

FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers, Colleagues, and Friends,

In Fall 1991 I wrote my first piece for *Feminist Collections*, entitled “From the New Librarian.” In it, I described the feminist strands of my life by means of Mary Catherine Bateson’s apt phrase, “composing a life.” I eagerly looked ahead to the opportunities as Women’s Studies Librarian to weave those strands together with others from my life’s composition.

Over the subsequent years I did indeed draw from all of those strands, whether it was from my experience running an elderly health project in approaching aspects of running our office; my background in Jewish studies in compiling an annotated bibliography on American Jewish women’s history that found its way into two encyclopedias; my personal remembrances of the women’s liberation movement when assisting students researching the Second Wave; or using my newly-minted Library degree to take on the implications of the digital revolution for women’s studies teaching and re-

search and consequently for our office publications and services.

It’s been a wonderful 22 years. I can say truthfully say I’ve loved all parts of the position. Each issue of our publications, expertly crafted by JoAnne Lehman, Linda Fain, Heather Shimon, and their predecessors, has



With grandson Noam

been a joy to distribute. Working with women’s studies folks on all University of Wisconsin campuses on projects often quite afield from librarianship expanded my knowledge of women’s issues in higher education. Serving on a variety of library committees on the Madison campus kept me involved in confronting the challenge of constant change that is the library and information world. I gained a deep respect for the dedication of my librarian colleagues — and many enduring friendships.

If you haven’t guessed already, this is leading up to the fact that I am retiring. I would like to visit my children and grandchild on the East Coast with more frequency, audit courses, travel to many places I’ve never been, and simply put my feet up and indulge in reading for pleasure. It also seems right to offer someone else the opportunity to have the best job in women’s studies librarianship — and, in my view, in librarianship as a whole.

○ *Phyllis Holman Weisbard*

June 2013. Now you know: Phyllis Holman Weisbard, beloved Women’s Studies Librarian for Wisconsin (and for the Whole World, many of us would say), is retiring! We can’t say we haven’t seen this coming — for one thing, there’s that wonderful grandson! For another and another and another, there’s surely no one more deserving of the freedom to travel more, audit courses, and read for pleasure from now on than Phyllis, who has piloted this ship so very well and for so long. Surprised or not, of course, the crew is in shock, and every day we realize more ways we will miss her. But we wish her smooth sailing and fabulous adventures for many years to come. (I’m crossing my fingers in hope that, maybe after a trip or two, Phyllis will agree to

contribute to *Feminist Collections* as a reviewer.)

In other news, Heather Shimon — our extremely talented office operations associate, who doubles as editor of our quarterly table-of-contents publication (*Feminist Periodicals*) — has managed to develop still another identity: she graduated a few weeks ago with a master’s degree from the UW–Madison’s School of Library & Information Studies. We’re proud of her and in awe, and eager to see where her own librarian “ship” will sail.

Heather’s predecessor here was Ingrid Markhardt, better known in the worlds of poetry and publishing as Ingrid Swanberg. Ingrid completed her Ph.D. in comparative literature during her years here. She stopped in recently

with a copy of her just-published collection, *Ariadne & Other Poems*. One of these poems was read by Garrison Keillor on the public radio show *The Writer’s Almanac*. Congratulations, Ingrid!

In the midst of all this, our office has progressed further into the world of social media! Follow us on **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/womenst) and **Twitter** (@WisWSLibrarian) for ongoing updates and conversations about feminist issues and resources.

Finally, here’s the Winter–Spring 2013 issue of *FC*, with articles about disability studies, massive open online courses, and a lot more. Take special note of the review of introductory women’s and gender studies textbooks, which begins on page 8.

○ *J.L.*