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# Feminist Bookstore News



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**FBN's**  
**10th**  
**ANNIVERSARY  
SPECIAL ISSUE**

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*Femina Serial Am F32978*

**Volume 9**    **Number 6**

**Volume 10**    **Number 1**

**May-June 1987**



**THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS** is a communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. It reaches 200+ feminist and feminist-inclined booksellers in the US and Canada and a number of feminist booksellers in England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Asia. Librarians, women's studies teachers, book reviewers and feminist magazine and book publishers make up the remainder of the subscribers.

**THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS** is published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Letters, articles, news items and announcements should be received the fifteenth of the month preceding publication. Signed articles and letters are the responsibility of the authors and will not be edited. FBN is compiled and published by Carol Seajay.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** are \$40 per year for six issues. \$75 for two years. + \$6 for Canadian postage, and \$12 for overseas postage per year.

**ADVERTISING RATES** are \$300 per full page, \$175 per half page, \$85 per quarter page. Agency and Contract discounts available. Deadlines for ad reservations and camera-ready copy are the 15th and 25th respectively of December, February, April, June, August, and October for publication the following month. Ad preparation services available at nominal fees. Please call or write

for further information and for information regarding mailing list rental. Pre-publication ads are encouraged. Small press publishers are encouraged to include distribution information.

**BOOKS FOR REVIEW** and book announcements should be sent as early as possible. Pre-publication announcements and orders facilitate early orders. Feminist publishers are invited to write their own (short!) listings. Small press publishers should include bookstore terms and distributors whenever possible to facilitate orders from small and mid-sized bookstores. If you prefer that booksellers order directly from you, please include that information as well.

**AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING LUDICROUS**, FBN can only publicize books that we hear about, so make sure that FBN is on your book review and catalog lists.

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

**THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS**, PO Box 882554, San Francisco CA 94188. 415-431-2093.

c 1987 **The Feminist Bookstore News**  
ISSN 0741-6555



CHECK ALL THE BOXES YOU CAN  
AND MAIL TO FBN

BOX 882554  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94188

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

One Year — \$40. Check enclosed.

One Year — \$45. Bill us.

Special Trial Offer  
1/2 year — \$20. Check enclosed.

Please send a sample copy. \$4 enclosed.

+ \$13 for international postage.

**I am / We are:**

- Readers/bibliophiles
- Women's studies teacher
- Librarian
- Writer
- Bookseller
- Publisher
- Periodical
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Bookstores, Publishers, and Periodicals —  
Is your focus primarily:**

- Feminist
- Gay
- Alternative/political
- General independent bookstore

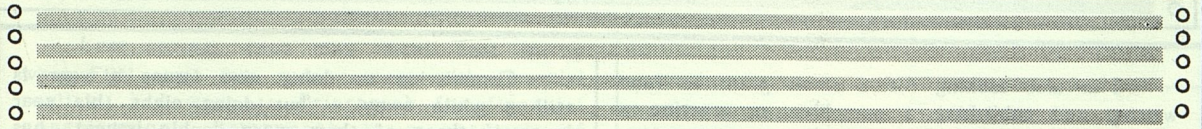
- Owned and operated by women
- Co-owned and run by women and men

**I/We are especially interested in:**

- Feminist fiction
- Lesbian fiction
- Lesbian non-fiction
- Feminist theory and politics
- Women's studies titles
- History
- Health
- Women and work
- Gay men's literature
- Peace and anti-nuke books
- Children's books
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



# NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE



## Happy Tenth Anniversary, FBN!

Planning, plotting, preparing this very special issue has been a long and exciting process. Sometime last spring I started thinking about doing a special anniversary issue but it really began to jell talking about it with Karyn London during the trainride to the Feminist Bookfair in Oslo. We imagined articles (enough to fill a book), invented trivia questions, made lists of great scandals that should best be forgotten -- and basically conceptualized the issue into a future existence.

My first idea was to put it out in October -- sandwiched in between The International Issue and The University Press Issue. ("Two double issues and an anniversary issue within three months! Why not?!" -- but reality intervened and I looked at the production schedule and decided that FBN gets all year to celebrate -- and that the Anniversary issue could come out more sanely -- and enjoyably -- in the spring. The point, after all, is to celebrate!

So here's FBN's Tenth Anniversary Special! A double issue rich with articles, interviews, reprints, and a wonderful diversity of celebratory ads from bookstores, magazines, and feminist and small press publishers. Pulling this issue together, watching the wonderful ads come in, and recalling the many connections and historic moments over the years has been a very moving experience.

In honor of work past, this issue reprints FBN's most-often-requested article, "Economics for Health and Survival", and FBN's most-appreciated article, "What Did You Do All Day, Dear". In appreciation of the many years of bookstore building, it includes a bookstore profile/interview with Sandi Torkildson about the growth and development of A Room of One's

Own over 12 years. Two publishers are profiled: The Womyn's Braille Press and Sister Vision Press, a Black and Third World press in Canada.

This issue also announces The **Third** International Feminist Bookfair -- to be held in Montreal in 1988 -- and introduces a new column on women's art books by Tee Corinne. All in all, I think it's one of the best issues ever!

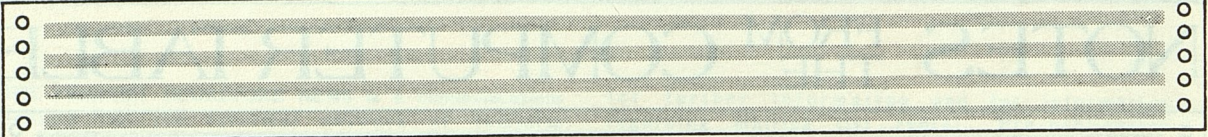
This mailing also includes fliers from the Womyn's Braille Press (please post or pass on), a couple of FBN subscription forms (again -- please post) and Sidelines Catalog info fliers. If you can take the time to pass them on to your favorite suppliers, it will benefit us all. Several stores have asked for an FBN subscription flier that they can photocopy and circulate, so these are white for exactly that purpose. Thanks for your work and your help!

The **next** issue, (in addition to being the Third Annual Sidelines Catalog), will include the first installment of an interview in which Judy Grahn and I interview each other about the history of the women-in-print movement -- inspired, of course, by working on this issue.

\*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*

FBN just received an \$8500 general support grant from the Chicago Resource Center -- and just in time for the anniversary issue. The money will actually go to a number of FBN projects but it also guarantees that I'll get paid, on time, every week for the next six months. I had no idea it would be such a relief until I held the check in my hand! Thank you Chicago Resource Center!





I'm also looking for a small grant to fund writing and publishing a pamphlet on starting a women's bookstore. If you have any suggestions for content or funding, please give me a call!

\*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*

This has been an outrageously successful and productive year for FBN -- 8 issues in 12 months. (!) Volume 8 Number 6, last summer's sidelines issue came out in June between ABA and leaving for Oslo. The International Feminist Bookfair in Oslo inspired (demanded?) a double issue (Vol. 9 No. 1-2) and the extra length, which we thought, helped to make up for cancelling the July/August to facilitate the trip to Oslo. Publisher response to The University Press issue was double what we had anticipated so it became a double issue (Vol. 9 No.3-4) as well as covering November/December and January/February. The March issue (which the post office seems to have delivered with mule-speed) was 9#5, and this double-issue celebration you hold in your hands is 9#6/10#1. -- So, eight issues in five deliveries in twelve months -- Not bad for a bi-monthly! I think this year more than makes up for the years when FBN came out five or four times, instead of the six it aspires to.

New subscribers may be a little confused: FBN's policy is that you subscribe for a specific number of issues (i.e., 6 for a "year") and that you get all six issues regardless of how long it takes us to get them out to you. When you've received all six issues (or 3 if you subscribed on the trial offer for new subscribers), your subscription has expired and you're due for renewal. This seemed to be the fairest way to handle subscriptions for a magazine that started out as an "after-hours" project for a busy feminist bookseller. This is the first time ever that FBN has put out **more** than the aspired-to six issues, but it seems appropriate to bill subscribers for renewal after six issues, since that's the same policy in reverse. It's also financially essential.

Committing to doing nine issues a year is still a while away -- but doing eight this year (even if three of them were double issues), has taken me a lot further toward believing that it's possible.

I particularly want to thank the crew of women who've made this issue a reality: Karyn London for vision and encouragement; Polly Pagenhart, FBN's publishing intern, for hours of work each week; Karen Brungardt for computer work and taming the mail-bag on several occasions; Pat Kelso for proofreading every single word and for editing assistance; Mary Collins who designed FBN's format two years ago, for designing and laying out 80 pages in 3 1/2 days (Mary is currently hatching a plot to get a thousand library subscriptions.... Think what that would do for FBN's budget!); Chris Kovacs and Lisa Mishke for paste-up assistance; Cheryl Wilton for the loan that paid rent and bought groceries until the ads came in; and every woman whose work appears on these pages. When I first looked at FBN's new office I thought "Bigger things can happen with a bigger office." And sure enough, during paste-up, there were as many as four of us working here at the same time.... It literally would not have been possible to produce this issue in a smaller space.

And thanks to all of you for ten amazing years. Here's to the future!

Yours in spreading the words,  
Carol Seajay





# FBN: 1986 Income & Expenses

Last spring, (you may recall last spring when FBN came into rude contact with financial reality...) I went to Briarpatch for financial consultation. Briarpatch is a network of socially-responsible small business people. We talked about a number of things -- many of which seemed impossible and have since come true. One suggestion was that each issue be "a two thousand dollar book" (advertising revenue) and that that might be achieved by doing theme issues and hiring an ad sales rep. Another suggestion was returning to the old movement practice of keeping open books -- publishing income and expenses.

All of which sounds great in the conference room, but implementation is more challenging. I hired the ad sales rep, did three theme issues, and kept one of the consultant's closing remarks in my mind: "If you can do your bookkeeping on Perfect Calc (a rather pesky little program that came free with my computer), you can certainly make a magazine work financially." One of those comments that makes no sense but keeps you going....

And sure enough, advertising rose to almost \$2,000 per issue, the sales rep sold ads and since all that worked so well, it seems like time to return to open books as well. So I'm once again publishing FBN's annual income and expenses.

Goal for 1987: real salary. Living off one's auto-expenses and getting paid trips to Europe (2nd International Feminist Bookfair) have certain charms -- like zero tax liability, but 1987 is FBN's year of paying a living wage. Watch for **that** report in next spring's financial statement.

## Income:

Subscriptions	\$ 6,936
Advertising	11,198
Mailing Lists	1,066
Misc. (classified ads, postage, back issues, consulting, etc.)	<u>1,222</u>
	\$20,422

## Expenses:

Printing	\$ 4,651
Postage	2,023
Typesetting	365
Stats	<u>106</u>
	(7,145)

Advertising	\$ 740
Auto Expenses	1,159
Ad Sales Commissions	249
Bank Charges	112
Books	206
Dues & Publications	517
Insurance	277
Legal & Accounting Services	200
Maintenance (Computer)	268
Office & Graphic Supplies	1,073
Part-time assistance	1,710
Rent	756
Telephone & Utilities	750
Training	85
Travel & Entertainment	<u>4,491</u>
	(12,593)

Total Expenses: \$19,738

Salary ????



# NEWS

A NOVEL OF  
WOMEN, REVOLUTION AND LOVE  
by  
Heather Conrad

"Oh," Linda answered. She thought a moment. "And Ruth's a lesbian too, isn't she?"

"No, she's not. She's straight." Sylvia laughed. "Linda, just because I'm a lesbian doesn't mean everyone I know is. Most the women in NEWS are straight, you know. At least 90 percent. Though, yeah, anyone who wants to discredit us always calls us a mob of dykes, queers. You know. The usual. Even in this town, we get that label." She paused. "Though in the San Francisco chapter there are more lesbians, but that reflects the population. NEWS does—it's surprising how it does—represent the general population of women. All ages, religions, class backgrounds—and 'sexual orientations.'" She gave Linda a serious, teasing look.

**NEWS a novel by Heather Conrad, 9.95 paperback**

## rowdy and laughing

by B. L. Holmes

Author B. L. Holmes says, "Married, with four teen-aged children, and approaching my twentieth wedding anniversary, I was vaguely discontented, wondering if this was it—if this was all life had to offer. And was I, then, finished with my life's mission? Had I explored all my options? Had I fulfilled my dreams? My heart said, no. My talents lay virtually unrecognized, buried under twenty years of devotion to raising children and making a home and marriage work. Twenty years of doing the "right" thing, doing what I was "supposed" to do.

"Then suddenly I fell in love—with another woman.

"These poems were written during the initial turbulence of that magnificent experience."

**rowdy and laughing, poetry by B. L. Holmes, 4.95 paperback**

## Fear OR Freedom

a woman's options in social  
survival & physical defense



by Susan E. Smith

*Library Journal* in its March 1, 1987 issue calls *Fear or Freedom* an "important new approach to self-defense for women. Smith incorporates much recent re-search that challenges old ideas about sexual assault. She points out, for instance, that acquaintance rape is by far the most prevalent kind; it operates under different assumptions than stranger rape, and should be the easiest type of assault to combat. However, women are too often prevented from resisting strongly (although many do resist successfully) because of conditioning that makes them feel responsible for men's behavior in social situations. Smith demonstrates how female socialization works to women's disadvantage and how assertive behaviors that communicate higher status and self-esteem can discourage assault. . . Highly recommended."

**Fear or Freedom, a woman's options in social survival and physical defense by Susan E. Smith, 11.95 paperback**

Order from Bookpeople,  
Inland, Baker & Taylor  
or directly from

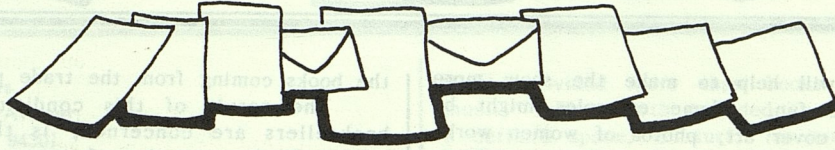
## Mother Courage Press

1533 Illinois Street  
Racine, Wisconsin 53405 (414) 634-1047





# LETTERS



Clairelight Women's Books  
1110 Petaluma Hill Road Suite 5  
Santa Rosa CA 95404

Dear FBN:

We've been making computer-generated Best Seller lists for four months now -- just never thought to send them to FBN before! (Sorry!) Copies enclosed.

Can anybody recommend some (any) titles for (lesbian?) partners of adult survivors of child (sexual?) abuse?

How about books for parents who are abusive and are trying to learn not to be? (How-to, auto/biography, workbooks, etc.)

And finally, does anybody know where to order:

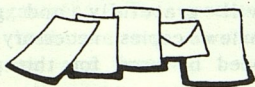
1. **Alida: An Erotic Novel** by Edna Mac-Brayne. Parkhurst Press. Last known and no longer valid address: PO Box 143, Laguna Beach CA 92652.

2. **My Destiny** by Gabor. Amen Publishing Co. Last known and no longer valid address: 1320 S. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA 91006.

Thanks!

Mooneyan

P.S. Articles wanted: We need an article on a **plan** for getting women's studies classes to order texts from our store. Also: How to get specific authors to your store -- and where to **find** them! (Like, how to get their address so you can write direct, instead of writing to them via the publisher...)



The Feminist Bookshop  
Orange Grove Plaza  
315 Balmain Road  
Lilyfield 2040  
Australia

Dear Carol & FBN,

We can't afford to have an advertisement, nor would there be much point in having one in the 10th Anniversary Issue -- but please, if there is space, put in a greeting from us in Oz to women in the U.S. working with books. It's great to feel in contact with them through the useful pages of FBN. And thank you especially for your hard work.

Bestsellers for us recently have been:

**Women Who Love Too Much**/Norwood

**Each Day a New Beginning**

**Struggle for Intimacy**/Woititz

**Adult Children of Alcoholics**/Woititz

**Leave a Light on For Me**/Swallow.

So you can see what an interest there is in addiction and co-addiction here at the moment.

Lots of love,

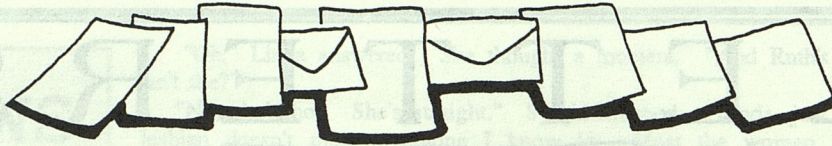
Gail

Metis Press  
P.O. Box 25187  
Chicago, IL 60625  
April 11, 1987

Dear Women in Publishing,

Activist and archivist Marie Kuda is collecting pictures and historical documentation for a slide show and archive on Lesbian publishing, past and present. We are interested in all types of materials, especially pictures or drawings that can be photographed and used as slides. Please be creative, many materials can





be used and will help to make the show more interesting and fun. Some examples might be group photos, cover art, photos of women working, and interesting correspondence. Also, please include a description of each item sent, including names and activities where applicable. The deadline to be included in the show is May 15, but we will still accept material for the archive after this date. We appreciate the help and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Chris Johnson

Naiad Press  
PO Box 10543  
Tallahassee FL 32301  
April 23, 1987

Dear Carol:

The problem is the deplorable condition of reviewing of lesbian and women's material in movement publications as follows:

1. Most material is not reviewed at all.
2. Many books are reviewed by reviewers who are not qualified to undertake their tasks for the following reasons:

A. They have an ax to grind with the author or the publisher (we are, for example, in the unenviable position of having turned down books from the pens of at least six women currently writing reviews in this country).

B. They have neither the training nor experience to warrant them being trusted with the responsibility of reviewing a book.

C. They are friends of or related in some way to the publisher or the author. (Again, we are in the awkward position of having as authors ourselves a couple of women who review regularly in the press... and we are such a small movement that this happens repeatedly.)

3. Our few major journals who undertake the duty of reviewing seriously devote the majority of their space and time and interest to

the books coming from the trade press.

The result of this condition, insofar as booksellers are concerned, is that you inevitably sell fewer copies of every undermentioned, undernoticed title. Word of mouth, unquestionably, is the most important source of publicity for the books, but it is not the only source and an almost desert of review attention for most books cannot help but hurt your business.

The solutions to the problem are many. Some of them are easy and inexpensive and require almost no energy and they are directly able to provide immediate visible results. Almost without exception every women's and gay and lesbian bookstore (and alternative store) is in a town or city large enough to boast at least one throw-away bar give-out-free rag, newspaper, or magazine. Since these publications do not pay for contributions they are always in need of material and welcome gratefully small capsule reviews or annotations of current books. These need not be done by the overworked and harassed bookseller, since there is at least one faithful reader-fan in every store's clientele who can be persuaded to provide this service as "her" contribution to the good cause. There are variations on the theme of placing these "reviews" but once they are in print they will be seen by your local community and this can be reinforced by clipping them and affixing them to the shelves near the books (as many stores already do).

Once a store demonstrates that this function is going on and will continue to go on and is willing to provide copies of the printed material to the publisher or have the publication provide the extra review copies, most publishers will gratefully and gladly provide the extra review copies necessary to insure no stock book need be used for this purpose.

Barbara Grier





Stepping Stones  
621 Hawthorne Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
April 3, 1987

Dear Carol,

Stepping Stones is changing hands. I am leaving Palo Alto to become owner of a full-size general bookstore on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Maggie Conroy is the new owner of Stepping Stones. The store remains in the same location (226 Hamilton in Palo Alto) but the mailing address and business telephone have changed:

Maggie Conroy  
Stepping Stones  
646 E. Ranchito Way  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
415-964-5423

FBN has been a wonderful help to me in starting Stepping Stones and building its stock. You are doing important work. Thanks for being there.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Olsen

March 11, 1987

Dear Women,

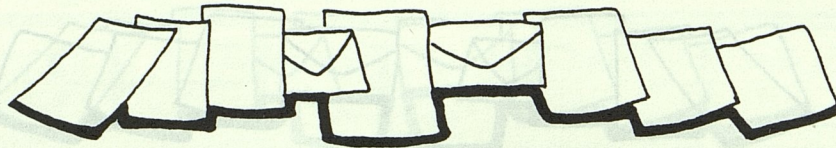
In the early 70's New Earth Bookstore was one of several "cornerstones" of the feminist and then the feminist lesbian communities here in Kansas City, MO. At that time it was one of many "collectives" of the Women's Liberation Union. When the WLU lost our "women's center" New Earth became even more important. Later, after the demise of WLU many women saw New Earth as the cornerstone of feminist and lesbian-feminist community. For a while one of the two paid staff women at New Earth was paid as a community organizer. The pressures to be both an operating bookstore and a community center were exhilarating and draining. Pressures to be all things to all women were very real. New

Earth provided more than books for our community! New Earth provided a central focus and a definite space, or turf, for many women and lesbians. For many of us, finding New Earth and her women in the early 70's felt like coming home. She went through many changes. And we did too. Many of us miss her presence in our lives.

We are glad that Phoenix exists. But Phoenix is not New Earth. And the vision of the women in the 80's is not the vision of the women who created New Earth in the 70's. In community meetings with some of the owners of Phoenix, we were told they sought a name that would not identify them as a "women's bookstore", because they did not want to exclude any one. Many of us here were angered and pained by that decision. Two local dykes even sent them information detailing the extensive male history of the proposed name "phoenix". As lesbians we were fearful of the lesbophobia in such a decision--it felt that we were being excluded, unless we minded our manners. So, to read your comments about Phoenix being a dyke bookstore was ironic!

Additionally, the KC Trivia information was grossly inaccurate.\*\* The Phoenix Society was a male homosexual organization founded in the **early 60's**. My information comes from Jim Dawson who was a founding member and who indicated there **may** have been some lesbian members in the late 60's/early 70's when it died. The Phoenix Society was not a lesbian organization. Any attempt by the owners of Phoenix to "market" this new bookstore to lesbians as our bookstore is false. It is our impression that the priority at Phoenix Books is to make the bookstore "safe" for straight people. For example they may be willing to share the interesting information about the Phoenix Society and what they thought indicated their lesbian roots with FBN, but would they put it on their advertising or use it in their communications with the general





public.

The owners of Phoenix have the right to make their choices regarding the focus of their bookstore. But attempts to market Phoenix as a women's bookstore with lesbian roots in the feminist and lesbian communities and then to market it to other places as another thing is a deception. It seems an attempt to tell lesbians and other women that Phoenix is truly a "re-incarnation" of the early spirit of rebellious lesbians. Our preference is that the women of Phoenix Books be clear about their priorities for the new bookstore. Marketing themselves as a chameleon to the various communities of Kansas City serves no one well.

Signed by 5 Kansas City women.  
Names withheld by request.

\*\*In the January issue FBN reported that the Phoenix Society was a lesbian organization in KC from about 1968-1972 & commented "yes Virginia, Phoenixes and dyke bookstores rise from ashes..."

Toronto Women's Bookstore  
73 Harbord Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 1G4  
April 20, 1987

Hello FBN-

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary issue! We here at the Toronto Women's Bookstore love FBN for its news and information. Our collective is thinking about making contributions in forthcoming issues around new Canadian publications.

Best wishes  
Beth McAuley

April 12, 1987

Dear Carol & FBN,

We own a bookstore called "Choices" in Santa Barbara, CA. We thought your readers may be interested to know of our existence.

"Choices" began as a mail-order women's book & music business. We just opened a bookstore and coffee house on Saturday April 11th.

We enjoy reading FBN and anxiously await each new edition.

Thanks for all of **your** hard work & dedication.

Dee & Rita

Lesbian Connection  
PO Box 811  
East Lansing MI 48823

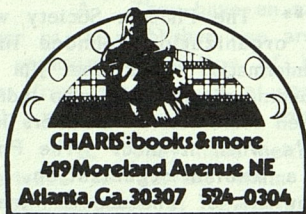
Dear Carol,

Congrats on your upcoming anniversary. I'm sure you hear it often but FBN's one of my favorite pubs. I'm including our Directory of Stores. It's from Volume 3 Issue 7, September 1977. I thought you might like to use it somehow -- maybe just the logos or whatever.

Do keep in touch -- have fun in DC  
Margo

**A Feminist  
Bookstore  
and more...**

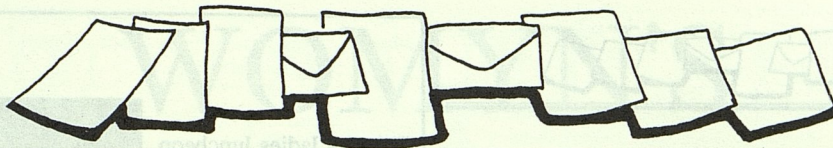
Jewelry ♦ records ♦  
children's books  
♦ cards ♦ t-shirts ♦  
journals ♦ buttons



Open 7 days a week in Little Five Points

**Congratulations  
and Thank You!**





Naiad Press  
P.O. Box 10543  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
April 24, 1987

Dear Carol Seajay:

We have become a community where women think nothing whatever of spending \$250-\$300 on a single book order with Naiad Press (it's always a weekly occurrence and sometimes a daily one) yet we are becoming a community with no

***Honduran Women:  
The Marginalized Majority***

***Nicaraguan Women:  
Unlearning the Alphabet  
of Submission***

***Latin American Church Women  
Challenge Patriarchy***

***Women in the Rebel Tradition:  
The English Speaking Caribbean***

*these new titles — and many  
many more — available from*

**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL  
RESOURCE EXCHANGE (WIRE)**

publishers of material in English and Spanish  
by and about Third World Women

*For free catalogue,  
write to:*

**WIRE 2700 Broadway, NY, NY 10025**

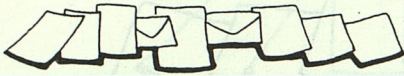
topical voice.

The most widely circulated of our publications would appear to be **Off Our Backs** and **The Lesbian News**, along with the infrequently published magazines, **Common Lives**, **Sinister Wisdom** and **Conditions**.

In the last couple of years two magazine ventures got started and failed abruptly despite apparently enormous response and subscriptions. The most notable of these failures, **I Know You Know**, suffered also from incredibly bad editing and bad and inadequate material. Despite this, the magazine caused us to have more than 300 letter inquiries after it closed (and dozens of telephone calls) asking why it had closed and lamenting its loss.

In comprehensively we have no **Lesbian Advocate**, no **Lesbian Ms**, no **Lesbian Christopher Street**...and, saddest of all, no punchy literate information-filled combination of all three. I know that there are thousands of women ready and willing to subscribe to a magazine that combined good fiction, good and very little poetry, hard hitting and topical non fiction ranging from child care for Lesbians through handling political differences in a community plus the endless stream of topics dealing with relationships...some humor, some reportage on our "culture", some reviewing of music, books, events, some drama, you name it. There could (and probably should) also be some of the sturm and drang dear to the hearts of the few, some international news (but not enough to engender articles such as Martha Shelley's famous "Hoboken To Hanoi" which long ago lamented our movement's inability to remember that the dog fight on Main Street is **still** most interesting to the journalists' audience at hand) even some high-faluting crap and a dollop of "theory". Sports topics alone could fill a handful of pages every issue. Personal profiles (meet Ms. Dyke America in any number of fields). Classified ads (not pink pages) sex (not **On Our Backs**)...I have left out a number of topics.





Any ideas? Any bites? I know it can be done...does no one see the need and the possibilities?

Barbara Grier

Lilith Publications Inc.  
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R3G 2G5  
April 27, 1987

Just a note re the question about Tumbleweed Books (March-April, page 21, second column, third paragraph). The collective running the store closed a number of months ago but there is a woman receiving catalogues, etc. on behalf of the group. She would be interested in resurrecting the business in the near future.

Name and address: Jean Hillabold  
#19 - 2221 Robinson St.  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4T 1R2

Hope this helps!  
Adena

New Words  
186 Hampshire St.  
Cambridge MA 02139

Dear Carol,  
Well, here we are, coming up on another ABA-

We've just survived our annual two day birthday sale and party. The best ever. We are now in our terrible teens - 13 years.

We're fighting less over FBN since I indulged in my own subscription.

See you the end of May.  
Best,  
Mary



"I had a ladies luncheon yesterday. These women needed to see that I'm not the harlot they imagine. I toured them, toting the rifle in case of bear attack. I enjoyed myself, but couldn't wait for them to leave so I could take my shirt off & rip the floorboards off the footings."

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# WOMYN'S BRAILLE PRESS

Excerpts from an interview with Marj Schneider of Womyn's Braille Press conducted in the WBP office in Minneapolis, October 1986.

FBN: At the risk of asking the obvious, what does Womyn's Braille Press (WBP) do?

MS: We produce feminist literature on tape in and in Braille. We distribute it to subscribers who are blind or have some other disability that means they can't read print. We produce a quarterly newsletter in print, tape and Braille that goes to subscribers in the U.S., Canada, Australia and England. In the newsletter we talk about WBP activities and list books that we produce and make announcements of other resources that are available. We also have a growing and substantial readership that isn't disabled but is interested in issues for disabled women and interested in supporting WBP.

FBN: How many books and what kind of books and periodicals do you have in circulation?

MS: We have 240 books on tape and a couple dozen books and other resources and information-type materials that are in Braille. We've been recording books for the last five years. That's quite an accumulation of titles. What we set out to do at the beginning and what we continue to do is to produce materials that aren't available from the major agencies that record books for

blind people.

FBN: When did WBP begin? How are you organized?

MS: We began in the fall of 1980. We had a collective structure for the first five years but the group became too small. There were six of us who started the organization. It's a pretty rare thing to have six blind women who are feminists and mostly lesbians, all in one place, to start something like this. We incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1981. We tried to work out ways to be a collective.

Later we adopted a structure of having a board. It's a board in a very non-traditional sense because it's much more a working group and a support group for the organization. Finding women who are really willing to make a commitment and who are willing to come to the meetings and work in an ongoing way is hard. But we do have a good group that's been meeting for about a year now and that has changed the way we've been able to do things. The group helps out in fundraising, in getting the word out about our existence, and helps with producing our quarterly newsletter.

We also have a lot of volunteers who work with us -- locally and across the country -- most of whom record books and periodicals and a few of whom transcribe books into Braille. I work full time on the project but I'm not paid. We do pay one part-time clerical worker. And that's our set-up.



FBN: What are the major agencies? What books do they do -- and not do?

MS: The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress (NLS) is government funded. Blind people don't have a lot of input as to the books it produces. It simply can't take into account the interests of feminists. It can't and won't. It never would, in part because it has to meet the needs of a lot of readers and they simply won't take on a huge number of titles that are controversial; it would jeopardize their funding. NLS tends to do a lot of popular books, best-sellers, romances, mysteries, detective novels, the Bible in every form it's ever been done, a lot of religious books. It does do some feminist titles and even some lesbian titles. Now they are more willing to come out and say that something is lesbian in a description of a book, but that's only been recently. In their whole collection they probably don't have more than a dozen explicitly lesbian books. We surpassed that in our first year.

We record books by lesbians, books by women of color, books on violence against women, books by authors who are politically very controversial, books about sex -- books that the NLS simply are never going to do. (We just did **Liberating Masturbation**.)

There's another major source for books for blind people called Recording for the Blind (RFB) which does books mostly for students. Not every one can use it. It has a lot of feminist titles because a lot of people do take Women's Studies and English courses -- classes where a lot of books get used that are of interest to feminists. But you can't walk in and browse like you can at a bookstore or library. You have to call up and ask for specific titles, so the burden is on the users to know what they want. And if you don't already know what is out there.... They can do subject searches by computer, but I doubt, for example, that they could do a feminist spirituality subject search. I don't think they would know what that means.

One of the things we want to get funding for is to produce a bibliography of what books are available from the NLS and RFB. We have such a bibliography now, but it was done six years ago and so it's very out of date. That's something we really need very desperately to do. So

not only do we do our own books, but we try to keep track of what other places are producing. And that's not easy.

Some of their criteria for selecting books are based on if a book is reviewed....

FBN: So if it's in the NY Times Review of Books it's more likely to show up?

MS: Yeah. A lot of this is mysterious to us. They don't let us know what sources they use. What their criteria are.... They do some Black and Third World authors, but not nearly enough. And they also do not do many small press books at all; they don't seem to know that the small presses exist.

FBN: What are some of the titles they would have?

MS: Well, they've done some Alice Walker. Some times it takes them a few years. I noticed that they've finally done **Their Eyes Were Watching God** and we've had it for a few years already.

FBN: What about lesbian titles?

MS: They have some, like Rita Mae Brown -- **Six of One** -- not **Rubyfruit**. I don't think they'd ever do **Rubyfruit**. **Patience and Sarah** is available in Braille. They've also done Lisa Alther. Oh, some Marge Piercy, although she doesn't exactly count as lesbian. And they did **Annie On My Mind**. They picked it up last year at some point, and it must have been because of the award it got.... Oh, and they've done **The Well of Loneliness**.

FBN: Oh, gee whiz....

MS: Yeah. And some feminist titles: Betty Freidan, Germaine Greer, Kate Millet; a couple of the middle of the road classics.

FBN: And so, opposing that, what are the things you've found it necessary to do that these agencies aren't doing?

MS: Well, May Sarton, who you would think they'd have picked up on long ago. We've done Mary Daly, some books by Third World Women; books like **The Hidden Face of Eve**, one on women





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and multinational corporations. We've done some things on rape, but we want to do a lot more on rape and violence issues -- books like **Fight Back!** We've done most everything by Jane Rule, both fiction and non-fiction. As far as other fiction, we've done a fair amount of books from Naiad, although not as much recently. There are so many authors: Valerie Miner, Tillie Olsen. Some science fiction -- Joanna Russ, Elizabeth Lynn.

FBN: How do you decide what to tape?

MS: It's not a formal process. Some publishers send us review copies of books. Those books are more likely to get taped. I might go buy specific titles if I think they would be really good for us to do. Sometimes volunteer readers suggest titles that they have or want to record. Our subscribers will sometimes suggest titles, but not real often because sometimes they don't know themselves what's out there.

Doing something in Braille is more difficult because it has to be done by somebody who has that skill. So mostly what we've done in

Braille is poetry because it's really wonderful to be able to read it in Braille and to have it right there on the page for yourself. Our subscribers really value having access to poetry in Braille. We've done some Marge Piercy, some Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, Michelle Cliff. We just did Kitchen Table's book by Mila Aguilar. Oh, and some Alice Walker.

The majority of people who get materials from us do read Braille, so it's important that we keep on doing as much as we can in Braille.

FBN: So your subscribers buy the materials...

MS: They either buy it or borrow it. So we're a combination of library, bookstore, and mail-order business.

FBN: How do you find your subscribers? How do you make that connection?

MS: We do as much publicity as we can, though it happens kind of haphazardly. We try to get articles and announcements in publications read by blind people and to send information to





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agencies for disabled people. There's a nationwide network of NLS libraries. We send information to all of them so that they know we exist. If the individual librarians are at all open to what we do, they might pass that information on to people. Some of it happens by word of mouth. And I've put publicity in feminist publications.

FBN: I was just remembering the sight impaired customers I've had over the years. But I don't know that I ever said to any of them "Do you know about Womyn's Braille Press?"

MS: Yeah. I think that's the main thing that the people in bookstores could do. If they know of women who come in who are blind, or partially sighted or who have some other disability that they might become aware of -- they could pass the word about us on to those women. Or ask if they already know about us.

FBN: If they're in and out of women's bookstores they're more likely to be in the network that would get to you.

MS: Yeah. But they might not. And there are always new women, women who are newly disabled. So there's always the need for getting the word out.

FBN: We could mail some copies of your brochure out with the FBN issue that will include this interview.

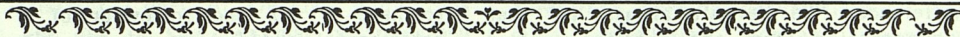
MS: That would be great. The stores could post the flier and keep the address handy to give to women that need us. The brochure is in print. When anyone who is disabled writes to us we can respond directly on tape or in Braille and send them our catalog.

Another thing that bookstores can keep in mind is that we are always looking for volunteers who want to work with us as readers, though it's harder to work with women that live at a distance. Not enough personal contact. But we're always willing to send people the guidelines that we have for reading, and a tape so they can record a bit on their equipment so we can tell them if it's good enough quality equipment so that they can do readings for us.



# ANTELOPE

P U B L I C A T I O N S



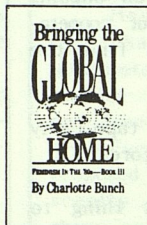
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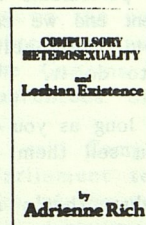
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FBN: Can you say briefly what recording involves? If someone is thinking about volunteering to read for you, how much time does it involve? What kind of equipment do they need to have?

MS: It needs to be pretty good quality cassette recording equipment....

FBN: Your average portable cassette tape recorder doesn't do it?

MS: Usually not, because if they're inexpensive the motors are noisy and you can hear the tape going around, like we can hear this one right now. That noise is going to go right on to the tape. It's usually necessary that people have a microphone that they can plug into a machine to get some distance between the tape going around and the microphone. The only way to really tell is to try it and do a sample tape.

A medium sized novel is five to six hours of material. That doesn't count going back to correct mistakes or reading the novel over first. Voices get tired. You can only tape for a certain length of time maybe half an hour at a

stretch. But it's work that a lot of people do enjoy. We work with readers to choose what they want to read; what they're comfortable with.

FBN: What about magazines?

MS: We are doing several periodicals. That's a much more unstable kind of thing and more difficult to do, because once you take it on, it's just like putting it out in print every month or every quarter.

We're doing **Off Our Backs** every month and we've done that for five years now. It's often hard to find readers to commit to do issues, either occasionally or regularly. Sometimes we've really gotten behind and have to scrounge for readers. It's been better lately. We keep on doing **O.O.B.**...because we're not going to get that information on the six o'clock news.

We also have every issue of **Sinister Wisdom** that's ever been done, though we had a really hard time finding a reader for the Jewish women's issue because it needed someone who could handle Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino.

We are open to doing more periodicals, particularly literary ones; lesbian or lesbian



feminist. But we need to have a regular relationship with the periodical's publisher. Take **Lesbian Contradiction** for example: Rebecca Gordon taped a number of the issues -- over ten of them -- because she's a publisher and she had a commitment to doing that. And she knows what's involved and so is willing to work with us in finding other readers to do it. And that makes a lot of difference. We haven't always had that kind of cooperation from the publishers of a periodical. So we're very hesitant to take on any new periodicals because it means an ongoing commitment and we can't do that without cooperation from the publisher to help us find the readers to do it.

FBN: As long as you have the books on tape, why don't you sell them through the bookstores?

MS: Right; that's a really important thing to mention, because we often get requests from people who want to read books on tape in their cars while they're commuting to work or whatever.

There are a couple of reasons why we don't do that. A lot of the permissions we get from publishers to record their books specify that we can only loan or sell the books (at cost) to people who are blind and disabled. Also, when we circulate the books, they're recorded at a slower speed and in a very different format than your basic car stereo uses. Although they're done on cassettes, they're done in such a way that we have four sides instead of two sides on each cassette. That means that a book like **Gyn/Ecology** that was 16 ninety-minute cassettes when it was originally recorded is now on four cassettes. That saves a lot of duplicating time and postage. This special four track format is used by all the agencies and organizations that do books for blind people.

FBN: What are your best selling titles?

MS: There's a book called **Single Blessedness** by Margaret Adams --it's not a new book anymore, and it's not lesbian oriented -- but it's been a really popular book because she talks about the glories of being single in a pretty realistic way. **Surpassing the Love of Men** has been a real big one. Also the books we do on disability -- **With the Power of Each Breath** and **Voices from the Shadows** have both been really popular.... I

think **With the Power of Each Breath** has been the very most popular book. Oh -- Jane Rule has been really popular. Most recently we did **Handmaid's Tale** and that created a flurry of requests. Apparently a lot of people have known about it.

Books by women of color have been really popular, too. People want to know about either other cultures or their own culture. And we try to have a mix and somewhat of a balance of heterosexual and lesbian material. We have some men subscribers, too. There's a pretty good diversity in our subscribers, which is really nice to have and nice to continue to create.


Feminist publishers have been very supportive and most of them send us copies of their books. We really appreciate that kind of concrete support. It makes it much more likely that we'll tape their books when they do send them to us. So we really appreciate that.

....I think that's all. This is an awful lot of material. Type like mad!

WBP's newest titles in Braille and on tape are **Guide to Nonsexist Language and Visuals** edited by Rhonda Lee, **Cameos, 12 Small Press Women Poets** edited by Felice Newman, and **Good Night Willie Lee, I'll See You in the Morning** by Alice Walker. New titles on tape only include **Stopping Rape: Successful Survival Strategies**, by Pauline Bart and Patricia O'Brien; **The Rebel Girl: An Autobiography, My First Life (1906-1926)** by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn; **Signed Sealed, Delivered: The Life Stories of Women in Pop** by Sue Stuard and Sheryl Garrett; **For Nights Like This One** by Becky Birtha; **The Beet Queen** by Louise Erdrich, **Spunk** by Zora Neale Hurston; and **Metamorphosis and Other Poems of Recovery** by Judith McDaniel.

Subscriptions to the **Womyn's Braille Press Newsletter**, published quarterly, are on sliding scale: \$10/year for those with incomes below \$7,500; \$15 for \$7,500-\$12,000; \$20 for \$12,000-\$15,000; and \$25 for those with incomes over \$15,000. WBP Newsletter and Catalog are available on tape, in print and in Braille.

The Womyn's Braille Press, Inc. PO Box 8475, Minneapolis, MN 55408. (612) 872-4352.

Thanks to Polly Pagenhart for transcribing this interview and for preliminary editing. 



# "Repugnant But Not Obscene"

Good news on two fronts:

The District Court of Ontario had ruled that while **The Joy of Gay Sex** may be "repugnant to the heterosexual observer" it is not obscene and that that Customs had misinterpreted the obscenity law, thus ending the ban on the book that has been enforced by Canadian Customs since last April.

The ban was based on Customs' determination that depictions or descriptions of "buggery" -- anal sex -- violates Canada's obscenity legislation.

Judge Bruce Hawkins determined that "[**The Joy of Gay Sex**] deals rationally and unsensationally with the sexual practices of a substantial segment of the male population.... However repugnant the concept of anal sex may be to the heterosexual observer, it is, I find, the central sexual act of homosexual practice. To write about homosexual practices without dealing with anal intercourse would be equivalent to writing a history of music and omitting Mozart."

(FBN suggests that the heterosexual observers who find anal intercourse repugnant observe something else - like birds.)

Hawkins' ruling appears to effectively deny other prohibitions by Customs based on the equation of anal sex and obscenity. Representatives of Toronto's Glad Day Bookshop, which brought Customs to court on **The Joy of Gay Sex** ban, expressed guarded optimism that the decision will halt seizures of at least some gay/lesbian material bound for Canada. "The effect will be that part of the guidelines Customs uses to stop gay books depicting or describing anal sex can no longer be justified," said Charles Campbell, lawyer for Glad Day.

"But the only test is in the pudding," said Jerald Moldenhauer, owner of Glad Day. "We've signaled for shipment from various sources -- of both magazines and books. We'll just have to see what they do."

Campbell added that other aspects of Custom

interpretation of obscenity law, including guidelines barring descriptions or depictions of dildos, submission, bondage, spanking, display of fecal matter, etc. are used to censor gay/lesbian materials.

Hawkins did not rule on the part of the suit charging that the obscenity law and the interpretations of it in the Customs Tariff Act violate constitutional guarantees of equality and freedom of expression.

Even more alarming, said Campbell, is a proposed amendment in Parliament to the obscenity legislation. Drafts of the amendment show an effort to prohibit depictions of "anything that shows sexual connection: oral, genital, animals and people," and even heterosexual intercourse. On the other hand, the proposed revision appears to loosen up restrictions against sexually explicit writing. Campbell said the proposed changes are the subject of "great debate in the country. The writers are up in arms." A vote on the amendment is not yet scheduled.

-- FBN thanks **Gay Community News** for this article and for their consistent coverage of these issues.

Hopefully this decision will also stop Customs from censoring AIDS education and safe sex materials that specify safe and unsafe sexual practices and advise or illustrate the use of condoms for anal sex....

British Post Office Pays L155 to Silver Moon for Book Damages

A letter from the February 27 (British) **Book-seller**:

"Sir, We thought you would like to know that we have just received a cheque for L155 as "good-will payment" in compensation for the damage done to our Giovanni's Room delivery of October last.

We had taken the matter up with our MP, Peter Brooke, who wrote back to us saying "I hope you will feel this appropriate redress, but



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I hope the problem eases too." Mr. Brooke had taken up our cause with Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the Post Office, so it seems that the matter became unclogged from the top down.

Apart from this direct assistance, we would like to acknowledge with thanks support from Tim Godfray, director of the Booksellers Association, the *Guardian*, *Feminist Bookstore News*, *Gay Times* and *The Bookseller*.

Yours faithfully,

Jane Cholmeley and Susan Butterworth

This is how it works in Britain: (sort of)

Dear Ms Cholmeley,

Thank you for your letter of 6 January about the damage caused to a number of books sent to you by post from the USA.

Customs tell me that because of the immense volume of postal traffic it is not in fact practical for every parcel to be opened, and consequently a great many packages are cleared for Customs purposes without being opened, on the basis of the declaration as to contents and value made by the sender. However, when parcels are selected by Customs for internal examination, the opening and repacking is done, not by them, but by postal staff, since the Post Office has the overall responsibility for the safe handling and transit of the mail. When a package is examined internally it is clearly labelled by the Post Office as having been opened for Customs purposes.

Accordingly, while I am sorry that you have had this trouble, I can only say that questions of loss or damage in the post are a matter for the Post Office to whom I have copied your letter.

Finally, I can assure you that, in enforcing the prohibition of the import of indecent or obscene material, Customs make no discrimination in relation to sexual preference. [Ed. note: !?!\*!]

I have of course in a constituency capacity sent on to you the Post Office's letter.

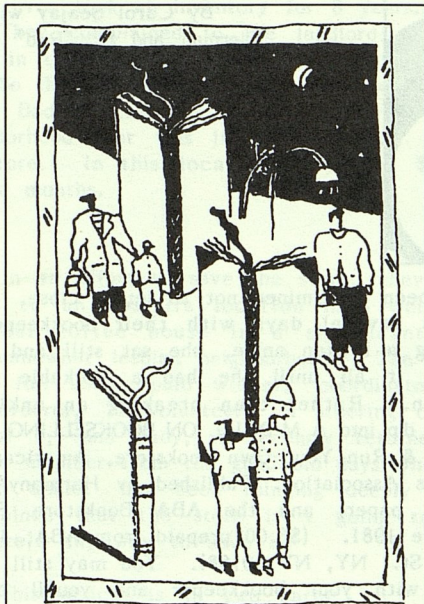
Yours sincerely,

Peter Brooke

A consignment of books worth L230 from Giovanni's room arrived in damaged state at Silver Moon Bookshop in London last winter after having been opened by the Post



Office on behalf of HM Customs & Excise. Each book had been removed from its individual shrink wrapping and then pushed back down into the styrofoam packing materials crumpling covers and pages. Silver Moon estimated at the time that only L75 worth of books reached the bookshop in saleable state. Among the titles that were most seriously damaged by Customs were **The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women** and Marge Piercy's **Small Changes**. Said Jane Cholmeley at the time: "I feel it is impossible to have created that amount of damage without malice."



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## Before Columbus Awards

The Awards were founded in 1978 by the Before Columbus Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of contemporary American multicultural literature.

They are intended to give recognition to outstanding achievement by American authors without restriction to category, ethnic background or size of the publisher or promotion budget. The Awards recognized both established writers and those deserving wider recognition.

The winning authors will be honored at public ceremonies held on May 17th at the University of Pennsylvania Museum and will be co-sponsored by the City of Philadelphia in conjunction with Philadelphia's celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Constitution.

This year seven of the fifteen book awards went to women. Neither of the two Lifetime Achievement Awards went to women.

Ai (Ai Ogawa)

**Sin** (Houghton Mifflin)

Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum

**Liberazione Della Donna: Feminism in Italy**  
(Wesleyan University Press)

Dorothy Bryant

**Confessions of Madam Psyche** (Ata Press)

Ana Castillo

**The Mixquiabuala Letters**  
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Septima Clark

**Ready From Within** (Wild Trees Press)

Terry McMillan

**Mama** (Houghton Mifflin)

Cyn Zarco

**Circumnavigation** (Tooth of Time Press)



# ECONOMICS

Reprinted from **FBN** Volume 7 Number 1, September 1983. This is the article most often requested for reprint by booksellers.



By Carol Seajay with Judy Bierman and S. "Red" Reddick.

The workshop on economic survival at the North West Women-In-Print Conference was the clearest, most concise, most **useful** presentation on the how-and-why of bookstore finances that I've ever heard, so I wrote it up for the newsletter. The workshop was presented by Judy Bierman and S. "Red" Reddick of Red and Black Books, a non-sectarian leftist store in Seattle. The workshop not only described what you have to know and do to be financially healthy, it described how you get **out** of trouble once you're in it and described their experience to date of climbing out of deep trouble. Pell of Old Wives' Tales said that it was the first time in her life that she had enjoyed talking about finances, which struck me as a pretty tall compliment to the presentation. I left the presentation wondering how 'They' ever mystified finances in the first place.

**The Mother of Invention.** I asked Judy how she had put all this together and she told me that she had broken her ankle. (?) Then she explained that she had recently returned to the bookstore collective after several years' absence when it was in dire financial straits and

had been determined not to let it close. So she spent several days with their bookkeeper, and having a broken ankle, she sat still and thought about it all until she had a workable plan of action. Rather than breaking an ankle, you might dip into **A MANUAL ON BOOKSELLING** (How to Open & Run Your Own Bookstore, American Booksellers Association. Published by Harmony/ Crown \$8.95 paper) and the **ABA Bookstore Financial Profile 1981**. (\$6.00 prepaid from ABA, 122 East 42nd St., NY, NY 10168). You may still need to talk with your bookkeeper and you'll certainly need to sit still for a while.

What follows is a summary of the workshop taken from my notes and reviewed by Judy and Red.

## THE SCENE

Red and Black Books is a multi-faceted non-sectarian leftist bookstore that started about 10 years ago. For 8 years they enjoyed a "good" location on the main drag by the university. It all just "worked." Twenty to twenty-five per cent of their sales came from off the street traffic, they had a solid steady clientele from



# FOR HEALTH AND SURVIVAL

the political and movement books they sold, they had a solid group of "university lefties" to buy the esoteric and hardcore political theory books. Rent was low and the cash flowed. They never even took an inventory for 8 years.

They complained to the landlord about the leaks in the roof and were evicted.

So they moved. The first move was a disaster. Bad location, no foot-traffic, and not a neighborhood that was likely to support a lefty bookstore. In this location they lost \$10,000 in six months.

In an effort to save the store, they moved again to an upstairs location in a well-known political coffee house in a significantly gay and somewhat lesbian neighborhood. The cast is Red, full time, paid worker, coordinator, and book-orderer, 25 volunteers, a steering committee of 5, and Judy, a recently returned collective member from the good old days who has a broken ankle, has been thinking deeply and is determined that the store isn't going to close if there's any way to save it.

This article is in two parts:

- I. What you need to know to ensure your survival; and
- II. Getting out of Financial Trouble.

## PART I: TO ENSURE SURVIVAL

If you want to survive, not to mention prosper, Judy said, you need to do three things: 1) Know your purpose. 2) Know your inventory. 3) Know your finances. Though the workshop focused on the third point, the first two are also mandatory. Briefly:

### 1. KNOW YOUR PURPOSE.

Know your purpose and who you're serving. Who do you stock for? Who do you want to bring in? You need to be (or get) clear about your purpose. What is your intention? What are your politics? The politics of your bookstore staff? Who do you want to be serving? Who do you want to bring in? (only when you know that can you figure out how to bring them in.)

Notice what you're actually selling and who is buying it. Pay attention to how that's similar to and different from your intentions. Who you are serving, and who else do you want to be serving-- is that who you're stocking for? Does your location facilitate your purpose? All this affects your advertising and marketing. Red and Black ("Out of the Red and into the Black") found that in asking and answering these questions they became more of who they are politically.

### 2. KNOW YOUR INVENTORY.

You need to know what you have (i.e. the titles you carry) and how much of that you have (number of copies per title) as well as the value of your entire inventory.

You also need to know what is selling and if you have sections or titles that are "dead." If there is a difference between "slow moving" but politically important titles, you need to know exactly what that is. It is part of knowing your purpose and will affect your financial decisions.

You also need a good inventory system for keeping track of titles.



### 3. KNOW YOUR FINANCES.

A. You need to know what money comes in, where it comes from, and what money goes out and to where.

To find out where the money comes from you keep a daily Cash Received Journal on a "spread sheet" (accountant's paper with 10-14 columns or however many you need.) Make it as detailed as is possible and useful to you. I.e., categories might be books, magazines, records, tax collected, other income, including what it is for, and total for the day. You can also jot down the number of sales that day and the average amount of each sale. Also (and too often glossed over), keep track of any money you pay out of your cashbox in the same way. Run totals at the end of the month.

To find out where the money goes, you keep a "Cash Disbursement Journal." Several stores suggested using "The Economic Checkbooks System" which acts like a checkbook on the right side and gives you columns on the left for organizing your expenses into categories (purchases, utilities & rent, supplies, etc.). This system gives you a lot of information with a minimum of work and a little duplication of work. Ask at your bank or office supply store. Again, run totals at the end of the month and be sure to add into the appropriate category any money you paid out in cash from your cash box.

B. Learn to use and compute: Turnover, Operating Expenses, Average Sale, Cash Forecasting, Cost of Goods, & Replacement Cost.

#### TURNOVER.

Your annual sales (say, \$60,000) divided by the retail value of your inventory (say, \$15,000) equals your turnover (4), the number of times you sell your inventory per year. Turnover is the single most important factor in measuring a bookstore's financial health. (See A MANUAL ON BOOKSELLING & THE ABA FINANCIAL PROFILE.) The 'experts' say turnover should be 3-5 times a year. Low turnover equals poor cash flow. High turnover is equated with the best use of financial resources. Your turnover is 4, then you sell your entire inventory (or at least the monetary value of your inventory, not liter-

ally every book) every 3 months. (12 months divided by 4 turns is 3.) Every month, then, you sell 1/3 of your inventory, or \$5,000. ( $1/3 \times \$15,000 = \$5,000$ .)

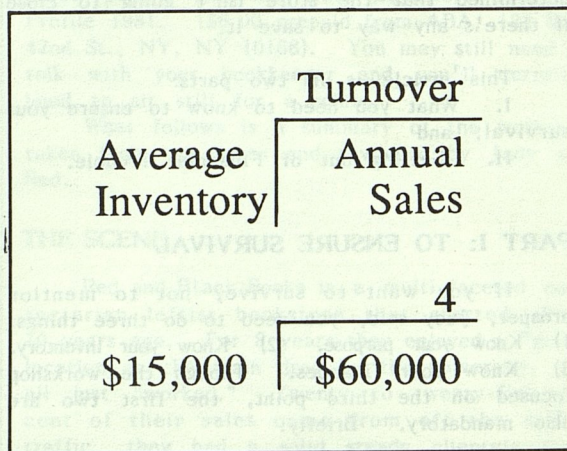
#### OPERATING EXPENSES.

Overhead = all those regular monthly expenses (rent, utilities, supplies, salaries, etc.) that don't fluctuate with the sale of books.

Get this info from your cash disbursement journal (see 3A above). Alternately, you can take your total book purchases (and any major expenses you've discontinued since then - like a loan paid off) and divide that figure by 12 and you have your monthly overhead. Overhead usually runs 25-40% of the gross. In our healthy store model, monthly overhead is \$1,200 or 24% of the gross sales. This is the first place most financial consultants look to cut costs to increase profitability - Can you get supplies cheaper? Recycle paper? Wash cups instead of using paper? If you are out of balance, look here first.

#### AVERAGE SALE.

Divide the total dollar value of the sales in a day (or month) by the total number of sales in that day (or month) to get your average sale.





Judy found that over four months their average sale varied by only 5 cents. It is \$5.80/sale. I was quite surprised to connect with that bit of info. At O.W.T. our average sale on Saturdays in December (the only time I'd paid attention to it) was about \$5.50. Very close to the same as Red and Black despite the differences in store size, location, communities served... The variable was the number of sales, not the average size of the sale. That's interesting. I'm not real clear on what to do with this figure, except notice it. Basically, what I got from Judy is that if you want your sales to go up, you have to figure out how to get more people into the store. Unless you've been in a bad way for a long time, you can't assume you'll increase the monetary sales to your customers. But maybe you can win back some of the people who've gone away discouraged.

**CASH FORECASTING.**

(Also known as "figuring your 'Open to Buy'")

Cash forecasting tells you how much money

you have available to spend on books, how much you need to spend on books to keep your inventory at the level you want, and if your financial situation has your inventory growing or shrinking.

The month's income (\$5,000) minus the monthly operating expenses (\$1,200) = the amount

Income  
- Operating Expenses

Open to Buy

\$5,000

-1,200

\$3,800

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## RED AND BLACK BOOKS

Since 1973, Red & Black Books Collective has existed to give voice to the many in our society who cannot find support through the media mainstream — women, political and cultural minorities, and small presses. We choose not to align ourselves with any particular organization or party but to serve as a forum for a spectrum of political philosophies. We offer special order and mail order services, and serve as a Capitol Hill ticket outlet for many cultural, political and community events.

**Congratulations to  
Feminist Bookstore News  
Happy 10th Birthday**

430 15th Avenue East      Monday thru Thursday 10 to 8  
Seattle, WA 98112      Friday and Saturday 10 to 10  
**322-READ**              Sunday 12 to 8

you have left to spend on books and other merchandise (\$3,800). Your Open to Buy varies with sales. It is probably high during the winter gift-spree and low in the summer.

### COST OF GOODS.

This is where retail income meets wholesale cost. Bookstores buy books at a discount (usually 40%, sometimes 20%). What we pay (60-80%) is the cost of goods. For this article, we're taking 65% as our average cost of goods. (For more detailed discussion on figuring cost of goods, see A MANUAL).

### REPLACEMENT COST.

The month's sales times the cost of goods percentage is how much it will cost the store to replace the stock and keep the inventory stable. In this case, \$5,000 x 65% = \$3,250. In our sample fantasy store, our Open to Buy was \$3,800, so the store has \$550 to spend on increasing stock (keep inflation in mind), building bookcases, additional salaries, or whatever.

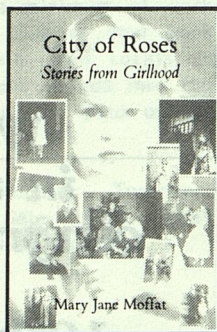
That's \$3,800 at wholesale. That equals \$5,000 retail. As we should have learned in third grade, if you add apples and oranges you get fruits but not wholesale or retail.

## CITY OF ROSES

*Stories from Girlhood*  
**Mary Jane Moffat**

(editor of *REFLECTIONS: Diaries of Women*)

John Daniel, Publisher  
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Paperback              \$8.95



"With a radiance, Mary Jane Moffat captures and blends the wryly won wisdom of the mature heart with the perception of the child. *City of Roses* is witty, tender, and profoundly wise."

--Tillie Olsen

"This is the kind of book publishers rarely produce any more....It is one of the most quietly touching books I have ever read."

--Patricia Holt, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Month's Sales  
x Cost of Goods  

---

Replacement Cost

\$5,000  
x 65%  

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\$3,250

### ANALYSIS OF CASH FORECASTING.

In brief, if your Open to Buy is bigger than your replacement cost and you're spending that on stock, you're in the black and growing. If it is smaller, you're operating in the red



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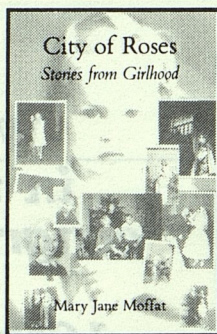
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and are heading for trouble, if you aren't there already.

This varies just a little by season and special occasion, i.e., in October or November what you **spend** on books will probably be bigger than your October/November Open to Buy because you are laying in stock for Christmas sales. If you did it perfectly, your December income pays off the remaining bills from October and November and you go into January in balance again.

The ideal situation for feminist stores is a growing inventory (that is, an Open to Buy that is larger than replacement cost) because 1) our communities seem to be constantly growing and 2) more and more books of interest to our communities are being published and we want to make them available.

At times bookstores may make a decision to channel excess Open to Buy funds (that is money available that is greater than replacement cost and inflation) into other directions: most notably into paying salaries (or cost of living raises), into moving to a larger/better location.

There is also a point (though no one seems to know where this point is) when a given space is holding all the inventory it can take and jamming **more** books in makes the good books less accessible and harder to find, resulting in a declining sales to inventory ratio. If moving to a larger store is undesirable, then the store might need to limit its purchases and donate its surplus income to another feminist organization. I have to admit that I've never heard of this happening, but I'm still hoping.

\* Whatever % that is in the book trade.

## PART II: GETTING OUT OF TROUBLE

At the beginning of this article, Red and Black Bookstore had recently moved for the second time to a better location, had lost \$10,000 in the last 6 months (they owed \$10,000 more in bills due than they had owed 6 months previously), had an inventory and sales too small to pay the operating expenses and replace the stock, Red was working full time with a crew of 25 volunteers and Judy was sitting with a broken ankle, thinking. Here's what she came up with, being determined that the store shouldn't close.

(Keep in mind that Red and Black had already done everything possible on the non-financial side: moving to a better location, advertising, changing stock emphasis to reflect changing demand from customers. And that they had already returned to the publishers all the dead stock that was returnable, had done sales on the rest and were clear of the "junk" that had accumulated, leaving them with a "clean" functional inventory. None of this is covered in this article.)

These are all proposals for getting out of serious trouble, **not** for regular operating realities. Some of these proposals work only on a long term, carefully planned basis. To put them into effect without a well-thought-out long-range plan would be to put your store in an even worse position and to possibly do serious harm to our publishing and distribution networks, which is to hurt every other store around the country. My tone in the writing is light. The responsibility isn't. Your first approach should be to cut your overhead expenses wherever possible and clean up your inventory. Only after accomplishing this should you consider the following.

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## INCREASING YOUR INVENTORY

If you are in the position where your inventory can't generate sales that will cover your replacement cost and your operating expenses (and they're already as low as you can make them) AND you have a community that will buy more books if you have a larger (more complete, more up-to-date) inventory, then you need to find a way to increase your inventory. Figure out how much inventory you need, at what rate of turnover, to support yourself. If you always wanted to go to salary, include that, too. Figure how much money you need to increase the inventory to that level and get it.

### Sleep Well at Night Methods:

1) **Get a major donation**, with no strings attached, from your fairy-dyke mother (it has been known to happen, but not often).

2) **Fundraisers**. Dances, parties, picnics, concerts, anything that creates more money than it costs in time and energy to be worthwhile, keeping in mind the amount you need to raise. (i.e. a bake sale that nets \$150 won't do it. A Chris Williamson concert that nets \$6,000 would be worth it. Everywoman's Bookstore in San Rafael did this 2-3 times before they closed.)

3) **Memberships**. Sell "memberships" to your community. If a benefit of the membership is a discount (10%) on books, the price of the membership has to be as much or more than 10% of the average annual purchase of a member, keeping in mind that members getting a discount may buy more than previously, thus increasing your sales. Membership discounts will also affect your cost of goods. Red and Black hasn't yet implemented a membership program. Charis Books/Atlanta, A Room Of One's Own/Madison and Modern Times/SF have memberships with discounts. Look for an article in the next FBN.

4) **Loans**. Red and Black borrowed \$11,000 to move and buy inventory. They borrowed from individuals (at 12%) that they found by printing a brochure and circulating to their community and by making lots of phone calls. Judy pointed out that this would be harder for feminist stores than for them. (Women generally have less money, etc.)

They recently renegotiated most of these loans to an additional year, with a plan to make

interest payments only for the first and second years, with principals to be paid in the third year.

5) **Donations**. You have more likelihood of success if you can make a deal with a non-profit umbrella organization that can give you the option of accepting tax-deductible donations. Again, a brochure, to their mailing list and a lot of phone calls. This raised \$2,000.

If you don't have the woman power to do this kind of fundraising, it is ethical and common practice in the world to "hire" someone else to represent you, make the calls, go door-to-door, whatever, and pay them a percentage of what they collect.

## DEFICIT BUYING

Or how to stay awake at night without No-Doz.

Usually this happens accidentally and/or without any planning. You just wake up one day and discover that you're on hold with half or more of your creditors and have no money to pay them any time soon. A lot of stores realize this just before they start getting put on hold, but in either case, you've been engaging in

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In addition to *ELSA*, the first full-life, explicitly lesbian autobiography, Booklegger Publishing distributes all of Elsa's works in print and two tapes.

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*Makings for Meditation: Reverent & Irreverent Parapoems*. \$5.00

"Where Eros Laughs & Weeps." Taped interview & readings by Elsa. \$10.00

"Kinship With The Earth," tape of Elsa's mentor, Ella Young. \$10.00



deficit buying without planning and the suggestions above and below will help get you out.

Theoretically a store could **choose** to do deficit buying to a scale that would give a functional inventory at **which level** they could replace their inventory and pay off their debt load over a 6-12 month period of time. On a much smaller scale, healthy expanding stores are regularly buying more stock than their Open to Buy would allow for, because they know they can sell it by the time the invoice is due. In this way, they expand their stock in a way that is healthy and satisfactory for them, for their publishers and their distributors. But Deficit Buying, intentionally or "accidentally," is a major commitment and requires a lot of planning and energy to get out of. In many situations it can be done. In the short run, it can be harmful to publishers. In the long run, it is better to pay a feminist press little by little over time than never at all. (i.e., if you declare bankruptcy and close) That much is clear. If you are planning Deficit Buying, do it at the expense of the corporations, not feminist and movement presses.

(This is not a stop gap measure.)

## GETTING OUT OF DEFICIT BUYING

### 1) Juggling the Holds.

First and foremost you must stay alive if you are going to pay off your debts. Staying alive means both being open **and** having stock on your shelves. **Good stock.** Current stock. The new titles and the books women want to read. Dead stock isn't going to do it.

So you have to keep your access to books open:

a) Distributors give the most access to the widest variety of books, so get those accounts clear first, and keep them open. (i.e., you can get a Dell title from a distributor, but you cannot ever get H&R from Dell.)

b) Rotate who you're on hold with: i.e., pay off Random House. Buy a supply of books from Random House, let that account go on hold while you pay Harper and Row, then lay in stock of Harper and Row titles. Then let Harper and Row go on hold while you pay off Norton, etc. Some stores have rotated distributors this way. Sadly, too many straight stores function on this system all the time.

### 2) Make a Re-Payment Plan.

Spread it out over a year or more, if you have to.

Sort your "understandings" and your "holds" into different classes. For example, distributors that you use often and well go into the first group. Second are publishers whose books you need and want but aren't sold through distributors. Third are publishers who have some titles you want that aren't available from your distributors. Last, obscure publishers whose titles you can get along without for a time.

Include your politics in your plan. I.e., major corporate publishers aren't going to live or die on what you owe them. But what you owe and pay feminist and movement presses can make a lot of difference.

### 3) Develop a Relationship with your Creditors.

One phone call is worth a lot of letters and worth the price. Tell your creditors your situation and that you have created a plan to mutual satisfaction. Tell them what you can pay them **AND PAY IT.** **Never promise what you can't**

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pay. That destroys credibility you are re-creating.

If you call up with a repayment plan to offer, you may be able to work out a better plan to mutual satisfaction. Your creditor much prefers you to be open and repaying than closed and defaulting. They may have useful suggestions and/or alternative plans born of much experience. Maybe you can work out an arrangement with a distributor in which you can buy \$200 of books monthly if you pay \$300 a month, the \$100 to go against your accumulated balance.

Talk to the same person every time. In corporations, stores are usually assigned alphabetically or geographically. Find out who your person is and talk to her/him each time. Mail payments to the attention of that person. (Send her/him an invitation to your store's birthday party?) Keep them informed and up to date. If you can't make a scheduled payment, let them know **before** it is due.


4) Once your credibility is re-established, you may be able to change your status, i.e., after making regular payments for 4 months following all the guidelines in #3, Red and Black phoned up all their creditors and asked that, given their regularity in making payments and their proven commitment to re-payment, could they place an order for Christmas stock. Half the companies said "yes." And they were off "hold" with them and continuing to make payments on past balances.

### THE SUPPORTED BOOKSTORE

Even after all your best efforts, it may just be that your community can't support a feminist bookstore (replacement cost of books and overhead) for any number of good reasons: the community is too small, the price of rent for commercial property is inflated or has too much demand on it. But you and your community still want a bookstore. Then you have to create a regular, on-going support system for the store and include that planning in the work of the store. Memberships might do it. Regular fundraisers are more likely. Do the annual Halloween dance, let the solstice crafts fair or spring flea market be an annual event that the whole community looks forward to and saves their

"fleas" to contribute to it. Create good will and make it an event that everyone comes to and wants to support.

### PART III: CONTINUING

Keeping a financially troubled bookstore afloat is a long and hard task. To succeed, that is to get back onto the black, you need a good plan, perseverance, and a lot of recognition of the small successes that come along the way. But it is possible. This article was written in February, Red and I talked in July, and she said, "It's working." In August, Red and Black broke even! And that is their first books-in-the-black month since December of 1980. They are back to being on 30 days with most of the publishers and are almost entirely finished with their repayment plan. Quite an awesome accomplishment! Not that they are finished with all this... They are still paying interest on the loans. And have to pay those loans back over the next two years. And they'll be able to do that. 

## WORDS IN OUR POCKETS

The Feminist Writers Guild Handbook on  
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*Casey Miller & Kate Swift*



# But What Did You Do All Day, Dear?

Reprinted from Volume 3 Number 4, Fall 1979.

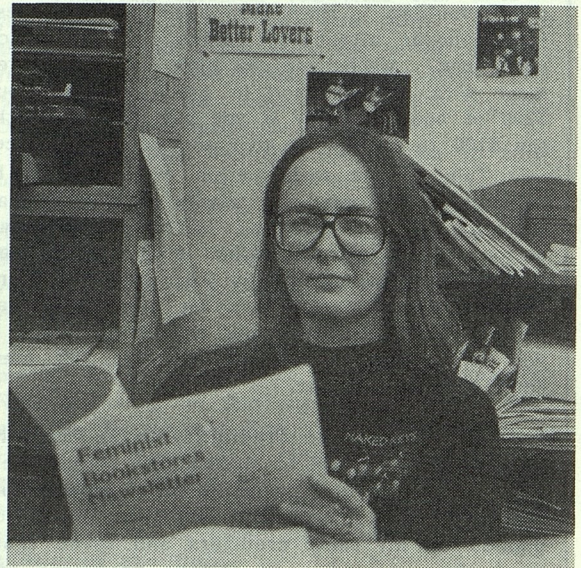
"Two of us from Old Wives' Tales stayed for a few days with Mary Farmer from Lammas Women's Shop in Washington DC. Early on in the visit we got to telling tales about the outrageous (and basic) services we find ourselves providing in the bookstores. We started writing them down. Terry and Joan from Labyris (Richmond VA) showed up one evening and we just kept right on adding to the list.... So here it is. A little validation for those evenings when you walk wearily out of the store but can't quite figure out what you got done....

Housemate referrals  
Book & record critic  
Art critic  
Tax returns/support/advice/info  
Mental health counseling  
Agricultural advice  
(Could you raise sheep under the freeway?)  
Bordello

(This is a list of **true** stories!)

Lavatory  
Phone booth  
Shower  
Bank  
Credit reference  
Unemployment reference  
Pick-up point  
(You can read that **goods**, if you will!)

Communications center  
Out-of-towners referral service  
Dating service  
Women's center  
Job referrals  
Ticketron  
Sex therapy  
Fashion advisor  
Jewelry and gift registry\*  
Child care  
Pet-sitting  
Gift wrapping  
Mail order  
Dyke chamber of commerce  
Baggage check room



Moonyean Grosch reading **FBN** in 1981 at Womans-place Bookstore (Phoenix). Pinned to the side of the bookcase is the original "What Did You Do All Day, Dear" article. Moonyean now manages ClaireLight Bookstore (Santa Rosa). Photo by Tee Corinne.

Lost and found  
Map-reading, bus & freeway advisor  
Odd & even gas days almanac  
Check book balancing  
Composer of greeting card sentiments  
Credit counseling  
Advice to the lovertorn  
Justifying capitalism in terms of book prices  
Explaining the straight world of business & scheduling  
Pornography politicing in the store  
(or is that anti-porn politicing?)  
Book illustrations  
Library  
Practicing medicine without a license  
Stationery store  
(OWT gave up and just **sells** pens, now)



Loaners of everything that moves  
 Political education  
 Info for first time publishers  
 Informal classes: Consignment 101  
                             Book Distribution 101  
                             Book Distribution - Advanced

Safe space  
 Transportation & directions counseling  
 Lunchroom  
 DMZ in the daily patriarchy  
 Instant experts on anything needed....  
 Coordinating last-minute ticket extras & needs  
 Official polling place  
 Notary public  
 Art exhibits/gallery  
 Lonely hearts club  
 Workshops  
 Recommending photographers  
 Selling books  
 Sponsoring sports teams  
 Sharing info with other booksellers  
 Door prizes for every feminist event & fund-raiser in town....

\*The original version read "Jewelry and gift resistory," which was probably true, too. FBN was (in)famous for its typos in pre-computer days.

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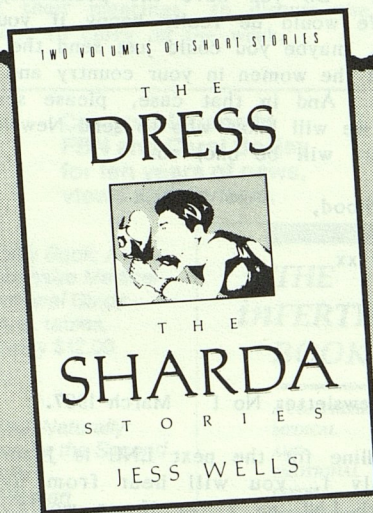
# SHORT RAVES

Two books we just found out about (and have sold several of each):

**Women Church Celebrations** (\$8.00) and **Seder of the Sisters of Sarah** (\$3.50), both available from Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER). Although WATER's price list states that bookstores must buy 10 copies of one title to get 20% discount, they let me order fewer copies and get that discount. Just mention that your store is a small (if it is) women's book store and maybe you can do that too.

WATER also sells arpilleras from Chile made by wives of political prisoners and widows of desaparecidos. I haven't seen these. And post-cards and Christmas cards from Chile.

--Patty Callaghan/Crazy Ladies



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*Sandy Boucher, author of Heartwomen*

LIBRARY B



# Notes from the Oslo Feminist

Looking for something a bit more radical at the Second International Feminist Bookfair in Oslo, a group of lesbian publishers, book-sellers, writers, et al., met daily for the length of the conference. The Lesbian News Letter grew out of those meetings. The following pieces are taken from the first edition of LNL.

Dear Women,

As we have also written in the Practical note, we found out it would cost us too much to send one copy of the News Letter to every woman/group on the list. So we figured out that if we instead send one copy to each country, maybe the women there could arrange so everybody will get her copy. Do you have the possibility to do that? We would be really happy if you could. Otherwise, maybe you could just send the copy to another of the women in your country and ask her to do it. And in that case, please send us a note, so we will know who to send Newsletter no 2 (if there will be one) to.

In sisterhood,

Meta/Matrixx

Lesbian Newsletter No 1 March 1987.

Deadline for the next LNL is June 1. At about July 1, you will hear from us again, either with LNL no 2, or if we won't get any contributions, at least with a summeregreeting.

We in Matrixx want to publish a couple of essays in Swedish. If anybody knows the addresses to the following women, please write us a note: Audre Lorde, Kathleen Barry, Nelle Morton (author of *The Journey is Home*) and Catherine Nicolson (who has written an article on the *Power of Deafness*, published in *Sinister Wisdom*). We would really appreciate to get some help with this/In sisterhood, Matrixx.

KVINNOBOKHANDELN / WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE MEDUSA

We are the only lesbian/feminist bookstore in Sweden. We opened in August 1985. We are two lesbians that run the shop with a lot of help from our lovers and friends.

Our ambition is to have so wide a selection of books as possible in different subjects. We have fiction, biographys, art-books, plays, feminist studies, poetry, philosophy....One of our reasons for opening a bookstore was the difficulty to find foreign books from all over the world. If anyone wants information about Swedish books or what is going on here within the lesbian community we would be happy to help.

Having a bookstore like ours is, for me at least, more fun and rewarding then I ever could have guessed. One of many nice things about it is meeting all the women that come here. And to be able to work with what interests me most - lesbian literature - is really wonderful.

Karin Lindeqvist  
Kvinnobokhandeln / Women's Bookstore Medusa  
Wollmar Yxkullsgatan 33  
S-116 50 Stockholm, Sweden

January 1987

Dear Women,

At the feminist bookfair in Oslo last summer, the idea with a lesbian feminist-publishers newsletter appeared. Pia from Matrixx in Sweden took the responsibility for the first one. In September last year we sent a letter to all of you, women on the address list from the lesbian morning meetings, and invited you to send your contributions to the newsletter. Until now, only a few contributions has arrived.

We have decided to send out this first newsletter anyhow, even if it is a thin one. We really hope that many women still are interested in and have the time to help keep this going. Robynne and Joan from New Zealand said they could organize the second newsletter. We have not heard from them and that's why we think it's OK for you to send contributions to newsletter



# Lesbian News Letter

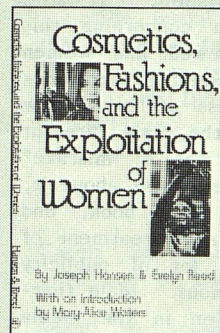
MATRIX  
KVINNOBOKHANDELN  
ACCA

no 2 to us, once again. If some other women are willing to take it over, please contact us and we will hand it over to you. But, if nothing else happens, we will organize the next (if there will be one).

Maybe our situation is a bit different than the situation of many of you. Sweden is a very small country. There are two feminist publishers (as far as I know), ACCA and Matrixx, and I don't think there is room for any more. This means we will never be able to sell a lot of books, which makes our work very much depending on the money we happen to have or rather not have. It is also quite hard to get the books sold - there are few radical bookstores who will take these books, and we don't have the money to reach the big bookstores who covers the whole country.

Both of us have worked in the women's movement for a number of years and we have learned not to take responsibility for more work than we feel we can manage, we are trying to really cooperate to discuss with each other in every detail and to give space to our personal lives.

Until now, Matrixx has published one book, a translation of Adrienne Rich's essay Compulsory heterosexuality and lesbian existence. For the moment we are working with a book by and for lesbians in our part of the world. Still there doesn't exist a book in Swedish about lesbian life and culture today. It is a collective of women who are writing the book together and Pia and I have been with them on a couple of their meetings, to discuss the content and the way to carry on the work.



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we would be happy to hear from you.  
In sisterhood,

Margareta  
Matrixx ek. for. Posgironr: 72 39 50 -- 2  
Box 15015  
S-104 65 Stockholm  
Sweden

ACCA has been working since the beginning of 1985. So far all the books published have been translations from English. We have published two books of non-fiction **The Genealogy of Female Friendship** by Janice Raymond and **Well-Founded Fear** by Jalna Hamner and Shela Saunders (originally published by Hutchinson Explorations in Feminism Collective). Janice Raymond's essay, which appeared at first in TRIVIA, has been published as a booklet. It is preceded by an interview with her. **Well-Founded Fear** is a community study of male violence done by a group of feminists. It emphasizes the importance of doing research outside the university and we hope it will stimulate rape crisis workers and female social workers to do their own feminist research.

The third book consists of three essays by British radical feminist Margaret Jackson (two of those were published in the anthology **The Sexuality Papers**, published by the Hutchison Explorations in Feminism Collective, and the third in the anthology **Women Against Violence Against Women** published by Only Women Press). She is doing research on how the theories of the sexologists were a large part of what she calls the male sexual counter-revolution in the 1920's and from then on; a backlash against the militant feminism of earlier decades. She carefully examines these theories in detail and exposes the woman-hating and justification for rape, incest and heterosexuality that the sexologists created and promoted as progressive ideas and as science.

We are very happy and thrilled about the one piece of fiction that ACCA published. **The Needle on Full** by Caroline Forbes is a radical and inspiring book; encouraging in its woman-love and liberating in its themes of rage and revenge against men. Britta Stovling, the translator of the book and a radical feminist writer herself, described **The Needle On Full** as a literary event.

Shortly after our return from Oslo there was a long article by a man in one of the largest newspapers who wrote that there were no feminists publishing in Sweden and that there had been no feminist publishers at the fair in Oslo. We were hardly invisible at the fair and he knows very well about us and saw the books displayed by ACCA and Matrixx. An academic feminist journal from Sweden (Kvinnovetenskaplig tidskrift) also had their own stand. The entire article was anti-feminist. He implied that women here had nothing to complain about and that women engaged in male revolutionary movements around the world were engaged in the "real struggle". The level of the debate in this country is very low and their ignorance and woman-hating is appalling. He then proceeded to write about seven male writers who will appear with new books during the fall and then went on to Freud and Peter the Great!

In 1982 Britta Stovling and I (Asa Britasdotter) published one of the first radical feminist books in this country, **Incest - Daughter-right Against the Patriarchy**. Thanks to a female editor at one of the larger publishing houses we got it published. It sold well for a book of non-fiction concerning this kind of topic, was widely reviewed and women worked hard to promote it at meetings and conferences and we called the press at every new place we visited. Afterwards the male director of the publishing house said it was a "mistake" to publish the book, and had he known about it, it would never been published. The book, and **The Bureau for the Prevention and Treatment of Incest** which I founded, got a lot of publicity and the male backlash was enormous. Male therapists, lawyers, doctors and men in the media joined to defend the rapist and blame every and any woman around him.

Predictably the Oslo fair was in no way a radical feminist event, but we were still angered by the almost total absence of women-only events. Still, meeting and talking to many other lesbian feminists and exchanging experiences was enormously rewarding and important. The lesbian readings and the lesbian evening at the Women's House were memorable and we think the lesbian group did a fine effort organizing this.

ACCA





# Bookstore Profile: A Room of One's Own

## Interview With Sandi Torkildson

I interviewed Sandi Torkildson for an article for FBN in April of 1986 when Sandi was vacationing in San Francisco. Sandi is the manager and one of the founders of A Room Of One's Own Bookstore in Madison. I've been intrigued by ARO<sup>3</sup> for a long time -- since I learned at *Women In Print* (1981) that it was one of the six largest women's bookstores in the country. (How did they do that in Wisconsin?!) It's been financially stable almost from the start and is one of the best-run bookstores I've ever been in. And the women who work there have a way of making it look easy. So I was excited to interview Sandi for FBN.

Transcribing and editing the tapes turned out to be a bigger job than I had anticipated and I kept getting distracted by trips to Oslo, fundraising, and the little necessities of running a magazine. Finishing this interview for FBN's Tenth Anniversary issue was birthday present to FBN and myself.

The initial interview was done in April of 1986 with a follow-up interview in April 1987. Sandi recently won ABA's Charlie Haslan Scholarship to the 1987 International Congress of Young Booksellers.

### Starting the Store

Carol: So when did this bookstore start? You were one of the original founders?

Sandi: We opened our doors January 6, 1975. We had done about a year and a half of work before that, trying to find a location, raising funds, and things like that. There were five of us who started it. Two of the original five are still in the collective at the store. The others have gone on to other things.

Carol: You and...?

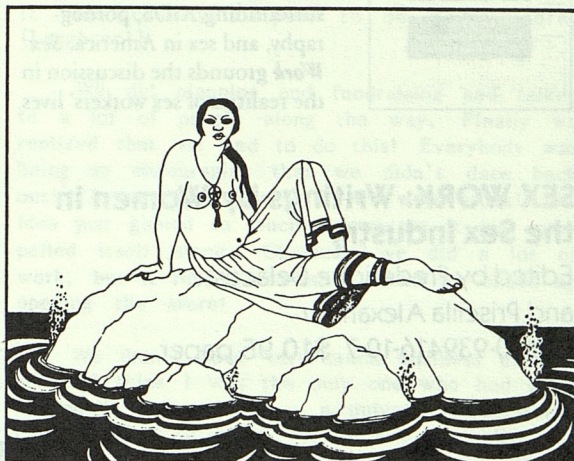
Sandi: Sue, who works part-time and does all our accounting and taxes. She has another half-time job with the state. That's how we financed the store in the beginning -- by having other jobs.

We started with about \$5000. Most of it borrowed in small amounts -- none of it more than \$500 from any one individual.

Carol: How long did it take you to pay it back?

Sandi: We paid most of it back within three years.

We've always been in the same location. We were lucky to find a sublease. Now we pay quite a bit more money than we originally sublet it for, but things worked out OK.



Studie Rakusin in *Dreams and Shadows*

Carol: Because the store's income went up as the rent increased?

Sandi: Yeah. It was quite cheap when we first started and it was a fairly good location.

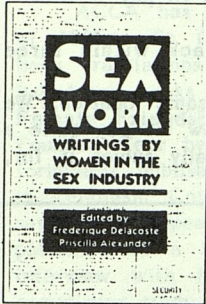
Carol: What made it a good location?

Sandi: It was central. Madison is kind of a small city but it has an East Side and a West Side and downtown is the center. It's a good area for our kind of store. It's near the university and the state capital. It's a high traffic area. So we felt that was good.

It was important to be near the university. We opened up the same time as the women's



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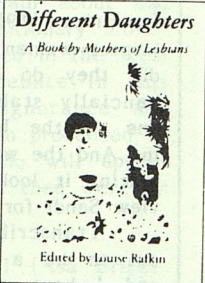


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Studies program was starting at the university and that has helped us a lot. Not only because students who take Women's Studies are interested in feminist books, but we were able to get a lot of professors to give us course orders. Some of the professors were very supportive and helpful -- helping with fundraising and helping to get the word out that we were going to open.

The course orders were really good for us -- not only for the cash flow. But selling books for classes constantly introduced this new population we have in Madison each semester to the bookstore. And that's really helpful. And it's good for them because each semester they have to write their papers and they're down here looking for topics -- You know, "I want to write a paper on...." We have this little contest on what's going to be the topic for papers **this** term. It goes in streaks....

When we first started we were very small. We didn't have that much inventory so we used to hang art shows because we had so much wall space. I always remember this great big painting of clowns in our reading room. It was a luxury to have that kind of space, but obviously we earned our money from selling books and as feminist publishing expanded and more books became available and as we had more money to buy them we needed more and more of the wall space for bookcases. And, since being a bookstore was our main purpose, we had to let the art go.

Carol: How did you come up with the idea of being a bookstore? Did you know that Madison could support what's become one of the largest feminist bookstores in the country?

Sandi: Three of the other original people who started the bookstore were taking a university extension evening course in Women's Studies. It was a general introduction to feminism. And they started thinking "Wouldn't it be nice to have a place to go after class to continue the discussions?" you know, other than going to the local college bars which were basically pick-up bars and were pretty rowdy, noisy kinds of places. There was hardly any place women could go that was comfortable. Originally they were thinking to fill that need.

Coming out of this course they were aware that there were feminist bookstores. Well, not very many, but there was one in Oakland, and one

in Minneapolis, so we were aware that this was an option, -- that maybe this would be a way to go, because we figured that we needed to have something that would provide an income. We didn't think that Madison had the kind of money that we could get people to give to a women's center to keep it open indefinitely. And there were various support groups/ self-help organizations for women, starting around the same time. There was a rape crisis line. The battered women's shelter wasn't there yet, but the momentum was gathering to start one. We just thought there was a need for it, and a bookstore would be able to support itself. We thought that having a coffee house would be nice, but when we looked into that, the things like the health codes and stuff seemed too overwhelming to us. It was actually **simpler** to do a bookstore. (Laughter!)

We did planning and fundraising and talked to a lot of people along the way. Finally we realized that we **had** to do this! Everybody was being so encouraging that we didn't dare back out! (A lot of laughter!) So we were stuck! The idea just gained so much momentum it just propelled itself along. Obviously we did a lot of work, but it really snowballed. And we ended up opening the store!

We didn't have very much business experience. I think I was the only one who had even worked in a bookstore -- a university bookstore. I had helped to order, but I was basically just an office helper and I also waited on customers, but at least I had some idea.... I mean, I knew

Gay  
Women



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there was such a thing as ABA, and I knew about the **ABA Handbook**, and I had some basic kinds of skills. I did know how to order things. Basically, we just plungered in.

I think the thing that we did right was that we realized that we had an incredible amount to learn. We joined ABA, got a subscription to PW, joined the (now defunct) Wisconsin Booksellers Association, read everything we could get our hands on and we talked to anybody we knew. Dick McLeester was working in this little independent natural grocery store. They had a book section with gardening books and health books and I talked to him. He gave me an incredible amount of help. He told me about Bookpeople and distributors and gave me a couple really clever hints about how to establish credit. He was leaving at that same time, and was really open to passing this information on. Later he started Food for Thought Books in Massachusetts.

#### Dealing with the Problems

Somehow we were able to realize what had to be learned. Sue, who's now our accountant and bookkeeper, went to the technical college and took an accounting course. We knew we had a lot to learn. And so we learned and we found somebody who helped us set up a good accounting system right from the beginning -- well, sort of from the beginning. Ah, near the beginning.... I have to say we didn't do it from the beginning. Problems would appear and then we would have to solve them.

Carol: So problems were a real inspiration...

Sandi: Yeah, you suddenly have a problem with your bookkeeping and say "Hey, we gotta do something about this." And we were pretty good about confronting things and not ignoring them. Because paperwork is so easy to ignore when you're in the business for the love of the books. But you can't do that. We also realized that we had to pay people salaries if we wanted this bookstore to succeed. And so we had to run a good, tight ship because we didn't have much money. We had to have money to live on; we had no other resources.

Carol: So even though you started with people having other jobs at the same time, you had an immediate goal of paying people?

Sandi: Right, right. We knew that right from the beginning.

I think our greatest asset was that we were willing to deal with problems when they came up. Once we saw we had a problem we dealt with it, whatever it was --whether it was our taxes being done correctly, being able to budget our money so we wouldn't run out at the wrong time, or how to deal with internal problems and differences. We just found whatever resources we needed to solve the problem. When we started having different people working in the store we found we needed to have a more formal kind of staff evaluation. So we found a woman who had worked with the Center for Conflict Resolution. She helped us come up with some guidelines on how to do mutual staff evaluations and on how to make decisions. I took classes on group behavior and how to make decisions, and things like that.

Carol: And you found that that helped.

Sandi: Yeah. I read books and talked to other people about decision-making processes, about what kind of problems they had and how they solved them, and about what worked and what didn't work. You have to be willing to get that kind of information. You just have to go out and talk to a lot of people, and find out information so you make the best possible decisions.

#### Staff Evaluations

Carol: You have formal staff evaluations. How does that work?

Sandi: Once a year we do written evaluations. We all evaluate each other. We have a form and you get your evaluations from everyone about a week before the meeting where we discuss them. Then we have a staff meeting where we go around and each individual has about fifteen to twenty minutes to ask questions about the evaluations she received, and to respond. Other people can give any additional feedback that they want to. It's not a real formal kind of thing, but the



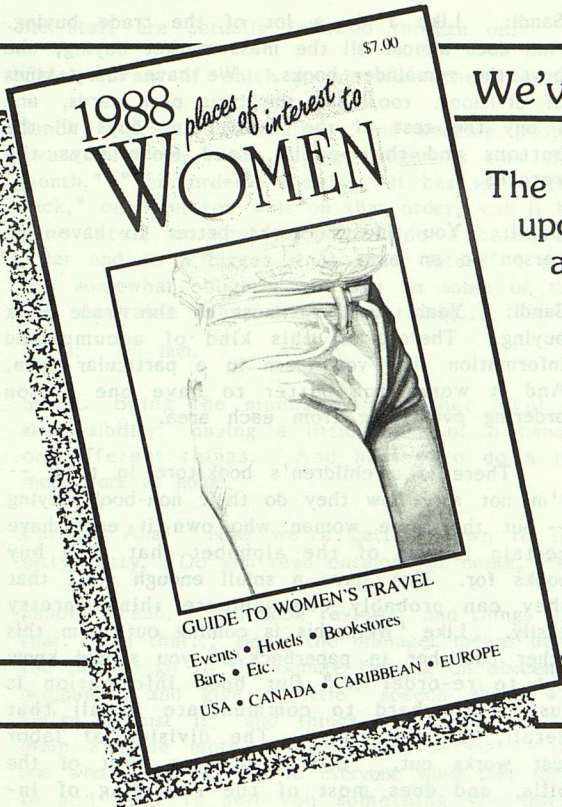
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evaluation is written. And there have been times when there have been problems and a lot of people have spoken up. It's been an effective way to get people to change things that have been problems, whether it's being late to work or rude to customers or whatever. The whole process is a way for the group to evaluate what our goals are and what our expectations are and have them very much in the open, rather than (having) a lot of hidden things. Basically I've been really pleased with it.

Carol: Do you do everyone's evaluation at the same time?

Sandi: Yeah, at the same meeting. It can be kind of intense. But it's worth it.

### Financial Planning

We have other structures, too. Every six months we do a planning meeting where we try to

project expenses and income for the whole year, month by month. And Sue, our accountant, keeps really good track of everything. We know what we spent the year before, we know if there are any expected increases. Running a retail business, a lot of your expenses are given. You can project them very easily, and so we know what's going on financially; we keep track of sales month by month, so we can project what direction we're going in and know how each month's sale compare with the previous year.

Then the first staff meeting after the end of the quarter we check and see how close we came to what we projected. Did we make the sales that we expected? Were our expenses what we expected? Were there any unusual expenses, and how do they fit into the budget. Are we going to have to take something out of the budget? We're constantly looking at it. We actually look at the sales and stuff, month by month. We know if we've been over and under. So we keep close tabs on our money. We never have any sudden surprises.

But sometimes, we do a bit better than we projected. Usually we're pretty conservative.



If we do well, we think "But we might have a slow month." And then we get to the end of the year: we have extra money! We can finally fix this bookcase or buy something we've needed. Sometimes it gets a little hurried at the end of the year trying to spend money quickly to keep from losing it to taxes!

We do have an accountant- a CPA who will look over our taxes and help us with any questions that we might have. But we actually do it all ourselves; we don't hire a firm to do our accounting for us. Sue does it all with some help from Rose.

Carol: So you have the knowledge right there in the store.

Sandi: Um hum. And we know exactly where the money is and where it's going and how much we have. The biggest decision at our planning meetings is the one about raises. Can we afford to give raises and how much?

### Dividing the Work

Carol: So you have a division of labor. Sue does the accounting...

Sandi: Yes, we do have a division of labor; people do different things. We have basically three full-time people. Sue does the accounting, she works half-time and has another half-time job. Another woman works half time in the store. We have a manager, which is me; we have an assistant manager, which is Rose. And although those are just labels, there are certain duties that go with those jobs.

Carol: Like...

Sandi: Like I do a lot of the trade buying. Ann does almost all the mass market buying, she buys the remainder books. We have funny kinds of divisions, too, like she buys post cards, and I buy the rest of the cards. Ann buys all the buttons and the pencils, and Rose buys the records.

Carol: You find it works better to have one person do an area....

Sandi: Yeah. I do most of the trade book buying. There's all this kind of accumulated information that you learn in a particular area. And it works out better to have one person ordering everything from each area.

There is a children's bookstore in town -- I'm not sure how they do their non-book buying -- but the three woman who own it each have certain letters of the alphabet that they buy books for. They have a small enough staff that they can probably communicate things pretty easily. Like "Well this is coming out from this other publisher in paperback so you should know not to re-order it." But book information is just really hard to communicate in all that detail, all the time. The division of labor just works out. Like Rose pays most of the bills, and does most of the recording of invoices. One person is primarily responsible for unpacking books and checking them in. Someone else takes care of the mail-order newsletter that we do four times a year. It just worked out that way. I like it because people know what they're supposed to do, and you don't really have to supervise as much.

Carol: What's it like to be the manager in a feminist collective? What responsibilities do you have that other collective members don't have?

Sandi: Well, I do have to take a lot more responsibility for seeing that what we decide at staff meetings actually gets done. I have to make sure that things get followed through. If we have a booklist to get out, that means making sure that somebody else is handling the front desk so that Ann can have the office and go do what she has to do. Or if Rose has to use the office to pay bills and needs to have some quiet time, that she gets it. It's more my duty to make sure that the decisions that are made by

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the staff are actually followed through on.

Carol: Part of which sounds like scheduling.

Sandi: Yeah. Scheduling, and keeping people aware of "Hey, our buying budget is this this month," "This order's too big, it has to be cut back," or "Can you wait on that order, can it be done later, or could you just do a catch up order and do a bigger stock order later?" I also feel somewhat obligated to take on some of the less desirable jobs, like advertising....

Carol: Uh huh.

Sandi: Being the manager is another level of responsibility; having a little more of a handle on different things. And having to do a lot more work at home.

Carol: Aha! Now we're getting down to the nitty-gritty. Do you read catalogs at home, PW?

Sandi: Yeah. And book reviews, and things like that. All that... Being the manager means being the one to go to the Senate hearing on obscenity ordinances and give a little speech about why we're against it, and things like that. I remain a little more of the public person -- the one who has to say no to everyone when they come in and want to sell you something you don't want.

Carol: So you have what I keep calling a hierarchical collective....

Sandi: Yes, we do.

Carol: And it works. Brilliantly, obviously.

Sandi: Well, it works. I'm not sure about using the term hierarchical. We are a collective and we all participate in decision making. We make group decisions on what we get paid.

We do get paid differently. Pay is partly based on length of time that people have been with the store and on the level of responsibility that they have chosen. But there are also limits; we are a small business and we are limited in what we can offer people in terms of wages, diversity of work. That can be really difficult. It's limited by the money we have available to do certain things, as much as we

would find them fun and exciting. And that is difficult. But that's true for any small business. People do get bored. There are things that always have to be done, the bills to be paid, the books have to be checked on, the customers have to be waited on. That day to day stuff takes a lot of time, but it has to be done. I mean that's why we exist. There are some days that you wish that the customers would go away so that you can get your work done, and then you say to yourself: "Oh, wait a minute -- this is why we're here. Oh yeah. I'm not here just to generate paperwork."

Carol: It's so nice to decorate the walls with books....

Sandi: Yeah, it does work for the most part, even though some days it seems like that. I don't want to make it seem like it's perfect -- people do become dissatisfied sometimes and sometimes there aren't any easy solutions to that. If we have to be open nights and somebody has to work, then somebody has to work, even if none of us **wants** to work then. The same with Saturdays. Those things happen. But it's easier when you're a collective, because people are a little more willing; they see what's in it for them, too. That there are the goals and that the bookstore as an entity has needs that are separate from any of the individuals that work there. But if it works as a bookstore, we all end up benefitting from it.

Carol: You have jobs, and incomes, and....

Sandi: Right, right. And we can do something we like to do. Well, most of the time if not all of the time! And it's work that really matters.

Carol: So most of the staff have been with the store for a long time?

Sandi: Yeah. I've been there since the beginning and so has Sue. I don't want to say how long people have been there because I start forgetting exactly when each person started. Rose has been here eight years I think. And Ann has been here about the same length of time all told, although she left for a while and came back. And Karen has been here around five years.



Carol: So something works if you have so little turnover!

Sandi: Yeah. I think we're financially successful enough to offer people some kind of financial rewards, that are adequate to live on. And there are other rewards that you can get that are non financial, too. I think being a collective and feeling like you have a real say and taking responsibility for what you do is something that not many people get. No matter how much they may love their jobs, a lot of times they don't get that. And that's worth something.

Carol: It's worth a lot.

Sandi: I think that the people who work at the store realize that and value that. If somebody just wanted to be able to work their way up the ladder and be the manager and make a high salary, that wouldn't work -- but we don't have a big enough pay differential that that would be something somebody would really want to do. It wouldn't be feasible. Although we do have differences.

Carol: It's healthy.

Sandi: It's more that people have accepted the differences and I hope that if somebody got tired of whatever they were doing at the store, and there was nothing the store could really do about it because we needed somebody to unpack books, or we needed somebody to pay the bills, and they were tired of that, then either we would have to work it out and see if the jobs could be changed around, or they might have to find something else to do. I often wonder "Well, what will I do after the bookstore?" because, in a sense, I can't expect that the store will satisfy all my needs and interests for the rest of my life. It might. Right now it does. But it may not always be able to. And I hope that if that happened I would be willing to leave. That I wouldn't necessarily expect the organization to meet all my needs.

#### Where's the Burnout?

Carol: One thing that strikes me about the store is that people have been there a long

time. Other stores talk a lot about burnout, and people just getting fried out after a year or three months, or two years and then blow up and go away, and that doesn't seem to be happening.

Sandi: We try not to let people overwork. In fact, before I went on this little vacation, I put in some extra hours and I got a little bit of flack about it. (Laughter) But I wanted to leave with a clear conscience. [More laughter] We don't expect people to work ten hour days. We do expect to work an eight hour day; and we expect to have some flexibility. Like I leave early twice a week to attend an aerobics class so I go in a half hour early. We allow that kind of flexibility with people. Obviously there are needs of the bookstore -- I couldn't leave if there wasn't somebody else there. But luckily my class is on days when there are other staff people there. It's not a problem.

I think we try to keep our sanity by not overworking. But I also think we all have the midwestern mentality... Rose is not from the midwest but she's like a midwesterner that way. We work hard. We expect to work hard when we're at work and....

Carol: That's satisfying, too....

Sandi: Everyone's able to be satisfied by their work and I think that's important. There are times when we go through burnout -- Christmas (1985) was extremely hard, and we don't know how we made it through. We had a full-timer out on sick leave the whole season. It was very, very difficult. We were just at the end of our ropes, and we started to notice that it's not healthy for the bookstore for us to be like that. You start to get snippy with customers which I think you never can do because they don't understand. They don't know you've been working long hours and are under a lot of stress. It's not fair to them. It's like yelling at the bus driver because you missed your bus. I mean it's not their fault.

But after we went through that experience we decided that we'd never do it again. We'd find somebody to work back-up or we'd do something! That was an unusual circumstance, but next time we would be more prepared. We tend, to learn quickly from these experiences. (ARO<sup>3</sup> has



since hired and trained two back-up people who work a shift every week or once every two weeks.)



Sudie Rakusin in Dreams and Shadows

### Salary & Benefits

Carol: Are you willing to say what your salary range is?

Sandi: I think it runs from about \$5.85 to \$7.75/hr. (1986) There's about a two dollar difference.

And we give benefits, too. We give full time employees health insurance -- it's pretty decent health insurance. And we're looking into paying for some kind of life insurance policy and, since we are getting older, some kind of a retirement program, an IRA, or something. We're just beginning to look into that. We're getting to the age where .... It's fine to live from paycheck to paycheck in your 20's, but as you reach your 40's, you start realizing that you might need something later on. I think that will become a real issue. I'd hate to see the women in the bookstore become bag ladies at 65. And it could happen if we don't take care of that.

Carol: You have a real clear sick leave policy and vacation?

Sandi: We have vacation, and we just revised our sick leave policy. Again, something came up having to do with someone wanting some time off for a funeral and we'd never really thought about if that was sick leave or exactly what it was. One of the things I've learned is that things have to be very clear. You can't always be dealing with things as they happen.

So when questions arise, like the thing about using sick leave for a funeral, it came up, "Yeah, what do we use our sick leave for?" Can we use it for doctors appointments and what kind of doctors appointments are OK and what ones aren't? It makes it so much easier and you end up with so much less conflict if you all sit down and decide in advance what your expectations are. We've changed our sick leave so that now we get some of our sick leave in personal time now. People can feel comfortable taking their personal leave time for something like this that isn't exactly appropriate as sick leave.

And we separated that from vacation time, for psychological reasons -- because it hurts to lose your vacation time. It was important to clarify our policies on these things.

Carol: Anything else you want to say?

Sandi: Let me think.... What would I have always wanted to say about the bookstore?

It was an incredible amount of hard work. I must admit that if somebody came up to me today and asked me to do it, I'd probably say "no" in a second!

Carol: Huh!

(Laughter)

Sandi: But having gone through it -- it's one of those experiences like going on an incredible hiking trip in the mountains when you think "Why am I doing this?" And then you get back and every time you talk about it you say "I really had a great time!" And other people from the trip say "I remember you! You wanted to turn back! You thought you were dying! You didn't think we were going to survive!"

But once you've gone through it, you're forced to learn all these things and you realize that you really are a very competent person.



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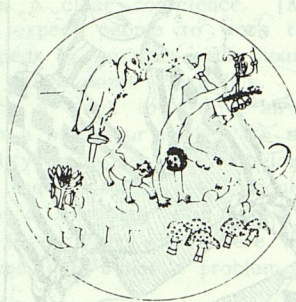
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### 1987 Update:

**Computers, Bonuses, Small Presses, New Staff  
the Future....**

Carol: So how do you like having a computer?

Sandi: (Laughter) I don't know quite what to say! I like Sonya -- We call the computer Sonya. Rose named her -- after Sophia (Sonia) Kovalevskaya. She was the first woman to get a Ph.D. in Mathematics (1875). Women weren't allowed to attend the university, so she studied independently and graduated summa cum laude. She was awarded the Prix Bordin (the highest award of the French Academy of Sciences). Her autobiography **A Russian Childhood** is available in cloth from Springer-Verlag.

Once you start learning to use the computer you realize how easy it is. Then you're not so afraid of it. Most programs now are written

pretty much for idiots. The programs may not be transparent as some people think they are, but once you do them a couple times, it's just a matter of memorizing the commands. I think the potential is great. Keeping track of all the different titles you order by hand is a lot of work!

(Laughter)

If I never have to make up another index card in my life I'll be quite happy! Not to mention the filing.... People don't realize the work that takes. It's just that we're used to that kind of work and we're not afraid of it. But the computer is a lot better.

Carol: When did you get up on computer?

Sandi: By mid-November. (1986) We had it up for the Christmas season. It wasn't perfect -- it never is when you start, but it was really helpful during the Christmas season. That may be why I felt so positive about it right away, because I got daily and weekly sales reports on everything that was selling and that made it really easy to reorder books from distributors and keep titles in stock and not run out of the



books people wanted. Having or not having those books really can make or break you. Maybe in the slower times a lot of people think "I can tell what's selling", but when it's so busy and you have a lot of different staff working, you really can't. That's only an illusion. You don't know what other people are selling unless you go around and look at the shelves every day. And then you are only going to look at the things you **think** are selling.

I was very surprised at how fast some things were selling. For example: at Christmas our substance abuse section was the second largest section for sales. I wouldn't have expected that. Those meditation books really sold as gift items and a lot of the Adult Children of Alcoholics books sold -- that wouldn't have been something I would have thought of as being a big seller.

Carol: So you were able to do more Christmas sales for having more of the popular books?

Sandi: Yes -- with less stress! With feeling pretty confident.

The one thing about the computer is that some things may be inaccurate -- like the number of books on hand. Things can happen that affect that -- like shoplifting or returning a book but forgetting to enter the return. But the sales reports are pretty accurate. And you can list your sales in the order of the number of copies that sold. Usually 80% of your sales come from 20% of your inventory. One of the things about the computer is that you can keep track of what that 20% is. It's not the same 20% ever. But it's very important to keep track of. And at the same time we can keep track of all the little things and not just concentrate on that 20%. It's the same process.

Carol: So you do a better job with those odd titles as well as with the bestsellers.

Sandi: Yeah. There are some problems with the program that Jean (Fishbeck) has to rewrite: not being indexed by publishers is really a pain. It takes just as long to generate an order from Harper, where I get hundreds of titles, as on an order from Pergamon where maybe I get fifteen titles because the program isn't indexed by publisher. That really is a problem right now.

It takes 45 minutes to an hour to generate an order. I don't use it for ordering from smaller publishers. It takes too long. For fifteen books I can look at the shelf! But supposedly that's being changed.

Carol: So that's where you're still using index cards?

Sandi: Yeah. For smaller publishers until that's changed. And also you have to keep the cards for return purposes for the first year. That back history isn't on the computer. Until that's changed I'm not as happy as I expected to be with the ordering part. For distributor orders and things like that, though, it's perfect.

Carol: What else are you using it for?

Sandi: We put all our accounting on it --

We get our balance sheet and income/expense statement each month without much hassle. The accounting programs balance everything as you go along so you know it's correct each time you enter a batch of checks. It's really good for accounting.

And it is very good for customer service. There have been a number of times when a customer came in and asked for a book and the computer said we had the book when we would have said we were out of it -- but sure enough, there it was hiding on a shelf somewhere. You know, even though the numbers can be wrong, if the computer says you have it, it gives you a little added impetus to look a little harder. If the computer says it might be in any of three sections and it only occurred to you to look in two sections, you go look in the third section and there it is. The customer gets the book when she might not have without the help of the computer.

It's also very helpful now that we have a lot of new employees. It's **very helpful** for them. It helps them get to know the stock. And they don't have to constantly ask us about titles... If someone asks for a title they're not familiar with, they can just type it into the computer either by title or author and it will say if we have it in stock.

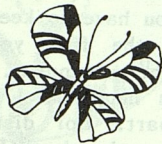
Carol: Which is much faster than turning to you and asking you...

Sandi: And probably more accurate!



(Laughter)

I feel much more comfortable with new people and not having to be there all the time because the computer is there and all the information is very accessible. You can have just as good customer service with someone new working there as with someone who's worked there a long time. You can get the books people want into their hands.



They still won't be able to find the book -- you know, when the customer comes in and says "It was a purple book on alcoholism..." or "It had a red cover and was in the window three months ago..." The computer hasn't replaced that kind of experience! But if the customer has the title or the author, you're in business.

Carol: What are the names of the programs you're using for accounting:

Sandi: SuperCal is what we're using for accounting. It's in the public domain, so we got it for free. We've also used the computer for word processing -- we're using a public domain program for that, too. We plan to use it for our booklists but we've been so busy we haven't used it yet. We haven't done a booklist all year!

Carol: Uh-oh!

Sandi: Yeah!

We will use it for returns, but you have to have the titles on the computer for at least six months to a year, depending on your returns cycle. You can print a list of everything that hasn't sold any copies, or 2 or fewer copies, or whatever you decide and then pull the books from the shelf. Once you're using computer generated orders, all the invoice information and everything will be right there. Right now we don't have that on computer, but we manually enter the invoice number and date for hardback books because they are the ones we're most likely to return. (Paperbacks we usually mark down and put on sale. Once a year we have a big sale. And they sell. It's a lot less work.)

## Finances, Economics, & Bestsellers

Last year (1986) went really well. Much better than we had expected. That's why we were able to go ahead and buy the computer.

The last couple years before that, well, we had growth that kept up with inflation and that was about it.

And this year the store's done really well. (Our fiscal year goes from August to the end of July.) But the Christmas season and since then has been better than we expected, too. I'm not sure what that means in terms of the economy. But of course I'm sort of a pessimist. I always think "Well, it's only temporary. Reagan's economic policies are going to start hurting us."

Any retail business is really influenced by the general atmosphere of the economics in the country. They say people feel really positive right now, but the reality always takes a little longer to set in. All the experts say that the trade deficit is going to have a really big impact, it just takes a couple of years for it to hit. But I don't know. It hasn't happened yet. Books still seem to be doing well.

There's still a lot being published in women's literature and people want it. The small presses are publishing books that sell well. Our bestselling books over the Christmas season were published by the small presses. Women who patronize our store are much more aware of buying small and feminist press books than they used to be. There's much more publicity and perhaps the small press books are having a broader mass appeal than they used to. Even small presses get reviewed in the **New York Times** once in a while. It isn't just word of mouth anymore or maybe the word of mouth has built up expectations of certain publishers.

Some of the awareness undoubtedly comes from **The Women's Review of Books** and **Belles Lettres**. Their reviews cover a lot of small press books and talk about them as small press books. And we sell a lot of copies of **Women's Review of Books** and **Belles Letters**. People ask for the books that are in those reviews. And even though they're not necessarily timely, they really have a lot of impact.

Our customers are still just starving for feminist literature and when a good book comes out it just really sells.



We've certainly had other best-sellers that came from mainstream publishers. Like when the **Bone People** came out in paperback, it really sold like hotcakes.

Carol: Though it's interesting to note that **The Bone People** was first published in New Zealand by a small feminist press, and was later picked up by mainstream publishers around the world.

Sandi: What can I say? Good books sell!

Carol: So you haven't noticed any kind of a downturn in the market for feminist books!

Sandi: No! Not hardly!

### Bonuses

Carol: I want to come back to money again. Rose said that you had all just received bonuses....

Sandi: That bonus check is how I got to San Francisco!

(Much cheery laughing)

FBN: How did that happen? How did you decide to do bonuses?

Sandi: We're fiscally conservative -- you have to be in a store -- because you may have a good couple of months, but the next couple months may be less than you expect. So we give pretty small raises a lot of the time -- sometimes not even enough to keep up with inflation. But then if we do better, we give ourselves a bonus. We tend to give a bonus, rather than a raise because a bonus is not a commitment to continually paying a higher wage. And you can give it after the fact -- after you see that you have enough money. I think it's a good way to do it. As booksellers, we have to be careful of our cash-flow. Sometimes you may not be in a position to make a commitment on a permanent basis. We usually do a combination of raise and bonus. It's an easier way to budget.

We did this bonus because we'd done real well. We think people should be rewarded.

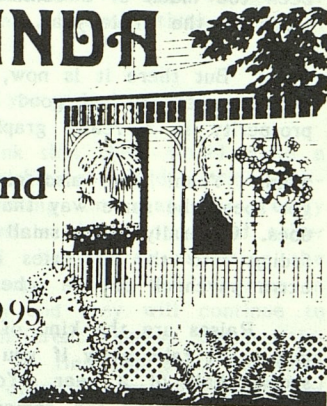
Carol: How much were the bonuses?

Sandi: Basically we each got an extra paycheck -- an extra two weeks pay.

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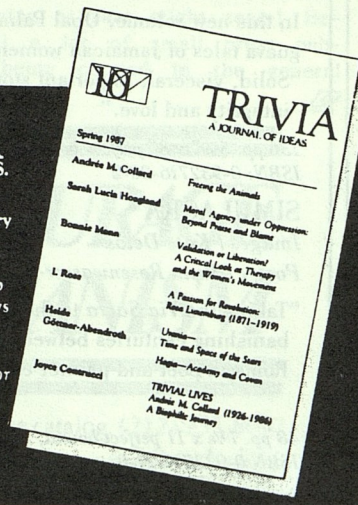
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Carol: That must have been very nice!

Sandi: That's a couple thousand dollars, with employee taxes and all that. That might have been too much of a commitment for us to have made for the whole year.

Carol: But there it is now, and everyone gets it and you get to feel good and enjoy the store's prosperity in a really graphic way.

Sandi: Yeah! It's also nice because it doesn't get spent the same way that an extra \$10 a week does. Generally those small raises have a way of fading into the groceries or something...but an extra paycheck on the other hand....

Raises are the kind of commitment that you just can't take away if you don't do as well the second half of a year. You can't take a raise away. It's much too demoralizing. We all make the decisions about raises and bonuses and we all seem to like it and prefer to do it that way. I really recommend it.

FBN: In the first part of this interview we

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talked about salary ranges, and I'm sure it's changed with all your staff changes.

Sandi: Yeah. Now the range has gotten bigger again. It had been getting smaller because we'd all been there a long time, but we have a lot of new people who work very part time. Some people just work back-up on Saturday, some less than 15 hours a week and they're brand new. They only make \$4.60 an hour. And they'll get a raise after they're there for six months. The other people have been there for seven years or five years or more.

Carol: What's the top of the range at this point?

Sandi: I knew you were going to ask me! (Laughter) I'm not sure. I think I get paid about \$9.75 an hour. It's around that.

Carol: So it's a really big range.

Sandi: Before all this staff changing, I think the lowest person was getting six-something an hour. But then we had all been here a long time. So now it's all changed around. A lot of it is that for the people who work real part time -- it's not their main livelihood. One person is a teacher of English lit at a state university. But we also give an employee discount on all their purchases and stuff like that.

Carol: Which is a great fringe benefit.

Sandy: Yeah, and these are people who buy a lot of books! (Laughter) Sometimes the benefit is worth more than their paychecks!

These people aren't working at the bookstore for their livelihood. It's different when it's a full time job. We feel obligated to pay more then.

Carol: But it's working to have that variety on the staff?

Sandi: Yeah, yeah. I think so. And when people stay longer, they get raises...

**Training New Staff**

Carol: Do you want to talk about the staff changes? and how that's affecting your division



of labor? Or don't you know yet?

Sandi: Oh, I don't know yet! I think the way I'll be affected by it is that I'll end up doing everything!

(Much painful laughing)

Carol: That's not gonna work!

Sandi: Well, it is hard. New people have to learn things.

It will be very different to have a really new staff and a lot of new people. Eventually there will be only two people who will worked here longer than a year!

Carol: Ay ay ay!

Sandi: That will be a real change. And as anybody knows, there are some things that experience brings -- like being able to find that book with the purple cover.

You know, we have systems and stuff written down that people can easily learn, but the problem with everything is that there are so many exceptions when you run a small retail business and you're dealing with so many different titles, and all that. There are things that only experience can teach you -- like when you send a book back because you received it damaged and when you mark it down and how you decide. Part of that is knowing the publisher. And knowing the book. You know, there might be the potential that we'll have to return this book, and that the publisher won't accept it back in the condition they sent it to us! Then you have to send it back and get a new copy. But if it's a paperback book that sells pretty regularly, you can mark it down. And there are publishers you don't want to bother to return anything to because they're so stupid they'll never credit you for the right thing. Only experience will teach you those kinds of things.

It will be hard because I'll have to look things over a lot more. And somehow you have to teach people to make those kinds of judgments as the situations come up. It takes longer to teach the kinds of things you can only learn by doing.

The more cut and dried kinds of things -- like money -- are easier to teach. Those deci-

sions are easier. Money, sometimes, is the easiest! Except for figuring raises -- sometimes that's kind of touchy.

And we have really good systems for keeping all our financial information -- even though our bookkeeper is changing, I don't think that will be difficult.

Carol: Anything else you want to say?

Sandi: I used to think that there would come a time when feminist bookstores would become obsolete. But my thinking on that has really changed. I see feminist bookstores and other kinds of specialized bookstores as being the new wave of the future. There will continue to be general bookstores and they will continue to be supported. But different reading communities **need** specialty stores to find the depth of stock that they want. In order to get the benefit of the large variety of work being published, you **need** to have specialty stores.

Carol: And this is the Charley Haslam Scholar speaking!

Sandi: Yeah! I think that strong specialty stores are inevitable at this point. I think that specialty stores are really going to thrive: children's bookstores, a lot of New Age bookstores, leftist bookstores, even cookbook bookstores, as amazing as that might seem! Because there is still a lot of small press publishing that isn't being carried in the general bookstores.

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# ENCOURAGE LESBIANISM

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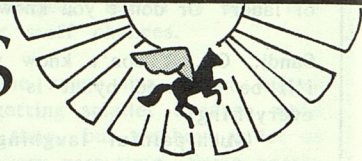
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# SUSANNA STURGIS

ON

# SCIENCE FICTION



Two bits of advance news gleaned from miscellaneous sources. From **Locus**, indispensable news journal of the f/sf field, comes word that C.J. Cherryh has recently completed **Exile's Gate**, a fourth "Morgaine" novel (forthcoming, DAW Books). I can hardly contain myself -- but then again, I've been a Morgaine junkie since my first foray through **Gate of Ivrel**.

The multitudinous fans of Anne McCaffrey's "Dragonriders of Pern" novels will be glad to know that she has almost (due date: June) completed **Dragondawn**, which is "set at the beginning of the colonization of the planet." The publisher is Ballantine/Del Rey; hardcover publication is a definite possibility.

Highlights from my early spring reading are **Angel at Apogee** by S. N. Lewitt (Berkley), **Caught in Crystal** by Patricia C. Wrede (Ace), **The Watcher** by Jane Palmer (Women's Press/U.K.), and most especially **The Travails of Jane Saint** by Josephine Saxton (also Women's Press/U.K.), which is wry, vivid, and richly deserving of a place on anyone's feminist sf shelves. Keep an eye out for Saxton's **Little Tours of Hell**, coming in July from Methuen (cloth and trade paper).

And now, on the dubious theory that one in the hand is worth two in the air...

## ACE

4/87 **The Great Wheel**, by Joyce Ballou Gregorian, \$2.95. Conclusion to the Tredana trilogy, in which a Massachusetts woman is pulled back in time and place to play a crucial role in the fortunes of would-be world conqueror Tibir the Lame.

7/87 **War for the Oaks**, by Emma Bull, price not given. The title suggests Celtic-inspired fantasy; Bull was an impressive contributor to at least one Marion Zimmer Bradley

anthology.

## ATLANTIC MONTHLY PRESS

**The Journal of Nicholas the American**, by Leigh Kennedy, \$16.95 (cloth). Extravagantly reviewed and nominated for a prestigious Nebula award, this novel intertwines a young man afflicted with a strange curse, an impassioned (female) classmate, and her mother who has just been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Pub date was in 1986; it may appear in paper before too long.

## BANTAM BOOKS (SPECTRA)

4/87 **The Bronze King**, by Suzy McKee Charnas, price not given, paper reprint. Well-reviewed YA novel from Bantam/Skylark.

5/87 **Lincoln's Dreams**, by Connie Willis, \$15.95. Moving and suspenseful novel with the tight integrity of a short story, combining a historical novel about the Civil War, a young woman having Robert E. Lee's haunted dreams of battle and death, and the attempts of two men to "protect" her from her own choices. Excellent but not explicitly feminist.

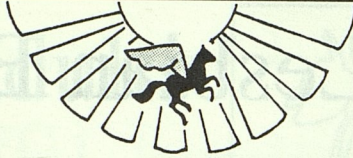


## BERKLEY

4/87 **Wild Card Run**, by Sara Stamey, \$2.95. Unusual in that very few women writers are working the sf territory of dominant computers, hard science, and hard-edged protagonists. Here a woman is sent to investigate a governing computer-system-gone-wrong on her former home planet.

5/87 **Drowntide**, by Sydney J. Van Sycoc, price not given. One of my favorite writers, author of the "Darkchild" trilogy.





**DAWBOOKS**

4/87 **Night's Sorceries**, by Tanith Lee, \$3.50. Stories featuring half-mortal Azhriaz, daughter of the Prince of Demons, and her power struggle with the Lord of Darkness.

5/87 **Hunter of Worlds**, by C. J. Cherryh, \$2.95 (reprint). Early Cherryh at her very best, probing the cultures of radically different spacefaring races.

5/87 **In Conquest Born**, by C. S. Friedman, \$3.95. DAW is pushing this epic first novel, which *Locus* called "space opera with brains." The warriors in the obsessive conflict are led by a man, the telepaths by a woman. Advance p.r. coyly avoids pronouns in referring to the author.

6/87 **Skeen's Return**, by Jo Clayton, price not given. Sequel to *Skeen's Leap*.

**DELACORTE**

7/87 **Lady of Hay**, by Barbara Erskine, \$17.95 (cloth). "Story of a contemporary female journalist who discovers her past life as a 12th century Welsh noblewoman." Romantic schlock or something more? Your guess is as good as mine.

**GREEDWOOD PRESS**

**Merlin's Daughters: Contemporary Women Writers of Fantasy**, by Charlotte Spivack, \$29.95 (cloth). Scholarly exploration of relationship between fantasy and the feminine, including analysis of work by LeGuin, Bradley, Norton, and others.

**NAL (Signet)**

3/87 **Worldstone**, by Victoria Strauss, \$3.50. YA fantasy of an unhappy contemporary teenager's otherworld journey and return with new perspective on herself.

5/87 **The Throne of Scone**, by Patricia Kennealy, \$3.50. Well-characterized science fantasy of a sexually egalitarian Keltic empire beyond the stars, combining heroic quest with interplanetary warfare. Recommended.

**PERGAMON (ATHENE SERIES)**

**Feminist Approaches to Science**, ed. by Ruth Bleier, \$12.50 (paper). To supplement your *f/sf* collection; "explores the nature of contemporary science and attempts to expand our visions toward a science that is better, different and feminist."

**POPULAR LIBRARY (QUESTAR)**

**Byzantium's Crown**, by Susan Shwartz, \$3.50. From the editor of *Hecate's Cauldron*, an alternate-history novel in which Antony and Cleopatra survived to found an empire blending Greek and Egyptian cultures.

4/87 **Firecode**, by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, \$3.95. "The most matter-of fact, mainstream-style occult novel ever written," says *Locus*, whose review adds that despite some weakness in the climax, the book "will repay your investment with good, solid, scary entertainment."

**ST. MARTIN'S**

5/87 **The Goddess Letters: The Demeter-Persephone Myth Retold**, by Carol Orlock, price not given. That's all I know, but it sounds intriguing. Consult your St. Martin's catalogue for details.

**WARNER**

4/87 **Fool's Run**, by Patricia A. McKillip, \$15.95 (cloth). Highly praised novel by an excellent writer, featuring a protagonist possessed and motivated entirely by her vision and assorted other eccentric, symbolic characters.



Sudie Rakusin in *Dreams and Shadows*



# Gay & Lesbian Books for

by Christine Jenkins

Coming-out stories have always been common in gay/lesbian fiction. This is particularly true in young adult novels, since recognizing and exploring sexual feelings is such a central part of adolescence. Fortunately, most of the Y.A. coming-out novels published in the last five years are still in print. Unfortunately, only one (*Annie on My Mind*-- see Jan. 87 FBN) features a young lesbian. Sexism rears its ugly head again-- this time in the guise of invisibility. I wonder if there are unofficial rules at publishing houses that exclude lesbian Y.A. novels, and, if so, why aren't they excluding young gay men as well? I also wonder who is doing the censoring-- the editors, the editor's bosses, or even some writers themselves, in assuming (perhaps correctly) that such a manuscript won't get accepted, and thus not writing it to begin with. Such are the late night thoughts of the librarian or bookseller who wishes she could increase her Y.A. lesbian fiction collection/selection.

But now, back to real life. Here is a selection of young adult coming-out novels, all featuring male main characters. Some are pedestrian, but most are at above average, and several are excellent.

**Just Hold On**, by Scott Bunn (Dell, 1982, \$2.25 paper) is a fine portrait of the warmth of teenage friendship groups. Stephen and Charlotte are drawn together in a relationship of mutual support in dealing with their dysfunctional families-- Stephen's father is an active alcoholic and Charlotte is an incest victim. They become part of a tight group of friends, and Stephen becomes aware of his attraction to Rolf, another group member. Stephen and Rolf's relationship is important to both of them, and their friends accept them (and occasionally tease them) as they would any heterosexual couple. (age 14-up)

**Dance On My Grave**, by Aidan Chambers (Harper and Row, 1982, \$5.95 paper) is a coming-of-

age love story with a sharply humorous narrative voice. When sixteen-year-old Hal first meets Barry he is amazed by the immediate attraction he feels: "I am pretending to be cool, calm, collected, and oh so mature. When actually I am coming apart at the seams with the blood-tingling thrill of it all." Unfortunately, Barry dies in a motorcycle accident (traffic fatalities are amazingly common in the lives of fictional gay characters), but as a whole this book is well-written, remarkably funny, and very accurate in its portrayal of adolescent angst and first love. (age 14-up)

**Happily Ever After**, by Hila Colman (Scholastic, 1986. \$2.25 paper) is a well-intentioned "problem novel" with some serious flaws. Melanie has been in love with Paul since they were children. Their friendship grows throughout their teen-aged years, and she dreams of living "happily ever after" with him. He becomes distant, and finally tells her that he is gay. She is angry and dismayed, but slowly comes to accept him, and their friendship is eventually reestablished. The writing is dull, the plot is predictable, and the characters are undistinguished. Paul educates Melanie on gayness through a series of speeches at the end of the book. Perhaps some of this information will rub off on readers. Perhaps. (age 13-up)

**The Wind and the Flame**, by Emily Hanlon (Bradbury, 1981. \$9.95 cloth) is an interesting novel about the complexities of love. During his fourteenth summer, Erik spends his days with his long-time friend Chris, and his new friend, 71-year-old sculptor Owen. Owen is drawn to Eric by his resemblance to his son who died young. Eric's parents become suspicious of Owen's interest in Eric, but eventually see the positive nature of their friendship. Eric and Chris are also drawn closer, and their attraction both disrupts and strengthens the tie between them. As Owen tells Eric's parents, "Love is never simple". (age 13-up)



# Young Adults

**All-American Boys**, by Frank Mosca (Alyson, 1983. \$4.95 paper) begins "I've known I was gay since I was thirteen. Does that surprise you? It didn't me." Seventeen-year-old Neil tells the dramatic, though unlikely, story of the first months of his relationship with Paul. They meet and are immediately attracted to each other. Homophobic classmates target them and Paul is badly beaten. Neil uses his kung-fu expertise to get revenge. This is a poorly-written melodrama of first love, fag-bashing, and parental anguish, but (on the bright side) the wooden characters and simplistic plot are no worse than television soap opera fare, and there is a happy ending. (age 13 up)

**The Milkman's On His Way**, by David Rees (Gay Men's Press/England, distributed by Alyson, 1982. \$4.95 paper) is an excellent coming-out coming-of-age story told by Ewen, a working-class teenager living in an isolated English town. At fifteen he becomes aware of his sexuality through his attraction to his straight best friend, the first in a long series of steps he must go through on his way to maturity and self-acceptance. The author does a fine job exploring the fears, the excitement, and the tedium of years spent "waiting to grow up" as an adolescent gay man or lesbian. (age 14-up)

**Counter Play**, by Anne Snyder (NAL, 1981. \$2.25 paper) is about the importance of male friendship set in the world of high school football. Brad is straight and Alex is gay, but their shared interests and sports ability has created a bond between them that is important to both. When Alex's gayness becomes general knowledge, Brad is pressured to give up the friendship by his family and teammates. Although Brad decides that his relationship with Alex is worth the price, the small-town atmosphere and attitudes play into the old myth of the high cost of being gay. A good sports/friendship story, but the viewpoint is tinged with "gayness as tragic flaw". (Age 14-up)



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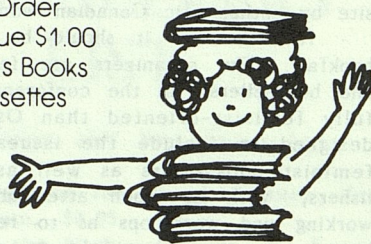
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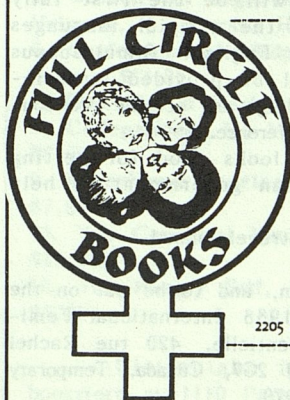
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# International Feminist Bookfair: Montreal 1988

News just in: the Third International Feminist Bookfair will be held in Montreal in June of 1988. Bookfair organizers include Odette DesOrmeaux (formerly of les éditions du rumu-ménage), Ariane Brunet and Diana Bronson.

At the Second International Bookfair in Oslo, it was announced that the Third Bookfair would be held in India, but it hasn't been feasible for the women there to organize the bookfair at this time. (See the letter from Kali for Women.) Montreal was offered as a back-up site by enthusiastic Canadian women at Oslo.

It looks like it should be a very exciting bookfair. The organizers are feminist publishers and booksellers, so the conference will be more fully feminist-oriented than Oslo and will be designed to include the issues and needs of feminist booksellers as well as feminist publishers, with as much attention given to networking and workshops as to retail sales. Lesbian energy will be welcome at this bookfair, and there won't be any of the restrictions on women-only meetings that plagued the Oslo Bookfair. Being in North America, the Bookfair should be able to draw more Central and South American women, while maintaining the strong representation from the rest of the world.

The '88 Bookfair will be the first fully bilingual bookfair with the official languages being both French and English. Simultaneous translation services will be provided (translation grant-proposals pending) as at the Vancouver Women and Words Conference.

The situation also looks good for getting grants from the Canadian government to help support the Bookfair.

Start making your travel plans!

For more information, and to be put on the mailing list write to 1988 International Feminist Bookfair, c/o L'Essentielle, 420 rue Rachel est, Montréal, Québec H2J 2G7, Canada. Temporary phone number: 514-527-9079.

## India in 1990

Kali for women  
N 84 Panchshila Park  
New Delhi 110 017

2 April 1987

Dear friends/sisters,

Many of you have been writing to us about the Third International Feminist Book Fair (1988). We have thought and thought about holding the fair in Delhi and have, regretfully, come to the conclusion that we will not be able to do so. This was not an easy decision for us, particularly as we feel it is time the fair moved to a Third World country. However, there were many reasons that made us decide against having it here: to begin with, we felt it was necessary, if we took on something like this, to do it well. And since Kali's publishing programme is quite small and we are still in the process of finding our feet, we do not feel equipped to take on a project of this magnitude. Given the strength of our staff, we would find it difficult to do justice to our publishing programme and handle the work of the fair in addition to that. The other important thing is that in order to allow participating publishers to repatriate foreign exchange, we would have to work in collaboration with our government, and we have not been able to get a clear commitment from them on this. It is for reasons such as these that we have decided not to take on the responsibility of the fair. We hope that the women from Canada/Australia/Spain who were interested, will be able to take it on. We would also like to mention that we plan to do it in 1990.

Manisha Chaudhry  
Ritu Menon  
Urvashi Butalia



## Also in Montreal: L'Essentielle

L'Essentielle is the new combined French and English language feminist bookstore and publisher in Montreal. It incorporates the stock of Aube-Epine, the French feminist bookstore in Montréal, the xerox machine that kept the store solvent, and adds a full range of English-language feminist books.

Located in a neighborhood frequented by both French and English speaking progressive communities, the founders of the new store hope that it will become a meeting place for both French-speaking and Anglo feminists and that the store will be a means of beginning to heal the rift between the two communities.

The women creating the new store include Harriet Ellenberger (co-founder of **Sinister Wisdom**) Odette DesOrmeau (formerly of les éditions du rumue Ménage), Martine Huysmans (owner of Aube-Epine), and Ariane Brunet.

The new store is large enough to hold readings and will house the offices for the 1988 International Feminist Bookfair and the publishing side of the operation.

**Sous La Langue/Under Tongue**, a long and luscious erotic lesbian poem by Nicole Brossard (that becomes even more luscious in the English translation by Susanne de Lotbinière-Harwood) will be L'Essentielle's first book. It will be a little art book in the tradition of French erotic books. "Something for a woman to give to her lover." Even the paper, I'm told, will be elegant. The first printing will be a signed edition of 1000. L'Essentielle's first book will be co-published with Gynergy Books, an imprint of Ragweed Press. Distribution in the U.S. will probably be through Inland.

Because one of the partners is under thirty, the bookstore/publisher is eligible to apply for Canadian business development grants that should fund a computer for inventory and mail-order booksales. One of the store's specialties will be mail-order for French language feminist books.

The grand opening for the L'Essentielle Bookstore and book party for **Sous La Langue** will be May 14th. 420 rue Rachel est, Montréal, Québec H2J 2G7.

## WRITING WANTED



Louise Mancuso (1145 Rutledge, Madison WI 53703) is looking for short stories, poetry, journal entries, dialogues, drama, essays, letters, humor, drawings, photographs, etc. for **A Celebration of Lesbians in Long-Term Relationships**. Send SASE for more details.

## CLAIRELIGHT'S BEST SELLERS LIST

ClaireLight's March 1987 Best Sellers List:

1. **Leave a Light on for Me**, J. Swallow, Spinner's/ Aunt Lute, \$8.95.
2. **Murder at the Nightwood Bar**, K. Forrest, Naiad Press, \$8.95.
3. **Long Time Passing: Lives of Older Lesbians**, M. Adelman, ed., Alyson, \$7.95.
4. **Daily Affirmations for Adult Children of Alcoholics**, R. Lerner, Health Communications, \$6.95.
5. **Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe**, J. Wagner, Harper & Row, \$15.95.
6. **Confessions of Madame Psyche**, D. Bryant, Ata Books, \$11.95.
7. **Each Day a New Beginning**, Hazelden, \$6.95.
8. **Codependent No More**, M. Beattie, Hazelden, \$6.96.
9. **Riverhouse Stories**, A. Carlisle, Calyx Books, \$7.95.
10. **You Can Heal Your Life**, L. Hay, Hay House, \$10.00.
10. **The Hungry Self**, K. Chernin, Harper & Row, \$6.95.

--ClaireLight is a 6000-title feminist bookstore at 1110 Petaluma Hill Road Suite 5 in Santa Rosa CA (95404).



# Scholarly Books for Feminists

## Dying to Please: Anorexia Nervosa and Its Cure

By Avis Rumney.

1983 Directory, bibliog., index \$13.95 sewn softcover  
128pp. "A gem...succinctly synthesizes... cogently explains"—*Booklist*; "insightful treatment of the author's experiences... well worth reading"—*Science Books & Films*; "elegant and effective style"—*Transactional Analysis Journal*. Written by a family counselor and former sufferer. ISBN 0-89950-083-8.

## Virago! The Story of Anne Newport Royall (1769-1854)

By Alice S. Maxwell and Marion B. Dunlevy.

1985 Illus., bibliography, index \$19.95 cloth  
326pp. "Exciting and valuable"—*New York Times*; "Of interest to scholars in Jacksonian political and social history, women's history, and American literature"—*Choice*; "scholarly yet lively... recommended"—*The Book Report*. In 1829 Royall was convicted in federal court as a "common scold" and sentenced to a public dunking! ISBN 0-89950-133-8.

## Affirmative Action: Theory, Analysis, and Prospects

Edited by Michael W. Combs and John Gruhl.

1986 \$19.95 cloth  
Figures, tables, references, appendix, bibliography, index  
191pp. Opponents feel the AA concept is counter to cherished American values (individualism, merit, fairness, etc.); supporters believe that discrimination is so deeply ingrained that without AA equal treatment for minorities and women is impossible. These original essays explore the matter fully. ISBN 0-89950-230-X.

## Female Offenders: Correctional Afterthoughts

By Robert R. Ross and Elizabeth A. Fabiano.

1986 Bibliography, index \$18.95 sewn softcover  
128pp. "Authors are experts... [they] evaluate and make recommendations"—*Academic Library Book Review*. Psychotherapy, behavior mod, skills training, alcohol and drug abuse programs, and family therapy are covered. Research on probation, parole, community residential centers, work release, health care, child care, co-corrections reviewed. ISBN 0-89950-217-2.

## Ex-Nuns: Women Who Have Left the Convent

By Gerelyn Hollingsworth.

1985 Index \$16.95 cloth  
136pp. "A work of interest to students of sociology or to anyone interested in women's movements in religion"—*Booklist*. Interviews with hundreds and data from thousands of former nuns show the historical forces at work and the trauma of departure. ISBN 0-89950-156-7.

## Gay Identity: The Self Under Ban

By William H. DuBay.

1987 Bibliography, index \$18.95 cloth  
[192]pp. The gay role comes with high personal and social costs. This work examines three basic elements: personal identity, sex, and gender. One chapter is on the central position of the family in the making of the gay role. Another explains the political and social background of the concept of homosexuality, the medical philosophy it represents, and its usefulness to the state. Also: How the political process of stigmatization converts the concept of homosexuality into a deviant "role"; how people go about maintaining, altering, or abandoning the gay role. ISBN 0-89950-269-5.

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# Sister Vision Press: Canada

## Who We Are

We are a collective of Afro-Caribbean and South Asian women taking care of business -- making sure that our writings and those of our other non-white sisters living in Canada are published, distributed and read. Sister Vision is the only Canadian Feminist Publisher whose priority is to publish and distribute books by Black and Third World women of colour living in Canada.

We are focusing on four areas:

**Women's Oral History:** Through this medium we will present the vivid words and lives of ordinary women often omitted from traditional history and contemporary writing.

**Creative Writing:** We encourage short story writers, novelists, playwrights and poets to send their works to us.

**Books for Children and Young People:** Publication in this important area has been negligible in Canada.

**Theory and Research:** We are challenging the absence of our voices in Canadian feminist theory and research. We will provide a forum for theoretical works which speak to and analyze the political and social lives of Black and Third World women from a feminist perspective.

We welcome manuscripts from any of these areas.



Since launching Sister Vision in 1985, our second year finds us going through the growing pains of establishing a new press, including all the invisible work that a new publishing house is involved with: typing, setting up and maintaining records, contacting book stores, hustling for money to publish books -- the list goes on. But we are on the move, forward and onward, into new office space, contacting community groups, cultural organizations and bookstores across Canada. We are doing what we call "strictly grounding with our sisters and de communities."

## Connections

We are committed to working with, supporting and publishing works by our sisters living in the Caribbean. We are forging links between women of colour in Canada and our sisters in the Third World and elsewhere. Our vision is that of a global feminism, a weaving our our histories.



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## Beat Down Babylon

We are taking control of our words and work. We are an active part of the machinery for change in this society. We are taking every opportunity to integrate Sister Vision Press into every aspect of our reality and we are continuing to sponsor/invite writers and cultural workers inside the community, across Canada and outside of Canada to read, play and dialogue. Publishing is not separate, but one part of the work needed to beat down babylon.

--The Sister Vision Collective  
June 1986

## BOOKS PUBLISHED BY SISTERVISION

**Speshal Rikwes, Ahdri Zhina Mandiela.** "Speshal Rikwes is a Jamaican term conveying appreciation. This book of poems takes the reader through the exciting rhythmic progression of Jamaican expression. Ahdri Zhina is a Caribbean woman poet living in Canada. A dynamic performer, she is available for readings/performances." \$6.

**Doing Time, Himani Bannerji.** "In Doing Time, Bannerji speaks of prisons constructed at different levels where cramped, silenced and angry people struggle to gain their faces,



voices and power. The time in prison is not only a time of despair but a time of learning solidarity, strategies, and gaining strength, until the bars are broken and the walls torn down." Born in India, educated in Calcutta, Bannerji currently teaches social science at Atkinson College (York University), Toronto. \$6.

**Growing Up Black: A Resource Manual for Black Youths**, by Makeda Silvera & Black Youth Hotline. "Grounded in personal statements by Black teenagers on issues which affect them directly -- racism, sexuality, school, the law, the police and organizing. This book abundantly dispenses basic information and lists resources." \$7.95.

**Blaze A Fire**, Neshia Haniff. "Profiles of contemporary Caribbean women written by Neshia Haniff of Guyana. This book vividly covers interviews with a wide cross-section of women. One of the women profiled, Didi, a cane cutter, was a major figure in the struggle for higher wages and better conditions for sugar workers in Trinidad." \$9.95.



**BOOKS DISTRIBUTED BY SISTERVISION**

**Breaking Chains**, Afua Cooper, Weelaha Publications. "Afua dedicates this book of poems to her son Akil and to all the women and children who are fighting to make our lives more meaning-

ful and rewarding. She says 'I cannot separate my femaleness from my Blackness therefore my struggle is to incorporate both.'" \$5.00

**No! to Sexual Violence**, Sintern Theatre Collective, Jamaica. "A 29 page pamphlet produced by the Sintern Theatre Collective, a group of working-class sisters in Jamaica. The booklet is an attempt to show the seriousness of the crime of sexual violence, how societies encourage it and how women can fight against it. No! relies on oral evidence collected from women who have been the victims of or have witnessed rape; it strongly demands and defends every woman's right to say NO." \$3.75

**Native Women**, Special Issue of **Fireweed**. Winter 1986. "A group of Canadian Native women bring together the voices of Native women in Canada and their sisters South of the Border, celebrating the lives and daily struggles of Native women in North America. \$3.75.

**Women of Colour**, Special Issue of **Fireweed**. Spring 1983. "Rich in diversity, Women of Colour speak about their lives for the first time in Canadian Feminist literature. This rich and powerful collection includes essays, short stories, poems, photographs, illustrations and graphics by Black women, South Asian women, Native women, Chinese women and Japanese women. Sisters from the Philippines and Central America also speak out." \$3.75.

**FORTHCOMING FROM SISTER VISION**

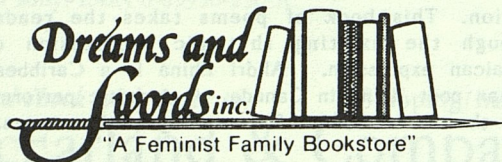
**Lesbians of Colour Anthology** edited by Sister Vision Collective. "Sister Vision breaks new ground with the publication of this exciting anthology. Containing prose, photographs, interviews, journals, poetry and analysis, it brings together the experiences of many Black and Third World women of colour who are lesbians and living in Canada. Powerful and affirming." Fall '87. \$11.95.

Also in the fall of 1987 will be an as yet unnamed collection of poetry by Native Canadian Edna King. In Spring 1987 watch for **Black Women in Canada** by Rella Braithwaite.

Order direct from Sister Vision Press, Box 217 Station E, Toronto Ontario Canada M6H 4E2. Tel. 416-977-8681. 40% for 5+ books.



**HAPPY TEN, FBN!**

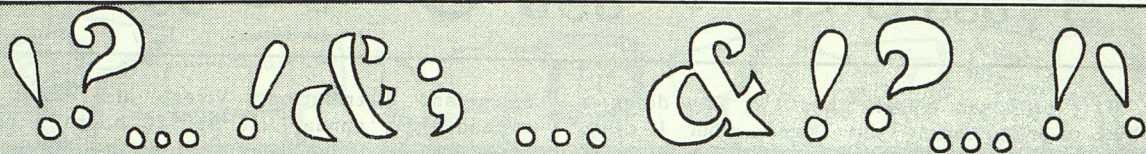


828 E. 64th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46220  
317-253-9966

116 N. Grant Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
812-336-2665



# TRIVIA



Has anyone else noticed that the mass market edition of Rita Mae's **High Hearts** is priced at \$4.50 -- a buck higher than the price on the original Daughters Press trade paperback of **Rubyfruit Jungle?** (1973) Times change but people are still complaining about the high prices of books -- especially those that would be cheap at twice the price.

Midge Stocker, Coordinator of the National Women's Music Festival Writer's Conference has been researching the possibility of holding an annual women's publishing conference in conjunction with NWMF, parallel, perhaps to the Women's Music Industry Conference held at NWMF each year. Questionnaire responses generally support the idea of an annual conference -- but not any time near the American Booksellers Association convention. Since both ABA and NWMF are held at the end of May, that means that NWMF won't work as a location.

On the other hand, publishers can exhibit and sell books and periodicals at NWMF. Send 2 copies of any book you'd like displayed and/or 200+ copies of give-aways (brochures, subscription forms, advertising). Cost is \$45. If you want to attend and sell the books yourself, table costs are \$65. They'll also put out sign-up sheets for your mailing list and return them to you after the conference. For more information write Midge Stocker, NWMF Writers Conference, 2250 W. Farragut, Chicago IL 60625.

For those of you who asked what happened with the deposits Full Circle's bank claimed never to have received: "Basically, we ate them," Mary responded to my asking. "Our lawyers estimated that it would cost us \$5000 to pursue our claim and take years to get a judgement;

that the bank's lawyers would file endless delaying motions and that we would have to respond to each of them -- and pay the lawyers for their time as we went -- with no guarantees at the end. It was done very slickly -- only the cash was taken and the checks were thrown away. On a cheerier note Mary noted that Full Circle has had a good spring: "Salaries are up -- we're now making almost what a first year teacher makes -- . Well, within \$8000 of that -- that's getting close, wouldn't you say?"

Mary also points out that if the people you hire fall in certain categories (including long-term unemployed), you can get up to 40% of their salaries back as a tax credit....

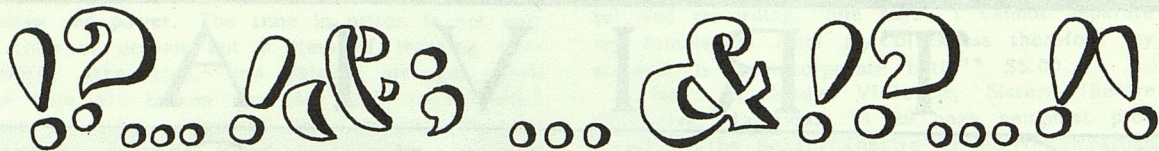


**Movie Tie-Ins: Hour of the Star**, an unsentimental look at a young Brazilian woman's impoverished and unhappy situation, is based on Clarice Lispector's novel of the same title published by Carcanet (\$14.95 cloth, paperback due shortly). This is an art-house film that will distributed in major markets.

**Waiting for the Moon**, (based on a fantasy of how Gertrude and Alice might have faced Gertrude's illness) might stir some interest in Stein's **Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas**. (Vintage, \$3.95pb).

Speaking of movies, Naiad has the **Desert Hearts** video back in stock.... Naiad has sold 1050 copies of it as of this writing. Naiad also reports that the Ann Allen Shockley books are receiving excellent support from bookstores, with the size of their initial shipping looking much more like new titles than reprints.





I promised myself that I'd skip doing a back-to-press column this issue -- but I can't resist the news that **Desert of the Heart** went back to press for a 12,000 copy print run in March. That's the third printing in 13 months for 36,000 copies of the movie tie-in edition. **Desert of the Heart** has been in print continuously in one country or another since it was first published in 1964.

Silver Moon Bookshop in London is now publishing **The Silver Moon Quarterly**, an 8 page booklist/review featuring new and familiar titles. International subscription terms not sent. Individual copies are thirty-five pence, so even with postage, international subs should be quite reasonable. The easiest thing to do is send them your Master Charge or Visa number, and let the banks tend the international ordering..



I know this comes as a shock, but **PW** reported that of 77 full length reviews during one month in the **New York Times Book Review**, 57 were written by men, only 19 by women. In the **New York Review of Books**, 42 reviews were by men, three by women. Citing these findings as instances of highbrow discrimination, Nancy Bogen has formed the Jane Street Intellectual League to improve the image of women as intellectuals. And hopefully, our employment and influence as book reviewers as well. 31 Jane Street, New York NY 10014.

British feminist publisher Virago Books is leaving the Chatto & Windus, Virago, Bodley Head and Jonathan Cape consortium to become independently owned once again. Virago's three founder-directors Carmen Callil, Ursula Owen, Harriet Spicer and two current codirectors Lennie Goodings and Alexandra Pringle will become the new owners of Virago. The current plan is that Virago will stay with the consortium for

sales and distribution. Virago also plans to expand their annual list to 120 books a year over the next five years. They are currently publishing 80 books/year.



It looks like Cleis Press' **Sex Work: Writings by Women in the Sex Industry** is going to be one of the hot books for the summer. Definitely in terms of media attention and possibly via political criticism. Haven't seen it yet, myself, but telling the truth -- when it violates people's preconceived notions of what truth ought to be -- tends to create a storm. This is the first book in which women who work or have worked in the sex industry speak for themselves about their work and their experiences. And since this book is representative of a wide variety of women's experiences -- including lesbian women and Jewish women -- some of whom like their work, and some of whom have had a hard time of it, it's definitely going to be hot politically.

Media attention will include the summer **Guardian**, the Village Voice, an Associated Press interview and some TV interview shows -- with more to come.

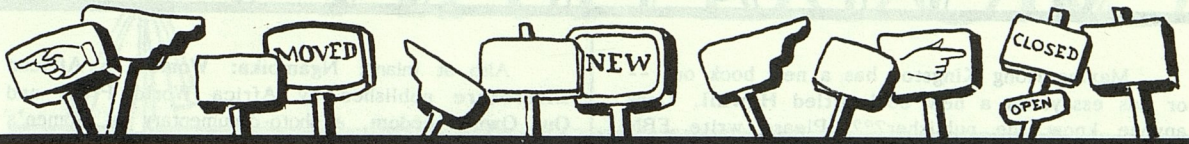
Meanwhile Cleis has lined up ten appearances for **Different Daughters** editor and/or contributors and has Alicia Partnoy on **All Things Considered**, on the Cable News network, and out doing a lot of traveling. Alicia will have a second book out with Cleis next year.

The best strategy I've heard recently for dealing with political trashing -- A catcher's mask, New Freedom running shoes and a six minute mile. Run now, and go back when the dust settles to pick up what is useful???? Sounds like a strategy more of us could survive -- never mind the health benefits!



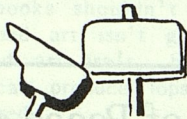


# THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



**New Stores:** In Montreal, the new combined French and English feminist bookstore is L'Essentielle (replacing Aube-Epine, Montreal's French-language feminist bookstore), 420 rue Rachel est, Montreal, Quebec H2J 2G7.

In Puerto Rico, the Graffiti Boutique will reopen as the Graffiti Bookstore to serve Puerto Rico's large gay and lesbian population. Send info to Graffiti Boutique, URB Rio Canas Calle 16, Q-13, Ponce, PR 00731.



Carol Levin & Sally Owen will be opening a women's bookstore in Manhattan. They would greatly appreciate being sent information on new and backlist feminist titles. Tentative opening dates are August/September or early in 1988. Part of their preparations included attending the ABA Prospective Booksellers School. Carol said overall it was an excellent experience. It gave her enough information to assure her she was doing the right thing in certain areas and to redirect her in other areas. The financial information and the information on things that hadn't yet occurred to them were especially useful. Frustrating was the lack of attention to fund raising. Send them information at 351 W. 53rd St. #2, NYC 10019. Phone 212-689-5909. (212-246-9736 to leave a message.)

Lambda Express is a mail order focusing on lesbian and gay books. Owners Helen Harvey and Teresa Walker plan to open a bookstore within a year. Send them information at PO Box 9082, Ocala FL 32670. Phone 904-622-8266.

The Bookshelf in Boise, Idaho, previously a stronghold of Mormon theology and ideals has a new owner who wants to put in a good collection of lesbian, gay, and feminist books. The Bookshelf, I'm told, is the largest bookstore in Idaho. Send info attn: Ron Post, The Bookshelf, Five Mile Plaza, 10390 Overland Dr., Boise ID 83709.

Linda Malicki opened Another State of Mind (Books & Gifts) in Lakewood Ohio on May 9. 16608 Madison Ave., 44107. Phone 216-521-1460.

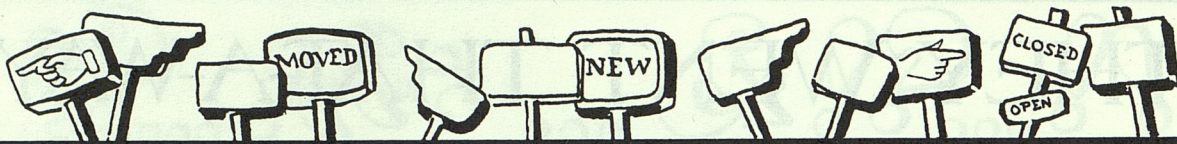
Valerie Burgess is setting up a retail book sales outlet, PO Box 392, Terrace BC, V8G 4B1, Canada. In Fort Worth, Vivian Conly and Brenda Davis are going to be selling books out of their home. They hope to set up a full scale bookstore eventually. Send them info at 1440 Horncastle, Fort Worth TX 76133.

The Annex, 4440 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas NV 89109 will carry lesbian and feminist books. David Lenz is opening a general bookstore in Milwaukee that will feature gay and lesbian books. Write 1014 E. Montana St., Milwaukee WI 53207.

Re-Search/Re-Claim is a women's history bookservice. 765 Lovell, Troy MI 48098. Phone 313-879-1084.

**Moved:** The West Coast Lesbian Collections has re-opened under new sponsorship. Those of you who routinely send our archives copies of your books/magazines can now send them to The Mazer Collection, 3271 N. Raymond Ave., Altadena CA 91001. Phone 818-791-4561.






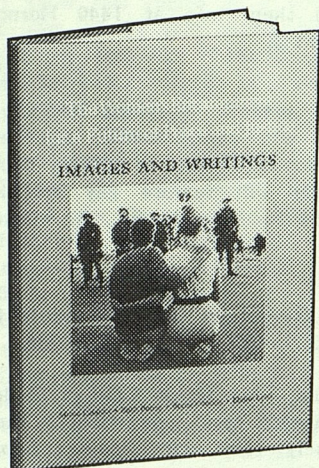
Maxine Hong Kingston has a new book out -- or has essays in a new book titled **Hawaii**. Does anyone know the publisher??? Please write FBN and A Room of One's Own, 317 W. Johnson, Madison WI 53703. They heard about the book at an Asian Women's Literary Conference but haven't been able to track down the publisher -- needless to say they have a whole community that wants the book.....

Susan Bates, new manager of the Alaska Women's Bookstore has a customer looking for **Voices Set Free**, an anthology of work by women in prison -- but no publisher. Does anyone know who publishes it and where/how to get it? Please write FBN and the Alaska Women's Bookstore, 111 W. 9th Ave, Anchorage AK 99503.

Also at Inland: **Ngambika: Women in African Literature** published by Africa World Press and **Our Own Freedom**, a photo-documentary on Women's work in Africa, title from Buchi Emecheta's introduction: "We have to start talking now about our own freedom." Women moving into new ways of life are also shown, and the photographs are really first-rate.

**Getting Pregnant Our Own Way**, the new British guide to artificial insemination for lesbians and single women, will be available at Inland, thanks to the good work of FBN's publishing intern Polly Pagenhart. The books were shipped in March and may be available early as mid-May. 

## The Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice.

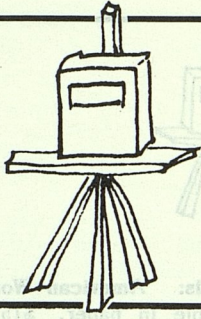


*"Part documentary, part poetry, part stunning images, it honors the courage of the common woman."* M.K. Blakely, Ms. Magazine.

Photos and writings compiled by Mima Cataldo and Ruth Putter. Intro by Elaine Lytel and Bryna Fireside. The story of the ongoing struggle at the camp located near the Seneca Army Depot in Upstate N.Y. A compelling record of the women who "put their bodies on the line" for a nuclear-safe world. 128 pp. Hardcover. \$22.20 ppd. Teacher's discount 40%, minimum 5 books. Bookstores call for rates. Syracuse Cultural Workers, Box 6367FB, Syracuse, NY 13217. (315) 474-1132. Catalog, \$1. Wholesale welcome.

***Congratulations to FBN on your tenth anniversary!***





# ART BOOKS

by Tee Corinne

Conferences: The Women's Caucus for Art and the College Art Association.

February, Boston. Walking among the book displays at this year's WCA/CAA conferences I received a heartening response to my requests for books about women artists. Many publishers had them, some didn't, but said "Come back next year. They're in process." On the other side, one rep tried to convince me that low cost art books were not possible and one, a woman, thought that books shouldn't be identified by gender since good art isn't gender specific. I agree that good art isn't, but publishing certainly is and can produce lopsided results when gender is ignored.

The sales rep who said art books couldn't be produced for under \$15 works for a company that publishes only in clothbound. According to him "Paperbacks cost about \$2 less to produce, so it's not worth doing it." Thinking about this afterward, I remembered the times I have waited to buy a book until the paperback came out, and it never did. It occurs to me that women who buy books in women's bookstores are likely to "waiting for the paperback," that paperbacks seem psychologically more accessible than hardbacks and that a \$2 difference in cover price represents a large market of buyers lost.

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Probably my favorite recent release is **Viewfinders, Black Women Photographers** by Jeanne Xoutoussamy-Ashe. It's informative, useful, inspiring, stimulating and more. Covering 1839-

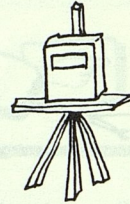
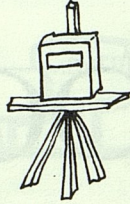
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**Pilgrims and Pioneers, New England Women in the Arts**, Alicia Faxon and Sylvia Moore, eds. I hope this is the beginning of an avalanche of regional art books. It's especially nice that it's from one of our own presses. **Pilgrims and Pioneers** uses a broad definition of art in gathering historical and contemporary material: marble sculpture to needlework, quilts to architecture. Information on women collectors and gallery owners, political art and the economics





of survival. Illustrated, \$12, 159 pp, trade paperback, 30% discount, Midmarch Arts Press, POB 3304, Grand Central Station, NY, NY 10163.

Also from Midmarch five times a year comes **Women Artists News**, a potpourri of information about contemporary women artists. Exhibition info, book reviews, interviews, political updates and more. \$3 per issue, 40% payment due 30-60 days, add \$1 per 5 copies for shipping. Returns accepted - masthead only.

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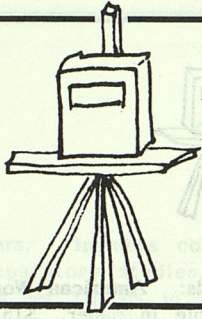
**Sonia Delaunay, Art Into Fashion** is the kind of beautifully produced book that gives off the smell of expensive paper when you open the plastic wrapper. Delaunay (1885-1979) created art out of colored geometric shapes that seem to pulsate and move around. She gained wide public attention in Paris in the 1920's designing fabrics, costumes, playing cards, dishware, rugs, automobiles"...everything she made was as modern as jazz." And still is. This book only deals with her fashion design which seems especially congenial to today's street-smart clothing. \$14.95, large, paper, 104 pp, 40 color plates. George Braziller, Inc., 60 Madison Ave., NYC 10010. I just don't know how this will do in our bookstores, so send me some feedback.

**Women Artists in History from Antiquity to the 20th Century** by Wendy Slatkin is a textbook with b & w illustrations. If you have customers who want every art book about women, then get this for them. Makes connections between art, class and culture. \$12.75, trade paper, 191 pp. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632, order direct.

Still available from Pantheon (Random House) is **Kathe Kollwitz, Graphics/Posters/Drawings**, Renate Hinz, ed. A detailed, historical text, photos of the artist, fine reproductions of Kollwitz's (1867-1945) powerful images of the plight of the poor and the working classes, grief, and the devastation that war brings. \$12.95, 148 pp, large sc, order from Random House (800) 638-6460 in USA, Maryland only (800) 492-0782.

**Neon Lovers Glow in the Dark** by Lili Lakich is a sexy, lush, beautiful book about a superb artist who's worked in neon for the past 20





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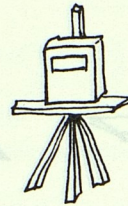
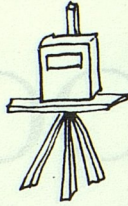
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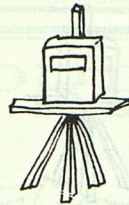
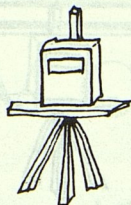
**Sonia Delaunay, Art Into Fashion** is the kind of beautifully produced book that gives off the smell of expensive paper when you open the plastic wrapper. Delaunay (1885-1979) created art out of colored geometric shapes that seem to pulsate and move around. She gained wide public attention in Paris in the 1920's designing fabrics, costumes, playing cards, dishware, rugs, automobiles"...everything she made was as modern as jazz." And still is. This book only deals with her fashion design which seems especially congenial to today's street-smart clothing. \$14.95, large, paper, 104 pp, 40 color plates. George Braziller, Inc., 60 Madison Ave., NYC 10010. I just don't know how this will do in our bookstores, so send me some feedback.

**Women Artists in History from Antiquity to the 20th Century** by Wendy Slatkin is a textbook with b & w illustrations. If you have customers who want every art book about women, then get this for them. Makes connections between art, class and culture. \$12.75, trade paper, 191 pp. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632, order direct.

Still available from Pantheon (Random House) is **Kathe Kollwitz, Graphics/Posters/Drawings**, Renate Hinz, ed. A detailed, historical text, photos of the artist, fine reproductions of Kollwitz's (1867-1945) powerful images of the plight of the poor and the working classes, grief, and the devastation that war brings. \$12.95, 148 pp, large sc, order from Random House (800) 638-6460 in USA, Maryland only (800) 492-0782.

**Neon Lovers Glow in the Dark** by Lili Lakich is a sexy, lush, beautiful book about a superb artist who's worked in neon for the past 20





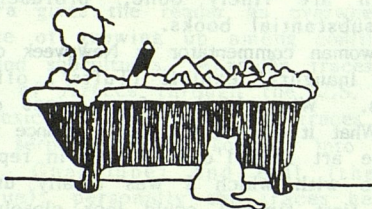
years. Includes color photos of finished work, preparatory studies, and photos of the artist and her friends in action. Begins with a neon sculpture of Elvis and ends with "Donna Impaled as a Constellation" which critic Arlene Raven says "is a work about a lover who is also a muse igniting desire and an agent of inspiration" (**At Home**, Long Beach Museum of Art, 1983). Lakich's awards include the Gay Academic Union's Fine Arts Award, Time Magazine's Poster of the Year, and Who's Who of American Women. \$15, large sc, 96 pp. The Museum of Neon Art, dist. by Gibbs M. Smith, Inc., P. O. Box 667, Layton, UT 84041.

I want to add to the previous mentions of the newly reissued **Romaine Brooks** by Adelyn D. Breeskin: Brooks is the **only** uncloseted famous American painter born in the 1880's that I know of. Her paintings are large, powerful (some say somber) studies of fascinating personalities

around London and Paris in the first quarter of this century. Because she was wealthy and didn't have to show/sell her work for a living, almost no one saw it between 1935 and the 1972 exhibition which Ms. Breeskin organized. Many of her subjects were her lovers, her lovers' lovers and their friends. I want to see a whole sling of glossy postcards and posters of her work. This is the **only** book available about her. \$16.95, 124 pp. illustrated, large sc, National Museum of American Art, dist. by Smithsonian Inst. Press, Customer Service, POB 4866, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211.

Artist's books are only on the edge of reasonable for most bookstores to handle. They're usually small or wierd-sized, expensive, often not perfect bound, printed in small quantities. Sometimes, though, their content or beauty will wipe me out. Two such books are

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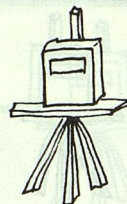
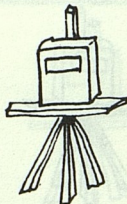
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**Self Portraits, Viewing Myself as an Adult Child of an Alcoholic** by Jenny Wrenn, \$11.95, 8 1/2 x 11", 73 pp, illustrated, spiral bound; and **Leaving Texas: A Memoir** by Carolyn Weathers, \$6.95, 5 1/2 x 7 1/4", 28pp, illustrated, perfect bound. Both deal with the pain of growing up and working out how to live as adults in a difficult world. Hard, moving, honest books available from Clothespin Fever Press (lesbian owned and run), 5529 N. Figueroa, L.A., CA 90042, 40%, they pay postage. Shelve under Lesbian and Alcohol/Recovery.

Coming in May is **Berthe Morisot: Correspondence**. Morisot (1841-1895), a prolific and accomplished painter, was one of the Impressionists. There is a wonderful "dailyness" to Morisot's struggles with the wind, rain, self doubt and the high cost of models. The voice of Morisot the mother, wife, daughter and friend intermingle with that of the artist. Morisot's grandson edited the letters and provides a linking commentary. New to this translation is a provocative feminist introduction. \$19.95 cloth, 272 pp. illustrated. Published by Moyer Bell Limited, dist. by Kampmann & Company, 9 East 40th St., NY NY 10016, (800) 526-7626.

And, finally, in April the National Museum of Women in the Arts opened in Washington, D.C. with an outstanding inaugural exhibition and two beautiful books. One is called **National Museum of Women in The Arts**, \$19.95, large sc, 254 pp, published by Abrams and, I think, distributed by them. The second, documenting the inaugural exhibit, is **American Women Artists 1830-1930** by Eleanor Tufts, \$24.95, large sc, 256 pp. distributed, I believe, by the National Museum of Women in the Arts, 4590 MacArthur Blvd., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20007, (202) 337-2615. Discount unavailable at press time.

Both are finely done, profusely illustrated, substantial books.

A woman commentator in Newsweek complained that the inaugural exhibit (Tufts') offered no surprises. What kind of surprises does she want? What it offered me was a chance to see in one place art that I'd seen only in reproduction and some with which I was totally unfamiliar. For the first time I could look closely at the Klumpke portrait of Rosa Bonheur which is usually hidden in storage at the Metropolitan Museum, NYC and at the somber and awesome "Reneta Bogatti" by Romaine Brooks, usually stored at the National Museum of American Art, D.C.

Read the books, see the exhibitions. What I'd like to see now is a thriving alternative art press to compliment our literary publishing houses.





# FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



The Inanna Institute uses myths of the Sumer goddesses Inanna and Ereshkigal as a basis of study. They have recently published and/or undertaken to distribute chapbooks with gynosophic ideas. Publications include **The Descent of the Goddess Inanna to the Underworld**, a new translation rendered into poetry by Jungian analyst Betty Meador (\$5.00) and three new works by Judy Grahn who is using the Inanna myth in her forthcoming **The Queen of Swords** (Beacon Press, Fall, 1987). Her chapbooks include **Descent to the Butch of the Realm**, **Descent to the Roses of the Family**, and an article "Sacred Blood". \$3 each. 40% discount for 5+. Inanna Institute also does workshops, readings and presentations. Box 11164, Oakland CA 94611.

Spinsters/Aunt Lute's spring books are **Borderlands/La Frontera** by Gloria Anzaldúa and **Wingwomen of Hera** by Sandi Hall (**Godmothers**). "Half prose and half poetry, **Borderlands/La Frontera** gives the reader an overwhelming experience of growing up among conflicting cultures and subcultures. Anzaldúa traces the migration of Aztecs through the U.S. Southwest into Mexico; mythically, she traces the split of the serpent goddess Tonantsi into good (the virgin, Guadalupe) and evil (the whore, Coatlicue); personally she traces her life on the Texas-Mexican border and the damage done to the mestizas who grow up in the no-woman's-land between cultural expectations. Anzaldúa captures the spirit of hope and unification that the survivors of borderlands have to offer modern cultures." Prose in English. Poems in Spanish and English. \$8.95.

**Wingwomen of Hera** is the first book of the **Cosmic Botanists** science fiction trilogy. "In

her usual fast-paced prose, Hall moves us between two unlike planets, Maladar and Hera. One is burdened by layers of ice, its population the victims of a rigid and machine-like government. The other is 'sculpted to a strange beauty', its lovely winged creatures living in a bright sensual present. Both are caught up in mutual, unpredicted destiny. Hall's feminist vision, evident in her creation of complex social structures, provides a solid base for the visually erotic **Wingwomen of Hera**."

Both \$8.95. Spinsters/Aunt Lute, PO Box 410687, San Francisco CA 94141. BP & IN.

In **Competition: The Feminist Taboo** editors Valerie Miner and Helen E. Longino state "Feminists have long been fiercely critical of male power games, yet we have often ignored or concealed our own conflicts over money, control, position, and recognition. It is time to end the silence." FBN agrees and is eagerly awaiting this anthology. Eighteen essays look at competition between women, the reality of competition in daily life and offer feminist approaches to the questions. \$12.95. Available for shipping in June. The Feminist Press.

Naiad Press sent FBN pre-publication copies of Lee Lynch's **Dusty's Queen of Hearts Diner** and Patricia Murphy's **Searching for Spring**. I sat down immediately with **Dusty**, but hesitated over **Searching for Spring**, having heard that it dealt very powerfully with the issues of adulthood recovery from childhood sexual abuse -- not a book, I thought, that I could skim quickly on my way to work. Then it occurred to me to ask Mary Morrell of Full Circle Books (known for their excellent selection of books and annotated book-list on incest related titles) to read and re-





view the book. She agreed and her's what she said:

"In **Searching for Spring** a woman in her mid-forties embarks on the difficult task of restructuring her relationship to her claustrophobic and abusive family. Pain is present in the novel but Patricia Murphy handles it gently and within the perspective of growth. I liked the main character Annie. I admire her common sense and her strength. In a wonderful way this is a love story. The fluid and well crafted style carried me over the painful parts and kept me deeply involved in the process of discovery that makes **Searching for Spring** an excellent psychological novel. Do not pigeonhole this book in the categories of lesbian or incest or recovery. Put in the hands of every person who walks in because that's who will enjoy (yes, I said enjoy) **Searching for Spring**."

Since Mary has written about incest and knows how hard it is to write well about it, I'm taking her review as very high praise indeed.

Many will argue that **Dusty's Queen of Heart's Diner**, the tale of two women making home and diner for themselves in small town Massachusetts while battling early seventies homophobia in a community that has never heard of gay liberation, is Lee Lynch's finest book to date. I'd agree except that I'm still stuck on Frenchy Tonneau (**Swashbuckler**) and think she's going to be a hard hero to follow. **Dusty's Diner** is full of what Lynch does best: tell the tales of ordinary women displaying extraordinary courage on a daily basis while making their way through their lives.

Both books \$8.95. (May) Naiad prefers that you order direct from them. (PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302.) Also at BP, IN, Bookslinger, the distributors, B&T, Coutts, Blackwell North America, Airlift, Benton Ross, and Wild & Woolley.

**The World Between Women** is a finely produced collection of 60 poems, stories, photographs and drawings depicting the complexities of bonds between mothers, daughters, grandmothers, sisters, friends and lovers. From Santa Cruz feminist publisher, Herbooks, PO Box 7467, Santa Cruz CA 95061. 40% discount to bookstores.

Helaine Victoria Press offers three new t-shirts: Sojourner Truth, Amelia Earhart, and Queen of the Cards, all in three color printing and just in time for summer, as well as new postcards in the History and Culture of U.S. Latinas & Latin American Women Series. Write for catalog if you don't already get it: Helaine Victoria Press, 411 East 4th St., Bloomington IN 47401.

A new way to eat politically correctly: **Fare for Friends** is a fund-raising cookbook for Interim Place, a refuge for abused women and their children in Canada. The first edition of the book earned \$167,000 for the refuge. This edition will be distributed in Canada by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich and in the U.S. by the Independent Publishers Group, One Pleasant Ave., Port Washington NY 11050. \$9.95 U.S. (\$12.95 Can.) Spiral bound. Published by Byren House Publishing, Inc., 480 Bath Road, Kingston, Ont. Canada K7M 4X6.

Children's Book Press has been researching books featuring the legends and folktales of Central America with special emphasis on stories from Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador. The first two books in the series feature stories from the Miskito Indians of Nicaragua. **Mother Scorpion Country** reflects the matriarchal traditions of pre-Christian Nicaragua in which a brave young Miskito accompanies his wife to the land of the spirits. In **The Invisible Hunters**, three Miskito hunters make a pact with the sacred Dar vine. In exchange for the power of invisibility, they promise never to sell the animals they kill and never to use firearms, a promise that is less easy to keep after the arrival of the British.... \$10.95 each, cloth.





Three more books in the series are in process.

Children's Book Press has also recently released cloth editions of **The River that Gave Gifts**, **My Aunt Otilia's Spirits**, **The Little Weaver of Thai-yen Village** and **The Adventures of Connie and Diego**. (All also in print in paperback.) All The Children's Book Press books are bilingual and have beautiful color illustrations. A very popular series. The Children's Book Press, 1461 Ninth Ave., San Francisco CA 94112. Booksellers order from the Talman Company, 150 Fifth Ave, NY NY 10011 or Bookpeople.

**With Wings** is the new Feminist Press anthology of literature by and about women with disabilities. Edited by Marsha Saxton and Florence Howe, the anthology includes well-known writers (Alice Walker, Adrienne Rich, Muriel Rukeyser,

Mary Wilkins Freeman) and others addressing a wide range of physical disabilities. \$12.95 pb, \$29.95 cl. 311 East 94th St., NY NY 10128 and distributors.

Not so new anymore, but not to be missed: **Out of Bounds: Women, Sport and Sexuality** and **DykeVersions**, the first anthology of Canadian lesbian literature. The Women's Press/Canada, 229 College St. #204, Toronto M5T 1R4. Also BP & IN.

Shameless Hussy has published a second journal by Yvonne Pepin, **Three Summers**. "Growing is groping to beat challenges we create, explore and expand upon. The cycle never stops. **Three Summers** is a true journalistic account of stretching to meet these inner and outer challenges. **Three Summers** picks up where **Cabin Journal** left off. From 1976 until 1984, I lived

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A collection of representative art and literature from the first decade of the acclaimed journal. \$12 paper

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**THE RIVERHOUSE STORIES** How Pubah S. Dyke and Lazy LaRue Save the World By *Andrea Carlisle* "...a sophisticated exploration of adult relationships and a celebration of love, whatever its form..." --*Booklist* \$7.95 paper

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short stories by NZ writers  
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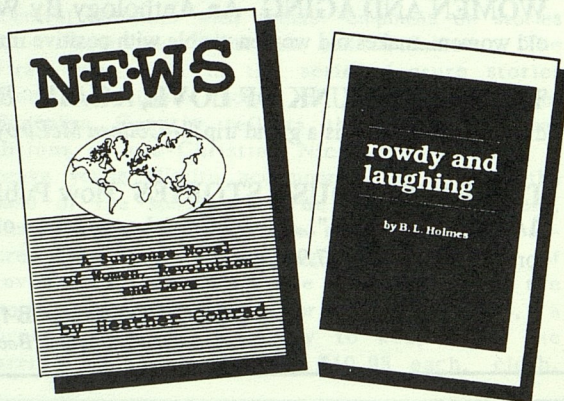
For a complete catalogue:  
New Women's Press Ltd, P.O. Box 47-339,  
Auckland, New Zealand

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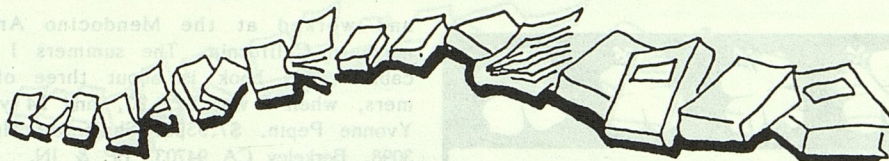
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**Rowdy and Laughing** (by B. L. Holmes), a collection of poems written during the initial turbulence of falling in love with another woman is Mother Courage's first volume of poetry. \$4.95. Order both books from Mother Courage Press, 1533 Illinois St., Racine WI 53405 or order from Inland, BP, B&T or Quality Books.







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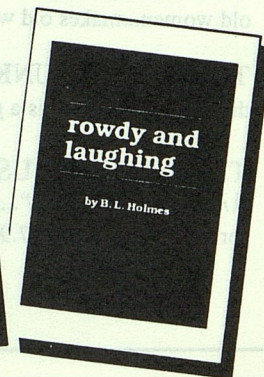
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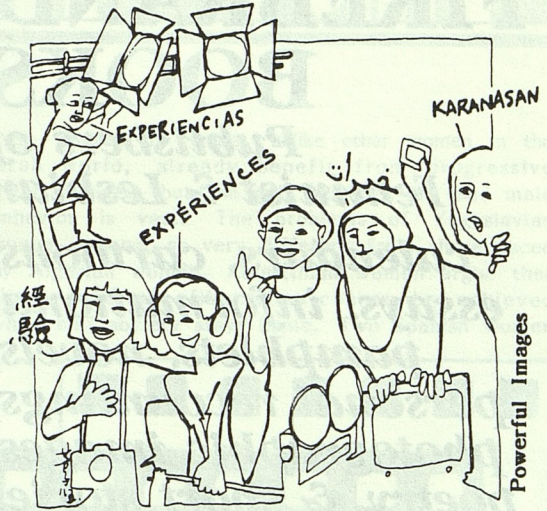
Some things take longer than others, but are well worth the wait: **Powerful Images: A Women's Guide to Audiovisual Resources**, published by Isis International is now available in the US from Inland. In addition to being an excellent catalog of AV resources from around the world, the book also presents audiovisuals as a valuable tool for grassroots organizing and offers the experiences of women from Brazil to India to South Africa. \$12.00. Order from Isis International. Via Santa Maria dell'Anima 30, 00186 Rome, Italy or from Inland.

The next goal: getting a U.S. distributor for **Isis International** journal. As their brochure says: "A global movement needs global communications." Don't have bookstore rates, but U.S. currency subs are \$15/yr (surface mail) from the address above. Maybe Inland will pick it up???

Also on the international marketing scene: Salem House (U.S.A.) now has Barbara Deming's much wanted semi-autobiographical novel **A Humming Under My Feet** as well as **Promise of Rain** (see **FBN's** International Issue), a Virago novel by Gail Morgan about a young woman growing up in post-war Australia, her relationship with a half-Aborigine painter and their conflicting and shared heritage. (\$6.95) Also available from Salem House: **The Subversive Stitch: Embroidery and the Making of the Feminine**, a Women's Press title that was being very well received in London last summer. (\$14.95)

**Women's Silence, Men's Violence: Sexual Assault in England 1770-1845** and **Betrayed**, a new translation of a Norwegian novel depicting the life of a seventeen year old woman married off to a sea captain, both published by Pandora, are now available in the U.S. from Methuen.

**Just a Woman** is a memoir of Lillian Craig, "a street-wise poverty warrior" who lived in Cleveland. "At a time when heroines are hard to



find, we offer you **Just a Woman**. It is appropriate that Lillian's voice be heard now, as more and more women find themselves struggling to survive financially. Lillian was poor for most of her life, but she was also a fighter... and she never forgot...those whose problems were larger. Throughout the formative years of the women's movement, Lillian argued for the things that matter to low-income women. Today we realize that her perception of the importance of issues like rape, woman-battering, and poverty went far beyond much of our early movement rhetoric." Interview with commentary and very readable. \$2.95 40% discount to bookstores, 50% non-returnable. Poster w/ 10+ copies. Order from the Legal Aid society of Cleveland, 1223 West Sixth St., Cleveland OH 44113.

**Women's Job Search Strategy or How to Keep the Wolf Away from the Door** by Betty Windy Boy is "directed at single mothers and minority women who need to create and set hard line career goals, written by a woman who has been there. Basic and essential." Arrowstar Publishing, 10134 University Park Station, Denver



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strong-minded  
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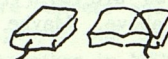
*Happy  
Anniversary  
Carol!*



CO 80210. Terms not sent.

**Half the Earth: Women's Experiences of Travel Worldwide**, makes me want to go traveling again. Info by women, for women about traveling in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific, the Near and Middle East, Latin America, Europe and North America. Looks at the impact and development of the women's movement in every country discussed. Definitely for the wanderlust in everywoman. The first book in Pandora Press's "Rough Guide" series. \$10.95. (Available in the U.S. from Methuen).

**Dreams and Shadows** is another wonderful journal illustrated by Sudie Rakusin. Silver cover, with black ink, 50 new drawings, shrink wrapped. \$17.95. Expensive and worth every cent. 40% bookstore discount. One free with 15. Sudie Rakusin/Journal, PO Box 88, Brooke VA 22430. Also available from Inland.



**Saving Seeds: Metaphors of Lesbian Growth** is a special issue of **Maize: A Lesbian Country Magazine** edited by Jennifer Weston and Other Gardeners. Includes much wisdom, quietude, drawings and articles about many lesbian gardens, including the Bloodroot Bookstore & Restaurant garden. \$4.00. Word Weavers, Box 8742, Minneapolis MN 55408.

**Lesbians in Publishing:** Activist & archivist Marie Kuda is collecting pictures and historical documentation for slide show and archive on lesbian publishing past and present. Send to Metis Press, PO Box 25187, Chicago 60625.



## FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



The American Audio Prose Library has an extensive (and impressive) list of 50+ women novelists and poets reading selections from their work. Companion tapes interview the writers. Authors include Maya Angelou, Margaret Atwood, Louise Erdrich, Maxine Hong Kingston, Doris Lessing, Winnie Mandela, Toni Morrison, Tillie Olsen, Grace Paley, Gertrude Stein and many many others.

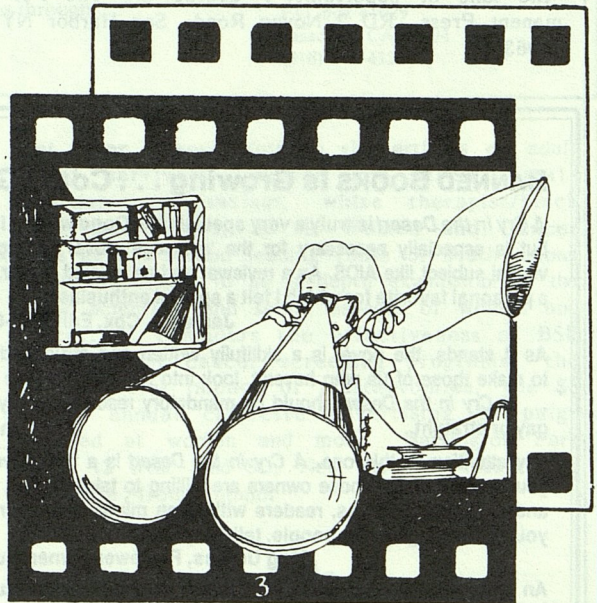
Listening to Grace Paley reading two of her stories was a delight. The companion interview tape was disappointing, perhaps because the sound quality was not as good, or because the interviewer did not match Paley's vitality. The tapes are packaged in opaque plastic cassette holders with plainly printed titles and blurbs on front and back. The packaging is dull as AAPL has primarily sold to libraries till now. Most tapes retail at \$10.95-\$12.95. Write for their 29-page annotated catalog.

-- Rose Katz

Two exciting new books from Zed Press: **Women of the Caribbean** edited by Pat Ellis (\$9.95pb, \$29.95 cl) and **Women of the Mediterranean** edited by Monique Gadat (\$11.50 pb, \$32.50 cl.) **Women of the Caribbean** covers a range of subjects from violence against women (including the founding of the Caribbean's first rape crisis center) to women in calypso, from the Sistren women's theatre collective to women in the trade unions and portrays women's lives in Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia and Guyana.

"The Mediterranean as a historical and cultural entity is the starting point for the contributors of **Women of the Mediterranean**. Not for them a division into European and Arab wo-

men. Women in Tunisia, unlike other women in the Arab world, already benefit from progressive legal changes, but the gulf between law and male behavior is vast. The problems of Yugoslavian women are not so very different from those faced by Algerian women. Palestinian women argue that their country's liberation cannot be achieved while half society stays home. Two Spanish women

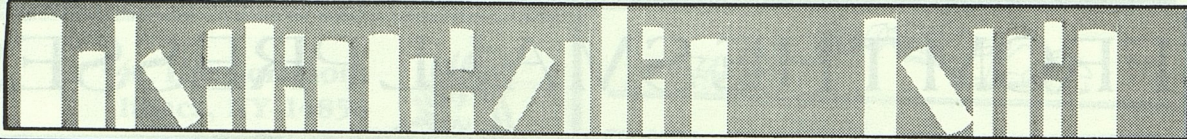


### Powerful Images

recall their experiences of the Civil War when they and other working-class women founded the Free Women movement."

Both books have excellent covers. Distributed in the U.S. and Canada by Humanities Press and Inland.





**Clay Walls**, a novel by Korean-American writer Kim Ronyoung, tells the story of a yangban (upper class) Korean woman and her working class husband exiled to the unwelcoming U.S.A. while providing an overview of Korean immigrant life in the 1940's. It is a story of racial discrimination from disinterested Americans who fails to distinguish one Asian immigrant from another, of restricted housing zones, of perseverance and the struggle to survive. Especially intriguing are the reflections of class struggles within a family and the difficulties many immigrants experience major class demotion in "the land of opportunity". \$18.95 cl. The Permanent Press, RD 2 Noyac Road, Sag Harbor NY 11963.

Orbis Books offers **Women in the Third World: A Directory of Resources** compiled by Thomas Fenton and Mary Heffron, a listing of organizations, books, periodicals, pamphlets and articles, audiovisuals and more. \$9.95 pb. Orbis Books, Maryknoll NY 10545.

Hanan al-Shaykh offers a Lebanese woman's coming-of-age novel in **The Story of Zahara**. **Zahara** has been banned in several Arab countries for it's courageous and frank treatment of personal, sexual and political subjects. The book has put al-Shaykh in the forefront of young writers striving to deepen and widen the frontiers of the Arabic novel. Published in Britain by Quartet. Distributed in the U.S. by Salem House. \$14.95 cl.

## BANNED BOOKS Is Growing . . . Come Grow With Us!

*A Cry in the Desert* is truly a very special title. Good writing is always welcome in every field, but is especially necessary for the 'message' novel dealing with a current, topical, controversial subject like AIDS. As a reviewer and as an avid reader, *A Cry in the Desert* has become a personal favorite for which I felt a special enthusiasm.

James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief, *The Midwest Book Review*

As it stands, the novel is a skillfully written and structured piece of fiction with the power to make those of us who haven't, look into the mouth of the AIDS beast and cry out in terror. . . . *A Cry in the Desert* should be mandatory reading for anyone who thinks we are liberated, gay or straight.

Lee Lynch, Author, *Home In Your Hands*

Pay attention to this one. *A Cry in the Desert* is a first novel, published and promoted by a young small press whose owners are willing to take risks. . . . a risk I support wholeheartedly, and it's up to all of us, readers with open minds and clear thought, to validate it . . . I ask you to read it, give it to people, tell people about it.

Meg Umans, Reviewer/Owner, Humanspace Books, Inc., Phoenix

An unforgettable and harrowing account of the horrors resulting from the health crisis. The best novel to date about AIDS and the gay community.

Stan Leventhal, Editor, *Torso Magazine*

Edward-William Publishing Company, P.O. Box 33280-#231, Austin, Texas 78764

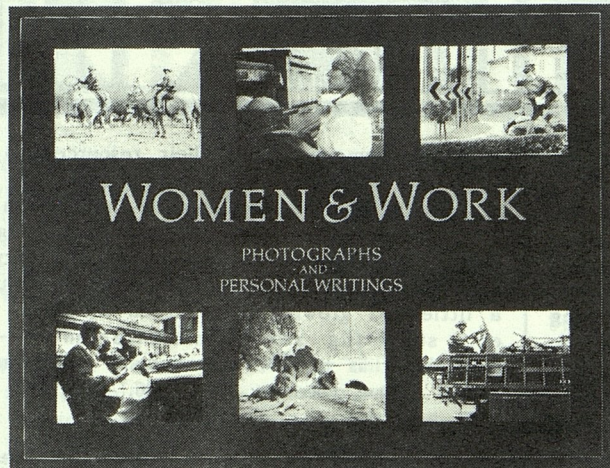
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*Feminist Bookstore News*

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**Development, Crises, and Alternative Visions: Third World Women's Perspectives** by Gita Sen and Caren Grown "synthesizes and analyzes three decades of economic, political, and cultural policies and politics toward third world women. Focusing on the impact of the current global economic and political crises -- debt, famine, militarization, and fundamentalism -- the authors show how, through organization, poor women have begun to mobilize creative and effective development strategies to pull themselves and their families out of immiserating circumstances. The book is the result of a collective effort on the part of DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era). \$7.50 pb. Part of Monthly Review's New Feminist Library Series.

Harrington Park Press continues with its series of academic and scholarly books about women: **Women and Cancer**, edited by Steven Stelman (\$17.59 pb), and **A Guide to Dynamics of Feminist Therapy**, edited by Doris Howard (\$14.95 pb.) (Published in cloth as **Dynamics of Feminist Therapy**.) I turned immediately to the article on "Play and the Working Woman", myself, thinking

that later I would turn to the articles on adult incest survivors, women and stress, anti-Semitism and sexism, white therapist/black client relationships, et al. **Women and Cancer** looks at the second leading cause of death among American women in an in-depth examination of the major scientific and social aspects of women and cancer. It considers the effectiveness of BSE and cervical cancer screening programs, the psycho-social impact of mastectomies, the \$3 billion annual cigarette advertising campaign targeted at women and more. Harrington Park Press, 12 West 32nd St., New York NY 10001. Also available from Inland.



Women reclaim credit for our inventions:  
 "Ada Bryon never knew her father, the poet, who fled England shortly after her birth. Her mother, determined to discipline out of the child her estranged and notorious husband's passionate



Romanticism, had Ada study mathematical calculation. Ada was the first to see, in her mathematical mentor's drawings, that a machine could, in theory, be programmed. She is only now being credited with her part in the development of computers. A carefully researched, scholarly, and eminently readable account." **The Calculating Passion of Ada Byron**, Joan Baum. \$21.50 cl. Archon Books. Available from The Shoe String Press, 925 Sherman Ave., Hamden CT 06514.



#### Development, Crisis and Alternative Visions

Women who have read/treasured/been inspired by **Revelations: Diaries of Women** will be particularly interested in Mary Jane Moffat's fictionalized autobiographical short stories that recreate her girlhood in the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's. Others will start with the stories and go on to **Revelations**. \$8.95 pb. John Daniel Publisher, PO Box 21922, Santa Barbara CA 93121.

North Point Press has just reprinted Anne Lamott's celebrated first novel **Hard Laughter**. Out of print since 1985, **Hard Laughter** documents

a family summoning all their resources to cope when it's discovered that Wallace, the father, has a brain tumor. Told in first person from the perspective of the 23 year old daughter, **Hard Laughter** is wacky, painful, Californian, and real. Lamott's **Rosie** (wild-eyed adventure of a little girl growing up with an alcoholic mother, surviving sexual molestation -- and triumphing) is one of my all-time favorites. 850 Talbot Avenue, Berkeley CA 94706. BP, IN, et al.

Published by Temple University Press but distributed by Syracuse Cultural Workers, **The Women's Encampment for a Future Peace and Justice** documents the on-going story of the thousands of women who have journeyed from all over the United States, Europe and Japan to upstate New York to protest the nuclear arms buildup. The authors show how the Encampment carries on the work begun at Greenham Commons and chronicle an important historical current as the paths of peace and women's movements converged. \$19.94 cl. Syracuse Cultural Workers, PO Box 6367, Syracuse NY 13217.



Time out for sheer pleasure: In **Minou**, a Siamese cat journeys from pampered pet to a "lady of independent means" (thanks to the wealth of mice in Notre Dame Cathedral) in Mindy Bingham's (**Choices, Challenges**) latest book. Totally unprepared to take care of herself after the sudden and unexpected loss of her indulgent mistress, Minou finds herself alone on the streets of Paris. Through a lucky meeting with a worldly lady cat named Celeste, Minou learns a new life of happy independence. "It's never too soon to teach children that we must each be prepared to take charge of our own life," says Bingham. And **Minou** is lovely way to convey that message. Oversize picture-book format with il-



illustrations that should earn this book a place in every children's library in the country -- not to mention feminist bookstore shelves. \$12.95 cl. Don't fail to take time to enjoy it yourself. Advocacy Press, PO Box 236, Santa Barbara CA 93102.

**Welcome Home** is a book for children living with an alcoholic parent. Handily, Tad has a friend whose father is in AA and tells Tad (who tells his mother) about Al-Anon. Helpful and informative, supportive of kid's situations and experience. \$3.50 pb, \$8.00 cl. **So What's It to Me?**, a book for teen age young men on sexual assault prevention, "gives guys essential information to increase their awareness that they could be victimized. It gives them ways to avoid

or prevent sexual assault and explores what to so should it happen to them. It is also aimed at the problem of acquaintance rape and helps teenagers explore ways of developing open communication and non-exploitative relationships." Not seen by FBN. \$4.50. King County Rape Relief dist by The Charles Franklin Press, 7821 175th St. SW, Edmonds WA 98020. 50% discount to bookstores.

**More Golden Apples: A Further Celebration of Women and Sport**, edited by Sandra Martz, is a short collection of prose and poetry celebrating women's athletic achievements. A little something to read between workouts. Sequel to **Atlanta**. \$5.95 pb. 40% for 5+. Papier-Maché, 34 Malaga Place East, Manhattan Beach CA 90266. Inland?

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Diane Balser examines three working women's organizations to answer questions about gender and work issues, unionizing women, and facilitating cooperation between feminists and unions.

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### BEAUTY SECRETS

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In an exciting examination of appearance, gender and sexuality, Chapkis discusses economics, class, racism, and ugliness in shaping images of beauty, and how gays & lesbians redefine these standards.

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### COMMON DIFFERENCES

Conflicts in Black & White Feminist Perspectives

*Gloria Joseph & Jill Lewis*

An analysis of the differences between Black and White feminist perspectives, attitudes and concerns on key issues, including sexuality, media images, family and the direction of the movement.

300 pp.

\$9.00

Write for a complete catalog: South End Press, 116 St. Botolph St., Boston MA 02115 (617) 266-0629.



# FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



Compiled by Rose Katz

## University Press of Virginia

**Fifth Sunday**, Rita Dove, 71pp, 6.00 pb (trade)

Short stories about Black people asserting themselves in a world which operates on preconceptions. Dove has just won the 1987 Pulitzer Prize in poetry for her book **Thomas and Beulah** (Carnegie-Mellon University Press - 1986).

## University of Illinois

**Lesbian Psychologies: Explorations and Challenges**; ed. Boston Lesbian Psychologies Collective, 360 pp, 12.95 pb (trade) 6/87

"A pioneering anthology from a feminist perspective of 20 original essays, moving from individual identities to couple relationships to lesbian families and communities." Topics: diversity and variability in lesbian identities, problems related to incest, internalized homophobia, bisexuality, interracial relationships, aging lesbians, lesbian mothers, lesbian alcoholism, lesbians with eating disorders, lesbian sex therapy and conflicts within lesbian communities.

## Syracuse University Press

**Here's to the Women: Changing Images of U.S. Women in Song**; Hilda E. Wenner & Elizabeth Freilicher, 19.95 pb (trade), 296 pp, 6/87

The first major collection of traditional and contemporary songs which ties women's songs to women's culture and history. One hundred songs with words and music by Malvina Reynolds, Holly Near, Jean Richie, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Peggy Seeger and others.

## University of Massachusetts

**French Connections: Voices From the Women's Movement in France**; ed & trans Claire

Duchen, 8.95x pb (short), 160 pp, 4/87

Contains selections on the French Women's Liberation Movement itself, as well as selections on four areas of debate: psychoanalytic feminisms, heterosexuality & lesbianism, women's "difference," and the relationship between feminism & the political left.

## University of New Mexico Press

**Georgia O'Keeffe: Selected Paintings & Works on Paper**; 25.00 pb, 90 pp, 35 color, 6 b&w illus., available now.

Exhibition catalog with works from every period of her career.

## Northeastern University Press

**Decades of Discontent: The Women's Movement, 1920-1940**; ed Lois Scharf & Joan Jensen, 317 pp, 11.95 pb, 5/87

Essays on the impact of industrialization on the lives of Chicana women in the Southwest, on the struggle of Yiddish women writers to engage in radical politics, on the efforts of Black feminists to find a common ground for political action among various women of color; all set against the limitations of the Depression years. Now in pb.

## Stanford University Press

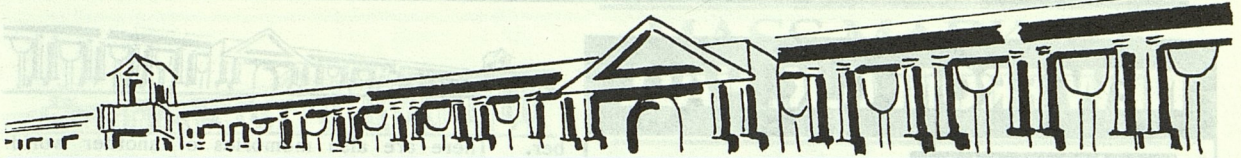
**Flowers in Salt: The Beginnings of Feminist Consciousness in Modern Japan**; Sharon L. Sievers, 255 pp, 8.95x pb (short) available now. First published in 1983, now in pb.

## University of Chicago Press

**Sex & Scientific Inquiry**; ed Sandra Harding & Jean F. O'Barr, 10.95 (est) pb (trade), 304 pp, 5/87

Collection of essays from the past 12 years of Signs on the question of objectivity of scientific inquiry & the issues surrounding gender





& science.

#### Gallaudet University Press

**Belonging;** Virginia M. Scott, 208 pp, 11.95 cl (trade)

YA novel about a 15 year old girl who loses her hearing. Describes the tremendous range of difference among deaf & hard of hearing people. The author also became deaf as an adolescent.

Gallaudet also does a number of books on signing for younger readers.

#### University of Oklahoma Press

**The Women's West;** ed Susan Armitage & Elizabeth Jameson, 12.95 pb, 336 pp, 5/87

Challenges the traditional passive image of women in the West as racist, sexist & romantic. Looks at the experiences of Native American women and Mexicanas, who occupied the land for centuries before the arrival of Euro-Americans. The pioneer women presented here are hardy women who came, sometimes alone, in search of jobs, freedom, or land to homestead; political activists who worked tirelessly to win the right to vote & hold political office. Uses diaries, interviews, public records, letters, etc. as sources.



#### University of Tennessee Press

**The Montgomery Bus Boycott & the Women Who Started It: The Memoir of Jo Ann Gibson Robinson;** ed David J. Garrow, 208 pp, 12.95 pb (trade), 5/87

The memoir of the head of the Women's Political Council, the most active Black civic organization in Montgomery. Robinson was centrally involved in planning for a bus boycott far in advance of Rosa Park's arrest. Discusses the role played by this group of middle-class Black Montgomery women in creating the boycott & describes the strategies, decisions & negotiations of that protest.

#### University of Arizona Press

**The Moccasin Maker;** E. Pauline Johnson, 304 pp, 9.95 pb, 2/87

These autobiographical vignettes by Johnson, a Mohawk Indian, were originally published in 1913. They depict Canadian Indian women caught between the forces of cultural continuity & the pressures of assimilation around the turn of the century.

#### Indiana University Press

**Color, Sex and Poetry: Three Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance;** Gloria T. Hull, 10.95 pb (trade), 224 pp, 6/87

A biographical/critical study of 3 poets: Angelina Ward Grimke, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, & Georgia Douglas Johnson, revealing their key roles in the Harlem Renaissance.

**Women in Ireland: Voices of Change;** Jenny Beale, 10.95 pb (trade), 224 pp, 2/87

In depth interviews with 27 women, ages 14-87. Nuns & mothers, farmers' wives & scholars talk about work, sexuality, childhood, and generational differences between mothers & daughters.

#### Oxford University Press

**Women: A World Report;** A New Internationalist Book, 8.95 pb (trade), 384 pp, 3/87

Essays by Angela Davis, Buchi Emecheta, Nawal el Saadawi, Germaine Greer, etc. & comprehensive up to date statistics gathered during the UN Decade for Women.

**Women's Work: Contemporary Short Stories by New Zealand Women;** ed Marion McLeod & Lydia Wevers, 8.95 pb (trade), 240 pp, 3/87

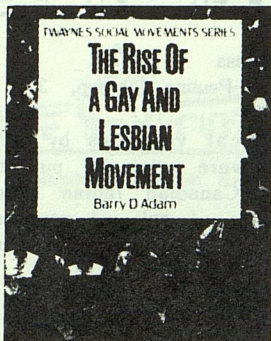
Includes stories by Keri Hulme, Janet Frame, Patricia Grace, etc.

**A Gap in the Spectrum;** Marilyn Duckworth, 8.95 pb (trade), 184 pp, 3/87

Originally published in 1959 in New Zealand; this first novel is the frightening story of a young woman who wakes up one day with no memory, who slowly pieces together that she is soon to be married to a man she doesn't remem-



## NEW FROM G.K. HALL



### THE RISE OF A GAY AND LESBIAN MOVEMENT

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1987, Paperback, ISBN 0-8057-9715-7  
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This social history of the gay and lesbian movement brings scholarship up to date with a groundbreaking analysis of the movement as a worldwide phenomenon. Adam is the first to gather all major research from widely-scattered sources in four languages.

Anchoring each event in its political context, he describes the emergence of the movement in the 1890's; shows how it survived Nazism, Stalinism and the McCarthy era; suggests causes for the international "coming out" of the 1980's; and the movement's current struggles against AIDS, censorship, discrimination and the New Right. Adam compares gay and lesbian politics and illuminates the interplay with other social movements, including new feminism, conservatism and right-to-life.

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ber. There are also memories of another world: a tepid bleached-out place.

#### Ohio University Press

**The Silken Thread;** Cora Sandel, trans Elizabeth Rokkan, 176 pp, 8.95 pb (trade), 3/87

A collection of stories, sketches & memoirs, 1904-1972 by the Norwegian feminist writer.

**Two Dogs and Freedom: Children of the Townships Speak Out;** 7.95 pb, 55 pp, 1/87

Compilation of essays by South African children 8-15 years old. Banned in South Africa.

#### University of Nebraska

**American Indian Women: Telling Their Lives;** Gretchen M. Bataille & Kathleen Mullen Sands, 7.95 pb (trade). 209 pp, 5/87

A general summary of oral & written autobiography rather than the autobiographies themselves (I think), showing their creative vitality. A comprehensive annotated bibliography of works by & about American Indian women is included.

**The New North: An Account of a Woman's 1908 Journey through Canada to the Arctic** by Agnes Deans Cameron, ed David Richeson, 360 pp, 9.95 pb, 2/87 (not for sale in Canada)

First published in 1910, this is the lucid & witty account of Cameron's six-month journey to the mouth of the Mackenzie River, accompanied by her niece.

#### Cornell University Press

**To Toil the Livelong Day: America's Women at Work, 1780-1980;** ed. Carol Groneman & Mary Beth Norton, 9.95x pb (short), 320 pp, 6/87

Essays from the Sixth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women. Introductions to each group of essays link women's work experience across boundaries of time, space, class & race.

#### Harvard University Press

**Feminism Unmodified: Discourses on Life & Law;** Catharine A. MacKinnon, 352 pp, 25.00 cl (trade), 4/87

Lectures on rape, abortion, athletics,





# MASS MARKETS



sexual harrassment & pornography. Analyzes the failure of organized feminism to alter the inequality of power, "exposing the way male supremacy gives women a survival stake in the system that destroys them." MacKinnon challenges the law itself yet also proceeds to re-make the law so that it will work for women.

**Real Rape;** Susan Estrich, 176 pp, 15.95 cl (trade), 3/87

A professor of criminal law & a rape survivor herself, Estrich examines the law's casual treatment of rape where the man knows the woman and he doesn't beat her up.

**Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself;** Harriet A. Jacobs, ed. Jean Fagan Yellin, 9.95x pb (short), 368 pp, 5/87

The major pre-Civil War autobiography of a Black woman. In addition to the narrative, editor Yellin identifies the people & places Jacobs wrote about, includes photographs & letters, and places the narrative in a literary context. (Also available from HBJ without the additional commentary)



**Academy Chicago**

**A Guide to Non-Sexist Children's Books Vol II: 1976-1985;** ed Denise Wilms & Ilene Cooper, 8.95 pb, 275 pg, 3/87

Age-graded list, includes synopses, publication dates, prices, publishers, index of small presses.

And for the bookstore with a little extra cash:  
**University of Washington Press**

**Berenice Abbott: An American Photographer;** Hank O'Neal, 256 pp, 250 photos, 500.00 (trade)  
Limited edition of 400, autographed by the artist, & bound in silk.

## June

**Skeen's Return,** Jo Clayton, DAW/NAL 3.50 SF.  
**Hannie Richards,** Hilary Bailey, Ballantine 3.50 Myst.  
**Slaves of New York,** Tama Janowitz, Pocket (WSP) 6.95 Fic.  
**Safe Houses,** Lynne Alexander, Dell 4.50 Fic.

## July

**A Dark-Adapted Eye,** Barbara Vine (Ruth Rendell) Bantam 3.95 Myst.  
**"A" is for Alibi,** Sue Grafton, Bantam 3.50 Myst.  
**A Modern Mephistopheles,** Louisa May Alcott, Bantam 3.50 Myst.  
**Strange Toys,** Patricia Geary, Bantam 3.50 SF.  
**A Fragile Peace,** Jonellen Heckler, Pocket 3.95 Fic.  
**And Venus is Blue,** Mary Hood Pocket (WSP) 5.95 Fic.  
**Sword and Sorceress IV,** ed. Marion Zimmer Bradley, DAW/NAL 3.50 SF.  
**Double Nocturne,** Cynthia Felice, DAW/NAL 3.50 SF.

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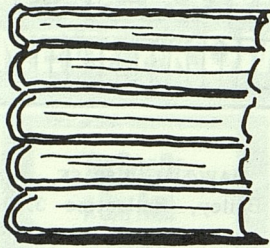
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# REMAINDERS

by Karen Axness

Since Ann said "So long" and went on to become our favorite travel agent, I've been ordering the remainders for *A Room of One's Own*. Carol says you've been clamoring for a remainder column, so I'll pass along some recommendations. This has been a great spring for remainders, with Daedalus and Bookthrift offering the largest selections (though PME had some gems too). It seems a feminist bookstore could have a fine collection ordering from just these two. Of course going through all the catalogues, circling possibilities, is half the fun.

Daedalus has an outstanding spring list. To note all the appropriate titles would take a whole column, so I'll mention a few of our best-sellers and some personal favorites. As always, it helps to have read some of the books by lesser-known authors so you may confidently recommend them.

A few bestsellers from an earlier list were still available when the spring Daedalus catalogue arrived. **Other Women** by Lisa Alther (2.98); **Linden Hills** by Gloria Naylor (3.98); and **Disturbances in the Field** by Lynne Sharon Schwartz (2.98) have all sold extremely well for us. New and popular is **The Hungry Self** by Kim Chernin (2.98). Other highlights of the list include **Emma Goldman: An Intimate Life** by Alice Wexler (6.98); **A Very Private Eye** by Barbara Pym (1.98pb); **Immigrant Women** ed. Maxine S. Seller (2.98pb); **A Servant's Tale** by Paula Fox (3.98); **A Revolutionary Woman** by Sheila Fugard (2.98); **A Fanatic Heart: Selected Stories** by Edna O'Brien (5.98); and **The Penguin Bronte Sisters** (3.98pb).

My personal favorites from Daedalus are **One Thing Leading to Another** (2.98). If you know Sylvia Townsend Warner for her wonderful novel

**Lolly Willowes**, don't miss her exquisite short stories. If you haven't read her, this is a fine book to start with. **Words that Must Somehow Be Said** (5.98) is a collection of essays by Kay Boyle. These essays on politics and writing, written over a fifty-year period, are not to be missed. **Modus Vivendi** by Deidre Levinson (2.98) was my favorite first novel the year it came out. **Give Us Each Day** (3.98), Alice Dunbar-Nelson's diary, tells of the life of this black feminist, poet and crusader. **Herself Defined** (4.98) is an excellent biography of the poet H.D. by Barbara Guest, herself a poet. **In/Sights** (3.98) is a wonderful collection of photographic self-portraits by women.

Bookthrift's spring list is replete with good fiction and the prices are very low - mostly 1.98 and 2.98. Their 50% discount (non-returnable) for 100 or more copies is easy to reach. They have some good mysteries. I like to shelve a few copies of these in the regular paperback mystery section since they're typically not available in paperback editions. For example, there are two by Susan Dunlap, a good writer still unnoticed by paperback editors. **The Bohemian Connection** (1.98) features Dunlap's meter reader sleuth, Vejay Haskell. **As A Favor** (1.98) is a Jill Spaulding, Berkeley police detective story. **There's Nothing to Be Afraid Of** (1.98) is one of Marcia Muller's Sharon McCone mysteries. Also available is **Tooth and Claw** (1.98) an unusual thriller by Gabrielle Lord, an Australian writer.

Our Bookthrift best-seller is **Self-Help** (1.98), stories by Lorrie Moore. Moore lives here in Madison which only adds to the popularity of a collection that went through four



printings! My favorite is **The Sioux** (1.98) by Irene Handl, a savage comedy of manners about a fabulously wealthy and eccentric French family.

Other outstanding works of fiction include **Men and Angels** by Mary Gordon (2.98); **The Bus of Dreams**, stories by Mary Morris (1.98); **Elbowing the Seducer** by T. Gertler (2.98); **Superior Women** by Alice Adams (3.98); **Acquainted with the Night and Other Stories** by Lynne Sharon Schwartz (1.98); **The Life and Loves of a She-Devil** by Fay Weldon (2.98) and **Criminal Trespass** by Helen Hudson (1.98). Notable nonfiction titles include **A Woman in Residence** by Michelle Harrison, M.D. (1.98); **Occasional Prose** by Mary McCarthy (3.98); **Deceived with Kindness: A Bloomsbury Childhood** by Angelica Garnett (1.98) and **The Diary of Virginia Woolf, Volume Five** (3.98).

I hope many of these books will still be available. It's important to order quickly. As they say, "Quantities are limited."

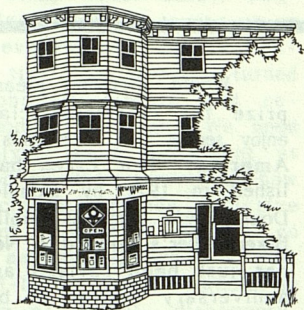
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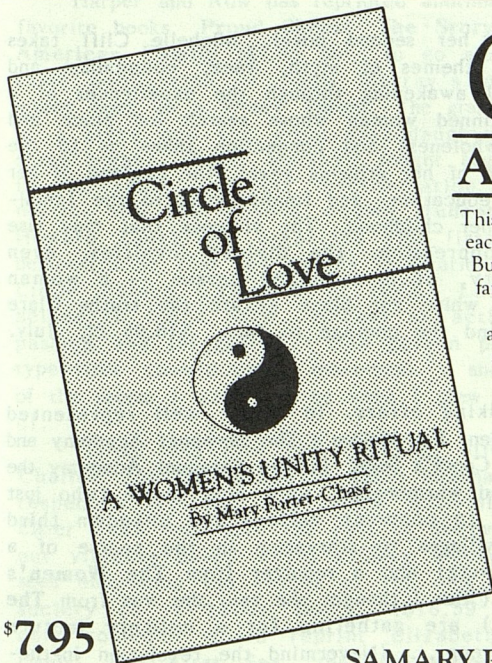
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Chapters three and four contain comments from many of the guests who reported gaining new insights and/or having opening or freeing experiences in response to the ritual.

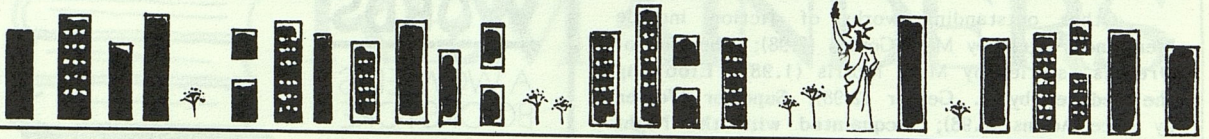
"I highly recommend this book for any couple seeking to write their own ritual regardless of their sexual orientation. These women bring to life the beauty of deep love, friendship, intimacy and spiritual connection through ritual with family and friends. I also see this book as a significant stepping stone to broadening understanding of what it means to be lesbian/gay in our society."

Rev. Janie Adams Spahr, Presbyterian Minister  
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# AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Would someone please give Beacon Press a prize for reprinting classic feminist work? I enjoy seeing Eve Merriam's **Growing Up Female in America: Ten Lives** back in print (first published in 1971 by Doubleday in the heyday of Doubleday's feminist publishing.) \$9.95pb. Jean Baker Miller's **Toward a New Psychology of Women** has just been revised and reissued in a tenth anniversary edition in both paper (\$7.95) and cloth (\$16.00). The first edition was published in nine countries. This kind of reprinting and republishing of feminist classics is essential.

Beacon has also re-released two Gayl Jones novels under their Black Women Writers Series: **Corregidora**, which helped to define my standards for what women's books were when it was first published in 1975, and **Eva's Man**, a powerful novel portraying the ways the memory of slavery affects three generations of Black women. Both \$7.95 pb. And pick up a few copies of **South Africa: A Different Kind of War** (Julie Frederikse while you're ordering.... It sits, sadly appropriately, next to **Eva's Man**, on my bookshelf. Now if someone would just reprint Octavia Butler's **Kindred**, et al., I would actually be content for a while....

Franklin Watts has republished **Room to Move: The Redress Press Anthology of Australian Women's Short Stories** (minus the subtitle. What is it about international republishing that always tames down the packaging?) Redress Press is an Sydney women's packaging and publishing collective. The thirty-two stories included here were selected from over 700 submitted for the anthology. Seems like we're finally **beginning** to get Australian women's writing here in the U.S. \$15.95 cl.

**Fragments from the Fire**, Chris Llewellyn's

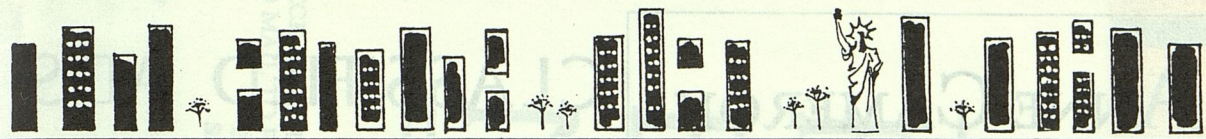
poetic response/re-telling of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire won the American Academy of American Poets' 1986 Walt Whitman Award. Penguin \$7.95 pb, \$18.95 cl.

On my reading list and desperate for a spare moment: **You Can't Get Lost in Cape Town** by South African writer Zoe Wicomb, a series of connected short stories exploring the daily frustrations of life under the twin banes of colonialism and segregation in South Africa and England, and acknowledging the price of having strayed far from the culture that shaped her. \$3.95 pb. Also available in cloth.

In her second novel, Michelle Cliff takes on the themes of myth, race, colonialism and political awakening through the experiences of a light-skinned woman whose search for place and self, wholeness and connection takes us to the America of her growing years, the England of her higher education, and finally home to the Jamaica of her childhood. The violence that may rise from oppression, the divided loyalties, even sexuality, of a colonized person -- a woman neither white nor black -- are the truths Clare must find the courage to face. \$16.95 cl. July. Dutton.

Viking offers, in a list well represented by women, Fay Weldon's **The Shrapnel Academy** and Maryse Condé's **Segu**. In **The Shrapnel Academy** the expected warmongers, some nice people (who just happen to condemn various and unknown third world villages to starvation in the course of a day's work) and a reporter from **The Women's Times** ("But I thought she said she was from **The Times**") are gathering for a military lecture gone wrong.... (Nevermind the revolution in-the-making downstairs -- the upstairs people are





missing it (almost) completely.) Great comic relief of the political sort. \$15.95 cl.

**Segu** and its sequel were both bestsellers in French. Condé, a native of Guadeloupe and a descendent of the Bambara, offers a compelling novel based on the history of Segu, the home of the Bambara as Islam comes from the East and the slave trade from the West, and the lives of the men and women who determined her fate. \$18.95 cl.

I think we may (finally) be reaching an era where we can **begin** to have biographies of political leaders written from a feminist assumption. Try **Corazon Aquino: The Story of a Revolution** written by Lucy Komisar (**The New Feminism**) who reported from the Philippines during the peaceful revolution in early 1986.

Harper and Row has reprinted another of my favorite books, **Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family** (\$7.95 pb), to go along with their publication of Pauli Murray's autobiography **Song in a Weary Throat**. The granddaughter of a slave and the great-granddaughter of a slave owner, Pauli Marshall fought segregation in the south and sex discrimination in the north. She and several women students from Howard University organized the first sit-in demonstration that led to the integration of the Little Palace Cafeteria in 1943. Later she helped to found NOW. Always an activist of passion and integrity, ("One person plus one typewriter constitutes a movement.") she's one of the people I wanted to be when I grew up. \$25 cl.

Harper and Row San Francisco offers **The Chalice and the Blade** in which internationally-respected feminist and peace activist Riane Eisler looks back into the past to discover when our violence-based world society emerged and sees embracing the female as the only way for society to revitalize itself. (\$16.59 cl.) If only someone would reprint Elizabeth Gould Davis' **The First Sex**, the fore-mother of all

these books...

**When Society Becomes an Addict** (also published by H&R SF) by Anne Wilson Schaeff (**Co-Dependence** and **Women's Reality**) is turning up on cloth bestseller lists everywhere, just as expected. It is certainly time that someone turned the alcoholism/co-alcoholism disease and recovery model on the society at large. We need this social/political analysis as a movement as much as individuals need an understanding of how our society encourages/creates/demands addictive behaviors. My complaint is that it doesn't go far enough (or am I anticipating Schaeff's next book?). More societal-level examples would be helpful -- like the role of denial, dishonesty, and the illusion of control in the Contragate and Watergate scandals, perhaps? And how does the women's movement, with all good intentions, too often take on the addictive expectations. \$15.95 cl.

McGraw-Hill offers **Alberta Hunter**, a biography of the Black (lesbian) blues singer. First serial rights to **Ms**, so we'll see how that affects sales.... \$17.95 cl.

And last, but hardly least, St. Martin's Press offers a wonderful spring list ranging from **Simone de Beauvoir: A Life...A Love Story** (\$18.95 cl) to **Ridin' the Moon in Texas** (\$16.95 cl) a new collection of "word paintings" by Ntozake Shange to Charlotte Bunch's **Passionate Politics**, (\$17.59 cl, July) a minor (that's a joke! Since when has Charlotte ever done anything minor!?) collection of her work and essays drawn from eighteen years of feminist organizing. The work is divided into five sections: A Feminist Overview; Movement Strategies and Organizing; Lesbianism Feminism; Media and Education; Global Feminism; and reflect the evolution of Bunch's understanding of feminism over time. It's enough to make me want a reading group again.



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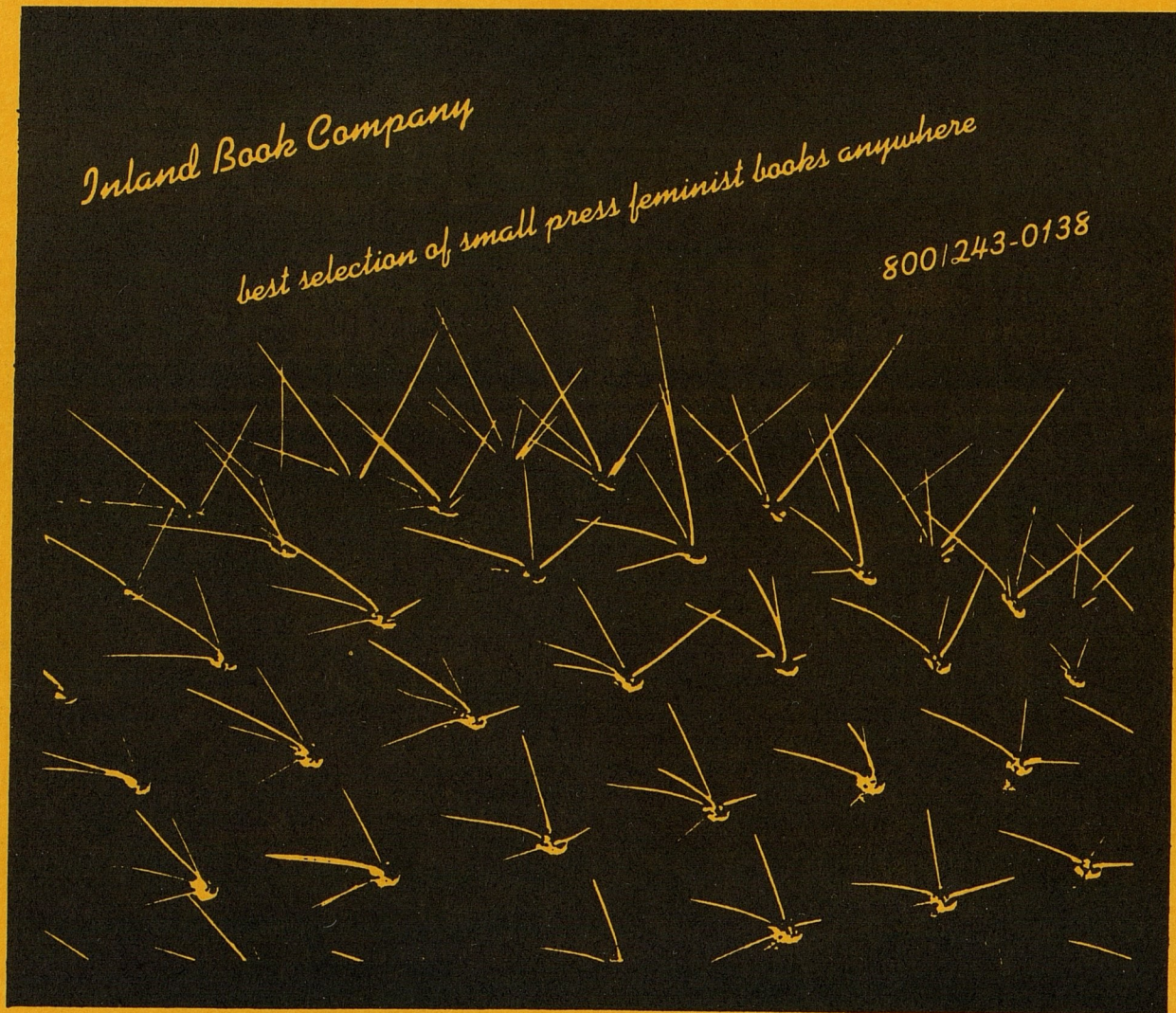


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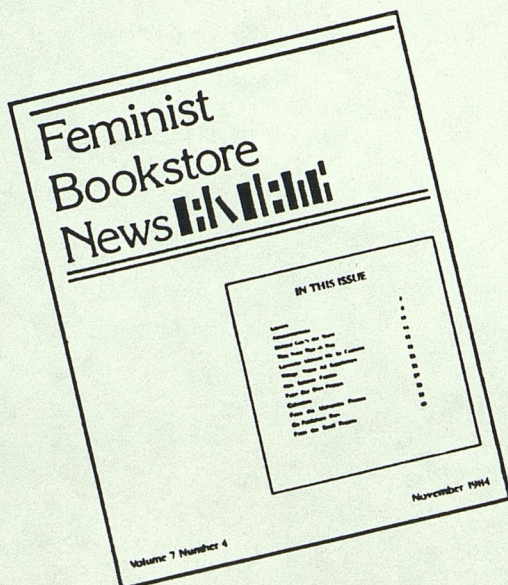
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