



Happy summer, WAM!ers!

As we enter the final weeks of preparation for our annual gender justice in media [conference](#), we are delighted to share with all of you our [new website](#)!

The completely redesigned site includes tools and resources (like pitch tips and an investigative reporting guide), photo galleries, past newsletters, and more. We hope you like it!

Scroll down for info on upcoming events, volunteer and job opportunities, and what you - our awesome WAM!ers - are up to. As always, we need your help to keep this initiative going strong. We welcome your submissions!

Upcoming WAM!NYC Chapter Events

Annual Conference:
Report the Facts,
Frame the Future

June 17//Barnard College



As the term “fake news” infects the country’s vernacular, our aim is to reassure people that cold, hard facts are as important as ever. Our main questions: What, as strong and

independent media makers, can we learn from each other? And how can we collaborate as we move forward?

Keynote speakers will include activist **Erika Andiola**, professor **Salamishah Tillet**, and a conversation with journalist **Alison Stewart**. Panelists include journalists and media-makers from the *New York Times*, *NBC News*, *Colorlines*, The News Guild, The Bronx Documentary Center, and more.

[Tickets](#) include bagel breakfast, lunch, post-conference reception, and a ticket for our raffle (with awesome prizes from Verso Books, Democracy Now!, Babeland, and others). [Register here!](#)

Other Upcoming Events

Brooklyn Women's Film Festival

June 3&4//Williamsburg

Brooklyn
Women's
Film
Festival



The Brooklyn Women's Film Festival (BWFF) is a female focused film festival. Run by women, about women, for everyone. BWFF celebrates films that employ one or more self-identifying females as key creatives, while giving special preference to

filmmakers that transcend the Bechdel Test and tackle stories through the feminine lens. Tickets [available here](#).



Leadership Workshop with Poynter's Jill Geisler

July 28//Midtown

Registration is now open for a leadership seminar hosted by the Journalism and Women

Symposium (JAWS). This one-day workshop for existing and emerging leaders will address the skills needed in today's media organizations, from legacy to startup. The workshop will be led by Jill Geisler, The Bill Plante Chair in Leadership & Media Integrity at Loyola University Chicago. Geisler teaches and coaches media leaders worldwide. She will be joined by a diverse team of veteran journalism managers who will provide customized coaching to participants. [Register here](#).

Conference Tickets Now On Sale!

WAM!NYC Annual Conference:

[Report the Facts, Frame the Future.](#)

Do you have your tickets yet? Have you spread the word to all your friends via social media? When you do, be sure to tag all of your posts with **#WAMtheFuture!**

Stay tuned for more details about all of our

fabulous panels.

WAM!er of the month: Jennifer Pozner



Longtime WAM!er **Jennifer Pozner** is a journalist, media critic, lecturer and media literacy advocate. Her work has appeared in *Newsday*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Ms. Magazine*, *AlterNet*, *Salon*, *The Huffington Post*, and more. Jenn is also the founder and executive director of [Women In Media & News](#) (WIMN), a media analysis, education and advocacy group, and the author of the 2010 book, *Reality Bites Back: The Troubling Truth About Guilty Pleasure TV*.

This past month, she was awarded the 2017 Women's Choice Award in the "Voice of Women" for her leadership in shaping the positive portrayal of girls and women in entertainment and media.

Want to learn more? Jenn will be speaking on a media criticism panel at the [WAM!NYC annual conference](#).

Follow her on Twitter: [@jennpozner](#).

Congratulations on winning the Women's Choice Award! How does it feel?

It's strange, frankly. I don't do this work for awards, and media literacy and media activism, in particular racial justice and gender justice media literacy work, usually isn't on the radar of bodies that give awards.

When I started doing this kind of work in the mid-90s, feminist media criticism wasn't really a field. There was really only one organization in the entire country that did media monitoring, that wasn't in academia. That was Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting (FAIR). They only had one person running the women's desk, Laura Flanders, so I just assumed I wouldn't be able to do this as a job.

A few years out of college, I had a media watch column for a feminist newspaper called Sojourner, and then Laura left FAIR and I ended up running the women's desk there. And when I left FAIR I founded WIMN because I thought there needed to be at least one group in the country that centered women as a constituency for media justice.

I feel really gratified that the work that I've done has helped to move the needle so that now when people think of the importance of changing and increasing positive representations of women in media, they're not just thinking about fiction. They're also thinking about content and production and policy.

What do you think is the most pressing issue facing women in the media today?

I never really liked the one important thing question. We have a variety of challenges and we need a variety of solutions.

Some of the most pressing issues facing women in media today include the continued misogyny in framing of news stories about politics, about public policy, about leaders, about basically all of the key issues facing our country right now. We still have a corporate media landscape in which women are vastly underrepresented as owners of media companies and underrepresented on the boards of media companies. What trickles down from the leadership is still the same kinds of misogynistic framing we've been seeing for decades.

I've been writing about sexist double standards in news coverage of female politicians since the 1990's and I've not seen a decrease in that kind of coverage. I've seen more people critiquing that kind of coverage, but having a conversation doesn't mean that the coverage itself has stopped being so detrimental.

Another thing is that we still have an intense amount of victim blaming in sexual assault cases. We understand that slut shaming is wrong, and that victim shaming is wrong, but it still happens waaaaay too much.

And we still have a problem of media companies playing divide and conquer with different identity sectors. Pitting women against people of color, pitting people of color against working people. We have a news climate that covers social and political and economic issues more from the perspective of how those issue affect rich politicians and business owners and less how they affect average people, and when they do look at average people, they still

divide the country up in a non-intersectional way.

Also one of the biggest problem that women in media face today is that we have a sexual predator as president and that keeps getting lost in news coverage. I think every single news report about this president that has anything to do with any domestic policies that even tangentially touch on gender issues need to be reminding people that this president is a sexual predator, by his own words. We have a media climate that still gives way too much deference to power, even when that power is authoritarian, white supremacist and deeply misogynist.

What projects are you working on that we should keep an eye out for?

My next book will be about media complicity in Donald Trump's rise to power. It will span the entertainment side, particularly NBC and The Apprentice and the creation of a false narrative around a mogul who had been bankrupt and sued for fraud, even though on camera for more than a decade NBC created a narrative that this man had authority and the keys to the American Dream. Mostly it will be news coverage of the campaign, and journalistic and structural failures of covering Donald Trump not as an authoritarian, white supremacist narcissist and more of a funny spectacle that got away from them.

Then I'll juxtapose that with the crucial and scary and deeply disturbing position that we as journalists are in right now, and how do we get back to a state in which journalism can really function as a check to the balance of power that the founders imagined.

It will be a major project. It will take at least a year and a half, two years.

I also do media literacy keynotes and workshops and media training around gender, race and sexuality in the media, so if anybody is interested in bringing me to their school or their nonprofit or their business, I'd be happy to talk about sponsoring that kind of media literacy work together.

Call for WAM!er of the Month submissions

Would you like to be featured as a WAM!er of the month, or do you know someone in WAM!NYC who's been kicking ass lately? We're launching this newsletter segment to highlight the extraordinary work our members do each and every day in their fields. Send a short bio or success story (yours or a friend's) to srussellkraft@gmail.com to be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

Opportunities

- The New Yorker is hiring a [newsletter editor](#).
- Mic seeks a [senior politics editor](#).
- Quartz is looking for a [markets and economics reporter](#).
- TIME is hiring a [news editor](#).
- CNN Investigations is hiring [a writer](#) for its team.
- New York Magazine is looking for a [politics writer](#).
- Jezebel is seeking an experienced [features editor](#).
- Fusion needs a [staff reporter](#) cover homeland security.

Member Updates

This section of the newsletter functions sort of like an alumni update section from a university magazine, but with a WAM!NYC twist. Are you a newly appointed editor and want to send out a call for pitches? Did you just score your dream job and want to tell the world about it? Will you be covering a big news story and are looking for Twitter followers or editors to pitch? Do you know a WAM!er (or are YOU a WAM!er) who simply deserves a shout-out? **Send short updates to srussellkraft@gmail.com and we'll include them here.**

This month's updates:

- **Kathleen Frazier** has won the [2017 Independent Publisher Book Award](#) for Best First Book – Nonfiction for her memoir, [Sleepwalker: The Mysterious Makings and Recovery of a Somnambulist](#). Kathleen is an MS candidate with [Columbia's Narrative Medicine Program](#), [Norman Mailer Fellow](#), [Actors Studio member](#), and sleep activist (advocating for healthy sleep as a basic human right with special research interest in the connection between, and recovery from, trauma and disordered sleep). Her book deal sprang from her agent's interest in her [Psychology Today](#) piece. Kathleen will be signing free copies of her memoir on Friday, June 2nd, from 3-4pm at the New Title Showcase, Booth 1657, BEA, Javits Center.
- **black enuf***, an animated documentary by **Carrie Hawks**, will screen on [Thursday, June 15th 7pm](#) at the Brooklyn Museum. 4th Floor in the Sackler Center for Feminist Art. The multimedia animated documentary tells the story of filmmaker Carrie Hawks's family and explores their quest for undeniable acceptance of their racial identity. Followed by a talkback with Hawks.

- **Pia Sawhney** is looking for an experienced foreign correspondents/global affairs reporter interested in covering a forthcoming multimedia project and report by human rights non-profit [Ensaaf](#). The organization has spent 12 years documenting extrajudicial killings, disappearances, and torture in the northern Indian state of Punjab. The project is the largest of its kind across South Asia and the findings will be released in December. The organization hopes to find a reporter to draft a feature-length piece, preferably for an international news magazine, timed to coincide with the release of the findings. You can reach Pia at pia.sawhney@gmail.com or psawhney@ensaaf.org for more information.

Want to learn more about what WAM!, a 501(c)3 non-profit, does on a national level? Check out executive director Jamia Wilson's [strategic vision](#).



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