Feminist Bookstore News I:NI:III



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August 1992



MORTON RIVER VALLEY BY LEE LYNCH

From Toothpick House to Dusty's Queen of Hearts Diner . . . Lee Lynch has given us our most heart-touching stories of lesbian life. Join her now in Morton River Valley . . . and meet new friends (and a few familiar ones) in a story sure to win your heart all over again.



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NOTES FROM COMPUTER TABLE

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In this envelope you will find both the annual FBN Summer Sidelines Catalog and the Summer Issue of FBN. We *intended* to squeeze them both into one cover, but the idea of setting the Sidelines Issue off in its own (bright purple!) cover was entirely too tempting and we gave in to the pleasure. We like it a lot and hope you find it to be beautiful, useful, and a wonderful resource for both holiday and year around ordering.

This has been a wonderfully hectic summer. Between ABA and Feminist Bookstores Days (two of them!) in Anaheim and the V International Feminist Book Fair in Amsterdam, I've been in the office four weeks of this production cycle. Ann and Cill, with help from intern Tanya Garig, have had their hands full holding down the office, keeping up with all the homefront news, designing ads, and producing both the Sidelines Issue and the regular Summer Issue. They've done an awesome job of holding it all together. As soon as we get this issue in the mail, we're all off for various vacations, so the FBN office will be closed Aug. 7-17.

It's also been a time of great publicity for feminist bookstores. *Publishers Weekly* ran an excellent article called "Women's Bookstores: 20 Years and Thriving" two weeks before ABA, *Ms. Magazine* asked me to write an article on the history of feminist bookstores for their 20th anniversary issue (on your magazine stand now), and there's also a piece on feminist bookstores scheduled to run in *Small Press*. Send us a SASE if you missed the *PW* article and would like a copy.

More good news: The new list of feminist bookstores features 105 feminist bookstores in the U.S. and Canada, up from 96 last year! On the San Francisco front, the San Francisco Bookfair will boast a 10-booth feminist, lesbian and gay aisle this year.

Projects: Inspired by Blackboard, FBN is putting together national feminist, lesbian, and gay bestsellers lists. FBN has also been asked to update the core list of feminist titles we did for the ABA four years ago. We're also looking for "a few good feminists" to take on annotating titles from two or three mainstream publishers. Call me if you're interested in any of these projects. It's much more fun (for me) if you call me, instead of waiting for me to call you.

Welcome to Richard Labonte who's first Gay Men's Lit for Feminist Bookstores column runs in this issue. We're very pleased that he will be contributing to FBN regularly.

Oops! In a recent issue I described Mother Kali's (Eugene) as the only women's bookstore in the Northwest, forgetting, for the moment at least, about Imprints, the feminist bookstore in Tacoma, Washington. I am totally chagrined and apologize from the bottom of my feminist bookstore loving heart.

Yours in spreading the words, Carol Seajay



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The controversial New York Times bestseller, now in paperback *"The Beauty Myth* is a smart, angry, insightful book, and a clarion call to freedom. Every woman should read it."—GLORIA STEINEM





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NCHOR BOOKS

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Is what you see in the mirror ... really you?

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FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is the communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. FBN reaches 350 feminist and feminist-inclined bookstores in the U.S. and Canada as well as feminist booksellers in England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, India and Japan. Librarians, women's studies teachers, book reviewers, publishers and feminist bibliophiles comprise the remainder of the subscribers.

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To the Ends of the Earth

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ClaireLight Women's Books 1110 Petaluma Hill Rd., Suite 5 Santa Rosa CA 95404

Hi everyone!

To all Suzette Haden Elgin fans: Do you know about her every other month newsletter *The Lonesome Node*? It's a wonderful collection of her opinions, comments and questions about a variety of subjects including: religious language, verbal self-defense, women and language, linguistics/science fiction/music interface, and more! Regular subscriptions are \$10/year, sample issues are \$2.50. Write to the Ozark Center for Language Studies, PO Box 1137, Huntsville AR 72740.

Moonyean Grosch

(Editor's note: Suzette Haden Elgin is the author of The Gentile Art of Verbal Self-Defense and Native Tongue.)



Paradigm Women's Bookstore 3343 Adams Ave. San Diego CA 92116

Dear FBN and all,

The purpose of this letter is to seek your assistance by way of information, suggestions, contacts, and perhaps financially.

The situation is this: I have been a women's music distributor for eight years. In 1990 I took a leap of faith and opened a women's bookstore along with the music distribution business. San Diego had not had a women's bookstore for 10 years. I am convinced San Diego will be a successful market for the store.

San Diego has a population of 1.2 million and 2 million county-wide. It is the sixth largest city in the country and there are many women here to serve. We have strong support in the lesbian community and are taking steps to broaden our market to feminists and other women.

I know you know the political and social importance of maintaining women's space and how precious it is. Not having a women's bookstore here for a decade has left a generation of young women without resources and knowledge for the kind of awareness, networking and political organizing that women continually need to do.

With the recent upsurge of awareness and outrage as a result of the Thomas hearings, and the continued looming threat to a woman's right to choose, all women need access to the resources a women's bookstore automatically provides. I am in the perfect position to provide that access.

These last couple of years, during the "recession," have been very difficult for a new bookstore. I was able to borrow part of the required capital by using the equity in my house and it has been put to very good use. I have good financial management in place, we are working within a monthly budget, and we are meeting our sales goals. We are poised on the threshold of success.

However, within the next six to eight weeks I need to raise about \$50,000 in loans/grants for operations and additional inventory to keep sales increasing and bring us into the realm of success.

We have good staff in the bookstore and a large group of committed women who have come forth from the community to volunteer their time, energy and service to enable us to remain open longer hours. This along with increasing sales demonstrates the strong community support we have garnered.

I am networking by phone and letter throughout the country seeking a lesbian/feminist who is willing to help me keep this beautiful and precious space available for women.

If you can offer assistance in any way I would be most grateful if you could contact me as soon as possible. The Paradigm Women's Bookstore number is 619-563-1981 and my home telephone number is 619-280-8288.

I thank you for your consideration of this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

In sisterhood,

Karen Merry, owner, Paradigm

乙克

Clothespin Fever Press 5529 N. Figueroa Los Angeles CA 90042

Dear FBN,

I wish to inform readers of certain events here at Clothespin Fever Press because of the death of my father on May 26. The personal sadness and strain on both of us has been difficult. My mother is in the hospital and is terminally ill. Carolyn and I have been commuting to San Diego nearly every weekend. For this reason we will not be accepting any new manuscripts and will refer writers to other feminist presses. Those awaiting our announced books may see the dates pushed from fall of this year to spring of next year. Our advertising and promotion plans will, however, go forward. Loss of the Ground-Note: women writing about the loss of their mothers which made its debut at ABA is available through our distributors. Any publicity for that book which bookstores would like to arrange should be made through the book's editor Helen Vozenilek at 510-652-0715. This personal tragedy is a temporary phase for the company and will not affect our long range goals which remain as strong if not stronger than before. We have talked privately of moving out of Los Angeles. The city has changed over the years and we find it increasingly difficult to live and work here. Therefore, do not be surprised if Clothespin Fever changes its address. If we move to San Diego or elsewhere (Austin, TX?) in the near future we will alert FBN of our new address. I wish to publicly thank all those present that last day of ABA for comforting me when I learned of my father's death and particularly both Ruth Gundel from Eighth Mountain Press and Margarite Donnally from Calyx.

In Sisterhood, Jenny Wrenn Michigan Womyn's Music Festival Box 22 Walhalla MI 49458

Dear FBN Readers,

We read the note published in the January/February Trivia section that discussed our letter to publications regarding the Crafts Area at Michigan, and which requested readers to write to us in support of publishers having a booth at Michigan. We think that the reference made in this article seems to have left womyn with a misunderstanding of our process.

In November we wrote a letter to all of the publication booth holders from the 1991 Festival. In that letter we said we were examining the apportionment of booths used for single publications or single authors. We feel these periodicals and books definitely have important value in our community. We also feel it is important to offer space to as many different crafts and craftswomyn as possible. Internally we were questioning providing space for publication booths, often used for networking, over booth space for individual craftswomyn. Since we were in discussion about this and were considering ways to open up more booths for artisans in the Crafts Area, we wanted womyn who had previously sold a single publication or book at Michigan to know ahead of time that we were considering a change. We also wanted to communicate this in time for dialogue with these womyn, and in time for womyn to consider other options.



The considerations for us are not financial, nor are they a statement that we feel these publications and authors are not very important voices in our community. We're examining space use in a Crafts Show, and brainstorming ways to best use this space. The letter was sent to include womyn in our process. We've had some very important dialogue about this with womyn who participate in the crafts area as both booth holders and staff. After receiving the 1992 craft applications, we found that this year, we were able to offer

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booths to some of the publishers who have previously been in the show. For future years we will be working on possible alternatives when we may fall short of booths requested. We thank those readers who have written with their input, and hope this sheds a little more light as to what this discussion is about.

Womankindly, Boo Price and Lisa Vogel Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

Page One 966 North Lake Ave. Pasadena CA 91104

Dear FBN and all,

For almost 18 years Page One bookstore has been serving the women's community in the San Gabriel Valley and throughout Southern California. As witnessed by the growing and changing inventory of books in the store, those years have encompassed many changes. In the '70s, job equity, child care, and legal rights were at the forefront. These issues are still with us in the '90s, but others are on the agenda as well.

We have all noticed the development of the women's spirituality movement, now burgeoning and validated by the many books which had not yet been written when Page One opened in 1974. Issues of women's health and psychology are now wellrepresented. Lesbian lives and the lives of women of color are now recounted and celebrated in more than 1,000 titles. The many books about abuse of children and women reflect the way the women's movement has forced these heretofore ignored issues to be addressed. Books about recovery from substance abuse and process addictions now command a whole wall of shelf space.

Page One Bookstore has become a valued information and referral service and resource center as well. Many women visit to scan our bulletin board and choose from among our free publications for notices of roommates, job listings, workshops, social events, therapy groups and tennis partners. We sell tickets to women's concerts and cultural events. We have hosted dozens of authors and artists at publication parties and readings. The homey atmosphere imparted by our 70-year-old California bungalow location has welcomed thousands of women, children and men for a respite from the frenetic and noisy pace of the shopping malls, freeways and chain stores. We have received many much-appreciated compliments over the years about how pleasant it is to shop at Page One.

Owner Nancy Alexander has found this a rewarding and satisfying endeavor. She had little idea when she began 18 years ago in 500 square feet, her first of four Pasadena locations, that the store would develop so much, last so long or become such an information and resource center for the women's community.

However, the time has come for her to move on to other projects, other goals that had to be set aside while she focused her efforts and energy on the bookstore. Manager Karen Mateer, who has been a mainstay and an instrumental force in the growth of the business since 1984, also has other endeavors (namely teaching and counseling at the college level and conducting a thriving tax and financial consulting business, to name a few) which need more time and attention.

With all this in mind, we take great pleasure in a job we believe has been well done and in announcing that we now hope to find a new owner who will carry on the tradition of fine feminist/humanist books and resources in Pasadena. We know that it is of as much concern to the women's community as it is to us personally that Page One continue to thrive and grow with the input of new ideas and new energy.



We have limitless thanks and appreciation for the thousands of customers and friends who have supported and sustained us so loyally over the years. We couldn't have done it without you. The women's movement is flourishing and will continue to flourish in one form or another, in spite of political backlash and economic recession. To this end we know that our customers will continue to support the store, so that it can continue to support the women's community as well as the positive growth of a more equitable, lifesustaining society.

Specific details regarding the purchase of Page One will be available for serious inquirers. Please contact Nancy Alexander or Karen Mateer at Page One, 966 North Lake Ave., Pasadena CA 91104; 818-798-8694.

Sincerely, Nancy Alexander and Karen Mateer

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THE BEST IN PAPERBACKS

There is nothing else quite like it."*

"The point of reference from which all subsequent studies of twentieth-century lesbian life in the United States will begin."—San Francisco Examiner Chronicle

"A joy to read... A kaleidoscope portrait of Lesbian accomplishment-heritage of which all Lesbians can be proud." —*Elizabeth C. Donahoe, *The Washington Blade* "A scrupulously researched yet wonderfully readable account of women loving women."—Ms.

"A moving narrative... Reverberates with the powerful voices of people speaking for themselves."—*The Village Voice*



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PENGUIN .



GRIER/MCBRIDE DONATE COLLECTION TO SAN FRANCISCO CENTER

Barbara Grier and Donna McBride recently laid the keystone of San Francisco's Gay and Lesbian Center with the donation of their extensive collection of lesbian and gay materials. The 10,000 (!) books, periodicals, personal correspondence, photographs and other items in their collection — amassed over the past 42 years — date from 1860 to the present.

The center, to be part of San Francisco's new Main Library, strives to establish and preserve nothing less than the world's largest collection of lesbian and gay fiction, non-fiction, films, photography, art work, videos, recordings and periodicals.

Grier says of the donation: "Even before Naiad was founded I was committed to preserving our words, our stories, our legends. Now, for the first time, a public library exists that will preserve the collection as we have, and is even better able to get these vital words into the hands — and minds — of the women and men who need them, now and in the future."



In early May FBN received some phone calls from feminist booksellers saying that they had heard that Inland would be selling at the National Women's Studies Association meetings in June. Was that true? How could that be true? Why would their best distributor suddenly start selling retail and competing with feminist bookstores for sales? We said we'd check it out.

FBN phoned Inland's Mev Miller and asked all those questions. Yes, Inland was planning to take books to NWSA to promote books from Womansource and InBook titles (not the complete Inland line) and, yes, they would be selling the books. In Inland's enthusiasm for finding ways to promote the books they distribute it hadn't occurred to them that selling books at NWSA would be competing with the feminist bookstores that sell at NWSA. (Depending on the conference location, between one and four bookstores typically sell at NWSA.) Mev stressed that competing with feminist bookstores certainly wasn't their intention and creating problems with bookstores was the last thing they want to do.

The discussion continued at ABA in various forums — among feminist booksellers, with feminist *See* Inland at NWSA, page 12.

GLAD DAY FIGHTS U.S. CUSTOMS BOOK SEIZURES

U.S. Customs, using obscenity grounds, has once again seized shipments of gay books bound for this country. Twice over two months, customs agents have seized gay books and periodicals on their way to Glad Day, Boston's lesbian and gay bookstore. Glad Day has filed counterclaims against both seizures and has its first court date July 22.

In April, customs seized gay publications on their way from distributor SW Bonitan, S.A. of Barcelona. The shipment included titles such as *Guia Gay*, a gay guide to Spain, and the magazines *Gay Book*, *Visado* and *Machos Men*. Customs continues to hold all these titles. Agents seized the second shipment bound for Glad Day in May. That shipment, from the gay publishers Babilonia Edizioni of Milan, Italy, consisted of three titles: customs released two of those titles, but continues to hold *Boys A Nudo*. The store has stocked titles from both SW Bonitan and Babilonia Edizioni for 10 years without incident.

Glad Day owner Jearld Moldenhauer promises to fight both seizures to the end. "It appears there is an

The following books are part of Red and Black Books' multicultural children's book kit.

Adult Resources:

- Louise Derman-Sparks, Anti-Bias Curriculum: Tools for Empowering Young Children, NAEYC, \$9.
- Mariane Grabrucker, There's a Good Girl: Gender Stereotyping in the First Three Years of Life, Women's Press/UK, \$8.95.
- Janice Hale-Benson, Black Children: Their Roots, Culture and Learning Styles, Johns Hopkins University Press, \$10.95.
- Susan Hopkins and Jeff Winters, Discover the World: Empowering Children to Value Themselves, Others and the Earth, New Society Publishers, \$14.95.
- Vivian Paley, White Teacher, Harvard, \$8.95.
- Suzanne Pharr, Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism, Chardon, \$9.95.
- Beverly Slapin, et al., How to Tell the Difference, New Society Publishers, \$7.95.
- Susanne Wichert, Keeping the Peace: Practicing Cooperation and Conflict Resolution of Preschoolers, New Society Publishers, \$12.95.
- Leslie Williams and Y. DeGaetano, Alerta How to Create Bi-lingual, Multi-Cultural Programs, Addison Wesley, \$22.95.

Stacy York, Roots and Wings, Red Leaf Press, \$22.95.

General Multicultural:

- Molly Bang, Ten, Nine, Eight Mulberry, \$3.95. Karen Barbour, Little Nino's Pizzeria, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, \$4.95.
- Joyce Barrett, Willie's Not the Hugging Kind, Harper, \$4.95.
- Susan Bonners, The Wooden Doll, Lothrop, Lee and Shepherd, \$13.95.
- Susan Conlin and Susan Friedman, Nathan's Day at Preschool, Parenting, \$4.95.
- Cheryl Hudson, Afro-Bets ABC Book, Just Us Books, \$3.95.

Jeanne Lee, Ba-Nam, Henry Holt, \$13.95.

- Leslea Newman, Gloria Goes to Gay Pride, Alyson, \$7.95.
- Patricia Polacco, The Keeping Quilt, Simon and Schuster, \$14.95.
- Kimiko Sakai, Sachiko Means Happiness, Children's Book Press, \$12.95.
- Bernelda Wheeler, I Can't Have Bannock, But the Beaver Has a Dam, Pemmican, \$5.75.

Continued on opposite page.

emerging and irrefutable pattern of anti-gay harassment by an agency of the U.S. Government," Moldenhauer commented in the *ABA Newswire*. To protest the seizures, send letters to Acting U.S. Attorney John Pappalardo, Department of Justice, John W. McCormack Building, Boston MA 02109 (and be sure to send a copy to Glad Day (673 Boylston St., 2nd floor, Boston MA 02116) for their fight).

Last year customs officials seized the lesbian erotic photography book *Love Bites* while en route to its U.S. distributor, Alyson Publications. That shipment was released following pressure from the book community and calls from reporters.

WNBA MARKS 75TH YEAR

The Women's National Book Association turns 75 this year, an anniversary it is marking with the creation of "Women's Words," a list of 75 books by women.

The WNBA was founded in 1917 by 15 women booksellers because booksellers associations at that time excluded women. The group is now a non-profit organization for women and men from all parts of the book industry. The WNBA sponsors educational programs, the WNBA Award and the Lucile Micheels Pannell Award; and publishes a newsletter, *The Bookwoman*.

For the official "Women's Words" list, a free poster and more information, contact the WNBA, 160 Fifth Ave., New York NY 10010; 212-675-7805.

RED AND BLACK BOOKS MEMBER HONORED

Margie Carter of Seattle's Red and Black Books Collective has won one of the two Lucile Micheels Pannell Awards sponsored by the Women's National Book Association. The award, for promoting and encouraging children's interest in books, also went to Mary Martha Whitworth of Skippack Children's Books in Skippack, PA.

The WNBA recognized Carter, a volunteer collective member at Red and Black, for her outstanding work in creating a multicultural children's book kit; Whitworth for developing a project encouraging

customers to buy books for children at risk. See side bars for a sample of the book kit. The Seattle store sells the kit for \$500.

> CROSSING PRESS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Crossing Press, founded by Elaine and John Gill, hit the 20 year mark this summer — and also won the Editor/Publisher Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. Started in 1972 in Trumansburg, NY, Crossing Press first published poetry and feminist titles. Since then, Crossing has branched out to include topics such as alternative health care, recovery, spirituality, mysteries, science fiction, cookbooks, books on men's issues and feminist, lesbian and gay books. All together, Crossing has published more than 300 titles, 180 of which remain in print. The press's sales are expected to pass \$2 million in 1992.

Crossing, which employs 13 full-time workers, is now located at 97 Hangar Way, Watsonville CA 95076. Send correspondence to PO Box 1048, Freedom CA 95019; 408-722-0711.

SMALL PRESS ACTION FUND RAISES \$13,000

The Small Press Action Fund presented a check for nearly \$13,000 to the Liberty Hill Foundation during the ABA Convention in Anaheim. In turn, the Liberty Hill Foundation distributed the money to four community organizations in the Los Angeles area to help them respond to the riots that followed the Rodney King verdict: Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles, the Minority AIDS Project, the L.A. Countywide Coalition for the Homeless, and the Coalition for a New L.A.

Instead of planning for their usual ABA party, Inland Book Company, Bookpeople and Crossing Press started the Small Press Action Fund this spring to raise money for some of the critical issues small presses care about. They also agreed to channel the money from participating small presses into the community where ABA exhibits. The fund will pursue another project for Miami, the site of the 1993 ABA Convention. Send donations to the Small Press Action Fund c/o Inland. Blia Xiong, Nine-in-one Grr! Grr!, Children's Book Press, \$12.95.

Families:

Roslyn Banish, A Forever Family: A Child's Story About Adoption, Harper, \$4.95.

- Eve Bunting, Fly Away Home, Clarion, \$13.95.
- Lucille Clifton, Everett Anderson's Goodbye, Henry Holt, \$3.95.

Lucille Clifton, Everett Anderson's Nine Month Long, Henry Holt, \$4.95.

Rosamund Elwin and Michele Paulse, Asha's Mums, Women's Press/Canada, \$5.95.

Ina Friedman, How My Parents Learned to Eat, Houghton Mifflin, \$3.95.

Carmen Lomas Garza, Family Pictures/Cuadros de Familia, Children's Book Press, \$12.95. (Also listed with bilingual.)

Eloise Greenfield, I Make Music, Black Butterfly Children's Books, \$5.95.

Anna Hines, Daddy Makes the Best Spaghetti, Clarion, \$4.95.

Jeanne Lindsay, Do I Have a Daddy?, Morning Glory Press, \$5.95.

Morag Loh, Tucking Mommy In, Orchard Press, \$14.95. Phil Mandelbaum, You Be Me, I'll Be You,

Kane/Miller, \$13.95.

Inez Maury, My Mother the Mail Carrier/Mi Mama La Cartera, Feminist Press, \$7.95. (Also listed with bilingual.)

Eve Merriam, Daddies at Work, Simon and Schuster, \$2.25.

Eve Merriam, Mommies at Work, Simon and Schuster, \$2.25.

Muriel Stanek, I Speak English for My Mom, Albert Whitman, \$10.95.

Kathy Stinson, Mom and Dad Don't Live Together Anymore, Annick Press, \$4.95.

Michael Willhoite, Daddy's Roommate, Alyson, \$8.95. Vera Williams, A Chair for My Mother, Mulberry, \$4.95. Vera Williams, "More More More," Said the Baby, Greenwillow, \$12.95.

Bilingual:

Charles Avery, Everybody Has Feelings/Todos Tenemos Sentimientos, Open Hand, \$7.95.

Carmen Lomas Garza, Family Pictures/Cuadros de Familia, Children's Book Press, \$12.95. (Also in families.) See Book Kit, page 62.

Inland at NWSA, continued from page 9.

publishers, and with Inland. Several things were clear: all of us believe in promoting books from feminist publishers; having one's supplier/wholesaler (distributor) retailing books at NWSA felt significantly different to booksellers than if feminist publishers sold (and promoted) their titles at NWSA and other women's events; and, this was *Inland* that we were dealing with — co-workers with whom we share a common goal of getting these books out and friends to whom we, as booksellers, can say, "This is a good idea but it doesn't work in these ways" and know that they will listen and that we can work it out.

Inland, of course, was caught between a program they had initiated and promoted to publishers and the problem of retailing books in the same forum as the bookstores to whom they sell. As a wholesaler, Inland's job is to make the books easy for the bookstores to order. As the *distributor* for the InBook publishers, however, InBook's job is to aggressively promote the books — with sales reps, trade shows, catalogs, etc. (WomenSource falls into a middle range between InBook and regular Inland.) In the end, Inland decided to continue with the program as they had outlined it to publishers and turn over the proceeds from the book sales to bookstores selling at NWSA (in this case Book Woman).

What will happen next year is as unclear as NWSA's own future. NWSA canceled the conference last year and attendance this year was about 500, down from 3,000 to 4,000 in years past. The book exhibition hall was in a building removed from the hotels where participants stayed. Very few meetings and workshops were held in the book exhibit building in the first two days of the conference, resulting in very minimal traffic in the book exhibit. Some publishers left early, others resorted to drastic discounts, with Penguin offering books at 3 for \$5.

All of this brings to mind a scheme for promoting feminist titles for course adaptations that FBN proposed many years ago, but couldn't get funding for maybe it's an idea whose time has come, now that publishers have been able to earmark funds for this kind of promotion. (Thirty-seven publishers paid Inland an average of \$75 each to have books displayed at NWSA.)

The idea is the create a catalog of books from feminist publishers that is arranged by the classes taught in women's studies departments: Intro to Women's Studies, Women and Literature, Third World Women's Fiction, Lesbians & Literature, Women and Biography, Mothers and Daughters, Women and the Law, Women in History, Lesbian History, etc. The appropriate books would be listed under each "class" with an annotation indicating why it would be an appropriate text for such a class, with price, publisher, ISBN, etc., making it easy for each instructor to turn to the classes she teaches to see what the feminist presses have to offer her. The original idea was to print the catalog on newsprint (like many college course lists, in a format similar to the Aunt Lute and Spinsters catalogs) and that the catalog be distributed in NWSA attendees' registration packets and, if deemed successful, mailed to all NWSA members and subscribers to academic feminist journals. Publishers addresses and a list of feminist bookstores in the US and Canada would follow at the end of the catalog to ensure ongoing access to the catalog. The publishers' distributors could also be listed, as women's studies teachers still too often must advise their university bookseller where to order independent press books. -CS O

OBITUARY: NANCI STERN

Long-time feminist activist, disability rights organizer, poet and author Nanci Stern died from complications of diabetes in May.

Nanci was one of the founders and mainstays of San Francisco's Full Moon Coffeehouse and Bookstore (1974). She co-edited With the Power of Each Breath, one of the first books on women and disability. Nanci was a fighter — for lesbians, for women, for disabled people — and for herself. She lost her sight 21 years ago to diabetes and was told not to expect to live for more than a few years. Nanci always took "not" and "no" as prohibitions to prove wrong. She rarely failed.

A collection of Full Moon memorabilia has been donated to the Gay and Lesbian History Archives (San Francisco), which will be used as the beginning of the "Full Moon Collection" which will chronicle women's emergence in the arts and music from the "70s.

Nanci is survived by her parents, her brothers, her companion Leslie Bergson, and her lifelong friend Patricia Lee Smith. $-CS \circ$

ABA 1992 Anaheima By Carol Seajay

ABA 1992 seemed calm after last year's bash in NYC. Anaheim is a familiar place to regular convention goers. Most of us were able to stay in hotels within walking distance of the convention hall. Food at Anaheim is manageable if mediocre. The convention hall is laid out in an easy-to-grasp manner, though the addition of a fourth hall made the convention size even more unwieldy (or more Frankfurt-like, for the worldly), necessitating an additional 20-25 minutes between appointments that required a hike from Hall A to D.

Attendance figures were saved by a high volume of last-minute registrations and the sales of day passes for the last two days of the convention. All in all, the total number of registrations and the bookseller-topublisher ratio was about the same as the last time ABA was in Anaheim, with a total of 27,516 attending the convention, 6,642 of whom were booksellers. Some 35,000 people attended last year's convention in New York City.

The Feminist/Gay/Lesbian Aisle filled both sides of an entire block this year for the first time, a joy and pleasure that was somewhat tempered by our location — on the outer spokes of the newly added and somewhat far-flung Hall D. Generally ABA takes care that there are major publishers located in each hall to draw booksellers to each area. This year was no exception, but in our hall the major publishers were located at the center of the hall and did not do much to help traffic on the outer spokes. All of our regular customers found us, of course, but the walk-by traffic was the inverse of the year the aisle was on a direct path to HarperCollins. Location is assigned by lottery and seniority, and this year's location felt like the (bad) luck of the draw, although some concern was expressed that with ABA setting up a number of specialty areas (children's books, translation, furniture and fixtures, etc.), we are competing at a disadvantage against ABA-sponsored block exhibits for similar sized spaces.



Donna J. McBride and Carol Martoranna at Naiad Press. Photo courtesy of the *Daily ABA*

The Economy was a constant companion at the Convention — as everywhere else in American life today. Relatively few booksellers from the East Coast attended either ABA or Feminist Bookstores Day. Booksellers in general came to ABA knowing exactly what they wanted. As a result of computerization and economic factors, most general booksellers are now

ordering on the "just in time" model — ordering enough copies of frontlist titles to get the books into the store, and then keeping stock current with frequent backlist and distributor orders — a model that feminist bookstores have practiced right from the start. Orders at the convention tended to be small and precise; reorders on titles that sell will ensure that overall book sales aren't down, and smaller frontlist orders on titles that don't sell only reduces the returns rate. Impulse buying was down and many more booksellers chose to take catalogs back to their hotels for unpressured decision-making and came back a day or two later with an order.

"It's a women's issues year. That provided an important subtext to everything that went on at the ABA."

-Karen Pennington (Kepler's Books/Menlo Park CA).

Mainstream presses reflected the economy with fewer give-aways and lower-scale parties. Large publishers known for by-invitation-only sit-down lunches and dinner parties cut guest lists to ten or twenty. Villard Books offered another, more economical and far more effective, variation on the promotion theme with a session featuring Susan Faludi, Naomi Wolf and Patricia Aburdene speaking on the growing strength of feminism that was a highlight for many convention goers. Karen Pennington (Kepler's Books/Menlo Park CA) summed it, "For me as a buyer, it coalesced what has happened at the ballot box and in the bookstore. It's a women's issues year. That provided an important subtext to everything that went on at the ABA." (Quote from PW 6/15/92)

Angered by invisibilization of feminism in the coverage of the Thomas hearings, FBN decided to do a feminist magazine promotion at this year's ABA. We put together a display of feminist magazines that are readily salable in general bookstores and distributed copies of the magazines (and order forms) to booksellers attending ABA. Our criteria for inviting magazines to participate was that they be feminist in identity and politic, that they devote significant space to book reviews, and that they be readily available to bookstores

through national distribution schemes. (In the end, all the magazines we distributed were available through Inland, and thus they could all be ordered from one place on a single order form that we created for the exhibit.) While we got a good response to the exhibit and felt that it was a good promotion for the magazines involved, we were frustrated by the low rate of walk-by traffic and so reached fewer new bookstores than we had expected. The magazines in the exhibit were *The Women's Review of Books, Belles Lettres, Sojourner, off our backs, Woman of Power,* and *New Directions for Women.* We'll base our decision to do a similar promotion next year on the long-term results of this year's effort.

Surviving the rapid growth of chain superstores was a recurring theme for many general independent bookstores at ABA. At this point it seems to be only ostriches and those who own stock in chain stores that don't recognize the degree to which chain stores (and the new superstores) threaten the independent bookstores in the specific areas where they locate and independent bookselling in general.



Cill Janeway and Ann Morse at FBN booth.

ABA's Specialty Bookstore Roundtables

This year's Specialty Bookstore Roundtables were ably chaired by Theresa Corrigan/Lionness Books (Feminist Bookstores Roundtable) and Carrie Barnett and Brett Shingledecker/People Like Us (Lesbian and Gay Bookstores Roundtable). Unfortunately the ABA staffer who chose the chairs for the roundtables, Corey Friedlander, has left ABA to do —

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what else? — bookselling. Both workshops addressed a range of important topics and continued the discussions of how specialty/political bookstores and general independent bookstores can work together for the benefit of both.

ABA's Membership Meeting

ABA's annual membership meeting was decidedly calm this year. All the right things were said (in direct or indirect response to criticism leveled at the association over the last year, the association's recent difficulties in communicating with members, its losses on the American Spectrum Encyclopedia, last year's fiasco meeting in which by-laws were proposed and then withdrawn due to an outpouring of criticism from members, and the charges of empire building), but hearing and believing didn't necessarily follow. "Wait and see" seemed the most pervasive and charitable response to many of the statements, qualified by fervent (though obviously doubtful) hopes that the Association management will actually listen to what members said in the focus groups conducted over the last year. While much was said from the podium about

ABA's "openness," there was healthy skepticism given ABA's lack of reporting of its own news in its own publications and given reports circulating on the convention floor that the ABA Board had been asked to pass a "gag order" forbidding Board Members to speak to the press on sensitive issues. (The Board firmly rejected this idea.)

Things *not* mentioned at the Membership Meeting included the fact that ABA executive director Bernie Rath's contract has been renewed for three years — nor has this been reported in any of ABA's publications. (Info from *PW*, 6/15/92). One of the most interesting things I learned at the Membership Meeting is that it only takes 750 to 800 votes to be elected to the ABA Board of Directors.

ABA once again announced (as they did at last year's Membership Meeting) that ABA had signed an agreement to buy the Tarrytown property. This year's agreement includes several additional acres of land and is \$750,000 lower than last year's offer. As with last year's offer, financial backing has yet to be obtained.



PT's Town Meeting on First National Lesbian & Gay Book Month

This year the Publishing Triangle took a "town meeting" approach to presenting and discussing the first National Lesbian and Gay Book Month. A short series of speakers described and presented the book promotion, and then representatives from a gay bookstore, a lesbian press, a mainstream press, and a chain bookstore outlined their plans for NLGBM. Some of the presentors raised questions that set off productive and useful debate and discussion.



Roz Parr visits Alyson Publications on Feminist/Gay/Lesbian Aisle. Photo courtesy of the Daily ABA

Ideas for promoting and using NLGBM as promotion for bookstores included doing special window displays and having readings that month that feature lesbian and/or gay authors. One gay bookstore described a special flier that announces NLGBM and lists their associated readings (contingent on budget)

and then sending press releases to local lesbian, gay, and mainstream media — a proposal that was quite well received and yet seemed to be very typical of what feminist and gay/lesbian stores do every month anyway — with the significant difference being the press releases and follow-up phone calls to get special media coverage.

"Posting the names of the local feminist and gay stores is a long-range thing that will empower the publishing and bookselling diversity that we all need to survive the '90s."

One of the successes of this first NLGBM is that Waldenbooks, Barnes & Noble, and B. Dalton in downtown NYC will all do NLGBM windows in June during Gay Pride week, bringing a hitherto unimaginable visibility to lesbian and gay literature. But questioners asked whether NLGBM would do more to help general bookstores draw lesbian and gay readers than to promote the core of feminist and gay/lesbian stores that took the risks to prove a market for lesbian and gay literature and work to promote it every day. There were no easy answers to that one - except to take NLGBM as an opportunity to do massive self-promotion — but the questions did generate a complex discussion on how general and specialty bookstores can work together. Suggestions included co-sponsoring readings by big-name authors (in neutral locations); by having signings in both bookstores and encouraging publishers to set up signings in two stores in a city - an initiative that often must come from the general store, given that mainstream publishers tend to place authors in the store that does the largest dollar volume rather than in the specialty store that will actually sell far more copies of the title (one of many ways that mainstream publishing actually works against specialty bookstores). A chain bookseller suggested that chain and independent stores, with their larger co-op ad budgets, could use their co-op money for joint advertising with specialty stores with each store paying for the ad according to the amount of co-op they receive. This would be a practical way of honoring the work of the

specialty booksellers, rather than just skimming off the sales of "big-name" authors. Mutual referrals were also suggested as a way to keep good working relations between general and specialty bookstores, a policy that many stores practice when they don't have a title that customers request. Additionally, it was suggested that general bookstores post the names and addresses of lesbian/gay bookstores and feminist bookstores in their gay and feminist sections for customers who are hesitant to ask for gay titles in a "straight" bookstore. "While posting the name of the specialty store may cost you some sales in that section, you'll create an incredible — and profitable — customer loyalty for sales in all the books the customer will buy that the specialty stores don't stock. It's a long-range thing that will pay off for both you and the specialty store — and empower the publishing and bookselling diversity that we all need to survive the '90s."

A similar question was raised regarding a mainstream publishers' NLGBM publicity that claims that the publisher was "at the forefront of gay publishing" and thus used their media clout to dismiss the work of the lesbian and gay small presses that have made mainstream gay publishing possible. By the end of the session it was clear that while some progress was made, there was still a bit of consciousness raising to be done in this area.



One feminist bookseller remarked at the end of the session that it was painfully ironic to watch gay booksellers who had evidenced no qualms about moving in and selling non-lesbian feminist titles blanching at hearing general booksellers use exactly the same justifications for stocking the best-selling gay and lesbian titles that they had used for stocking feminist titles. What always becomes clear out of these kinds of discussions is that we all need to have all kinds of bookstores thrive if we, in our particular stores, are to thrive. As Neal Sofman said quite succinctly during the Feminist Bookstore Day financial workshop, "I need small and independent stores to survive (and thrive) to get the title diversity I want to have in my store. If they don't make it, the only books that will be published will be the ones that chain stores sell and that's not why I'm in bookselling." The question of "how can we - specialty stores and general independent stores - work together to

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help each other" was discussed throughout ABA in a number of other forums including the gay/lesbian and feminist bookstores roundtables. Ironically, while the advent of the chain super-stores threatens feminist and gay/lesbian bookstores less than general independent bookstores, it has made us valuable allies in the independents' fight for survival.



Women\$hare Funding Newsnote Demonstrations

Everybody's favorite, quickie, zap-action was walking into Ingram's "Model Bookstore" (featuring their idea of a basic inventory for new bookstores) and asking for the (non-existent) women's studies and lesbian sections.

On a larger scale, Tom Brandeberry, co-owner of the Valley Women's Bookstore in Fresno CA, did all the footwork to encourage booksellers to boycott Jason Aronson (publishers) in protest of their homophobic title, Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuals: A New Clinical Approach, a therapy that claims to turn gay men "straight," only to discover the week before ABA that the publisher had decided not to exhibit at the ABA. The original plan was to pass out leaflets near the Jason Aronson booth describing the book and calling for a boycott and ready-to-sign postcards addressed to Aronson stating: "I find it offensive that your company would publish such a dangerous book as Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuality. Our young lesbians and gay men are killing themselves at an alarming rate in response to a society that says who they are is bad or wrong. Your answer is to assume that changing one's surface behaviors will solve the problem. Will you take responsibility for all those Queers who, after being reinforced by this offensive, self-hating book, kill themselves? Why is it that affirmative therapy would be the only appropriate therapeutic approach to take with all other disenfranchised groups except lesbians and gay men? Your dangerous, bigoted and heterosexist actions are unacceptable to me. I will never again do business with your company, and I am encouraging everyone I know to do the same!"

To receive copies of flier and postcards, call Tom at 209-275-1689.

Feminist Publishers & Bookstores Dinner

Nearly a hundred feminist bookstore workers and feminist publishers from fifty organizations met to celebrate our work over dinner Saturday night at ABA. The food was bad enough to write home about but the company was superb. We were a large and rowdy crowd that obviously delighted in being together, the impromptu speeches were hilarious and the jokes inspired Theresa Corrigan to start compiling a humor column for FBN.

Next year's ABA will be in Miami from May 29 to June 1. ABA 1994 will be held at the (downtown) Los Angeles Convention Center. 1995 will be in Chicago. LA will also be the site for the 1996 and 1999 conventions. O

Feminist Publishers Meeting

Feminist publishers meet every year on the Thursday before ABA (saving Friday for setting up booths.) This year's meeting was reported to be very effective in terms of skills and information sharing, in-depth political discussions, as well as initiating several projects including an economic survey of feminist publishers that will tally (among other things) the total number of printed pages purchased by feminist publishers each year and a library project aimed at getting more feminist press books into public libraries. One of the discussions debated the value of the word "feminist" in the '90s, with widely conflicting views being presented. This year, feminist bookstores also set up an economic survey, a joint advertising campaign, and took the first steps toward establising a formal, visable Feminist Bookstores Network, with no debate whatsoever about the value of the word "feminist" to describe their work in the '90s. 0

Financial Survey of Feminist Bookstores

Amazon Bookstore 1612 Harmon Place Minneapolis MN 55403

Dear Feminist Bookstores,

I do the accounting and bookkeeping at Amazon Bookstore. We just ended our fiscal year and I went to the library to get financial comparisons for book retailers and found that there was no information on feminist book retailers.

I realized that while I could compare our financial statements to other bookstores of our size, these bookstores are not feminist bookstores and it was not an accurate comparison. I wanted to know how we compared to others similar to ourselves. There's a hole in the information and I'd like to gather the information to create a comparison for feminist bookstores.

I believe the information would be helpful to us since our customers and store inventory are considerably different from mainstream bookstores.

I've enclosed a similar report to one that I'd like to produce.* The report would also include some balance sheet ratios (with explanations on how to use them). This info would be helpful for budgeting, comparing expenses with similar sized stores (such as wages, advertising, profit margins). It's also helpful and interesting to see as a whole who we are and how we operate financially. We would begin to set our own financial industry standard.

I need your year end balance sheet and annual income statement in addition to some other info. The other information I'll need to do the comparison is listed below.

I'm very interested in organizing and analyzing this information and hope that you will be interested in participating.

I'd like to have the information by September 30.

If you have any questions please call me at 612-338-6560.

Thanks, Kathy Sharp



Items Needed for Financial Comparison



_ Year End Balance Sheet

____ Year End Income Statement

_ Total Number of Workers

_ Total Square Feet _ Number of Full Time Workers

Years in Business

_____Selling Space Square Feet

____ Number of Part Time Workers

____ Number of Managers

Would you like to see information broken down by store?

Or would you like the information to be anonymous? _____

*The financial survey included with Kathy's letter looks at total space, selling space, and sales per square foot by store size (dollar volume) and looks at cost of goods sold and operational expenses (payroll, owners compensation, rent/occupancy expenses, insurance, supplies, credit card service charges, etc.) by store size. O

Feminist Bookstore Day(s)



More than 50 booksellers attended Feminist Bookstores' Day, May 22. 1992, in Anaheim, CA.

By Carol Seajay

"Relaxed" is the word several booksellers used to describe this year's 2-day Feminist Bookstore Day(s). Being the diverse group of women we are, there were a number of different explanations for the phenomenon: "Having two days together made a world of difference - there wasn't that anxiety to discuss everything and meet everyone in a single eight-hour day." "Theresa Corrigan's great organizing and timekeeping skills!" "I think we've finally learned that we can all express our opinions, but that there's no point in pushing hard to get everyone to see it your way. We'll all listen to opinions quite different from our own, but we're all going to go back to our own stores and do it our way, no matter how adamant someone is that their way is the one and only right way." And, "We're in California."

Basically, except for hassles with the hotel that kept telling us that our allotted number of rooms were booked (with other convention-goers, it turned out) and the mediocre food, the facilities worked adequately. The hotel was next door to the meeting rooms and only a short walk from the convention hall. Unfinished conversations were continued each evening in the swimming pool and hot tub. The air-conditioning worked (almost too well) and was not unduly noisy (which will be fully appreciated only by those who survived last year's meeting in heat-waved NYC with broken air-conditioning). We rearranged the furniture in the meeting rooms from rows to circles and got down to business.

The Financial Day

Forty-some booksellers from 22 feminist bookstores, a future-feminist bookstore, a lefty-store and

one gay/lesbian store met on Thursday to study bookstore finances with Neal Sofman. Neal was just back from doing bookstore finances workshops for booksellers in Eastern Europe and he also spoke briefly about the situations of booksellers there. Neal's workshop covers the gamut from the very basic (keeping daily sales journals and why) to interperting profit and loss statements, and understanding and applying ratios with constant forays into ways to save money, spend more efficiently, and make the dollars you have work better for your store. Whew! It was insightful, instructive, cautionary and exhausting. Most of us made a bee-line for the swimming pool when the workshop was over.

Friday-Feminist Bookstores' Day Two

As always, the day started with introducing ourselves — fifty-some booksellers from 35 feminist bookstores from Alaska to Florida. The total sales volume for the 19 stores that gave that information was \$5,210,000 (an average of \$275,000 per store). In the large group we told success stories (with a few flops thrown in for good measure), discussed staff issues, marketing and promotion, political issues, did questions and answers, evaluations, and made a number of organizing plans and decisions. (See below.)



Donna Niles, Amazon Bookstore

We broke into smaller groups by store size to discuss time management, by store structure to discuss issues relating to structure, and by interest area for smaller workshops on press releases, mail orders, electronic ordering, and computerizing. Some of these workshops will show up as FBN articles in the next 2 or 3 issues (along with the "best interview questions" list.)



Judith Rosen and Lizzie, WordsWorth Books

Feminist Bookstores Network

For several years we've talked about creating a more visible Feminist Bookstores Network. Informally, we've been functioning for years — *Feminist Bookstore News* is obviously part of that network and is oftentimes a center for it. Lunaria organized last year's advertising campaign under the Feminist Bookstores Network umbrella, and at least one bookseller prints "Member/Feminist Bookstore Network" on her business cards.

In years past we've gotten bogged down in trying to define membership parameters. This year we reached group concensus fairly quickly and also set up small groups of feminist booksellers to review the proposals made at the meeting, think about them in more depth than we could manage in a one-hour session, and to propose a structure and form to the entire group of feminist bookstores for approval.

The working agreement (as I understood it at the meeting) is that to qualify as a member of the Feminist Bookstores Network (FB-Net?), a store's primary focus must be on feminism, 51% of the stock must be by/about women, 51% of the staff must be women, and the store must be owned (entirely) by women. Stores that fall outside these guidelines may be eligible to be associate members. (FB-Net will be for bookstores, not

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publishers, et al.) The working committee is made up of women who volunteered at FB-Day. It includes Joan Denman (Rubyfruit Books), Anne Frost (Full Circle), Barb Wieser (Amazon), Kate Randall (Antigone), Linda Bubon (Women and Children First), Alison Cunningham (Golden Thread) and Theresa Corrigan (Lioness), with me (Carol Seajay) responsible for writing up the first draft and sending it on to the committee for rewriting. The plan is to have a workable proposal to send on to the rest of the feminist bookstores by mid- to late-fall. (If you weren't at FB-Day and want to work on this committee, give me a call!)

FB-Net will be financed through dues that will be on a sliding scale. It was proposed that the average contribution be \$50 with a goal of raising about \$5000/year, though we have yet to sit down to see how that amount relates to the cost of doing the things that feminist bookstores want FB-Net to achieve.

What *would* FB-Net do? Ideas abounded: coordinate the ad campaign, organize a retreat for feminist booksellers, organize a three day conference for feminist booksellers (separate in both time and space from the ABA Convention), plan a two-day conference for next ABA, provide copy (including book blurbs) for store newsletters, and possibly take on some of the networking functions currently being provided by FBN, such as keeping the list of feminist bookstores up to date, answering questions, and doing various kinds

Booksellers want to know:

Amazon wants to know if any other stores are organized legally as workers' cooperatives. They've considering switching to that legal form and would like to hear from other stores that have tried it. If that's you, call Barb Wieser at Amazon Bookstore, 612-338-6560.

The Thirty-First Street Bookstore just paid off their \$11,000 balloon payment and now own themselves, free and clear! Having accomplished that, the women there are now looking at buying a computer to do inventory and ordering functions and would like to talk to other stores in the \$175,000 range with experience with bookstore inventory programs and/or adapting other inventory programs for bookstore use. Call Jenny Boyd-Bull at 301-243-3131 if you have experience that could help them. of networking. Long term ideas included organizing an entire Women In Print Conference. We dreamed of having FB-Net t-shirts and bookbags by ABA 1993 to make our presence at ABA even more visible.



Theresa Corrigan, Lioness Bookstore

Some or most of the funding will pay for staff time to achieve these goals. A current FBN staffer might work part-time for FB-Net, an additional parttime staffer might be hired and work out of the FBN office, or staffing could be entirely separate from FBN (with coordination to avoid having two offices duplicate each other's work.)

Financial Survey

Kathy Sharp, Amazon's new accountant, sent an outline to FB-Day organizers for a financial survey of feminist bookstores. She'll compile the information and send it back to the bookstores. Bookstores at FB-Day received copies of her questionnaire. Other stores should have received copies in the mail. If you haven't yet sent in your information, *do it now!* The results will provide more financial information about feminist bookstores and bookselling than we've ever had before and should be very helpful to everyone working on financial management. (See Box.)

The Ad Campaign

There was a tremendous amount of support and appreciation for the joint advertising campaign that Rose Maloof/Lunaria put together last fall under the auspices of The Feminist Bookstore Network. The

concensus was that it did a lot to raise customers' consciousness (or just remind them) to support feminist bookstores and increased our visibility considerably. Booksellers told of using the ad, or parts of it, in their newsletters, in advertising in local newspapers and in newsletters; of posting it on a card by the cash register; and of having customers come in and say "I saw you in the ad" or "I saw the ad, and why aren't you in it??!?" (and having to recall each time that she hadn't sent her money in on time). The stories went on, and it was also clear that part of the enthusiasm for getting FB-Net into an organized form (that could do more things like this) was a response to the tremendous success of the ad campaign.



Kate Randall, Antigone; Elissa Mondschein, Old Wives Tales; Carol Levin, Judith's Room

Suggestions for the next set of ads included using the circular "Women's bookstores support women/ women support women's bookstores" and a variation that also includes "women's bookstores support women's communities/women's communities support women/women support women's bookstores" (or was that "women's communities support women's bookstores"? I got lost here, but undoubtedly someone else has it clearer than I do.) The women from the Alaska Women's Bookstore said that they were already using a circular logo that could be modified slightly to work for the ad. Another suggestion was that the ad stress that feminist bookstores are more than just bookstores - they also provide other essential services such as bulletin boards, networking, information, and programs, and are, in fact, community centers. "Women's bookstores are more than just bookstores: A Woman's bookstore is also a community (of women) getting women's words out there."

Kasha Songer (Book Garden) and Anne Frost and Mary Morell (Full Circle) will coordinate this year's the ad campaign. Laura Zimmerman (New Words) has also volunteered to work on it. Enormous thanks to Rose for launching the program and doing all the work to make it work. She can't work on it this year but will be available consultation.

Mentoring

Mentoring kept coming up during the FB-Days. Everyone likes the idea. Everyone seemed to want a mentor, but fewer women spoke of wanting to be mentors or of wanting to do more mentoring than they already do (either formally with another bookstore or informally with newer staff members in their own stores). Some booksellers have more or less formal mentors, relationships that developed, it seemed, with women they already knew in some capacity. No one had any concrete proposals for how to set up mentoring relationships. Generally speaking, feminist booksellers are extraordinarily generous with sharing and teaching skills, so I'm thinking that we haven't asked the right questions yet, nor found the right format. Let's keep working on this one. In the meantime, call the women you met a FB-Day and ask the questions that have been on your mind

Kayaking Anyone?

Allison Cunningham (Golden Threads) is organizing a kayaking trip for feminist booksellers. She's looking at a January or February 1993 trip down the Mexican coast. Call her for more information. 203-777-7807.

Next Year in Miami...

Kasha Songer (Book Garden) agreed to organize the program if someone else would facilitate the meetings and do the timekeeping, which Joan Denman (Rubyfruit) agreed to do. We're still in need of someone to do on-site organizing — checking out hotels, places to meet, and food — in Florida.

The concensus was for another two-day program, with a half-day session on staff and employee issues, including hiring and firing, and a half-day session on marketing, promotion, and special events. We've also had strong suggestions for a dinner/program for

women new to feminist publishing and bookselling to give "the next generation" a place to meet and build networks. It's an idea that sounds so right and so hot that I'm visualizing "old-timers" lying about how long they've been working in the Women In Print movement just to get in the door....

It was suggested that the registration form for the feminist booksellers/feminist publishers banquet include a space for botched titles and odd questions and that the answers be compiled and passed out at the banquet.... Women and Children First has video footage of author-programs at their store that Linda promised to bring next year. (This year we showed the Bangledesh Feminist Bookstore video at FB-Day. It's about eight minutes and is available to any bookstore for private or public showings.) Karen Merry (Paradigm), Audrey May (Meristem), and Theresa Corrigan (Lioness) are promising to put together a scrapbook of photos of feminist bookstores (something that *perhaps* could be turned into a slide-show that could play in the FBN booth?). Failing that, there's a suggestion that all the booksellers and publishers bring photos of their stores and offices to put up at the banquet....

In other words, it was great to be together and there's a lot of energy for strengthening the network, for organizing promotions, and for getting together next year. See you in Miami if not before!

Success Stories



Barb Wieser of Amazon and Linda Bubon of Women and Children First

By Ann Morse

Some feminist booksellers had Gloria Steinem to thank for the success stories they shared during this year's Feminist Bookstores Day. Both Women and Children First of Chicago and Amazon of Minneapolis hosted Steinem at their stores and reported having to turn away overflow crowds of heartbroken, swooning women. "It was like a Guns N Roses concert," Amazon said. Women and Children First sold 400 hardcover and 50 paperback copies of Steinem's book *Revolution from Within: A Book of Self- Esteem* and 150 copies of *Ms.* magazine during the promotion. The store did \$12,000 in business that day and donated 10 percent of the event-related sales to the Chicago Foundation for Women. The evening drew thanks not only from Chicago women but also from the store's neighboring restaurants and shops, all of which reported increased sales that evening. In addition to generating great publicity, public relations and self-esteem for the store, the event also gave Women and Children First something to "feed" their reps next time they want to set up a big name event. According to Women and Children First, Steinem will be touring in January and February with the paperback edition of *Revolution from Within* and would like to go to women's stores that she hasn't yet visited. Interested stores should tell their Little, Brown rep that they would like to host

would like to host such an event and that they can draw and accommodate an audience of 500 to 1,000 people.

One note about event flops: The consensus among booksellers present was that straight signings don't work. Advertising an author talk, even if that talk is only 10 minutes long, draws far bigger crowds than just a signing.

Here are a few of the other success stories and good ideas shared at Feminist Bookstores Day:



Tamara Bartlett, Abaton; Karen Merry, Paradigm

* The women at the Alaska Women's Bookstore have had great success at conferences. They've found it's a great way to sell books and make contacts. "Women come in from the bush!". The bookstore women also told of creating a strong and positive promotions piece for the store by putting together a list of women the bookstore (and by extension, its customers) supports — women publishers, sidelines vendors, writers — and listed the cities these women were from.

* At the Book Garden in Denver, employees have been working hard to improve their newsletter. They've done such a good job that women now come to the store to pick up a copy. The new, improved newsletter runs to eight pages, two of which are interviews with wellknown authors, musicians, artists, even actors.

Book Garden also has been expanding its customer base by way of a bookmobile — a station wagon they've been driving to Wyoming, Idaho and Montana. Many women in those states had been visiting or ordering from Grand Books in Jackson, WY until that store closed its doors in February. Now, the Book Garden sends out a flier — using Grand Books mailing list — alerting customers as to when and where the bookmobile will stop. Book Garden then sets up shop in someone's living room or basement, rents a room or sells from the car.

Another Book Garden idea to lure book buyers is their ever-changing window display. Employees transformed a large picture window at the front of the store by building a box tailored for book and sidelines displays. Workers spend about 30 minutes every three days updating the display and find that it draws a lot of foot traffic.

This year the Book Garden also held a readathon and raised \$800 for the local breast cancer center. The event's limited success was largely due to the enthusiasm of one local woman. The store hopes to expand on this promotion next year.

* How do 29 \$500 book sales sound? Red and Black Books in Seattle accomplished that great feat with its award-winning multicultural children's book kit. The kit, which the store sold to the Seattle Headstart program, features about 40 titles. For a list of these books and more about the program, see the news section in this issue of FBN.

* Sisterspirit in San Jose holds coffeehouses twice a month in the center that houses the store. The events feature well-known authors and entertainers and bring many women into the store.

* Once again, tote bags from Enviro-tote were a popular item. The bags cut bagging costs and make great advertising when your store's logo is printed on the side. Contact Enviro-Tote at 105 McGregor St., Manchester NH 03102; 603-647-7171. Some stores sell these bags, others give them away with book purchases of about \$50.

* Here's an idea, inspired by Anne and Mary at Full Circle in Albuquerque, that's still more of a gleam in booksellers' eyes than a plan: Anne and Mary told of a woman who organized a book drive for women in prison. The woman set up a table (with Full Circle's blessing) outside the store on International Women's Day. "She seemed to think she might collect a carton of books but ended up with enough books to fill three pick-up trucks! Everybody loved the event and there was tremendous spirit about it. Everyone wanted to

participate. It was one of the best and most effective events we've ever had — and we didn't have to do any of it!" Full Circle's story lead assembled booksellers to visions of feminist stores around the country collecting books on International Women's Day to send to women in prison, to battered women's shelters, to women's bookstores in developing countries or women's centers in Eastern Europe.



Women in Higher Education

* And finally, one bookseller who couldn't attend bookstores' day sent us her suggestions instead. Moonyean Grosch of Clairelight in Santa Rosa, CA has been putting together a book display about women in politics and says she has found that titles seem to be few and far between. She'd love to receive input from other booksellers about titles they would include in such a display. Meanwhile, she shares what she's found so far:

The Women's 1992 Voting Guide by the Women's Political Action Group, edited by Catherine Dee. \$3.95 pb, 1-979682-25-7. Earthworks Press, 1400 Shattuck Ave., Box 25, Berkeley CA 94709; 510-652-8533. Available from Ingram. "An important tool for empowering women to effectively use the vote to protect the gains we've already made and to elect candidates who will protect our rights!" Covers women's issues and candidates records. Includes state legislative summaries and election resources. Published on recycled paper.

101 Campaign Tips for Women Candidates and Their Staffs by Jewel Lansing. \$9.95 pb, 0-88247-886-9. R&E Publishers, PO Box 2008, Saratoga CA 95070; 408-866-6303. Available from Ingram. Published in 1991, this seems to be a recent how-to-do-it manual.

Campaigning For Office: A Woman Runs by Jewel Lansing. \$9.95 pb, 0-88247-887-7. R&E Publishers, PO Box 2008, Saratoga CA 95070; 408-866-6303. Available from Ingram. "Offers insights into campaigning that only experience can teach. Although Jewel's story is of a political race in Oregon, it touches universal themes."

The Feminization of Power by Toni Carabillo and Judith Meuli. \$8.95 pb, no ISBN given. The Fund for the Feminist Majority, 8105 W. 3rd St. #1, Los Angeles CA 90048; 213-651-0495. Published in 1988. Short bios with photos of women who have made a feminist difference in American life through their public service. Introduction by Ellie Smeal.

The Feminization of Power: 50/50 by the Year 2000, a pamphlet by the Fund for the Feminist Majority. \$5, 0-828037-006. The Fund for the Feminist Majority, 8105 W. 3rd St. #1, Los Angeles CA 90048; 213-651-0495. Compares women in state legislatures by state, lots of graphs and charts, gender balance strategies, exploding myths, and a national feminist agenda.

Getting Her Elected by Suzanne Paizis. 45.95 pb, 0-917982-03-7. Creative Editions Publishing, PO Box 22246, Sacramento CA 95822. This basic how-to-do-it manual was published in 1977.

God and Other Famous Liberals by E. Forrester Church. \$19 cl, 0-671-76120-X. Simon & Schuster. Available from Ingram. Although it's by a man, I decided to include it in my display because he makes such a convincing argument that liberalism should be reclaimed by the Left wing.

Women in Power: The Secrets of Leadership by Dorothy W. Cantor and Toni Bernay with Jean Stoess. \$9.95 pb, 0-395-61860-6. Houghton Mifflin. Available from Bookpeople. "Finally there is a critical mass of women politicians available and two brilliant women to do it." — Eleanor Homes Norton.

Storming the Statehouse: Running for Governor with Ann Richards and Dianne Feinstein by Celia Morris. \$25 cl, 0-684-19328-0. Macmillan. Available from Bookpeople. "Shows what it takes for any candidate, especially a woman candidate, to win the most coveted political prizes in the land." — Congressman Don Edwards.

And The American Woman 1992-1993: A Status Report by Paula Ries. \$12.95, 0393-30871-5. Norton. Available from Ingram.

If you know of any other titles please send them to FBN or to Moonyean Grosch at Clairelight Women's Books, 1110 Petaluma Hill Road. Suite 5, Santa Rosa CA 95404; 707-575-8879. And don't forget to vote! O

Photos in this section by Cill Janeway.

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The Lambda Literary Awards



Lesbian Science Fiction/Fantasy Gay Men's Anthologies Brother to Brother, edited by Essex Hemphill, Aly-The Gilda Stories, Jewell Gomez, Firebrand Books **Gay Men's Science Fiction/Fantasy** son Publications The Dark Beyond the Stars, Frank M. Robinson, **TOR Books Lesbian Poetry** Atlas of the Difficult World: Poems 1988-1991, Adrienne Rich, W.W. Norton **Gay Men's Poetry** The Road Before Us: 100 Gay Black Poets, edited by Assoto Saint, Galiens Press **Lesbian Nonfiction** Cancer in Two Voices, Sandra Butler and Barbara Rosenblum, Spinsters Book Company **Gay Men's Nonfiction** Zuni Man-Woman, Will Roscoe, University of New Mexico Lesbian Fiction (tie) Revolution of Little Girls, Blanche McCrary Boyd, Knopf The Gilda Stories, Jewelle Gomez, Firebrand Books **Gay Men's Fiction** What the Dead Remember, Harlan Greene, E.P. Dutton Lesbian Mystery Murder By Tradition, Katherine V. Forrest, Naiad Press Gay Men's Mystery (Alfred A. Knopf). Country of Old Men: The Last Dave Brandstetter Mystery, Joseph Hansen, Viking **Lesbian Anthologies** Chicana Lesbians: The Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About, edited by Carla Trujillo, Third Woman Press

Gay and Lesbian Humor Putting on the Ritz, Joe Keenan, Viking Penguin Children's/Young Adult Literature The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans: And Other Stories, Johnny Valentine, illustrated by Lynette Schmidt, Alvson Wonderland Lesbian/Gay Small Press Book Award Gay Roots: Twenty Years of Gay Sunshine, edited by Winston Leyland, Gay Sunshine Press **Editors' Choice** Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in 20th Century America, Lillian Faderman, **Columbia University Press Publisher's Service Award** Barbara Grier and Donna McBride, Naiad Press Also presented at the awards banquet: The Fourth Annual Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement in Lesbian and Gay Literature, presented annually by the Publishing Triangle, was given to poet Adrienne Rich. The 1991 Ferro-Grumley Awards honoring the late authors and lovers Robert Ferro and Michael Grumley went to Melvin Dixon for Vanishing Rooms (E.P. Dutton) and Blanche McCrary Boyd for Revolution of Little Girls

The finalists for the Gregory Kolovakos Award for AIDS Writing were Bo Huston for Remember Me (Amethyst Press); Elias Miguel Munoz for The Greatest Performance (Arte Publico); and Herve Guibert for To The Friend Who Did Not Save My Life (Atheneum).

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th international feminist book fair AMSTERDAM

By Carol Seajay

Some would think that it wouldn't be possible to organize an international feminist book fair in the midst of an anti-feminist backlash and a world-wide recession. By that line of thinking, most of our work, most of our successes, and most of our joys simply aren't possible. The gathering of women, of writers, of ideas and of the visible manifestations of our successes — the books, the publishing houses, the bookstores, the magazines and journals — at the V International Feminist Book Fair proves and celebrates feminist tenacity in a particularly awesome way.

Officially 200 — but in actuality, closer to 300 — publishers from nearly 40 countries (from five African, six Asian, and nine Latin American countries as well as from Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand) shared 120+ individual and collective stands, spilling out into the aisles in all directions. *Fifteen hundred* women participated in the Trade Days, including 180 writers from 55 countries, (half from outside "the West" including several countries that had not previously been represented such as Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Cape Verde Islands and Columbia) who spoke in panels, lectures and interviews.

More mainstream publishers exhibited at this Fair than any previous Fair, with first-time exhibitor Penguin going all out with a 20,000 copy run of their "Essential Reading for Women" catalog. Margaret Blumen, Penguin Group Contracts Director, rated it "one of our most successful promotions." Dutch publishers are prohibited from selling books at retail book



Fair-goers crowd the Xantippe booth. fairs, so Xantippe, the local feminist bookshop, exhibited titles by publisher and reportedly sold 2,000+ volumes.

A total of 8,000 people attended the Fair over the five days it existed in one physical time and space. For most of us who attend, some part of our heart continues to live year around in the rotating venue of the International Feminist Book Fairs.

This fair, like each previous Fair (London 1984,

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Olso 1986, Montreal 1988, Barcelona 1990), was bigger than the last. More women attended, more publishers exhibited, more dealing was done. A number of problems and issues made the Book Fair more difficult than it needed to be (see below). But the fact is, regardless of the need to deal with these issues and the time it takes, the real business of the Book Fair takes place woman to woman, in person and in programs, and once we all get together in one place, there's nothing that can stop us.

Booksellers

At least 150 feminist booksellers attended the Fair (that is, we had 150 feminist booksellers in one room at one time in a primarily English-speaking panel) including eleven from North America: River Artz from Pandora in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Linda Bryant from Charis in Atlanta, Georgia; Renee Albrecht from Women's Bookstop in Hamilton, Ontario; Peggy Harris from The Ottawa Women's Bookstore in Ottawa, Ontario; Lee Boojamra & Alice Frier from Womankind Books in Huntington Station, New York; Emoke B'Racz and Pickett Huffines from Malaprop's Bookstore in Ashville, North Carolina; Patty Callaghan from Brigits in St. Petersburg, Florida; and Kate Rushin and Joni Seager from New Words in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

It was by far the largest number of feminist booksellers attending any Feminist Book Fair to date, and we made up at least 10% of all the women attending



The view overlooking the exibition hall.

the Trade Days. Yet only an hour and 15 minutes of programming was scheduled to address the issues and concerns of feminist booksellers — as if we are not an essential part of the feminist book trade, as if we do not need to dialog with publishers and they with us, and as if our networking and skills-sharing will not vitally impact feminist publishing in every part of the world. Our only workshop was not deemed important enough for translation. Something is wrong with this picture. Only one other panel seriously addressed the importance of booksellers and the value of booksellers in distributing, selling, and promoting books! That was in a workshop by Ailbhe Smyth (Attic Press) under the heading "Dissemination and exchange in women's libraries and documentation centers". FBN asked for a second, informal meeting of booksellers and was assigned one of the few time-slots available in the fourth meeting room. About 40 booksellers attended that meeting.

The Women's Bookstores' Panel

The Women's Bookstores' Panel was titled "Strategies for the Future" and was chaired by Pamela Pattynama, a feminist bookseller from The Netherlands.

Traudel Sattler from the Libreria delle Donne in Milano spoke first and described the store as a cooperative run by 25 women, ages 19-70, all of whom work part-time in the shop. The store started in 1975. Politically they believe that one must start from her own desire and speak for herself and not for other women, and that all women are not equal (i.e., a disparity between women exists). The women of the bookstore wrote a book about their politics, *Sexual Difference* (Published in the U.S. by Indiana University Press), and have also created a distribution project that gets women's books to other towns and cities, including those that don't have women's bookstores. (See "Progetto Mappa: Putting Women's Books on the Map," FBN Vol. 13#2.)

Yvette Ellis described Sisterwrite in London as the first women's bookshop in England. It's a non-profit collective with five paid workers, only two of whom work full-time. She said that the collective structure can be difficult; that for it to work well, all the members must be going in the same direction, and that while a goal is to share skills and jobs, she'd often prefer to see women doing what they're good at.

Farida Akhter was adamant that Narigrantha Prabartana/The Feminist Bookstore in Bangladesh is

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Participants on the Women's Bookstores' Panel "Strategies for the Future" were (left to right):Traudel Sattler (Italy), Yvette Ellis from Sisterwrite (England), Pamela Pattynama — Chair (The Netherlands), Farida Akhter (Bangladesh), Elisabeth Maderdo Amaral Gurgel (Brazil), Lariane Fonseca & Colleen Lynoner (Australia).

viable and successful, not because it makes money, but because it contributes to The Movement both locally and internationally. Their strategy is to make the bookstore very visible. The organization that runs NP also runs a sari shop next door featuring handloomed saris. When women come to buy saris, "we gradually attract them to the other side of the shop." Farida also reported that husbands often come with women to buy saris (since the husband often pays), but that men get bored with sari shopping and so wander into the bookstore and pick up a book - which is, of course about women. The bookstore also sponsors women's talk sessions and recently sponsored a big assembly of women freedom fighters from the 1971 liberation movement. It was the first time in those 20 years that women freedom fighters had been recognized and it was very important for everyone. NP also publishes books, as well as posters for women who don't read. The store currently stocks between 1,000 and 2,000 titles. (Note: FBN has several copies of a short video about the Bangladesh women's bookstore that we showed at Feminist Bookstores Day at ABA. If you'd like to borrow a copy or arrange a showing in your bookstore, just call FBN at 415-626-1556.)

Brazilian feminist bookseller Elisabeth Maderdo Amaral Gurgel told of living in Amsterdam for some years and wanting to open a "Xantippe" in Brazil when she returned home. The Minister of Culture (a woman) helped her to get six months of free rent. She laughed and said that she did many things that many of the women in the room might not approve of to get women to come into the store, such as selling lipstick and such. She has gotten good TV and radio coverage. "It's going OK, lots of women come, but there is still no profit." The store stocks about 3,000 titles in Portuguese, Spanish, English and French. The inflation rate in Brazil is 30% a month, so one of the additional challenges of being a bookseller in Brazil is never knowing how much a book costs at any particular moment - or how much it is going to cost to replace the book.

Kalari is a feminist bookstore in a geographically isolated section of Australia about 100 kilometers

from Melbourne. It serves a large area. "We are living in a Third World economy now," Lariane Fonseca and Colleen Lynoner reported. The store began in 1989, when, having had a bit too much to drink, Lariane and Colleen fell to the question of what they would do if they were rich. "Make a space for women!" was the answer. The next day they found space for a shop and the rest is history. Both women have other jobs and



Women gather for the weekly 'adda' session at Narigrantha Prabartana/The Feminist Bookshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

don't take any salary from the bookstore though they do sometimes pay other women to work in the store. The store also includes wall space for art shows. Sometimes they travel with books. They also practice a "take it if you need it and pay for it when you can" policy for women who don't have the cash for an important book. "Sometimes it takes months for someone to come back in with the money, but we've never been let down," they reported. There were adamant that commercial viability and profit making are not the same thing; that the measure is the social profit for the women who buy the books.

A woman (Karlene according to my notes, Jeannette Drost, according to the program!) from Xantippe, the feminist bookstore in Amsterdam, spoke on another panel about running a feminist business. I'm including some of her information here with the other bookstore profiles: Xantippe is one of the largest feminist bookstores in Europe. The store started 17 years ago as a huge collective of mostly students and women from different groups and is still a collective. Over the years a total of 100 women have worked in the store. Five women work there currently, two are paid for full-time work and three work part time. Major decisions are made collectively, small decisions aren't an issue. Each worker has her own area of

specialization. The bookstore seems to be less politically active than in the past and feels more like a bookshop. Xantippe's inventory runs between 15,000 and 20,000 titles, 60% of which are in English, German, French and Spanish, 40% of which are in Dutch.

The Informal Meeting Of Feminist Booksellers

In contrast to the panel, the informal meeting was more of a conversation among booksellers. The first topic of conversation was the ways that stores from the Northern hemisphere can help stores "in the South." Fundraising, soliciting, donating and sending new and used books that reflect each store's interest areas and readership, and developing Sister Store relationships that are beneficial to both stores were all discussed. (See Linda Bryant's letter on page 18.)

Other good ideas and success stories included starting an events series ("We were putting so much of our energy into doing the bookstore that we weren't doing political work, so we set up a series of evening programs - readings, political and musical events and open discussions of things that were bothering us and/or our communities. We do a flier about the programs as a public service." - Linda Bryant, Charis Books/Atlanta.) Carol Beu from The Women's Bookshop in Auckland, New Zealand said that they'd been doing programs monthly for two years, that they were very successful and that 70-150 women came to the events. They're lucky enough to be able to use a large room in the Women's Health Center located above the store. Programs are after work at 5:30 or 6 and also offer wine, juice and "a nibble." Carol described "enormous intangible spinoffs" as well as advertising and promotional benefits.

The Feminist Bookshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh, runs an open discussion on Monday nights, "not

about anything in particular, rather about whatever is on women's minds that night. At first we had to call them to come to the 'Addas,' now many women come. When men gather to talk in Bengali culture, it is called 'adda' and it is a respected part of the culture. Women don't get that respect, so we called our session the 'Shombar Meyeder Adda,' the women's gathering and took that term of respect for women," Natasha Ahmad reported.

Celine, from the Streelekha Bookstore in Bangalore, India added that their organization also runs a program addressing domestic violence and attacks on young women whose dowries have not been fully paid. This issue often takes over the bookstore when badly injured girls and women come into the store for help. Everyone present seemed to agree that everywhere there is a women's bookstore there is also, within those walls, a women's center and women's crisis counseling of various kinds as needed. Streelekha also does programs with local writers and has programs where women read a piece by a writer whose work they like.

The women from Shrew (Jennifer Lang and Jean Steel) in Melbourne, Australia spoke of the importance of having notice boards. They also keep a photograph album with women's business cards as a handy resource.

Angels Grases i Mullerachs and her co-worker (who translated to and from Catalan and whose name I failed to catch) from Proleg Llibreria, the new women's bookstore in Barcelona, described the writing workshops they sponsor. The workshops are held in an upstairs room and meet twice a week from September to June. The teacher and the store split the tuition and the store also sells the books that the teacher recommends. The Proleg women also described a scheme that is common in Spain, in which women can "subscribe" to the bookstore by authorizing automatic monthly payments from their checking accounts to the bookstore. When the women come to the store, they already have money in their accounts and can use that money to buy books. By sending in monthly payments, many women accumulate nice balances and they come in and have a wonderful time buying books for themselves or as presents. This program guarantees that the store has a regular income, regardless of sales, and the supporters have money for books. About 100 women subscribe to this program

and the minimum monthly amount is 2,000 pesitas (the price of one or two books). Some customers have also made donations to the store of about 500,000 pesitas. The booksellers thank the women by telling them how the money was spent.

Anne-Christine Kasser-Sauvin from the Geneva women's bookstore L'Irédite had a wonderful story to tell about dreaming of a women's coffeeshop near the bookstore. They told some other women "please start one" — and they did!

Women from Frauenbuchladen in Germany reported that the big topics there are racism and censorship.

Booksellers also spoke of their frustrations at the Book Fair — a sense that women were being silenced, especially when issues are controversial — and of the belief that informal conversations are more important than structured panels. Peggy Harris from the Ottawa Women's Bookstore remembered that one of the features of the Montreal Feminist Book Fair was that



Sheba Feminist Press was among the 200-300 publishers that attended the Fair.

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there was always a way to continue conversations by meeting in the cafeteria or one of the many classrooms or dorm lounges surrounding the Book Fair.

Women spoke of the need for *recognition* for booksellers at the International Feminist Book Fairs. "We *sell* their bloody books, after all!" was, as I recall, the way it was put. There was also frustration that no financially successful bookstores were included on the bookselling panel on strategies for the future, and that the absence of such contributes to publishers' views that feminist bookstores are marginal rather than essential to their book promotions. The consensus was that we need fewer panels during the Trade Days and



Publishers at the Fair came from 40 different countries.

more working meetings where we can meet face-toface (rather than speaker to audience), and we need more opportunities to develop and share skills and distribution information.

Issues And Organizing

At this point in feminist history, it is safe to assume that loosely organized feminist organizations with idealistic goals and minimal structure will hit an organizing crisis and/or power struggle sometime between years six and 10, or as soon as the organization achieves some real power, whichever comes first. By that calendar, many of the Fair's problems were both predictable and right on time. This Fair was marked by a series of meetings, some very difficult, over the structure and future of the Fair, punctuated by dissatisfaction by many of the participants with some of the priorities of this year's organizers.

Although the initial meetings were difficult, once it was clear what the issues were, and once word of the conflicts and difficulties reached the main floor of the Book Fair, many women came to the meetings. Suddenly, solidarity and the priorities of the Book Fair community were very clear and strong, and consensus on most issues was achieved very quickly. Seeing such clarity and unity among feminists from so many different places, from so many different organizations with differing priorities, is one of the high points of my activist career.

The issues included:

•The question of whether to continue calling this event a "Feminist Book Fair" or whether to change the name to "Women's Book Fair" was quickly resolved in favor of keeping it "Feminist Book Fair." As one woman put it, "This is not a fair about 'bodice rippers.' All of the publishers know what we mean by 'feminist' and they know if they should include themselves or not. When the book trade says 'women's' as in 'women's magazines' — they don't mean feminist. The media always has trouble with the word 'feminist' and it is part of our job to give them a bad time about that. We cannot let the media decide what we call ourselves."

•The decision regarding the location of the next fair was made by the Trade Days participants, rather than by this committee or that committee in private meetings. Australia had been given the nod in 1990 to explore the feasibility of hosting the 1994 Fair and came to this Fair with a solid proposal and tremendous regional support. The women from Germany who were also applying to host the 1994 Fair graciously withdrew their bid. Germany and Austria remain on the list of possibilities in the unlikely event that Australia decides that they cannot succeed with the Book Fair. (By tradition, the lead contender for the next Fair has until the Frankfurt Book Fair in October to withdraw.)

• Support and encouragement were extended to the Brazilian contingent to explore having the 1996 Book Fair in Brazil.

•Once it was clear where the next Book Fair would be, the question of disbanding the Advisory Committee that was raised the first day of the Fair ceased to be relevant. The Australian organizers were clear that they valued the Committee and wanted access to the expertise of the women on the Committee. (Some Background: The Advisory Committee was created at the suggestion of women at the evaluation meeting at the 1990 Fair as a way to ensure that expe-

rience and information is passed from Fair to Fair. The Advisory Committee is made up of one organizer from each previous Fair [except Montreal, which has burned out], representatives from Asia, Africa, and North America, and a liaison with the Frankfurt Book Fair. Ironically, the Advisory Committee was caught in exactly the kind of power-confusion and misunderstanding that it was created to prevent.)

•The Advisory Committee's powers and structure were clarified at this year's Fair. Its function is to provide information and advice. It can serve as a sounding board for the Fair organizers if that is useful to them. The organizing committee in each venue is essentially autonomous, makes its own decisions, and sets its own priorities. Previous Fair organizers are on the Advisory Committee on a semi-permanent basis. The four additional advisors were nominated for four years and will rotate off in 1994. A plan for rotating organizers on the Committee was discussed but not finalized. The organizers of each Fair are expected to add women appropriate to their needs (who will also rotate off within 4 years). It was further suggested that since the Amsterdam organizers had not added anyone to the Advisory Committee, two Amsterdam organizers join the Advisory Committee.

•A decision was made to continue to use the Fair's London address for the next two years, for correspondence with United Nations, governmental agencies and foundations too rigid to deal with an organization that changes location and personnel every two years. All other correspondence will be directed to the local organizers. While there was agreement that the title "Permanent Secretariat" might sound appropriate in the more flowery Catalan language in which it originated, the title, translated into English, is offensive and misleading, but a different title was not agreed upon.

•Other issues that came up during the bookfair included the disappointing and frustrating reduction in translation (translation services were available at less than a third of the events and none of the lesbian programs and none of the bookseller programs were rated for translation), the acute shortage of rooms for spontaneously organized meetings and programs, the lack of rooms designated for writers' meetings or ongoing lesbian organizing meetings, the superficial nature of too many panels and the absence of in-depth training and skills development programs for publishers and booksellers, and the anti-feminist and antilesbian remarks made by invited government officials (which were roundly protested).

Next Fair, we sincerely ask that *everyone* who agrees to speak at a panel or workshop express her respect for the women who have traveled so far to attend this Fair by making the time to prepare adequately before the Fair and that the organizers provide enough lead time for this to happen. One of the most useful suggestions at the end of the Fair was that colored stickers indicating languages spoken be displayed on nametags.



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Australia in 1994:

The Sixth International Feminist Book Fair will be held in Australia in 1994, probably in July or August. The theme of the Fair will be "Indigenous Women Writing Worldwide." It will focus on writers and publishing in Asia and the Pacific. They are planning close links with the Australian Women's Studies Association and expect a strong presence of University Presses, as so many university presses have offices in Australia. The International Women Playwrights conference in Melbourne is also likely to coincide with the Feminist Book Fair. It promises to be a very impressive showcase for feminist writers and publishers in the Southern Hemisphere. If you ever considered taking



a holiday "down under," this is the time to do it! Organizers include Susan Hawthorne and Renate Klein, both of Spinifex Press, and a host of enthusiastic and competent feminist booksellers, publishers, writers, activists and organizers. It promises to be the best Fair yet!

The address for the 1994 International Feminist Book Fair is: PO Box 212, North Melbourne, Victoria 3051, Australia. Telephone and fax: 61-3-329-6088.

Brazil In 1996?

Women from Brazil will be working toward hosting the Seventh International Feminist Book Fair in 1996. Brazil will be hosting the Bienal, the largest book fair in Latin America that year. The Bienal organizers have offered to provide facilities and organization for the public part of the Fair. The Trade Days will be for women only and would be held during the week before the Bienal. The public days would overlap the Bienal Bookfair, an event that already draws a very strong audience. Each event would enhance the other, and the presence of the International Feminist Book Fair would validate the work of feminists, especially writers and publishers, in Brazil.

If you can contribute to bringing the Seventh International Feminist Book Fair to South America (enthusiasm, encouragement, letters of support and commitment, aid with fundraising and, of course, money are all welcome), the contact woman for Brazil is Silvia Cintra Franco, Al. lorena 1307 apto 34, 01424 — Sao Paulo SP, Brasil. Tel: 852-2934.



Look for further V International Feminist Book Fair coverage in the upcoming issues of FBN including Peggy Harris' report of the Fair in the September Canadian Content, articles on Dutch feminist publishing and Dutch feminist bookstores by Shelley Anderson, an article on feminist bookselling and publishing in Germany by Marianne Wex, more information about Otherworlds' efforts to break down the anti-gay, anti-lesbian censorship laws in South Africa, an article on the development of the Listener Women's Book Festival and other exciting developments in New Zealand, and best of all, lets of letters and correspondence from everyone about the Book Fair.

Thanks to Clare Baker, Ariadne van de Ven and Rose S. Katz for moral support and encouragement. Book Fair photos in this section by Rose S. Katz. O

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Responses to the 5th International Feminist Book Fair

Linda Bryant Charis: Books and More 419 Moreland Ave. NE Atlanta GA 30307

Dear Feminist Bookstore Women,

I am just back from the International Feminist Bookfair in Amsterdam, inspired by meeting women from around the world who are doing feminist work through bookshops. We had limited time together at the fair but enough for us to get a glimpse into one another's lives and work. When I listened to women tell the stories of their stores. I was struck with all the richness we have to share with one another. It was very clear that in some countries, like India and Bangladesh or Brazil, for example, acquiring books for the shops is exceedingly expensive, so I suggested that some stores from around the world could afford to send over a few boxes of books to ease the situation. I was quickly reminded by the woman from Narigrantha Prabartana in Bangladesh that those stores who need books also had a lot to give back and that a more mutual exchange would be desirable. By the next bookstore meeting, several bookstore women had talked it over and proposed that perhaps bookstores could find sister bookstores and such an exchange could take place. I am writing to all of you to see who might be interested in such a network. How can we help one another out in a way that promotes our common feminist vision for the world?

Once matched to a sister store, one idea that I think would work for Charis is to dedicate one of our weekly programs each quarter to the sister store. We could ask the attendees to each bring a book and \$1.00 (for postage) — echoing what was done previously by Book Womb in Winnipeg and New Words in Boston. The program could be devoted to information sent by the sister store or could explore the situation of



women in the country of the sister store. Then we would have some special books to send and we would be enriched by learning more about and being in solidarity with some of our sisters around the world. What are some more ideas? Are there women interested in this kind of networking? Would stores receiving the books have to pay tariffs or some other fees that would make it hard for them? Is there a way the sister store could be sure that those fees would be

covered? What is the best guise under which to send these books? Someone suggested to mark the boxes as "used books." What kinds of books would be most desirable? Which kinds permitted by the country into which they would be going? Of course, there is also the reality that we use different languages around the world, so sometimes sending books will not work what then? How can we make sure that feminist literature is available for all women's bookstores at an affordable price? I know, we all know, that we are not solving the root problems of oppression here, but it feels to me like an empowering way that we can ease the way for one another and grow at the same time in understanding how we can act with other women in ways that will change the world. It seems that we will have to communicate sister store to sister store about our individual needs once matches are made. If you are interested in participating, please communicate with Carol Seajay or me ...

Thanks to all the bookstore women at the fair it was exciting and inspiring to meet you. Hope we all - and many more - make it to Australia in 1994!

In sisterhood,



Feminaria Editora C.C. 402 1000 Buenos Aires Argentina

Dear FBN.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a couple of thoughts that occurred to me because of the Fifth International Feminist Bookfair. All have to do with North- South relations, that is, with how the North can "help" the South, or, as one woman perhaps. more aptly put it, "understand" the South. The following are a couple of concrete and, I believe, feasible ways to do so:

1. Not having to pay publication rights. After all, how much can a 1,000 or 1,500 print run really mean economically - to the Northern publisher or author?

2. Not charging 1st world prices in the 3rd world. The mark-up could be reduced so as to allow women with considerably less economic possibility to have more of a chance to purchase the books.

3. Not limiting funding to development projects only but expand to include intellectual projects, including the publication of books of feminist theory.

There is much to be said about each one of these suggestions, but I don't want to take up so much space. I would like to add one more thing for us all to think about though, and that is that not doing any of the above is, as far as I can understand, an effective strategy to try to keep the North powerful and the South powerless.

Yours truly. Lea Fletcher Editor, Feminaria Editora

> Nikolai Vadimovich Zubov Do vostrebovaniya Poste retante Moscow 101000 Russia

Dear FBN,

To be gay in Russia means not only being different, alien in ones own country. The attitude towards gay people is very much the same in all countries. What does make this country different from most of the other countries in the world is the complete absence of any information about gay life in other places and, what is even more important, the absence of any information about gay culture. Here we know nothing

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about lesbian and gay writers, playwrights, artists, filmmakers. We know nothing about lesbian and gay priests, doctors, counselors. We live in a vacuum, surrounded by homophobic ignorance. According to the opinion polls, about 70% of the Russian population believe that lesbians and gays, along with prostitutes and drug abusers, should be exterminated.

For the last few years some changes did take place. There are about six lesbian and gay newspapers and three or four gay groups now. But operating in a country where male homosexuality is still a crime punishable by law, these groups and papers concentrate themselves on human rights issues and do not pay much attention to other problems of culture, religion and psychology.

These are the main reasons for starting this new and special project — a lesbian and gay book club/library. Its aim is to make at least one of the layers of gay culture available to those interested.

Now the only source of getting lesbian and gay literature here is second-hand bookshops, where one can occasionally come across a book dealing with homosexuality, and two or three libraries which have books in foreign languages. Both ways are very unreliable and for many very confusing. Lots of times I was told by friends that they feel very uneasy asking shop assistants or librarians for an openly gay or lesbian book. Besides, in many cases bookshops and libraries refuse to buy lesbian and gay books on the grounds of "moral unacceptability."



I really hoped for some changes when the British campaign BOOK AID began. But although gay publishers (GMP for example) participate in this scheme, the main problems are still here. The libraries (mainly situated in major cities of Russia) tend not to display/make available lesbian and gay books. And if something unbelievable happens and the book appears in the library catalog, complete absence of annotations make it very difficult to distinguish a gay book. One has to have profound knowledge of lesbian and gay writers to find a gay book!



The Lesbian and Gay Book Club/Library Project is based mainly on the idea of BOOK AID. We want to contact gay and lesbian organizations, media and individuals and ask them to donate the books they have already read and don't need any more to our club/library and we will distribute them free to those who will contact us in this country. With the book we will be sending an address of a person who would like to read the book too. The customer will be asked to either return the book to the club or to send it directly to the address enclosed. The responsibility of the club will be maintaining all necessary data banks and to control the "current" of the books.

I am aware that this project is very exclusive — it embraces only those who know foreign languages. In fact, it is not the only drawback of the project, but I do believe that this project is quite capable of living. And my friend and I believe that this sort of Book Club is of really great importance to all of us.

If you agree that this project is worth thinking about, we will be glad to receive your comments, suggestions, advice. Please contact: Nikolai Vadimovich Zubov, Do vostrebovaniya/ Poste restante, Moscow 101000 Russia. Thank you!

Yours faithfully, Nikolai Vadimovich Zubov



50%. Net 30

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By Laura Zimmerman New Words, Cambridge MA

AW-IN: WEST

NEWWORDS

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Taking Care of Business

New Words faces momentous change this summer. At the end of June, Mary Lowry retires. One month later, Kate Rushin leaves for graduate school. Mary has been with the store since its beginning, 18 years ago; Kate for more than a decade. Mary will finally have time for her own creative work, while Kate will accept a fellowship to the Creative Writing Program at Brown University. The loss to the bookstore world will be the gain of the writing world, but right now I'm not consoled by the fine writing they'll do. How will I adjust to New Words without Kate and Mary?

NEW WORDS

What Kate and Mary give the store cannot be duplicated. A few weeks ago, a customer requested six great novels to read on her vacation. Panic ensued as I realized I had only four more weeks to pick Mary's brain. Years ago we assigned each other titles to improve our status beyond merely "member of the collective." Mary's came instantly to mind: New Words' Reader-in-Chief. Customers come from all over New England to consult with her about their purchases of "good reads." Everyone knows Mary's expertise in mysteries and lesbian fiction, but she's astonishingly well-read in every fiction genre. And unlike most of us, she actually remembers what she reads. Hearing her enthusiastic and detailed description of her latest favorites makes you want to dedicate the next 20 years of your life to just reading novels.

Changes

NEW WORDS

Collective

Mary also knows more than any of us about the history and evolution of feminist and lesbian bookselling and publishing. Active in the women-in-print movement since its inception, she is the one the collective and the community turn to with questions about Daughters Inc. and Persephone Press, and the one who tells, with insight and wit, stories from the early days many of us would like to forget. She's read countless manuscripts written by friends and strangers, and advised feminist and mainstream publishers alike. Mary started the New Words Reading Series back in the days when reading women's words in the basement of a women's bookstore seemed like a revolutionary act. With characteristic generosity, she developed a fiction and poetry series for unpublished writers that gave many women their first chance to share their work with an audience. Much as we value the current reading series that brings exciting,

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groundbreaking work to the bookstore, I've often suspected Mary's heart is with the writer who might never get a contract or go on tour.



The vision and ideas she's brought to the bookstore have always been matched by her practical nature and understanding of the day-to-day realities of running the store. Her business acumen is profound. I consult with her on approximately 100 questions a day ranging from the discount for women's studies programs to the size of an ad in a new gay paper. Not that we always agree. But we can have a conversation of three half-completed sentences interrupted by two phone calls and a question on the intercom — and still make a good decision in the back office while the ad rep browses in the front of the store. What will it be like making decisions without her?

And what will it be like making decisions without Kate? It's said that endings bring you back to the beginnings and it's true. I've been remembering that in my early years in the collective when I spent most of my hours at the front desk, it wasn't clear if the customers came to buy books or to catch a glimpse of Kate Rushin, Boston's best-loved poet. And these two roles are not entirely separate: what she is loved for as a poet is what makes her the ideal feminist bookseller. She's infinitely patient with customers who have no idea what they're looking for, finds books that don't exist in the computer or on the shelves, is the mistress of the tie-in sale, and does it all with grace and respect for every person who enters the store.

Kate also comes closer than any of us to keeping that perennial finger on the pulse of the community. Someone is always asking her for a name, a resource, or a contact in the feminist, lesbian, literary, or women of color communities (or all of the above). I'm tempted to begin a new rolodex comprised solely of her contacts and acquaintances. I'd also like to install a direct line to her new apartment in Providence so she can keep us up-to-date on life in Boston — she's likely to know more about it than we do, even living 90 miles away. All our guidebooks and journals together don't begin to offer the knowledge Kate carries in her head of what's going on locally, nationally, and internationally. If she's not directly involved in a project or event, she knows who is, and links the store with each of them.

Kate's stature, talent, and generosity bring in an ever-growing number of new customers and readers. The first to anticipate potential up-and-coming categories like recovery titles, she has developed an uncanny sense of books on the brink of becoming urgent to individuals and groups. Kate's expertise and commitment to African-American literature and the literature of other women of color has deeply influenced and informed the very nature of the store from the arrangement of our sections to our window displays to the books we read and discuss among ourselves. Though she only recently began teaching African-American Women's Literature at MIT, she's been educating us and many of our customers on this subject since she first came to the store. Because of Kate, New Words has become a comfortable and valued resource for people of color throughout the Boston area.

No, we need more than a rolodex and a direct phone line. We need electronic mail modems, a fax machine, a state-of-the-art videophone. We'll plug ourselves into Mary's home, and Kate's, and it will be almost as good...well, not quite. Because the most significant loss will be driving into Cambridge every day, finding a place to park, walking into New Words, and not seeing Kate or Mary. We won't joke, or exchange our caustic remarks in the backroom, or overhear conversations with each other's doctors or lovers in the crowded office.

Of course, I won't miss haggling with them over whether to order 10 or 12 of the new Firebrand titles. And none of us will miss our three-hour collective meetings. But though Gilda and I know that the store will survive and grow in its "second stage," it simply won't be the same without Mary and Kate. We'll miss sharing with them the ongoing life of New Words, the best and the worst. We'll miss sharing our lives with them. O

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Everywoman's Selected 20

LONDON: Facing the absence of an organized Feminist Book Fortnight and its accompanying list of 20 selected feminist titles, the British magazine *Everywoman* stepped in. "We've stuck our necks out this month," Everywoman writes, "to fill the gap left by the Feminist Book Fortnight: with no 'official' selected 20, we offer our own selection."

The 10 fiction titles on this list were selected by Zoe Fairbairns, while Grace Evens chose 10 non-fiction titles. All titles were published or reissued in the past year.

Everywoman expects bookstore, libraries and women's groups around Britain will celebrate the fortnight, traditionally the first two weeks of June, despite the lack of an organized event.

(Note: Publishers indicated are the British publishers.)

FICTION:

That Kind of Woman edited by Bronte Adams, Trudi Tate (Virago). Strong collection of stories written between 1890 and 1940 by "women at the forefront of modernism" — and an accessible explanation of what that means.

A Matter of Fat by Sherry Ashworth (Commonword). A witty, painful account of the lives of women addicted to slimming.

Sleeping Rough by Christina Dunhill with others (Lime Tree). Eight women, who met and worked together in a writers' group, present an original collection of stories on the theme of women and the night.

Mer de Glace by Alison Fell (Serpent's Tail). Mountaineering, sex, writing, food and mortality all come together in a multilayered, poetically written love story. Joan Makes History by Kate Grenville (Minerva). The invisible woman of Australian history tells her story. *The Silent Duchess* by Dacia Maraini (Peter Owen). A tale of child abuse and survival, set in 17th century Sicily as experienced by the deaf and mute duchess.



The Wild Hearts group explores lesbian melodrama.

Siege of Azadi Square by Manny Shirazi (Women's Press). Women's lives under the rule of Islamic fundamentalism in contemporary Iran. Informative, grim and — astonishingly — funny.

Wild Hearts: Contemporary Lesbian Melodrama by The Wild Hearts Group (Sheba). Womanly passions in exotic settings — a rich collection of short stories.

Dirty Weekend by Helen Zahavi (Flamingo). A sexually abused woman seeks bloody vengeance. Whatever unease may be aroused by the book's violence, its rage is magnificent.

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NONFICTION:

Art:

The Re-enchantment of Art by Suzi Gablik (Thames and Hudson). The author presents her vision for the future of art, raising some fundamental questions about the relationship between art, artists and society. This book brings together strands of thinking from the realms of feminism, ecological awareness and humanistic psychology. A work of outstanding originality.



Autobiography:

Clarice Lispector: Discovering the World translated and introduced by Giovanni Pontiero (Carcanet). The book comprises short pieces of writing in the chronicle genre, all written for the author's weekly column for the Brazilian newspaper. Clarice Lispector (1925-1977) wrote with such self-revelatory frankness that one is drawn deep into her world and imagination. This publication will bring her wider recognition in Britain.

The Search of Mr. McKenzie by Isha McKenzie Mavinga and Thelma Perkins (Women's Press). Through the process of piecing together facts about their father, the authors — two sisters — experience transformation on an inner level and confront their own need for identity and belonging. A compelling and valuable contribution to our understanding of cross-cultural and mixed race identity.

Biography:

Gertrude and Alice by Diana Souhami (Pandora). Both Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas are brought to life vividly as is their curiously politically incorrect lesbian relationship.

Current Affairs:

How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed by Slavenka Drakulic (Hutchinson). These essays offer a feminist analysis of contemporary issues in the former Soviet bloc at a time of tremendous social change, a perspective that has been sorely absent from mainstream coverage of events in Eastern Europe.

Feminist Theory:

Backlash by Susan Faludi (Chatto and Windus). This book is likely to shape future thinking about the state of the feminist movement and our struggle against patriarchy. It is extremely well-written and has, to my mind, the right attunement of form with content.

History:

Love in the Time of Victoria by Francoise Barret-Cucrocq (Verso). This analysis of archive material from the Thomas Coram Foundling Hospital paints a picture of intimate love relationships between working women and men in Victorian London and shows attitudes to sexual morality surprisingly unlike those described by social reformers through whose writings we have largely come to understand the Victorian era. The glimpses into the past offered by the quoted letters and personal testimony are comforting and disconcerting at the same time.

The Myth of the Goddess: Evolution of an Image by Anne Baring and Jules Cashford (Viking). Though long and scholarly, this work did bring its rewards. So much of religious experience is female-centered that one begins to look upon patriarchy as an aberration of human history and feel a sense of hope in the human species weathering a temporary setback in its evolution.

Literary Criticism:

Motherlands: Black Women's Writing from Africa, the Caribbean and South Asia edited by Susheila Nasta (Women's Press). Motherland brings together pieces of literary criticism examining individual writers from three continents. It is extremely refreshing to find a book examining Black writers in their own culture and making connections with the vast body of women writers in more well-documented literary traditions.

The Haunting of Sylvia Plath by Jacqueline Rose (Virago). Focusing on the writer's psychic life as evidenced in her writing, Jacqueline Rose gives us a reading of the interplay between the writer's imagination and the social and political world in which she lived and sets this alongside the critical response to Plath's work. A thought-provoking exploration of gender and art.

Everywoman, 34 Islington Green, London NI 8DU England; 071-359- 5496, fax 071-226-9448. O

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Selected readings for children and young adults

By Sarah Barbara Watstein

It is heartening that **Children's Books in Print** 1991/92 lists 40+ titles under AIDS (Disease). The nonfiction and fiction titles listed below are admirable contributions to the material on AIDS that is available for children and young adults, their school teachers, parents, and anyone else who cares about our next generation. These books serve two purposes: they introduce the story of AIDS to children and young adults, and they throw a more compassionate light on our youngest AIDS patients and their families, who are too often ignored. (Excellent = ****; Good = ***; Okay = **; Fair = *.)

Nonfiction

***1/2 AIDS, Alan E. Nourse, Franklin Watts, 1989. \$12.90 cl, 0-531-10662-4.

Nourse discusses the possible origins, symptoms, and characteristics of AIDS, the ongoing search for a cure, and myths and fears concerning the epidemic. "What we know about HIV infections" includes questions and answers that many people have been asking about AIDS. Sensitive to the fact that his discussion of AIDS is grim in just about every dimension, Nourse tries to balance the text by emphasizing, among other things, the short- and long-term value of expanded knowledge. Nourse is a careful writer who succeeds in acknowledging what we know and what we don't know, while at the same time dispelling some of our fears and worries. Black and white illustrations, a glossary and an index complement the text. ** AIDS and Drugs, Nicholas Bevan, Franklin Watts, 1988. \$11.90 cl, 0-531-10625-X. Grade 6 and up.

AIDS and Drugs does more than just look at AIDS and drug use. It also looks at what AIDS is and where it originated. Also covers other high risk behaviors that increase the chances of AIDS, reviews medical drugs for AIDS, and presents facts relative to prevention. Quotations highlight the text. Color photos and/or illustrations add to the text and appear on every page. Includes an AIDS factfile, AIDS profile, list of sources of help, a glossary and an index. Bevan succeeds in warning against the abuse of drugs in a straightforward and sympathetic manner.

** AIDS Answers for Teens, Linda Schwartz, The Learning Works, c1987, revised 1990. \$4.95 pb, 0-88160-155-1. Gr. 7-12.

Designed for use by teens, their parents or teachers, this workbook contains information of moderate depth and detail about AIDS. Its purpose is to make teens aware of the facts about AIDS. Schwartz believes that by becoming better informed, readers will enable themselves to make intelligent and responsible decisions regarding their personal behavior. A question and answer format is followed throughout. Sample questions include: What is AIDS? When was AIDS first reported? What causes AIDS? How are people exposed to HIV? Who is at risk? What precautions must sexually active people take? Includes a pretest and posttest, suggestions for extended activities, an

answer key and glossary. Also includes black and white illustrations.

*** AIDS: In Search of a Killer, Suzanne Levert, Julian Messner, 1987. \$12.98 library binding, 0-671-62840-2; \$5.95 pb, 0-671-65662-7. Gr. 6 up.

Levert devotes most of this book to the epidemiology of AIDS. She looks at where and when AIDS started, what it does to the body and why, and whom it can infect and how. She looks at AIDS from the patients' perspective, examines the perspective of caregivers', and probes the darker side of American society in this crisis: individuals and institutions that have responded not with understanding and compassion but with ignorance and unfounded fear. Case studies balance the text. Glossary, directory and index included. Levert believes that the story of AIDS reads very much like a kind of medical Agatha Christie mystery, and her readable book clearly benefits from this belief.



** AIDS Questions & Answers for Kids, Linda Schwartz, The Learning Works, c1987, revised 1990. \$3.95 pb, 0-88160-154-3. Gr. 5-6.

Similar in both purpose and format to the Schwartz title for teens (see *AIDS Answers for Teens*), this workbook is targeted to kids. Sample questions include : When was AIDS first reported? What are some wrong ideas about AIDS? Can you get AIDS from kissing? Why do some people stay well while others get AIDS? How does society treat persons with AIDS? Special features that accompany Schwartz' book for teens also accompany this title. *** AIDS: Trading Fears for Facts, A Guide for Teens, Karen Hein and Theresa Foy Digeronimo, Consumer Reports Books, 1989. \$3.95 pb, 0-89043-269-4. Gr. 8 up.

The authors begin with the premise that teenagers have enough to worry about — school, money, parents, friends, dating and drugs. And now there's AIDS. This book gives teenagers correct and complete information about AIDS. Chapters cover the facts about AIDS, AIDS and sex, AIDS and drugs, testing, treatment, and AIDS in the future. An appendix lists resource centers to get help and information. The book succeeds without preaching or lecturing.

**** AIDS: What Does it Mean to You?, Margaret O. Hyde and Elizabeth H. Forsyth, Walker and Company, 1990. 3rd, rev. ed. \$13.95 cl, 0-8027-6897-0; \$14.95 lib. bdg., 0-8027-6898-9.

This is the newest edition of Hyde and Forsyth's pioneering account for young readers. The authors discuss the causes, symptoms and treatment of AIDS, and examine the advances made in slowing the progress of the disease and controlling some of the opportunistic infections. Chapters also cover living with AIDS, plagues in other times, AIDS around the globe, the epidemic of fear generated by AIDS, and AIDS and social problems. Personal stories of persons with AIDS and their friends, partners or caregivers are included. The book concludes with suggestions for further reading, a list of resources and hotlines, a glossary and an index. Young adults can use this book to become informed, to reduce the risk of AIDS to themselves, and to see how to extend help and compassion to PWAs.

**** Children & the AIDS Virus: A Book for Children, Parents, & Teachers, Rosemarie Hausherr, Clarion Books, 1989. \$13.95 cl, 0-89919-834-1;\$4.95 pb, 0-318-41625-5. Preschool up.

I concur with the jacket description of this book: "Here is a warm, open book about AIDS created especially for young children to read alone or with an adult." Hausherr describes how our body's immune system fights the common cold virus, discusses the virus that causes AIDS, and explains how it is spread. Readers are introduced to two children who have AIDS. The text is divided into a main text for the young reader, and an informational subtext for adults. Printed in large type, the main text dominates the

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page; the informational subtext is in smaller type and placed at the bottom of the page. Appealing black and white photos balance the reassuring text.

*** Everything You Need to Know About AIDS, Barbara Taylor, Rosen Publishing Group, c1989, 1992. \$13.95 cl, 0-8239-1401-1. Gr. 7 up.

Part of the Need to Know Library, this book joins titles concerned with sexual abuse, stepfamilies, alcoholic parents and street gangs. Information about AIDS leads off the book, and is followed by chapters on how the virus works, where it began, past plagues, how the virus is spread, how people can avoid AIDS, and, finally, a chapter on the future. An excellent feature is that questions and answers about AIDS are included in a separate section. The book is further enhanced by a glossary, directory of where to go for AIDS information and help, suggestions for further reading and an index. In addition, there are photos, illustrations, case studies and charts.

*** The Facts About AIDS, Mary Turck, Macmillan, Crestwood House, 1988. \$10.95 cl, 0-89686-412-X. Gr. 5-6. (This title is listed as AIDS in CBIP.)

Turck explains the disease so readers can understand it. She believes that because many people do not understand AIDS, they make up stories about the disease. She also believes that not having the facts is one of the biggest dangers of AIDS. Chapters cover the virus, the disease, transmission, who can get AIDS, AIDS victims, dealing with other people's fear, prevention, treatments and cures. Stories of three children with AIDS round out the text. Includes glossary index, color photos.

**1/2 The Impact of AIDS, Ewan Armstrong, Gloucester Press, 1990. \$11.90 cl, 0-531-17225-2. Preschool to Gr. 3.

This book is a title in the Understanding Social Issues series which is designed to look at fundamental issues which affect our lives, how we live, the decisions we make and the society we live in. **The Impact** of AIDS is about the medical and the social impacts of AIDS on individuals and communities. Chapters cover the basics of HIV infection, people with AIDS and HIV, global issues (blaming other countries, effects on whole populations, world health), community responses (schools, churches, self-help and voluntary groups), facing the future (the search for a cure, health education, the next decade), sources of help, and what the words mean. Case studies and quotes highlight the personal dilemmas presented, and color photos and an index strengthen the text.



**** Know About AIDS, Margaret O. Hyde and Elizabeth H. Forsyth, Walker and Company, c1987, 1990. \$13.95 cl, 0-8027-6921-7; \$12.95 lib. bdg., 0-8027-6920-9. Gr. 3-7.

Hyde again succeeds in providing the basics about AIDS. Chapters discuss who gets AIDS, viruses and AIDS, the geography of AIDS, AIDS at home and in school, a death in the family, the search for a cure, testing and caring. The authors believe that it is important for young people to hear the truth about AIDS, and about what we know and what we do not know. Personal stories and sensitive black and white illustrations enrich the text. Includes suggestions for further reading and an index. Hats off to Hyde and Forsyth for two chapters in particular — "AIDS at Home and in School" and "A Death in the Family" — that address difficult issues which are often neglected in books on AIDS for young people.

*** Learning About AIDS, Alvin and Virginia Silverstein, Enslow Publishers, c1989. \$15.95 lib. bdg., 0-89490-176-1. Gr. 4-6.

This book is designed to answer young people's questions about AIDS. The authors believe that learning the facts about AIDS and how to stay safe from it can help us all to feel less frightened. They believe that it can also help us to be more understanding of those who have the disease. Chapters focus on what a healthy body is, what diseases are and they are caught, how the body's defenses work, what AIDS is,

what causes AIDS, how it is spread, and how it affects the body. The text also includes discussion of children with AIDS, how AIDS is treated, and how to stay safe from AIDS. Features a glossary, index, suggestions for further information, and black and white illustrations. **Learning about AIDS** does an excellent job of making this most complex disease understandable to young people in upper elementary school.



* STD: Sexual Transmitted Diseases, J. T. Daugirdas, MedText, 1991. \$8.95 cl, 0-9629279-0-2. Gr. 7-12.

This fact-filled text works well as a quick reference guide to six of the most commonly sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. In a precise, no-nonsense fashion, the author runs through STD symptoms and disease complications, following up information on testing procedures and partner notification. Three case studies are included. Shortcomings include silly, even puzzling diagrams depicting STD symptoms, and the fact that the case studies are really little more than undisguised lessons about the unanticipated consequences of risky sexual behavior. The book's merits include the fact that it contains more than enough information to inform kids of the basics without too much preaching, and the fact that there is an absence of chatter.

**** We Have AIDS, Elaine Landau, Franklin Watts, 1990. \$11.95 cl, 0-531-15152-2. Gr. 7 up.

This is not one but nine stories of teenagers afflicted with AIDS. Many of them appear as unlikely targets of AIDS, but it happened to them nonetheless. The teenagers tell their own stories. Each interview ends with a fact sheet about the disease in which common questions are answered and popular myths dispelled. These interviews are not news stories; they are front-line accounts that give new meaning to the experience of AIDS among teenagers. Includes source notes, a bibliography and index.

AIDS Fiction

**** Alex, the Kid with AIDS, Linda Walvoord Girard, Albert Whitman, 1990. \$12.95 cl, 0-8075-0245-6. Gr. 2-5.

Alex is a fourth grader with AIDS who misbehaves in school. He reads comic books. He plays with a video game in his desk. He distracts his Social Studies class by grinding the pencil sharpener in the middle of class. He is also scared and mad about AIDS, and lonely. The story is told from the point of view of Michael — a classmate who becomes Alex's new friend. Alex's teacher, Mrs. Timmers initially takes it easy with him, and treats him like a visitor. Then she decides to treat him like any other student. The story includes many examples of how Alex learns that although he is sick, he can't misbehave in school. AIDS information is presented by the school nurse in a talk about AIDS to Alex's class. This information is accurate. When Alex gets cut on the school skating rink the incident is treated as if it is "no big deal," although precautions are taken by Mrs. Timmers in treating Alex's injury. Girard has written a book that is, above all, about friendship.

**** David Has AIDS, Doris Sanford, Multnomah, 1989. \$6.99 cl, 0- 88070-299-0. K-4.

This is the story of David, a hemophiliac who has contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion. David lives with his grandma, who encourages him to tell God how he feels. David's short letters to God about his pain, fear and loneliness form the core of the book. Through the wisdom of his grandmother, David is able to face his approaching death with courage. Written from a child's point of view, this is a moving story that is beautifully illustrated in color. God is referred to as a "he", and David's grandma reassures him that when he dies "God will be there and it will end well." The safety and risk behaviors listed in the book are in keeping with the latest medical information.

**** Goodbye Tomorrow, Gloria Miklowitz, Delacorte, 1987. \$3.25 pb, 0- 385-29562-6. Gr. 7 up.

Alex Weiss is a high school student who contracts AIDS through a blood transfusion that saved his life after a car accident when he was 16. Miklowitz ex-

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plores the realities of how AIDS is spread and the emotional effects of the disease — on Alex, his family, girlfriend and classmates. Alex does not actually have AIDS but ARC. The main characters speak for themselves, and the range of actions and emotions is vast and powerful.

**** Losing Uncle Tim, MaryKate Jordan, Albert Whitman & Company, 1989. \$12.95 cl, 0-8075-4756-5. Gr. 2-6.

This is the story of Daniel and his favorite uncle — Uncle Tim who owns an antique store and has AIDS. Through the course of the story, Uncle Tim's health declines, and he eventually dies. Daniel's reactions to his uncle's illness and death change as the story unfolds. His parents are strong, sensitive characters who give Daniel both information about AIDS, and support and encouragement to experience the range of feeling that losing Uncle Tim provokes.

**** Laura Leonora's First Amendment, Miriam Cohen, Dutton, 1990. \$14.90 cl, 0-525-67317-2. Gr. 4-7.

Seventh grader Laura finds that she must determine what her own true beliefs are in the face of widespread community opposition to admitting a boy with AIDS to her Queens, New York school. Reactions to the news cover the gamut, from fear and panic expressed by parents, teachers and classmates, to reason and wisdom expressed by Laura's Grandpa Raphael. Laura is a fascinating character, and readers will remember her rich daydreams and admire her courage and strong values.

**** Night Kites, M. E. Kerr, Harper & Row, 1986. \$ 12.95, 0-06-023253-6; \$12.89 lib. bdg., 0-06-023254-4. \$3.50 pb, 0-06-0447035-0. Gr. 7 up.

Night Kites is the story of 17-year-old Erick Rudd, and how his comfortable and well-ordered life begins to fall apart when he is forced to keep two secrets — the identity of his new girlfriend and the nature of his 27-year-old brother Pete's debilitating illness. Kerr has done a superb job of characterization, down to Oscar, the Rudd's 14-year-old English bulldog. This is a "four star" story about family problems and about love between two brothers.

(Sarah Barbara Watstein is Associate Director for Public Services at Hunter College and co-author of AIDS and Women: A Sourcebook, Oryx.)



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> standing of Wright as a person, a thinker, and an activist." — Lois W. Banner, *American Historical Review*. Illus. Paper, \$16.95

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BACK TO PRESS AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

Back to Press

Press Gang Publishers's postcard book *Drawing* the Line by Kiss & Tell has gone back to press for a second run of 5,000 copies.

Susie Bright's *Herotica*, published by Down There Press/Yes Press, has gone back to press for its fifth printing, bringing the total number of copies in print to more then 36,000. *Herotica* 2, published in April 92 by Plume (Nal) and edited by Bright and Joani Blank, is in its second printing.

Rights

Naiad Press has sold Diane Salvatore's *Love*, *Zena Beth* to both the Book-of-the-Month Club and the Quality Paperback Book Club.

Tie-ins

In case you missed it, the May/June issue of Ms. included an article on Irish President Mary Robinson written by Attic Press author Nell McCaffery (*The Best* of Nell, Goodnight Sisters, Peggy Deery, A Woman to Blame and Women in Focus). Ms. also will publish an excerpt on Sinead O'Connor taken directly from the Attic Press title Leading Lives by Rita Wall.

Naiad Press plans to publish in 1993 the novelization of the new lesbian movie *Claire of the Moon*, written and directed by Nicole Conn.

And Other Good News

Rigoberta Menchu, a Quiche Indian from the Guatemalan highlands, has been nominated for the 1992 Noble Peace Prize for her work strengthening the cultural identity of indigenous Americans. Her autobiography, *I...Rigoberta Menchu*, was published in 1983.

The Before Columbus Foundation has announced its 1992 American Book Award winners. They are:

Raymond Andrews, Jessie and Jesus and Cousin Claire, illustrated by Benny Andrews (Peachtree); Peter Bacho, Cebu (University of Washington); William B. Branch, editor, Black Thunder: An Anthology of Contemporary African American Drama (Mentor); A'Lelia Perry Bundles, Madame C.J. Walker (Chelsea House); Jose Antonia Burciaga, Undocumented Love (Chusma House).



Fritjof Capra and David Steindl-Rast, Belonging to the Universe (HarperSanFrancisco); Steven Carter, Hansberry's Drama: Commitment Amid Complexity (University of Illinois); Norma Field, In the Realm of a Dying Emperor (Pantheon); Stephen Cox, The Unknown Internment: An Oral History of the Relocation of Italian Americans During World War II (Twayne).

Donna J. Haraway, Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature (Routledge); Peter Kalifornsky, A Dena'ina Legacy, K'tl'egb'i Sukdu: The Writings of Peter Kalifornsky, James Kari and Alan Boraas, editors, (Alaskan Native Language Center); Verlyn Klinkenborg, The Last Fine Time (Alfred A. Knopf).

Benjamin Alire Saenz, Calendar of Dust (Broken Moon); Sandra Scofield, Beyond Deserving (Permanent); Art Spiegelman, MAUS: A Survivor's Tale (Pantheon); Lucy Thompson (Che-ne-wah Weitch-ah-wah), To the American Indian, Reminiscences of a Yurok Woman (Heyday).

Children's Book Award: Sheila Hamanaka's The Journey, (Franklin Watts).

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Walter & Lillian Lowenfels Criticism Award: Keith Gilyard's Voices of the Self: A Study of Language Competence, (Wayne State University).

Editor/Publisher Award: John and Elaine Gill of Crossing Press.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Harvey Kurtzman.



Seal Press's Disappearing Moon Cafe and No More Secrets have both been winning praise. No More Secrets, by Nina Weinstein, and Disappearing Moon Cafe, by SKY Lee, have both been selected for the New York Public Library's 1992 Books for the Teen Age. No More Secrets has also been nominated for the South Carolina Young Adult Book Award and Disappearing Moon Cafe has been nominated as Best Book for Young Adults by the American Library Association.

Translators Margaret Sayers Peden and Eliot Weinberger have won the first Gregory Kolovakos Award from PEN. Kolovakos, who died in 1990, was a translator and the director of the Literature Program at the New York State Council on the Arts. He also was long active on PEN's Translation Committee and served as chair of the PEN Fund for Writers and Editors with AIDS.

The fiction winner of the fifth Western States Book Awards for outstanding authors and publishers working in the West is Rebecca Wells for *Little Altars Everywhere*, published by Broken Moon Press.

The Lila Wallace-Readers' Digest Literary Publishers Marketing Development Program has awarded 15 grants to literary presses and magazines to assist their marketing plans. Presses receiving \$8,000 "phase one" grants were Arte Publico Press, Bilingual Press, Coffee House Press, Copper Canyon Press, Curbstone Press, Milkweed Editions, Sun and Moon Press, University of Iowa Press and White Pine Press. Presses receiving "phase two" grants were The Feminist Press (\$85,000), BOA Editions (\$50,000), Dalkey Archive Press (\$85,000), Graywolf Press (\$70,000) and the Theatre Communications Group (\$100,000).

Jane Severance's *Ghost Pains* (Sheba Feminist Press), which charts the lives to two American teenagers and their alcoholic mother, received its U.S. launch

at the Tattered Cover in Denver and was launched in the U.K. with a conference organized by Sheba on the problems faced children of alcoholics — the first conference ever to bring all the alcohol organizations together.

Anyda Marchant, a moving force behind the foundation of Naiad Press and an author writes under the name Sarah Aldridge (*A Flight of Angles*, Naiad), recently received the 1992 Jeanine Rae Award for the Advancement of Women's Culture. The award is presented annually by the Women in the Arts/National Women's Music Festival Inc.

Wick Edelhauser has won the 1992 Women's Words Writing Competition held by Still Water Press and will have her first collection of poetry, *Beneath the Wave*, published by the press. $-AM \odot$



Woman in the Moon (WIM) Publications will be doing a "Big Bash of a Fund Raiser" to raise funds to print their *Lesbian and Gay Wedding Album*. "A classy dinner, a dance, a slide show, and the one woman show of SDiane Bogus." If you're going to be in the greater Bay Area on September 12, from 1-7 pm, call Karen Schreifels for location and invitations. 415-965-1420.



If you're in London in October check out "Enterprising Women" the 1992 Women in Publishing Conference for editors, writers, illustrators, graphic designers, literary agents, publishers and booksellers. The goal of the conference is to celebrate and encourage women in business ventures. Issues covered will include law and finance, promotion and advertising, training, and feminist business practices. The conference will be Saturday, October 24, 10:00 to 5:30 at the Amadeus Centre, 50 Shirland Road, Maida Vale, London W9. For more information contact Ekene Akalawu, 24 Dundonald Rd., Kensal Rise, London NW10 3HR. Make checks to Women In Publishing. Price: £15 waged; £10 unwaged (including food).

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Compiled by Ann Morse

New and Future Stores

Denise Langman writes us from Tel Aviv that she's opened a shop selling cards, posters and children's books. She would like women to send her catalogs featuring feminist and lesbian art, buttons, cards, posters and stickers, and non-sexist children's books. The shop is still in the "nappie" stage, but Denise hopes to eventually carry a large selection of feminist titles. Send information to Deni Langman, 33 Balfour St., Entrance B, Tel Aviv 65211 Israel.

Patricia Jaloza, Kathy Brooks and Linda Cornell are looking for a space in the Santa Cruz, Ca area to open a women's bookstore. Send catalogs to them at 379 Lee St., Santa Cruz CA 95060; 408-427-9510.

Michael Lary is the manager and Alex Hardesty the assistant manager at Middleground, a new lesbian and gay bookstore at 17550 Woodward Ave., Detroit MI 48203; 313-869-6841.

There's a fledgling feminist-lesbian-gay-multicultural bookstore in Kensington, CA that we're interested in learning more about. It's Boadecia's Books at 398 Colusa Ave., Kensington CA 94707; 510-559-9184.



Jeri Benedetto plans to open The Woman Reader's Bookshop in Eureka, CA in August. The store will have 650 square feet available for retail and additional space in the back for art shows and other events. 223 2nd St., Eureka CA 95501; 707-445-3930.

Trudy Adams and Susan Danko are opening Sweet Violets, a feminist-lesbian bookstore and giftshop, on the upper peninsula of Michigan. Their address is 413 North 3rd St., Marquette, MI 49855; 906-228-3301. The grand opening for Her Story Bookstore, a feminist-lesbian bookstore, will be August 8 and 9. Owner Kit Snyder says the store will be open seven days a week and will sell books and sidelines, including gourmet coffees. Her Story Bookstore, North Front St., Wrightsville, PA 17368; 717-252-0188.

Carlos Diaz and Franklin Moore have started Pink Ink, a new mail order book business featuring lesbian and gay fiction. They can be reached at 619-327-0103.



John Thew has also started a new lesbian and gay book club. He calls his service Pages. For more information, contact the club at PO Box 80725, Minneapolis MN 55408.

We've heard from two people planning to open bookstores in Iowa City: Catherine Lundoff will take over a whole house to open Grassroots Books at 614 South Dubuque St. (zip 52240). She plans to sell lesbian, feminist, some gay men's, and leftist books as well as music, T-shirts and other sidelines. Phone: 319-339-4678.

Chris Kopczynski is shooting for a September opening for his gay and lesbian bookstore in Iowa City. A former Glad Day Bookshop (Boston) employee, Chris can be reached at 909 7th Ave., Iowa City IA 52240.

Victor Line and Bob Wiley run Triangle World, a gay men's store at 3101 South Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo MI 49008.

Lorraine Crum and David Crum have opened Just A Matter of Crime at 200 John Knox Road, Tallahassee FL 32303.

Violet's Books, a new feminist/lesbian store, has moved from N. Andover to Walpole, MA. The store's new address is 532 Elm Road (PO Box 637), Walpole MA 02081.

Closed and Closing

After two bombings, three bomb threats and promised pressure from a local anti-pornography group, the lesbian and gay Closet Bookstore in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (zip 17603) closed in May. We send all our thanks to owner Nancy Helm for her tremendous work in the face of such oppression.



Bread and Roses feminist bookstore in Sherman Oaks, CA (zip 91423) has closed after 10 years because of financial pressures. We hear there's a strong possibility of another feminist store opening in the area, so keep your ears to the feminist grapevine.

Also closed are New Leaf Books in Rockland, ME 04841 and the Open Door Bookstore in Louisville, KY 40206.

Two important publications will be missed: *Matrix*, the monthly feminist magazine in Santa Cruz, has ceased publication after 16 years; and *Rites*, the 8-year-old Canadian lesbian and gay magazine, published its last issue earlier this year.

Moved

Modern Times Bookstore in San Francisco has moved to a bigger, beautiful new location at 888 Valencia St. (zip 94110). The actual move took just three hours — a miracle accomplished with the help of some 60 customers who showed up to carry boxes. Sales at the new Modern Times location are up 30 percent, on essentially the same inventory. The new space also has an 80-seat hall in the back of the store for readings and other events.

The Northern Women's Bookstore has moved from Camelot Street in Thunder Bay to a larger, accessible space at 65 South Court St., Thunder Bay ONT P7B 2X2 Canada. The store's phone number remains 807-344-7979.

The new provisional address for the Fourth International Feminist Book Fair is María José Aubet, Enrique Granados, 140, 08008 Barcelona Spain.

Women's Sports and Fitness magazine has moved to 2025 Pearl St., Boulder CO 80302.

Small Changes has a new post office box and street address: 316 Terry Ave. N, PO Box 19046, Seattle WA 98109; 206-382-1980.

The Sidran Foundation and Press have moved to

2328 West Joppa Road, Suite 15, Lutherville MD 21093; 410-825-8888.

Books Move Too

Ana Castillo's *The Mixquiahuala Letters*, originally published by Bilingual Press (1986), has been published by Anchor Books (\$8 pb, 0-385-42013-7).

HarperSanFrancisco has canceled the publication of *Daughters of Africa: An International Anthology of Literature by Women*, edited by Margaret Busby and announced in FBN Vol.14 No. 5.

Peg Cruikshank's new book, *The Gay and Lesbian* Liberation Movement, will be published in July by Routledge. (Originally the manuscript was commissioned by Unwin Hyman, which was bought by HarperCollins in London, the academic division of which was bought by Routledge. Whew.) Cruikshank, author of *The Lesbian Path*, *New Lesbian Writing* and *Lesbian Studies*, teaches English and gay/lesbian literature at the City College of San Francisco.

Videos move also: Wolfe Video (408-268-6782) has acquired the distribution rights to the lesbian soap opera *Two in Twenty*.

Milestones

Sasha Alyson, founder and publisher of the 12year-old Alyson Publications, announced in May that he will retire by the end of this year to pursue AIDSrelated activities. The press is up for sale, but if a suitable buyer is not found during the next few months, Alyson said he will explore ways for the press to continue under his ownership but without his dayto-day presence.

Los Angeles' 51-year-old Aquarian Bookshop, the country's oldest Black-owned bookstore, burned to the ground during the riots following the Rodney King verdict. The fire destroyed more than \$200,000 worth of uninsured books. Efforts are underway to rebuild the institution.



New Names

Kathleen Hawk has sold her store Dream Street (St. Augustine, FL) to Diane English.

Kim Nicholas is the new owner of the Seattlebased Fremont Place Book Company, formerly owned by Pam Helberg. O

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Elena Featherston is seeking writing and artwork by women of color about their experiences with colorism and cross-racial hostility for *Skin Deep: Colorism in America*, to be published by Crossing Press in 1993. Contact Featherston & Associates, 4104 24th St. Suite 153, San Francisco CA 94114; 415- 821-0126.

Sister Vision Press is calling for written and visual work for the first anthology published in Canada by and about bisexual women. Send SASE and work (on IBM compatible disc and printed copy, if possible) to the Bisexual Women's Anthology, c/o Sister Vision Press, PO Box 217, Station E, Toronto ONT Canada M6H 4E2. Deadline: September 1, 1992.

Esto No Tiene Nombre, a quarterly magazine by and about Latina lesbians, seek graphics, articles and creative writing in Spanish, Spanglish or English by Latina lesbians. Send work to *Esto No Tiene Nombre*, 4700 NW 7 St. #463, Miami FL 33126 at least 30 days before the planned publication dates of September 21 and December 21, 1992.

Lyn Staack is seeking writings for an anthology about women with facial hair. "As a lesbian with a mustache and beard I am especially interested in work focusing on how we choose to present ourselves, issues of pride/shame, self-acceptance, interactions with others, etc. and how factors like class, family, age, race and sexual identity affect decisions to bleach, shave, trim, grow, or remove. Send a SASE to Lyn Staack, PO Box 2329 Hartford VT 05047.

Stories from the 1970s are sought for a book about the grassroots beginnings of lesbian-feminist culture as it emerged through music. Artists, producers, distributors, promoters, photographers, technicians and audience members all invited to contribute. Send SASE to Kristan Aspen, PO Box 15121, Portland OR 97215. The 1993 multicultural *Take Back the Night Lunar Calendar* seeks women visual artists and writers. Full Womoon Productions, PO Box 1205, Santa Cruz CA 95061.

Candace Chellew seeks writings for a collection of stories about the lesbian and gay Christian experience, especially pieces on why you may have left the church, how you reconciled and what your spiritual life is like today. Send a SASE to Candace Chellew, PO Box 1251, Decatur GA 30031.



Manuscripts are wanted for an anthology exploring the social, political and economic impact of the Israeli military occupation on Jewish Iraeli, Arab and Palestinian women in Israel/Palestine. Send abstracts to Tamar Mayer, Geography Department, Middlebury College, Middlebury VT 05753; 802-388-3711 ext. 5568.

Original, unpublished writings and artworks are wanted for *Sistersong: Women Across Cultures*, a new triannual journal exploring the condition of contemporary women's lives around the world. The January 1993 theme is work (deadline for submissions is November 30, 1992) and the May 1993 theme is body (deadline March 15, 1993). Send to *Sistersong*, PO Box 7405, Pittsburgh PA 15213.

Drawings, dreams, photos, stories, poems, songs, prayers, rituals, meditations and other creative submissions are sought for *WeMoon '93*, the theme of which will be "invoking spiritual/elemental power. Mother Tongue Ink, 37010 SE Snuffin Road, Estacada OR 97023; 503—630-7848.

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Powerful and compelling. . . . A book for our times

This touching anthology includes stories, poems, questions and answers, all pertaining to the losses of lesbians, and their ways to recovery.

Part I details with breakups; Part II deals with losses by death.

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"WRITE FROM THE HEART... LESBIANS HEALING FROM HEARTACHE" was written to inspire and give hope to those experiencing the myriad painful feelings of loss. It is a thoughtful, often intense, sometimes even lighthearted reading for all lesbians— and for anyone who has ever experienced the loss of a relationship.

This Baby Steps Press publication is available through BOOK PEOPLE, INLAND BOOKS, and PACIFIC PIPELINE.

> Editor/Publisher: Anita L. Pace, (503) 524-7105 Baby Steps Press: PO Box 1917, Beaverton, OR 97075

Fiction and nonfiction are sought for *Lavender Life*, a new monthly entertainment/enrichment magazine for lesbians and gay men. *Lavender Life*, 215 Cleveland Ave., Endicott NY 13760.

The Disabled Wommin's Newsletter seeks stories, dreams, poems, drawings, articles, journal entries and more. Send SASE to Disabled Wommin's Newsletter, 2 Sun Lane, Poughkeepsie NY 12601.

Athena, the international newsletter for victory over domestic violence, is soliciting input for upcoming issues, including those on the themes lesbian battering, ex-batterers speak out and elderly abuse. Athena, PO Box 5028, Thousand Oaks CA 91320.

Being a lesbian in Israel is the topic of a new anthology. Send poems, stories and prose to Ayelet HaMaidbar Publications, 1678 Shattuck Ave. #133, Berkeley CA 94709.

Susan Rogers is compiling two anthologies Sportsdykes (women and sports) and Women on the Edge (women and the outdoors). Send submissions to Rogers at PO Box 23, Bard College, Annadale NY 12504.

Mariel Burch and Monika Franzen are collecting stories from mothers who have learned that their adult daughters were sexually abused as children/adolescents. The anthology will emphasize the mother's perspective as well as self-help information. Send to *Mother's Book*, 6732 E. State Blvd. #338, Fort Wayne IN 46815.

Running Deer Press seeks submissions for its new magazine Writing For Our Lives: Creative Expressions in Writing by Women. Send to Janet McEwan (Editor and Publisher), Running Deer PRess, 647 N. Santa Cruz Ave., The Annex, Los Gatos CA 95030; 408-354-8604. Upcoming deadlines are September 15, 1992; February 15, 1993 and August 15, 1993.

Roz Warren, editor of Crossing's Women's Glib and Kitty Libber, seeks brief (10 lines maximum), hilarious, feminist rhymed verse and one-liners by women for the Women's Glib 1994 Cartoon Calendar. Also wanted are submissions for the humor anthology Women's Glib III, especially writings about disability and related issues. Roz Warren, Women's Glib, PO Box 259, Bala Cynwyd PA 19004.

Terri Jewell seeks first-person essays, fiction, humor, cartoon, interviews with non-celebrities (especially with elders) and poetry for an anthology to be called *Snap! Black Gays and Lesbians Tell It All.* Send SASE and black-and-white photograph of yourself to Jewell at PO Box 23154, Lansing MI 48909.



The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Foundation is accepting proposals for its third biannual Corinne Guntzel Memorial Grant: \$250 to \$500 grants intended to support research or educational projects relating to women's history. Send proposals (including a brief description of the project, its significance, intended audience, time line, how the money will be used and background of the participants) to Guntzel Grants, c/o Harlene Gilbert, 5338 East Lake Road, Romulus NY 14541. Deadline: September 1, 1992. — AM O

July/August 1992

GAY MEN'S LIT FOR FEMINIST BOOKSTORES

By Richard Labonte A Different Light Bookstore/San Francisco

In my first column on gay male titles of potential interest to women's bookstores with some gay clientele, I'd like to start by providing a basic fiction list and a basic nonfiction list — the type of title which fits onto what I call "the eternal bibliography".

Many of these are older titles, but their solid backlist sales and their inherent quality make them worth stocking.

FICTION

A Boy's Own Story by Edmund White (Plume, \$9 pb, 0-452-26352-2), and its sequel, The Beautiful Room is Empty (Ballantine, \$4.95 pb, 0-345-35151-7), both classic coming-out stories; Melvin Dixon's powerful novel Vanishing Rooms (Plume, \$9 pb, 0-452-26761-7), about homophobia and interracial love; the six volumes in Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City series, of course (Tales of the City, More Tales of the City, Further Tales of the City, Babycakes, Significant Others, Sure of You, all \$11 from HarperCollins); The Lost Language of Cranes by David Leavitt (Ban-



tam, \$10pb, 0-553-34465-X), in which interest is sure to be revived because of the PBS broadcast of the British (alas, bowdlerized) film based on the book, for plain good writing, **Dancing on Tisha B'av** by Lev Raphael (St. Martin's, \$8.95, 0-312-06326-1) for its insights into Jewish gay life; all of the mysteries of Michael Nava (**The Little Death** and **Goldenboy**, \$7.95 pb, 0-932870-96-1, and \$8.95 pb, 1-55583-130-3, both Alyson, and **Howtown**, Ballantine, \$3.99 pb, 0-345-36987-4); Andrew Holleran's **Dancer From the Dance** (Plume, \$8.95, 0-452-26129-5), and Christopher Isherwood's A Single Man (FSG, \$10.95pb, 0-374-52038-0).



NONFICTION

John McNeill's Taking a Chance on God (Beacon, \$10.95 pb, 0-8070-7903-0) and The Church & the Homosexual (Beacon, \$11.95 pb, 0-8070-7901-4), Chris Glaser's Come Home! (HarperCollins \$10.95, 0-06-063124-4) and Uncommon Calling (HarperCollins, \$9.95, 0-06-063122-8), Malcolm Boyd's Gay Priest (St. Martin's \$8.95, 0-312-01031-1), John Boswell's Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality (University of Chicago, \$18.95 pb, 0-226-06711-4), all solid religion sellers; Gay Sex by Jack Hart (Alyson, \$10 pb, 1-55583-170-2) as a good how-to manual; The Male Couple's Guide to Living Together by Eric Marcus (new edition due in July, HarperCollins, \$14pb, 0-06-096936-9), The Best Little Boy in the World by John Reid (Ballantine, \$4.95 pb, 0-345-34361-1), The David Kopay Story by David Kopay (Donald Fine, \$8.95pb, 1-556-11080-4) and Sudden Strangers (St. Martin's, \$8.95 pb, 0-312-07855-2) and Reflections of a Rock Lobster (Alyson, \$6.95 pb, 0-932870-09-0) by Aaron Fricke, for coming-outers; The Mayor of Castro Street by Randy Shilts (St. Martin's, \$10.95 pb, 0-312-01900-9), Cures: A Gay Man's Odyssey by Martin Duberman (Plume, \$11 pb, 0-452-26780-3), The Androgyne Journal by James Broughton (Broken Moon, \$10 pb, 0-913089-22-2) and The Trouble With Harry Hay by Stuart Timmons (Alyson, \$12.95 pb, 1-55583-111-7), for some history.

In future installments of this column, I'll graze through my store, a section or two at a time, and suggest a handful of titles from each area as a reminder of some more valuable older titles, for any store looking to keep gay male classics in stock.

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As for the newer: it's a good summer and fall for gay male hardcover fiction. Despite the expense, here are a few titles worth considering.

Love Junkie by Robert Plunkett (HarperCollins, \$20 cl, 0-06-016660-6), Easy Way Out by Stephen Mc-Cauley (Simon & Schuster, \$20 cl, 0-671-70818-X) and the short story collection Fidelities by Richard Hall (Viking, \$21cl, 0-670-83785-7) all blend good writing and good story-telling, and the first two especially fit the definition of light summer reading.



The tone is more daunting in **The Indoor Boy** by Anthony Sher (Viking, \$20 cl, 0-670-84456-X), in which the central character deals with his marriage, his homosexuality, his family and with the racism of his homeland, South Africa; and the best bury-yourselfin-a-read of all comes from **Almost History** by Christopher Bram (Donald Fine, \$22.50 cl, 1-55611-231-9), an epic spanning several decades in the life of a gay member of the U.S. State Department.

And for baseball (or even softball) fans, there is Peter Lefcourt's **The Dreyfuss Affair** (Crown, \$20 cl, 0-679-40344-2), a cute tale about a shortstop in love with his third baseman.

In more affordable trade paperback, a must-stock is Jesse Green's delightful novel **O Beautiful** (Ballantine, \$9 pb,0-345-37470-3), a sweet story about a gay man in love with a straight man, and for a first author a runaway, word-of-mouth bestseller; also new in paper are Peter McGehee's **Boys Like Us** (St. Martin's, \$8.95 pb, 0-312-06913-8), a lovely, wistful comic novel about gay "family"; Richard Hall's **Family Fictions** (Penguin, \$11 pb, 0-14-014796-9), a powerful story about how a gay son fits into a family afraid of honesty; and Paul Monette's **Halfway Home** (Avon, \$10, 0-280-71797-2), whose central character is a younger brother with AIDS who comes to the rescue of his older straight brother

Probably the bestselling trade paper original of the summer is Essex Hemphill's **Ceremonies** (Plume, \$10 pb, 0-452-26817-6), a strong collection of prose and poetry from the editor of *Brother to Brother* (Alyson, \$8.95 pb,1-55583-146-X).

Paul Monette, by the way, is also author of Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story (HBJ, \$19.95 cl, 0-15-111519-2), his intensely personal memoir of growing up gay, pre-AIDS. Any store which sells his AIDS memoir *Borrowed Time* (Avon, \$9.95 pb, 0-380-70779-9) will want to stock it.

Other current nonfiction, this time in paper, includes: Holly Woodlawn's chatty take on the Warhol years, A Low Life in High Heels (HarperCollins, \$13 pb, 0-06-097512-1); and, more seriously Homosexuals and Male Bonding in Pre-Nazi Germany by Harry Oosterhuis and Hubert Kennedy (\$17.95 pb, 1-56023-008-8), and Sexuality and Eroticism Among Males in Moslem Societies by Arno Schmitt and Jehoeda Sofer (\$16.95 pb, 0-918393-91-4), both from Harrington Park Press — whose prices have risen dramatically in the past couple of years, but whose books still sell: the hunger for information about both American and other-culture life is nowhere near sated.

Current trade fiction includes **Discontents: New Queer Writing** (Amethyst, \$12.95 pb, 0-927200-10-4), edited by Dennis Cooper with the work of both women and men, culled from the 'zines; **Tough Acts To Follow** (Alamo Square Press, IN?BP, \$9.95 pb, 0-9624751-6-5) edited by Noreen Barnes and Nicholas Deutsch, a collection of both lesbian and gay plays, and **Making Out: Plays by Gay Men** (Coach House Press, IN/BP, \$16.95 pb, 0-88910-434-4) edited by Robert Wallace; and the long-awaited paper edition of **Poets for Life: Seventy-Six Poets Respond to AIDS**, edited by Michael Klein (Persea, \$11.95 pb, 0-8925-5170-4).

Another one for any good poetry section: The Man With Night Sweats by Thom Gunn (FSG, \$15 cl, 0-374-20175-7), a searing reflection on a decade of AIDS deaths.



And one more on AIDS: in his column last October, Ed Hermance tipped you off to **Promise to Remember: The NAMES Project Book of Letters** edited by J. Brown (Avon, \$10, 0-380-76711-2). It was originally set for last November; look for it this year in September, its release times to coincide with a tour of the NAMES Project quilt.

To wrap up this first column, I'd like to pay my respects to Ed, who filled this space for the past couple *See* Gay Lit., page 60.

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Books in Canada: BORDER CROSSING

By Penny Goldsmith

In this "after the new spring books and before the new fall books" lull, I will catch you up on some Canadian titles, old and new, that you might have missed and that might provide interesting summer reading for your customers and for yourselves.

At the BC Books Prizes which were awarded in May in Vancouver, children's author Alexandra Morton won the children's book award with **Siwiti: A Whale's Story**, the story of a killer whale in the first year of its life. (\$16.95, 0-920501-56-7. Orca Books, PO Box 5626, Station B, Victoria, BC V8R 6S4, Pacific Pipeline in the States). Another book of interest from Orca for the crafts-oriented customer is **The Magic of Linen**, by Linda Heinrich, which includes everything from making the cloth to processing, spinning, dyeing, weaving and projects to make for beginners and experts (\$29.95, 0-920501-67-2).

Shortlisted for the fiction award at the prizes were M.A.C Farrant's first collection of short stories, **Sick Pigeon** (\$16.00, 0-920633-83-8), from Thistledown Press (633 Main Street, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7H 0J8. (306) 244-1722 (ph), 244-1762 (fax)). Also shortlisted was Vancouver author Maureen Moore's first novel, **The Illumination of Alice Mallory** (\$19.95, 0-00-223667-2), a witty satire on modern relationships and social class. It's available from Harper Collins Canada, 1995 Markham Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1B 5M8. Phone: 416-321-2241; fax: 416-321-3033.

Moving on to other fiction collections worth reading, **Rapid Transits and Other Stories** is an excellent first collection of short stories by Holly Rubinsky (Polestar, \$12.95, 0-919591-56-6, available from Raincoast Books, 112 E. 3rd Ave., Vancouver, BC V5T 1C8. Phone: 873-6581; fax: 874-2711). In the States from Inland and Bookslinger).



NeWest Press in Alberta has several interesting new books which might appeal to women's bookstores. White Lies is an autobiography by Liza Potvin based on fifteen years of journal entries chronicalling the author's memories of being sexually abused by her father and grandfather and the impact of this abuse on her relationship with her mother (\$14.95, 0-920897-13-4). The Hungry Spirit: Selected Plays and Prose by Elsie Park Gowan is a collection of interviews of the author and six of her plays spanning 20 years of writing. Yellow Boots by Vera Lysenko was first published in 1954. It is the story of a girl's efforts to free herself from the shackles of peasant superstition while at the same time trying to preserve the permanent values of her Ukrainian heritage. NeWest Press books are available in Canada from UTP, in the States from Bookslinger, Inland, UTP (New York).

Off the Beaten Track is the story of 14 women explorers, writers, artists, mountaineers and trail guides who were active in exploring the mountain ranges of western Canada during the period between 1885 and World War II. (\$16.95, 0-9692457-2-6; available directly from Coyote Books, PO Box 1355, Jasper, Alberta, Canada, TOE 1E0).

Penny Goldsmith has been involved in the Canadian publishing world for almost 20 years. She has worked for various small publishers in both Ontario and, now, in British Columbia, which has been her home for the past 15 years. She is the owner of Lazara Press, a literary publishing house in Vancouver, British Columbia which has been operating since 1982.

A couple of collections of verse for poetry lovers: from Coteau Books in Regina, Saskatchewan, Anne Szumigalski's **Rapture of the Deep** is a powerful collection of the award-winning and nationally acclaimed poet's work (\$10.95, 1-55050-022-8. UTP, Bookslinger, Inland). **Aqua** is by Anne Marriott, who has published nine books of poetry and is a Governor General's Award winner. This latest collection is published by Wolsak and Wynn and can be ordered directly from Box 316, Don Mills Post Office, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada, M3C 2S7.



Moving to the other end of the country, Newfoundland Women is a collection of the best of the biographies from *A Woman's Almanac: Voices from Newfoundland and Labrador* by Marian Francis White (\$14.95, 1-895387-10-8). It is published by Creative Publishers, PO Box 8660, St. John's, Newfoundland. Phone: 709-722-8500, fax: 722-2228. Available from Inland and Bookslinger in the States. If you're interested in literature and poetry from Newfoundland, ask for a catalogue from Killick Press, the literary imprint of Creative Publishers.

Back to poetry again (I have faith there are poetry readers out there), Brick Books has three books newly out. Carolyn Smart's **The Way to Come Home** is her fourth collection in which the poet's "outward eye is as acute as the inward" (\$10.95, 0-919626-56-4). Anne Carson's book is called **Short Talks** and is described as "lyric sermons: riddle-poems that consist only of answers." (\$10.95, 0-919626-58-0) In **Pale as Real Ladies: Poems for Pauline Johnson**, Joan Crate describes "... Johnson's personal and family life as seen through the prism of modern sensibilities and an acute sensitivity ..." (\$9.95, 0-919626-43-2). Brick Books are available in the States through Bookslinger, and elsewhere from the publisher at PO Box 38, Station B, London, Ontario N6A 4V3. Phone: 519-657-8579.

And a poetry book from one of Canada's most popular poets, Lorna Crozier, called **Inventing the Hawk** (\$12.99, 0-7710-2477-0). Published by McClelland and Stewart, Crozier's poems are "witty, sexually provocative, playful and intimate." Also just out from M&S, a new novel from one of my favourite Canadian writers, Sandra Birdsell, entitled **The Chrome Suite** (\$16.99, 0-7710-1452X). The book "brings brilliantly to life nearly four decades in the life of scriptwriter Amy Barber, and uncovers the effects of loss and absence, the inadvertent damage that can be caused by the most ordinary, wellmeaning family." M&S books are available from 380 Esna Park Drive, Markham, Ontario L3R 1H5. Phone: 416-940-8855; fax: 940-8864.

To end off, as is my wont, here are a couple of new mysteries from Canadian authors. Alison Gordon used to be a sports journalist; for five years she covered the Toronto Blue Jays, becoming the first woman on the American League beat. She's written two Kate Henry mysteries already, and has just come out with a new one called *Night Game* from McClelland and Stewart (see ordering information above). Kate Henry is a sports writer, and this new book is set against the backdrop of spring training. A highly touted rookie from the Dominican Republic is arrested for murder and Kate has to deal with a racist local chief of police as she helps clear the suspect and find the real murderer.

And from Vancouver, Elizabeth Bowers, author of *Ladies' Night*, has just come out with a new thriller from Douglas & McIntyre. It's called **No Fowarding Address**, and is even better than her first mystery. Private investigator Meg Lacey is hired to find the missing sister of her client. A seemingly straightforward investigation turns uglier and uglier as Meg delves into Sherry's past. With hindsight, I can say that while many other feminists may not be surprised by the ending, I was shocked when I came to it. (\$24.95, 1-55054-007-6, contact D&M at 1615 Venables Street, Vancouver, BC V5L 2H1, ph 604-254-7191; fax 254-9099). Published in the U.S. by Seal Press.

Gay Lit., continued from page 58.

of years. Giovanni's Room, his store in Philadelphia, was one of my gay meccas long before I dreamed of getting into the business of bookselling 13 years ago, and Ed's work as both a bookseller and an importer and exporter of our literature has contributed greatly to our growth.

Richard Labonte manages A Different Light Bookstore in San Francisco and supervises operations at A Different Light in West Hollywood. He recently survived the closing of the first A Different Light in Los Angeles, which he helped open in 1979. He sells books because he likes to read books, and he reads books because he was raised by sensible parents.

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An uncommonly brief column this issue; the fall (and some winter and spring) announcements will be forthcoming next time, along with whatever news emerges at Readercon 5 (where James Tiptree Jr. is the dead guest of honor) and Gaylaxicon 4, whose guest of honor will be Canadian writer Tanya Huff (**The Fire's Stone, Blood Trail**, etc.).

Latest news from James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award organizers is that **The Bakery Men Don't See** has been nominated for a Hugo Award in nonfiction. Hugos are given by members of the Worldcon, which will be held this September in Florida.

Finally, Carol Severance won the Compton Crook/Stephen Tall Memorial Award for her first novel, **Reefsong.** Runners-up were Jane Fancher for **Ground Ties** (Questar) and Michelle Sagara for **Into the Dark Lands** (Del Rey).

And now, a few books:



ACE BOOKS

Cybernetic Jungle, by S. N. Lewitt (\$4.50 pb, 0-441-02257-X). Shariann Lewitt follows up *Blind Justice* with another well-done, grittily urban, politically sophisticated novel, set this time in Brasilia, where a handful of family/conglomerates have parlayed their control of the remaining rainforest into formidable political and economic power. The main protagonists are a female "cousin" of one such family and the visionary, once-privileged male leader of a street gang.

ATHENEUM

Weirdos of the Universe, Unite! by Pamela F. Service (0-689-31746-8, \$13.95 cl). In this YA, schoolmates Mandy and Owen constitute the entire membership of WEIRD (Weird Entities in Rightful Domination), the class anti-conformists. Their joint project on mythological beings takes them on a very weird journey, involving (among others) Baba Yaga, Coyote, a Chinese dragon, the Horned King, and some genuine space invaders.



BAEN BOOKS

The Meri, by Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff (\$4.99 pb, 0-671-72115-1). A young girl orphaned by violence is apprenticed to a wise mage in a culture that prefers women in their appointed places. The familiar scenario turns strange by the end, when young Meredydd, having passed her test to become a full mage, is instead mystically transformed into goddesshead — or something. It's less than satisfying, emotionally, politically, or literarily.

DAW BOOKS

Jaran, by Kate Elliott (\$4.99 pb, 0-88677-513-2). A somewhat uneasy blend of fantasy (Russian-flavored nomads on a backwater planet) and science fiction (human-run space has been conquered and mastered by aliens with a strong mercantile bent, who have elevated their most determined human opponent, Charles Soerensen, to high status). The protagonist is Charles's much-younger sister and heir, Tess, who naturally falls in love with the enigmatic nomad leader.

FIREBRAND BOOKS

Speaking Dreams, by Severna Park (\$9.95 pb, 1-56341-014-4). This first novel tries harder than most to be science fiction as well as lesbian romance; I was curious enough to read all the way through. Had the

author been asked for details at almost every step of the way — for one thing, how did slavery become re-established in this universe evidently derived from our own? —the book would have been stronger. A more serious liability is the novel's reluctance to grapple directly, at first hand, with what is clearly intended to be a major theme: slavery, power, freedom. We see it all from the outside but rarely through the main character's eyes.



MCELDERRY BOOKS (distributed by Macmillan)

Hobkin, by Peni R. Griffin (\$14.95 cl, 0-689-50539-6). A must-carry YA that — like Susan Palwick's *Flying in Place* — uses the ghost story to explore themes of sexual abuse, escape, and healing. Kay, barely out of high school, takes younger sister Liza and runs from their stepfather's abuse. They settle in a small Texas town, in an abandoned farm whose resident brownie, Hobkin, teaches Liza the basics of cookery, cleaning, and growing up. The device is light but effective; it makes the girls' successful escape all the more plausible.

TOR

Mairelon the Magician, by Patricia C. Wrede (\$3.99 pb). In an alternative Regency London, a streetwise young woman named Kim, disguised as a boy, lives by her wits and is drawn into a mystery surrounding a stolen magic silver set. Wrede is an enjoyable writer; her fantasies are charming. 07/92

Briar Rose, by Jane Yolen (\$17.95 cl, 0-312-85135-9). A compact (fewer than 200 pages) knockout of a novel, the latest in editor Terri Windling's series of fairy tale retellings. "Briar Rose" is often and hauntingly told by Gemma, who came to the U.S. as a refugee from Nazi Germany, to her young granddaughters. After Gemma's death, Becca, the youngest, sets herself to explore Gemma's unknown life, a journey that takes her to the death camp at Chelmo and a new and grim understanding of the familiar story. Recommended. 09/92

WALKER & COMPANY

Child of Faerie, Child of Earth, by Josepha Sherman (\$14.95 cl, 0-8027-8112-8). Percinet, the halfhuman son of the Queen of Faerie falls in love with Graciosa, the plucky daughter of a preoccupied medieval nobleman — whose society is so anti-magic that Graciosa doesn't dare give in to her feelings despite the growing malevolence of her stepmother. The story isn't new, but the writing in this YA is definitely better than average. O

Book Kit, continued from page 11.

Mahji Hall, "T" is for "Terrific"/"T" es por "Terrifico", Open Hand, \$4.95.

- Inez Maury, My Mother the Mail Carrier/Mi Mama La Cartera, Feminist Press, \$7.95. (Also in families.)
- L. Rankin, Handmade Alphabet, Dial, \$13.95. (Also listed in health and differing abilities.)
- Fumiko Takeshita, The Park Bench, Kane/Miller, \$6.95.

Khanh Tuyet Tran, Little Weaver of Thai-Yen Village, Children's Book Press, \$12.95.

Lina Wall, Judge Rabbit and the Tree Spirit, Children's Book Press, \$13.95.

Health and Differing Abilities:

- Nancy Carlson, Arnie and the New Kid, Viking Press, \$11.95.
- Remy Charlip, et al., Handtalk Birthday, Aladdin, \$4.95.
- David Fassler, What's a Virus Anyway: The Kid's Books About AIDS, Waterfront Books, \$8.95.
- Emily Hearn, Good Morning Franny, Women's Educational Press, \$4.95.
- Dorothy Levi, A Very Special Friend, Gallaudet University Press, \$8.95.
- Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault, Knots on a Counting Rope, Henry Holt, \$14.95.
- Margaret Merrifield, Come Sit By Me, Women's Press/Canada, \$6.95.
- Marybeth Quinsey, Why Does That Man Have Such a Big Nose?, Parenting Press, \$4.95.
- L. Rankin, *Handmade Alphabet*, Dial, \$13.95. (Also listed in bilingual.)
- Fumiko Takeshita, The Park Bench, Kane/Miller, \$6.95.
- Khanh Tuyet Tran, Little Weaver of Thai-Yen Village, Children's Book Press, \$12.95.
- Lina Wall, Judge Rabbit and the Tree Spirit, Children's Book Press, \$13.95.

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By Tee Corinne

It's been a hectic and rewarding two months and it was wonderful seeing so many of you at ABA and having the opportunity to visit the bright, wellstocked, Alaska Women's Bookstore in Anchorage. The Alaska visit came from being in a show of works of art that have been censored in the U.S. Hope it becomes a book.

Mud Woman by Nora Naranjo-Morse juxtaposes magical figurative pottery with poetry. Naranjo-Morse (b. 1953) is Pueblo and uses traditional methods to craft complex images which resonate with stories, told or implied. The book is finely produced with many color reproductions. University of Arizona Press, \$15.95 pb, 0-8165-1281-7; \$35 cl, 0-8165-1248-5.

Audrey Flack on Painting is an amazingly rich book with a modest price. Flack (b. 1931) has succeeded as a mainstream artist while retaining a commitment to feminist and socially relevant commentary. This book deals with her large, air-brushed, photorealist paintings which are gorgeous and often barbed or infused with multiple, sometimes contradictory, meanings. Abrams, \$14.95 pb, 0-8109-2235-5.

Warrior Woman: A Journal of My Life as an Artist by Tina LeMarque is the story of an artist emerging through her "travels, adventures, her recovery from addiction, births, deaths, marriages and beyond." It details both the daily struggles to create and the psychic journeys, learning to understand the inner and outer worlds. It is very earthy and inspirational. Artists and Writers Press, distributed by Publishers' Distribution Service, 121 E. Front St. Ste. #203, Traverse City MI 49684, \$18.95, 0-9630131-0-6, 1-4 20%, 5+ 42%.

Miss O'Keeffe by Christine Taylor Patten and Alvaro Cardona-Hine is a personal description of 18 months near the end of O'Keeffe's life told by an artist who worked as nurse, cook, and companion to O'Keeffe. University of New Mexico Press, \$16.95 cl, 0-8263-1322-1.

ART BOOKS

Shigeko Kubota Video Sculpture, edited by Mary Jane Jacob, documents the innovative work of Kubota, born 1931 in Japan, who says, "I want to create a fusion of art and life, Asian and American, Duchampiana modernism and Levi-Straussian savagism, cool form and hot video." This book makes potentially "difficult" work accessible and very interesting. Distributed by the University of Washington Press, \$24.95 pb, 0-295-97131-2.



Ayako Miyawaki: The Art of Japanese Applique shows the fanciful patched fabric work of Miyawaki who was born in Japan in 1905. The wife of an artist, she started working in applique at age 40 at the end of WW II. Her subjects, mostly flowers, fish, insects and vegetables, are playful and vibrant. Distributed by Northeastern University Press, \$29.95 pb, 0-940979-17-9.

Frida Kahlo, The Paintings, by Hayden Herrera, is selling in women's bookstores despite the high price tag, probably because the subject is so compelling and the book beautifully designed and packed full of color and B&W reproductions and rarely seen photographs. Kahlo, born in 1910 to a German/Jewish father and a Mexican mother, made her face and her life the subject of powerful, colorful paintings. Her complex medical history (polio and an injury which crushed her pelvis and spine) and her stormy marriage to one of Mexico's most famous muralists contribute to the legend of a brilliant, beautiful and indomitable spirit. Harper-Collins, \$40 cl, 0-06-016699-1.

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Mega by B. L. Holmes. Charged with saving the Earth from further destruction, a group of psychics and scientists enlist the aid of lesbian Kerek Leight to help them in their task. This science fiction novel is set against a future of giant cities and vast pollution. (Finalist in 1992 Lambda Literary Awards science fiction category.) ISBN 0-941300-19-6 Paper \$8.95

Hodag Winter by Deborah Wiese. A first grade teacher is fired because she is a lesbian. She and her lover and friends fight back. ISBN 0-941300-18-8 Paper \$8.95

Singin' the Sun Up by Ocala Wings. Communicating with dolphins gives this lesbian love story a New Age twist. ISBN 0-941300-20-X Paper \$8.95

NEWS by Heather Conrad is a gripping novel of a women's computer takeover to make the empire builders and the money makers stop destroying the people and the earth. ISBN 0-941300-04-8 Paper \$9.95

Night Lights by Bonnie Shrewsbury Arthur. More than your traditional lesbian romance, this novel tackles various issues—with a light touch that will make you laugh out loud. ISBN 0-941300-05-6 Paper \$8.95

Rowdy & Laughing by B. L. Holmes. She's not gay, she's rowdy and laughing. Poems encompass the joy of life and being in love. ISBN 0-941300-06-4 Paper \$4.95

Senior Citizen by B. L. Holmes. A musical comedy, this funny and touching play explores the dual themes of rejection of the aged and gays/lesbians. ISBN 0-941300-22-6 Paper \$8.95



Mother Courage Press

1667 Douglas Avenue, Racine, WI 53404-2721, (414) 637-2227 Also available from Inland, Bookpeople, Bookslinger

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CLEIS

Revenge of the Apple/Venganza de la Manzana is the collection of poetry Alicia Partnoy promised readers of *The Little School: Tales of Disappearance &*



Sudie Rakusin, in Seasons of the Witch

Bookpeople (BP) and Inland (IN) distribute small press books to bookstores. "BP" or "IN" at the end of an annotation means that the books are available from that distributor. Both distributors stock a wide range of titles and publishers of interest to feminist bookstores. If you are a new store or don't already work with both distributors, drop everything and call for catalogs.

Inland Book Company, PO Box 120261, 140 Commerce St., East Haven CT 06512. Order number: 800-243-0138 (including Canada and Connecticut).

Bookpeople, 7900 Edgewater Dr, Oakland CA 94621. Phone: 800-999-4650. Survival in Argentina. Alicia was among the 30,000 "disappeared" in Argentina in the '70s - and one of a very few to survive. Most of her friends were murdered by the junta which held her in a concentration camp they later denied even existed. Alicia survived, and her testimony before the United Nations helped convict the junta generals. The poems in Revenge of the Apple were written both in prison in Argentina and in exile in the U.S. Recently nominated for a seat on the board of Amnesty International, Alicia Partnoy travels frequently and is available for bookstore readings. Alicia is also the editor of You Can't Drown the Fire: Latin American Women Writing in Exile, which Cleis plans to bring back into print for Fall 1992. \$8.95 pb, 0-939416-63-8. Sept. Distributed by Baker & Taylor, Bookpeople, Bookslinger, Inland, Ingram, New Leaf and direct from Cleis Press, PO Box 8933, Pitts-- Cleis Press burgh PA 15221.

FIREWEED

Issue 35: Jewish Women is guest edited by a collective of six Jewish women and is the first anthology of Jewish Feminist writing from Canada. Features critical essays "Jewish, Woman, and Lacking 'Class,'" "Spheres of Identity: Feminism and Difference," and "Educating for Change: Jewish Women Confronting Racism." Also includes the photo-story "As Jews We Cannot Live as a Coercive People," poetry and prose. \$5. No US distribution — yet! Order from Fireweed, PO Box 279 Stn. B, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 2W2.

NAIAD

August and September bring guaranteed topsellers from three writers of proven popularity.

Few lesbian authors can match the fervent audience loyalty accorded to Lee Lynch. Morton River Valley, set in the same small town as Dusty's Queen of

New Women's Books from Papier-Mache Press



BLUE COLLAR GOODBYES

Sue Doro

Sue Doro, for thirteen years the only female machinist at the former Milwaukee Road Railway is one of countless victims of widespread American plant closings. In this powerful collection of poetry and essays, she speaks not only to the thousands of workers who are subject to the devastating effects of these closings, but also to all women who are forced to deal with gender issues at their place of employment. This book is not just for women who work nontraditional jobs—it is for every woman who works.

We do not know if the author is an industrial worker with a writer's sensibility, or a poet who works in industry. And that's the way it should be: the authentic blend of shoulder and heart, experience and vision. Rarely are we given such a gift. —Margaret Randall

Sue Doro writes...of the lives of workers and women at work, their double duties, their rich and often humorous wealth of experience we have been robbed of. —Meridel Le Sueur

Available: July 1992. Paperback \$8.00. Hardcover \$12.00.



If I bad my life to live over I would pick more daisies

IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER...I WOULD PICK MORE DAISIES Edited by Sandra Martz

The sequel to When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple which, like its bestselling predecessor, is an anthology of poetry, fiction, and photographs. If I Had My Life to Live Over explores the challenges, the conflicts, the satisfactions, and the dilemmas associated with a wide range of personal, social, political, and spiritual choices. This new collection features the popular poem by Nadine Stair as the title piece. Cover art Ly Deirdre Scherer. Also available: T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Posters.

Available: Augus 1992. Paperback \$10.00. Hardcover \$16.00.



MAKING OURSELVES AT HOME: WOMEN BUILDERS AND DESIGNERS Janice Goldfrank

A testament to the lasting influence of the women's movement and the power of individual commitment, Making Ourselves at Home is based on interviews with twenty-one professional and non-professional women builders and includes over 200 photographs. There are women scattered all over the country building houses, communes, apartment buildings, and cabins in the woods...This is a part of women's culture and contemporary history. —Janice Goldfrank

Available: November 1992. Paperback \$18.00. Hardcover \$30.00.

ORDERING INFORMATION

All books are available to the book trade from Bookpeople, the Distributors, Inland Book Company, and Moving Books. Books and sidelines are available directly from Papier-Mache Press. Trade terms are available upon request: (800) 927-5913 or FAX (408) 763-1422.

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Hearts Diner, introduces two fascinating women against the backdrop of today's social and environmental controversies—and it echoes Lynch's classic *The Swashbuckler* in its treatment of butch-femme sexuality. Author-name alone will sell this immensely satisfying novel. \$9.95 pb, 1-56280-016-7.

Point your romance readers to *the* perfect romantic novel— **Paperback Romance**, Karen Kallmaker's strong follow-up to the very popular *In Every Port* and *Touchwood*. This captivating, deliciously erotic tale features a romance writer who flees to Europe to soothe her wounded heart, only to find herself caught up in the world of classical music and a brilliant conductor who is passing as a man. \$9.95 pb, 1-56280-019-1.

Lambda-Award winning Lauren Wright Douglas always rewards her readers, and **A Tiger's Heart** is an outstanding addition to this fine, intelligent, muchadmired series. Mystery fans old and new will be absorbed into the shadowy and intriguing world of Caitlin Reece in a tautly suspenseful tale of Caitlin's search to uncover dark secrets in the life of a missing woman, a woman Caitlin once loved. \$9.95 pb, 1-56280-018- 3.

Available from Inland, Bookpeople, Bookslinger, the distributors, Ingram, or from Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302. — Naiad



WOMAN IN THE MOON (WIM)

Are You a Poet?: The Poet's Workbook edited by SDiane Bogus. This workbook is a marketing tool, a poetic dictionary, a reference book, and a self-instruction manual all in one. Offers free poetry critique by editor. It includes fun poetic trivia and has very useful annotated bibliographies. May 1992. \$10 pb, 0-134172-20-X.

Black of Moonlit Sea is an exquisite collection of poetry by Abby Lynn Bogomolny. It gives expression to the voices of an older generation of women and explores the power of the geographic, familial, and ethnic influences. It has an attractive cassette case which will fit well on any bookcase. Eloquent, compassionate and touched by a knowing humor. June 1992. \$9, \$6 with mention of FBN, 0-939821-02-8.



The Book of Lives introduces New York poet Sherrilynn Posey's first published collection of work featuring themes common to the street and to the academy. This is *living* poetry written about the lives of women, workers, children, people with AIDS, and the homeless. The work has the flavor of a speech by Sojourner Truth, the down-home insight of Gwendolyn Brooks, and the quickness of a Nikki Giovanni piece. Welcome her to your library. September 1992. \$8 pb, 0- 934172-26-9.

Buddhism for My Friends is a radical and jaunty diary analysis of Nichiren Sho Shu Buddhism in America (now SGI) from a Black lesbian perspective. Features chapters on karma, reincarnation, chanting, prosperity, breaking up, seeking a lover, prayers for the patriarchy and for peace. Much more. Fun, insightful, scholarly. December 1992. \$10 prepublication, \$20 on publication, 0-934172-25-0.

Eye of the Wind, the third collection of political and social poems by Oregon poet MaryJane Brewster, traces the entire decade of the 1980s to the present time. These poems are both telling and prophetic. They look ahead and see the future; they look back and grieve the past. The collection continues Brewster's strident attack on racism, the American government, war, homelessness, and social conditions that narrow the prospective for our lives. She pleads for love, compassion, and action by the ordinary citizen. Readable and passionate, it reveals the poet's true commitment to human dignity and integrity in this country and in the world. \$8 pb, 0-934172-28-5; \$10 case bound, -27-7.

The Gay and Lesbian Wedding Album is a beautiful gift book of lesbian and gay weddings. Features

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Black lesbian poems for gay men. \$15, 0-934172-30-7

Chant of the Women of Magdalena & the Magdalena Poems

A long poem for women and these times. \$12 cl, -14-5, \$9 pb, -16-1.

The Gay and Lesbian Wedding Album

A photo documentary gift book. \$35 cl, -24-2, \$25 pb, -23-4.

Order from WIM Publications. 10% off with this ad or mention of FBN. 102203 Parkwood Drive #7, Cupertino CA 95014-1466 phone: 408-253-3329, fax: 408-257-5683

Quaker, Jewish, Episcopalian and private ceremonies. Couples are mixed, transsexual, role-identified and not. 125 classic pages written in the couples' own words, with profiles, memorabilia, traditional and nontraditional photographs of the romantic courtships and marriages. Also informative editor's preface, planner and large glossary of wedding traditions as they apply to lesgay culture. December 1992. \$25 pb, 0-934172-23-4; \$35 case bound, -24-2. Prepublication price \$20 pb.

Woman in the Moon is a new edition of SDiane Bogus' second poetry collection. Features all the poems from the first through the third printings, plus new work and selected erotica and poems from the out of print collection *Sapphire's Sampler*. Poems include "Lady Godiva," "Miss Brown," "Franklin U.S. History," "Cunnilingus," "She Feelings Poems 1-6" and "The Creator's Dalliance: Madam Booker T. Einstein Houdini Curie." \$10 pb, 0-934172-01-3; \$12 case bound.

Woman in the Moon books are distributed by Bookslinger, Book Haven, and Inland. Woman in the Moon Publications, 10203 Parkwood Dr. #7, Cupertino CA 95014. — Woman in the Moon

And Still More Books....

Compiled by Carol Seajay

It seems that we're in the midst of another explosion of new presses. Women are once again discovering that there's something they need to say, putting it on paper, and publishing it themselves if the existing forces of publishing don't show the desired enthusiasm — or else deciding to start publishing houses for themselves for the same reasons they started writing, because they have something to say, a truth that isn't being told elsewhere — and publishing is the right way to do it.

Butch's publisher promises that this novel is the first in a series. (Butch II is promised in February.) I read it "after hours" at ABA and have to say that anything that holds my interest at ABA is a lightweight, serious read with some kind of compelling truth in it. Jay Rayn's interlocking short stories describe "Mike's" small-town upbringing, an adolescence on her own (after her parents kick her out), homophobia in the Marine Corps and the confusions of a long-time butch caught up in the second wave of the women's movement and in love with women who have a deeper understanding of feminist concepts than of lesbian practice. Butch rings true and is a story that's been waiting to be told. A book for all the women who took a chance on Rusty: How Me and Her Went to Colorado and Everything, and found themselves at home. \$10.95 pb, 0-9633031-0-4. Free Woman Press, 398 Columbus Ave. #306, Boston MA 02116. IN.

Keepers of the Western Door, by Rayna M. Gangi fictionalizes the life of Mary Jemison, daughter of Pennsylvania settlers who was captured by Indians and then adopted by the Seneca to fulfill the place of a Seneca child who was killed by whites. Mary Jemison, in her life and in this novelization, consistently choose to stay with and honor her Seneca families and heritage. It is as much a novel of changing times, cultural integrity, brutal cultural wars, and the rape of societies as it is of one woman's quest for home and identity. \$9.95 pb, 0-9633031-1-2. Maple Street Press, 398 Columbus Ave. #306, Boston MA 02116. IN.

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Wolf Girls at Vassar: Gay & Lesbian Experiences 1920-1990, compiled and edited by Anne Mac-Kay (Class of '49) opens with a brief history of lesbians and lesbian community at Vassar. Short chapters and vignettes detail the experiences of various lesbians at Vassar from the 1930s to the present. \$10.95 pb, 0-9631911-0-1. 40% for 5+. Box 97, Orient NY 11957.

Most of the books about "older women" are, in fact, written by women without any experience in being old. Old and Smart: Women and Aging by 69-year-old Betty Nickerson starts with the premise that old women shouldn't trust anyone under 60, and then goes on to explore aging and ageism as women experience it. It's a courageous and affirming compendium of opinion and experience that discusses everything from being "just a housewife" to husband loss to a "sexier" generation, memory loss, diet and nutrition and every possible aspect of ageism, all with a feet-onthe-ground attitude and the calm assurance of a lot of experience. The book features readably large print and a three-toned purple cover. Shelve it next to When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple for all the women who want to hear what women who are old and wear what they please have to say. Nickerson travels and is interested in setting up bookstore appearances. 350 pgs. \$16.95 pb, 0-919970-08-7. 40% bookstore discount. All About Us Books. In Canada order from RR# 3 Yellow Point Road, Ladysmith BC VOR 2E0. In the U.S. order from 443 Adams St., Eugene OR 97402. Pacific Pipeline.

Ceremonies for Our Lives: A Ritual Making Workbook for Women by Nan Brooks looks at the reasons for making ceremonies and rituals for our lives and then walks carefully through many parts of creating effective rituals for ourselves: setting the groundwork, creating space, and the creation of the ritual itself. I've never been big on this kind of created ceremony for "important events in our lives" but this book, included "My First Car" along with the more familiar turning points. *That* had me off and running! (What a moment that was! What a time! Does anyone out there want to do an anthology of women's car stories?) 50+ pages, \$11, spiral bound, 8 1/2 x 11. The next printing will be perfect bound. 40% bookstore discount. Spirit Magic Books, PO Box 2112, Bloomington IN 47402. Try Inland?

Color Me Safe by Rosalind Weber is a "self-help" book for children and adults who have been abused.



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In it, stick-figure children confront mean-monster adults by saying their truth ("Sometimes I am slapped.") and directing the reader to respond with a "Color me safe" message. Guess it's cultural conditioning, but stick figures without hair always look male to me, which makes this "gender neutral" book seem less effective. 30 pgs, perfect bound. 0-9631694-0-8. Weble Publishing, 8018 N. Dana Ave., Portland OR 97203. Distributed by Inland.



The National Directory of Women of Color Organizations & Projects contains the names, addresses, telephone numbers and key contact people in women of color organizations throughout the country. It includes summaries of the goals and programs of Native American, Asian American, African American, Latina and Arab women's organizations. It is indexed by issue and by race/ethnicity/nationality. Available in a spiral bound book format (\$8.95) or on disk in dBase III Plus, in WordPerfect (5.1, 5.0, or 4.2), or in ASCII (\$19.95). Order from the Women of Color Resource Center, 2288 Fulton St., Suite 103, Berkeley CA 94704. 510-848-9272.

The Sisters in Crime Book-in-Print lists current and forthcoming titles by Sisters in Crime members with brief annotations by the authors. It includes publisher, ISBN, etc., to aid in ordering and also lists the city and state of the author's homes — handy if you're looking for local authors to do programs. If you sell a lot of mysteries, you can probably sell this — and the books your customers find in the catalog (and order) will pay for your first set of five. 56 pages, \$2, staple bound. 40% discount for 5+ copies, prepaid. Order from Rowan Mountain, PO Box 10111, Blacksburg VA 24062.

Seasons of the Witch by Patricia Monaghan (*The Book of Goddesses and Heroines*) is a lovely book exploring the power and passion of Woman as reflected in the changing seasons, illustrated and designed by Sudie Rakusin. Poetry has a bad rep for selling but this book is so well designed that it begs to be picked up. (Maybe Sudie could do a workshop on cover design for the next Women in Print Conference?) \$11.95 pb, 1-878980-09-2. Delphi Press, PO Box 1538, Oak Park IL 60304. IN & BP. The Women's Traveller 1992 is out. It includes city maps, accommodations and lesbian city tourist information for the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean. Covers bookstores, bars, gay AA, accommodations, restaurants, hot-lines, et al., in a compact, handy pocket-book size. \$10 pb, 0-929435-08-7. The Women's Traveller, PO Box 422458, San Francisco CA 94142 (new address). IN & BP.

New Victoria's two summer titles are **Cathy IV** by Frances Lucas (*Dark Horse*) and **Falling Through the Cracks** by Fritzie Rogers. **Cathy IV** is a science fiction tale about a vacation gone awry on a planet embroiled in class warfare between the genetically altered servos and those who live off their labor, complicated by falling in love with a woman who might not be human... \$8.95 pb, 0-934678-41-3.

Falling Through the Cracks flashes back to California Dreamin' in the '70s as it turns into soup kitchens and unemployment lines. In this largely autobiographical novel, author Fritzie Rogers recounts her journey from computer programmer for the defense industry to hawking jewelry on the streets. "A story of disturbing relevance to the '90s." \$8.95 pb, 0-934678-29-4. New Victoria Publishers, PO Box 27, Norwich VT 05055. BP, IN, Bookslinger, Airlift in Europe and Stilone in Australia.

Rising Tide's second season brings three new novels: Faces of Love by Sharon Gilligan, You Light the Fire by Kristen Garrett, and Return to Isis by Jean Stewart. Faces of Love, set in the dynamic Madison women's community, takes readers into the lives of three women — a women's rights activist and a district attorney who have been together for 10 years in a relationship "which is full of love, but is also often stormy" and a younger woman. "When Maggie's heart is captured by the young and beautiful Cory, she must take stock of her life and make some serious decisions. A wonderful read." \$8.95 pb, 0-9628938-4-6.

You Light the Fire offers "a grown up *Rubyfruit* Jungle — sexy, spicy and side-splittingly funny. Can a gorgeous, sexy, high school math teacher and a raunchy, commitment-shy ex-rock singer make it and make it last in mainstream USA? A humorous, erotic and unpredictable love story." \$8.95 pb, 0-9628938-5-4.

Return to Isis is "set in a fantasy zone where sword and superstition meet sci-fi adventure and two

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women make a daring escape to freedom — but the greatest danger lurks not in Amelia's home world where women are either breeders or drones, but in Artemis, Whit's Amazon Nation home." \$8.95 pb, 0-9628938-6-2. 40% for 5-9 books, 45% for 10-24, 50% for 25+. Rising Tide Press, 5 Kivy St., Huntington Station, NY 11746. IN & BP.

Sister Vision's Spring titles include Memories Have Tongue by Afua Cooper and Brown Girl in the Ring: Rosemary Brown, A Biography for Young People by Lynette Roy. Memories Have Tongue is a tour into one Black woman poet's female past. It is about reclaiming, recovering and resisting. It is the daughter claiming her ancient mother, the mother her lost child. It is recovering ancient female rites, resisting being silenced, celebration, and the sweet balm of peace. \$10.95 pb, 0-920813-50-X.

Brown Girl In the Ring offers a fascinating glimpse into the personal and political life of one of Canada's most accomplished public figures. Brown, a dynamic politician, feminist, and peace activist committed to social change, was the first Black woman elected to the Canadian Parliament. Now retired from active politics, she continues to shine as an advocate for oppressed peoples, women's rights, and world peace. \$9.95 pb, 0-920813-52- 6. Sister Vision: Black Women and Women of Colour Press, PO Box 217 Station E, Toronto ONT, Canada M6H 4E2. Distributed in Canada by General Publishing Company, in the US by IN, BP, and Bookslinger, and by Turnaround in Europe.

Gender Violence: A Development and Human Rights Issue by Charlotte Bunch and Roxanna Carrillo is the first pamphlet in a series to be published by The Center for Women's Global Leadership. It includes two articles detailing the failure of mainstream development and human rights frameworks to acknowledge gender violence as a systematic obstacle to securing economic and social development and the protection of human rights for all. The pamphlet places a critical emphasis on the role of women as they respond constructively to gender violence. In the first article, Charlotte Bunch reconceptualizes traditional understanding of Human Rights so that the prevalence of gender violence can be understood as a violation of human rights. In the second article, Roxanna Carrillo tackles the omission of gender violence from the international development agenda. She challenges *See* **Our Presses**, page 87.



"A fascinating study of one woman's journey from an Anglo-European girlhood to an adulthood as a respected member of the Seneca Nation. With excellent insights into cultural differences, this easy-to-read novel is ideal for high school and college classes in American history, Women's Native American and cross cultural studies." — Ruth Meyerowitz

ISBN 0-9633031-1-2, \$9.95 pb. Distributed by Inland.

Maple Street Press 398 Columbus Ave. (#306) Boston MA 02116

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The Persistent Desire A femme-butch reader

Joan Nestle, editor

ISBN 1-55583-190-7 502 pages. Photographs. \$14.95

A generation ago, butch-femme identities were taken for granted in the lesbian community. Today women who think of themselves as butch or femme often face prejudice from both the lesbian community and the straight world. Here, for the first time. dozens of femme and butch lesbians tell their stories of love, survival, and triumph.



"Nestle's book can teach us that playing with gender is not merely a theoretical exercise good for spicing up the dreariness of academic life. It is an enduring theme in lesbian life and history, and a basic necessity for people of many genders." —Lambda Book Report

Order direct (1-800-8-ALYSON) or from InBook, Bookpeople, Inland, and other wholesalers. ALYSON PUBLICATIONS • 40 PLYMPTON STREET • BOSTON, MA 02118

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By Ann Morse

Rebecca Wells won the fifth Western States Book Award for her first novel Little Altars Everywhere. Shifting voices between various characters, the book tells the hilarious and heartbreaking story of the Walker clan of Thornton, Louisiana. Humor and the possibilities of healing guide the novel through the swamps of child abuse, alcoholism and racism. \$13.95 pb, 0-913089-25-7. Broken Moon Press, PO Box 24585, Seattle WA 98124. BP, IN.

"Jay was given to Falling In Love," and so she does in Fiona Cooper's new novel Jay Loves Lucy. Jay, a lesbian, is a thirtyish editor at a gay arts magazine; Lucy, who has never kissed a woman before, runs an ecology magazine and worries about her son, Jeremy. Serpent's Tail says Jay Loves Lucy, "sly and funny by turn, describes a rite of passion, from love's first flutter to its fall and in doing so paints a painful portrait of opposing sensibilities." \$14.99 pb, 1-85242-218-1. Serpent's Tail, 4 Blackstock Mews, London N4 2BT, and in the US at 401 West Broad way #2, New York NY 10012. BP, IN, Consortium.

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Inland Book Company, PO Box 120261, 140 Commerce St., East Haven CT 06512. Order number: 800-243-0138 (including Canada and Connecticut).

Bookpeople, 7900 Edgewater Dr, Oakland CA 94621. Phone: 800-999-4650. The women's movement in Norway is said to have begun in 1855 with the publication of Camilla Collett's novel **The District Governor's Daughters**. The novel has finally been translated into English by Kirsten Seaver and distributed by Dufour Editions. Through the story of Sofie, Collett offers an intimate



Karen Lewis, from Sylvia Stark: A Pioneer

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THE <u>ONLY</u> BOOK THAT TELLS WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING NOW TO ASSERT THEIR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS



A Woman's Book of Choices: Abortion, Menstrual Extraction, RU-486

Written by **Rebecca Chalker**, award-winning author of *The Complete Cervical Cap Guide*, and **Carol Downer**, a legendary figure in the women's health movement who pioneered the concept of vaginal and cervical self-examination.

- detailed, state-by-state descriptions of abortion alternatives;
- three entire chapters on the controversial home health care technique, menstrual extraction;
- a thorough discussion of the RU-486 "abortion pill;"
- an up-to-date look at herbs and other traditional methods of fertility control;
- dozens of powerful personal accounts based on interviews with members of self-help groups and others;
- a chapter for health practitioners;
- a chapter on the legality of abortion and menstrual extraction.

September, \$10.95, Trade paper, ISBN 0-941423-86-7 Health, Line drawings, 176pp, 5½ x 8¼

Four Walls Eight Windows Distributed by Publishers Group West

portrait of relationships and the role of women in a bourgeois society where marriage is the only respectable career for a woman. Collett called this work "my life's long-suppressed scream." \$25 pb, 1-870041-17-8. Published in England by Norvik Press and distributed in the U.S. by Dufour Editions, PO Box 449, Chester Springs PA 19425.

Margaret Erhart, author of Unusual Company, has written a new, "more mainstream" novel, Augusta Cotton. Set in the early 1960s in a small town, the novel traces the friendship of two 11-year-old girls, Augusta, the narrator, and Helen, who struggles against lupus. \$19.95 cl, 0-944072-21-6. Zoland Books, 384 Huron Ave., Cambridge MA 02138. IN.

Miriam Sagan's **Coastal Lives** follows the lives of four sisters (one "tall, bold, beautiful and gay") as they juggle loves, careers and relations with one another in 1970s Boston and Cape Cod. \$15 pb, 0-916185-02-8. Center Press, 307 Johnson St., Sante Fe NM 87501. BP, IN.

In her collection of 13 short stories, What We Save For Last, Corinne Demas Bliss writes of "the scar beneath the sleeve that I finger in the dark" — those losses and events, small and large, that inform the lives of her female narrators. A happily married woman finds her birthdays turned bittersweet by the card that arrives every year from a former lover, a vacationing couple is mistaken for honeymooners even as the woman relives the death of her young daughter. Quiet, moving stories. \$11 pb, 0-915943-69-7. Milkweed Editions, PO Box 3226, Minneapolis MN 55403. BP, IN.

Also recommended is Nahid Rachlin's Veils, 10 short stories set in present-day Iran and the United States. "The men and women in these spare and sensuous narratives feel alienated in the confusing whirl of changing cultures. Sometimes they meet with failure, but more often transcend difficult circumstances to gain deeper self-knowledge," says City Lights. \$8.95 pb, 0-87286-267-4. City Lights Books, 261 Columbus Ave., San Francisco, CA 94133. BP, IN.

The Censors is a bilingual selection of 20 short stories by Latin American writer Luisa Valenzuela. The stories in this volume come from *Clara, Strange*

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Things Happen Here, and Open Door. \$12.95 pb, 0-915306-12-3. Curbstone Press, 321 Jackson St., Willimantic CT 06226. InBook.

Erika B. Makino wrote the short stories in Six of Cups: A Circle of Stories over a span of 40 years. The 20 stories, all based on events in Makino's life, are set in places as diverse as a Swiss university, a Colombian train and a Californian courtroom and encompass Makino's perspectives as a mother, artist, teacher of the mentally handicapped, writer and lesbian. Illustrated. \$8.50 pb, 0-929151-05-4. Earth Books, PO Box 740, Redwood Valley CA 95470. BP, IN.

Voices lesbian and straight, joyous, passionate, afraid and betrayed mingle in Lovers: Stories by Women, an anthology of 67 love stories by known and new writers. Edited by Amber Coverdale Sumrall. \$14.95 pb, 0-89594-546-0; \$24.95 cl, -547-9.

Amber Coverdale Sumrall also has collected hundreds of her favorite quotes by women writers into **Write to the Heart: Quotes by Women Writers**. "They are the messages I would like to find in my fortune cookies," Sumrall writes of the quotes, which address 25 subjects, from aging to the writer's life. \$8.95 pb, 0-89594-550-9; \$19.95 cl, -566-5.

Marilyn Frye has followed *The Politics of Reality* with **Willful Virgin: Essays in Feminism 1976-1992**, a collection of book reviews and writings addressing topics including lesbian community, ethics and sexuality, feminist theory, and the position of a lesbian feminist in the academy. \$12.95 pb, 0- 89594-553-3; \$24.95 cl, -554-1. Crossing Press, PO Box 1048, Freedom CA 95019. BP, IN, Bookslinger.



Three generations of Hispanic women speak out in Shattering the Myth: Plays by Hispanic Women, edited by Linda Feyder. Denise Chávez chose plays by six women for inclusion in this anthology: Shadow of a Man by Cherríe Moraga, Miriam's Flowers by Migdalia Cruz, Gleaning/Rebusca by Caridad Svich, Simply Maria of The American Dream by Josefina López, My Visits with MGM by Edit Villarreal, and A Dream of Canaries by Diana Sáenz. \$13 pb, 1-55885-041-4. Arte Publico Press, University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun 2-L, Houston TX 77204. BP, IN.



Alamo Square Press has published Tough Acts to Follow, a collection of 12 lesbian and gay one-act plays by Rane Arroyo, Terry Baum, Neal Bell, Philip Blackwell, Victor Bumbalo, Charles Busch and Kenneth Elliott, Robyn Barr Gorman, Marty Kingsbury, Claire Olivia Moed, Ana Maria Simo, Bil Wright, and Rick Rankin, Susan Finque, Timothy Jones and Ted Sod. Edited by Noreen C. Barnes and Nicholas Deutsch. \$9.95 pb, 09624751-6-5. Alamo Square Press, PO Box 14543, San Francisco CA 94114. BP, IN.

Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope: Stories of Peace, Justice and the Environment is a collection of 29 stories for children about living with ourselves, one another and the earth. Each tale is told by a storyteller and accompanied by that storyteller's tips for telling the tale, and suggested activities or exercises. The book also includes bibliographies and resource lists. \$22.95 pb, 0-86571-229-8. New Society Publishers, 4527 Springfield Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143. BP, IN etc.

Open Hand has published two slim y.a. volumes to accompany *Black Heroes of the Wild West*: Sylvia Stark: A Pioneer and Pathblazers: Eight People Who Have Made A Difference. Sylvia Stark is Victoria Scott and Ernest Jones' biography of an African-American woman who, freed from slavery at age 12, traveled the Oregon Trail to California. In 1860, threatened by the Fugitive Slave Act, she moved to British Columbia, where she lived until her death at age 105. Black-and-white illustrations. \$6.95 pb, 0-940880-38-5,

\$12.95 cl, -37-7. In **Pathblazers**, M.K. Fullen profiles eight African-American women and men who contributed to civil rights, education and the arts: Septima Clark, Jester Hairston, Josephine Baker, Gwendolyn Brooks, Thurgood Marshall, James Forman, Andrew Young and Barbara Jordan. Illustrated. \$6.95 pb, 0-940880-36-9, \$12.95 cl, -35-0. Open Hand Publishing, PO Box 22048, Seattle WA 98122. BP, IN.



For a (literally) down-to-earth autobiography, you might consider Alicia Landon's **The Worm Queen: Memoirs of Santa Ynez Valley.** Born in 1910, Landon long dreamed of being a farmer. She finally pursued that dream in 1940, stating that "surely raising vegetables and animals would help the war effort." In subsequent years, she raised chickens, cows and ponies, started Santa Ynez Valley's first bookstore, and eventually settled down to breeding worms, earning her the title the Worm Queen. The unmarried Landon writes lovingly of her life and the people in it, particularly two very special woman friends. \$9.95 pb, 0-56474-006-4. Fithian Press, PO Box 1525, Santa Barbara CA 93102. BP.

Academy Chicago has brought Amelia Earhart's autobiography **The Fun of It** back into print. The work, first published in 1932, is the second of three books Earhart penned about her life and love of flying. \$12. pb, 0-915864-55-X. Academy Chicago Publishers, 213 W. Institute Place, Chicago IL 60610. IN.

In The Women are Marching: The Second Sex and the Palestinian Revolution, Philippa Strum weaves an account of the Palestinian women's movement with the diary of her experiences as an American Jew living with a Palestinian family in the West Bank. Grace Paley says of **The Women are Marching**: "This is a very important book." \$16.95 pb, 1-55652-123-5. Lawrence Hill Books, an imprint of Chicago Review Press, 230 Park Place, Suite 6A, Brooklyn NY 11238. Distributed by Independent Publishers Group.

Purity and Communal Boundaries: Women and Social Change in a Bangladeshi Village by Santi Rozario, a Bangladeshi woman, is the newest title in Zed Book's Women in Asia series. The book examines the position of women in a mixed Muslim, Hindu and Christian village in central Bangladesh. \$39.95 cl, 1-85649-033-5. Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU England. Distributed by Humanities Press International, BP and IN.

Lynne Griffin signed our review copy of **The Book of Women:** 300 Notable Women History Passed By with the phrase "it's about time" — and she's right. It's about time we received recognition for our remarkable accomplishments. This 5 1/2 by 6 1/2 inch book helps write a wide range of women back into history by presenting a paragraph on the feats of 300 women. Black-and-white drawings also included. \$10.95 cl, 1-55850-106-1. Bob Adams, 260 Center St., Holbrook MA 02343.

Moyra Caldecott has selected 11 stories, some more than 3,000 years old, for her new anthology, **Women in Celtic Myth**. In addition to the myths, Caldecott includes her own commentary on each of the stories. \$12.95 pb, 0-89281-357-1. Destiny Books, One Park St., Rochester VT 05767.

A book you might consider adding to the burgeoning shelves of women's spirituality titles is Barbara Ardinger's **A Woman's Book of Rituals and Celebrations**, an introduction to "the Great Goddess" and a guide to setting up simple altars and holding rituals and celebrations. \$14.95 cl, 0-931432-90-1.

Also from New World Library is What Are You Doing With The Rest Of Your Life: Choices in Midlife, in which author Paula Payne Hardin, founder and director of a midlife consulting center, weaves research, anecdotes and exercises into illustrations on how to live and age well. \$12.95 pb, 0-931432-89-8. New World Library, 58 Paul Drive, San Rafael CA 94903. BP, IN.

Marj (she chooses not to list her last name) uses simple poems, letters and narrative in **Into the Silence** to chronicle the journey from her first memories of childhood sexual abuse through confrontation, acceptance and eventual arrival at a place of strength. \$9.95 pb, 0-9630388-1-8. White Oak Publications, PO Box 567, Victor NY 14564.

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Paperdolls: Healing from Sexual Abuse in Mormon Neighborhoods chronicles the sexual abuse of children in two separate neighborhoods in the Salt Lake valley. Told through the diaries of the two authors, April Daniels and Carol Scott, the book follows the women through the recollection of this abuse to healing. All proceeds from the sale of this book go to fight child abuse. \$9.95 pb, 1-56085-003-5. Palingenesia Press and the Florence Gay Smith Foundation for Abused and Neglected Children, PO Box 21795, Salt Lake City UT 84121. Distributed by Wasatch Book Distributors, PO Box 11776, Salt Lake City, UT 84147; 801-575-6735.

Becky Valentine and her brother Bill have taught self-defense classes together for the past 15 years. Self-Defense for Life grew out of that experience. This empowering and practical guide, fully illustrated with black-and-white photographs, clearly explains numerous self-defense techniques (kicks and strikes), talks straightforwardly about assault prevention strategies and tells how to use common objects — including the book itself — as self-defense weapons. 52 pages, staple bound. \$9.95 pb, 0-9629866-0-7. Self-Defense Publications, 501 W. Glenoaks Blvd. #108, Glendale CA 91202. 40% on 1-24, 45% for 25-50, 50% for 51+.

Author Patricia Lunneborg makes her position on abortion very clear. She describes her new book Abortion: A Positive Decision as a "pro-choice, feminist counseling book written to offset the multitude of negative and 'mixed-feelings' books on abortion. It emphasizes the positive, so if you regard a positive point of view on this controversial subject as offensive, believe me, this book is not for you." Lunneborg talks with women who have had abortions, offers strategies for making the decision to have an abortion, and delves into issues including abortion myths and abortion and mental health, contraception, family planning, education, careers, relationships and the work of abortion providers. \$19.95 cl, 0-89789-243-7. Bergin & Garvey, an imprint of Greenwood Publishing Group, 88 Post Road West, PO Box 5007, Westport CT 06881.

Neenyah Ostrom, who has been covering Chronic Fatigue Syndrome for four years for New York Native, has condensed her reporting into an easy-toread guide, 50 Things You Should Know About The Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Epidemic. In this handbook she addresses questions about the syndrome such as what causes it and how it affects the body. Ostrom is also the author of What Really Killed Gilda Radner? Frontline Reports on the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Epidemic. \$6.95 pb, 0-9624142-2-0. TNM, 28 W. 25th St., Fourth Floor, New York NY 10010. BP, IN.

Nolo Press has issued a revised edition of A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples, written by attorneys Hayden Curry and Denis Clifford and edited by attorney Robin Leonard. The self-help legal guide contains wills, durable power of attorney forms, living together contracts and a host of other advice and instructions related to sharing our lives and our property. \$17.95 pb, 0-87337-140-2. Nolo Press, 950 Parker St., Berkeley CA 94710. BP, IN.



Ann M. Morrison, author of *Breaking the Glass Ceiling*, has written a guide to developing diversity in executive and managerial ranks. The New Leaders: Guidelines on Leadership Diversity in America describes the benefits of, and offers strategies toward, eliminating barriers to the promotion of women and people of color to leadership positions. \$25.95 pb, 1-55542-459-7.

Eve's Daughters: The Forbidden Heroism of Women, by Miriam F. Polster, re-examines the concept of heroism in light of women. Polster looks at historical and everyday female heros, analyzes why they've been overlooked, and aims to help women uncover their own personal heroism, enabling them to make changes in their own lives and the lives of others. \$24.95 pb, 1-55542-464-3. Jossey-Bass, 350 Sansome St., San Francisco CA 94104. Distributed by Maxwell Macmillan. O

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SHE HAS A HABIT THAT COULD BREAK HER HEART—LOVE

"IN THE HOUSE OF REAL LOVE, CARLA TOMASO TAKES AN IRREVERENT LOOK AT THE ATTITUDES AND ISSUES THAT AFFECT LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS. A TRUE LESBIAN FARCE." —NISA DONNELLY, AUTHOR OF THE BAR STORIES

"HIGHLY ORIGINAL CHARACTERS...ALL OF TOMASO'S NARRATORS TAKE GREAT EMOTIONAL RISKS." —*Publishers Weekly*

(ON TOMASO'S STORIES IN VOYAGES OUT 1)

This gleefully irreverent novel is the story of a woman who loves her girlfriend Connie very much-in fact, they've been together for 20 years. But our unnamed, all-too-human narrator has one bad habit she just can't break; a little matter of casual affairs from time to time to time. And when Connie finds out, their home life takes a decidedly dramatic and outrageously offbeat turn. Wildly comic yet astonishingly perceptive, this antic tale will make you think twice about what goes into a "relationship that works." Turns out it's a *lot* more than you might suppose.



At bookstores now

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By Sandi Torkildson

BEACON (Distributed by Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Four Centuries Of Jewish Women's Spirituality edited by Ellen Umansky (\$18 pb, 0807036137; \$40 pb, 0807036129) is a unique collection of documents that reclaims the spiritual writings of Jewish women from 1560 to the present. In letters, wills, sermons, organizational minutes, rituals and more gathered here, the ways in which women have enriched the Jewish tradition is revealed. This sourcebook has a comprehensive introduction and section introductions providing historical and biographical information about the contributors.

The Bias-free Word Finder by Rosalie Maggio (\$15 pb, 0807060038) is a revised and expanded edition of the successful *Non-sexist Word Finder*. This book helps readers replace sexist words, as well as many others that express bias against people on the basis of race, age, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, class or religion. It is organized alphabetically and offers a list of alternatives and a brief guide to usage, but it also includes definitions of key concepts and a wealth of quotations, facts and etymologies.

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A new collection of essays on homophobia explores the cost of homophobia to family relationships, religious institutions, social policy and many other aspects of our lives. **Homophobia** edited by Warren Blumenfeld (\$17 pb, 0807079197), includes 18 essays on how homophobia colludes with sexism and forces people into rigid gender roles, works against the health-care policy that would benefit all members of society and includes a section on how to run an antihomophobia workshop.



Uncertain Terms edited by Faye Ginsburg and Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing (\$16 pb, 0807046132) is a collection of essays by feminist anthropologists on topics ranging from reproductive technologies to the evangelical right to Jewish gender stereotypes. This collection explores the dynamics of gender, class and race in the United States today. The contributors include Susan Harding, Carol Stack, Carole Vance and 17 others.

COMPCARE

A new book on the issues surrounding satanic cult ritual abuse is one of a very few titles on this topic. **Breaking The Circle Of Satanic Ritual Abuse** by Daniel Ryder (\$15.95 pb, 0896382583) looks at the reality of ritual abuse and the recovery issues for survivors. The author, a ritual abuse survivor and counselor, explains what ritual abuse is, how to recognize symptoms and offers a 12-step program along with work on the "inner child" and integration of multiple personalities to help survivors.

DELL AND DELACORTE

Two new books for the birth section offer help for the mother to be. **Pregnancy and Exercise** by Raul Artal (\$22.50 cl, 0385301200) is a complete guide to routine exercise programs for before, during and after pregnancy. Artal outlines the benefits and hazards of different types of exercise and helps women design an exercise program right for them. **Mothermassage** by Elaine Stillerman (\$12 pb, 0385305850), a licensed

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message therapist, is a handbook for relieving the discomforts of pregnancy. Designed to be used either alone or with a partner, this book provides techniques for relieving such discomforts as abdominal pressure, allergies, backaches, breast soreness, leg cramps and morning sickness. Clear illustrations show many different types of massage including full body message, preparation for labor message and massage during postpartum.

Outgrowing the Pain Together by Eliana Gil (\$7 pb, 0440503728) is a guide for couples whose relationship is affected by past childhood abuse. Gil guides the partner into understanding what the adult survivor of childhood abuse has been through and how it affects their relationships. She offers a series of self-help exercises designed to aid couples in developing and maintaining a healthy, loving relationship. This should be a good companion volume to her bestselling *Outgrowing the Pain*.

DOUBLEDAY

A new novel by Marita Golden, And Do Remember Me (\$19 cl, 0385415060), is the story of Jessie Foster, a young Black woman who runs away from home, oppression and sexual abuse straight into the civil rights movement in Mississippi. Macon becomes Jessie's closest friend through years of turmoil and triumph. This novel captures the history of modern Black America through the intimate friendship of these two women.

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Talking to the Dead by Sylvia Watanabe (\$20 cl, 0385418876) is a collection of short stories by this O. Henry Award-winning Asian-American writer. The title story is set in a village on Hawaii's Lahaini coast where Auntie Talking to the Dead teaches her young apprentice how to best still the soul of a passing spirit. In another story, an only son considers the options of Canada and Vietnam, while his father struggles with his own recollections of war-time terrors. This honest and moving collection of interrelated stories guides the reader through a world at once ancient and modern.



Oriana Fallaci's new novel, **Inshallah** (\$25 cl, 0385419872, 9/92), is the story of the tragedy of the war in the Middle East and the fragile human lives caught in it. The story opens on the night of the assault on the American Marine barracks in Beirut. Told from the point of view of a young Italian soldier, this story creates a giant canvas of French, American and Italian soldiers in peace-keeping stations, Arabs for whom this is home, the women in their lives and the nuns from a nearby convent, all of whom share in the tragedies and daily atrocities as well as the unexpected humor and wisdom found even in war.

DOUBLEDAY-ANCHOR Paperbacks

Boys Will Be Boys by Myriam Miedzian (\$10 pb, 0385422547) addresses the crucial link between masculinity and violence in American culture. This wellresearched, straightforward examination of the problem of male violence exposes the ways in which Americans encourage violence in their sons and offers specific and practical suggestions on what can be done to stop it.

The bestseller **The Beauty Myth** by Naomi Wolf (\$11 pb, 0385423977) argues that in the struggle for women's equality there is one hurdle women have yet to clear — the myth of female beauty. Wolf exposes today's unrealistic and impossible standards of female beauty as a destructive form of social control and documents how the increasing importance of female beauty in our culture is a reaction against women's increasing status in business and politics. Wolf confronts the beauty industry and uncovers the hidden agenda that drives this destructive obsession.

Sati, Widow Burning In India (\$11 pb, 0385423179) by Sakuntal Narasimhan, an Indian jour-

Virago Modern Classics

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Now available from Trafalgar Square, Virago Press' distinguished Modern Classics series is dedicated to the celebration of women writers of the 19th and 20th centuries and to the rediscovery and reprinting of their work. Virago Modern Classics embrace a wide variety of writing, from important works in literary and political history to classics of comedy and storytelling. Among the authors featured in this series are: Radclyffe Hall, Ivy Compton-Burnett, Violet Trefusis, Sylvia Townsend Warner, Stevie Smith, Antonia White, and Rebecca West.

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TRAFALGAR SQUARE

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Toll Free (800) 423-4525 Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm EST nalist, looks at the reasons this ritual persists though it was officially outlawed in 1829. Narasimhan's study shows that this issue encompasses the much larger issue of the role of women in Indian society and she offers great insight into the position Indians assign to women. This eye-opening work outlines the reasons women choose, or are forced, to become sati and what this reveals about the society as whole.

The Encyclopedia Of Amazons by Jessica Amanda Salmonson (\$12 pb, 0385423667) is a comprehensive reference guide to more than 1,000 valiant female combatants who have appeared in history, mythology and literature from antiquity to the present day. This product of 15 years of research rescues from obscurity the stories of amazons, martial nuns, warrior queens, pirates, avenging goddesses and other unconventional women whose lives were spent in valorous combat.

A powerful novel by the Arab female novelist, Hanan al-Shaykh, **Women Of Sand and Myrrh** (\$9 pb, 0385423586) tells the story of four women whose lives intersect as they struggle to cope in a society where women are treated to every luxury but freedom. Though these women are friends and often become catalysts for changes in each other's lives, each speaks as if alone on a stage, for it is feelings of isolation as much as entrapment in a barren land that rule these women's lives.

Erotique Noire/ Black Erotica, edited by Miriam DeCosta-Willies, R. Martin and Roseann P. Bell (\$14 pb, 0385423098, 9/92) is a groundbreaking celebration of Black sensuality including works by Alice Walker and Ntozake Shange. Black erotica has not been considered a subject for serious study for a variety of historical and cultural reasons. This collection challenges the traditional notions of Black physical desire and sexual pleasure. This collection includes contributions from African, African-, Latin- and Caribbean-American men and women, gay and straight, novelists, poets, essayists and scholars and ranges from short stories and poems to folk tales and letters.



HARPERCOLLINS

Slow Hand edited by Michele Slung (\$20 cl, 0060165987), is an anthology of erotic stories by

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women and for women. This collection includes contributions from an array of women: bureaucrats to performance artists, gay and straight, old and young, poets and academics as well as professional writers. Women from all over the United States, Canada and Great Britain responded to Michele Slung's call for stories about their most intimate sexual selves and this collection is the result.

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The Expanding Discourse, edited by Norma Broude and Mary Garrard (\$30 pb, 0064302075; \$50 cl, 0064303918), is a collection of essays and articles on feminism and art history. This companion to *Feminism and Art History* covers a wide range of subjects and discusses various aspects of art history from the Renaissance to the present from a feminist perspective. The book includes 300 black-and-white illustrations. Booksellers, however, should note that the paper edition is sold at a short discount.

A new book on the psychology of women's experience integrates all aspects of women's lives from the physical to the sociocultural. In **Engendered Lives**, psychologist Ellyn Kaschak (\$25 cl, 0465013473) shows how gender is embodied in work, relationships, our bodies and our use of language. She shows how the domination of masculine meanings contributes to the prevalence of depression, anxiety and eating disorders among women. Kaschak pays particular attention to the influence of fathers on the development of girls.

In **Shakkai** (\$20 cl, 0060167114), Lynn Andrews goes to Japan to exploit the power and wisdom of the sacred garden and the old woman Skakkai, the keeper of the sacred garden. Andrews also discovers how Skakkai's knowledge can heal the earth, which she believes is in jeopardy more than ever.

Crisis Dreaming by Rosalind Cartwright and Lynne Lamberg (\$20 pb, 0060167610) is an investigation into what our dreams tell us, especially in times of crisis, and how we can use them to solve problems. The authors describes how to "rewrite dreams during sleep to help resolve depression and anxiety brought on by life's crises. Based on 25 years of work in the field, Cartwright presents evidence that dreams can help those in crisis to repair their waking lives.

HARPERSANFRANCISCO

Never To Be a Mother by Linda Hunt Anton (\$18 cl, 0062500791) is for women who know they will not have children and those for whom childlessness may be a possibility. More and more women who want children are faced with the fact that they will not be biological mothers for many different reasons. They often have guilt, grief, anger and depression over this loss. Anton gives voice to this sadness and shows how to move beyond the loss by acknowledging the loss, letting go of blame, redirecting one's mothering energy (open a feminist bookstore?), and taking advantage of childfree living.

Embracing the Journey by Nancy W. (\$10 pb, 0062506366) is an affirmation book for survivors of sexual abuse. These affirmations guide the survivor along the path of recovery and the reclaiming of her dignity and self-worth. With a removable paper jacket to protect the reader's privacy, this is a caring guide for all survivors as well as their families, friends and counselors.



I have received notice that the Lucy Goodison book, **Moving Heaven and Earth**, a Pandora book, will not be published this season. I hope we see this book on sexuality, spirituality and social change next season.

MORROW

Body Traps by Dr. Judith Rodin (\$22 cl, 0688088430) explains the enormous significance our appearance has both socially and psychologically. Dr.



Philip Schlesinger, R. Emerson Dobash, Russell P. Dobash, and C. Kay Weaver

Do any kinds of media tend to increase your fear of crime?
Was this program offensive to you?

Analyzes women's responses to violence in the media, from soap operas to truecrime shows, from television dramas to feature films. Distributed for the British Film Institute Paper \$18.95 INDIANA Orders may call: 1-800-842-6796 Rodin, known for her work on obesity, eating disorders and aging, advises the reader to stop the endless diets, aerobics classes and thoughts of cosmetic surgery in the pursuit of the elusive beauty ideal and find positive ways of relating to our bodies.

Generous Lives: American Catholic Women Today by Jane Redmont (\$21 cl, 0688067077) is based on personal interviews with more than a hundred Catholic women of all ages. Not too surprisingly, virtually none of the women polled accept the Church's ban on contraception, only half support its rulings on abortion, homosexuality and divorce. What is interesting is that the strongest unifying theme among these women was a commitment to altruism and social justice and the importance of leading "generous lives." Makes one wonder what the Catholic Church would be like if women had more power in it.

In The Intimate Diary Of A Russian Woman (\$18 cl, 0688104169) Elena Romine, a middle-class Russian, details her daily life, the problems, frustrations and hopes in a changing society. Elena writes of her achievements and failures, her family, her joy and love, but also her struggles between the promise of a life in the West that she experienced on a trip to Munich and her deep nationalism and sense of family.



PANTHEON/ RANDOM HOUSE

Coming Out, edited by Stephan Likosky (\$15 pb, 0679740546), is an international anthology of gay and lesbian writings covering all aspects and issues of homoeroticism, politics, race, class, history and culture. Included are essays from Thailand, letters to advice columns, and an interview with Herbert Daniel, AIDS activist and presidential candidate in Brazil. Among the contributors are Nicole Brossard, David Fernbach and Jill Johnston.

PENGUIN USA Paperbacks

Fay Weldon's latest novel, **Darcy's Utopia** (\$9 pb, 0140145419), tells the story of Eleanor Darcy and her husband Julian, a university chancellor and economic adviser to the Prime Minister. Eleanor whispers utopian visions into Julian's ear that land him in jail for imperiling the financial structure of the nation. As the story unfolds Eleanor's remarkable vision emerges

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with its shockingly sensible ideas about child-rearing, abortion, education, integration, fundamentalism, economics and a new twist on the battle of the sexes. This is a tart, witty, critical but also forgiving look at modern society.

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O'Keeffe and Stieglitz by Benita Eisler (\$15 pb, 0140170944) is a dual biography of the stormy and legendary romantic partnership of these two artists. Their tempestuous and complex relationship was often mutually beneficial even though both were drawn to other sexual partners. Eisler reappraises their life and work and exposes the lies and distortions surrounding their relationship. She both reveals two passionate and complicated human beings and rewrites a vital chapter in American art and culture.

A gutsy first novel about the erotic awakening of a teenage girl, **Because of You** by Lisa Walker (\$9 pb, 0140131698) is a narrative by Misty, who weaves between her roles of dutiful daughter and outrageous rebel. Her recollections of the boys she has loved serve as a taking-off point for reflections on her parents, friends and life in an unsophisticated midwestern town. Walker gives the reader a funny, sexy and sad, but also universal, rite of passage.

Mary Clearman Blew's collection of essays about her family's life in Montana begins with her greatgrandparents arrival in 1882, when Montana was still a territory. In **All But The Waltz** (\$9 pb, 0140128921) Blew tells of how her grandmother, separated from her husband and young children, spent three months alone in a remote one-room schoolhouse. We meet her headstrong aunt, who scandalized the family when she bought her own Buick, and we also learn of her own father's desertion of his family and Blew's discovery of herself as a writer.

The House Tibet by Georgia Savage (\$10 pb, 0140168133) is the story of a young girl who is raped

by her father and denied by her mother, grandmother and aunt. In terror and confusion she flees her home, taking her autistic brother with her, and joins a band of homeless, street-wise children. They embark on a series of wild misadventures and end up meeting a wise and compassionate old man in a wondrous place called the House of Tibet. This is both a disturbing novel about the violence that often lies at the heart of the family and a compelling story about a spunky young girl with a spirit to survive.

When Food Is Love by Geneen Roth (\$10 pb, 0452268184) explores the relationship between eating and intimacy. Using her own experience and the stories of people from her "Breaking Free" seminars, Roth probes the motivations behind bingeing and obsessive dieting and explains how such behavior sabotages intimate relationships. Her message is that the cycle of compulsive behavior can be stopped and anyone can learn to satisfy all the hungers, both physical and emotional, that make us human.

A biography of Barbara Pym by Hazel Holt, Pym's longtime friend, colleague and literary advisor, **A Lot to Ask**, (\$11 pb, 0452268222) is a sharp and sensitive portrait of a woman whose work has won critical acclaim but whose private life had many hidden sorrows. This intimate portrait shows Pym's close and enduring friendships as well as her string of unhappy love affairs that cast a shadow across her life but gave her fuel for her novels. Very much like Pym's own novels, Holt's writing captures Pym's generous spirit and keen sensibility.



The Spousal Equivalent Handbook by Johnette Duff and George Truitt (\$10 pb, 0452268907) is a legal and financial guide to living together for young and old, straight and gay. This handbook offers specific steps the unmarried couples should take to protect themselves. The authors cover cohabitation agreements, how to share expenses, how to buy property

together, how to plan for retirement, disability or death and how to deal with the IRS.

A new collection of short stories by Joyce Carol Oates, the 1990 winner of the Rea Award that honors writers who have made significant contributions to the short story, **Heat** (\$12 pb, 0452266467) is a powerful collection of tales about the dark side of life. Oates reveals the violence and raw emotion lurking just below the calm surface of everyday life.

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A book that looks at how men feel about women, sex and relationships and themselves, **Men Talk** by Alvin Baraff (\$10 pb, 0452268303) reveals the thoughts and feelings of the men in an all-male therapy group at a psychotherapy center devoted to men's emotional concerns. This is a chance to understand the psychodynamics of men and will help both genders to understand how men feel.

Muriel James, co-author of *Born to Win*, has written a book about the spiritual search. Co-authored with John James, another psychotherapist, **Passion For Life** (\$10 pb, 0452268362) is a guide to finding our inner powers. The James's identify seven basic spiritual urges and show the reader how to learn to fulfill these fundamental needs. Free of jargon and psychobabble, the book presents exercises that can help anyone chart a course toward personal realization.

SIMON & SCHUSTER

Still Loved By The Sun by Migael Scherer (\$18.50 cl, 0671767852) is the author's account of her rape and its aftermath. Scherer describes the external facts of her attack and the compelling drama of her internal struggle to regain her dignity and recover her life. This is a book both for survivors of sexual violence and for anyone concerned about rape.

Getting Divorced Without Ruining Your Life by Sam Margulies (\$11 pb, 0671728261) addresses both the emotional and legal issues of divorce and shows how to negotiate an amicable agreement. The author explains how to negotiate despite the emotional pitfalls, how to determine child support and tailor a parenting agreement to the children's needs as well as those of both parents, and setting alimony that tries to maintain an equal standard of living for both parties.

The risks of electromagnetic fields have been in the news lately. Warning: The Electricity Around You

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May Be Hazardous to Your Health by Ellen Sugarman (\$10 pb, 0671758756), an investigative reporter who specializes in reporting on medical cover-ups, is a nontechnical book that looks at the problem. She explains what EMFs are, where they come from and how they affect our health. She gives guidelines on how to control exposure in and out of the home.

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS

Wingspan: Inside The Men's Movement, edited by Christopher Harding (\$16.95 pb, 0312078862), is an authoritative introduction to the men's movement and its themes and ideas. It includes essays, poetry, letters, photos, cartoons and a list of resources by authors like Robert Johnson, Sam Keen and Robert Moore. Christopher Harding is the editor of Wingspan: Journal of the Male Spirit and a leader in the mythopoetic men's movement.

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A book by the editors of *The World Almanac* offers a concise history of the struggle for equal justice and civil rights in the United States. **Words That Set Us Free** (088687680x) presents a chronological anthology of excerpts from the speeches, laws, events, essays and other documents associated with the civil rights movement, the women's rights movement and the ongoing political and legal struggle to extend civil and voting rights to all American citizens. It chronicles the struggle to end slavery, the rise of the women's suffrage movement, the ongoing struggle for civil rights for African and Native Americans as well as the recent struggle for gay rights.

Dealing With Degas: Representations Of Women and The Politics Of Vision edited by Richard Kendall and Griselda Pollock (\$16.95 pb, 0876636288) is a collection of 11 essays that explore the politics of interpretation. This encounter between feminism and art history challenges art history to confront the contemporary issues of spectatorship, class, gender and the politics of vision. — ST \bigcirc



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limited interpretations of development that systematically omit gender violence and remain blind to the obstacle it constitutes for women's participation in the development process. 42 pages, \$5, staple bound. 20% discount for 10+. Center for Global Issues and Women's Leadership, Douglass College, PO Box 270, New Brunswick NJ 08903.

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