

From the Coordinator

Greetings from Southside House! Our programming this semester includes a wide range of events. Our Women's History Month panel will excavate the frequently-forgotten feminist "herstory" of how feminists in the 1970s conceptualized non-sexist child rearing practices and tried to put feminist theory into practice. Also noteworthy is a visit by Dr. Nina Nurmila, Fulbright Visiting Professor at the University of

Redlands. Dr. Nurmila has a Ph.D. in Gender and Islamic Studies from the University of Melbourne and is the author of *Women, Islam and Everyday Life: Renegotiating Polygamy in Indonesia* (Routledge 2009). Women's Studies is co-sponsoring Dr. Nurmila's visit with the Asian Studies Program and the Department of Anthropology. We hope to see you at one of our events!

—Heather A. Hewett

Women's History Month – Feminism is For Kids, Too

"Feminism for Kids: Insights from the Past Forty Years"

Women's History Month Panel, featuring
Lori Rotskoff, Cultural Historian;
Amy Kesselman, Women's Studies;
Donna Goodman, Corporate and Foundation
Relations Officer

*Co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and
the History Department*

**Monday, March 30, 2009
3-5pm, Honors Center, College Hall**

Contrary to mainstream perceptions of feminism, many feminists have thought long and hard about children, parenting, and how society can best support families. On March 30, Lori Rotskoff, Amy Kesselman, and Donna Goodman will examine some of the lessons we can learn from the 1970s, when a range of feminists in the U.S. were working on issues related to children, parenting, and childcare.

LORI ROTSKOFF will talk about non-sexist childrearing in the second wave. "I'm interested in the concept of 'equal play,' an idea that was just as important for feminists as "equal pay," Dr. Rotskoff explains. "How did feminist mothers and non-sexist parenting advocates use psy-



chological concepts to create feminist approaches to childrearing? What role did young people themselves have in changing the landscape of childhood to ensure gender equality at home, at school, and at play?" Dr. Rotskoff, an historian of U.S. family life, is the author of *Love on the Rocks: Men, Women, and Alcohol in Post-World War II America* (UNC Press 2002) and teaches courses at the Barnard Center for Research on Women.

AMY KESSELMAN, Professor of Women's Stud-
Continued on page 2

Women's History Month – Feminism is For Kids, Too

Continued from page 1

ies at SUNY New Paltz, will discuss the ways that women's liberation activists thought about children as social wealth and social responsibility. Focusing on New Haven, CT, she will describe feminists' efforts to both demand that institutions take responsibility for the care of children in their communities and to create parent cooperatives that embodied alternative values. "Some women's liberation ideas and practices about childcare were in tension with each other," Dr. Kesselman observes. Dr. Kesselman is currently on sabbatical and has been working on a book about feminist activism in New Haven to be published by University of Illinois Press.

DONNA GOODMAN, the Corporate and Foundation Relations Officer at SUNY New Paltz, will talk about the movement to create day care in New York City. Ms. Goodman, who was involved in this movement, will reflect upon the

impact of feminist activism on the greater community. "The 1970s movement tried to create communal, cooperative day (and night) care," she remembers, "and yet it was treated as a subversive activity." Ms. Goodman co-chairs the UUP Women's Rights and Concerns Committee at New Paltz and statewide. The committee's study of gender equity at SUNY led to an examination of some of the issues that underlie women's inequality in the workplace. Among these are the lack of paid maternity leave and the lack of affordable and readily available childcare. The Women's Rights and Concerns Committee is working hard to keep women's equality and work/family balance at the top of the union's—and SUNY's—agenda. Ms. Goodman is also a faculty advisor to the New Paltz Feminist Collective, where she shares her experience with this generation of feminists.

Women's Studies Events

Colloquium Series

Mothering Across Borders: Narratives of Immigrant Mothers in the U.S.

Monday, March 23, 2009

3:30-5pm, Honors Center, College Hall

Heather Hewett, English and Women's Studies

From the 1963 March on Washington to the Bombing of Afghanistan: Critical Approaches to Anti-Homophobia Education

Monday, April 20, 2009

3:30-5, Honors Center, College Hall

Rachel Mattson, Secondary Education

Co-Sponsored Events

Nina Nurmila, Fulbright Visiting Professor,
University of Redlands

Tuesday, April 21, 3:30-5pm

Honors Center

Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, the Asian Studies Program, and the Women's Studies Program

Events Featuring Our Students and Alums

Life After Women's Studies

Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 1:00-3:00PM

Honors Center, College Hall

Presenting four Women's Studies Graduates:

Elizabeth Barone (2007), Integrated Domestic Violence Court Advocate/ Counselor, Battered Women Services

Tamara Flanders (1998), Holistic Health Counselor and Author of *Farm Fed: Hearty and Healthy Feasts from the Winter Farmer's Market*

Alexis Gowen (2006), Family Program Manager, Mediation Center of Dutchess County

Wazina Zondon (2004), Pride in My Workplace Coordinator, LOFT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center for the Lower Hudson Valley)

Women's Studies Senior Seminar Presentations

Wednesday, May 6, 12:30pm

Honors Center

Faculty News

Karl Bryant (Sociology and Women's Studies) published a co-authored article in the February 2009 issue of *Nature Nanotechnology*. In the fall, Dr. Bryant was an invited participant at the Yale Research Initiative on the History of Sexualities symposium, "Social Science and the Construction of Modern Sexuality." This spring he will be co-presenting a paper at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings with Ellice Litwak (Sociology '09).

Emily Caigan (Women's Studies) is collaborating with Carollee Schneeman on their project *Performative Essays*. She is also a featured artist and educator in Beverly Naidus's new book, *Arts For Change: Teaching Outside the Frame* (New Village Press, 2009).

Anita Gonzalez (Theatre Arts) published "Indigenous Acts: Black and Native Performances in Mexico" in the Winter 2009 issue of *Radical History Review*. Dr. Gonzalez is also directing, with a primarily female production team, *Blood Wedding* by Garcia Lorca (April 16 to 26 at McKenna Theatre).

This spring **Kristine Harris** (History and Asian Studies) is on leave and teaching two courses on Chinese cinema as Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago.

Heather Hewett (English and Women's Studies) talked about motherhood, parenting, and academia with *Mama, PhD* editors Elrena Evans and Caroline Grant and York University professor Andrea O'Reilly for an interview that appeared in the Mothers Movement Online (www.mothersmovement.org).

Amy Kesselman (Women's Studies) is currently on sabbatical working on her book on women's lib-

eration in New Haven, CT to be published by University of Illinois Press. She is a Visiting Scholar in the Women's Studies Program at Southern Connecticut State University.

Susan Lewis's (History) book, *Unexceptional Women: Female Proprietors in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Albany, New York, 1830-1885*, has just been published by Ohio State University Press. Dr. Lewis was also recently promoted to Associate Professor.

Kate McCoy (Educational Studies) gave two papers in November, both dealing with methodological and representational issues arising from her 11 years of research on illicit drug use, drug dealing, and access to health care for people who use drugs. Dr. McCoy welcomes collaboration with undergraduate and graduate students.

Peri Rainbow (Women's Studies) and her partner Tamela won their recent New York State Supreme Court of Appeals case, which extends spousal benefits to legally married same-sex state employees. She also recently began working as a consultant for the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center.

Anne R. Roschelle's (Sociology) article, "Welfare Indignities: Homeless Women, Domestic Violence, and Welfare Reform in San Francisco," was published in the September 2008 online volume of *Gender Issues*.

Margaret Wade-Lewis (Department of Black Studies and Linguistics Program) presented a paper at the Conference of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics on "The Role of Beryl Loftman Bailey in Advancing Creole Linguistics" in San Francisco on January 9, 2009.

Women's Studies Works with Counseling Center to Increase Awareness of Eating Disorders

February 22nd marks the beginning of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week (NEDAW). Women's Studies is one the co-sponsors of the week's events, a series of engaging performances and activities aimed at spreading NEDAW's outreach message of "prevention, hope, and recovery."

Senior Counselor Mark Balaban of the Psychological Counseling Center has been at the lead of the NEDAW effort on campus. Dr. Balaban says that while "issues around eating, weight, and appearance are pervasive in our cul-

ture today, the goal of the week's events was to inspire people to make positive changes for themselves and for those around them."

Those events included: a Vigil for People with Eating Disorders, a Body Image and Eating Disorders Awareness Fair, the documentary film *Do I Look Fat*, followed by a discussion with the filmmaker, drawings by a Caricature Artist and three different performances – the undergraduate play "Hungry, Why Weight?", Margaux Laskey's one woman show *Size Ate and Slam Poet "Tennessee"* Mary Fons.

State University of New York at New Paltz
Women's Studies Program
Southside House
1 Hawk Drive
New Paltz, New York 12561-2443

www.newpaltz.edu/wmnstudies/

We're looking for you!
New address? New phone? New email?
Let us know so we can keep you up to date.
Call 845-257-2975 or
email chandlec@newpaltz.edu

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #6127
Newburgh, New York
