

# *Aphra Behn Society*

*Newsletter*

*July 2016*

## **Letter from the Editor**

Dear Aphra Behn Society Members,

As usual, there is much to celebrate and share within our community: conferences, future publications, our panel at ASECS, awards, and announcements. Also, included in the newsletter is the call for papers for our ABS panel at ASECS 2017 as well as a look forward to our November 2017 biannual conference. So read on to discover the highlights of another stellar season for society members!

Many congratulations to Sarah Creel on her election as the new Member-at-Large!

Here's wishing all of you a relaxing, or productive, summer, whichever brings you the most joy,  
Nichol Weizenbeck  
nichol.weizenbeck@du.edu

## **Letter from the Executive President**

Friends and colleagues,

In the spirit of the Aphra Behn Society and the newsletter in particular, I'd like to ask you to take a moment to look back and gaze forward. The view in both directions for the Society and for scholarship on women in the arts during our long period is rewarding and exciting. We have done much, we are doing much, and we have much to do. World events suggest that the need for people to expand understanding, promote courage and open-mindedness, and connect past and present in order to forge a smarter, safer future is horrifically, sadly acute. In the classroom, online, in print and in person, our work has been, is, and will remain vital.

Since the winter newsletter, the Society and our members have been busy. In case anyone is wondering: yes, I brought my Aphra Behn Society t-shirt to the affiliates luncheon at ASECS 2016, once again proving to the other representatives that we are the one to watch for innovation and vibrancy. On a more exalted plane, Misty Krueger organized and chaired an exciting,

groundbreaking, and well attended session on “Transatlantic Eighteenth-Century Women” at ASECS. Elizabeth Zold is organizing and chairing our session at ASECS in 2017, “Women Writing Mothers and Motherhood.” Laura Engel and Marilyn Francus are co-organizing our 2017 conference, a joint event hosted by Duquesne and WVU. You do NOT want to miss it. Our sister organization, the Aphra Behn Society of Europe (<http://www.aphrabehneurope.org/>), is holding their 2016 conference in Huelva, Spain (<http://www.aphrabehneurope.org/>). The program will be available shortly but if rumor holds true, the program will be an exciting one.

The April edition of *ABO* (<http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/abo/>) is out. The articles and reviews are terrific and if you want evidence of the journal’s impact, watch the global map below the table of contents: readers around the world are constantly downloading work from *ABO*. As an experiment, I timed where people were downloading from. In 30 seconds, readers from Washington State, California, New York (2), and South Carolina (2) as well as readers from the U.K. and Germany downloaded articles from the present and back issues. If you’re wondering about who your research would reach, you can be sure it’s a global readership. If you’re wondering how to prove that to skeptics, you can download your own download statistics any time you want. If you aren’t reading *ABO*, you’re missing out on something your peers around the world know about. If you aren’t submitting your work to *ABO*, **why not?** And don’t forget *ABOPublic* (<http://www.aphrabehn.org/ABO/>), which continues to promote informed, thoughtful discussion on women in the arts in this long period.

In the spirit of looking back and forward: please please please please renew your membership! For the bargain basement price of \$20 you support an international journal, a website devoted to public intellectualism, two graduate student prizes, a biennial conference, and —oh yeah!—an international organization dedicated to supporting scholarship on women in the arts between 1660 and 1830 and also very significantly, *the scholars who do the work and teach the classes*. We are an amazing community. Keep us going. Click this link <http://www.aphrabehn.org/members.htm> to pay your dues and fight the forces of darkness (ignorance, bigotry, hatred—you know the ones). If you’ve paid your dues (and the fewer than 10 people as of this writing who have done so this year know who you are), then thank you. Everyone else feels tremendously inspired and clicks the link this moment. Right, everyone?

Best,



Karen Gevirtz  
Executive President, Aphra Behn Society

## Call for Papers ASECS 2017

“Women Writing Mothers and Motherhood” Session for the Aphra Behn Society  
Elizabeth Zold, Winona State University, Winona, MN 55987  
Email: [ezold@winona.edu](mailto:ezold@winona.edu)

This panel addresses fiction by women in the long eighteenth century and how these texts portray mothers and motherhood. Specifically, the panel calls for papers that examine the relationships that mothers, stepmothers, adoptive mothers, or stand-in mothers in fiction have with their children. The panel aims to investigate the depictions of mothers, including their presence or absence, written by women from across the period and within various genres of fiction, and it welcomes papers that complicate the understanding of mothers and motherhood in relation to the formation of morals, manners, or the education of children. In addition to literary studies, this panel encourages submissions from disciplines such as history, art history, and gender studies. Please send abstracts of 250 to 500 words to Elizabeth Zold at [ezold@winona.edu](mailto:ezold@winona.edu) by September 15, 2016.

## ABS Panel at ASECS 2016

Misty Krueger chaired ABS’s panel on transatlantic eighteenth-century women at ASECS, which met in Pittsburgh this year. The room was packed for this panel of four excellent speakers. The session began with Jennifer Golightly’s paper, “Emma Corbett, Gender, and Transatlantic Identities in the Novel during the American Revolution.” This paper addressed how gender and sentimentalism relate to national identity in novels, including *Emma Corbett*, written in Britain and America during the American Revolution. The second speaker, Joseph Bartolomeo, whose paper was entitled, “Transatlantic Agency, Susanna Rowson, and Reuben and Rachel,” compared Rowson’s transatlantic experience with those of her female characters depicted in the aforementioned novel. Katie Charles’s paper, “Not a Gentleman’s Contract: Interpolating the Transatlantic Passage,” explored how interpolated tales in *The Female American* and *Obi: Or, the History of Three-Fingered Jack* present non-linear narratives that problematize the concept of voice and highlight gender and racial transgressions. The session concluded with Shelby Johnson’s paper, “Mary Prince and the Spaces of Moravian Redress,” which examined the effects of Prince’s personal experiences with the transatlantic/transnational Moravian Church on her spirituality and sense of belonging. The panel closed with audience members asking a couple of thought-provoking questions about gender and transatlantic identity.

ABS 2017 Biannual Conference

The Aphra Behn Society for Women in the Arts 1660-1830  
2017 Biennial Conference Call for Papers  
“Women and the City”  
November 3-4, 2017, Pittsburgh, PA



Plenary Lecture by Professor Kristina Straub  
Carnegie Mellon University

In her groundbreaking biography of Aphra Behn, Janet Todd paints a rich picture of the author's life in London: "As long as Behn had money, her domestic needs could easily be met near or in the old city. She could get her maid to buy food from street barrows and she herself could obtain what she needed on London Bridge or hunt and haggle for cloth and accessories at the New Exchange. She could browse in book shops on the lower floor or go to Paternoster Row, where publishers had established themselves after being horribly decimated by the Fire" (160). Inspired by Aphra Behn's legacy as a female professional in London, and Pittsburgh's urban culture and history, we invite papers that explore the topic of "Women and the City." How do fantasies and realities of "the city" --its people, neighborhoods, theaters, pleasure gardens, coffee houses, exhibition halls, temptations, politics, material culture, ecology, economy, religion, fashion, media, mad houses, and debtors prisons--shape literary, artistic and theatrical culture? How does gender relate to urban experience?

Send 1-2 page abstracts or panel proposals, specifying equipment needs, to Laura Engel (engell784@duq.edu) and Marilyn Francus ([Marilyn.Francus@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Marilyn.Francus@mail.wvu.edu)) by **May 15, 2017**.

Papers might address the following topics:

Theater and the City  
Material Culture and the City  
Gender and Urban Spaces  
Women and Celebrity in the City  
Sex and the City/Sexuality and the City  
The City and Empire  
the City  
Travel and Transportation and the City  
Race and the City  
City  
Temptation and the City

Art and the City  
Performance and the City  
Gender and the media  
The City versus the Country  
Politics and the City  
Fashion in the City/Fashioning  
  
Technologies of the City  
Servants/Invisible Citizens of the  
  
Music and the City

The City & the Archive/the City as Archive

Madness and the City

The Aphra Behn Society for Women and the Arts invites papers from a wide variety of disciplines including but not limited to Literature, History, Art History, Music History, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Women and Gender Studies.

Send 1-2 page abstracts or panel proposals to Laura Engel (engell784@duq.edu) and Marilyn Francus ([Marilyn.Francus@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Marilyn.Francus@mail.wvu.edu)) by **May 15, 2017**. We also welcome abstracts for papers not related to the conference theme. Please specify in the abstract if you will require audio/visual equipment.

The conference will include a plenary lecture by Professor Kristina Straub (Carnegie Mellon University), a luncheon, a performance of Susanna Centlivre's *The Busybody* and exciting papers delivered by scholars from the United States and abroad. The Aphra Behn Society sponsors a graduate student travel award (\$150) and a graduate student essay prize (\$150 and the possibility of publication in *ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830*).



Sponsored by  
The Aphra Behn Society for Women in the Arts, 1660-1830  
Duquesne University  
West Virginia University



Review our philosophy, process, and policies:

<http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/abo/policies.html#philosophy>

We look forward to reading your latest work.

*ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts* is a peer-reviewed, scholarly online journal published twice yearly under the auspices of the University of South Florida. The journal's policies and mission may be found at <http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/abo/policies.html>. Past volumes may be viewed at <http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/abo/>.

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## Conference Presentations

Jessica Munns and Penny Richards gave a joint paper at the British Society for 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Studies (BSECS) in January, "Great England's glory and the world's wide wonder": The international fame of the Earl of Essex. (Spenser's *Prothalamion*, 1596, lines 145-165; 146.): Death of a Favourite" in a panel on John Banks and the History Play, chaired by Judy Slagle.

Susan Carlile: "A Wide World of Wonder: Charlotte Lennox and Natural History" presented at ASECS, Pittsburgh, March 2016.

## Announcements

Ruth Knezevich has taken the position of Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of English and Linguistics at the University of Otago (Dunedin, New Zealand) to collaborate with Tom McLean on his Marsden-funded research project on Jane Porter and the literary Porter family.

Karen Gevirtz co-organized the third annual Women and Gender Studies Conference at Seton Hall University in February, 2016. They registered over 250 people, up from 120 in 2014, the Aphra Behn Society's first year. Next year's conference will be Friday, March 24, 2017.

## Forthcoming Publications:

In July 2015, Carolyn Woodward sent all materials for her edition of Sarah Fielding and Jane Collier's *The Cry: A New Dramatic Fable* (1754) to The University of Kentucky Press, which will publish the work.

Ruth Knezevich has an article forthcoming in the very near future: "Publishing at 'the request of friends': Alexander Ross and James Beattie's Authorial Networks in Eighteenth-Century Aberdeen" in *Authorship* 5.1 (2016): 1-16 [<http://authorship.ugent.be>]

## Awards

Nicole Garret is an ASECS/Lewis Walpole Library fellow for 2016-2017.

Karen Gevirtz has been awarded a Visiting Fellowship to Chawton House Library for August, 2017.



## *ABOPublic*

Alaina Pincus, editor, and Leah Thomas, assistant editor. *ABOPublic: An Interactive Forum for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830* is a public scholarship forum to promote discussion of contemporary issues in eighteenth-century studies. *ABOPublic* looks forward to receiving posts in the future. Send your submissions to: <http://www.aphrabehn.org/ABO/>.

## **ABS Executive Board**

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Please contact our executive president, Karen Gevirtz, with any inquiries at:  
[karen.gevirtz@shu.edu](mailto:karen.gevirtz@shu.edu).

The Aphra Behn Society is heavily dependent on membership dues for our conferences. Dues also aid in reducing fees for graduate students and in providing the Graduate Essay Prize awarded during our conferences. We appreciate your support, and we encourage you to extend the invitation to join scholars working on women in the arts in the long eighteenth century.