

# WOMEN at the CENTER

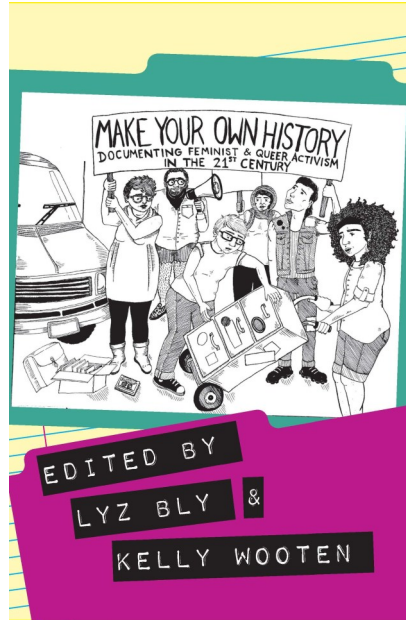
**Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture**  
**David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University**

Issue 22, Fall 2012

## Make Your Own History Makes Its Debut

Bingham Center librarian Kelly Wooten recently co-edited an anthology called *Make Your Own History: Documenting Feminist and Queer Activism in the 21st Century* (Litwin Books, 2012). Co-editor Lyz Bly is a former Mary Lily Travel Grant recipient who spent her time at the Bingham Center researching the zine collections for her dissertation *Generation X and the Invention of the Third Feminist Wave*.

The two teamed up after Wooten was invited to submit a proposal for the Litwin Books Series on



Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies, edited by Emily Drabinski.

*Make Your Own History* addresses the practical and theoretical challenges and advantages of researching, documenting, and archiving recent and contemporary activists in the feminist and queer movements. Chapter topics include zines, documenting the LGBT community, the future of collecting electronic and online records, and how the women of the Second Wave continue to contribute to the feminist

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## Our Work Transformed: First E-Book Published

The Bingham Center has published the first e-book from the Duke University Libraries, *What Does it Mean to be an Educated Woman: Conversations on Activism, Scholarship, and Pedagogy*. This new publication gathers the papers given during the 4th biennial symposium of the same name organized in 2009 by the Center.

One of the Center's foundational collecting areas is the history of women and education. The role of education in women's lives is also one of the central themes of the work of Jean Fox O'Barr, whose 40-year career at Duke and in the international women's studies community inspired the symposium and this book. In addition to her many other contributions to Duke, Jean is a co-founder of the Bingham Cen-

ter. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to work with her to create a symposium that explored women's education through the lenses of activism, pedagogy, and scholarship, each a focus of Jean's work and the work of the Bingham Center.

The remarks of the twenty-four symposium speakers had a dual purpose: to honor Jean Fox O'Barr's influential career at Duke University and to reflect on the implications of being an educated woman, a person described by closing speaker Carolyn Stefanco as "transformed in thought, in action, and at play."

This book is the first in what is hoped to be an ongoing series of electronic publications emerging from collections and

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[library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham](http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham)

**SALLIE BINGHAM CENTER**  
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY AND CULTURE

## Instruction & Outreach

Bingham Center staff are teaching a variety of instruction sessions this fall for students enrolled in the following courses:

**Book Art**  
(UNC Visual Arts)

**The Sexual Revolution**  
(Women's Studies)

**What Were They Thinking: Antebellum Women** (History)

**Social Movements**  
(History)

## Cosponsored Events

**Black Feminist Film School Screenings**  
*Suzanne, Suzanne*  
September 6, 2012  
*Praise House*  
November 6, 2012

**"The Moral Urgency of Worker Justice"**  
Kim Bobo, Founder & Director, Interfaith Worker Justice  
September 27, 2012

**Escaping Melodramas: Reflections on Telling the Histories of the Public Health Service's Research in Tuskegee and Guatemala**  
Susan Reverby  
*History of Medicine Speaker Series*  
November 1, 2012

## Profiles in Research: Jessica Lancia

This past year one of our Mary Lily Travel Grant recipients, Jessica Lancia, conducted two research visits for her dissertation entitled "Borderless Feminisms: A Transnational History of the U.S. Women's Movement, 1967-1985."

Lancia is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Florida. We asked her to share some of her experiences and findings in the reading room.

Lancia writes, "Thanks to the Mary Lily Travel Grant, I visited the Duke archives twice in 2012. Both visits proved fruitful to my dissertation, which investigates the transnational dimensions of the U.S. women's liberation movement(s) from the late 1960s to the mid-1980s."

Her work focused primarily "on the archives of New York-based professional feminists--that is, feminists who made a living (at



**"Women of the World Unite" forms the centerpiece of a New York Times collage from April 15, 1990, which Lancia found in the Shulman Papers**

least partially) as movement activists and who had a strong public presence.

Through the papers of Robin Morgan, Kate Millet, Alix Kates Shulman, Bobby Ortiz, Victoria Ortiz, and Irene Peslikis I found extensive evidence that from the late 1960s on feminist activism

reached far beyond the boundaries of the United States."

At a talk she gave during her second visit, Lancia spoke to the many connections she uncovered throughout these collections. About this she writes, "The materials at Duke point to wide-ranging attempts at cooperation between feminist activists in different nations, from world-wide collaboration on feminist literary projects to political campaigning on feminist issues. They point as well to conflicts caused by cultural dissonance and diverse understandings of the role of feminism in a global context."

## Make Your Own History *continued from page 1*

movement.

Contributor Alexis Gumbs, founder of the Eternal Summer of the Black Feminist Mind multimedia community school, Duke alumna and long-time collaborator with the Bingham Center, participated in a reading along with Kelly Wooten on September 19 in the Biddle Rare Book Room. Several other contributors to this volume have Bingham Center connections, including Alison Piepmeier and Kate Eichhorn, Mary Lily Research Grant Recipients; Sarah Dyer, donor of the ground-breaking Sarah Dyer Zine

Collection; and Angela DiVeglia, spectacular former intern.

Janice Radway, Walter Dill Scott Professor of Communication Studies at Northwestern University and professor emerita of Literature and History at Duke University, recommends that this collection "should be read by librarians, archivists, and book historians everywhere who are thinking critically about how best to preserve and study the record of lives lived outside and beyond the limits of the conventional."

**Read More: [litwinbooks.com/feminist-activism.php](http://litwinbooks.com/feminist-activism.php)**

## Rubenstein Library Renovation News

In August 2011, the Duke University Libraries received a \$13.6 million gift from David M. Rubenstein to support the renovation of the Rubenstein Library as the final phase of the Perkins Project, a multi-year library renovation project that began a decade ago.



Rendering by Shepley Bulfinch

The renovation will transform one of the oldest and most recognizable buildings on West Campus into a state-of-the-art research facility where students, faculty and visitors can engage with the Libraries' collection of rare and unique scholarly materials.

Beginning in January 2013, the reading room where researchers use the materials will be relocated to the third floor of Perkins Library. If you are planning to visit the Sallie Bingham Center, this is also where you will find our offices.

All manuscript and print material currently housed in our on-site stacks will be relocated to a remote storage facility. For

researchers, this means it is more important than ever to contact us in advance of your visit so we can ensure that the materials you wish to use are available. We will continue to support our research travel grant program, offer instructional sessions for students, and generally continue with business as usual.

Though the venues may change, we will continue to offer the engaging programs you've come to expect from the Bingham Center.

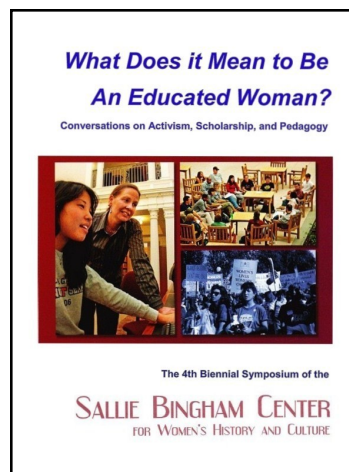
When the renovation is complete in 2015, we will return to a completely reimagined space that will increase the research, instruction, storage and exhibition capabilities of our library. Updates will also extend to the Mary Duke Biddle Rare Book Room and the Gothic Reading Room. The charm and character of these signature Duke spaces will be preserved, but their finishes, furnishings, lighting and technology infrastructure will be enhanced.

**Renovation News: [blogs.library.duke.edu/renovation](http://blogs.library.duke.edu/renovation)**

## Our Work Transformed

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activities of the Bingham Center. With the increasing availability and functionality of open source e-publication software and dedicated hardware devices for interacting with e-publications, the Bingham Center looks forward to using these technologies to create new ways to support our mission of connecting our constituency with our ever-expanding collections.



**Download "What Does It Mean to Be An Educated Woman?"**  
[library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham/education-symposium/](http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham/education-symposium/)

## Recent Acquisitions

### Miss Fletcher Diary, 1918-1960

Written throughout the latter half of her life, the diary includes deeply emotional passages about falling in love with another woman at age 70.

### Catherine Cameron Figart Diaries, 1939-1994

Fifty-five years of daily entries detail the life of an intelligent, church-going woman who was an accomplished artist.

### Photo Album documenting women's theatrical production of Sanskrit Drama, Sakuntala, 1905

This album depicts a production, possibly at Massachusetts's Northfield Seminary for Young Ladies, in which women played all of the roles, male and female.

# DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Sallie Bingham Center for  
Women's History and Culture

David M. Rubenstein  
Rare Book & Manuscript Library  
Box 90185  
Duke University  
Durham, NC 27708-0185

Laura Micham, Merle Hoffman Director  
Kelly Wooten, Research Services and  
Collection Development Librarian  
Megan Lewis, Technical Services Archivist

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[library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham](http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham)



[facebook.com/binghamcenter](https://facebook.com/binghamcenter)

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## Videos from “Acting Across Borders” Now Online



**Back row, L to R: Laura Micham, Kelly Wooten, Kate Collins, Patricia McFadden, Ann Snitow, Mia Herndon, Jaclyn Friedman, Mandy Carter, Anissa Helie, Gita Sahgal, Amber Hollibaugh, Trude Bennett, and Megan Lewis; Front row: Ynestra King and Meredith Tax**

Videos from the Acting Across Borders symposium celebrating Meredith Tax are now available on YouTube and may be viewed through our website linked below.

The videos include keynotes by Meredith Tax and Patricia McFadden, and three plenaries: Origin Myths of the Women's Movement and Other Social Justice Movements, Intersections of Class, Race, and Gender from the 70s to the Present, and Pressing Issues and New Directions for Political Work.

If you weren't able to attend the symposium in person, this is the perfect opportunity to check it out. If you were there, we hope you enjoy the chance to reminisce and to think about the questions we explored in April.

**Watch Online: [library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham/borders/videos.html](http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham/borders/videos.html)**