

FEMINIST BOOKSTORES NEWSLETTER

c/o Old Wives' Tales

532 Valencia

San Francisco, CA 94110

July, 1977

Dear Sisters,

This is a letter about what's going on here, with this irregular periodical and her people.

Right now Carol is feeling out of touch with the bookstores. She is at the end of two months of not working in the bookstore--part of Carol and Paula's process of redefining their relationship and on top of that, Carol has just spent a week in the country, at Womanshare and camping and just came out of the woods to Santa Rosa to get the newsletter out. (It's real nice to be here and working on the newsletter and hanging out and visiting--I'm still "on vacation"--instead of trying to sandwich the newsletter in between everything else. C.)

This has been a hard spring. André and Carol have both moved--many weeks for both of us hunting houses and looking at places that wouldn't work. Hard to get a newsletter out when yr moving.

That all feels settled down and putting this newsletter together feels good, so we'll be coming out more often and more regularly. Our new printing process feels good too. More satisfying. Working through reservations about how it feels more formal. I think it must read the same? C.

Another MONTH later--André was to do the lay-out of this newsletter without Carol and numerous problems came up: first Runes' typewriter was unavailable, then their office and typewriter were unavailable, then she hurt her back and she was unavailable, and the last two weeks she and her household have been caring for a friend's two children (while her back was/is healing), then lo and behold, Runes went into production again! (I'm almost done with the typing, can this be true? A.)

Two problems--\$\$\$ and lack of input.

We're down to about \$80. Mostly it just costs more to put out this newsletter than we expected. Bookstore subscriptions are still trickling in. We have a mailing to publishers inviting them to subscribe almost ready to go so that should help. This isn't a plea for money--we're just telling you where we are.

Also wanted to say that doing this newsletter is a lot more work than we/I expected. The typing and getting the newsletter together is all o.k.--but keeping track of mailing lists, change of addresses and getting together the list of addresses for publishers we didn't expect!

This issue of the newsletter mostly consists of the news from Publishers Weekly and stuff that we have conjured up: new booklists and this letter, the bit about the printing and a bit from Womanbooks and a little about new stores. It's real hard to create it all. Basically it feels boring. I know the booklists are helpful to some stores, but do they justify all this effort? What do we need? Everything that isn't in this newsletter. Even postcards with a new title or resource are real helpful. Besides the information, it's the sense of working together that helps. Don't worry about duplicating information--we'll sort it out if it happens (and it doesn't happen much anyway).

Maybe a deadline would help? (Us too!)

DEADLINE next issue: August 20th

next issue: October 5th

Continuingly,

Carol and André

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About our printing process...

We wanted to share with you some of the overt mechanics of getting the newsletter out, and the changes we've made...

The first few issues André typed part of the newsletter in Santa Rosa and Carol typed part in San Francisco, then we would get together in Santa Rosa to run it off on Rising Woman's hand-crank Gestetner. Carol had never typed on stencils before and was uptight about that (you may remember). Neither of us had ever run the machine before, so there was lots to learn about how much ink, etc. to use. Printing the newsletter meant that Carol borrowed a car, and arranged her life to spend the day in Santa

Rosa, and André had to take a bus to San Francisco to get the material to type. Last issue we both typed our parts and then got together and laid it out, complete with graphics and headlines (special thanks to Runes for use of thier office and equipment) and took our lay-out to the 409 House in San Francisco. They do very cheap printing for alternative groups and have a machine that transfers our layout to stencils, and then they print it. Wonderful! Graphics! Prettier-more attractive and readable. (and more fun for us too!)

But, we learned that the best reproduction comes from a carbon ribbon typewriter. Only $\frac{1}{2}$ of the last issue was done on carbon ribbon. Some of it was done on a new ribbon, which sort of worked. What wasn't legible at all was done on an unknown ribbon----. All of this issue is being done on carbon ribbon--so--it will all be legible!

JOINT ADVERTISING

At the ABA convention, our Prentice Hall rep flagged me down. Said that PH wanted to do joint advertising on OUR RIGHT TO LOVE-A Lesbian Resource Book. ed. by Ginny Vida of the Nat'l Gay Task Force. Oct. \$11.95 (!!!!) PH will pay 75% of the cost of the ads we place featuring the book with whatever information we want to include about ourselves. (Which is lots.) We have to send ad costs and size in to the rep for aproval, and an order for the book. We're trying for ads in all the local women's and left papers.

If you don't have a sales rep, try writing directly to the advertising dept. w/ info re: the ads you want to place. Some papers are willing to 'over-quote' the price, so that the 75% that is billed to the publisher is actually the total cost, then you get the whole ad for free. The publisher sends you pictures and info, and you do the layout yourself.

NEW BOOKSTORES!

Djuna Books
154 West 10th Street
New York, New York 10014
212-242-3642

Small Changes
409A N. Main
Bloomington, Ill. 61701
829-6223

Alice B's
329 Fourteenth St.
Oakland, Ca. 94612
415-832-7976

Djuna books has been open for 4 months.

Small Changes is a 7 woman collective and alternative bookstore emphasizing women's books. They see the bookstore as part of a larger process of getting people together to change their lives. They are non-profit and hope to carry science fiction, radical politics, health care, alternative periodicals and albums, and have a reading room and children's area. They also have 25¢ used books.

Alice B's is: 1. Specializing in out-of-print lesbian literature/research service for hard-to-find titles; 2. buy & sell used & new titles; 3. mail-order catalogue in preparation; 4. building a collection of biog. of women & texts useful in women's studies (all sides of the arguement); 5. Hope to establish a line of literary posters. Marilyn Braiger, who started Alice B's is looking for a working partner to do all this with.

WOMANBOOKS celebrated her 2nd birthday with a 20% off everything sale. They sent us their birthday newsletter full of information--Highlights: They've organized a Sunday afternoon women's volleyball game, Labyris Books has closed, Djuna Books has opened, they had a contest to paint the wall in the children's play area and the wall is now being painted.. Eleanor Batchelder who has been their "silent partner" has joined the collective as a full time working partner. They also had a page full of recent arrivals from women's presses, 3 of which were new to me, and I don't think have been listed in the newsletter. They are the 3rd-5th books listed in the FROM OUR OWN PRESSES section.

Their recent events at the store included: a theatre workshop, poetry reading for Assata Shukure, short story readings from IN THE LOOKING GLASS, A clown and juggling performance for children, Readings and Rappings on getting older, Folk Tales, and a presentation by Action for Women in Chile..

Science Fiction writer Quinn Yarbro is actually Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. (The things I learn reading the BERKELEY BARB!) Her "False Dawn" (In WOMEN OF WONDER) has been expanded to novel length and will be published by Doubleday in the spring of 1978. (I can't believe that we are already into next spring's books!)

from the April PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY:

April 4, 1977

Summer Announcements

JUNE:

THE SIMONE WEIL READER ed by George Panichas, David McKay, \$15., 7.95 paper.

A WOMAN'S PLACE, 1910-1975, Ruth Adam, WW Norton, 8.95

PULLING NO PUNCHES: Memiors of a Woman In Politics, India Edwards, Putnam, 8.95

GOING TOO FAR: The Personal Documents of a Feminist, Robin Morgan, Random House \$10.

July:

DEAR SAMMY: LETTERS FROM GERTRUDE STEIN AND ALICE B. TOKLAS ed Samuel M. Steward, Houghton Mifflin, 8.95

August:

WORDS OF ADVICE, Fay Weldon, Random House, 7.95

WORK Louisa May Alcott, Schocken Books, \$10.50 cloth, 5.95 paper

MARY, A FICTION, Mary Wollstonecraft, 7.50 cloth, 3.45 paper, Schocken Books

Summer Mass Market Paperbacks

July:

A SEA CHANGE, Lois Gould, Avon, 1.95

June:

WOMAN ON THE EDGE OF TIME, Marge Piercy, Fawcett Crest, 2.25 novel.

Forecasts:

Non-fiction Reprints:

WOMEN, MONEY, & POWER, Phyllis Chesler and Emily Jane Goodman, Bantam 2.50

APRIL 11, 1977

Alfred Knopf (Random House)

A FINE OLD CONFLICT, Jessica Mitford Sept. \$10.

THE ICE AGE, Margaret Drabble, Oct. 8.95

SONG OF SOLOMAN, Toni Morrison, Sept. 8.95 (Author of Sula)

Univers Calendars:

THE WOMAN'S CALENDAR 128 pgs., 52 illus. 3.95

FROM MILADY TO MS: Images of women in American art. 120 pgs, 52 illus. (26 color) 5.95

PW FORECASTS

non-fiction

PLAYING THE GAME: The Homosexual Novel in America. Roger Austen, Bobbs-Merrill.

8.95 May

LOOSE CHANGE: Three women of the sixties. Sara Davidson, Doubleday 9.50 May

national advertising, author promo

GOING TOO FAR: THE PERSONAL CHRONICLES OF A FEMINIST, Robin Morgan. "underlying premise: personal is political" (see new books)

April 18, 1977

PW Forecast

non-fiction

THE POETRY OF AMERICAN WOMEN FROM 1692 to 1945, Emily Stipes Watts, Univ. of Texas Press. 13.95, May

PAPERBACKS

SALUTE TO SPRING Short stories. Meridel LeSueur writes about the working class. Powerful realism. Beautiful. This book was first published in 1940. It is the only thing currently in print by this woman. 1.95 from International Publishers.

LESBIAN ESTATE poetry by Lynn Lonidier. I think that Lynn was one of the editors of the Woman Against Violence Poetry Anthology (now or soon to be available from WIND) 4.00 order from ManRoot, Box 982, South San Francisco, Calif. 94080 or Bookpeople

REVOLUTION & EQUILIBRIUM Barbara Deming. Grossman 3.95

A WELFARE MOTHER Susan Sheehan Mentor 1.50

ZOE'S BOOK Gail Pass. Lesbian fiction set in the Bloomsbury circle. Told as an old woman's memory....surprises at the end.

BECOMING VISIBLE Women in European History. Renate Bridenthal & Claudia Koonz 6.95 Houghton Miffland

- DAUGHTERS OF THE EARTH The lives and legends of American Indian Women. Carolyn Niethammer. 7.95 Collier-Macmillan
- BEYOND SEX ROLES Alice G. Sargent. 9.95 West Publishing.
- THE SATINI REPORT on women's sexuality. Rosemarie Santana 1.95 Playboy press.
- LONELY IN AMERICA A portrait of Americans-young, old, married, single, in groups and alone. Suzanne Gorden. 3.95 Simon and Schuster.
- MEDIEVAL WOMEN Eileen Power 4.45 Cambridge Univ. Press.
- THE ABUSING FAMILY Blair & Rita Justice 5.95 Human Sciences Press (a subsidiary of Behavioral Pub.) 72 5th Ave, NY, NY 10019. about child abuse.
- WOMEN WHO LOVE WOMEN Tracy Young. Claims to be the first publication of an in depth study of erotic lesbian love. I'm suspicious of the sensationalism in the advertising, but who knows, good books often get marketed as sensationalism..... Pocket. 1.95
- A LOVING WIFE Violet Weingarten. fiction. I haven't seen this one, either, and am skeptical....claims to be a "sensative and powerful look inside a woman's consciousness..." I include it because it MIGHT be good... Pocket.
- HARDBACK
- FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF Ntozake Shange. Poetry. Macmillan 5.95
- BY HER OWN ADMISSION A lesbian mother's fight to keep her son. Gifford Gibson with Mary Jo Risher. Doubleday 8.95
- GOING TOO FAR The personal Chronicle of a feminist Robin Morgan. Random House 10.00
- SITA Kate Millet. She writes about the end of a relationship w/ her lover... FS&G, also available through WIND 10.00
- THE BIOGRAPHY OF ALICE B. TOKLAS Linda Simon Doubleday 10.00
- FEMINIZATION OF AMERICAN CULTURE Ann Douglas. "How the Victorian alliance between women and the clergy, and the popular literature to which that alliance gave birth fostered a sentimental society and the beginnings of modern mass culture. Knopf/Random House 15.00
- WOODSWOMAN Anne LaBastille. A young ecologist's life in the log cabin she built herself in the Adirandak wilderness. Dutton. 10.95
- DARK QUARTET The Story of the Brontes. Lynne Reid Bands. Delacorte Press. 10.00
- REMEMBERING JOSEPHINE Stephen Papich. Josephine Baker was a black woman entertainer who lived in Paris, went from poverty to RICH and back, was a part of the French Underground, was investigated by the FBI back in the US....whew. Bobbs Merrill 15.00
- WORLDS OF PAIN Life in the Working Class Family. Lillian Breslow Rubin. Basic Books \$11.95
- SEVEN WOMEN portraits from the American Radical Tradition. Judith Nies. (Sarah Grimke, Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mother Jones, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Anne Louise Strong, Dorothy Day.) Viking Press 8.95
- IN THE LOOKING GLASS 21 Modern Short Stories by Women. ed. Nancy Dean & Myra Stark. Putnam 8.95.
- FEMININE CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE MODERN BRITISH NOVEL Sydney Janet Kaplan. University of Illinois Press. \$7.95
- THE FEMALE SPECTATOR English women writers before 1800. ed. Mary Mahl & Helene Koon. 15.00 This book is co-published by the Feminist Press and Indiana Univ. Press. Last I knew, orders still had to be placed w/ IU, but keep checking to see when FP gets their supply.
- MOMENTS OF BEING Unpublished autobiographical writings of Virginia Woolf. ed. Jeanne Schulkind HJB 8.95

THE GOAT, THE WOLF AND THE CRAB. Gillian Martin. fiction about a 42 year old woman w/ cancer who decides not to have surgery and to live the rest of her life as an independent self-sustaining person. (Seems like a pretty heavy trade to me.) Scribners. 7.95

BEHIND THE SEX OF GOD: TOWARD A NEW CONSCIOUSNESS-TRANSCENDING MATRIARCHY AND PATRIARCHY. Carol Ochs, Beacon Press, 9.95 June. "not a feminist polemic"

Children's Books:

THE REAL STORY OF THE BONOBOS WHO WORE SPECTACLES, Adela Turin and Nella Bosnia, illus by the authors. Two Continents 4.95 (3-8)

SUGARPINK ROSE same as The Real Story... info. Both books are part of a non-sexist series.) (One of our customers said she liked them because they sort of wean her kids away from the mass-media stuff they've been into and help them transit into feminist kids books. -Carol)

FINALLY OUT IN PAPERBACK

OF WOMAN BORN Fall- Bantam

MERIDIAN wonderful fiction by Alice Walker, Walker is black, writing about black women. Pocket. 1.50

IMMACULATE DECEPTION, Suzanne Arms, a book about birthing in an American hospital, previously available as a quality paperback, will now also be available as a mass paperback from Bantam. 2.50

SILENT WITNESS-novel-Susan Yankowitz. A disabled woman (deaf and mute) caught in the legal system--courts, jails, etc. Much consciousness raising re. the discrimination against disabled people. It will be in paperback in June. Does anyone know the publisher?

PASSAGES GailSheehy, Bantam 2.50

WOMAN ON THE EDGE OF TIME--Marge Piercy Wonderful! Fawcett 2.25

THE DESTINY OF ISABELLE EVERHARDT Cecily Mackworth Avon 1.75 Biography of a woman who roamed the Sahara dressed as a man, and often using a man's name, and her quest for freedom and self discovery. She was raised in a home that treated boy and girl children similarly.

from Eleanor at WOMANBOOKS:

ERIN PIZZEY'S book on wife-beating SCREAM QUIETLY is now available through J. Ben Stark (Importors of 'generally not available' English books) 30% discount. Send for their list as they need a minimum of \$75 retail per order. J. Ben Stark Books 1360 S. 49 St., Richmond, Cal. 94804. WIFE BEATING lists for 1.95

FROM OUR OWN PRESSES...

INNER FEELINGS: First poems from the Women's Correctional Institute. Order from: Women's Correctional Institute Arts Workshop, c/o Brabner, 271 Thorne Lane #6, Newark, Delaware 19711. 1.25@/ 85¢ bulk

A HARVEST YET TO REAP A history of Prairie Women. Linda and Loma Rasmussen, Candace Savage, & Anne Wheeler. 8.95 Paper. The woman's Press, Toronto. Also Avail. thru Bookpeople. It is a beautiful, beautiful book. Photographs and original letters, documents. I especially remember a letter from a woman to her mother advising her about birth control.....

CHILDREN OF THE HOUSE AFIRE: MORE NOTES ON 94TH STREET, D. H. Melhem, 2.95, poetry Dovetail Press.

LET THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN, Alison Colbert, 2.75, Women Writing Press. Poetry

NAMING: POEMS BY 8 WOMEN 2.00, Olive Press.

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From NEW SEED PRESS

New Seed Press is a feminist collective committed to publishing anti-racist, anti-sexist children's books.

We are seeking manuscripts by Third World women and children which celebrate ThirdWorld cultures and challenge the assumptions of white superiority and male superiority so prevalent in existing children's literature.

We are especially interested in manuscripts with feminist content--stories with strong girl and women characters; stories which confront stereotypes, biographies of Third World Women working for social change; stories that convey the message that people can struggle together to change their world.

Although our collective is not yet self-supporting, we appreciate that writers and artists should be paid and hope to be able to offer at least a nominal sum for accepted manuscripts.

If you are interested in having us look at your manuscript, please send it to PO Box 3016, Stanford, Ca. 94305, with a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want it returned; or write to us first and tell us about your ideas. We want to hear from you!

Helen, Susan, Jane, Barbara, Susie

OUR BOOKS

SOME THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T DO BY YOURSELF, a whimsical account of some of the ways people need each other. Preschool-7

FANSHEN THE MAGIC BEAR a fairy tale in which Laura solves the kingdom's problems by redistributing the land more fairly. Ages 6-10

PETER LEARNS TO CROCHET...with his teacher's help and encouragement. Ages 5-8

LA AVENTURA DE YOLANDA: YOLANDA'S HIKE Four chicano children have an adventurous day together. In Spanish and English. Ages 4-8

All books retail for 1.25. Bookstore discounts available.

SPECIAL ISSUES

RELIGION (which I believe is a publication of that hot-bed of lesbian/feminist activity, the Graduate Theological Union) has a special issue on FEMINISM AND SOCIALISM. \$2.00@, 10% discount on bulk orders. PO Box 9164, Berkeley, Ca 94709

Not a Fleeting Rage: a Handbook on Rape, \$1.50, S.F. Women Against Rape, 1800 Market St., Box 139, San Francisco, CA 94102

Our Bantam rep. tells me that "they" (whoever "they" are) took Rita Mae Brown to meet the people in the advertising department and they all liked her a lot, so Rubyfruit Jungle will get lots of good advertising. He was talking about radio spots in places like Davenport, Iowa.....

DONT EAT FLORIDA CITRUS!!!

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FIRST CLASS