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# Feminist Bookstore News

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THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is a communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. It reaches 110 stores in the U.S. and Canada, as well as a number of libraries, women's studies departments, and feminist bookstores in Great Britain, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

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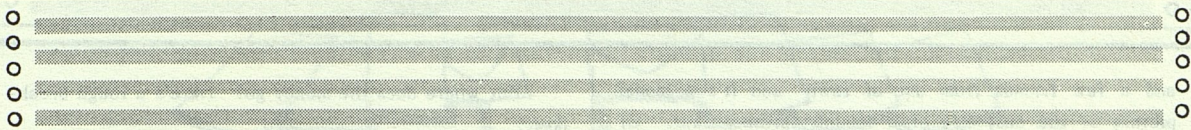
BOOKS FOR REVIEW AND BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS may be sent to FBN at P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, California 94188. Feminist publishers are invited to write their own (short!) blurbs for listings. FBN believes that you know more clearly than we do why you choose to publish a particular book. Books published by the feminist press are listed in FBN only when FBN hears about them, so DO remember to send announcements. Pre-publication announcements facilitate early orders. All publishers should include bookstore terms. Please also include distributors who (will) carry the title for the benefit of small stores that order primarily from distributors. If you prefer that bookstores order directly from you, please include that information as well.

FBN welcomes letters, articles, announcements and trivia from publishers as well as bookstores. We are the left and right hands of the same goal.

c 1985 **Feminist Bookstore News**

ISSN No. 0741-6555

# NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE



It's subscription renewal time for about 80% of FBN's subscribers. If you have a renewal notice stapled inside this issue, please take the moment to fill it out, attach a check and pop it in the mail. It would help in the paper work department if you can get it back to FBN by the end of May. Otherwise look for reminders to come in the June mail.



Good news: Even though Susanna Sturgis seems to be leaving the feminist bookstore world for a writer's exile on a quiet island she's agreed to continue to write the FBN science fiction column. FBN would be sadly grieved if Susanna moved away and kept her opinions to herself.

Karen Axness of A Room of One's Own, Madison has agreed to take on the mass market column \*\*\*, also of ARO<sup>3</sup> will be writing a remainders column, starting in the next issue. Speaking of columns, is there a bookseller in the crowd who likes and reads poetry? FBN would like to do something to dispel the (likely true) rumor that all feminist booksellers hate poetry and hide it in the least accessible parts of the bookstore. So FBN is looking for a bookseller to write a **short** column sorting the wheat from the chaff. Literary criticism isn't what is needed here, rather a bookseller's opinion on what will be wanted in the bookstores.

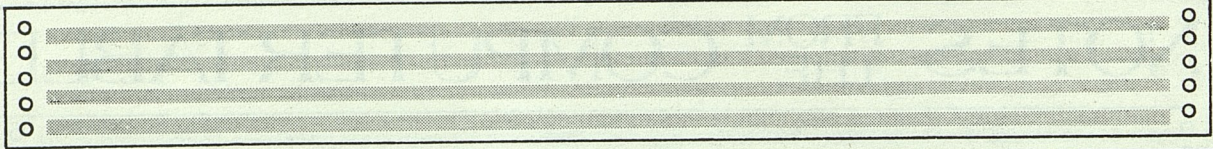
No news from Gay's the Word re their court battles with Her Majesty's Customs and Excise. Glad Day books in Toronto got hit by Canadian Customs (is this an epidemic in

the eighties?) Seems that some customs official was offended by something in an Inland shipment to Glad Day and up and destroyed the whole shipment. It's beginning to feel like time to organize the appropriate institutions into lodging some formal-type government-to-government type protests about destroying and/or holding indefinitely the unpaid-for property of the citizens and businesses of the US of A, etc..

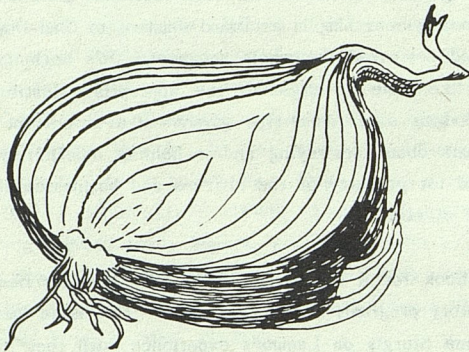
Look for a review of IBID, the Mercedes Benz of inventory programs in the next issue. This issue includes Susanna Sturgis on Lamma's experience with their Radio Shack computer and takes a look at the Regis/B&T inventory loading concept.



What does a full-time FBN editor do? I'm still finding out. It turns out that all those little projects that kept being ignored for lack of time really do take a lot of time. Small projects like learning the spreadsheet program and doing all of 1984's tax accounting can use up a couple weeks easily. Then there was the flier for the FBN Sidelines issue. Conceptualizing designing, writing a flier, developing a mailing list, signing-sealing-and-addressing it (And then opening-inserting-and-resealing for the info that was inadvertently left off the first flier.) Exploring the bulk mail regulations. And also continued work and excitement in the development of an ad rate card and packet. (Which may actually be printed by the time you read this.) Throw in a couple mini-vacations



and a few friends from out of town and it's a model picture of the easy life of a feminist-print-worker. Of course there's this one small hitch -- finances. Read on.



Premenstrual Syndrome Self-Help Book

The joy of taxes, besides learning new computer programs to use to compile the data, is really looking to see how much money there is and isn't. The good news is that **FBN** came awfully close to breaking even in 1984. If you don't include the computer, that is. The computer plus printer purchase makes for about a \$5000 business loss. That's the bad news. For **FBN**, however the computer turned out to be a straight deduction which could be taken against my income from driving Federal Express trucks all year. The tax savings more than made up for **FBN's** small operating loss. It also does a token something (about 50¢ an hour) toward making up for my working for no salary again in 1984. How is this magazine that's barely breaking even going to support me in 1985? Well the strategy is the same: "Increase subscriptions, darlin, and sell that advertising space. Keep the faith. There's also joy in perversity and in surviving and flourishing against the odds. But then, that's the nature and requirement of feminist bookng.

But where does the money go? Here's a rough breakdown:

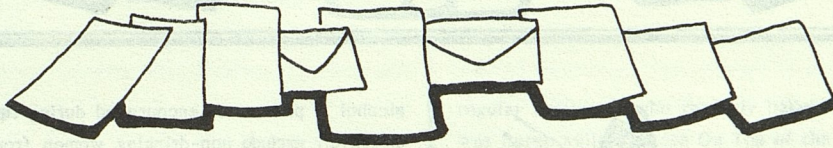
| <u>Income</u> 1984 | <u>Expenditures</u>   |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Subs \$4832        | Printing \$1712       |
| Ads 1488           | Postage 774           |
| Mailing Lists 285  | Supplies 1277         |
| Sample Copies 54   | Xerox 294             |
|                    | Advertising 104       |
| \$6659             | Banking 200           |
|                    | Dues & Subs 195       |
|                    | Ed. & Training 119    |
|                    | Insurance 223         |
|                    | Phone 541             |
|                    | Professional Fees 130 |
|                    | PO Box Rental 45      |
|                    | Word Processing 1053  |
|                    | Maintenance 126       |
|                    | Auto 250              |
|                    | \$7043                |
|                    | Computer+Printer 4500 |
|                    | \$11543               |

Thanks, thanks and thanks again to Mary Collins for her graphic design work and commitment to budget. And also to Pat Kelso for proof-reading this issue in the midst of moving. And to Barbara who traded a Wordstar lesson for typing several articles for this issue.

But still, for all the ups and downs, and new books, ideas, and even learning new computer programs, the most perplexing question of the issue has been this one: How do you review a fortune cookie? For flavor, freshness and form? On the basis of the quality of the literary aspects? Content? Politic? (See Toys for The Answer)

Yours 'til the cookie crumbles,  
Carol Seajay

# LETTERS



Women's Book, Gift, & Music Center  
Cnr Gladstone Rd. & Dorchester St.  
Highgate Hill, QLD 4101  
Australia

Dear FBN,

Thank you for sending a copy of *F. Bookstore News*. I'd like to subscribe; enclosed is \$40.00.

Our shop is the first feminist bookstore to open in QLD; it's difficult here in QLD because the government and general public are ultra-conservative, & oppressive to most minority groups including aborigines & gay people. However, the Women's Movement is gradually gaining in strength & is very supportive of our venture, so hopefully our store will continue to grow.

In sisterhood,  
Anne McGuire

Alaska Women's Bookstore  
111 West 9th  
Anchorage AK 99501

Dear Sister Bookstore Owners:

The Alaska Women's Resource Center is looking for a new director. Recently they joined us to buy an old hotel so that we are housed together in Alaska's first Women's Building.

With this crowning achievement, and after having put together an outstanding program team of 15 or so people, the director of the Resource Center has decided to move on to another phase in her personal life. Needless to say, I am very interested in having a good feminist sharing the building with the Bookstore.

The search committee has extended the application time to June 15 and is inviting qualified women from outside Alaska to apply. Will you help circulate that information???

I may be stopping by to see you. I will be traveling across North America in my Volkswagen van from mid-March to mid-June. I want to make the Alaska Women's Bookstore serve our state in the best way possible, and I want to learn what you know about running bookstores that might help me do that. Hope you will be patient with me when I drop by and start asking nosy questions...

In Sisterhood

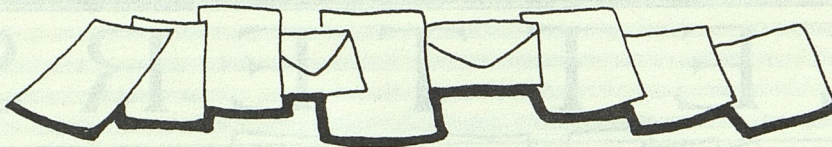
Lucille Frey

[ed. note: See Announcements for more job info.]

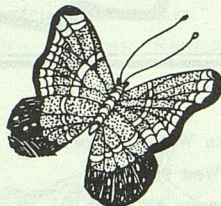


696-4 West Tennessee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32304

(904) 222-2827



Iowa City Women's Press/  
A Fine Bind  
1801 Stevens Dr.  
Iowa City, IA 52240  
February 5, 1985



TO: The Planning Committee,  
"Women in Print Conference 1985"  
FROM: Aunt Lute Book Company,  
**Common Lives/Lesbian Lives,**  
Iowa City Women's Press/A Fine Bind

Dear Women:

We are concerned about the role of alcohol at this year's Women in Print Conference. Our concern comes out of some disappointments we share about WIP conferences in the past, and what we've learned from the work that's been done in our own community. This makes us hesitant to participate in an event where the issue of alcohol has not been addressed and acted upon.

We hope that by airing our concerns and suggestions now, we can avoid last minute misunderstandings and disappointments at the conference. At last year's Midwest WIP conference in Madison, some problems arose around what later came to be called "the surprise bar." Women who assumed and expected the conference-sponsored dance to be alcohol-free -- in other words, to include them in their choice not to interact in an environment where alcohol was present -- were effectively isolated at that social event by the appearance of a portable bar. At that point, it became clear that we cannot assume any women's event will be alcohol-free, and it clarified our need to address future planning committees in advance of the event. The Madison planning committee also agreed to pass on to future planning committees the importance of addressing the alcohol issue.

We all know that business is discussed both during the conference itself and during outside "social" time, and it

alcohol is present or encouraged during the social time we effectively exclude non-drinking women from those business opportunities. In our community we have come to understand that we are **all** affected by alcohol, women who chose to drink and women who chose not to. We expect that kind of consciousness to be present at the next WIP conference, and suggest a couple things to help promote this:

First, let's establish a tradition of no alcohol at conference-planned social events (dinner and/or dance). The presence of a bar, no matter how unadvertised or unfrequented, is an unwelcome and unempowering symbol for **many** women.

Second, let's make available to all women who attend the conference, a list of their options for alcohol-free space in the Bay Area.

Because we know alcohol to be an issue larger than this conference, and know of other women in other communities whose attendance may be decided by whether or not the issue of alcohol is aired and addressed, we are sending a copy of our letter to others in the women's print movement. We welcome and look forward to your response to the issues raised in this letter, and wish you strength and support for the very difficult job you're involved in.

Sincerely,

For Aunt Lute Book Company: Joan Pinkvoss

For CL/LL: Tess Catalano, Cindy Cleary, Margie Erhart

For I. C. Women's Press/A Fine Bind: Lorna Campbell



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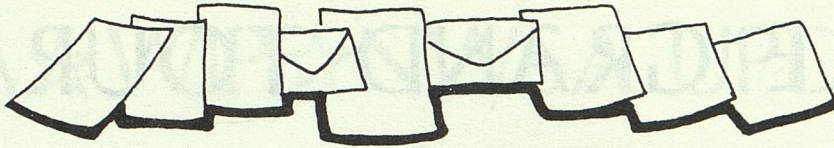
**a Beatitude:**

Blessed are the risktakers  
for they shall acquire wisdom the hard way.  
Woe unto those who are afraid to take chances  
for they shall vegetate.

---

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "It's up to the women."

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February 28, 1985

Dear Carol Seajay,

(This is an excerpt from a longer letter. --ed.)

Meanwhile, let me tell you again how wonderful I think FBN is. I particularly loved Susanna J. Sturgis's F/sf column and the coverage of the Gay's The Word raid. Giovanni's Room handles distribution of **Conditions** to Europe -- a lot of their stock got held up in the customs action. Wretched. Thanks for including Susanna and the bad news, as well as the coverage of new books....

Dorothy Allison

**Conditions**

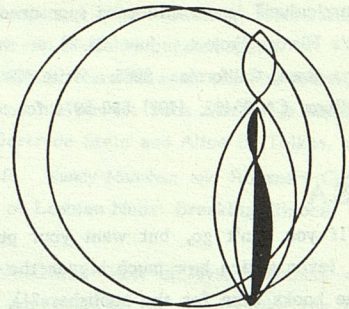
Lammas Bookstore  
321 Seventh St. SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
March 29, 1985

Dear Carol,

Enclosed are two articles, one the science fiction column and the other the promised info about our computer experience. Maybe you would like to take the rest of the month off?? ["Yes!" --Carol.] Mary and I are envisioning a series of "Lammas Seat-of-the-Pants Guides" to a number of subjects, including bookkeeping, book buying, negotiating loans, organizing large events, hosting book parties and personnel practices. This last springs from our current occupation, which is recruiting, interviewing, and eventually hiring my replacement. Neither of us has ever done anything of the sort before, so we are once again learning by doing and by egging each other on.

We just had a very successful book party for two of our

regular customers who recently had books published. One was Luree Müller, whose **On Top of the World: Five women Explorers in Tibet** was just issued in paperback by The Mountaineers. The other was Rayna Green; I'm not sure if her new anthology **That's What She Said: Contemporary Poetry and Fiction by Native American Women** (Indiana University Press, \$12.50 paperback) has been mentioned yet in FBN. It's wonderful -- a must for any feminist bookstore! Among others, it includes the work of Paula Gunn Allen, Joy Harjo, Louise Erdrich, Roberta Whiteman, Wendy Rose, and Tayna herself.



**Readings for Women's Programs**

Don't know if you've heard Sue Fink's album "Big Promise" (on the Ladyslipper Label). One number would make a fine feminist-bookstore-worker's anthem; the chorus goes "you think I'm crazy 'cause I mumble to myself, you think I'm crazy 'cause I mumble to myself . . ." On a good day around here we have three mumbled monologues going at the same time, and you can usually count on a customer or two to be muttering to herself about the price of books or the lack of good lesbian erotica. One day we even came up with a joke: "Why is paying bills like taking out the garbage?" "They both keep the rats off your case." OK, I'll stop!

Carry on, out there!

Susanna J. Sturgis

# LE GRAND TOUR —

**National Women's Music Festival -- Bloomington** Anyone going who wants to do a workshop on the interface between the women's bookstore network and women's music? Sounds like a good idea at a bad time. I don't know why ABA is so foolish as to schedule the ABA at a time that conflicts with NWMF! If you'll be there, and are interested, contact Toni Armstrong at Not Just a Stage, 1321 West Rosedale, Chicago, IL 60660.

## Women's History Conference

Just in case you need something additional to do while you're out here on the west coast: "A Woman's Place is in the Curriculum" is a conference sponsored by the National Women's History Project. June 24-26 at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa, California. \$265. Write NWHF, PO Box 3716, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, (707) 526-5974 for more info.

## NWSA

If you can't go, but want your publications to be there, (ever notice how much bigger the travel budget is for the books than for the publishers?!), send your books with the NWSA Librarians Task Force. Cost is \$5.00 for the first title, \$6.00 for each additional title. You can also send up to 750 brochures, fliers and/or mail order forms. Send two copies of each title. Books are for display only, no orders will be taken or written. Books won't be returned, they'll be sent to women in prison after the conference. An irresistible offer. For more information contact Jackie Eubanks, NWSA Librarians Task Force, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, NY 11210. Make checks out to NWSA-LTF.

## ABA

The Women in Print Conference committee is also doing a combined feminist book exhibit at ABA. This may be The

Solution for publishers who can't get there in person. The WIP exhibit is limited to 20 books, one book per publisher, so as to actually be able to sell/promote the books. (The exhibit catalogue will list the publishing houses and all the recent titles and prices.) Price is \$80. For more info, contact Celeste West, Booklegger Press, 555 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131. 415-647-9074.

**Day Care at the ABA.** Brought to you by the ABA and Temporary Tot Tending, Inc. Infancy to age 10, \$5/hour or \$25 for the convention. Reservations (by April 30) and more info from TTT, 2217 Delvin Way, South San Francisco, CA 94080. Phone 415-355-7377. Ask for Ida, Sherry or Dion.

## Women In Print

If you can't get there, do you want to be in the program? One way to communicate with the masses assembled there. The program will also be circulated to women-in-printers who can't make the conference, so you might want to advertise even if you are there. As the flier says, "Don't miss this chance to make your services and good will known to all the women in the alternative and mainstream print and publishing trades." Rates range from \$100 for full page to \$50 for a quarter page. Special placement and spreads also available. Classified ads are 25%. Checks and camera-ready copy to Workshops Cooperative, c/o Celeste West, 555 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131. 415-674-9074 between noon and 2pm.

## Gay at the ABA

This is from a list of events from Sasha Alyson. He'll be doing and circulating an updated version before the convention. Send additions to this list to Sasha at 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118 (617-542-5679) and to FBN.

FRIDAY PICNIC: Noon, May 24. A first chance to



# ABA ☆ WIP ☆ NWSA UPDATE

informally get acquainted or re-acquainted. Followed by sightseeing for those interested. Site to be suggested and announced.

**FRIDAY EVENING PARTY:** May 24. Last year some 150 booksellers, publishers and others got together the evening before the convention; we expect a comparable turnout again this year. Location to be announced. [Ed's note: this may be the same as the party scheduled at Modern Times & Old Wive's Tales. See below]. [Late breaking editor's note: It's not the same party: Party Hop!]

**GROUPED EXHIBIT:** For the fourth year in a row, publishers with gay, lesbian and/or feminist-themed books

will have exhibits next to one another. This year there are six of us -- more than ever before! We are in even-numbered booths from 1350-1360. Participants are Alyson Publications, Knight's Press, Cleis Press, Naiad Press, Firebrand Books, and Spinsters Ink. [This row is Information Central for feminist and gay networking at ABA. Check in for caucus, party, and meeting updates. --Ed.]

**PANEL:** This year Alyson is co-ordinating a panel with ABA on "Selling Gay and Lesbian Books in a General Bookstore." If you have suggestions on specific issues or concerns that should be addressed by such a panel, contact Sasha.

**DINNER?** In past years, some of us have gotten together for dinner, and often dancing afterward, on Saturday night. It will probably happen again.

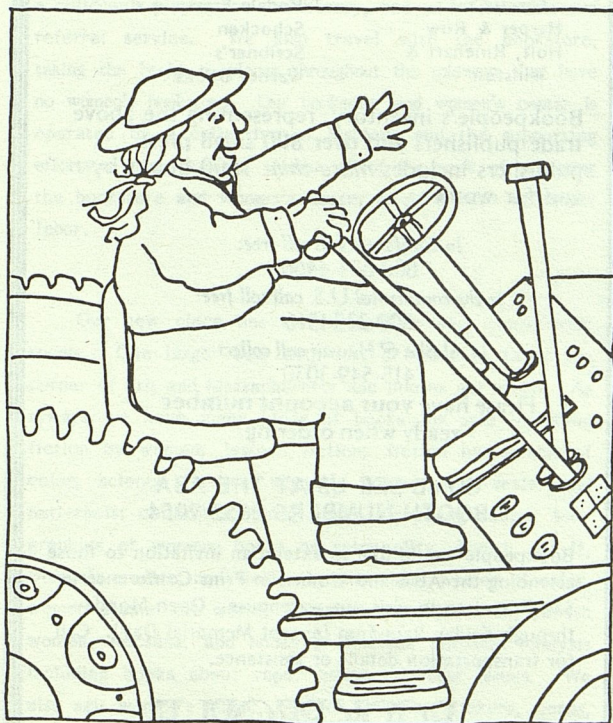
**AUTHOR SIGNINGS:** Sam Steward, aka Phil Andros, will be signing copies of his newest book **Murder is Murder is Murder**, starring Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Tolkas, whom he knew in real life. Nancy Manahan and Rosemary Curb will be signing copies of **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence**. Others?

**AUTHORS IN TOWN:** Most of Alyson's authors will be around, at least for some of the events like the Friday evening party. Let us (Alyson Press) know who. That way, anyone who wants to meet a particular author will know to look him or her up.

## More Events at the ABA

Nancy Bereano of Firebrand Books, Helaine Harris of Daedalus Books, Carol Horne of Harvard Book Stores, Karen Umminger of BookWomen Bookstore, and Carol Seajay of FBN will be doing a workshop on selling feminist books in general bookstores on Monday, May 27 at 1:30 pm, room 228-230.

Modern Times and Old Wives Tales are co-hosting a party for everyone in the progressive book trades on Friday evening (May 24). The party will be held simultaneously at both stores, (they are kitty-corner across the street from



Marcia Quackenbush in *Menopause, Naturally*

## Le Grand Tour, con'd.

one another on Valencia at 21st St. in the Mission District). A good chance to get together and meet your friends and allies before you hit the alienation of the convention floor.

Modern Times is also proposing that people who wish to pursue the idea of a more formal network of progressive stores set aside Sunday afternoon at 5:00 for a meeting to do that. Modern Times offers their store for the meeting and will provide munchies.

## Women In Print

The two questions I'm hearing most in regard to WIP have to do with who's going to this conference/who's invited and what we (whoever "we" turn out to be) are going to be talking about -- what are this year's issues and hot topics?

There seems to be massive confusion when it comes to interpreting the conference committee's statement of intention. I.E., are there women-owned national publishing houses, etc.? Well, folks, the "insiders" may be confused, but if we stop reading our own literature and turn to the SF Sunday Chron/Examiner, and the Northern California Booksellers Association Newsletter, and other such sources of feminist insight, we learn that all feminist women working in the book trades are invited. To quote conference committee member Darlene Pagano in the **Progressive Bookseller News**, "The conference is for all feminist women who are involved in the work of bringing women's works from the writer to the reader. We're including: publishers, printers, booksellers, distributors, sales reps, editors, reviewers, typesetters, librarians, archivists, publicists, agents and anyone else we've overlooked. All segments of the industry are included: womenrun operations, mixed work groups, mainstream, alternative, self-published and free-lance. The one self-selecting criterion is -- feminist women." Got that?

# BOOKPEOPLE BOOKPEOPLE

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formerly 38%, are now 40%:

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
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| Avon Books                  | Japan Publications   |
| Ballantine Books            | Jove                 |
| Bantam Books                | MacMillan            |
| Berkley Publishing          | Morgan & Morgan      |
| Beacon Press                | New American         |
| University of Chicago       | Library              |
| Crown Publishers            | Pocket Books         |
| Dell Books                  | Prentice-Hall        |
| Doubleday & Co.             | Princeton University |
| Dover Publications          | Putnam Publishing    |
| Farrar, Straus &<br>Giroux  | Group                |
| Harper & Row                | Rodale Press         |
| Holt, Rinehart &<br>Winston | Schocken             |
|                             | Scribner's           |
|                             | Warner Books         |

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Bookpeople would like to extend an invitation to those attending the ABA and Women in Print Conference in San Francisco to visit our warehouse. Open Monday through Friday 9am-5pm (except Memorial Day). Call for transportation details or assistance.

## BOOKPEOPLE

The Small Press Book Distributor  
2929 Fifth Street, Berkeley CA 94710

# SPINSTERS BOOKS & WEBBERY

Spinsters Books and Webbery is now open at our new location. The address is 801 1/2 Massachusetts, Lawrence, Kansas. (Mailing address PO Box 1306, Lawrence KS 66044.) We are upstairs, above Round Corner Drugs. The entrance is off of 8th Street. Our hours are slightly changed: current hours are 12-5 Monday through Saturday, and open til 8 on Thursday night. Our phone number is the same (913) 843-9574.

We have changed our name from Spinsters Books to Spinsters Books and Webbery to better reflect all of the services we provide. We are, of course, a bookstore but we also are a women's center. We provide many services for women including a free lending library, a meeting space, a community bulletin board, a speakers' bureau, an archives, a children's play space and library, and an information and referral service. We also travel with the bookstore, taking the books to places throughout the midwest that have no women's bookstore. Our bookstore and women's center is operated by a collective of lesbians and the supporting efforts of many women. Almost all of the work of operating the bookstore and women's center is done with volunteer labor.

Our new place has two attractive and comfortable rooms. One large room with lots of windows faces the corner of 8th and Massachusetts and houses our store. As always we have many kinds of books for sale including fiction by women; lesbian fiction; fiction by women of color; science fiction; women's poetry; anti-sexist and anti-racist children's books; books for young adults; biographies of women; books on spirituality, health, fix-it, women's studies; non-fiction by and about women of color, women around the world, young women, old women, Jewish women, lesbians; and books of feminist political analysis including books about rape, incest, nuclear issues. We also sell women's music, buttons, bumper stickers, cards, posters, t-shirts, jewelry, pottery, and crafts made by local women. Everyone is welcome in our store. Our second

room houses our women's reading room, library, archives, children's play area, and meeting space for women. It's a comfortable space -- pleasant for a meeting or to sit and read in. We have a teapot and coffeepot always available.

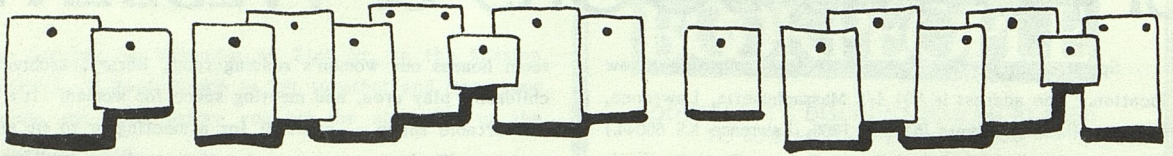
We're going to have a Grand Opening on Saturday, March 23rd, from noon to 5 pm. We'll be serving refreshments and having live entertainment. We invite you to come to our Grand Opening and to come see our new place soon. We're very excited about it and think you will be too.

--the Women of Spinsters Books and Webbery



Judith Masur in A New Haggadah

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**The Progressive Bookseller News** is out! First issue arrived in March. This issue includes "A Membership Plan That Works" by Michael Rosenthal of Modern Times, "Children's Booklist" by Sonya Blackman of A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books, and "Offering Bargain Books in Alternative Shops" by Dick McLeester of Food for Thought as well as announcements and news items. **PBN** came out of a meeting at Common Cause Bookstore just before last year's ABA. It is edited by Pam Rosenthal and Michael Rosenthal of Modern Times, production by Dennis Winkler of the Institute for Food and Development Policy. To get on the mailing list (no subscription rates yet) drop a card to **PBN**, c/o Modern Times, 986 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

Representatives from some 34+ Canadian feminist magazines and newspapers from across Canada will conference in Montreal June 14-16. This will mark the first time French and English publications have gathered for such a conference. Goals are to strengthen the collective impact of feminist publications in Canada, and to strengthen the impact of each individual publication through skills sharing. For more information, contact Jane Woodhead, c/o **The Optimist**, 302 Steele St, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C5, Canada. (403) 667-4637. Info from **Media Report to Women**.

Chosen Books, Detroit's bookstore serving the gay, lesbian and feminist communities has a great new thousand-title catalogue out. This one features an 800 number for telephone ordering with a credit card. Bet that speeds up the ordering process. They've also expanded their store size by a third, increased their stock-room/mail-order room and expanded their staff to five, and gone computer. Life sounds good in Detroit City! Write to them at 940 W. McNichols, Detroit MI 48203. They'll be at the ABA.

The Third World Women's Archives in NYC and the Circulo de Cultura Cubana invite you to join their "Women in Literature and Journalism Research Group to Cuba." A comprehensive program concerning women's issues for writers, magazine and newspaper editors, publishers, librarians, students, et al. June 14-23. \$700 from Miami. Call Cultura Cubana on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2-6 pm at 212-245-8829, or write them at GPO Box 2174, NY, NY 10116 or contact Marazul Tours, 250 W. 57th St. Suite 1311, NY, NY, 10107. 212-582-9570.

"Look to the Women for Courage: Stories from the Seneca Encampment for Peace and Justice" is a slide presentation by JEB/Joan E. Biren. A 45 minute show with accompanying tape, script, organizer's and information packet. Rental: \$35 + postage and insurance. Purchase: \$135. Contact The Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008, (202)234-2000. Or personal appearance by JEB with two hour version of the slide show. \$200 + travel expenses. Contact Glad Hag Books, PO Box 2934, Washington, DC 20013, (202) 399-0117.

**JOB OPENING:** Director -- Alaska Women's Resource Center. Minimum qualifications: 5 years in the feminist movement, 3 years management experience. Skills needed: Ability to apply feminist principles to personnel & program management; budgetary & fund raising experience, public speaking, excellent oral & written communication. Starting date: August 15, 1985. Application Deadline: June 15, 1985. Salary \$33,000 - \$35,000. For more info call or write AWRC, 111 West 9th Ave., Anchorage AK 99501. (907) 276-0528. Send applications to AWRC, PO Box 100188, Anchorage AK 99510. (See also Lucille Frey's letter in the letters column.)

# WRITING WANTED



**ANOTHER JOB:** The Feminist Writers Guild is looking for a National Administrative Coordinator. Approximately 10 hours/week. Pay has been \$7/hr, could increase with more fundraising. Position handles membership inquiries, renewals, financial management, correspondence, newsletter editing & production. Benefits include getting to know a lot of writers and a yearly paid business trip to the annual meeting. Applicants must make a two year commitment, be thorough, meticulous, excellent clerical and letter writing skills, have access to a good typewriter and have a flexible schedule. For more info, or to apply, write Laura Tow, FWG, Box 9306, Berkeley, CA 94709, (415) 524-3692, by April 15.

Aggie Tutko is working on a book on graphology/-handwriting analysis and self-esteem that will focus on lesbians. Title will be **The Lower Loop: A Study of the Sexually Sensitive Woman**. She's looking for women to fill out questionnaires and would appreciate it if willing women sent a SASE. Deadline is June 1, 1985. 4802 S. WestShore #5-5, Tampa FL 33611.

**Kallope** announces special issues, one featuring work by women writers and artists who are "differently-abled", the other on humor. The first will emphasize poems and short stories, but will consider essays and personal accounts. Also seeking interviews, photographs and visual art for this issue. Deadline is June 1. Poetry, fiction, interviews, essays and cartoons, as well as non-scholarly articles about women cartoonists and women humorists for the humor issue. Deadline August 15. Payment in copies. **Kallope** devotes itself to women in the arts by publishing their work and sharing their ideas and opinions. Published three times a year. Write Kallope Writers Collective, 3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32205. Sample copies \$3.50, subs \$9.00/yr.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is looking for bibliographies of books for the reissue of their booklet "Listening to Women For a Change" that will document statements from women around the world who are active in the social changes in their countries. The publication will commemorate The League's 70th birthday. Send suggestions to Patricia Arokiasamy, WILPF, 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Pergamon Press is soliciting manuscripts for their Athena Series, an international collection of feminist books. "We are committed to publishing feminist textbooks that fundamentally challenge the present structure of knowledge from which women have been excluded both as theorists and as subjects of study. Send 1-3 page book proposals or full length manuscripts to Phyllis Hall, Pergamon Press, Maxwell House, Fairview Park, Elmsford, NY 10523.

Poster Distributed by Syracuse Cultural Workers  
PO Box 6367, Syracuse NY 13217



# BOBBEH MEISEH'S PRESS

by Judith Stein

(Dear FBN, Here's the story about Bobbeh Meiseh's Press and my books. I'm thrilled to get the mention as distribution is my weakest point. --Judith Stein)

About six years ago I started writing a variety of Jewish-lesbianism pieces of a variety of types. Some were poetry, some were essays, some were midrashim (teaching legends) and some were fiction. It's gotten to the point with my writing now, where sometimes it's confusing what things I distribute as part of BMP, and what I don't. At any rate, I have been self-distributing xeroxed copies of my pieces for a number of years. At first, I simply responded to requests, then I began to be a bit more organized about it, and wrote up a flier. I took the flier with me when I traveled, and also to festivals and such. I started doing public readings in about 1979 or 1980; I've done about 4 or 5, mostly not solos; most recently last October with Judy Freespirit at Old Wives Tales. I love to read my work publicly, and am excited now to be scheduled to read at a big Jewish Arts Festival which is being held in (near) Boston next month. It's the first time I've ever sought out an audience that was not primarily lesbian; and also the first time I'm reading in what will probably be a predominantly straight audience; also the first time I'm reading as a Lesbian in a Jewish setting as opposed to a Jew in a Lesbian setting.

At any rate, as I read more, got more requests for my work, incorporated being a writer into my identity more, I wanted to try and produce copy that could be sold in bookstores. (In fairness, A Woman's Place in Oakland did sell xeroxed forms of my stuff, but my local bookstores had no capacity for flier-type materials...) So I became Bobbeh Meisehs Press. (I had, long ago, named my work Bobbeh Meisehs. This is a Yiddish phrase which literally means grandmothers' stories; its nearest English equivalent is old wives' tales.) My first bound title was my Haggadah;

that came out in spring 1984. In the fall of 1984 I produced my Chanukah blessings. Sometime in the next few months, I will probably bring out a small collection of poems to/about my maternal grandmother, called **The Rivka Poems**.

BMP is a way for me to get my writing out; it is a part-time, home-based business which I do on top of working almost full time, going to school part-time, being a political activist, having a girlfriend, etc. It's high up in my list of life priorities, but doesn't get much time anyway. Because of that, distribution is a fairly low priority. My stuff is in the local feminist and gay book-

## A NEW HAGGADAH: *A Jewish Lesbian Seder* by Judith Stein



stores, and I now advertise a bit (seasonally) for the Chanukah and Haggadah titles. I get letters from women who picked up my flier five years ago, or friends have my stuff, etc. Once I started printing bound copies, new possibilities for distribution opened up to me. Diaspora Distribution now carries my Chanukah blessings and the Haggadah. I produce my books by ITEK offset press at a local copy shop managed by a dyke, and either saddle-staple or GBC bind. [That's the plastic spiral binding. -ed.] I am committed to keeping very low cover prices, and can do

# -- AN ADVENTURE STORY

It because my production costs are so low. I type my own manuscripts. The Rivka Poems is the first manuscript to be done on the word processor where I work. (Have, despite working as a secretary/administrator on a word processor for years, had a tremendous hesitation to put BMP on the machine...who knows why for sure, but I'm sure getting nice copy off it for the Rivka poems...) So, I think the new title will sell for \$2.50-\$3.00 I want to get a nice feeling book, but cheap.

I do sell to some bookstores, welcome bookstore orders, and do a standard 60/40 split. I have been paying postage, although I'm starting to realize that may not be standard practice... I also will have any available bound titles through Diaspora, so a bookstore could order through them if that's more comfortable.

About the two titles currently bound:

**A New Haggadah: A Jewish Lesbian Seder** is a Passover Haggadah that is totally non-religious (no blessings, no god, no miracles) but faithful to spirit and intent to a traditional Haggadah. All the parts of the traditional Seder are included; everything has been rewritten to incorporate a lesbian sensibility. The entire Seder is in English. Passover is a holiday about journeying to liberation; it has great possibilities when celebrated with Lesbians. My Haggadah is part of that celebration; it is offered in affirmation of lesbian strength, and in respect and honor of Jewish culture and tradition. This year (1985) I added an introduction; you may get more of an idea from that as well. The retail price is \$4.00; it's 19 pages long, spiral bound.

**A Jewish Liberation Chanukah** is a collection of blessings, in English, for each of the eight lights of Chanukah. These are my efforts to meet those needs met by prayer -- to make a formal, poetic, structured statement on a meaningful occasion; to separate a holiday from ordinary life and time. This is 8 pages, saddle/staple bound, sells for \$1.25.

Titles not bound, available by direct order from BMP:

**Telling Bobbeh Meisehs: Some Notes on Identity and the Creation of Jewish Lesbian Culture** -- an essay inspired by a "visit" from some Lesbians from Auschwitz, this autobiographical piece describes the complexities and contradictions of being a Jewish dyke in America today. 7 pgs. \$1.00.

**The Rivka Poems** -- four poems of affirmation and mourning in which I come to terms with the loss of my past. Addressed to my grandmother, Rebeccah Dansky, these poems talk about the last two years of her life, when our lives began to intertwine. 9 pgs. \$1.25.

**On Lesbian Invisibility: A Midrash for Shavuus** -- a midrash is a teaching legend. This midrash is the women's legend, a Lesbian explanation of how the story of love between Ruth and Naomi survived through the ages. 3 pgs. \$.50.

**The Purim Megillah: A Feminist Retelling** -- a 3 woman reading which tells the story of Purim by the women involved: Esther (the heroine), Vashti (the haughty queen), and Zeresh (wife of the villain). The story of woman-hating, and women loving. 13 pgs. \$1.50.

**Why the Moon is Small and Dark when the Sun is Big and Shiny** -- a midrash for Rosh Chodesh, the celebration of the new moon. Rosh Chodesh is traditionally a women's holiday. One story of how the love between the moon and the sun led to their cycles as we see them. 6 pgs. \$1.00.

**Jewish Food: A Short Thought** -- a brief, humorous essay about the many pleasures of sour cream. 1 pg. \$.25.

**Pesach** -- a poem about the struggle to live fully as a Jewish dyke; satisfied neither by my family nor my Jewish Dyke community. 2 pgs. \$.35.

## Lesbian Nuns in Forum Magazine

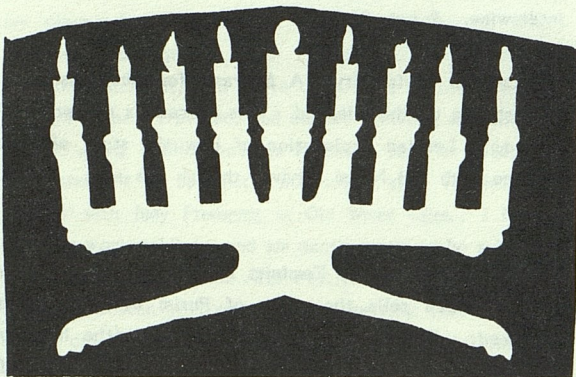
by Susanna Sturgis

### Bobbeh Meiseh's Press, Con'd.

I think that's every single thing I can possibly think of to tell you about BMP. I'm real proud of my work and my writing; I'm pleased that women care about what I write, that it means something to other women. I don't have really big or definite plans for the future; I would like to try and publish my Purim Megillah in time for next Purim (probably March 1986).

Judith Stein  
Bobbeh Meisehs Press  
137 Tremont Street  
Cambridge MA 02139

Diaspora Distribution may be reached at PO Box 19224,  
Oakland CA 94619.



A New Haggadah

"Because of the want of information upon current topics directly concerning women in the ordinary newspapers, it is essential that some medium should exist to transmit news, not only concerning those domestic and personal matters which form so large a part of the business of a woman's life, but concerning women in the public world, concerning education, concerning the direct and indirect changes in the laws relating to women and their children, concerning the new discoveries connected with the physical laws by which mankind lives, and concerning the work and doings of women themselves." "

Mrs. Jerrold  
in *The Woman's Signal*

Thanks to *Medial Report to Women*

1896

According to information received from a contributor to the anthology and confirmed by a spokesperson for *Forum* magazine, three selections from Naiad Press's *Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence*, edited by Rosemary Curb and Nancy Manahan, will appear in the June 1985 issue of *Forum*. Part of the Penthouse "family", *Forum* is a soft-core porn journal apparently oriented to heterosexual males who prefer verbal turn-ons to the pictorial variety.

The articles that are scheduled to appear in *forum* are "Finding My Way" by Mary Brady (pseudonym), "They Shall Not Touch, Even in Jest" by Margaret (pseudonym), and "South American Lawyer in the Cloister" by Marla Cristina. All three sections deal with lesbian sexual experience in the convent.

In its February 15, 1985, issue, *PW* published an article about *Lesbian Nuns*, based on an interview with Naiad Press publisher Barbara Grier. Toward the end of the story, it was noted that "Naiad has sold serial rights to *Forum* magazine and to *Ms. . . .*" I was probably not the only one to gloss right over this bit of information because I had no idea what *Forum* magazine was. Now that I know, I wonder what could have moved a lesbian publisher to sell the autobiographical work of three lesbian former nuns to such a market.

As of this writing, *Off Our Backs* is planning to publish a story on the subject in its May 1985 issue.

Susanna Sturgis  
Washington, DC

What would happen if one woman told  
the truth about her life?

The world would split open.

—Muriel Rukeyser

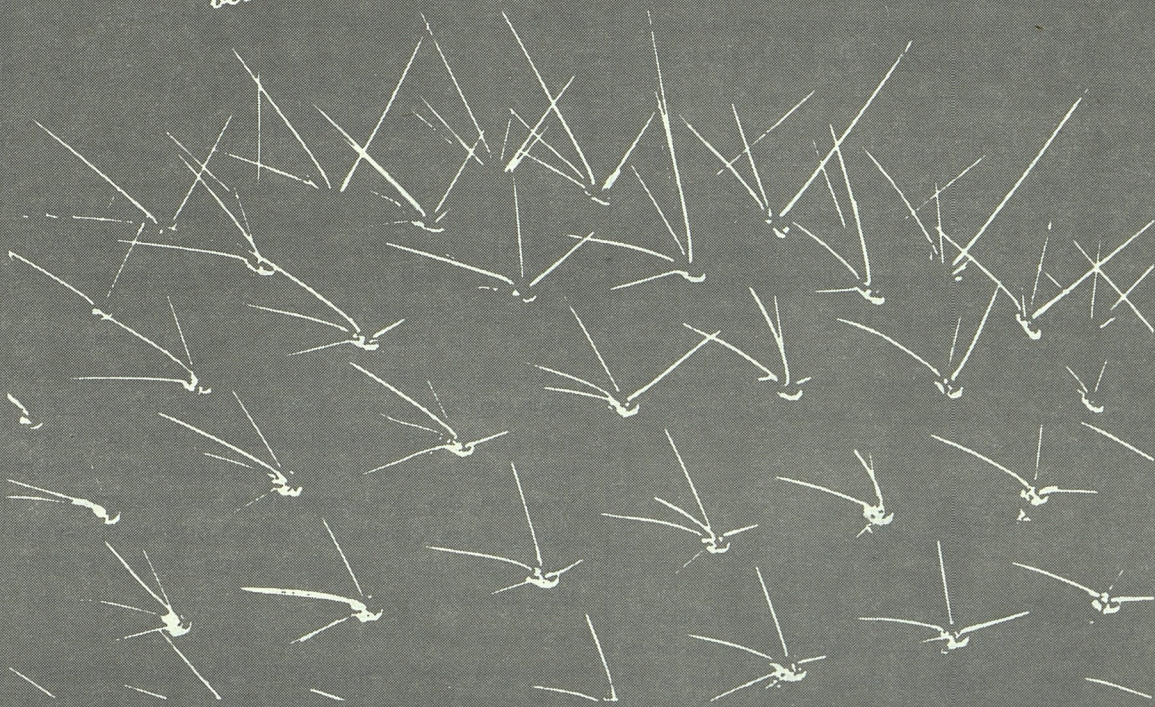
Readings for Women's Programs



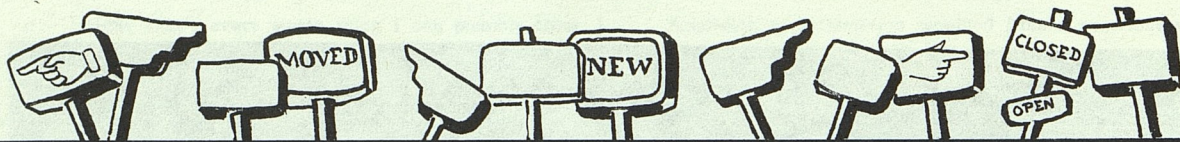
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# THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



Oops! **Sex and Love**, reviewed in the last issue is published by Women's Press in England, not Women's Press in Canada. Sorry about that. Merrimack is the US distributor.

**M O V E D :** Wild Hags Literary Productions has moved to 2515 N. Prairie, Evanston, IL 60201. Wild Hag is a mail order bookseller.

**N E W B O O K S T O R E S :** Meg Umans has opened Humanspace Books at 2401 N. 32 St. Suite 5 in Phoenix, AZ 85005 to serve the women's and gay communities there. Keep those books available in Phoenix! Jennie Adams and M. Belew are planning to open a women's bookstore in Bakersfield, CA. 1917 Maple Street, 93304. Bakersfield is a couple hours north of LA and this bookstore will make for an oasis in the California desert. Nearest bookstore to the north is seven hours away, so women will be coming in from a lot of miles around....



**F U T U R E B O O K S T O R E S :** Marli Rabinowitz and Val McCall are planning on opening a feminist bookstore (The Wild Iris?) in Fairbanks Alaska. Write them at 13 Wolf Run, 99701. The Denver store will be Woman's Word, opening this fall. The women there are Barbara Anshutz and Debbie Trent, address for the moment (but not the store) is 381 S. Franklin, Denver CO 80209. Sharon Moon will be opening a bookstore in Spokane, Washington. Write her at West 204 - 17th Ave., 99203.

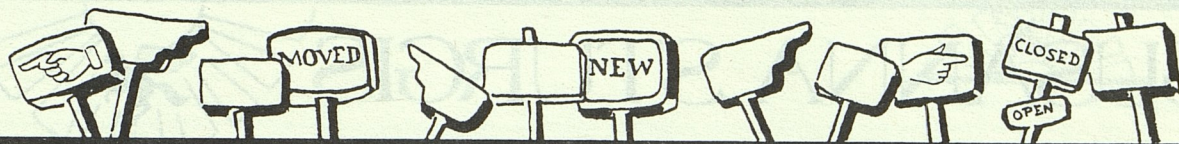
**C L O S E D :** Friends of Dorothy in Charlotte NC is closed and has been for awhile.

**? ? ? ? ?** FBN is getting mail returned from Webster and Bailey Bookstore (3023 Pandosy St., Kelowna, British Columbia.) Does anyone have a better address for them? Did they ever open? Hello?



**M A I L O R D E R :** The Athena Book Express catalogue just arrived. Both handsome and thoughtful. Athena is a mail order service for women and their families. ("Shopping at home for the busy woman of today.") One of the several services they offer is an end-of-the-year summary statement of books bought by those whose purchases are tax deductible. They also have a list of large-type books available (inquire). Their order blank inquires about interest in ordering non-English language books and also video cassettes of women's movies. A delight to see feminist "booksellers" readying to ride the wave of the future. 104 West Geneva, Tempe, AZ 85282. (602) 894-0313

**T E R M S :** **Bridges**, new slick lesbian life-style magazine (see Vol. 7 # 3 for more info.), \$3.00/issue, 40% discount to bookstores, covers are returnable for credit, out of state stores may request refunds for any unsold issues that have been prepaid. Yours truly did the book review section for the premiere issue. **Bridges**, 812 Sixth Ave. #6, Oakland, CA 94606. (415) 457-2045.



CUSTOMER REQUEST DEPT :  
 "...Freud's new book on women in prison." (That's Andrea  
 Freud Loewenstein's **This Place**, of course. Thanks to Mary  
 Lowry at New Words for that one.)

AVAILABLE AT : Sudie Rakusin's illus-  
 trated journal **Goddesses and Amazons** whose illustrations  
 frequent the pages of FBN, is now available via Inland.  
 Also at Inland: The entire list from Attic Press in  
 Ireland. Also **Cabin Journal** and **Jericho**.

## Womanspace Closes . . . . Humanspace Opens

After ten years of business, Womanspace Bookstore  
 will be closing her doors. Humanspace Books, Inc., a  
 bookstore under new ownership and management, in the tradi-  
 tion of Womanspace Bookstore, will open on January 2,  
 1985. Humanspace offers a selection of titles for people  
 interested in non-sexist, feminist, alternative and  
 physically and mentally healthy lives.

Humanspace has purchased Womanspace Bookstore's  
 mailing list. If you have received mailings from Womans-  
 place, you will now receive them from Humanspace.  
 Confidentiality of names and addresses will be maintained.

All mail orders received before the end of 1984 will  
 be filled or refunded by Womanspace Bookstore; all orders  
 received after December 31, 1984 will be handled by Human-  
 space.

Humanspace is here to serve the community. If you  
 would like to joint Humanspace's free mailing list, please  
 drop them a line at 2401 North 32nd St. Suite 5, Phoenix AZ  
 85008. Please direct any further correspondence for  
 Womanspace Bookstore to PO Box 326, Tempe AZ 85281.

--excerpt from a flier sent to the Womanspace mailing list

Womanspace Bookstore  
 PO Box 326  
 Tempe, AZ 85281

Dear FBN,

Womanspace closed officially at the end of December.

I have a job managing a bookstore in Gainesville,  
 Florida; I'm packing now and hope to leave Monday. It's a  
**big** store -- 40 employees, very straight, and specializing  
 in an area I know nothing about: the construction industry.  
 I found the job in the ABA Newswire, sent a resume; they  
 called and I went out and interviewed just before Thanks-  
 giving. The best part: it pays **real** money -- three or four  
 times what I've ever earned before --- so I should be able  
 to pay off all my bookstore debts (\$11,000) in a year or  
 so... I'm going to pay the women's and small presses  
 first, naturally.

I will stay in touch; I plan to subscribe to FBN, of  
 course. And I hope to make it to the ABA and next WinP.  
 (Maybe....)

Big excitement. Lots of changes!

-- Mooneyan



The Women's Press -- England

# SUSANNA STURGIS

ON

# SCIENCE FICTION



There was so little interesting stuff in my "new arrival" folder when I sat down to prepare a fantasy/science fiction column for the last FBN that I let the deadline go by without writing anything. Needless to say, all the publishers from whom I'd heard nothing in months checked in with their spring promo materials in the same week that FBN arrived in the mail, so there are plenty of interesting titles this time around.

This spring we welcome one of those rarities among rarities, a collection of lesbian feminist science fiction stories. Naturally it's from a feminist publisher--Onlywomen Press in England. The book is **Needle on Full**, the author is Caroline Forbes (who had a story in Onlywomen's lesbian fiction anthology **The Reach**), the U.S. price is \$7.95, the pub date is May 7, and it will be available from Inland. Need I say more? (I probably WILL say more as soon as I get my hands on it.)

In the "preview of coming attractions" department: according to PW, Academy Chicago "will begin a new series of selected writings by women science fiction and fantasy writers in fall 1985...The first two books will be **The Best of Marion Zimmer Bradley** and **The Best of Margaret St. Clair**, each a collection of the authors' short stories..." St. Clair's work is all, as far as I know, OP. Anyone who hasn't heard of Marion Zimmer Bradley (MZB) should refer to previous issues of FBN or give me a call when you have an hour to kill!

Bantam Books has been buying multi-page four-color ads to announce that "a new era in science fiction and fantasy publishing has just begun" with its "Spectra" imprint. True enough, the new line includes R. A. (Roberta) MacAvoy's **Tea With the Black Dragon** and the Damiano trilogy, and Samuel Delany's **Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand** (read on). Those who have been around the book biz for a while, however, will remember that Bantam has let Joanna Russ's **Female Man** remain out of print for more than four years. Anyone who'd like to vent a little bile, i.e., gently suggest that it's time to bring FM back into print, can write Bantam at 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103.



And now, the list you've all been waiting for, by publisher:

From Ace:

Available now: **Daughter of Witches**, by Patricia C. Wrede, \$2.50. Good though not exceptional fantasy tale about a young woman, stigmatized as the child of executed witches, coming to terms with her own powers.

5/85 **Daughter of the Bright Moon**, by Lynn Abbey, \$3.50. Reprint of a good adventure novel featuring a horse-riding young sorceress.

6/85 **Clay's Ark**, by Octavia E. Butler, \$2.75. Excepting young-adult author Virginia Hamilton, Butler is the only black woman I know publishing book-length f/sf.



This book is part of her Pattern series and features a man and his two teen-age daughters traveling through a lawless U.S. in the not-too-distant future.

From Ballantine:

Available now: **Night's Daughter**, by Marion Zimmer Bradley, \$2.95. Based on the story of Mozart's "Magic Flute."

From Baen Books (Simon & Schuster):

Available now: **Five-Twelfths of Heaven**, by Melissa Scott, \$2.95. I'm giving this a try but haven't seen it yet. Features a young woman starship pilot "torn between loyalty to her empire and rebel forces who literally hold hostage the keys to her life and livelihood." Who can tell anything from publishers catalogues???

5/85 **To the Resurrection Station**, by Eleanor Arnason, \$2.95. I don't know anything about this; the author had a story in **Amazons II**, which is a good sign. Cover and publisher promotion make it look like a romance novel, but who can tell? Go down to the local f/sf bookstore in May and check it out before you order a dump.

From Bantam:

Available now: **Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand**, by Samuel R. Delany, \$16.95 (cloth only). Says *PW* of this, Delany's first sf novel in several years, "Reading this novel is like learning another language, only to realize how much it teaches you about your own, and how relative it makes your cultural assumptions. Sensual, cerebral, analytic and lyrical, difficult and exhilarating..." It's also Delany's gayest novel; a must for stores with a significant gay male clientele. Delany himself is black and gay and an absolutely brilliant writer.

From Berkley Books:

Whole bunches of stuff back in print from Berkeley, including John Varley's earlier books:

**The Ophiuchi Hotline**, \$2.95, novel.

**The Persistence of Vision**, \$2.95, short stories (and don't miss the title story--it's special).

**Picnic on Nearside**, \$2.95, short stories (formerly titled **The Barbie Murders**).

Available now: **Brisinghamen**, by Diana L. Paxson, \$2.95. From one of the MZB circle, a fantasy novel that brings Norse gods and goddesses to contemporary San Francisco; should appeal especially to the pagan crowd.

Available now: **The Blue Sword**, by Robin McKinley,

Sudie Rakusin in *Goddeses and Amazons*



\$2.75. I loved it, but then I'm a sucker for anything that involves horses and deserts. Heroine is a contemporary-type orphan girl raised in an Englandlike country whose destiny lies in a titanic struggle in a sandy country. The last chapter is a terrible cop-out, but you can skip it!

Available now: **Witchdame**, by Kathleen Sky, \$2.95. A thoroughly enjoyable first novel set in a 15th century England untouched by Christianity; theme is a young woman's



coming of age as a witch and princess.

3/85 **Frostflower and Thorn**, by Phyllis Ann Karr, \$2.95. Back in print, the first volume of the adventure of the sorceress and the swordswoman. Highly recommended for even the smallest feminist f/sf collection.

3/85 **Welcome, Chaos**, by Kate Wilhelm, \$2.95. Publisher's blurb: "woman who lives alone in the wilds of the Pacific Northwest makes a discovery that could insure

immortality for the human race." Wilhelm isn't especially feminist, but she's one of the best writers around.

3/85 **The Language of the Night**, by Ursula K. LeGuin, \$5.95. Back in trade paperback, a wonderful collection of essays on science fiction.

5/85 **Frostflower and Windbourne**, by Phyllis Ann Karr, \$2.95. The second volume; Windbourne is a somewhat wimpish sorcerer, and Thorn and Frostflower remain at center stage.

5/85 **Millennium**, by John Varley, 42.95. First mass-market edition; a somewhat grisly, always intriguing transtemporal rescue epic.

From Bluejay Books (St. Martin's):

Available now: **Fire Watch**, by Connie Willis, \$14.95 (cloth). Willis is an up-and-comer; title story in this collection won both of f/sf's big awards, the Hugo and Nebula. The local straight paper (aka the **Washington Post**) gave it a favorable short review, but I'll wait for the paperback.

6/85 **Guinevere Evermore**, by Sharan Newman, \$15.95 (cloth). Concluding volume in the Arthurian trilogy that began with **Guinevere** and **The Chessboard Queen**, neither of which (in trade paper) sold well enough to make me stock this one before the paperback comes out. (Speaking of which, science fiction publishers are more and more tending to hardcover publications--for the prestige or something. Yecchh.)

6/85 **Moonsinger's Friends**, edited by Susan Shwartz, \$8.95 (trade paper), \$16.95 (cloth). A fantasy anthology in honor of that matriarch of fantasy writers Andre Norton, including work by Marion Zimmer Bradley, C. J. Cherryh, Tanith Lee, Anne McCaffrey, and others. Shwartz edited the fine (but OP) witchy anthology **Hecate's Cauldron** a few years back. This should be good.

From DAW Books (NAL):

Available now: **Liberty's World**, by Lee Killough, \$2.95. A woman linguist is the key figure when colonists put down on a new planet and find themselves "caught



Studie Rakusin in *Goddesses and Amazons*



between two opposing cannibalistic armies" (really!).

Available now: **Chanur's Venture**, by C. J. Cherryh, \$2.95. A sequel to her **The Pride of Chanur**--the **Pride** is a starship owned and crewed by female members of a feline species. This one is great adventure, but I wish I'd known before I started that it breaks off literally in mid-flight, promising to conclude in **Chanur's Revenge**, not yet announced. Since I was tempted to strangle the sf bookstore clerk who didn't warn me, I've elected to protect my own hide and not stock it until the sequel to the sequel is out.

5/85 **Sword and Sorceress II**, edited by Marion Zimmer Bradley, \$2.95. **Sword and Sorceress #1** was excellent; no reason to expect less of this one.

From NAL (Signet):

6/85 **Golden Witchbreed**, by Mary Gentle, \$3.95. NAL is promoting this in the fashion to which only horror novels and romances are generally accustomed; nevertheless, the extremely enthusiastic advance blurbs from MZB, Anne McCaffrey, the **ALA Booklist**, and others make it sound promising. MZB suggests comparison with Ursula LeGuin's **The Left Hand of Darkness**, and the key character is a woman.

From Pocket Books (Simon & Schuster):

Available now: **The Sword of Winter**, by Marta Randall, \$3.50. Set in a fantasy world where old magical ways are beginning to yield to new scientific ones, the story focuses on a young woman courier. Not a bad novel at all, but I expected more from the author of **Journey and Islands** (both of which are CP, of course).

From Popular Library:

4/85 **Pandora's Genes**, by Kathryn Lance, \$2.95. This is the first release in Popular's new line of Questar; **PW** called it "enjoyable and promising." The plot features "a small group of dedicated women scientists" trying to

preserve knowledge and the human race "in a post-disaster world struggling to survive the mutating effects of recombinant DNA."

From Tor Books (St. Martins):

5/85 **Magic in Ithkar**, edited by Andre Norton, \$6.95. Fantasy anthology including works by C. J. Cherryh, Morgan Llywelyn, and Norton herself.

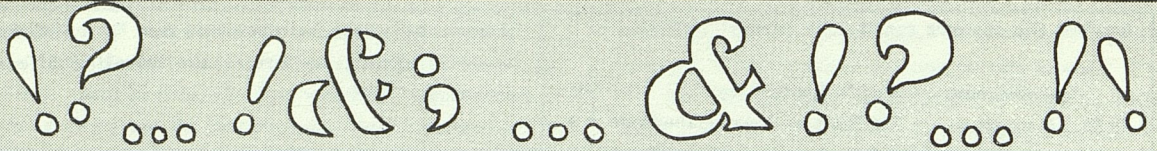
## BUY NEW ZEALAND BOOKS!

New Zealand, the first country in the world to grant women suffrage, has now (with the strong support of that vote) become the first nation to refuse access to a great power regarding nuclear weapons. NZ has requested that no US warships stop in NZ unless and until NZ is assured that there are no nuclear weapons aboard.

The Reagan administration is threatening economic reprisals, such as releasing surplus butter into the world market and increasing duties paid on imported NZ lamb, either of which would have a serious impact on the NZ economy.

In support of Waring (the feminist Member of Parliament that brought down the NZ government and her own party by crossing the floor to cast the deciding vote), and the idea that "A Feminist World is a Nuclear Free Zone", women in the US deliberately buying NZ imports to offset Reagan's threat (lamb, wool, kiwis, strawberries, blueberries, beer, cheese, Aulsbacker crackers, etc.). Please also drop a line to your congress people declaring your support of New Zealand's policy and to Rep. Stephen J. Solarz who will be convening hearings on this issue by the House Foreign Affairs Asian Subcommittee. More information available from The Sisterhood is Global Institute, c/o The Women's Action Alliance, 370 Lexington Ave., NY NY 10017.

# TRIVIA



No news of any work toward a 1985 International Feminist Book Fair. I did hear, though, that there is work going on toward a 1986 International Women's Book Fair in Sweden, to be organized independently of the 1984 Fair. No address or other info, though. If you've heard more info, please let **FBN** know.

Delights and Small Pleasures Department: The Harvey Milk documentary film received the Oscar for the best feature length documentary film. Said the producer: "I think Harvey would have loved to get an Oscar." I think so, too.

The word from Bookwoman in Austin is that "everything" has quadrupled. Cash is flowing so wildly that they paid all their bills before the end of the year. Howcome? The growth in Austin -- 92 people a day are moving to Austin. Lots of jobs, new plants, the electronics industry, etc.. And those women are buying books!

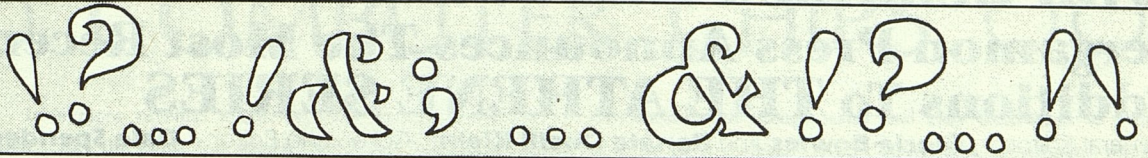
The West Coast Women and Words Society (Canada) is organizing The Women's Peace Write. W&WS is collecting 500 word contributions that endorse disarmament and promote peace on this planet. Fifty-two pieces will be selected and orchestrated sequentially so that Canadian government representatives will receive one piece each week. Press coverage will be organized to cover the campaign. Submissions may be poetry or prose, may be previously published or not, and may be an excerpt from a larger work. There is no funding for this project, so donations are appreciated! Submit to 3756 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6R 1J9. Peace campaign committee: Betsy Warland, Daphne Marlatt and Sandy Duncan.

**Lesbian Nuns Fame and Glory** This is the news from the big time: 90,000 paperback copies printed in the first run, then back to press the same day with 20,000 more. 10,000 hardcover copies printed. Grier says that this book has earned Naiad 20 new distributors. It's also on the Waldenbooks & B Dalton spreads. ("Spread" -- that's chain bookstore talk for their central buying trip. To be on the spread means that x number of copies will be sent to each small bookstore in the chain, y copies to mid-sized stores and z copies to the big stores. Given that Walden currently has 908 stores, and Dalton has 770 stores, that's a lot of books sold. Wonder if they know that Naiad has a no-returns policy, if these will be the forces that change that.) Mass market rights have been sold to Warner. Meanwhile co-editors Curb & Manahan tour the country, the TV shows, radio & bookstores. In-store appearance priorities went first to feminist and movement stores, Waldon Books got 0 appearances.



Did you know that the ABA has a new membership category for individuals? For \$35.00, librarians, book reviewers and critics (that includes almost all of us), publishers, and personnel employed by booksellers and publishers can be members of ABA, get a subscription to **American Bookseller** and **Newswire**, reduced rates to The Convention and member rates on other ABA publications (exclusive of the ABA Book Buyer's Handbook). If this excites you, send your check, name, address and a one-liner about your connection to the book business and your reason





for joining ABA to Cyd Rosenberg, Educational Membership, ABA, 122 E. 42nd St., NY NY 10168.

(Speaking of ABA Handbooks, when the new ones come out in August, could someone swear to send me their old one? FBN could also use a recently outdated BIP. Would be delighted to pay postage on both. Please drop me a line with your promise in blood....)

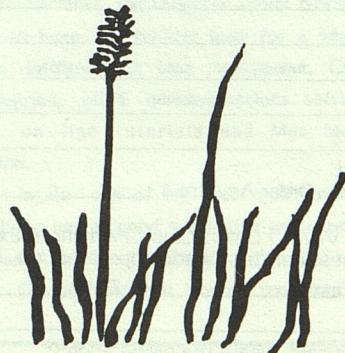
More Successes: FBN finally made **Library Journal** with a review in Bill Katz's Magazines column. That should help in the library subscriptions and credibility departments. Thanks to Barbara Grier, Donna McBride, and anyone else who sent issues in suggesting a review....

"**Publishers Weekly** declined to run an ad scheduled for the back-cover of the magazine. . . showing the back bottom half of a lifeguard in very scanty trunks. Says . . . **PW** advertising sales director, 'Our judgment on this was that it was sexually provocative!' " (from **The Washington Post Bookworld**, Sunday February 10, 1985.) FBN agrees, it likely was sexually provocative. (How do we know, they ran the upper back half of a lifeguard....surely **that's** not sexually provocative??) How come **PW** is so concerned when it is a male figure that is "sexually provocative", but runs breasts, cleavage, semi-nudity, etc., off the Harlequin and mainstream book covers when the body parts belong to women with apparently no qualms at all? Perhaps FBN misunderstands all this.... Perhaps scantily clad women's bodies (front or back, upper or lower), are not considered to be sexually provocative? Perhaps only men's bodies are sexually provocative? Does anyone else think of the garter-and-exposed-thigh on the cover of **Southern Discomfort** and Bantam's letter to the effect that that cover (the front lower half of a woman) was not sexually provocative and was in good taste. Whose head is where is this issue, anyway, and which end is up? FBN fails to understand why **PW** is unwilling to extend equal

objectification to men in these matters....

Yours for the asking: a one-year subscription to Alyson Press's 8-page tabloid. It includes announcements, news and excerpts from Alyson Press books and author interviews and stories. "I've bought too many books because the two-sentence ad or back-cover copy sounded good, then been totally disappointed with the actual book," says publisher Sasha Alyson. "All of our books will be enjoyed by somebody out there; very few of them are for everyone. This is the best way we've found to help readers select just what they want." Sounds like an excellent strategy to FBN. And a handy way for bookstore workers to keep current on books they sell buy may not have the time to read. Send your name and address to Alyson Catalog, 40 Plympton St., Boston MA 02118. Indicate whether you're interested in gay male or lesbian books, or both.

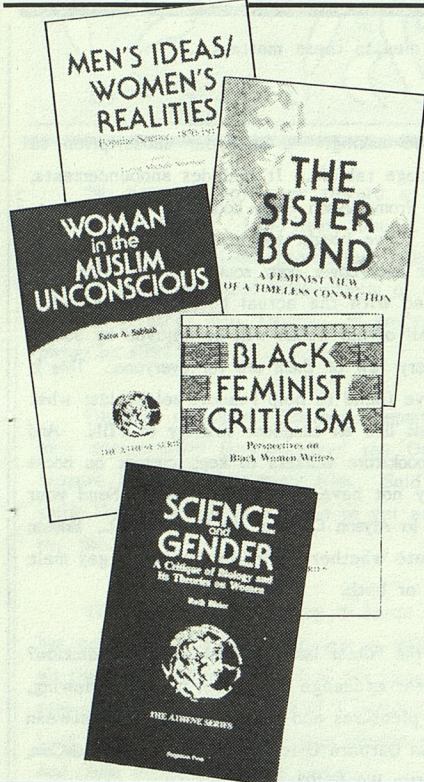
Did you see the Winter issue of **Lesbian Contradiction**? A long article/letter exchange on lesbian books, reviewing, and the politics, pleasures and priorities there-of between **LesCon** editors and Barbara Grier. #9, \$1.00 from **LesCon**, 1007 N. 47th, Seattle WA 98103.



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# ○ COMPUTER CHIPS ○○

In a more ruthless magazine, this section would be called, "Let the chips fall where they may," but we try to be kinder here. "Chips", those tiny miraculous flakes that make a computer run turn out to be made of crystal. --Man made crystal, to be sure, a cheap imitation of Mother Nature's crystals that you likely trade through your jewelry counter. I didn't know that. But it's true. They're a grayish, manufactured chip-crystal that flakes in your hand (but not in your computer). Creepy to hold in one hand, while holding a true crystal in the other. Validates my suspicion that computers are another form of harnessed mysticism. Man-made mysticism? Mysticism of a counterfeit kind? (Oh dear, does this mean that computers are going to be politically incorrect? Crystally Incorrect?)

Or maybe this means that, rather than "going computer" in the traditional sense, feminist bookstores are going to connect the crystals in the jewelry case to the inventory cards with the help of a little feminist spirituality and do it that way? (I can see it now: "Don't sell that crystal, Maude! It's got the young adult titles on it!") This is beginning to sound like (bad) feminist science fiction. Susanna Sturgis will review this system when it's up an running.

New Words keeps their mailing list on the computer across the street, using (Oops! can't remember, was that DataStar or dBase?) They consider, from time to time, putting their accounting on the same.

Books: If you're vaguely thinking "Computer?" but don't have the first idea where to begin, you might start with **The Personal Computer in Business Book** by Peter McWilliams. If you're fairly familiar with computer terms and jargon, you'll be able to skim through it in about 45 minutes, learning, primarily, that you already know quite a bit. (Ahem.) If you're still flinching at words like "byte", "RAM", and "disk drive", McWilliams is a pretty good place to begin. It conveys a moderate amount of information (which is a pleasant relief from Computer

Overwhelm) with enough humor and zany illustrations to help it stick to the mind. (I.E., "RAM loses its memory when the power is turned off." is hard to forget when it is placed beneath a woodcut of a dead elephant.) It skims through such ideas as data bases, spread sheets, electronic mail and networking. You won't be ready to run right out and buy a system when you finish this book, but you will be able to talk about it.

Jokes: Josephine TI (That's pronounced "Tey" and is short for Texas Instrument) was last seen in Mary Lowry's (New Words) study writing murder mysteries. I do wish they'd send out for publication.

Susanna Sturgis advises **FBN** that there's a program that corrects for non-sexist language. Susanna wants to know if Jean Fishbeck could come up with something that would insert or delete (as appropriate) politically correct lingo in feminist prose...? Maybe tailored to each publication's politics...?

Kaypro (the Volkswagon of computer manufacturers) is now producing an IBM-compatible computer. 'Tis called the Kaypro 16. What is interesting is that it's cloned after the IBM XT, rather than the IBM PC, which means that it has a ten megabyte hard disk and should be capable of running Booklog. The announced price is \$3295. A little bargaining might bring it lower, and some people think that the price will come down with the second batch of them, as happened with the Kaypro 2's and 4's. Like all the rest of the Kaypro machines, the computer comes bundled with enough software to keep any fanatic busy for a year: WordStar, Mailmerge, InfoStar data base management, CalcStar spreadsheet program, MITE communications software (for the modem), on line tutorials and Mas Menu, systems integration.

Then again, one of my local dealers thinks that the Leading Edge has as good a machine or better, with a hard disk added: the list is \$2995. Bargain toward a \$300 discount. Cheaper, but you buy all your own software.

# THE LAMMAS *seat of the pants* GUIDE

Lammas is a close-to-12-year-old, middle-size and still growing feminist bookstore located in Washington D.C. Owner Mary Farmer did a year's worth of serious research before we leased our first computer in February 1984. Sylvia, a TRS-80 Model 12 (Radio Shack), has now been "up and running" for something over a year. Mary recently completed our first full year of bookkeeping on the Radio Shack General Ledger program. We use Profile Plus, a data-base program, for our mailing list (currently about 3,000 names). Susanna has been using Scripsit for all of the store's word processing needs, including correspondence, the **Lammas Little Review**, and bimonthly mail order reading lists. We have a dot-matrix printer, a TRS-80 DMP 2100, which prints in two modes: correspondence (suitable for letters, press releases, etc.), and standard (for mailing labels, ledger sheets, etc.). It doesn't offer the versatility of a daisy wheel, but it's a hell of a lot faster.

## Leasing Versus Buying

Here's where the seat of the pants comes in. With the help of a bank loan (our very first!), we are now in the process of buying the computer that we have had on a three-year-and-one-month lease. We recommend that a bookstore that has decided to get a computer buy it, with bank or other financing if necessary, and only lease if you can't get it any other way. The reasons:

1. The bank's rate of interest is lower than the interest rate on most leases.
2. Unless you have a lease/purchase agreement with favorable terms, you can pay the value of the computer in lease installments and still not own your equipment.
3. As we are now discovering, buying out a lease involves additional charges imposed by the lessor. You are more or less at their mercy.
4. With a lease, a service contract is generally (always?) mandatory. What we have discovered is that

computer hardware is astonishingly reliable. Serious fuckups usually happen at the beginning, i.e., when the computer is still under the standard 90-day warranty. For us, a year's worth of service contract payments came to \$600. Since we were about to buy the equipment outright, we took Sylvia (computer, keyboard, and printer) in to the computer hospital at the end of that year and had a couple of things fixed. Without the contract, the charge to us would have been \$200. The way we figure it, we could have saved ourselves \$400 without a contract.

## General Ledger Program

This is a "canned" (off the shelf) program. Mary reports that it is easy to set up and use, compatible with the store's double-entry bookkeeping system, and inexpensive (\$130). Income can be entered directly from daily sales receipts (which are still done manually) and disbursements are entered directly from the checkbook. Not only has the program been a definite time saver, it also gives very detailed profit/loss statements and balance sheets every month. Under the old manual system, this was so time-consuming that it was done at most twice a year. Mary's general summary: A very good program, suited to Lammas's needs, with no drawbacks.

## Profile Plus

Profile Plus is Radio Shack's data-base program. It can do a whole lot of things that we aren't doing yet, mainly because it's hard to set aside time to set them up, e.g., accounts payable, list of publishers sorted by possible distributors, and maybe inventory as well. What we use it for right now is our mailing list. Our mailing list was originally handled by a commercial concern, with which a friend of ours got us a price break. We much prefer handling the list ourselves, for the following reasons:

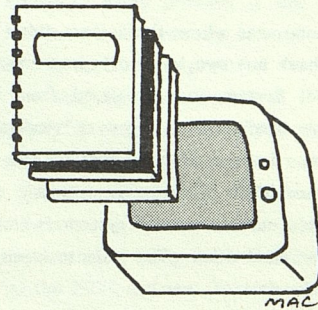
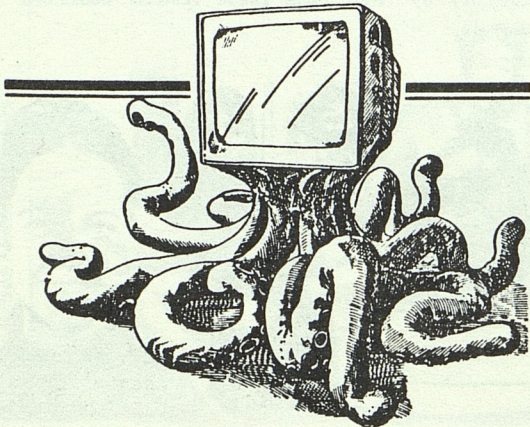
# TO COMPUTER PURCHASE

1. Accuracy. You would not have believed the number of typos in our old list. Customers don't like to see their names butchered in print, and when I think of the havoc that can be wreaked at the post office by transposed digits in ZIP codes or unintelligible addresses...It's not a pretty sight.

2. Going rate around here for updates, deletions, etc., in a mailing list seems to range from 6 to 12 cents. I would guess that the average feminist store with a mailing list could run up quite a bill in a very short time!

3. It wasn't cost effective to print out only a part of the list, i.e., the D.C. metro area, for a local event. Lammas has mail-order customers in most of the 50 states, most of whom are not especially interested in hearing about book parties they cannot attend. We also do out-of-town gigs in a five-state area and like to let our (for instance) Durham, North Carolina, or Morgantown, West Virginia, friends know that we're coming. With control of the list, we can do all of this and more.

With Profile Plus, you can sort by a number of "fields" (somewhere between 5 and 10 as we remember--we are too lazy right now to look it up). For our list, we use last names and ZIP codes. If you want to include other



information, e.g., local academics or women interested in spirituality, you can sort by that too.

## Scriptsit

Scriptsit is Radio Shack's word-processing program. It was the first (and still the only) such program I have ever worked with, so I can't compare it to the other popular ones like WordStar and Perfect Writer. My experience with Scriptsit, however, has made me a word-processing addict, however, and now that I am leaving the store I am scheming to get a computer of my own.

I learned Scriptsit without any problems from the cassette course that came with the program. I use it not only for store stuff but for a lot of my own work, i.e., the book manuscript I am struggling to complete before I leave town. So far it's done everything I needed or wanted it to do; a couple of features, like "roll to top" (useful for printing two columns of material on the same page), don't work with our dot-matrix printer, however. I use Scriptsit's merge function for doing form letters (**Little Review** sub renewals, etc.); it can also be used in conjunction with the Profile Plus program (say you want to send a fund-raising letter or survey to everyone on your mailing list), but we haven't tried it yet.

If anyone wants to know more specifics about Scriptsit, give me a call at Lammas, 202-546-7292, before the end of June.

A Room of One's Own

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Inventory Management

This is the one area where the system didn't meet our needs. Radio Shack has two inventory programs: one, the Inventory Control System, we dismissed from the start because it couldn't handle enough items or vendors for even a small bookstore. I ran a 25-title test on the Inventory Management program (IMS) and was not seriously tempted to give up the store's current manual system (which is based on a 4x6 card for each title.) The main problems:

1. The program gives you 30 characters for stock number, description, and reference code combined. I allocated 18 characters for title (stock number), 10 for the ISBN (description), and 2 for subject/section (reference code). Many titles had to be abbreviated to fit these specs, and one reference code was not enough for most books in the store.

2. The program only allowed one vendor per item.

3. There was no way to include all the wonderful information that appears on my 4x6 title card, i.e., all those multiple vendors, author info, pub date, or brief notes about content or reviews.

4. The program itself was buggy; I continually had trouble getting my data diskette to back up, and our customer service boy seemed to know less about the program than I did. No way was I going to enter 2000+ titles on a disk I couldn't back up, even if everything else was perfect. Which it wasn't.

To sum it up: I'm still drooling over the mere memory of Jean Fishbeck's Booklog program, as she demonstrated it at the ABA last year. With something like that available, I can't see any reason to settle for an inventory program that wasn't designed with a bookstore in mind.

By Susanna J. Sturgis (with substantial assistance by Mary Farmer and technical support by Sylvia)

Trivia Contest

1. What was George Elliot's real name?  
(Is that spelled Elliot or Eliot?)
2. Who said "Failure is Impossible"?
3. Of what woman writer is Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* a portrait?
4. Who was the creator of The Dinner Party?
5. a) Who was the first black woman to have her play performed on Broadway? b) name the play.
6. Who was the "Belle of Amherst"?
7. What was the name of Jane Austen's final, unfinished novel?
8. Who is Agatha Christie's female detective?
9. Name one of the two operas for which Gertrude Stein wrote the Libretto.
10. Who wrote *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf*?
11. Name Maxine Hong Kingston's first book of memoirs of growing up as a Chinese-American.
12. Who wrote about "the problem that has no name"?
13. Who is the author of *Sexual Politics*?
14. What was the name of the first album produced by Olivia Records? Who was the artist?
15. Of what singing group was Ronnie Gilbert a member?
16. Of what singing group is Bernice Reagon a member?
17. Identify by first name these feminist bookstore workers.



# INVENTORY TO DISK

In the old days (last fall), the biggest drawback to going with a computerized inventory system was the problem of getting all that information for each book (title, author, publisher, ISBN, price, reorder point and quantity on hand) into the computer in the first place. Creating your bookstore's own data base. There was one way to do it -- to sit down at the keyboard with the inventory cards (or get a cart with wheels and move down the shelves) and type it all in for each book. My guess is that this would take 6-8 weeks, (40 hours a week), for a 10,000 title bookstore. I've yet to meet a bookstore with an extra 320 worker-hours sitting around waiting for a boring project, but it has been done. (Though not in a feminist bookstore.)

This leads immediately to fantasies of getting this information onto one computer in a well-stocked feminist bookstore, then figuring out a way to share the data-base so that all that information doesn't have to be entered again by each store that goes computer. Each store would still have to do an inventory and to determine it's reorder point and then enter that info into the computer for each title, but it would cut 75-80% of the work out of setting up. (And doing this is one of the schemes I hope we talk about at ABA.)

In the meantime, however, Ingram has also figured out that this inventory entry problem is one of the primary hurdles to computerized inventory systems and has come up with another approach to the problem. It works like this:

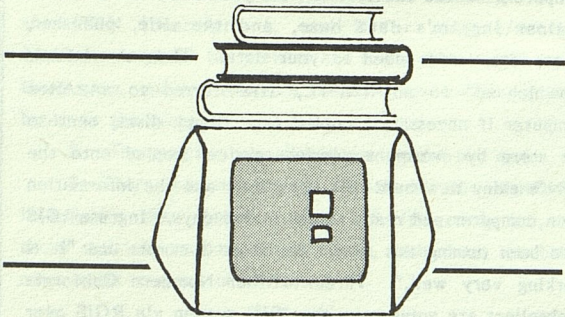
RGIS, a national inventory firm ("With offices in every major city"), contracts to send a team of inventory auditors using hand held-scanning equipment to the bookstore. The team ("competent, experienced, sincere men and women") comes to the store to do a physical inventory of the books in stock. Using hand held scanning equipment, they pick up the ISBN and the section where it was found of each book in stock. That info goes into the RGIS mainframe computer, and from there to Ingram's mainframe computer. There the ISBN's from your store are matched against Ingram's data base, and the title, publisher, price, etc. are added to your data. Then the info is "downloaded" to an IBM PC, (transferred to an Altos Computer if necessary), copied onto floppy disks, sent to the store by overnight courier service, copied onto the store's shiny new hard-disk computer, and the information is on computer and ready to use in 3-5 days. Ingram/RGIS have been running this system for about 3 months and "It is working very well." Three or four Northern California booksellers are going onto the IBID system via RGIS over the next couple months, and I'll have some "user experience" soon.

What does it cost? The charges are calculated two different ways. RGIS charges about \$20 per worker hour to inventory a store. (Price seems to vary from city to city.) Ingram charges 5¢ per title up to 12,000 titles and 4¢ for 12,001 to 18,000 titles, and 3¢ per title thereafter. You get billed only for the titles matched, and the cents per title pays for all the headaches of transferring data from system to system to system. If it takes RGIS 6 staff hours to inventory a 10,000 title store (this is an estimate), that's \$120, plus 5¢ per title matched (say all 10,000 titles match) that's \$500, or about \$600 for the whole deal. This should speed up the set-up time immensely. And it's certainly a financial improvement over manually entering the information for each title.



Jeanette Nelson/Jewels Graphics

The immediate question, though, is how many of a feminist bookstore's titles are going to be found in the Ingram database? Hard to say. The data base has 1.4 million titles in it. That's a lot more than the books that Ingram carries. Ingram seems interested in building this database (the more titles they match, the more money they make and the more useful the system is.) The way I hear it, Ingram sits down the publishers catalogues and back lists and enters every title and ISBN in sight. It may be that if we make the effort to get feminist and small publisher catalogues to Ingram, that they will enter the into their database, and increase the connection rate for feminist and alternative stores. Let's check this out with Ingram at ABA. In the meantime, another suggestion is to make a list of 10 books from 10 different publishers, and to call Art Carson at Ingram (800-251-5902) and ask which ones are on the database.



How many of our titles are actually in this database will ultimately determine how useful this option is. Even if half the titles in a store are available, it might be worth the time and effort. (Then again, there's the issue of these "competent and sincere men" inventorying the lesbian and erotica sections.) And then again, we may want to use this option to build a feminist bookstore database that we can then pass along to other stores?

This inventory system should work regardless of the inventory program and computer the bookstore buys.

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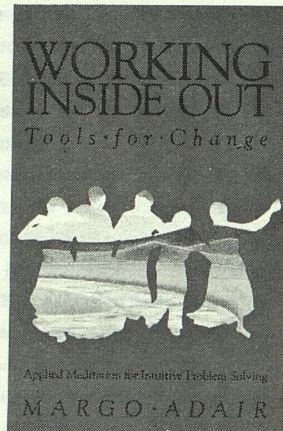
You still have to enter your own re-order point or minimum stock number, and all the info on books in stock with no ISBN's and all the info on the titles that didn't find true matches in the Ingram main-frame, but....

*Wingbow Press Announces*

# WORKING INSIDE OUT

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—Susan Griffin

"This book contains many useful tools; all the meditations can be used time and time again."

—Shakti Gawain

"I highly recommend Margo Adair's gentle yet penetrating meditations to all people wishing to change their relationship with themselves, one another, and the planet."

—Hallie Iglehart

*Order from:* BOOKPEOPLE  
2929 Fifth Street  
Berkeley, Ca 94710

*California WATS:* 800-624-4466

*Domestic U.S. WATS:* 800-227-1516



# FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



**The Wise Woman Herbal for the Childbearing Year**, Susun S. Weed. Ash Tree Pub. Co, PO Box 64, Woodstock, NY 12498. \$12.95 cloth, \$5.95 paper. May Publication. "Taking nothing for granted, Susun Weed began to study herbal medicine twenty years ago. Through this book, she shares with us the benefits of her vast store of wisdom. She shows us how herbs can support the natural functions of pregnancy and childbirth in such a way that we are empowered to take responsibility for our own well being." -- Ann Frye. Bookstore terms not sent.



From the Women's Press/England: **Greenham Common: Women at the Wire**, edited by Barbara Harford & Sara Hopkins. It's an excellent account/documentary that interweaves narrative and interview excerpts, making the events come alive on paper for those of us far away. Recounts the decision to march to Greenham Commons, the evolution of the notion of an encampment, the process by which it became a women's encampment. Rarely do we get to see our decisions and processes documented in print. Pub date: May 9. \$7.95 paper. Distributed in the US by Merrimack, 47 Pelham Rd., Salem NH 03079.



From Virago Press: **Chaos in the Night: Women's Poetry & Verse of the Second World War**, selected by Catherine

Reilly. "Here, in the first collection of women's poetry from the Second World War; eighty-seven poets record the devastating upheavals it caused with its attendant partings, separations, bereavements. Whether as civilians or as auxiliary servicewomen, they write of the fear of air attacks, of children's response to evacuation, of their horror of Nazi persecution. But they convey too the sweet expectation of peace, or reunion and rebirth." This is the companion volume to **Scars Upon My Heart: Women's Poetry and Verse of the First World War**. \$7.95 paper.



Virago is also reprinting the Vera Britain books. The most recent in the series is **Testament of Friendship**, Britain's account of her relationship with Winifred Holtby. \$7.95 paper. **At the Works** is a reprint of the account of lives of working class families in Victorian England. Particular attention and concern is paid to the wives and daughters of the families visited. \$7.95 paper. **War in the Nursery** is a Virago Paperback Original examining the influence of the ideas on the mother and child at the end of World War II. Author Denise Riley shows how women as mothers and women workers were taken to be wholly different beings during this period and how this affected attitudes to women in the family as a part of a larger exploration of the complex relationship between psychology, politics and social policies. \$8.95 paper. Virago books are distributed in the USA by Merrimack Publishers Circle. (See above for address.)



It's an old and wonderful feminist tradition: When you need a book you don't have, collect the information and publish it yourself. **Time...for the Good Little Soldiers** is a collection of short stories and poetry by Adult Children of Alcoholics collected and published by Jodi McCullah. While the quality of the writing varies from piece to piece, the overall book conveys a lot of information about the experience of growing up in an alcoholic family. This is some of the first writing I've seen that comes out of first-person experience rather than therapists' insight and is hopefully the first of many such collections of information. Spiral bound. 51 pages. \$8.00 30% discount for 5+ copies, 25% for 1-4. Order from Jodi McCullah, 1008 10th St. #4, Sacramento CA 95814,



The Pornography Workshop for Women

Four booklets from the Women & Religion Task Force: **Memorial Services for Women**, suggestions for form, theme and a number of readings and poems. 65 pgs, \$5.95. **Our Stunning Harvest: A Dramatic Reading**, readers theater-style adaptation of Ellen Bass' powerful anti-war, anti-violence, anti-rape poem designed to be used as a prelude to a discussion on peace. 41 pgs, \$4.95. **Why We Burn: Sexism Exorcised**. A dramatic reading and ritual burning of sexism in religion. 47pgs, \$4.95. **Readings for Women's Programs**, a collection of consciousness raising readings and poems for opening and closing meetings and programs. 83 pgs, \$5.95. 50% discount to bookstores. Distributed by Hot Flash Press, PO Box 21506, San Jose CA 95151.

**Why Me? Help for victims of child sexual abuse (even if they are adults now.)**, Lynn B. Daugherty. This book is written primarily to victims of childhood sexual abuse who are now teenagers or adults. It is also intended for counselors and friends, relatives and spouses of victims. Includes questions and answers about child sexual abuse, stories of victims, a section on understanding people who sexually abuse children, effects of child sexual abuse and a guide to recovery. Its simple, direct format is its strong point. The section on people who sexually abuse children seemed to be drawn from the published literature, and the least useful section to survivors of childhood sexual abuse, describing "fixated child molesters" "regressed child molesters", rather than grandfathers, parents and siblings who are more likely to be seen as "normal people", at least during initial stages of recovery. I wish this book had broken new ground and gone beyond contemporary psychological literature and studies in this area. I was also frustrated with the constant use of the word "victim". "Survivor" is so much more powerful and empowering a word. All in all, an important and useful book. \$7.95 from Mother Courage Press, 1533 Illinois St,

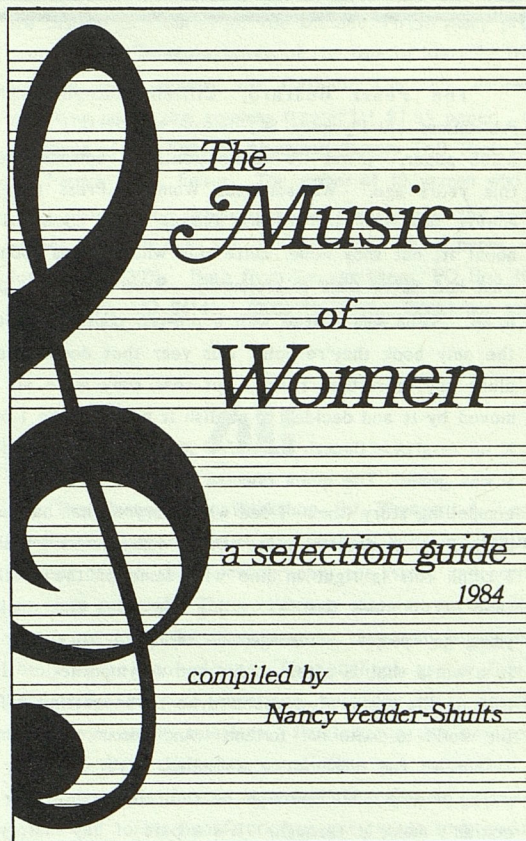


Racine WI 53405. Also available from Mother Courage Press is **Something Happened To Me**, a book for children and people who work with children and families where sexual abuse has occurred, to help the child begin to talk about the "forbidden" topic. \$4.95. Also available via Inland.

**It's a Good Thing I'm Not Macho**, a cycle of twenty poems by poet and electrician Susan Eisenberg. Intro by Denise Levertov. "The poems fall into three parts: as a woman, as a mechanic, and as a woman mechanic, documenting with humor and precision the development of a woman in construction." \$7.95 paper. 40% for 5+. Whetstone Press, 94 Green St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. Whetstone is a four-person letterpress printing and publishing collective committed to producing high quality work which combines progressive social content and artistic expression.

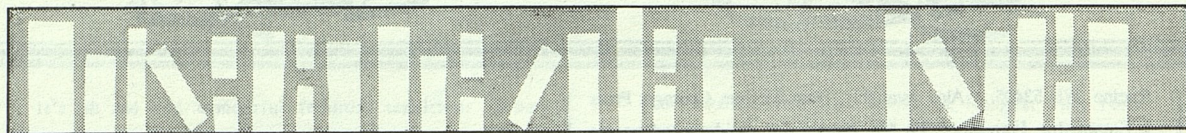
**On Our Spiritual Journey: A Creative Shabbat Service**, Jacquelyn Tolley, The Women's Institute for Continuing Jewish Education, (Dept 101, 4079 54th St., San Diego, CA 92105).

Coming in May: **Long Way Home: The Odyssey of a Lesbian Mother and Her Children**. Jeanne Jullion's story of her custody battle for her children, in and out of San Francisco courts, and all the way to Italy to retrieve her kidnapped children. **Long Way Home** is written as autobiography, as historical document, and as a history of an organizing effort that attracted thousands of women and men to rallies and brought a new level of visibility to lesbian mothers in the US. \$8.95 paper. Cleis Press, PO Box 8933, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. Avail: BP, IN, New Leaf, The Distributors, Airlift & B&T.



**The Music of Women: A Selection Guide 1984**, compiled by Nancy Vedder-Shults. "A basic record collection has been selected, annotated, and arranged in four categories: Concert; Jazz, Blues and Gospel; Folk; and Women's Music. 18 pages. \$3.00. Bookstore terms not sent. Wisconsin Women Library Workers, PO Box 1425, Madison WI 53701.

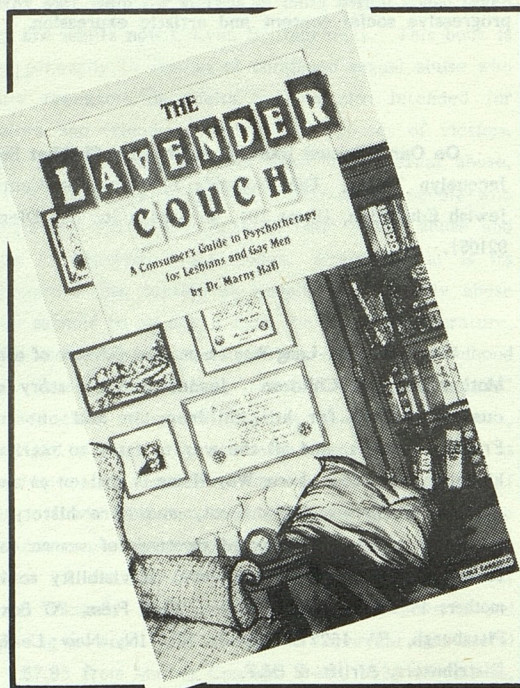
# FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



**The Pearl Bastard**, Lillian Halegua, Alyson Publications (40 Plympton St., Boston MA 02118), June 1985, \$3.95 paper. (First US Publication.) I remember selling this years ago. We sold the Women's Press (England) edition, and from time to time someone would come and rave about it, but they never quite said what it was about, or what had moved them so profoundly. Somehow I never picked it up. Sasha sent a note with a pre-pub copy saying it was the only book they're doing this year that doesn't have a clear gay or lesbian theme, but that they were all quite moved by it and decided to publish it anyway. So I picked it up to glance through for a few minutes one day, and ZAP. I was gone. The quick concise sentence structure? The compelling story line? I see why everyone has had such a difficult time describing it. But I disagree with Sasha -- I think this is right in line with some of the publishing that Alyson does best -- telling the tales and stories of young gay people -- teenagers -- trying to make their ways in a world that is often unkind and unsympathetic. I read this as the story of a young dyke-to-be setting off into the world to make her fortune. And encountering incredible -- but all too common -- obstacles. It's the story of a young woman who, through no fault or lack of her own, couldn't make it through. It's a part of gay history that I don't want to be without. It's a story of my peers, and the women who came 10 years or so before me. I wish I had know to put it in the lesbian section back then. Not a gay novel? Not explicitly gay? I disagree. Written in 50's code, yes, but all the keys are there. Right down to "Geranium" and a gay brother. Let's unlock the door, and let this novel out of the closet!

Also from Alyson: **The Lavender Couch: A Consumer's**

**Guide to Psychotherapy for Lesbians and Gay Men** by Dr. Marny Hall. Hall is one of the SF Bay Area's foremost lesbian therapists. In the Bay Area, where lesbian therapists make up the largest section of the **Women's Yellow Pages**, it's hard to remember that a good therapist is hard to find. But as the publisher points out "Gay people spend hundreds of millions of dollars a year on therapy -- and a huge percentage of that is wasted." Hopefully this book will stop some of that. Gay male and lesbian inclusive in a way that reminds this reader that we





really are a part of the same movement, a reality often forgotten these past few years. Excellent cover. I enjoyed the promo-pac it came in almost as much as the book: two copies of the book with a letter saying one copy is for the book review section (of a periodical), and the other for the features editor, offering reprint permission for up to 5 pages of the book and suggesting that the magazine combine a review, and excerpt, and perhaps and additional article and use it all as a theme around which to draw some additional advertising from counseling agencies and therapists. An idea that will sell books, draw in revenue for mags, and interest readers. Ummhh!

**Distant View of a Minaret and Other Stories**, Alifa Rifaat, translated by Denys Johnson-Davies. Whew! These stories are, at the same time, very traditional and very feminist, in the gut sense. Revealing of women's lives and oppressions -- and passions -- within a traditional, even religious Qur'anic framework, her themes are as familiar and as universal as the woman next door. Autobiographical? Must be. The publisher classifies the book as non-fiction. Published in cloth at \$12.95, I hope it comes out in paperback soon, and is well read and well circulated. This is the stuff on which a gut-level international feminism is built. Quartet Books. Distributed in the USA by Merrimack, 47 Pelham Rd, Salem NH 03079.

**Programme of the German Green Party**. "Heretic did the book originally, and when they sold out, we (Inland) took on the US rights. We think it's a good thing to circulate. The section on women and related issues of concern is pretty good, though I wish there was more depth, but this is a party platform, mainly. And a lot of it is really great." This is the platform which elected 28 Green MPs to the West German Bundestag in March 1983. \$3.50, Inland.

**Mary According to Women**, Carol Frances Jegen, BVM, editor. "Seven women theologians and students of Mary who are Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary provide contemporary interpretations of the role of Mary." Women fighting back against the Catholic Church's decreasing attention to its one goddess figure??!! \$7.95 paper. Also: **Midwives of the Future: American Sisters Tell Their Story**, Ann Patrick Ware, Editor. The stories of 19 women who have lived through the dramatic transformations in the lives of women religious over the last 20 years. \$8.95 paper. 40% for 5+, 2-4 30%. Both from Leaven Press, PO Box 40292, Kansas City, MO 64141. (800)-821-7926. Books not seen by FBN.



**The Pornography Workshop for Women: A Leaders Handbook**, Margaret Smith and Barbara Waisberg. "In the current debate about pornography, the issues and positions are often confused. The workshop is one way we help women clarify some of the questions, so they can better assess the proposed solutions. The authors use a feminist perspective to pose questions...but they offer no simple answers or single solutions. Participants and readers are asked to draw their own conclusions and make their own decisions. The format is a leaders guide to a day-long workshop." This book/workshop creates an environment for participants to become familiar with the issues of pornography and provides a framework and resources for women to form their own opinions and to develop and choose strategies of action. In an era that is increasingly filled with "party-line" "feminist" politics, particularly around the issue of pornography, this is a very useful book. The workshop described includes the screening of two films, "Ways of Seeing", "Killing Us Softly", and "The Pornography Workshop Slide Montage", that FBN hasn't seen.

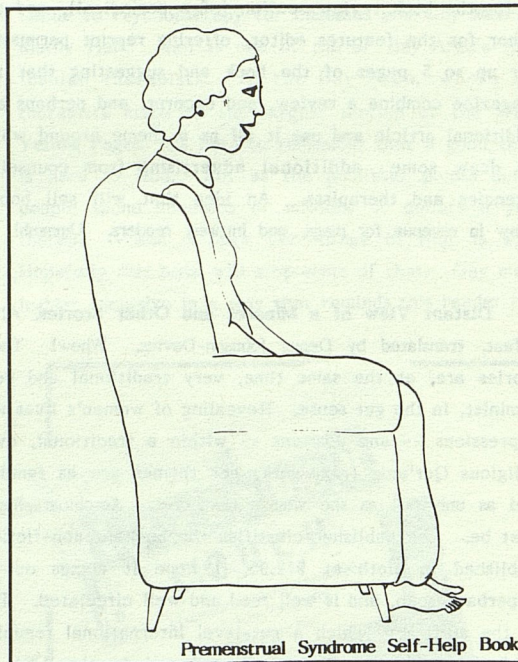


The book itself is clearly laid out and looks to be very useful and thoughtful of both the issues involved and the process of guiding the participants through this exploration. Spiral bound, \$11.98/Canadian, 30% discount to bookstores. Free postage with prepayment. No returns, no minimum order. Birch Associates, 50 Walker Ave, Toronto M4V 1G2.

**Sheit: A No-nonsense Guidebook To Writing and Using Nonsexist Language**, Val Dumond. This is a short, handy, concise and more than reasonably humorous guidebook non-sexist writing. Suggestions are clear and direct, and find ways around awkward and over-used phrases. Many of these suggestions will eventually be incorporated in the style manuals of **The NY Times**, et al. Until then, feminist writers will lead the way. \$8.95 paper. Standard bookstore terms, Val Dumond Publications, PO Box 97124, Tacoma WA 98497 or from Pipeline.

**Premenstrual Syndrome Self-Help Book: A Woman's Guide to Feeling Good All Month**, Dr. Susan Lark. "The first completely practical, all-natural master plan for relieving over 150 symptoms of PMS." A lot of useful information. Will be helpful as an overview, specific suggestions and some of the explanations were overly simplistic, verging on offensively so (i.e. in the section on getting eating binges under control: "Keep a calendar in the kitchen and mark a star of an X for cheating to remind you each day of your goals." !!!) This book may have to function as a resource for identifying problems, with more detailed or useful information to be found elsewhere.. Bright, well designed cover with a bit of hype on the cover ("150 different symptoms! Imagine that!") What I did appreciate

about this book is that it takes holistic, nutritional and exercise approaches to problems whenever possible. \$12.95 paper. Forman Publishing, available from BP, IN, B&T, Ingram.



Premenstrual Syndrome Self-Help Book

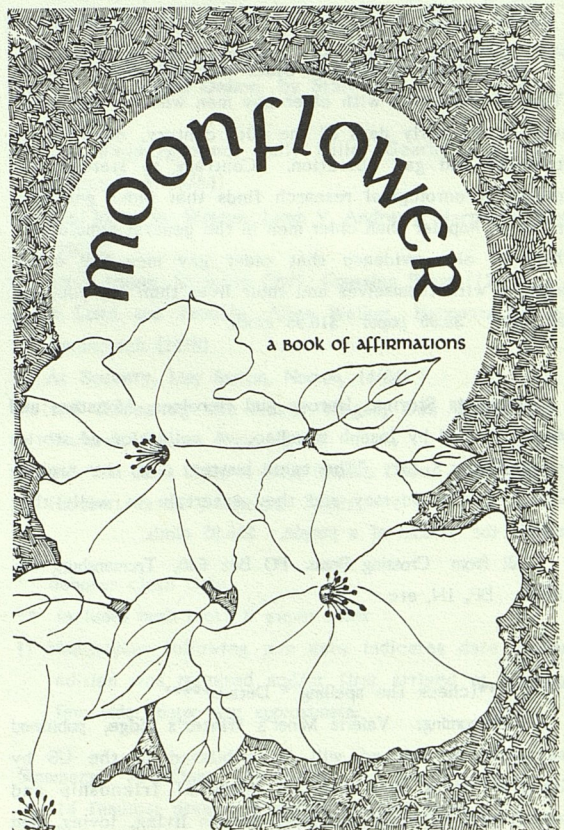
**Bashers, Baiters & Bigots: Homophobia in American Society**, edited by John P. DeCecco. (previously published as **Homophobia: An Overview** and as Volume 10 of **Journal of Homosexuality**). This is a collection of fairly academic articles examining & exploring the issues of homophobia in the US. Important and excellent information, and awesome bibliographic material. \$7.95 paper. The first of a series of books from Harrington Park Press focusing on homosexual and feminist issues. 40% for 5+ books, 35% for 3, 30% for 2. Harrington Park Press, 28 East 22 St, NY NY 10010. Also available from Carrier Pigeon, Inland, and B&T.

**Field Guide to Alternative Media:** A Directory to Reference and Selection Tools Useful in Accessing Small and Alternative Press Publications and Independently Produced Media "Lists and describes 164 tools that list, index or review primarily small and alternative press publications and independently produced media. Includes selective bibliography and index. \$6.00 from Office of Library Outreach Services, American Library Association, 50 E. Heron St., Chicago IL 60611 (No bookstore terms sent. Checks payable to ALA.

From Crossing Press: **Sinking/Stealing**, a novel by Jan Clausen. "Clausen tells the story of a woman's battle to maintain a relationship with the 10-year-old daughter of her lover, Rhea. When Rhea dies suddenly in a car accident, her ex-husband, who has seen little of his child in the last few years, wants his daughter back, and the options open to Josie, the "almost-parent", with no title, no legal rights and an 'aberrant' lifestyle are few....a novel with much to say on the subject of lesbian parenting-happened to those of us who were just approaching adulthood in the 60's and what has happened to this country in the decade and a half since. \$7.95 paper, \$16.95 cloth.

**Magic Mommas, Trembling Sisters, Puritans and Perverts: Feminist Essays** by Joanna Russ. "Six provocative essays by noted science fiction writer and novelist, Joanna Russ. She deals with each of her topics in a very personal way; her own experience often contradicts what many see as the "correct line" on a given issue. Her writing is feisty, witty, opinionated and a joy to read." \$6.95 paper, \$15.95 cloth.

**Moonflower: A Book of Affirmations** edited by Irene Zahava. "A notebook to make women feel good, to affirm their best selves, to make firm their connections with the earth, sky, fire and water -- their connections to all things living. Every page spread has a quotation to uplift a woman's spirits. The book is lovely, with light violet paper and drawings of the moonflower, a vine which blooms in the evening time. Zahava is the woman behind Smedley's Bookstore in Ithaca. \$4.95.





**Women Brave in the Face of Danger: Photographs of Latin and North American Women** by Margaret Randall. "Sixty photographs of women of Latin and North America, along with poetry and prose by women telling us of their lives. \$10.95 paper, \$22.95 cloth.



**Quiet Fire: Memoirs of Older Gay Men**, Keith Vacha. "Twenty interviews with older gay men who recount their lives in the early days of the 20th century, days before Stonewall and gay liberation. Contrary to stereotypes, current gerontological research finds that older gay men are often happier than older men in the general population. There is also evidence that older gay men are **more** satisfied with themselves and their lives than are younger gay men." \$8.95 paper \$18.95 cloth.

**Iroquois Stories: Heroes and Heroines, Monsters and Magic**, Retold by Joseph Bruchac. A collection of stories for children 8-13. "The tales instruct like the Arabian Nights or the Odyssey and they entertain as well; they embody the wisdom of a people. \$16.95 cloth.

All from Crossing Press, PO Box 640, Trumansburg NY 14886. BP, IN, etc.

\*\*\*\*\* (check the spelling \* Details\*\*\*\*\*

Forthcoming: Valerie Miner's **Winter's Edge**, published last year in England will be published in the US by Crossing Press this fall. A story of friendship and commitment between two older women living, loving, and surviving in San Francisco's Tenderloin District.

**Working Your Way to the Bottom: The Feminization of Poverty**, Hilda Scott. "The personal is not just political. It is also economic." "...redefines poverty and deprivation in both industrialized and Third World nations, examines the history of women and poverty, explores the reasons why men control the machines, and makes it clear that the world's economy depends on the unpaid work of women. Scott offers concrete and pragmatic solutions for this bleak picture and identifies some promising trends." \$8.95 paper, Pandora Press (RKP, 9 Park St., Boston MA 02108.



Marcia Quackenbush in *Menopause, Naturally*



## BESTSELLERS 1984

Lammas Women's Shop  
Washington DC

## Books selling 100+ copies:

1. **The Color Purple**, Alice Walker, Washington Square Press (5/85) (172 copies sold!)
2. **Sudden Death**, Rita Mae Brown, Bantam (3/84) (136 copies sold.)
3. **Curious Wine**, Katherine V. Forrest, Naiad Press (3/83)
4. **Women of Brewster Place**, Gloria Naylor, Penguin (6/83)
5. **The Ladies**, Doris Grumbach, Dutton, (9/84)\*
6. **In a Different Voice**, Carol Gilligan, Harvard Univ. Press (4/83)
7. **Choices**, Nancy Toder, Alyson Publications (5/84)
8. **Women-Identified Women**, ed. Trudy Darty & Sandee Potter, Mayfield (3/84)

## Books selling 50+ copies:

9. (tie) **The Mists of Avalon**, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Ballantine (5/84)
9. (tie) **Lovers in the Present Afternoon**, Kathleen Fleming, Naiad Press (1/84)
11. (tie) **The Price of Salt**, Claire Morgan, Naiad Press (1/84)
11. (tie) **Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology**, ed. Barbara Smith, Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press (10/83)
13. **Zami: A New Spelling of My Name**, Audre Lorde, Crossing Press (9/83)
14. **The Burnton Widows**, Vicki McConnell, Naiad Press (5/84)
15. **Daughters of the Coral Dawn**, Katherine V. Forrest, Naiad Press (1/84)
16. **In Search of Our Mother's Gardens**, Alice Walker, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich (cloth 10/83, paper 10/84) \*\*
17. **Amateur City**, Katherine V. Forrest, Naiad Press, (9/84)
18. **The Valley of the Amazons**, Noretta Koertge, St. Martins (7/84)
19. **Against the Season**, Jane Rule, Naiad Press (1/84)

20. (tie) **Sister Outsider**, Audre Lorde, Crossing Press (4/84)
20. (tie) **Annie on My Mind**, Nancy Garden, Farrar Straus & Giroux (6/84)
22. **Mother Wit**, Diane Marlechild, Crossing Press (4/81)
23. **Daughters of Copper Woman**, Anne Cameron, Press Gang (4/82)
24. **Their Eyes Were Watching God**, Zora Neale Hurston, U. of Illinois Press (6/78)
25. **Patience and Sarah**, Isabel Miller, Fawcett (pre-1978!)
26. **Out from Under: Sober Dykes & Our Friends**, ed Jean Swallow, Spinsters Ink (10/83)
27. (tie) **We Are All Part of One Another: A Barbara Deming Reader**, ed Jane Meyering, New Society Publishers (3/84)
27. (tie) **The Spiral Dance**, by Starhawk, Harper & Row (11/79)
29. **The Wanderground**, Sally Miller Gearhart, Alyson Publications (5/84)
30. (tie) **Medicine Woman**, Lynn V. Andrews, Harper & Row (10/83)
30. (tie) **Abeng**, Michelle Cliff, Crossing Press (12/83)
32. **In Love and Trouble**, Alice Walker, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich (1978)
33. **At Seventy**, May Sarton, Norton, (4/84) \*
34. (tie) **Dreaming the Dark: Magic, Sex & Politics**, Starhawk, Beacon Press (9/82)
34. (tie) **You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down**, Alice Walker, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich (3/82)

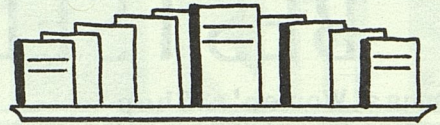
\* denotes cloth title

\*\* includes both cloth &amp; paper sales

() Month/year following pub data indicates date current edition was released and/or first arrived at Lammas. few older dates are approximate.

**Summary:** 35 titles; 21 fiction, 14 non-fiction;  
14 feminist press, 3 gay/alternative press,  
3 academic press, 15 "mainstream" press.

# MAGAZINES

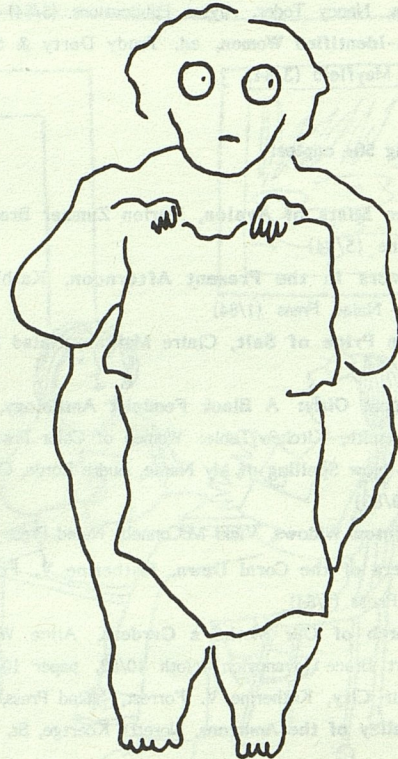


**Between Our Selves: Women of Color Newspaper** "is a forum for us as Afro-American, Arab-American, Asian American, Latina, Native American -- all women of color to discuss our thoughts, activities, report on our organizing strategies, further Third World Feminism, talk about our herstories and dreams." The first issue includes articles on Dine elders resisting relocation, Asian Lesbians of the East Coast, reports on the 1985 And Beyond conference, including Black Lesbian protests against their exclusion, the Palestine Aid Society, fiction by Barbara Smith, publications and networking columns, and reviews. \$1.75. 40% bookstore discount. Minimum order: 10 copies. Stores pay for what is sold and return mastheads of unsold papers with payment due within 10 days of receipt of next issue. B.O.S., PO Box 1939, Washington DC 20013.

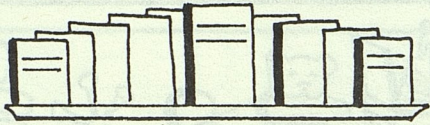
**Hot Wire** is the excellent new magazine of women's music and culture. Photos, stories, articles & soundsheets. Columns, interviews, and more. All about the women's music and culture scene. I wish someone would do a magazine as rich and insightful about women and writing. Many bookstores are selling it off both the magazine rack and out of the record bins, reaching both the print and the audio "readership". Standard bookstore terms. 1321 W. Rosedale, Chicago IL 60660.

**Contact II** has a new special issue out on Chicano Art, including work by Cherrie Moraga, Jayne Cortez and Pat Mora. \$4.00. To clear up an older confusion: Contact II has a special issue on women's writing: **Women Writing On**, \$6.00, and a book: **Trying to Understand What it Means to Be a Feminist: Essays on Women Writers**, by Rochelle Ratner, \$5.00. 40% discount. Also from Contact II a collection of poetry by novelist Diana Chang, **What Matisse Is After**. \$4.00. Contact II Publications, Box 451 Bowling Green, NY NY 10004. Avail: Inland.

**Southern Feminist** is the new bimonthly newspaper that features news of the 12 state area extending from Virginia to Texas. Focus is on women's rights issues, events and activists. The two issues FBN received included a look at 1984 in feminist review, articles on electoral politics, civil rights news, personal experience, report of a feminist men's convention and book reviews. Two-color cover will help it stand out on the newsracks. Bookstore terms not sent. PO Box 1846, Athens GA 30603.



MARY PORTER  
Southern Feminist



**I Know You Know: Lesbian Views and News.** Undoubtedly you've already held this magazine in your own hands and so know it's a glossy, slick, lesbian lifestyle magazine spreading the news about lesbian vacation spots, info in the financial realities of life, health, sports, book, film, and record reviews, et al. Monthly. \$3.50, 40% discount to bookstores + postage. Return entire magazine for credit. Subs are \$27/year, \$14 for 6 months. Jernan Ltd, 5335 N. Tacoma #14, Indianapolis IN 46220.

**Lesbian Ethics** is out and about. A magazine/print forum for lesbian-feminist theory and philosophy centering on ethical analysis of how we as lesbians behave toward each other in the many different kinds of interactions we have with each other. LEI contains articles by Julia Penelope, Karen Fite and Nikola Trumbo, Jeanette Silveria, Barbara Macdonald, Jane Rule and Joyce Trebilcot. Titles include "The Mystery of Lesbianism: I," "Betrayals Among Women," "Why Men Oppress Women" and "Rule Making" 3 issues a year, \$4.50. 40% discount to bookstores, plus shipping, 30 days net. **Lesbian Ethics**, PO Box 943, Venice CA 90294.

**PREVIEW ONLY**

*Southern Feminist*

1985

**Southern feminists off to San Francisco**

Democratic convention delegates to fight for female Vice President

*Southern Feminist*

## Meet Dancer Dawkins. . .

Carol Seajay writes:

"I read this novel, pre-pub, in early January and panicked. I thought: I'm going to have to give this book my Novel of the Year award, and it's still January!" Can't help it. Dancer is superb. I read it back to back with *Bittersweet*, and Kim's writing certainly made clear the difference between merely describing lesbian relationships and delighting in them."



—in *FBN*, Jan-Feb. 1985

**Dancer Dawkins and the California Kid**  
by Willyce Kim • 133 pages • trade pb, \$5.95

*Complimentary reading copies available on request.*

### Also of interest:

**ONE TEENAGER IN TEN**, edited by Ann Heron, \$3.95. 26 gay & lesbian teenagers tell their stories of coming to terms with being different.

**THE LAVENDER COUCH**, by Marny Hall, \$7.95. How does a lesbian or gay consumer choose a good therapist? What kind of therapy is right for you? When is it time to leave therapy? Hall addresses these and related questions in a clear and intelligent style.

**WANDERGROUND**, by Sally Miller Gearhart, \$6.95. Here are stories of the hill women, who combine the control of mind and matter with a sensuous adherence to women's realities and history. A lesbian classic.

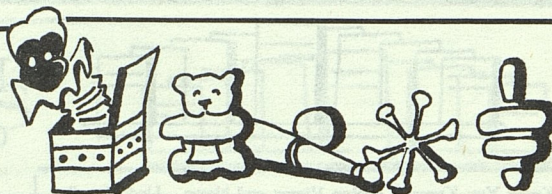


**ALYSON Publications**  
40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118

Trade terms: 5-29 assorted, 40% discount.  
30-99, 42% disc. 100 or more, 44% disc.

Also available through Bookpeople, Inland and our affiliate, Carrier Pigeon

# TOYS



Helaine Victoria Press announces 7 new postcards featuring women in history: Rosa Sonneschein, publisher of **The American Jewess** from 1895-99 (circulation 29,000), Emma Tenayuca, Chicana labor leader in San Antonio during the depression, Mary Antin, author of **The Promised Land** (1912), a novel of immigration, Mary McLeod Bethune, the founders of the National Council of Jewish Women, & more. \$2.50 for the set. Forthcoming series include The Haymarket Riot Centennial, Latin American Women and US Latinas, Political Action by Women, and Women's Auxiliaries and Brigades. They're looking for photos & info. Standard bookstore discounts. 4080 Dynasty Lane, Martinsville, IN 46151.

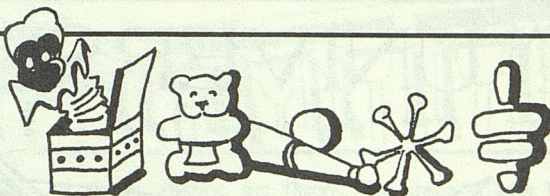
**Don't Doubt It** is Deidre McCalla's new record on Olivia's label. One of the finest things they've done lately. And great to get non-coastal musicians on disc. I've probably played it 50 times while working on this issue. Her songs have been published in **Home Girls**, **Conditions: Five**, and **SW**. Look for her non-fiction work in **The Coming Out Stories**.

More Music: Nancy Vogl's **Something to Go On** is out from Redwood Records. I've been partial to Vogl's lyrics since the Berkeley Women's Music Collective ("You mean you can actually make music collectively, too!") These are ever so much more complex.... I can't get "Crime of the Century" out of my mind. Especially "Then one day his mother/finds him and his lover/beneath all of the covers/and....Though he's loving them still/he knows they never will/take him back again." Vogl's cross-cultural, issue-synthesizing is some of the least rhetorical and most effective music I know. Then again, there's a whole side of instrumental, featuring the musical connection, evolution, education and intelligence that runs between Vogl and Susanne Shanbaum.

On a wholly different note, there's Sue Fink's **Big Promises** on the Ladyslipper label. Fink, you may recall, was one of the minds behind "Leaping Lesbians", and somehow it doesn't surprise me at all to have her show up ten years later doing a punk album. "Boys are Thugs" is a gem, and I'd sure love to see the kids in the local punk clubs dancing away to it. Feminism goes punk, it's about time.



Feminist Fortune Cookies, Bookmarks, and Notepads. Sounds like a great idea. Soon to be a part of the great feminist oral tradition. How do you review a fortune cookie? FBN has decided to leave the culinary aspects of the cookies to one of the new lifestyle magazines that are more properly concerned with such things. Fortunes in the batches FBN received included: "In inventing yourself daily, you will benefit those around you as much as you benefit yourself." "Your genius lies in creating opportunities for yourself and those around you." "As a woman of equality, you attract to yourself only men of quality." "As you create your world, remember that it is much easier to ride the mare in the direction she is going." "The winning spirit in you knows what to do in every situation. Take time to consult it." "You handle your dealings with men capably, earning the respect of your peers." "In being a liberated woman, you have freed the men in your life to discover the gentle side of their beings." "You will be joyously successful financially, emotionally and professionally." Packaged by the dozen in plastic bags, shipped with lots of packing. \$1.35/pkg/-wholesale.



Notebooks come in assorted packets of 4, retail at \$5.50, wholesale at 3.50. Sayings include: "Doubt whom you will, but never yourself. -- Bovee." "We could never learn to be brave and patient if there were only joy in the world. -- Helen Keller." "Only the mediocre are always at their best. -- Laurence Peter." "To succeed it is necessary to accept the world as it is and rise above it. --Michael Korda."

Bookmarks are laminated with plastic. Retail \$1.00, wholesale at .50, minimum order 150. Sayings include "No

person can make you feel inferior without your consent. - Eleanor Roosevelt." "Sometimes I wonder if men and women really suit each other. Perhaps they should live next door and just visit now and then. -Katherine Hepburn." "Man forgives woman anything save the wit to outwit him." and "Often God has to shut a door in our face so that He can subsequently open the door through which He wants us to go."

All from *On A Positive Note*, 806 E. Abram #153, Arlington TX 76010.

## Tenth Anniversary

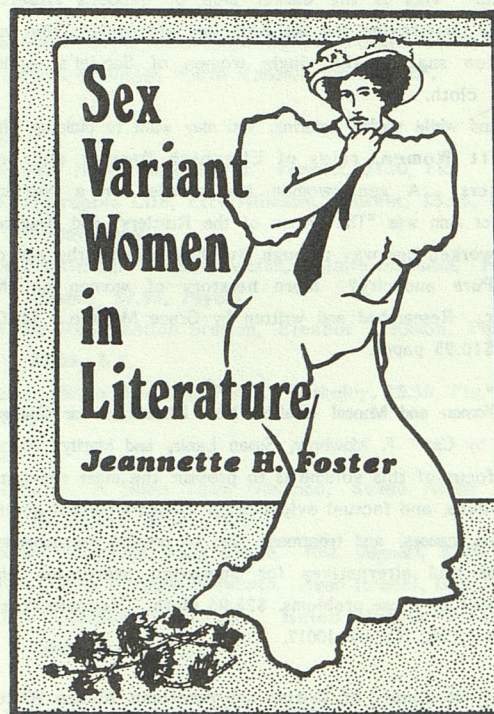
Everywoman's Books will celebrate its tenth anniversary on Saturday, February 16. Friends of the store will gather at Open Space Gallery, for literary readings and music by P. K. Page, Betsy Warland, Daphne Marlatt, Rona Murray, Ezzell, and Jan Gillanders, beginning at 7:30 pm. Suggested Donation is two dollars.

During the day, the anniversary will be celebrated at the store with coffee and cake.

Throughout its first decade, Everywoman's Books has been run by a volunteer collective of approximately 20 women who share in operation and staffing. As a feminist bookstore, Everywoman's provides books by, for, and about women, in promotion of choices and enhanced roles in society. Best-selling categories are health, fiction, abuse of women and children, sexuality, spirituality, sociology and politics. The large bulletin board is an important community resource regarding women's events and services. The store also sells non-sexist books for children and teens, and maintains a small lending library.

The February 16 celebration is open to everyone.

Everywoman's Books  
641 Johnson Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1M7



FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



Three exciting titles from University of Ohio/Swallow: **Against a Darkening Sky** by Janet Lewis. Originally published in 1943, this is the story of an American mother in depression times, struggling to influence the lives of her children without invading them. It's set in a semi-rural community south of San Francisco. \$22.95 cloth \$9.95 paper.

**Krane's Cafe: An Interior with Figures**, written by Cora Sandel, translated from the Norwegian by Elizabeth Rokkan. This is the darker side of Sandel's **Alberta Trilogy**, portraying the isolation and entrapment that all too often snagged the single women of Sandel's world. \$18.00 cloth.

And while you're ordering, you may want to pick up **The Bassett Women**, tales of Elizabeth Bassett and her daughters. A gentlewoman homesteader or a rustler? Daughter Ann was "The Queen of the Rustlers" and daughter Josie worked her way through five husbands by the age of 45. Pure audacity? More herstory of women on the frontier. Researched and written by Grace McClure. \$25.00 cloth \$10.95 paper.

**Women and Mental Health: New Directions for Change**, edited by Carol T. Mowbray, Susan Lanir, and Marilyn Hulce. "The focus of this volume is to present the most relevant, up-to-date, and factual evidence on women's mental health problems, causes, and treatment, and to present recommended changes and alternatives for improving prevention and treatment of those problems. \$22.95 cloth. Haworth Press, 28 East 22 St., NY NY 10017.

**A Dictionary of British and American Women Writers 1660-1800**, edited by Janet Todd. "The years 1660-1800 were

an extraordinary period in the history of feminine authorship. Writing for the first time became a respectable occupation rather than a sign of loose morals. These fascinating biographies illustrate that many gifted women, while adapting to the constraints of 18th century life, led unusual and, occasionally, flamboyant lives as male impersonators, royal mistresses, struggling novelists, actresses and playwrights, or persecuted Quaker preachers." \$45.00 cloth. Rowman & Allenheld, 81 Adams Drive, Totowa NJ 07512.

**The Road Retaken: Women Reenter the Academy**, edited by Irene Thompson and Audrey Roberts. "This collection of essays explores the lives of women of various ages who interrupted their educations for more than five years; it includes their problems in graduate school and the obstacles they faced securing academic appointments. The reasons behind the interruptions and the ensuing difficulties in finding work are documented through the individual experiences of twenty-five scholars. \$27.50 cloth, \$17.50 paper. Modern Language Association, 62 Fifth Ave., NY NY 10011. Seven other titles focusing on academic women are also available..

**Old Wives' Tales**, short stories by Susan M. Dodd, \$9.95 paper, \$12.95 cloth. University of Iowa Press. 1984 Iowa Award Book.

**Women Writing in America**. "Blanche Gelfant's collection of engrossing and accessible essays does what criticism should do: renders its subjects also engrossing and accessible." Looks at the work of Willa Cather, Katherine Anne Porter, Tillie Olsen, Mary Austin, Meridel Le Sueur, Ethel Wilson, Anzia Yezierska, Grace Paley and Ann Beattie. \$10.95 paper, \$20.00 cloth. University Press of New England.



**Close to Home: A Materialist Analysis of Women's Oppression**, Christine Delphy. Written by one of France's most exciting feminist theorists, *Close to Home* develops a sociology of the family that clarifies the role of women in family life. Three main themes pervade the book. First, a theoretical analysis of the feminist "discovery" of housework as unpaid labor within the family that is central to an understanding of women's oppression today. Second, a dissection of patriarchal ideologies, and third, a discussion of the politics and strategy of the women's liberation movement. Paper \$8.95, cloth \$18. University of Massachusetts Press. Also from University of Massachusetts Press: **Abortion: Moral and Legal Perspectives**. The essays in this book focus on the 1973 Roe V. Wade decision that legalized abortion in 1973 and its legal aftermath. \$13.95 paper, \$30.00 cloth.

**Women, History, and Theory: The Essays of Joan Kelly**. "presents Kelly's influential ideas about the reperiodization of history, the social relations of the sexes, the status of women in society, and the family. \$18.00 cloth. University of Chicago Press.

## MASS MARKET

by Karen Axness  
A Room of One's Own

### April

- Brothers**, Bernice Rubens. Dell, \$4.50, Fic.  
**The Mind-Body Problem**, Rebecca Goldstein. Dell, \$4.50, Fic.  
**Machine Dreams**, Jayne Anne Phillips. Pocket, \$3.95, Fic. \*  
**The Sword of Winter**, Marta Randall. Pocket, S.F.

### May

- Fly Away Home**, Marge Piercy. Fawcett, \$4.50, Fic.  
**An Interrupted Life**, Ety Hillesum. Pocket, \$3.95, Bio./-  
**Jewish Women**.  
**Sweet Suffering: Woman as Victim**, Natalie Shalness. Pocket (trade), \$7.95, Psych.  
**To the Resurrection Station**, Eleanor Arnason. Pocket, \$2.95, S.F.  
**Hungry Hearts**, Francine Prose. Berkeley, \$3.50, Fic.\*

### June

- Blooming: A Small Town Girlhood**, Susan Allen Toth. Ballantine, \$3.50, Bio.  
**Golden Witchbreed**, Mary Gentle. NAL (Signet), \$3.95, Bio.  
**Diane Arbus**, Patricia Bosworth. Avon (trade), Bio.  
**...And Ladies of the Club**, Helen Hoover Santmyer. Berkeley, \$5.95, Fic.

\* means that Karen recommends them highly.



The Bassett Women

# POETRY

FBN is on poetic overload. Too much to read, take in, comprehend, digest, and review. Poetry is another level of comprehension that works least successfully with stress. Much more difficult to "blurb" honestly than even an 'equally unread textbook. FBN's intentions in "blurb" books is to provide information to booksellers that will be helpful in making ordering decisions. How to do that with poetry?

This column is an experiment in bridging the gap between overwhelm and overload (that translates to silence and ignoring the books altogether) and providing the kind and quality of information that is needed. In the feminist/print movement, poetry has been the print form of new insight that often arrives two or four or five years before that information arrives in prose. Poetry is essential information in addition to being a pleasure. Poetry is also a form that is accessible to more new writers than any other form; the editors of our journals report that they receive many more poetry submissions than everything else put together.

And still, (how can I say this politely?) poetry books, unless they be by our cultural heroines, sell more slowly than fiction by unknown writers, and rarely sells by topic, as do non-fiction books. How to sort out the essential, the inspiring, the ground-breaking from the books that sit unsold (and unreturned?) on the shelf?

The best idea yet proposed is to find a poetry-reader and lover to write a regular poetry column for FBN, similar perhaps, to the f/sf column, in providing basic useful information about stocking and selling books in a field that isn't widely read by a number of bookstore workers. If you're even a little interested in doing such a column (many benefits! a host of review copies!) please call or write FBN!

**Gold Earrings**, Sharon Stevenson. "Put together by a group of close friends and associates after her suicide in 1978, it covers the entire span of her writing life." "She was a working class woman, a poet and a Marxist. The

political analysis she was formulating, and the direction she was seeking for her poetry, were without precedent." Pulp Press, 986 Homer St #202, Vancouver BC V6B 2W7. Inland?

**Romance and Capitalism at the Movies**, Joan Joffe Hall., "As her wry title implies, ...(this book) fuses concerns that are at once intimate and public -- children, parents, lovers, and Latin American politics, union activism, anti-Semitism, the extinction of species, ours and others. Many of the poems are like short stories about women, juxtaposing ironic narrative with passages of lyric intensity. \$12.95 cloth, \$6.95 paper. Alice James Books, 138 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge MA 02138. Inland.

**The Canal Bed**. "In this, her first full-length collection, Helena Minton wrestles with the labor of accommodation and affection, while she hints at the backward pull of loss and grief. The speaker in these poems moves between isolation and intimacy, often in such places as Alaska, the south-Atlantic coast, and New



Mary Angela Collins



England, where the landscapes evoke and echo her concerns. The sense of history implicit in **The Canal Bed** gives this book its sweep. \$12.95 cloth, \$6.95 paper. Alice James Books.

**Shekhinah**, Eleanor Wilner. Says PW: "In these beautifully crafted, thought-provoking poems, Wilner speculates: what if Eve walked out on Adam, leaving behind the Garden of Eden; suppose Penelope left Odysseus upon his long-awaited return. She looks at mythology from a feminist perspective and imagines women wielding the power to weave her own fate..." \$6.95 paper, \$15.00 cloth. University of Chicago Press.

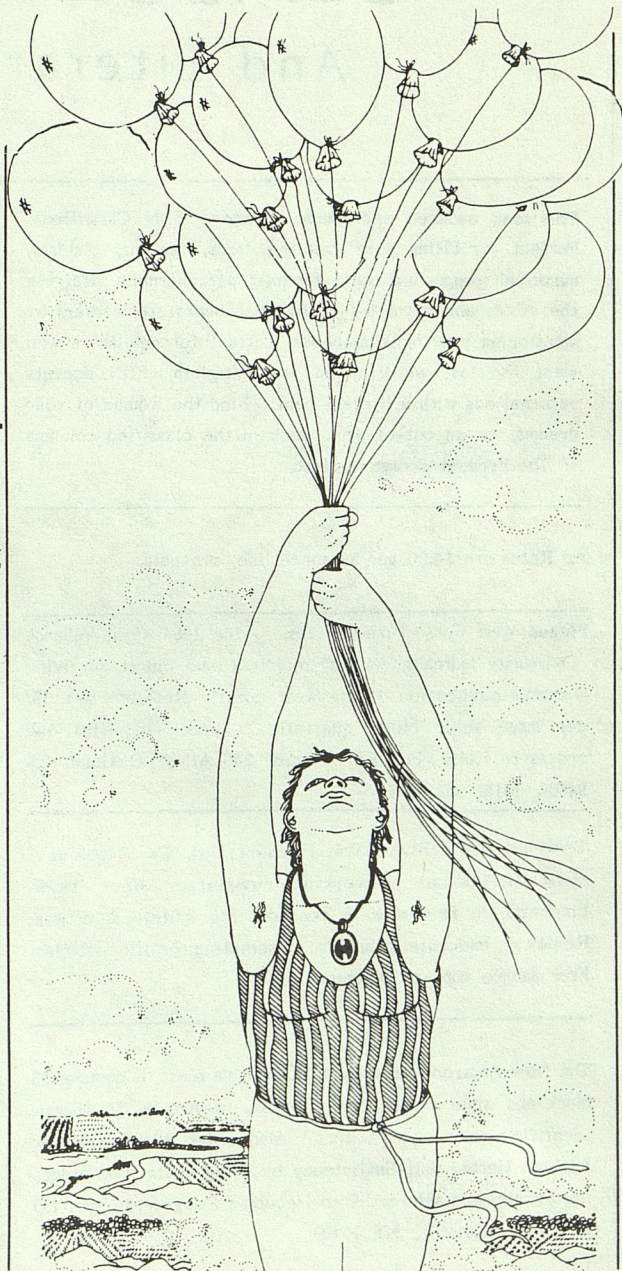
AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



**Jewish and Female**, Susan Weidman Schneider, Simon and Schuster, \$19.95 cloth. Includes these subjects: Jewish Law, women as rabbis, Jewish women as scholars, stereotypes of Jewish women's sexuality, body image, Jewish wife as peace keeper, divorce, power and participation in the Jewish community, anatomy of the Jewish women's establishment, reconciling Judaism and feminism.

**Pilgrimage to Priesthood**, Elizabeth Canham. Winston-Seabury Press. \$9.95 paperback. Story of Canham's struggle for recognition of women priests in the Church of England. and her subsequent ordination in the US.

**Of Marriage and the Market: Women's Subordination Internationally and its Lessons**, edited by Kate Young, Carol Wolkowitz and Roslyn McCullagh, Second Edition. This book, and the forthcoming companion volume **Serving Two Masters**, give detailed accounts of women's situations in a variety of countries, acknowledging and reporting the specific struggles that different women are fighting while developing a general theory of gender subordination that is both social and economic specifically in relationship to the marriage bond/contract and market relations. \$11.95 paper. Routledge & Kegan Paul.



Sudie Rakusin in *Goddesses and Amazons*

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## And Literary Personals

**The long awaited and much requested FBN Classifieds!** Perfect for PRing your greeting cards, records, t-shirts, menstrual sponges and other feminist paraphernalia. Refresh the minds and memories of feminist bookstore workers by mentioning your backlist books. Perfect for publishers who want the last word! And yes, Virginia, FBN accepts personal ads with a literary bent. Find the woman of your dreams, or an out-of-print book in the classified columns of **The Feminist Bookstore News**.

**Ad Rates are \$4.00 per 59 space line, pre-paid.**

**Plexus** West Coast Women's Press - the 1984 Media Alliance Community Journalism Award" recipient and oldest surviving women's publication of the west coast! Retailers get 35% per issue sold billed quarterly Direct Inquiries and orders to Kelly, Box FBN/Plexus 545 Athol Oakland, CA 94606. (415) 451 2585.

**Telewoman** PO BOX 2306, Pleasant Hill, Ca 94523 is a national lesbian networking newsletter since 1979. Emphasis on resources & contacts for writers & artists. Reviews exquisite graphics fascinating profile articles. Free sample copy on request.

The **New Amazon Tarot Deck** is available now. It contains 83 black and white images, plus 3 blanks, created by 23 woman-identified artist contributors. Also order **Witches Heal: Lesbian Herbal Self-Sufficiency** by Billie Potts. For ordering information send SASE to Hecuba's Daughters, Inc., PO Box 488, Bearsville, NY 12409.

**Off Our Backs!** -- Celebrating 15 years of radical feminist journalism! News Review, Analysis --- \$11 a year, 11 issues. Bookstore terms: \$1 per issue, you keep 40 cents and send us 60 cents for each copy sold. 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, #212, Washington DC 20009.

For more than twelve years, **Gay Community News** has been the premier newsweekly of lesbian & gay liberation. News, features, analysis, interviews, reviews and a monthly Book Review Supplement. Non profit feminist. \$1.00 cover price. For more info, contact Marketing Dept., GCN 167 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111

**Women's Review of Books**, published monthly/ subscriptions \$14.00, single copy price \$1.50. A must for any feminist bookstore! In-depth reviews of current books in all fields. Trade terms: 60/40 split, shipped UPS. return mastheads for credit. Inquiries to Women's Review, Wellesley Center for Research on Women, Wellesley MA 02181.

**Frontiers** bridges the gap between feminist academic journals and "slicks" by presenting interesting, accessible articles and personal essays, reviews, photographs, poetry, and short fiction in each issue. Outreach to community, non-university feminists is our goal, along with publishing a journal of substance. Past theme issues still available are: Mothers and Daughters; Chicanas; Women's Oral History Two; Women, Alcohol, and Drugs; Lesbian History; Feminism in the Non-Western World; Women and Peace; Women on the Western Frontier. \$8.00. Forty percent discount to bookstores (no returns, please). **Frontiers**, Women's Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.



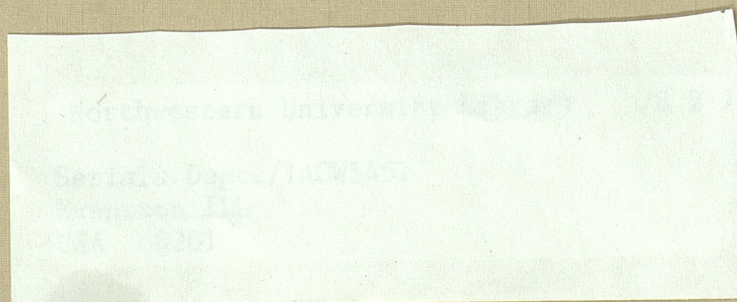
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# Feminist Bookstore News

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