

Take The Pledge

Writers Support Feminist Bookstores

The Feminist Bookstore Network invites you to "Take the Pledge" to support feminist and other independent bookstores in these times when "independent bookstores have become an endangered species threatened by the rise of corporate-owned superstores that engage in predatory pricing and discount policies."

The pledge reads, in part, "We will remain committed to supporting feminist and independent bookstores.... And we ask readers to do the same. Please shop at feminist and independent bookstores as often as you can — think of it as an investment in freedom of expression and independent thinking."

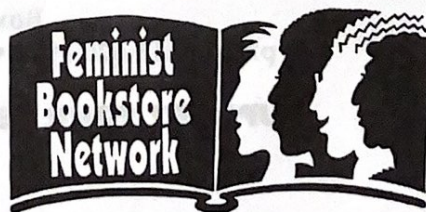
Signers include:

Gloria Anzaldúa	Sara Paretsky
Dorothy Allison	Joan Nestle
Sandra Cisneros	Margaret Randall
Jewelle Gomez	Adrenne Rich
Nicole Hollander	Gloria Steinem
Barbara Kingsolver	Lily Tomlin
Maxine Hong Kingston	Linda Villarosa
Robin Morgan	Alice Walker . . . and many, many others.

Feminist Bookstores Support Writers

A project of the Feminist Bookstore Network.
For additional copies of The Pledge,
please write to:

The Feminist Bookstore Network
PO Box 882554, San Francisco CA 94188
415-626-1556; fax 415-626-8970
e-mail FBN@FemBkNews.com



The Pledge

Writers Support Feminist Bookstores

As writers, feminists and political activists, we believe in the enormous power of words to inform, inspire and challenge. In order for our words to be read and heard, we must rely on publishers and bookstores to bring our work to the public.

Feminist and other independent bookstores and small presses have been supporting and distributing our books — poetry, novels, essays, plays and photography — for many years. We count on them. They have been publishing and carrying our books because they are owned and run by people who care about ideas and take risks for the sake of social and political change.

Independent bookstores are now an endangered species because of the rise of corporate-owned chain bookstores that engage in predatory pricing and discount policies. The more corporate bookstores control the market, the less likely it will be that they and the publishing industry will take risks on new or controversial ideas and authors — and the more control the corporations will have over what we all read.

Without feminist and other independent bookstores and small presses, some of us could be silenced, and the next generation of writers with important ideas might never be found.

As writers, we pledge the following:

1. We will remain committed to supporting feminist and other independent bookstores.
2. We will seek out local feminist and other independent bookstores in each city or town to do our *first* reading or booksigning.
3. We will donate our time and talents to community events and campaigns that support feminist and other independent bookstores.

And we ask readers to shop at feminist and independent bookstores as often as possible — to think of shopping at feminist bookstores as an investment in freedom of expression and independent thinking.

Signed _____

Print name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Please copy this pledge and pass it on to other feminist and activist writers.
Thank you for your support.

A Project of

The Feminist Bookstore Network

Box 882554 • San Francisco CA 94188

phone: 415-626-1556 • fax: 415-626-8970 • e-mail: FBN@FemBkNews.com

SUPPORT YOUR FEMINIST BOOKSTORE. SHE SUPPORTS YOU!

Feminist Bookstore News

May 18, 1994

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dawn Martin or Carol Seajay

Phone: 415-626-1556; Fax: 415-626-8970

Feminist Bookstore News (FBN), the trade journal for feminist booksellers and publishers, has just updated its list of feminist bookstores in the U.S. and Canada and found that an impressive number of new feminist stores have opened in the last year. Twenty-six new feminist stores have opened in 13 months. There are currently 124 feminist bookstores in the U.S. — up from 98 a mere thirteen months ago. This is the largest number of feminist bookstores to open in such a short period of time since the seventies when the modern feminist movement began.

Four of the new stores are in Oregon — built by women who fought Proposition 9, the anti-lesbian/gay referendum. These women feel the need for community building and access to information more than ever. Other women are breaking new ground by opening more stores in the southeast including places like Greenville, South Carolina, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and Fredericksburg, Virginia, as well as other towns and cities across the country.

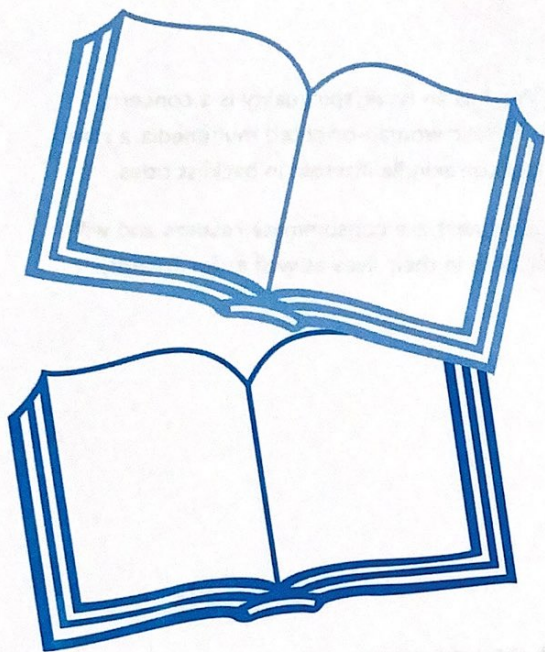
Obviously, there is a tremendous interest in women's bookstores. FBN receives many phone calls from women around the country who are at various stages of planning to open a bookstore with a feminist or women-centered bent. Both new and established women's stores distribute information which is not screened by the "male-gaze" or a disapproving "mainstream" eye. The fact that women continue to open feminist bookstores across the country illustrates that women are dedicated to promoting alternative voices through the book trade. Despite the financial challenges that feminist and all independent bookstores face — in part from superstores and discounters — feminist stores are here for the long haul and are developing strategies to succeed on a sometimes unlevel playing field.

Feminist publishers have also been creating impressive numbers. A quick count of the books announced by feminist presses in the late summer, fall announcement, and late fall issues of FBN generated some fascinating statistics — 42 woman-owned, feminist presses published a total of 129 books last fall 1993 season. Eighty-seven of them were lesbian or included significant lesbian content.

For a complete list of feminist bookstores in the U.S. and Canada call FBN at 415-626-1556 or fax them at 415-626-8970.

Mail to: P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, CA 94188
UPS & Fed. Ex. only: 2358 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

Phone: 415-626-1556
Fax: 415-626-8970



The *1996* **Feminist Bookstores' Fall Catalog**

The most successful feminist book promotion in the country!

Dear Publisher,

The 1995 Feminist Bookstores' Fall Catalog once again proved itself an ideal vehicle for bringing feminist books to a committed book-buying audience.

You simply cannot get better exposure for your women's titles. Unlike other catalogs, the Feminist Bookstores' Fall Catalog is distributed only to people who have demonstrated a real interest in purchasing these books. Six months after publication, we are still getting requests for additional catalogs.

Circulation/Distribution

Building on our success, we're expanding our distribution to 450,000:

150,000 copies to feminist and lesbian magazine subscribers.

Magazines include *Out* (women subscribers), *Curve* (formerly *Deneuve*), *Women's Review of Books*, *Lesbian Review of Books*, the Wolfe Video mailing list, and *Ms. Magazine*. (The *Ms.* list alone would cost you \$10,000 to rent.)

300,000 copies to feminist bookstores in both the U.S. and Canada.

- Distributed in-store as the centerpiece of each store's holiday promotions.
- Sent to individual stores' mailing lists.
- In-store and window displays of Catalog titles.
- Stores distribute imprinted copies at community events, community gathering places, restaurants, women's centers, social service organizations, and even in laundromats and doctors' offices.

What to Advertise

The Feminist Bookstores' Catalog circulates to a widely diverse group of women whose interests range from abortion rights to lesbian rights to Internet activism. They read literary fiction, genre fiction, biography, and creative essay. They are young,

Amazon Bookstore
Antigone Books
Aradia Bookstore
At Sara's Table
Back to the Source
Bad Habits Etc.
Bloodroot Restaurant and Bookstore
Boadecia's Books
Book Gallery
The Book Garden
Book Woman
Bookwoman Books
Brigit Books
By the Light of the Moon
Cafe Browse
Charis Books and More
Common Language
Crazy Ladies Bookstore
Crystal Rainbow
A Different Drummer Bookstore
A Different Drummer Bookstore #2
A Different World Bookstore
Dreams and Swords
Earth & Sky
Equilibrium: Celebrating Girls
Everywoman's Books
Fan the Flames
Food for Thought: Women's Connection
For Women Only
Full Circle

Gertrude Stein Memorial Bookshop
 Gifts of Athena
 Girlfriends
 Golden Thread Booksellers
 Grapevine Books
 Healing Rays
 Healing Words Bookstore
 Heartland Books
 Her Body Books
 Her Body Books #2
 Her Story Bookstore
 Herland Book-Cafe
 Herland Sister Resources Inc.
 Illusions
 In Other Words
 Inklings
 Iris Books
 It's Your Pleasure
 Jane Addams Book Shop
 Josephine's
 Lammas Women's Books & More
 Lammas—Baltimore
 Lavenders
 Lioness Books
 Lodestar Books
 Mama Bears
 Medea Books
 Meristem
 Minnesota Women's Press Bookstore
 Moore Magic
 Mother Kali's Books
 mother tongue books—femmes de parole
 My Sisters' Words
 New Woman Books
 New Words Bookstore
 The Northern Woman's Bookstore
 Now Voyager
 On the Move
 Once Upon a Time
 Orlando Books
 Ottawa Women's Bookstore
 Out Back Books
 Page One—Books by & for Women
 Panacea Books Ltd.
 Pandora
 Pandora Book Peddlers
 Pandora Books for Open Minds
 Pearls
 People Called Women
 Prairie Moon Ltd.
 The Purple Moon
 A Quiet Corner Bookstore

they are menopausal and they are old. Work is an issue, spirituality is a concern, social change is essential. Good video is a treat; woman-oriented multimedia, a rare pleasure. Catalog ads are an excellent way to rekindle interest in backlist titles.

Please remember: feminist bookstore customers are consummate readers and will use the catalog to select gifts for the children in their lives as well as for friends, family, and colleagues.

Special sections will highlight

- Children's and YA Books*
- Art & Gift Books/Calendars
- Book Group Suggestions
- Making Change
- Ethnic and Multicultural Titles
- National Jewish Book Month
- Books for the Men in Your Life

*20% discount on all children's and YA titles this year.

The Fine Print

REGULAR AD \$1295

Less than all major regional catalogs; delivered to very focused target audience

FEATURE AD \$1695

Same size as regular ad with color background

DOUBLE FEATURE AD \$2295

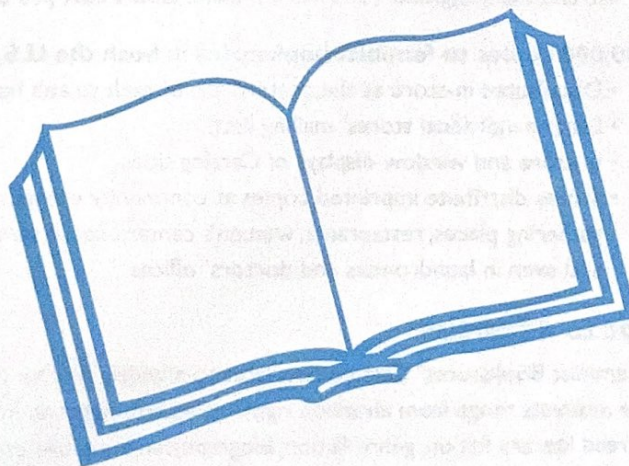
Double-sized, 2 related books or a single title, color background

BACK COVER \$2595

Ad size 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" (approximately)

60 words of text describing each book.

No more than 5 titles advertised per page.



Additional Support

- Bi-weekly restocking reminders with marketing and publicity updates.
- E-mail newsgroup for participating stores posting publishers' special offers, ordering terms, and availability.
- Publishers receive a telephone/address list of participating bookstores for tele-marketing and sending related promotional materials to bookstores (posters, bookmarks).
- The Catalog will be promoted on the Internet and announced in appropriate newsgroups. Readers will be able to request catalogs via e-mail.

Deadlines

Ad reservations:

JULY 3

Ad copy:

JULY 12

Jacket art/payment:

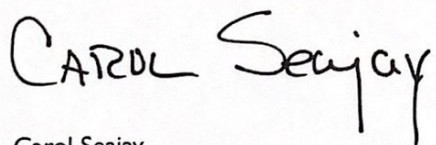
JULY 19

To Reserve Space

In these days of dwindling marketing resources, the Feminist Bookstores' Fall Catalog reaches exactly the right audience for your women's and children's books in one easy (and reasonably priced) step.

To reserve space, return the enclosed contract or call Lisa McGowan, 415-626-2039 [e-mail Lisa@fembknews.com]. University, academic, and Consortium presses call Mev Miller, 612-646-0097 [e-mail mev@winternet.com]. Small presses call Dorothy Holland, 505-867-9077 [e-mail dorothy@bookgrrls.com].

Thanks to the help and support of the publishing community, the Feminist Bookstores' Fall Catalog is the largest and most effective feminist book promotion this country has ever seen. Please call us today to book your ads or return the enclosed postcard and we'll call you at your convenience.



Carol Seajay
for the Feminist Bookstore Network

Rainbows Ltd.
Raven in the Grove
The Reader's Feast
The Real World Emporium
Recovering Hearts Book and Gift Store
Rising Moon Books & Beyond
Rising Moon/Wilmington
A Room of One's Own
Ruby Slippers
Rubyfruit Books
Sappho's Garden
Silkwood Books
Sisterhood Bookstore
SisterSpace & Books
Sisterspirit
Stepping Stones
Sweet Violets
Textures
Third Wave
Thunder Road Book Club
Toronto Women's Bookstore
Travellin' Pages
True Hearts
Two Sisters
An Uncommon Vision
Valley Women Books and Gifts
Vancouver Women's Bookstore
Visionz & Dreamz
Washington Square Cafe & Bookstore
Weaved Words
West Berkeley Women's Books
Wild Iris Bookstore
Wild Iris, Inc.
Wittershins
Woman to Woman Books
A Woman's Place Bookstore/Calgary
A Woman's Place Bookstore/Draper
A Woman's Place Bookstore/Park City
A Woman's Place Bookstore/SLC
A Woman's Place Bookstore/SLC#2
A Woman's Prerogative
Womankind Books
Womankind Gifts
Womansline Books
Women & Children First
Women in Print
Women's Bookstop
The Women's Project
Women's Work
Womencrafts Inc.
Word Is Out

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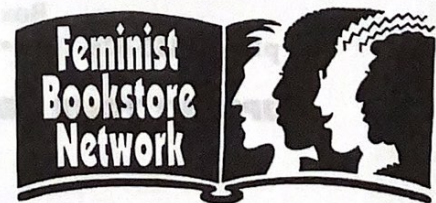
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Feminist and other independent bookstores and small presses have been supporting and distributing our books — poetry, novels, essays, plays and photography — for many years. We count on them. They have been publishing and carrying our books because they are owned and run by people who care about ideas and take risks for the sake of social and political change.

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Print name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

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A Project of

The Feminist Bookstore Network

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SUPPORT YOUR FEMINIST BOOKSTORE. SHE SUPPORTS YOU!

Feminist Bookstore News

FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL FEMINIST BOOKSTORE WEEK MAY 13-20

February 24, 1995

Dear FBN Sisters,

This is the first of three mailings you'll be getting about the First Annual National Feminist Bookstore Week scheduled by the Feminist Bookstores Strategic Planning Conference. It was one of our best ideas for getting a lot of promotion and attention for feminist bookstores and for dealing with the amount of competition most of us are facing. It's scheduled for May 13-20.

We're very excited about this national, collective celebration of the feminist bookstore movement. We've done our best to make it a 'least-effort, maximum-effect' effort for this start-up year when so many of us are already scrambling to deal with the pressures of the corporate stores and sluggish local economies. See below for details on the information we'll be sending you.

We already have some national media lined up: Ms. Magazine has promised us a 4-page article about NFBW in their May issue. Dyke-TV will list us in their Calendar and is interested in covering NFBW. The Northern California Independent Booksellers Association may take up the week as a promotion project (w/ a projected \$1500 promotion budget!) — and the FBN office is working on a lot more!

What you need to do now is set up programs for your own store and make plans to pitch the week (and your events) to your local media to get maximum publicity. Events can as elaborate or as simple as you want.

Mail to: P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, CA 94188
UPS & Fed. Ex. only: 2358 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

Phone: 415-626-1556
Fax: 415-626-8970

You can participate just by passing out NFBW bookmarks and putting up a poster or creating a special window or in-store display. Or you can do author events or other in-store events. We hope that some stores will do street fairs or crafts fairs (or will time events you'd already do to coincide with NFBW). Invite local authors to read or call authors on the Pledge list (enclosed). Or have sponsor open-mike/michelle nights. Some stores might use this as a reason to have a concert, party, or other big program. But whatever events you plan, don't miss this opportunity to get publicity and media attention for our store. If you can organized with other stores in your area to do joint publicity, so much the better!

We hope that every feminist bookstore in the U.S. and Canada will celebrate NFBW in with special events and programs. It can be a simple as something you're already doing. Or as elaborate as your time and energy allows. The point is to use the NFBW as a way to generate publicity that you wouldn't otherwise get, and to make a "splash" nationally. If we all participate, we'll succeed!

We hope (and trust!) that you can plug into National Feminist Bookstore Week in whatever way feels manageable, celebratory, feminist and feisty! If you have further ideas, suggestions, media contacts, comments (or just want to cheer us on), call any of us who are working on the project.

Tollie Miller & Carolyn Gabel	Reader's Feast	203-777-7807
Patty Callaghan	Brigit Books	813-522-5775
Helene Vann	Full Circle	505-266-0022
Martha Cabrera	Textures	210-805-8398
Karen Axness	A Room of One's Own	608-257-7888
Audrey May	Meristem	901-276-0282
Jo den Boer	Amazon	612-338-6560
Carol Seajay	Feminist Bookstore News	415-626-1556

Response dates:

We're trying to include as much information as possible about specific store events in the Ms. article and in national press releases, and in the forthcoming mailings to you. We can't do any of the national media stuff until we have some examples of events to list! So, please call the FBN office as soon as you have events scheduled. Some great dates to shoot for are:

March 7 for the Ms article:

March 9 for the first press release

March 17 for the second press release and

April 1 for follow-up stories.

As soon as you get an event confirmed, call or fax the info to FBN! Our answering machine is standing by 24-hours a day!

How It Works

The List of Authors who've signed the pledge...

Sixty-four feminist authors' have signed the pledge to support feminist and independent bookstores. Enclosed you'll a list of their names, with contact information if available. These are great leads for possible signings and other events during NFBW. Pledges are still coming in and we'll send you updates with each letter.

You'll Get Three Mailings

This is the first!

Mailing #2 is scheduled for March 10. It will include:

- a fill-in-the-blanks press release for your use
- the national press and a list of the national media we're sending it to
- background articles for you to give to your local media
- how-to-do PR ideas and suggestions for your use
- public-service announcement-style ad slicks
- ad-slicks for in-store events and co-op ads
- a list of events scheduled for other stores
- updated authors lists
- FB-Network logos, and
- ordering information for NFBW paraphernalia (buttons, key-chains? refrigerator magnets? t-shirts for in-store wear during NFBW? bookbags?)

Mailing #3 is scheduled for April 1. It will include:

- mock ups for bookmarks
- mockups for posters (that you can take to Kinkos and blow up for in-store and window display)
- any of the above not yet ready by mailing date
- updated events lists from other stores
- updated author lists and
- anything else we come up with between now and then and have time and \$\$ to do!

We'll do two mailings to National Media

The first will be a brief cover letter: This event is coming up, please schedule it into your editorial calendar, and a brief press release that lists some of the events in some of the stores. This will go out March 10.

The second will be more detailed and will go out March 20 with an expanded author list, expanded store events, and PSA-type slicks.

You get to do your local media.

Think as big as you can on this. We'll provide you with press releases, back-up information in the event that you can interest your local media in longer pieces. Think feminist and gay press, but be sure to hit your daily paper and, if you have

film-able events, local TV-news, radio news, and other programming. This is your chance to get yourself on the radio to talk about your store (or get a local author to talk about how important feminist bookstores are and to say wonderful things about how important your store is to the community and what wonderful things you do. We'll have an impressive author-support list to impress even mainstream media. **GO FOR IT! Go for it big! One feature story in your local paper (or shot on TV) can have a wonderful impact on your sales - - and on reaching women who don't already know about your store.**

Where did this idea come from?

The idea for the "Week" was sparked at the Feminist Bookstores Strategic Planning Conference last fall as a way to promote feminist bookstores, to get national and local media attention for our bookstores, as a way to draw attention to the importance of the work we all do, both locally and as a national movement, and to create (another) way to educate our communities and the publishing industry about the importance of feminist bookstores and our impact on what is published. — In other words, it was the best idea we came up with to get maximum free promotion for feminist bookstores nationwide and in Canada and to stimulate sales.

Why these dates?

We chose this time because it includes Mother's Day (May 14), because it doesn't conflict with Gay Pride celebrations or National Lesbian and Gay Book Month, and it's before the school year ends, and it's just before ABA.

And next year:

FBN plans to produce a Spring Feminist Bookstores Catalog next year that will be available for mailing by April 1 so that each store can include inserts about their NFBW events in their catalog mailings and generate publicity that way. If we get the National Feminist Bookstore Awards (the FEMMYs (?)) program in place, we can list the winners in the Spring Feminist Bookstores Catalog and do programs/window displays, events and media announcing and celebrating the winners in conjunction w/ NFBW. And we hope to be able to tie in our essay contest for young feminists into the week somehow. In other words, we have BIG plans for this event. And this year is just the beginning!

List of FBN Supporting Authors

Name: Julia Alvarez
Street: RD1, Box 113B, Sheep Farm Road
City/ST/Zip: Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone:
FAX:

Name: Mary Bricker-Jenkins
Street: WIT's End Farm
City/ST/Zip: Dowelltown, TN 37059
Phone: 615-536-5356
FAX:

Name: Arlene Avakian
Street: 333 Strong Street
City/ST/Zip: Amherst, MA 01002
Phone:
FAX:

Name: Jennifer Camper
Street:
City/ST/Zip:
Phone:
FAX:

Name: Meena Alexander *(incorrect address)*
Street: ~~541 West 113th Street, apt. 4c~~
City/ST/Zip: ~~New York, NY 10025~~
Phone:
FAX:

Name: Blanche Wiessen Cook
Street:
City/ST/Zip:
Phone:
FAX:

Name: Lauren M. Baldwin
Street: P.O. Box 10534
City/ST/Zip: Albuquerque, NM 87184
Phone: 505-255-6730
FAX: 505-841-5153

Name: Clare Coss
Street: 34 Audubon Street
City/ST/Zip: East Hampton, NY 11937
Phone:
FAX:

Name: Alison Bechdel
Street: P.O. Box 703
City/ST/Zip: Waterbury, VT 05676
Phone: 802-244-8339
FAX:

Name: Nisa Donnelly
Street: 564 Mission #124
City/ST/Zip: San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415-566-9703
FAX: 415-882-1660

Name: Mary Kay Blakely
Street: 2840 Broadway, #318
City/ST/Zip: New York, NY 10025
Phone: 212-316-3150
FAX:

Name: Barbara Ehrenreich
Street: 814 Fleming Street, #2
City/ST/Zip: Key West, FL 33040
Phone:
FAX: 305-296-5220

Name: Blanche McCrary Boyd
Street: Box 5421, Connecticut College
City/ST/Zip: New London, CT 06320
Phone: 203-432-2123
FAX: 203-439-5240

Name: Nancy Gage
Street: 1012 LaFont SW
City/ST/Zip: Albuquerque, NM 87105
Phone:
FAX:

Name: Rebecca Brown
Street: 815 15th Avenue E #2
City/ST/Zip: Seattle, WA 98112
Phone: 206-726-0592
FAX:

Name: Tirzah Gerstein
Street: 85 Newbury Street
City/ST/Zip: Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 203-728-3334
FAX:

List of FBN Supporting Authors

Name: Grace Paley
Street: East Thetford, VT
City/ST/Zip:
Phone:
FAX:

Name: Kim Vaith
Street: 104 Williams Street
City/ST/Zip: Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Phone: 617-522-7218
FAX:

Name: Suzanne Pharr
Street: 1423 NE 28th Street
City/ST/Zip: Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-335-3369
FAX: 503-335-3370

Name: Linda Villarosa
Street: 488 14th Street, #3
City/ST/Zip: Brooklyn NY 11215
Phone: 718-788-5802
FAX: 212-921-5173

Name: Patricia Powell
Street: 108 School Street
City/ST/Zip: Somerville, MA 02143
Phone: 617-776-9656
FAX:

Name: Mimi Wheatwind
Street: 505 Fitzgerald NW
City/ST/Zip: Albuquerque, NM 87107
Phone:
FAX:

Name: J.M. Redman
Street: 2615 Chartres Street
City/ST/Zip: New Orleans, LA 70117
Phone: 504-945-1899
FAX: 504-945-4048

Name: Bessy Reyna
Street: 5 Dean Drive
City/ST/Zip: Bolton, CT 06043-7217
Phone:
FAX:

Name: Susan Sherman
Street: 305 East 6th Street, apt. #3
City/ST/Zip: New York, NY 10003
Phone:
FAX:

Name: Patricia Clark Smith
Street: P.O. Box 27334
City/ST/Zip: Albuquerque, NM 87125
Phone:
FAX:

Name: Diane Stein
Street:
City/ST/Zip:
Phone:
FAX:

Original Signers
(But we didn't get permission to
circulate their addresses --
Call Carolyn or Tollie in a pinch)

Dorothy Allison
Michelle Cliff
Ruth Hubbard
Irena Klepfisz
Robin Morgan
Margaret Randall
Adrienne Rich
Sonia Sanchez
Alice Walker

As writers, feminists and political activists, we believe in the enormous power of words to inform, inspire and challenge. In order for our words to be read and heard, we must rely on publishers and bookstores to bring our work to the public.

Independent feminist bookstores and small presses have been supporting and distributing our books-poetry, novels, essays, plays and photography-for many years. We count on them. They have been publishing and carrying our books because, for the most part, they are small businesses started by people who care about ideas and who take risks for the sake of social and political change.

Independent bookstores are now an endangered species because of the rise of corporate-owned chain bookstores who engage in predatory pricing and discount policies. The more corporate bookstores control the market, the less likely it will be that they and the publishing industry will take risks on new or controversial authors-and the more control the corporations will have over what we all read.

Without independent and feminist bookstores and small presses, some of us could be silenced, and the next generation of authors with important ideas might never be found.

As writers, we pledge the following:

1. We will remain committed to supporting independent and feminist bookstores.
2. We will try to seek out local independent and feminist bookstores in each city or town to do our first reading or booksigning.
3. We will donate our time and talents to community events and campaigns that support independent and feminist bookstores.

And we ask you, as readers, to do the same. Please shop at independent and feminist bookstores as often as you can. Think of it as an investment in freedom of expression and independent thinking. Thank you.

Signed,
Dorothy Allison
Michelle Cliff
Ruth Hubbard
Irena Klepfisz
Robin Morgan
Margaret Randall
Adrienne Rich
Sonia Sanchez
Alice Walker

Your signature: _____

Printed name: _____

(OPTIONAL:)

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

(Note: Only your name will appear on the letter. We request this other information so that we can be in touch with you.)

PLEASE COPY AND PASS ON TO OTHER FEMINIST WRITERS! THANK YOU.

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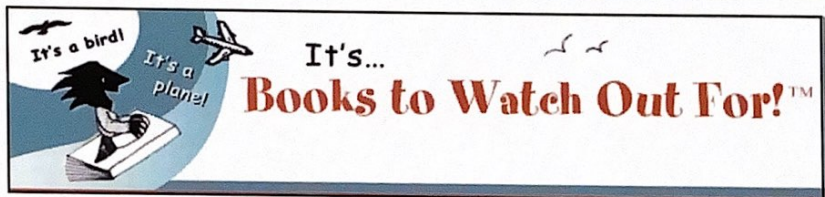
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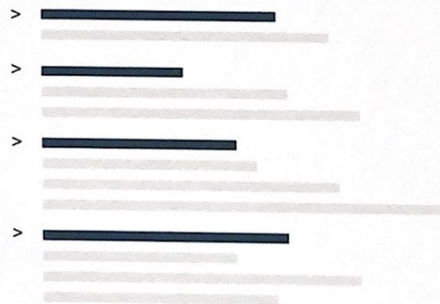


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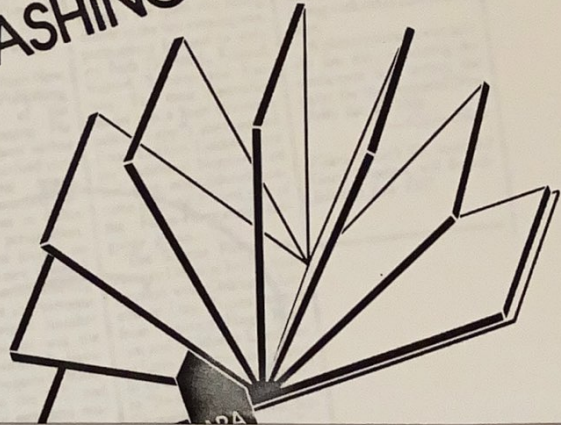
BOOKSELLER NEWS

News for and about American booksellers

Feminist Bookstore News Celebrates 10th Anniversary

FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS, a bimonthly trade magazine that started as a photocopied newsletter, will publish its 10th anniversary issue in May. As FBN has grown, so have feminist bookstores—from 25 in 1976 to over 100 today—and both specialty and mainstream publishers have steadily increased their offerings. Each issue of FBN contains 60 to 90 book announcements, reviews, publishing news, stores' bestseller lists, letters, and regular columns on genres within feminist books (such as science fiction/fantasy and children's). Editor Carol Seajay says despite the magazine's popularity among librarians and

AMERICAN BOOKSELLER WASHINGTON DC



Carol Seajay, Editor
(415) 626-1556

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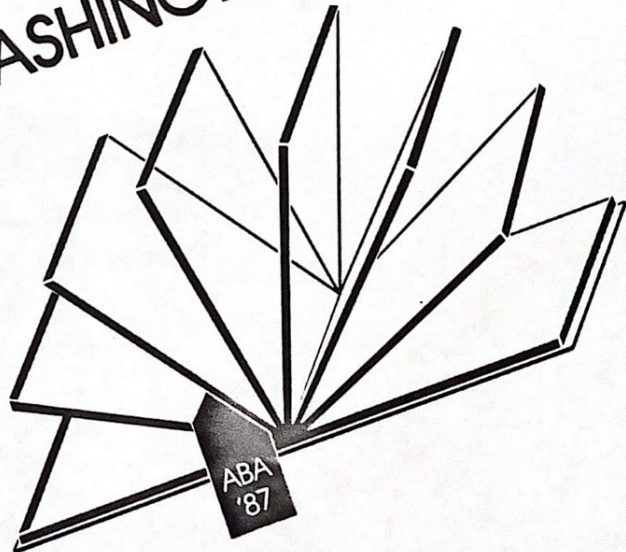
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AMERICAN BOOKSELLER WASHINGTON DC



Publishers Weekly

The Journal of the Book Industry

■ News of the Week

Feminist Book Fair at Oslo Attracts 150 Publishers From Around the Globe

The Second International Feminist Book Fair, held June 20-27 at the University of Oslo, hosted more than 100 authors, publishers, reviewers, booksellers, translators, librarians and readers from 30 countries. This year, women from the Third World and presses out of the mainstream were much better represented than at the last gathering, held in June 1984 in London.

Organizers hope to hold the third biennial fair in New Delhi in 1988. This year's administrators, Inger W. Middlethun and Elisabeth Bjelland from the Norwegian University Press, were able to raise money from various sources including the Norwegian Agency for Aid to Development and the U.N. International Decade of Women, Auxiliary Fund.

Of the many issues raised at the 40 panels and workshops, censorship emerged as the unofficial theme of the conference. Women from Africa, the West Indies, Latin America, Asia, Australia, Europe and North America described how their books were rejected or destroyed or "lost" because of the feminist content. Many talked about self-censorship resulting from fear of being silenced by critics or governments.

One of the ironies pointed out was that although the majority of the world's illiterates are female, in many countries women buy the majority of the books. In Norway, women account for 60% of book buyers.

The book exhibit showcased 150 publishers, ranging from Harper & Row from the U.S. and Methuen from U.K. to smaller houses like India's Kali for Women, a prime mover in feminist material on

the subcontinent. Kali's versatile list includes *Women in Muslim Paradise* and *Truth-Tales: Contemporary Writing by Indian Women*.

Representatives from New Zealand's Spiral Publishing House—publisher of the Booker Prize-winning *The Bone People* by Maori author Keri Hulme—described their unusual editorial board, which moves from one collective to another to insure new ideas and perspectives.

The snappiest journal on display was the new *Women's Review* from London, offering fiction, features and cartoons as well as reviews. Another innovative journal was the *American Feminist Bookstores News*, which reports to bookstores across the U.S. and abroad about new and reissued women's books.

The first full day of the fair was Black and Third World Women Writer's Day. At the panel, "Black Women and Who They Write For," Marjorie Conde from Guadeloupe said the community was the center of black women's writing. "We say 'we' not 'I,'" she dubbed black writers "sorcerers who used the words for the community." In this, Conde echoed comments made the previous afternoon by South African novelist Lauretta Ngcobo, who protested that Western critics, raised on individualism, can't understand the communal impulse of African writing. Finally, Tanzanian Evelyn Nicodemus criticized the colonial impact on African literary identity. Nicodemus grew up speaking Chaga at home, Swahili in town, German to former colonials, English in school and then emigrated to Sweden. "No language is really mine," she grieved, saying how hard it was to infuse the Chaga

rhythms of her mother into any secondary tongue. Her latest book of poems is in Swedish.

The third day, designated Nordic Writers Day and a Feminist Theory Conference, culminated at a fjord celebrating midsummer. After swimming in the fjord and eating dinner in the late evening sun, participants listened to writers from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway. The most fascinating reader was a Sami (formerly called "Lapp") poet named Rauni Lukkari. Lukkari wore the traditional Northern red and blue embroidered costume and read in Sami, part of the Finno-Hungarian language group.

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Day was held in conjunction with Children's Literature Day. Topics ranged from "Fantasy, Magic Realism and Children's Literature in Latin America" to "Sexism in Children's Picture Books" to "Re-inventing Science—A Discussion of Feminism, Science and Epistemology."

The next day resulted in one of the few major conflicts. It was both Global Day and Lesbian Day. Many lesbians protested the juxtaposition of the two themes which effectively kept them from participating in the Global events. The organizers later apologized. Speakers for Global Day included editor and writer Ru Zhijuan from China and critic Germaine Greer from Australia. Lesbian Day featured panels and readings involving such writers as Gerd Brantenberg from Norway, Nicole Brossard from Canada, Mary Dorcey from Ireland and Suniti Namjoshi from India.

The Trade Day allowed booksellers, librarians, publishers, translators and writers to work in smaller constellations on practical questions as well as grand schemes. The writers' event included discussions of patriarchal vs. feminist style and the problems of writing in a

minority language (Sami and Catalan). Australian Gillian Hanscombe outlined writers' classic grievances about wages and working conditions. The day ended in small groups where writers covered everything from the innovative uses of sentence structure to techniques for giving each other candid criticism.

A plenary session was held the last day, evaluating the conference and setting the paces for the proposed New Delhi fair in 1988.

—Valerie Miner

Valerie Miner's fifth novel, *All Good Women*, will be published in June 1987.

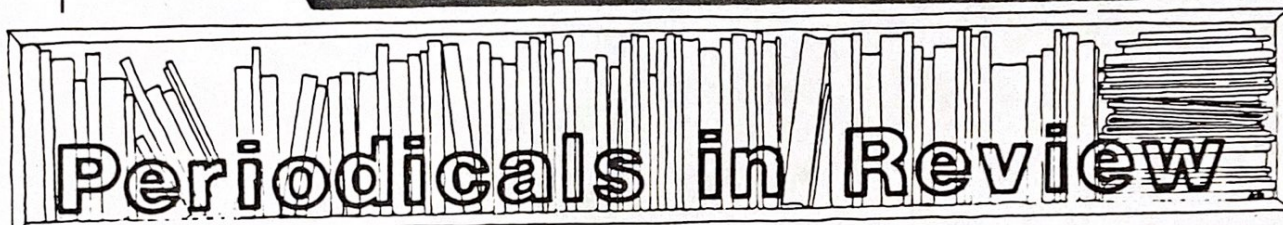
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February 1987

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KINESIS

News About Women That's Not In The Dailies



by Wendy Frost and Michele Vallquette

Just as long as newspapers and magazines are controlled by men, every woman upon them must write articles which are reflections of men's ideas.

Susan B. Anthony

In 1970, when the second wave of the North American women's movement was in its infancy, a group of women seized control of *Rat* magazine. Like Susan B. Anthony, they recognised that only when women had control of the publishing process would we have power over our own words and images. Seventeen years later, not only do women across the continent regularly produce hundreds of newspapers and journals, they run feminist bookstores, feminist presses, feminist writers' groups; and, there are feminist distributors, feminist librarians and feminist archivists. Holding this network of women in print together are a series of ongoing publications, which address both daily concerns and long term goals, and various guides to resources.

Although it's primarily directed at feminist bookstores, *Feminist Bookstore News (FBN)* will quickly become addictive reading for any women involved in the women in print movement—or, for that matter, any feminist reader. We read both our sample copies cover to cover as soon as they arrived, and were left craving more. The core of *FBN*, which has been publishing for ten years, is up-to-date listings of feminist books from feminist and mainstream publishers. Published six times a year, and usually around 50 pages, it features stories, columns, letters, news on women's bookstores and women's presses, and all kinds of unclassifiable tidbits of feminist publishing news. The book listings are organized in regular columns, "From Our Own Presses", "The Small Presses", "The University Presses", and "On Publisher's Row". Each includes a short description of the book and publication information.

If the idea of reading a book catalogue seems dry to you, this one is anything but. Carol Seajay, the editor, is a "gossip" in the best sense of the word (and if you don't know what we mean, look it up in the *Feminist Dictionary!*); her listings are personal and readable, like talking about women's books with a friend. The personal note is there in the entire journal—reading it leaves you feeling in touch with the women's publishing network.

Articles provide a real forum for feminist publishing issues. The Sept/Oct 1986 issue, for instance, carries a report on the Second Annual Feminist Book Fair in Oslo, and an article on gay and lesbian books being seized by British customs.

Because it's primarily a trade journal, *FBN* is available only by subscription. It's a bit pricey for individuals, since it's regularly US\$40 a year (plus \$6 for Canadian postage), but Carol has offered us a real deal for *Kinesis* readers—one time only—you can get a year's sub for the US equivalent of \$40 Canadian, as long as it's paid by a money order in US funds. (US banks apparently now charge \$30 for cashing international cheques, so you can't send a personal cheque in US funds). You might try pooling resources and getting a sub among two or three women. Send to: P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, CA USA 94188, and mention this column for the special rate.

After dipping into any one of these publications, you'll probably have no trouble agreeing whole heartedly with *FBN's* promotional material: "The CIA thinks the Women-in-Print network is what holds the women's movement together. So do we."

Feminist Bookstore News

Advertising Rate Card

Effective April 1985

“The Publishers Weekly of the feminist bookstore world.”

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Rates - Standard

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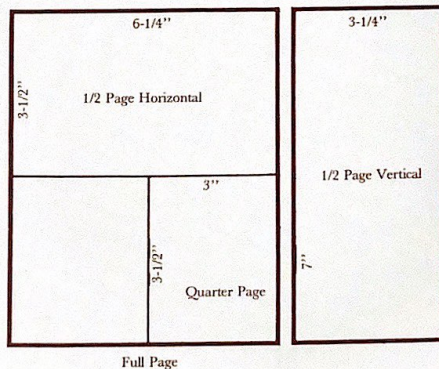
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Mar/Apr	Feb 15	Feb 25
May/June	Apr 15	Apr 25
July/Aug	June 15	June 25
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Carol Seajay, Managing Editor

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Who Reads FBN?

The Feminist Bookstore News is the in-house publication of the feminist bookstore movement. Begun as a newsletter in 1976, FBN has grown from a six page mimeograph to a 40 page news magazine. It is read with a fine-toothed comb in the 100 + feminist bookstores in the US and Canada.

FBN's articles focus on the concerns of feminist booksellers. The "Books" section of the magazine announces and reviews new titles from both the feminist press and the mainstream press. The letters column discusses and debates the issues and controversies of the feminist book world.

FBN is also read by a growing number of librarians, women's studies teachers, feminist reviewers, and feminist review journals, as well as by feminist booksellers in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

"The News is literally where I find half of the new books we order. It is THE communications tool of the feminist bookstores — the publishers don't know how lucky they are that FBN exists!"

Mary Farmer
Lammas Bookshop
Washington, DC

"FBN is an incredible resource for feminist bookstores. It's FBN that keeps us informed of new releases from major publishers and hard-to-find small press titles. It's great reading, too."

Jesse Meredith
A Woman's Place Bookstore
Oakland, California



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