Pass The Ammunition — *Continued*

the Steering Committee has decided that every other year we will hold our conference in a city where people are seeking to build a chapter, think about this for your area and let someone on the Steering Committee know. We still need a place for 1992!

The 1991 Conference will be held at Smith College in early July. We know we will hold Institutes and workshops and have some plenaries and entertainment. Fred Newdom and I are conference coordinators, and the entire Steering Committee will be reviewing conference plans. If anyone has suggestions or ideas for activities, speakers or themes for the conference, please let us know by the September Steering Committee meeting. Our goal is a fully planned program in place by November of 1990, in order to allow winter and spring for outreach to bring more people and more diversity to the conference. So please help by sharing your ideas SOON. (Fred and Ann's phone numbers are in this newsletter on the Steering Committee list).

The Steering Committee met briefly on the closing evening of the conference. Priorities for the next year were introduced. They included:

1) more efforts to ally with labor
2) more attention to the question of progressive practice in direct service
3) increased efforts to expand the diversity of BCRS
4) more work at clarifying the focus of the organization

These issues, and others, will be on the agenda for the next steering committee meeting to be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 23-24 in New York City at Marilynn Moch's house. Call Marilynn at 212-316-3150 for more details.

Obituary

Founding member Henrietta Rothaizer passed away March 5, 1990. Henny was a highly esteemed social worker, avid bird watcher, folk dancer, world traveler, philosopher and political activist. Henny had a zest for life, firm convictions and will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

Members wishing to be in touch with her daughter, Shoshana Rothaizer, can reach her at 147-44 69th Road, Flushing, NY 11367.

Please mail all contributions for the next **BCR Reports** to:

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Letters to the editor, essays, news items, BCRS Chapter activities, cartoons, etc., are all welcome!

How To Organize A BCRS Chapter:

"How to Organize a BCRS Chapter" organizing packets are available by contacting Marti Bombyk at: BCRS, Columbus Circle Station, P.O. Box 20563, New York, NY, 10023. The contents of the packets include such things as posters, brochures, book order forms, recent newsletter(s), copy of by-laws, name(s) of BCRS organizer from the Steering Committee who will help you, and much much more! Allow 4 weeks for delivery.

Boycott Alert

Last November an international boycott of Salvadoran coffee was launched following the Salvadoran government's murder of six Jesuit priests and their female coworkers. Coffee revenues of $300 million to $400 million a year follow U.S. tax aid as the major source of Salvadoran death-squad funding. More than 50% of Salvadoran coffee is sold in the U.S. in major coffee blends such as Folgers.

BCRS Represented At NABSW Conference

BCRS members staffed the BCRS/Smith College SSW information table at the National Association of Black Social Workers' Annual Conference in Los Angeles from April 24-28. We had an excellent location at the entrance to the exhibit area, greeted old friends, recruited Los Angeles area Smith alumni, and made many new friends and contacts.

Many thanks to members Bert Nepove, Eleanor Belser, and Marilynn Moch who staffed the exhibit, and to Bert who provided housing for Marilynn so she could attend the conference from New York.

We hope to develop one or more collaborative projects with NABSW in areas of mutual interest during the coming year. A proposal to assure significant African representation at the 1992 conference of the International Federation of Social Workers to be held in Washington, D.C. is currently being developed to present to the International Relations Committee of NABSW.

Interested members, please contact Marilynn at 212-316-3150.

Worth Reading:

The following selections, submitted by Mimi Abramovitz, are recommended to BCRS members who wish to deepen their understanding of African American women from a socialist feminist perspective. Given the current climate of welfare/workfare reform proposals and the public scrutiny of African American women and their families, these readings will help progressive social workers to identify "blaming the victim" ideology and to advocate for African American women.

"Our Mother's Grief: Racial Ethnic Women and the Maintenance of Families." By Bonnie Thornton Dill. Research paper #4, May 1986. Center for Research on Women, Memphis State University, Memphis TN, 38152. (Part of a series available for cost of reprinting, list available through the above address).

"In Crisis: Low Income Black Employed Women in the U.S. Workplace." By Bette Woody and Michelene Malson. Working Paper #131, 1984. Center for Research on Women, Wellesly College, Wellesly, MA. 02181.

"Racial Ethnic Women's Labor: The Intersection of Race, Gender, and Class Oppression." By Evelyn Nakano Glenn. *Review of Radical Political Economics*, Vol. 17 (4), Fall 1985, 86-109.

Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow: Black Women, Work and the Family from Slavery to the Present. By Jacqueline Jones, NY: Basic Books, 1985.

When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America. By Paula Giddings. Toronto: Bantam Books, 1984.

Whither The Activists In Social Work?

Throughout the last decade or so, we have been barraged by media hype celebrating reunions and anniversaries from the 1960's which are often laden with self-satisfaction. The activists and radicals of the past have now become contented "yuppies" or have been affected by a "Big Chill" now that the days of mass demonstrations are over.

The social movements of the 1960's and 1970's led many activists to choose work in the social service professions. What happens to these activists as they age and advance in their careers? About four years ago, David Wagner began to investigate this question, noting an almost complete absence of follow-up study about what happens to activists in the social work profession. BCRS members may be interested in reading the forthcoming book based on this study, *The Quest for a Radical Profession: Social Service Careers and Political Ideology*, (which includes an introduction by Richard Cloward and Frances Fox Piven).

Based on in-depth interviews of radicals who had been associated with the Catalyst collective in New York City (many also held memberships in a variety of other activist social work groups like BCRS, SWAWR, RASSW and URSHW in Boston), the book provides a social history of radical social work over the last two decades. Are activists who enter the social service professions able to sustain their ideals over time? How were they influenced by social work education? How did they experience their jobs as caseworkers, community organizers, administrators, therapists, educators or supervisors? Do they find social work professionalism compatible with their political beliefs or antithetical to them? How do they understand social work's quest for professionalism — as a conservative force or as a potential progressive force?

The book also analyzes the actual ability of radicals to translate their ideas into social action. What were the strategies of radicals in social work over the last decades? Can these strategies — whether radical therapy, organizing at the workplace or supporting client organizing — be evaluated as successful or not? What is the relationship between individual activism, the rise of a left in social work, and the broader context of the profession, the economy, and macro level political changes?

Many social work activists who were not a part of the study will see themselves in the book - Wagner has had that reaction already from articles based on the study published in *The Social Service Review* and in *Social Work*. Wagner is particularly interested in the comments and critiques of BCRS members on his analysis of the ebbs and flows of radicalism in social work. This book will help stimulate further discussions about activism in social work and new directions and strategies for radical social work.

Note: This book may be ordered from the University Press of America, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, MD., 20706. ($15.75 in paperback). Those who live in the New York area can get a copy at Papyrus Bookstore, 2915 Broadway (W. 114th Street).

Progressive Journal On Health Issues Available:

HEALTH/PAC Bulletin, pub-lished by the Health Policy Advisory Center, a consumer-focused journal, is available for $27.50 (student/retired rate $22.50) by writing to HEALTH/PAC, 17 Murray Street, New York, NY. 10007. The Health Policy Advisory Center, founded in 1968, is not a political action committee, but a non-profit, public interest organization which advocates appropriate, accessible care for all. It publishes research, reporting, and analysis aimed at creating a national health care system that serves public needs versus professional prestige or private profit.