort. I want to thank, in a general sense, each of the groups of people who contribute to that work. First, thanks to those of you who generously share your ideas and writing with us, and next, thanks to our wonderful staff of reader/consultants who read and respond to the essays we receive. This is an unpaid task, and the work these readers do is invaluable. Reading, engaging with, and commenting on the work of an anonymous colleague is an act of great generosity. To our group of reader/consultants, we have recently added Kim Hester Williams and Rynetta Davis. (continued on next page)

### SSAWW ADVISORY BOARD

Tina Gianquitto (2011)  
Colorado School of  
Mines

Cherise Pollard (2011)  
West Chester Univ.

Tey Diana Rebolledo  
(2013)  
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Maria Sanchez (2013)  
Univ. of North Carolina,  
Greensboro

Jodi Schorb (2011) Univ.  
of Florida

Angela Sorby (2011)  
Marquette Univ.

Nicole Tonkovich  
(Legacy) Univ. of  
California, San Diego

Jennifer S. Tuttle  
(Legacy) Univ. of New  
England

Hiroko Uno (2013) Kobe  
C. (Japan)

Karen A. Weyler (2011)  
Univ. of North Carolina  
at Greensboro

## Legacy Notes, Continued

Once essays have been read, identified for publication, and revised, another group of unpaid and amazingly competent editors work with their writers to prepare them for print. Because we so frequently publish scholarship based on little known archival sources, we take great care that what we print is accurate. Often this involves a number of interchanges among editors, editorial assistants, and authors, working together to ensure that what appears in our pages is precise. Lisa M. Thomas, Mary Eyring, and Kate Slater have put in untold hours of work verifying transcriptions and ensuring the reliability of our content. Jennifer S. Tuttle, Theresa Strouth Gaul, and Robin L. Cadwallader, all names you know from the masthead, have, over the past six years, freely given of their expertise as editors of the essays we've published. Their interaction with authors is, I hope, mutually enriching.

This month, we especially want to thank Etta Madden, who has recently resigned her position as Book Review Editor for the past several years, for her support and involvement in producing the journal. Her work has involved choosing books for review, arranging for appropriate colleagues to review them, and editing their reviews. We have greatly appreciated the time and professionalism she has brought to those tasks. Effective in June, Sari Edelstein will assume those responsibilities.

Our next issue will feature essays by Elissa Mara Zellinger on Edna St. Vincent Millay, by Julie Wilhelm on Fanny Fern, by Chrissy Healey on Constance Fenimore Woolson, and by Ashley Barnes on the sentimental novel. As well, our From the Archives section will print a newly discovered short story by Sui Sin Far, with commentary by Mary Chapman and Jean Lutes. Catherine E. Saunders's Profile will introduce us to the writings of Emily Clemens Pearson.

As I write this, we are in the process of choosing essays for the upcoming special issue on Women Writing Disability. We want to thank all those who submitted essays for this issue and are happy to have such a wealth of interesting scholarship from which to assemble this issue, under the guidance of guest editor Michael Davidson.

-- Nicole Tonkovich

### SSAWW Affiliated Organizations

American Humor Studies Association (AHSA)  
 American Women Writers of Color Association for  
 the Study of American  
 Indian Literatures (ASAIL)  
 Association for the Study of Literature and  
 Environment (ASLE)  
 Carson McCullers Society  
 Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society  
 Charlotte Perkins Gilman Society  
 Children's Literature Society  
 Constance Fenimore Woolson Society  
 Edith Wharton Society  
 Elizabeth Bishop Society  
 Ellen Glasgow Society  
 Society for the Study of Rebecca Harding Davis  
 and Her World  
 Emily Dickinson International Society  
 Eudora Welty Society  
 Evelyn Scott Society

Harriet Beecher Stowe Society  
 James/Susan Fenimore Cooper Society  
 Kate Chopin International Society  
 Katherine Anne Porter Society  
 Louisa May Alcott  
 Society  
 Margaret Fuller Society  
 Nineteenth-Century American Women  
 Writers' Study Group  
 Nineteenth-Century American Women  
 Writers' Research Group (UK)  
 Research Society for American Periodicals  
 Society for American Jewish Literature  
 Society for the History of Authorship,  
 Reading, and Publishing (SHARP)  
 Society of Early Americanists  
 Susan Glaspell Society  
 Willa Cather Society

## Calls for Papers

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**Emily Dickinson International Society** panel at the 2012 South Atlantic Modern Language Association convention, November 9-11, 2012; Durham, North Carolina.

Conference theme: "Text as Memoir: Tales of Travel, Immigration, and Exile"

Panel Title: "Dickinson's (Inter)Textual Travels"

The Emily Dickinson International Society seeks participants for a roundtable discussion of Dickinson's manuscripts as tales of travel, immigration and exile. This discussion might include both the manuscripts themselves and their circuitous history. T. W. Higginson insisted in his preface to the 1890 edition of her work that Dickinson's manuscripts "belong emphatically to what Emerson has long since called the 'poetry of the portfolio'—verses written without a thought towards publication." Dickinson's "portfolio" was thus launched on a series of strange voyages, its leaves scattered in various locales for over a century before being reassembled into what many readers now recognize as a radically complex poetic project. By examining Dickinson's commitment to manuscript production, this discussion should reveal many telling glimpses into the unforeseeable travels one takes as a "supposed person" (L268).

We welcome traditional analyses as well as creative work that can be written, digital, or mixed media.

Please send 200-400 word proposals for participation in this discussion by **June 1, 2012** to Trisha Kannan at [trisha.kannan@sfcollge.edu](mailto:trisha.kannan@sfcollge.edu).

Save the Date! The **Constance Fenimore Woolson** and **Rebecca Harding Davis** Societies will be holding a joint conference **Feb. 21-23, 2013** in Columbus Georgia. The theme is Woolson, Davis, Civil Wars, and Memory. But proposals on any aspect of Woolson or Davis will be welcome, as well as proposals on American women writers and the Civil War. A call for papers will go out on the SSAWW listserv soon.

### Call For Papers: A Special Issue of *College Literature*: Native/Asian Encounters

Cari M. Carpenter and K.Hyojin Yoon, Editors

In the September 2010 issue of *American Quarterly*, Paul Lai and Lindsey Claire Smith lay the ground for examining "alternative contact" among non-Euro-Americans as a way to "shake loose new possibilities for critical, interpretive, and activist interventions" (407). Lai and Smith foreground Indigeniety and analyze Pacific/Asian contact as one among a variety of possibilities that might enable the deconstruction of "narratives of first contact" (407). Continuing their conversation, this special issue of *College Literature* aims to explore the forms of engagement among Native and Asian/American groups and discourses in specific moments and spaces in U.S. history, rhetoric, and literature.

Submissions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Shared moments of protest; responses to colonialism
- Labor histories (e.g. the development of the railroad system)
- Representation in newspapers and other cultural or political texts
- Collaborations or conflicts between Asian-Americans and American Indians
- Queer encounters
- Meetings at particular historical moments and/or spaces (e.g. the World Wars; expositions and world fairs; the Civil Rights Era)
- Cultural survival; the sacred
- Intertextuality of cultural forms (e.g. music, film, artwork)
- Pacific, hemispheric, or transnational studies
- Conceptions and critiques of nationhood, citizenship, and sovereignty

The collection will be published as a special issue of the peer-reviewed journal *College Literature*.

Abstracts for papers are due by **April 30, 2012**, and full papers (formatted *Chicago Manual of Style*, 16<sup>th</sup> edition maximum 10,000 words, excluding notes) are due by **July 1, 2012**. Abstracts will be reviewed by the editors and authors will be contacted by mid May about the status of their submission.

Send 250-word abstract by April 30, 2012 to both editors: [Cari.Carpenter@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Cari.Carpenter@mail.wvu.edu) and

[Hyojin.Yoon@wcupa.edu](mailto:Hyojin.Yoon@wcupa.edu)



## Awards, Publications, and Other Notices

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*Treacherous Texts: US Suffrage Literature 1846-1946* (Rutgers UP 2011), co-edited by Mary Chapman and Angela Mills, has just won the 2012 Susan Koppelman Award for the Best Anthology, Multi-Authored, or Edited book in Feminist Studies. The paperback edition of the anthology is coming out in May 2012.

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Koritha Mitchell's essay "James Baldwin, Performance Theorist, Sings the *Blues for Mister Charlie*" appears in the March 2012 issue of *American Quarterly*.

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I would like to start a Mary Wilkins Freeman Society and am seeking interested participants and/or co-organizers. If you're interested in starting an online MWF Society discussion group and working with other Freeman devotees to brainstorm ideas for future panels at the SSAWW, ALA, and MLA meetings, please contact me via email at [susan.stone@loras.edu](mailto:susan.stone@loras.edu).

--Susan Stone

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I am seeking information on dates and places of poetry readings by American poet Ruth Stone, posters, and newspaper articles (interviews, etc.) in the local presses to complete a category in the "Ruth Stone Bibliography: 1947- Present." If you have information, please email Kandace Brill Lombart at [kblombart@verizon.net](mailto:kblombart@verizon.net).

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### SSAWW on Facebook and Twitter

The Maine Women Writers Collection now has a Facebook page; you can also follow us on Twitter. Please consider becoming a fan and following our tweets.

<<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Portland-ME/Maine-Women-Writers-Collection/14123302255526>>

<<http://twitter.com/MEWomenWriters>>

SSAWW invites you to become a fan of our new Facebook page.

Facebook homepage: <[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)>.

In Facebook, simply search for "Society for the Study of American Women Writers" or use this link

<<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Society-for-the-Study-of-American-Women-Writers/324215233870>> to find us.

You can also follow the SSAWW Conference feed on Twitter: @ssawwconf. Conference information is posted to <http://ssaww2012.wordpress.com/>.

—Kristin Jacobson

# News from Regional Study Groups

## Southern California Region American Women Writers Study Group (SCSAWW)

### 1. Call for Papers:

Conference: PAMLA, Seattle, Washington, October 19 - 21, 2012

Proposal due date: **April 22, 2012** (Please submit to the PAMLA website: <http://www.pamla.org/2012/>; for questions, please contact Denise MacNeil at [denise\\_macneil@redlands.edu](mailto:denise_macneil@redlands.edu) )

Panel Title: Inter-examinations of Captivity and Slave Narratives.

Description: This panel requests proposals describing current examinations of dynamics, resonances and dissonances between captivity and slave narratives from all temporal periods and geographic locations. We have particular interest in narratives by women, narratives of experiences/events occurring in the American West and Pacific Rim, and/or narratives from racial and/or ethnic groups not commonly associated with these genres. Proposals of 300 – 500 words should be submitted through the PAMLA website at <http://www.pamla.org/2012/> <<http://www.pamla.org/2012/>> by April 22, 2012. For questions, please contact [denise\\_macneil@redlands.edu](mailto:denise_macneil@redlands.edu).

### 2. Upcoming Panels Sponsored by SCSSAWW:

a. "Recent Work on Women's Captivity and Slave Narratives" (ALA, San Francisco, CA; May 24-27, 2012), panel chair and respondent: Chris Danelski ([Christine.Danelski4@calstatela.edu](mailto:Christine.Danelski4@calstatela.edu))

b. "Activism and Citizenship: US Women's Literature and Social Change" (SSAWW, Denver, Colorado, October 10-13, 2012), panel chair: Lisa M. Thomas ([lmthomas@ucsd.edu](mailto:lmthomas@ucsd.edu))

### 3. Meeting Notes:

The Southern California SSAWW held its spring meeting on March 11, 2012, at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Our discussion of Catherine Maria Sedgwick's Clarence was introduced with a brief presentation on Sedgwick and Clarence by Pat Kalayjian. Thank you to our hosts for the meeting: California State University, Dominguez Hills; Pat Kalayjian; and Emily Magruder. Our fall meeting is expected to take place in early November. More details will follow.

## SSAWW Newsletter

The SSAWW Newsletter is published twice a year, Spring and Fall. The Newsletter is distributed as a benefit of membership to SSAWW members.

Back issues are available at the SSAWW site.

The calls for papers, news from regional study groups, announcements of new books, 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 <[ssaww.web@gmail.com](mailto:ssaww.web@gmail.com)>.

For information on membership, contact Karen Weyler, <[kaweyler@uncg.edu](mailto:kaweyler@uncg.edu)>.

Organizations interested in affiliation with SSAWW should contact Deborah Clarke <[Deborah.Clarke@asu.edu](mailto:Deborah.Clarke@asu.edu)>.

Deadlines for submissions for the SSAWW Newsletter:

Fall Issue: September 15

Spring Issue: March 15