

Barbara Mayer Wertheimer

November 7, 1925 — September 20, 1983

Barbara Mayer Wertheimer, professor of industrial relations in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations Extension Division, died on September 20, 1983. She is survived by two children, David and Ellen. A graduate of Oberlin College and New York University, she joined the Cornell faculty as a senior extension associate in 1966, was appointed an associate professor in 1977, and was promoted to professor of labor history in 1983.

Before joining the Cornell faculty she was employed by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, first as a national representative and, from 1947 to 1958, as associate national education director of that union. From 1961 to 1966 she served as a community service consultant to the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

Professor Wertheimer's teaching and research interests centered on the role of women at work and in the trade union movement. She was appointed the director (with Anne Nelson) of Cornell's Institute for Women and Work in 1977. Under their leadership the institute developed credit and certificate programs in trade union women's studies, public service women's studies, and career development for clerical employees, and a large number of conferences and workshops on topics of interest to working women. The institute grew to provide technical assistance to other organizations here and abroad. It maintains a specialized library.

Professor Wertheimer was founder of the Trade Union Women's Summer Schools, sponsored by the University and College Labor Education Association and conducted annually on university campuses throughout the United States. She was a founding member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Among her many publications were the books *Labor Education for Women Workers* (1981), *We Were There: The Story of Working Women in America* (1977), and *Trade Union Women: A Study of Their Participation in New York City Locals* (co-authored with Anne Nelson, 1975). At the time of her death she was working on the second volume of the study of working women in America. Her research papers for this volume are housed at the ILR library. A prolific writer, she also published numerous articles and book chapters dealing with issues affecting women at the workplace and in unions. She served on several boards and committees. Among her services in these areas were as member of the editorial board of *Labor History*, commissioner of the National Commission on Working Women, and member of the Board of Overseers, Wellesley College Center for Research on Women. She was the appointed

arbitrator for the contract between the Service Employees International Union and the 9 to 5 National Association of Working Women. At Cornell she served a term on the Provost's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women. Highly regarded not only by her colleagues at Cornell but by those involved in the women's and trade union movements, Professor Wertheimer's work was recognized by the several honors she received. Among them were the Creative Programming Award from the National University Extension Association, in 1969; the Innovative Programming Award from the American College Testing Program, in 1963; and a study grant from the Ford Foundation, in 1982. Program grants were received from the Carnegie Corporation, the Rockefeller Family Fund, the Ford Foundation, the New York State Council of the Arts, the Muskiwinni Foundation, and the German Marshall Fund.

Faculty colleagues and former students cherished Barbara Wertheimer's friendship. She is remembered by students for her commitment to developing their full abilities and by colleagues for her creative application of high principles to practical purposes. Her memory is honored by the New York State Labor History Association by the establishment of the Barbara Wertheimer Undergraduate Prize in Labor History and by creation of the Cornell—Barbara Wertheimer Memorial Fund, which will provide funding for women's labor programs.

Alice Cook, Lois Gray, Robert Doherty