



# IN OUR OWN VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM & EDUCATIONAL CENTER

## ENSURING OUR FUTURE: THE WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ENDOWMENT FUND

by Sarah Williams, Executive Director

Incorporated in 1983, the Women's History Museum and Educational Center (WHMEC) is the lifelong dream of Mary Maschal who devoted her time, her energy and her home to sharing the untold story of women's history with the community of San Diego. Formerly the Women's History Reclamation Project, the WHMEC has blossomed into a full-fledged women's history museum and

valuable educational resource. We here at the WHMEC rely on funds from private donors, grants and yearly memberships to maintain our



programs and exhibits. In an effort to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of this important multicultural organization, we are pleased to announce that the Women's History Museum and Educational

Center Endowment Fund was established in July 2006.

The Women's History Museum is now proud a member of The San Diego Foundation Nonprofit Partnership program of Endow San Diego thanks to three generous initial donations from long-time museum friends that totaled \$10,000. We are hoping to add some "zeros" to our initial endowment figure over the years and you can help!

Did you know your dollars could be doubled if you contribute to our endowment fund? The WHMEC has raised \$40,000 toward our **\$80,000 challenge grant!** If you contribute \$100 toward our programs or endowment, that donation becomes \$200. Thanks to the generosity of one donor, you can help increase our permanent fund exponentially. This also goes for your annual membership or just a one-time gift. No contribution is too small! In the spirit of giving, we do hope you can join us on **Saturday, August 26 at 7:00pm** for our annual suffrage celebration and fundraiser. We hope to offer everyone in attendance at this entertaining and inspiring event the opportunity to give on a level that suits their needs and abilities. Thank you again for your ongoing support of the Women's History Museum!

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The mission of the WHMEC is to educate and inspire present and future generations about the experiences and contributions of women by collecting, preserving and interpreting the evidence of that experience.

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Mary Maschal (1924-1998)

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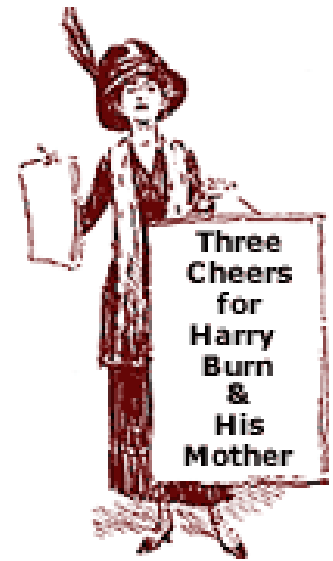
Ashley Gardner  
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## Historian's Report

by Sue Gonda, Curator

If you ever doubt that you, a lone individual, can impact history and women's lives, become inspired with these stories: On a hot, humid day in August, 1920, the Tennessee legislature was voting as to whether Tennessee would ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women citizenship rights. Lobbyists and legislators on both sides of the issue signaled their stance with roses on their lapels: Yellow signaled support for the amendment; red opposed it. No other states held enough pro-suffrage votes to ratify. It was either Tennessee, or the amendment would die. Mrs. J. L. Burn took action: she telegraphed her son, Harry—the youngest Tennessee legislator—and urged him to “be a good boy” and vote “yea.” Despite his red rose, he did, making his one vote the one that gave women full citizenship. (Subsequently, Harry had to escape out the window to avoid an angry mob.)



(above) graphic published by suffrage activists in 1920.

In 1962 Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez formed the National Farm Workers Association (predecessor to the United Farm Workers). Huerta became the chief union negotiator and raised 11 children during her activist years. She was a daily example to the agribusiness owners, revealing the realities of farm working families: when a child needed to be breast fed, negotiations stopped--she left to feed the baby and returned to the table. Huerta is not as well known today as Chavez—a tragedy, since her unique and hardworking efforts were instrumental in groundbreaking union contracts and Chicano rights. (Continued on p. 4).

## Oral History Project Update

By Irene Lara, Oral History Director

The Oral History Project at the San Diego County Women's History Museum has begun to formally document the life stories and wisdom of its Hall of Fame inductees. In fall of 2005, I trained my "Women in Cross-Cultural Perspectives" undergraduate students at San Diego State University in feminist and decolonial interview methods. Five undergraduates volunteered to conduct qualitative interviews with the following inductees: Evelyn Clarke, Jean Stern, Ardelia McClure, Ruth Heifetz, and Lucy Killea. Prepared with a set of 11 questions that ranged from "what are your most memorable experiences?" to "do you consider yourself feminist, why or why not?" and instructions to follow the lead of their interviewees, they audio-taped, transcribed, and wrote a final paper about the interviewee's lives. A sixth interview was also recently conducted with the President of the WHM, Olivia Puentes-Reynolds. The Project's goal is to continue to train students in feminist interviewing methods and integrate video recording methods until all of the inductees are interviewed.

## Welcome New Board and Staff Members!

We're pleased to announce several additions to the Women's History Museum and Educational Center family, and we bid a fond farewell to our longtime board member **Mary Logomasini**. Mary has been the WHM treasurer for 5 years and a strong community advocate for the museum. We thank Mary for her many years of service to the Women's History Museum and wish her well as she begins her new life adventure in Seward, Alaska!

We welcome three new At-Large members of the Board of Directors, **Anne Hoiberg**, **Beverly Fritschner** and **Vickie Butcher**. These remarkable women are pillars in the San Diego community and beyond. We also welcome long-time donor and friend **Bill**

### ★ WHM Sponsors ★

*Sponsor the Women's History Museum and see your logo here! We have a circulation of over 2,000 members and friends!*

### ★ WHM Wish List ★

*We're always in need of In-Kind gifts! Recycle your used office or storage equipment for a good cause!*

#### We need:

- **A used black & white photocopier**
- **Two mini-DVD cameras to be used by SDSU student volunteers conducting oral histories**
- **A tall ladder**
- **Your volunteer time and energy!**

**Contact Sarah at 619-233-7963**

**Hawkins** as an official member of the Board of Trustees.

Congratulations go to existing board members **Sarah Hurd** and **Ashley Gardner** as they accept their new posts of Vice President of External and Internal Affairs, respectively.

We also welcome two new professional staff members—Exhibit Artist **Jennifer Spencer** and Program Coordinator **Marisea Stanley**. A talented artist, Jennifer was the Executive Director of COVA (Combined Organizations for the Visual Arts) for 13 years. Marisea is beginning a graduate program in American Women's History at the University of San Diego and has

planned events for numerous nonprofits including Children's Hospital and the American Heart Association. Jennifer and Marisea join a talented group of women on our volunteer professional staff that is committed to taking this important museum to the next level!

## Members and Donors Corner

*We gratefully acknowledge our members and donors!*

Anna Andrade  
Deborah Barry  
Hisae S. Batchelder  
Byrna Bicknell  
Diane Black  
Ginger Blackmon and Mary Logomasini  
Maryanne Blinkhorn  
Winelda Blum  
Rebecca S. Booth  
La Noel Brazil  
Mary Brown  
Marie Buckey  
Margaret Budd  
Francine Busby  
Linda and Edgar Canada  
Nona Cannon  
Molly Cartmill, Sempra Energy  
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Susan Cayleff  
Evelyn L. Clarke  
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Nancy Coker  
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Midge Neff and Bill Le Claire  
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Emma Jane Patton  
Shirley de Court Park  
Deb Pedersdotter  
Gloria Penner  
Magdalena Peraza  
Darlene R. Philipp  
Gracia Molina de Pick  
Mildred (Millie) Pilot  
Ruth Porte  
Bonnie Burns Price, Ph.D.  
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds  
Helen Redman and Family

Cathy and Gordon Romanas and Family  
Judy Rosselli  
Amanda Roth  
James Royle  
Stephanie Saline  
Eileen Samuels  
Brina-Rae Schuchman  
Bonnie Kime Scott  
Barbara Shaver  
Edwina Shell-Johnson  
Elizabeth Smith-Chavez  
Amalia Solorzano  
Cindy Stankowski  
Joan K. Stein (in memory of Dee Fuller)  
Maureen Steiner  
Gabriella Swift  
Angela Talbot  
Gaye Taubensee  
Barbara Templeton  
Ashley Walker  
Annette Washington  
Maria Barbara Watson  
Susan K. Weber  
Sarah Williams  
Theresa Zang  
Bonnie Zimmerman  
Cheryl Zwack

(Continued from p. 2)—

In the 1870s, Clara Shortridge Foltz was a single mother of five who had tried a variety of women's professions to support her family. Her involvement in the women's movement gave her strength to face nearly unbearable adversity when she decided to become a lawyer. In 1878, she became California's first woman admitted to the bar. She went on to invent the concept of a "public defender"—someone paid by government to defend accused criminals who could not afford a lawyer. Because she was a woman, establishing a practice had been nearly impossible: one lawyer told her immediately that she would fail because women could not

keep secrets; at one of her first trials, the prosecutor told the jury to ignore Foltz because women were incapable of reason. But she began defending poor clients, and others sought her out; lawyers sent nonpaying clients. She started speaking out about the need for a paid public defender to place individuals on an equal footing in the courtroom and the Public Defender Office was established. When male California voters gave women voting rights in 1911, Foltz became the first female deputy district attorney in Los Angeles. Today, public defenders are a national institution.

Share these heroes with your friends, daughters, nieces, nephews, sons.... Women like you have been changing people's minds with storytelling for centuries.

## Archives Spotlight

by Devon Hansen, Archivist

There are many interesting ways to dig into history—to really locate the pulse of a certain time and try to understand how Americans' behavior influenced popular culture, what pressures people felt they were under and what social trends shaped American through the centuries. I've found in my years of research that magazines and journals offer historians unique insight into a particular time that can't be captured in textbooks or literature. That's why I was so excited to uncover two separate collections in our museum archives.

The first is the Sociology Collection that contains hundreds of different journals and pamphlets. Among these journals and pamphlets from the 1960s and 1970s are magazines such as "Women; A Journal of Liberation," and pamphlets including "Black Female Liberation and Family Action Programs: Some Considerations." These publications provide

researchers and enthusiasts with new visions of gender, family, childrearing and sexuality during the second wave of feminism.

The second collection is a complete holding of *Ms. Magazine* from its start in late 1971 through the present. *Ms. Magazine* has long been a researcher's dream, full of such famous feminist articles like "Why I Want a Wife" and "The Politics of Housework." Likewise, the pages of the magazine were a forum for consciousness-raising, informing the average American woman about her rights and helping her to realize and express her needs and desires. Letters to the editor, advertisements, personal memoirs, humorous anecdotes and illustrations in *Ms.* reveal the feminist sensibilities of American women since the 1970s, and depict the changes the feminist movement has made. I'm pleased that the Women's History Museum has a complete set of this important publication.

As we speak, our team of volunteers has nearly completed logging all of the amazing archives

at the museum and we'll be sure to keep you updated on new finds! In the meantime, join us if you have an hour or two to spare and would like to get "up to your elbows" in history!

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM!

**August 26, 7:00pm:**  
Suffrage Celebration!

**October 2006:**  
*Making Zines=Making History* Exhibit by  
Girl Zines A-Go-Go.

**October 7 & 21, Noon:**  
Zine-Making Workshops

**October 30, 11-4pm:**  
WHMEC at the Children's Historic Street  
Faire in the Gaslamp Quarter.

**October 29:**  
Dia de los Muertos Festival

**December 14:**  
Holiday "Thank You" Party

**December 31:**  
Nominations close for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual  
Women's Hall of Fame.

## Global Women's Issues: Still A Long Way to Go Getting Beyond the Veil Isn't Easy in Saudi Arabia

By Andrew Hammond, Reuters

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia –

Sitting in the reception area of a Saudi newspaper office, we do nothing more damning than talk about the weather and the local press.

A modern city of 4 million, Riyadh has a cosmopolitan and sophisticated air, all the more resplendent for the billions of dollars flowing in from the oil price boom. Its wide streets bulge with the latest sports cars. Its cafes—the global brand names—provide wireless Internet and young men sit there playing the stock market.

But the familiarity stops there, for beneath the surface a

system of gender segregation is in force that rigorously separates men from women unless they are close relatives.

Occasionally, men in more liberal parts of the country will make an effort to promote their wives' achievements.

A businessman in the Shiite Muslim town of Qatif once invited me to interview his wife, a writer and social activist.

As a guest, I was being allowed to enter a roomful of women who had gathered in a private space precisely because they expected to be protected from the prying eyes of strange men and the scourge of rumor.

Even when speaking to me, the women held their veils tightly over their faces and kept their eyes to the ground. I too averted my gaze, as uncomfortable as they were.

### Library News

By Kathleen Wheatley, Librarian

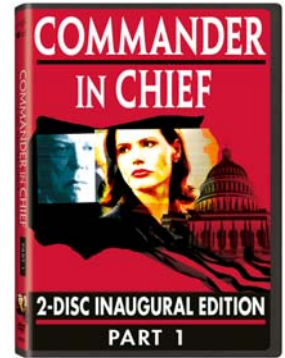
How many copies of Shirley McLain's *Out on a Limb* or Nora Robert's *Born in Fire* does the Museum need? None, but that hasn't stopped people from continuing to donate many copies of such items to the Museum. And so the library has been undergoing a major overhaul. Over the past few months, we have been working to find out exactly what is in the library and what is stored in boxes. Once we determine what is in the collection, it will be easier to organize it, and when that is accomplished, we will be able to select new materials. We want to make the collection worthy of the Museum and easy for people to access. While our long term goal will be to obtain new books to supplement the wealth of material we now own, we have a lot of work still to do before we even think of adding to the existing collection.

### VOLUNTEER CORNER

*Profiles of the people who make the museum a special place...*

#### Claudia Ornelas

Claudia, originally from Texas and now Bonita, Calif., is one of our summer archive volunteers. She will be a senior at Boston University in the Fall where she studies International Relations, History and Women's Studies. Her interests in the museum range from its feminist ideals to its historical preservation. From the women suffrage movement in the U.S. to the Chipko movement in India, the WHM preserves archival information about women's rights and equality on a global scale. Claudia hopes to go on to graduate school after graduating from Boston University. We'll miss her and wish her well!



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"Commander in  
Chief" DVD at our  
August 26  
Fundraiser!



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Chocolates for our  
Fundraiser  
generously  
provided by  
King Leo Candy,  
Chuo Chocolatiers  
and  
Society Desserts!

## President's Message—A Letter from Olivia Puentes-Reynolds

### *WARMEST GREETINGS!*

As President, I am pleased to share that with the Museum Assessment recommendations complete, the Museum's infrastructure is sound. Our next step is to begin accreditation processes with the American Association of Museums and the Institute of Museums and Library Services.

The San Diego Museum Council is coming to the Museum! Through the great work of Vice President Gardner and the Executive Director, the Museum Council will be meeting at the Women's History Museum next month. Thank you to Gardner and Williams for arranging that most important opportunity!

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, the professional staff members of the Museum met for their second time, and they with the Executive Director, are planning the calendar for 2007 and for the next five years. It is personally gratifying and wonderful to see this group of professionals, in their own right, come together as volunteers to oversee and execute Museum exhibits, library, oral histories and programming.

We are looking for 'a few good people' ... Currently we have the following Director positions open: Treasurer, Bookkeeper, Funds Development, Public Relations and Marketing, Membership, and Volunteer Management. We are one-fourth of the way to our goal of twenty Trustees; we would love to talk to you about joining us at this level.

Our most pressing staffing need is chairs for the Women's Hall of Fame 2007, and our San Diego Women Chefs Benefit, the soon-to-be Museum's signature event.

The dream is still alive ... An ad-hoc Building Committee is forming and will be meeting to build a plan for the Museum's permanent home, and Balboa Park may still be a possibility. It would be wonderful for grade school children to visit the Museum as part of their Balboa Park tour.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to each of you for all that you do, and I look forward to celebrating with you all of our accomplishments at our annual "Thank You" Party December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Museum!

—O.P.R.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM  
AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER  
2323 BROADWAY STREET #107  
SAN DIEGO, CA. 92102

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**We're on the web!**  
**Visit us online at**  
**[www.whmec.org](http://www.whmec.org)**

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*The WHM was incorporated in 1983 and features exhibits, archives, library, oral histories and educational programs dedicated to women's history.*

Hours of operation are:  
Tuesday – Friday, 11:00am - 4:00PM  
Saturdays 12:00pm - 4:00pm  
Phone: 619-233-7963 Fax: 619-233-6327  
Email: [info@whmec.org](mailto:info@whmec.org)

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*Your membership helps keep women's history alive! You can donate online through PayPal at [www.whmec.org](http://www.whmec.org)!*