Feminist Bookstore News

Summer/ Sidelines '98

Volume 21 Number 2

Femina serial am
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As we go to press...

Welcome to our annual summer Sidelines Issue. In this issue we do our best to collect the finest, most fun, and most profitable sidelines for feminist bookstores. Handily, it arrives in good time for stocking your store for all the winter holidays that your customers celebrate. Sidelines sales are a sometimes challenging, but ultimately essential part of the bookstore mix these days — something that sets your store apart from the chain stores and distinguishes your store among the independents.

Two secrets to successful sidelines: Someone in the store has to love them, display them, rotate them, hand-sell them (to the rest of the staff as well as the customers) and, of course, order them. Sidelines, like flowers, need to be new and fresh and different. Sometimes the best way to sell a line is to take it out of stock for a while, and then add it into the mix again in another location, a different display, and allow your customers to "discover" it all over again. (See "Bookstore News" for Kelly's insights on keeping displays fresh and new throughout the store.)

And, of course, there are a host of great ideas in the Sidelines section: From stocking zines to renting audio books and a wonderful multitude of new products and dependable standbys. It's a rich and wonderful issue and we hope you enjoy it to the max. If you find the information in these pages useful, but aren't a regular subscriber, see page 140 for subscription information.

Great news on the legal front as we go to press: Witch-hunter (*oops, I mean Special Investigator*) Kenneth Starr has dropped his subpoena against Kramerbooks & Afterwords. The word is that he got Lewinski's lawyer to tell him what books she read, but clearly he's given up trying to force booksellers to reveal that information. While a definite legal victory would have been nice, this is a question that never should have been raised. Thanks to ABA and to ABFFE who contributed over $100,000 to pay Kramerbooks' legal fees and for filing "friend of the court" briefs in support of the bookstores' motion to quash the subpoena.

BEA attendance figures are just in as we go to press: Total attendance for this year is 25,672, almost identical to last year's 25,732. Bookbuyer attendance was down from 7,402 in 1997 to 6,962 this year. That category includes booksellers, retailers, librarians, et al., as well as a huge variety of spouses, children, friends, authors, etc., who come in under bookbuyer badges.

There seems to be a new wind blowing, though. The buzz is that "Independents Are Making A Comeback." (*As if we had ever gone away*!) I can't tell you how many people at BEA told me some version of, "I think the stores that have made it this long are going to survive the chains." (*Wish it was that simple*!) *Publishers Weekly* just ran a great story about the reemergence of independent bookstores and that many publishers are newly realizing how essential independents are in selling many of their titles and creating bestsellers. (*Duh*!) But the proof of the pudding is coming from the chains: B&N spokespeople are suddenly promoting some fiction about how B&N is really just another independent (*Suddenly they want what we've got*). Borders, always ahead of the curve, has been trying to promote this line for the last year. And furthermore,

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B&N is opening fewer and smaller stores than at the height of the supersore (*Oops, superstore*) expansion. But don't take it personally, it's a trend: Wal-Mart, which has about 3,000 huge stores, has found that "giant" stores aren't always what shoppers want (*Gee!*), and is rolling out a series of smaller stores (40,000 square feet) to get the business of the folks who don't want to hike through a 100,000-square-foot store just to pick up a few things. Makes me recall Jewelle Gomez quoting Grace Paley at ALA last year: something to the effect of "The mainstream is wide and shallow — and all the action is in the tributaries," to which Jewelle added, "And our job is to make sure people still have access to the tributaries."

I'm a tad less optimistic than the buzz, myself. It isn't going to get easy for a few years, yet. But the women-in-print movement continues to be essential.

But the work always includes change, new energy, new ideas, and new people. Still, it's with a great sadness that I announce that FBN's office manager extraordinaire, Danielle Bauter, and FBN's four-year veteran Jenn Tust are both heading out into the world to seek their fortunes. We're not saying goodbye yet: Dani will stay through the summer to train our new office manager in August. Jenn will see us through the Fall issue and stay on until the end of September to train her successor. Please tell anyone you think would be interested in these positions to call FBN for job descriptions.

Our deep thanks, too, to Roz Warren for many years of humor(!) columns. She's taking what we hope will be a temporary hiatus from writing the column but not, we hope, from sending us wicked and insightful email.

To make our upcoming transitions easier, we're working ahead (way ahead!) on our University Press issue (due out in November) and January's special issue on Women's History and Black History Months. If you have ideas, suggestions, information — or articles you'd like to write or contribute to for these issues, please give me a call right away. We want to get most of these special features wrapped up before Jenn leaves.

Yours in spreading the words,
Carol Seajay

FBN DUE DATES

	Fall Announcements Sept – Oct	University Presses Nov – Dec	Black & Women's History Months Jan – Feb
Articles	July 3	Sept. 4	Nov. 6
Ad Reservations	July 10	Sept. 11	Nov. 13
Ad Mechanicals	July 17	Sept. 18	Nov. 20
News Column Items	July 17	Sept. 18	Nov. 20
Letters	July 22	Sept. 23	Nov. 25

FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is the communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. FBN reaches 500 feminist and feminist-inclined bookstores in the U.S. and Canada as well as feminist booksellers in England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan and Kenya. Librarians, Women's Studies teachers, book reviewers, publishers and feminist bibliophiles comprise the remainder of the subscribers. Signed articles and letters are the responsibility of the authors. FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS (ISSN: 0741-6555) is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September, and November by FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS at 2180 Bryant Street #207, San Francisco CA 94110. Periodicals Postage paid at San Francisco CA. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS, PO Box 882554, San Francisco CA 94188-2554.

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Gay Men's Literature: Richard Labonté
Humor: Roz Warren
Kids' Lit: Linda Bubon
Music: Susan Frazier & Barb Smalley
Mysteries: Nan Cinnater
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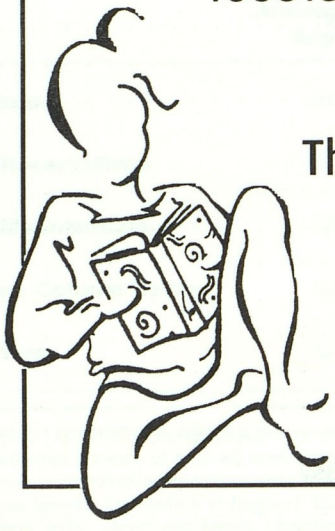

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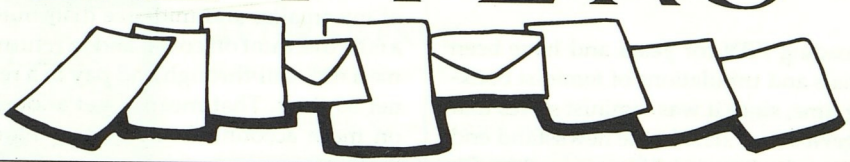
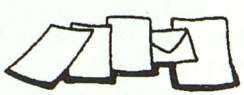
LETTERS



415 E. Hersey St.
Ashland OR 97520

Dear FBN,

In 1997 EarthBeat! Records released a CD that I produced and performed on with an incredible group of women called Circle of Women. This CD includes the song "Circle Round for Freedom." The song is credited as public domain because of my various conversations with a woman who said she was the co-author and that she felt that the song was a "circle song" and should not be copyrighted. In March 1998, a woman named Linda Hirschhorn informed me that she had written and copyrighted the song in 1982 under the name "Circle Chant" and that some of the lyrics were different.



As a result, I am writing to correct any confusion your readers may have regarding the authorship of this wonderful song. If you have *Circle of Women* in your music collection please correct the insert to read: "Circle Chant" ("Circle Round for Freedom") written and copyright 1982/1992 by Linda Hirschhorn.

Please correct the lyrics to read:

Circle round for freedom, circle round for peace For "all of us imprisoned," circle for release Circle "for" the planet, circle for each soul For "the children of our children," keep the circle whole. (Note: phrases in quotations indicate lyric changes.)

For information on Linda Hirschhorn or her progressive Jewish women's ensemble Vocolot, or to order one of her six recordings (*The CD Roots* and *Wings* includes "Circle Chant"), contact: Oyster Productions, PO Box 3929, Berkeley CA 94703.

I hope this helps to clear up any misconceptions regarding one of the most healing and beautiful circle songs I've heard.

In the spirit of song,
Alice Di Micele

Emerald Earth Publishing
PO Box 4326
Philadelphia PA 19118

Dear FBN,

I'm a new publisher with a single book (*Songs for Earthlings*) in my catalog, and I first heard about you from a friend who's the children's book buyer at a large independent bookstore in Marin. She took me over to Boadecia's and I tried to con them out of a back issue of [*Feminist Bookstore News*] but they smiled and firmly refused.

At your BEA booth I had a marvelous chat with a sweet funny woman whose name I didn't get, and she gave me a copy of *FBN* (Spring Announcements 1998) which I put in my purse to read on the plane going home.

Now I consider myself a pretty with-it woman — I have 6 self-publishing books on my desk (and study them all); I belong to PMA and SPAN and read their newsletters; and I went to all 8 sessions of PMA's Publishing University in the two days preceding BEA. So we tried to go home on Sunday, but because of the thunderstorms we sat on the runway at O'Hare for 4 hours, and I read *FBN* from cover to cover.

And I learned *at least* as much as I did at Pub U and certainly more about "current events." So herewith is my check for a subscription, and I consider it among the best money I've spent so far.

Thanks for being.

Julie Forest Middleton

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PO Box 641
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info@sagewoman.com

Dear FBN,

I've been reading *FBN* for years and have been following the trials and tribulations of feminist bookstores for a long time, since it was feminist stores that largely gave *SageWoman* a start in the newsstand end of the business. I've also been pushing my readers, for years, to either subscribe (yeah!) or buy their copies of my titles (now two, both *SageWoman* and *PanGaia*) from their local feminist, pagan/New Age or independent store.

I thought you might like to know a bit about how the superstore phenomenon has affected our business, and what I'm doing about it.

First of all, 1997 was a really lousy year for us; the demise of Fine Print Distributors just about put me (and most other small magazines I know) right out of business. As I'm sure your small press publishers will understand; they took hits during 1997 also. Our problem is even more insidious — virtually all magazine wholesale accounts are on consignment only; payment ranges from absurd (60 days past next issue, which for a quarterly like me means 120 days) to the horrendous (I've seen distributors try to take me 120 days past their terms — which can add up to almost a year! after the ship date). And then there's the long, long returns period — 90, 120, 180 days past the next issue. Etc.

Last year I got hit twice: Fine Print owed us over $15,000 when they went down and then Bookpeople stopped carrying magazines. This created a big hole in my distribution network from which I am yet to recover. Many smaller bookstores simply stopped carrying magazines altogether, especially those which had been serviced by Bookpeople. As a result a greater and greater proportion of my wholesale copies are going to mega-wholesalers like IPD and Ingram, which primarily service the super-chains.

Without the massive support of our subscribers, who raised $28,000 in less than 3 months, *SageWoman* would have gone under. But, our readers came through! (Hooray!) I'm trying to implement some changes which might interest your bookstore and publisher readers.

1. I have set up "no-return" accounts with many of my smaller and mid-size distributors. I give them a 60% discount off cover, and in return they guarantee me a 60% sell-through and pay in a real (not delayed) net 60 days. That means I get a lower profit margin on these accounts but I get my money sooner and there are no nasty "delayed returns" surprises. The distributors benefit because they get a 5% better discount, and if they sell more than 60% they get to pocket the difference. (Of course, if they sell less than 60% they eat the difference, so there's a bit of trust on their part that my product quality will remain newsstand worthy.)

2. I am also setting up "direct-to-retail" accounts with small bookstores who don't have or prefer not to use a magazine distributor, or whose distributor (such as Eastern) doesn't carry us. I have two sets of terms: 25% discount with full returns allowed and a set $5 shipping charge, and a 50% discount, with no returns allowed, and free shipping. Guess what? Everyone is taking the 50% discount! I figure, it's a pain in the rump to deal with returns for everybody, and by giving a generous discount and free shipping, I'm making it economical for the smaller store to carry us.

I would be very interested in a column, or at least regular features, about how feminist magazines are doing in the new market reality. There is a fledgling trade organization that you should know about as well, called the Independent Press Association, made up of small magazines like us which are trying to stay ahead of the mega-corporate machine. You may contact them at ⟨indypress@indypress.org⟩ for the whole story.

Thanks for keeping up the good fight!
Anne Newkirk Niven
Publisher *SageWoman* and *PanGaia* magazines

FBN *would love to hear from other feminist magazines about how you're coping with these difficult conditions and the new market reality.*

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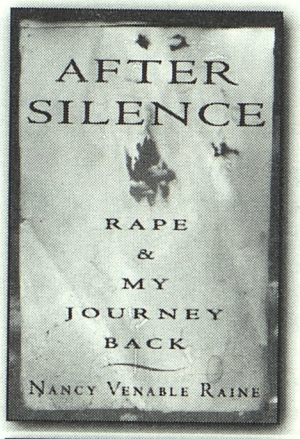
Books for Women by Women



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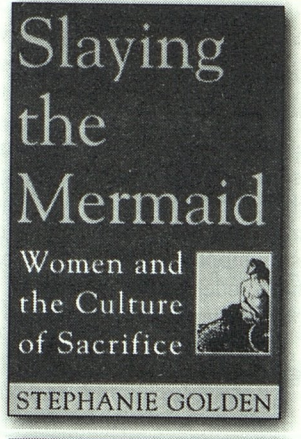

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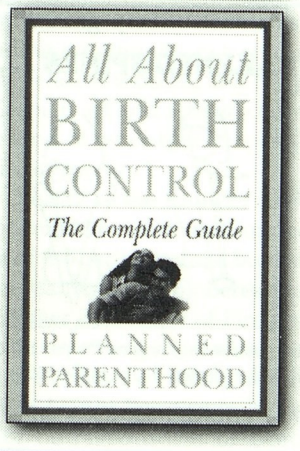

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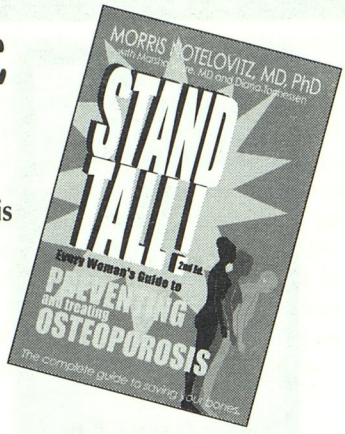

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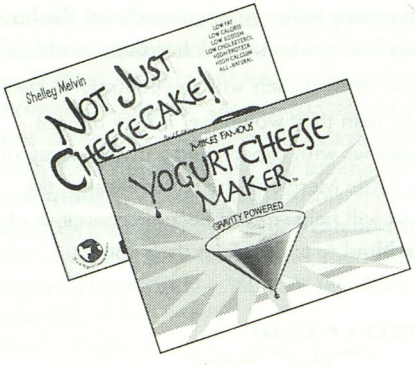

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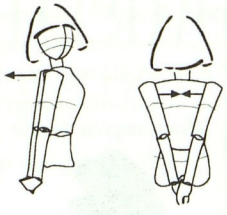

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News News News

Dorothy Allison Creates/Launches Independent Spirit Award — First Awards Go to Carol Seajay & Nancy Bereano —

Dorothy Allison (*Trash, Skin, Bastard Out of Carolina, Cavedweller,* et al.) has established the Independent Spirit Award to recognize the importance of independent publishing and bookselling. The Award carries a cash prize of $5,000 and will be presented each spring to an individual whose work with independent presses and bookstores has been central to supporting writers and introducing readers to works that might otherwise go unheard and unread.

The first Independent Spirit Award was given jointly to Carol Seajay and Nancy Bereano. In presenting the Award to Carol Seajay, Dorothy Allison said, "Her sustained encouragement not only of bookstores and feminist publishers, but also of young writers and readers, has been pivotal in the 21 years *FBN* has been published." Of Nancy Bereano, Dorothy said, "Her dedication to producing and distributing quality women's books has given the reading community extraordinary books by fiercely independent women, and her profound commitment to lesbian art and artists continues to offer a home to the kind of work that shapes and sustains the best of our community."

Seajay is the founder and publisher of *Feminist Bookstore News*, and co-founded, with Paula Wallace, one of the early feminist bookstores, Old Wives' Tales (San Francisco, 1976). Bereano is the founding owner, publisher and editor of Firebrand Books.

In receiving the Award, Seajay said, "I can't tell you if I'm more thrilled to receive this Award, to share it with Nancy Bereano in its very first year, or by the sheer outrageousness of Dorothy's commitment to honor and respect this community of fiercely feminist and lesbian women who have created a written community that has sustained, shaped, and sometimes saved, our lives."

"My life as a writer has been made possible by the feminist and alternative presses and small bookstores," Dorothy explained when she established the Independent Spirit Award. "The first work I ever published was in *Amazing Grace*, a tiny short-lived feminist magazine in Tallahassee, Florida. The first time I ever called myself a writer was when I read my stories in Herstore, a small feminist bookstore I helped to found in the same town. My first book of poetry was published with Long Haul Press in Brooklyn, and my short stories and essays continue to be available from Firebrand Books. Without the bookstores, magazines and presses that have encouraged and sustained my imagination, I would not have known what to do with the stories I wanted to tell. At a time when the survival of small independents is so uncertain, I want to do everything I can to make sure that these vital community institutions are there for other young writers. It is my hope that this award will not only recognize individual efforts but will also encourage the spirit that sustains the people and organizations who have done so much for me."

The Independent Spirit Award is given in conjunction with the Astraea Lesbian Writers Fund.

Bertelsmann Buys Random House, Will Merge RH/BDD

Despite protests and formal complaints filed by the Authors' Guild (which represents 7,200 published authors), the Association of Authors' Representatives, and others, the Federal Trade Commission has approved the sale of Random House to Bertelsmann.

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Before Columbus Foundation — American Book Awards 1998 Winners

Sandra Benítez, *Bitter Grounds*, (Hyperion)

Allison Adelle Hedge Coke, *Dog Road Woman*, (Coffee House Press)

Angela Y. Davis, *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday*, (Pantheon)

Nora Okja Keller, *Comfort Woman*, (Viking)

Brenda Marie Osbey, *All Saints*, (Louisiana State University Press)

Nancy Rawles, *Love Like Gumbo*, (Fjord Press)

Lifetime Achievement Awards went to Paul Metcalf, Vivian Gussin Paley and A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff

Bertelsmann, a German multimedia company with a heavy concentration in book publishing, also owns Bantam Doubleday Dell in the U.S. Bertelsmann plans to merge Random House and BDD into one monolithic publishing company this summer. The two companies will operate under the Random House name under the direction of Peter Olson, the head of Bertelsmann's English-language trade book operations. Random House was sold for an estimated $1.4 billion.

The Authors' Guild had argued that, if Bertelsmann purchased Random House, the new combined company would control one-third of the U.S. adult trade book market. (Bertelsmann said only 11%.) Critics of the merger have expressed concerns that range from the possibility that one super-publisher of this size could set terms for the entire industry and that writers and agents would have fewer options in placing books, to a reduction in competition when publishers bid for books (i.e., if all BDD and RH companies jointly pre-decide that only one imprint will pursue a specific title) and a reduction in the total number of books published. Booksellers across the country and the ABA argued that mergers of this type generally reduce the diversity of the voices and kinds of books that are published and contribute to a much greater homogenization of what should be a culturally diverse society.

Bertelsmann, with annual sales of $12.9 billion, is the third largest media conglomerate in the world, exceeded in size and power only by Disney and Time Warner. It owns a vast network of publishers, magazines (including, in the U.S., *McCall's* and *Family Circle*), printers, radio and TV networks (including digital pay-TV), distributors, book and music clubs (with 35 million active members), record labels (including RCA and Arista), and other entertainment businesses, as well as Internet services, including half of AOL Bertelsmann Online, the European subsidiary of America Online. Bertelsmann bought Bantam Books in 1977 and Doubleday in 1986 and merged them to create Bantam Doubleday Dell. Bertelsmann also owns publishing companies and other interests in Canada, Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa as well as Germany and other parts of Europe. Earlier this year Bertelsmann announced that it would be developing online book sales organizations in a number of countries. These new organizations are expected to have a much wider reach and depth than even Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble Online.

Bertelsmann's goal for book publishers is a 15% margin, which it has achieved at BDD. But what happens to the books that won't contribute to that high a return? (The return in bookselling runs between 1% and, in the best of times, 4%.) As one agent (who declined to be named out of fear of never selling another manuscript) said when the news was first released: "I used to have a list of 75 editors I could send books to. Now there are 15. With this merger, there will be even fewer options."

Pandora Press Returns to the U.S.

—Or at least the books do. NYU Press is very pleased to announce that it is the new, exclusive North American distributor for Pandora Press, under arrangement with Pandora's new owner, British publisher Rivers Oram Press. Pandora Press, founded in 1983 to publish feminist books, was an off-shoot of the women's movement and evolved in the midst of London's vibrant feminist publishing

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community. It was one of a number of independently functioning publishing companies owned and managed by Routledge and Kegan Paul. Pandora was sold to HarperCollins in 1989 and titles were represented and sold in the U.S. by HarperSanFrancisco. But when HarperCollins shifted its attention to general publishing in 1997, Pandora was sold to Rivers Oram.

Pandora's recent titles include *Paris Was a Woman: Portraits from the Left Bank* by Andrea Weiss, *Blood Sisters: The French Revolution in Women's Memory* by Marilyn Yalom, and *Making Out: The Book of Lesbian Sex and Sexuality* with photographs by Laurence Jaugey-Paget and text by Zoë Schramm-Evans. Pandora's titles have a reputation for being accessible, original, and at the cutting edge in biography, health, history, lesbian and gay studies, popular psychology, sexual politics, popular culture, arts, and media.

Rivers Oram and North American distributor NYU Press, are set to build on Pandora's rich backlist and excellent feminist reputation. With titles on women and classical music, women and jazz, women pirates, and a series on women saints and mystics, plus judicious and well-packaged reissues from Pandora's superb backlist, Rivers Oram and NYU Press are positioned to produce and distribute an excellent list of essential reading for women and to make those books readily available in the U.S.

NYU Press' discount schedule applies to all Pandora titles. To place orders or request a catalog, contact NYU's order department, NYU Press, 70 Washington Square South, NY NY 10012; 800-996-6987, email ⟨orders@nyupress.nyu.edu⟩.

P-FLAG Arouses Ire of Gay Bookstores

With a single move, P-FLAG, the otherwise highly revered support organization for Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays, has managed to infuriate and alienate gay and feminist booksellers all across the country.

In the spring issue, the P-FLAG newspaper advertises P-FLAG's new alliance with Barnes & Noble Online and encourages P-FLAG members and other readers to order books through P-FLAG's Web site. Under P-FLAG's contract with Barnes & Noble, all book sales from P-FLAG's site are funneled to and fulfilled by B&N with P-FLAG receiving a small commission on each sale. (Note: According to its Web site B&N pays 5% on book sales between $2,000 and $20,000/year, nothing on sales of less than $2,000 in any quarter, and up to 7% on sales above $20,000.)

Gay, lesbian, and feminist bookstores have actively supported P-FLAG since its inception, and have been among P-FLAG's strongest allies in providing information to P-FLAG members and fostering a healthy community for their children. P-FLAG's decision to encourage their members to financially support B&N, and in so doing to actively remove their support from the stores that have supported P-FLAG's quest for information and understanding, has hurt deeply — both emotionally and financially. While gay and feminist booksellers certainly understand that some parents may not, initially, be comfortable shopping in a (oh my gawd!) gay store and prefer to search the stacks of bookstores with reputations for not carrying controversial, challenging or cutting edge books (like, perhaps the very books they need, now that they know their kid is gay), P-FLAG's agreement with B&N precludes mentioning, recommending or encouraging Web site visitors to purchase books from other sources — such as the gay, feminist and lesbian stores that are a core part of their children's community. Is the small commission that B&N will (eventually) pay for book sales routed through the P-FLAG Web site worth selling out the stores that have supported P-FLAG and its members for years? We hope not. We hope, like the many booksellers who have written to P-FLAG to protest this betrayal, that this decision was a mistake that can, and will be, speedily rectified.

Booksellers, as well as members and other supporters, have been writing to both P-FLAG's national headquarters and to their local organization to explain the ramifications of P-FLAG's new alliance and decision and to encourage P-FLAG to revoke their exclusive arrangement with B&N.

P-FLAG's executive director is Kirsten Kingdon. National offices are at 1101 14th St. NW #1030, Washington DC 20005.

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ABA Elects New Officers, Board Members

Long-term feminist bookseller Ann Christophersen (Women & Children First, Chicago) was elected to the ABA Board of Directors this spring, along with Miriam Sontz, now of Powell's Book Store (Portland, Oregon), who "got her start in bookselling at the local feminist collective bookstore," and self-identified feminist activist Lilla Weinberger, from Readers' Books in Sonoma, California. Also elected were Karl Pohrt (Shaman Drum Bookshop, Ann Arbor) and Brian Weese (Bibelot, Baltimore). All were elected for three-year terms.

The Board's new officers are: President, Richard Howorth (Square Books, Oxford, Mississippi): Vice President, Neal Coonerty (Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz); Treasurer, Norman Laurila (A Different Light, New York City); and Secretary, Roxanne Coady (R.J. Julia Booksellers, Madison, Connecticut).

This is a Board that is ready and willing to shepherd the ABA's fair trade practices lawsuits through the courts and to support independent bookselling and booksellers in every way possible. With a lot of help from its constituency, and at the behest of that constituency, ABA has recreated itself over the past few years as a strong and vital advocate for that endangered — but essential — part of the book distribution system: independent bookstores.

Feminist Bookstores Take the Lead on the Legal Front — Full Circle Joins ACLU Suit to Overthrow New Mexico's New Cyber-Censorship Law —

Full Circle Books joined with the ACLU and 20 other plaintiffs to protest a law, signed by New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson in March, which makes it a crime to disseminate online expression that involves "nudity" or "sexual conduct." The law provides for penalties including up to a year in jail, a $1,000 fine, or both. ACLU's argument — which was used successfully in overthrowing a similar law in New York last year — is that the law violates free speech rights and, because it affects Internet speakers nationwide, violates the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution which bars states from regulating activity outside their borders.

The 20 plaintiffs all expressed concern that the law would prohibit them — at risk of jail or fines — from communicating valuable information on a wide range of topics including art, literature, women's health, safer sex, gay and lesbian issues, prisoner rape and free speech.

Plaintiff OBGYN.net, an online resource on women's health issues, often includes explicit discussions of sexual conduct and the female body. One forum, which included over 1,600 messages in March, contained postings by women with questions about bleeding after sexual intercourse during pregnancy, breast self-examination, and condom breakage.

Full Circle Books' Web site features books about sexual abuse, domestic violence, lesbian romance, and women and technology — many of which would be illegal to list on a Web site under the new law.

In the last three years 25 states have considered or passed Internet censorship laws. But, however popular the laws may seem, they do not hold up well to constitutional scrutiny. In addition to New York, courts in Georgia and Virginia have found Internet censorship laws to be unconstitutional in challenges brought by the ACLU. And, its June 1997 landmark ruling in *Reno v. ACLU*, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the federal version of these laws saying that it placed an "unacceptably heavy burden on protected speech" that "threatens to torch a large segment of the Internet community."

The 20 plaintiffs in the case include Feminist.com, Full Circle Books, OBGYN.net, Sexual Health Institute, Stop Prisoner Rape, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the Association of American Publishers, the New Mexico Library Association, Pen American Center, and PMA.

In related news, Women & Children First, co-plaintiffs on ABA's lawsuit alleging that Borders and B&N use their size to elicit illegal terms from suppliers and engage in other illegal practices, report that the local news community provided extensive and supportive coverage of the lawsuit, including an interview — with good shots of the store — on WGN-TV. Feedback from their community has been excellent, with many people coming into the store to express their support. ○

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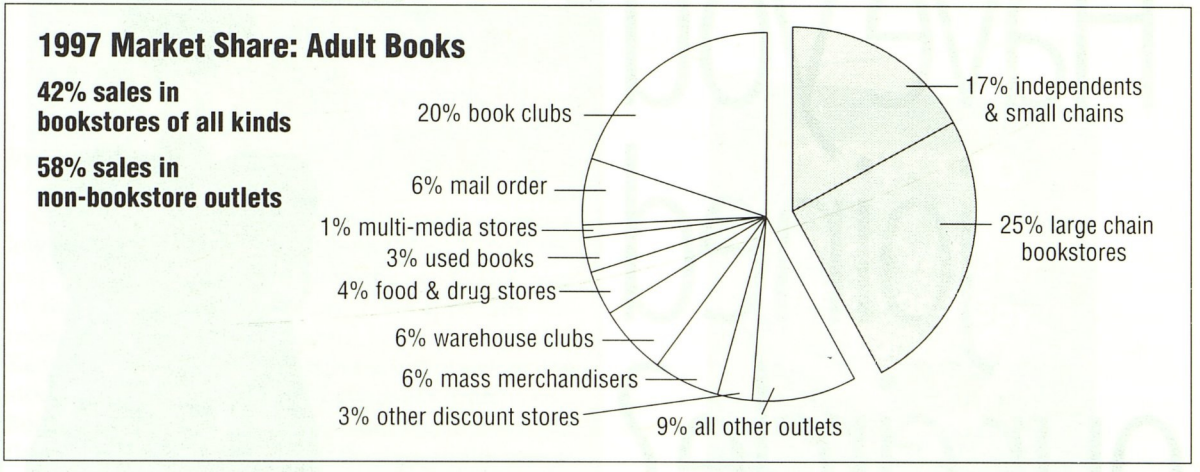
Where Have All the Book Sales Gone?



By Carol Seajay

Despite all the new chain stores that opened up across America in 1997, adult book sales rose by less than 1% in 1997, according to "The 1997 Consumer Research Study on Book Purchasing." Given that the country's total population rose by about 1%, this indicates that consumers purchased fewer books on a per-household basis in 1997 than they did in 1996.

The report reveals a number of interesting trends:

In 1997 total bookstore sales (independents + chains) fell to 42% of total book sales, a decline of 1%. Large chain stores held steady at 25% of national book sales, while independents' share (a category that includes small chains) fell by 1% to 17% of total book sales.

While, of course, everyone would like to see independents' share of book sales increase, it is worth noting that the previous year independents' share of book sales declined by 1.9%, and that a decline of "only" 1% cuts our rate of loss by nearly half. Independents' market share has declined by 7% since 1993 when independents' share was 25% of total book sales. It is also worth noting that the total number of independent bookstores fell by an estimated 7% during the year, while the chains had to open about 150 new stores in 1997 to hold their market position steady.

In these no-free-time days, book clubs are enjoying a resurgence in popularity. Book club sales, at 20% of total sales, reflected the largest increase in sales among the various types of book retailers. Book clubs' sales have increased from 16% to 20% since 1993.

Mail order sales (including Internet sales but presumably not books shipped by mail through independent bookstores) increased by 1% for a total market share of 6%. Internet sales in 1997 represented only .3% of all sales, but sales in this category are expected to mushroom over the next few years.

A new category, multiple-media stores that sell books, was added this year. Multi-media stores claimed 1% of book sales in 1997. (Presumably these sales were reported with large chain store sales in years past.)

Used book sales fell from 4% to 3%, and sales in food and drug stores also fell by 1% to 4%.

Book purchases through both warehouse clubs and mass merchandisers, which have increased alarmingly over the last few years, held steady at 6%. Sales at other discount stores stayed at 3%. One has to wonder if the lack of growth in these areas indicates that these stores have added all the books to their

See **Market Share**, *page 32.*

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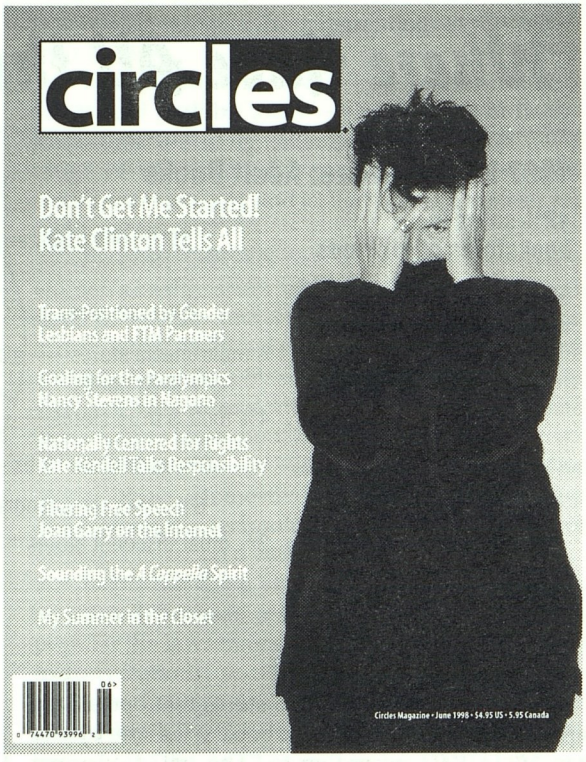

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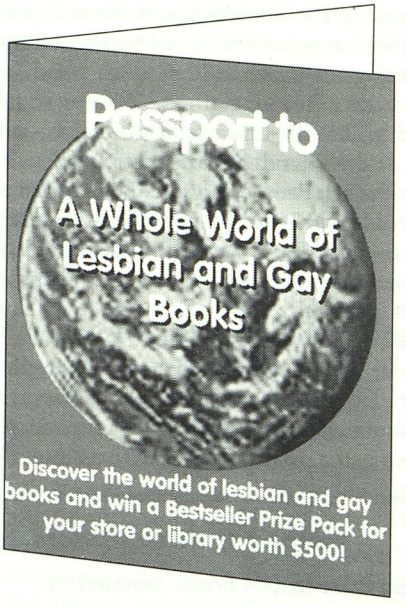
BEA Report

By Carol Seajay

To no one's surprise, Chicago Year Four was a low-key ABA/BEA. No arrests, no demonstrations, no protests (although booksellers cheered Bill Kramer, of Kramerbooks & Afterwords, for appealing the recent court decision allowing special prosecutor Kenneth Starr to proceed with his subpoena of the store's records for Monica Lewinski's purchases). Booksellers and ABA staff were too well behaved to flaunt the new lawsuit against Borders and Barnes & Noble. Most of the large publishers had been wooed back, significant portions of the booksellers present spent significant amounts of their time in the big publishers' booths (whether obtaining bookbags or actually ordering books is anyone's guess) leaving less time for smaller press booths, and business seemed slower. Quality of conversation, like last year, was high. Usually that means a relatively low ratio of booksellers to publishers.

Word on the floor was that bookseller attendance was down...or about the same as last year. FBN's take is that it was very low — probably less than 50% of what it was during Year One in Chicago. FBN expects attendance to jump next year in Los Angeles, then to decline again if the show returns to Chicago in 2000. As we go to press BEA has yet to release either attendance figures, or even estimates (not a good sign), but I was told that "waves of booksellers" streamed into the hall on Saturday morning.... Traffic, even in the less-centrally-located-than-last-year Small Press section, was steady on Saturday but not exactly wavelike. Wanting to see these alleged waves for myself, I skipped out on the end of the Women's Presses Library Project meeting on Sunday morning to watch the booksellers arrive. True, there were booksellers lined up outside the hall. True, BEA (or someone) had engaged a jazz band to get those booksellers hyped up



and ready to march in but, by my watch, it took all of 4½ minutes for all of the assembled booksellers to get into the show. Hmmm, I thought, maybe they'll straggle in later. They didn't. Oftentimes, at ABA/BEA, day one is for chatting, cruising, and checking out new titles with orders coming in on Day Two or Day Three. Not this year. Day One was the business day. Day Two was slow, very slow. Day Three was social — with the other publishers who were still around. BEA, with its die-hard Monday programs, did its best to make Monday viable. Myself, I'd have to say that Year Four in Chicago would have been a good one-day show. Given that the entire industry has shifted to "just-in-time ordering" (which has been standard operating procedure in undercapitalized feminist bookstores for our entire 25-30 year history), no one really expects to do major sales at BEA — the focus has changed to communication. The highlight of FBN's show was the booksellers out on the floor telling publishers how effective the Feminist Bookstore Network Holiday Catalog has been for their stores.

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Cecilia Tan's brilliant "Passport to Pride" more than compensated for the lack of a Gay/Lesbian/Feminist Aisle this year. Saturday and Sunday and even Monday saw a steady stream of people coming by the booths to get the Passports stamped. No one seemed to realize that they needed only 8 stamps (of 20) to qualify for the drawing at the end of the show. Or maybe it was just the fun of touring all the booths and getting all those little squares filled in with a rainbow of colored stamps. Whatever it was, it worked brilliantly. Librarians, publicists, authors — as well as the intended audience of booksellers — all got into the act. People had fun and stopped at booths they would otherwise never have entered. Some stayed to chat, some were willing to be drawn into conversation, and a few just wanted the missing bit of color. It gave us a chance to talk to a number of librarians we otherwise wouldn't have met, to gay men who hadn't realized that there would be anything in *FBN* for them or for their coworkers back home, and make some other good connections as well — which is the point of going to the show, after all.

Passport to Pride Winners

Grand Prize ($500+ books donated by participating publishers)
Timothy Peterson of McNally Robinson Bookstore/Winnipeg

Runners-Up ($250+ books each)
Maryelizabeth Hart of Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore/San Diego
Carol Szatmarg of Afterwords Bookstore/Milwaukee

Surrounded as we were by four other feminist presses (gynergy, Second Story, Third Side, and Down There), and thanks to being in a location where seniority mattered (front and center in the Small Press section) we had most of the comforts of the old Aisle, at about a quarter of the cost of the full-priced but back-of-the-bus specialty section location. Press Gang and Odd Girls saw less traffic in their back edge of Small Press location. Last year, traffic in the Small Press Section was at least as good as traffic on the Aisle the previous year. This year, thanks to the Passports, it was better. No small feat, given that bookseller attendance this year was significantly lower than two years ago. Naiad and Alyson seemed pleased with their nearly front-and-center locations (based on their 20 years of seniority). New Victoria, which hadn't bothered to register for 1998 due to lack of traffic, et al. at the 1997 Aisle location, got a last minute call from BEA offering an abandoned booth next to Naiad. Many university presses, equally frustrated with their specialty section's low-traffic location (albeit on the front, far right edge of the show instead of the back edge), also abandoned their specialty section and went out on the main floor in the much-better locations to which their seniority entitled them.

BEA, a bit nervous perhaps about getting publishers to sign up for next year's very early show (April 30 to May 2), or perhaps genuinely wanting a stronger publisher buy-in, set up a program wherein publishers who committed to buying space next year were "allowed" to pick their own locations. Publishers (or groups) that booked 1,000 square feet of booth space got first pick (based on seniority — and no one seemed to lose their seniority for having skipped a year or two). Then the small fry had their turn. However, it requires that publishers commit for next year before they can evaluate — never mind even experience — this year's show. It may be a good system, once BEA gets the kinks worked out. Trusting that next year's show in California will draw more booksellers than years Two, Three, or Four in Chicago, FBN signed up for a main-floor booth. We're one aisle over from the Naiad, Alyson, New Victoria enclave and next to the Login booth (which features Firebrand, Spinifex, and Women's Press/Canada). There was talk at the Feminist Bookstores'/Feminist Publishers' Dinner of organizing ourselves into a ten-booth consortium to get in on the first draw for year 2000 back in Chicago. That seems eminently possible, but the question remains: Will enough booksellers attend Year Five (of six) in Chicago to make main-floor booths worth the price? Even the eternally optimistic were cynical.

The Dinner

Thanks to being a somewhat smaller group this year (many fewer booksellers chose to come to Year Four in Chicago), we were able to hold the Feminist Bookstores'/Feminist Publishers' Dinner in the woman-owned La Donna restaurant where we were

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1998 Firecracker Alternative Book Awards: Books With A Fuse!

Nonfiction, *Ono Ono Girl's Hula*, Carolyn Lei-Lanilau, (University of Wisconsin Press)
Poetry, *Queer Dog: Homo Pup Poetry*, Gerry Gomez Pearlberg, ed., (Cleis Press)
Sex, *The Ultimate Guide to Anal Sex for Women*, Tristan Taormino, (Cleis Press)
Art/Photo, *Devil Babe's Big Book of Fun*, Isabel Samaras, (Manic D Press)
Wildcard Categories/Special Recognition Honorees: I Always Knew Kirk & Spock Were Lovers! *NASA/TREK: Popular Science and Sex in America*, Constance Penley, (Verso)

able to be both rowdy and welcomed. Beth Dingman (New Victoria) gave the welcoming remarks and brought a brief history of feminist publishing, in chart form, that outlined when the various presses were founded and highlighted those that are still publishing. I am always awed and inspired by the energy and power and by the skill and strength and commitment of these women who gather annually to cheer each other on and by the passion and insight in each woman's remarks as we go around the room. I'd fly to Chicago for this dinner, even if there were no ABA/BEA.

Louise Fleming (gynergy) will organize next year's Dinner.

Feminist Bookstore Meetings

Theresa Corrigan (Lioness Books) will coordinate the program for the Feminist Bookstore Meetings in Los Angeles in 1999. The Feminist Bookstore Network Steering Committee will be Mary Ellen Kavanaugh (My Sisters' Words), Gilda Bruckman (New Words), Linda Bubon (Women & Children First), Catherine Sameh (In Other Words), Sandi Torkildson (A Room of One's Own) will be the Treasurer. See "Bookstore News" for a report of this years' meeting.

Favorite Show Sight'em

The back of a discrete and tasteful navy-blue t-shirt that read "Friends Don't Let Friends Buy Books at Chain Stores." When I finally caught up to the front of the shirt (on a bookseller at the ABA Town Meeting) it read "Support Your Independent Bookseller." She told me that a bookseller friend, challenged by the task of educating the public about the real issues surrounding the "chaining of America," had designed the shirt to raise awareness and to spark in-store conversations with customers. The flier she gave me read: "Display these shirts in your store, order them for your staff, wear them during Independent Bookseller Week (and everyday), participate in the revolution of booksellers around the country and let the issue be known. Long live independent bookselling!"

Shirts are $14.95 each or $8 each for 24+ shirts. Navy blue, white lettering, in large and extra large. Order from TransFutures Inc., PO Box 99803, Seattle WA 98199.

ABA Annual Meeting & Town Meeting

Booksellers and ABA both were remarkably, tastefully, politely restrained when it came to discussing ABA's recently launched lawsuit against Borders and Barnes & Noble. There was no question among the booksellers FBN talked to that the lawsuit was a brave, courageous, and absolutely necessary act. Booksellers expressed high confidence in the viability of the lawsuit and high hopes for its success on many fronts. Publishers, except for the alternative and otherwise politicized, were, not surprisingly, less enthusiastic. Booksellers were also pleased with the media attention it has received so far, except for *The New York Times*' near silence on the matter.

Booksellers at large seemed pleased with the new direction of the board and the staff, and the results of the strategic planning process. The only demand from the floor was Andy Ross' (Cody's Books) urgent request that ABA take steps to compile an industry-wide database that independent booksellers can use on their Web sites as there is, as yet, nothing comparable to the databases employed by Amazon.com, B&N Online, etc., and the expected resources seem disinclined to provide anything similar to independent bookstores.

There was some comment — and surprise — that ABA has suspended its Prospective Booksellers Schools (pending reorganization?), given the strength and impact of this program, and its success in preparing would-be booksellers for the real world of bookselling in post-chained America. It was even

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more surprising to read in *PW Daily* that ABA seems to have decided — with no comment at the annual membership meeting — to suspend publishing *American Bookseller*. If in fact that's true, it leaves *FBN* and *New Age Retailer*, and Donna Paz's newsletter as the key publications for skill development. ABA, *PW Daily* suggested, will focus on the much more popular *Bookselling This Week* and on its email communications program.

Board size and composition was the other discussion thread this year during governance-oriented focus groups. The drive seems to be for a smaller, "quick and nimble" board (9 to 12 members) that can make decisions and take action quickly, and an expanded (but non-binding) advisory board. FBN and others are concerned that it is the specialty and smaller independent bookstore positions that would be eliminated to create this smaller board. Even with representation from two feminist bookstores and one African American store there is, we are told, only one board member representing stores that do $500,000 or less a year — when, in fact, the vast majority of ABA's members fall into that category. Others expressed concern that ABA might, under this format, be more susceptible to being taken over again by conservative forces. Any such changes in ABA's board structure need to be accompanied by changes that make alternative slates viable once again. (After the last alternative slate was elected, procedures were changed to make it much more difficult for alternative slates to run and be elected.)

Survival Rates

ABA, while still reporting diminishing numbers of independent bookstore members, reports that the

See **BEA Report**, *page 22.*

1998 Lammy Winners

Lesbian Fiction, *Beyond the Pale*, Elana Dykewomon, (Press Gang)
Gay Men's Fiction, *The Far Euphrates*, Aryeh Lev Stollman, (Riverhead)
Lesbian Studies, *Does Your Mama Know?*, Lisa C. Moore, ed., (Redbone Press)
Gay Men's Studies, *Gay Metropolis*, Charles Kaiser, (Houghton Mifflin)
Lesbian Poetry (Tie), *Cold River*, Joan Larkin, (Painted Leaf)
School of Fish, Eileen Myles, (Black Sparrow)
Gay Men's Poetry, *Beautiful Signor*, Cyrus Cassells, (Copper Canyon)
Lesbian Mystery, *Father Forgive Me*, Randye Lordon, (Avon)
Gay Men's Mystery, *The Magician's Tale*, David Hunt, (Putnam)
Lesbian Biography/Autobiography, *Blue Windows*, Barbara Wilson, (Picador)
Gay Men's Biography/Autobiography, *The Poetry of Healing*, Rafael Campo, (W.W. Norton)
Fiction Anthology, *His (2)*, Robert Drake, ed. with Terry Wolverton, (Faber & Faber)
Nonfiction Anthology, *Queers in Space*, Gordon Brent Ingram, Anne-Marie Bouthillette & Yolanda Retter, eds., (Bay Press)
Photography/Visual Arts (Tie), *Naked Men*, David Leddick, ed., (Universe Publishing)
Particular Voices, Robert Giard, (MIT Press)
Spirituality/Religion, *Like Bread on the Seder Plate*, Rebecca Alpert, (Columbia University)
Science Fiction/Fantasy, *Bending the Landscape*, Nicola Griffith and Stephen Pagel, eds., (White Wolf)
Children/Young Adult, *The House You Pass on the Way*, Jacqueline Woodson, (Delacorte)
Transgender (Tie), *PoMoSexuals*, Carol Queen & Lawrence Schimel, eds., (Cleis)
The Last Time I Wore a Dress, Daphne Scholinski with Jane Adams, (Putnam)
Small Press, *Does Your Mama Know?*, Lisa C. Moore, ed., (Redbone Press)
Drama, *Gross Indecency*, Moises Kaufman, (Vintage)
Humor, *Openly Bob*, Bob Smith, (Rob Weisbach Books)
Editors' Choice, *Billy's Boy*, Patricia Nell Warren, (Wildcat Press)
Pioneer Award, *Bookazine*, Ron Hanby, Jay Henry, Richard Kallman, and Kathleen Willoughby
Publisher's Service Award, *Douglas Mitchell*, University of Chicago Press

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News FROM THE BOOKSTORES

Collected by Carol Seajay

True or False? Younger women aren't interested in feminist bookselling?

Ask Denise Bump and Sylvia Colon, the new owners of Lammas Bookstore in Washington, DC. Denise, who will be the primary in-store person, was two years old when Lammas was founded twenty-five years ago. Sylvia was 11. (Sylvia, an electrical engineer, will keep her day job, thus creating one of the most successful configurations for any independent bookstore these days — feminist or general.)

Need to increase in-store traffic? "Movie Madness Tuesdays" is one of Lammas' new summer programs. Local gals and travelers both can enjoy films like *Watermelon Woman, All Over Me,* and *Everything Relative* on Lammas' new big-screen TV with surround sound and drop in for Xena nights (with costumes), WNBA games, and more. (*FBN* wants to know if popcorn is included or if it's a fund-raiser for various groups — to get them to bring their members in, too.) Watch this space for information about Lammas' new suburban outreach programs. Lammas turns 25 in August!

On the other side of the country, In Other Words (Portland) is running several very popular series on topics such as Non-Sexist Parenting in a Sexist Society (including a session on talking about sex for progressive parents), a monthly open mike for local writers and spoken-word performance artists, and a benefit screening of Deepa Mehta's *Fire* — proceeds to go to the Women's Community Education Project, In Other Words' nonprofit parent organization. In Other Words, now five years old, reports that Year 3 was hard — but that Year 5 was their best year ever and that they're even building up a small reserve fund. Keys to their success? An active promotion committee and creating a 3–5 year strategic plan.

I know we ran pictures last issue, but having just been there I have to say that not only is Women & Children First's new, expanded store space beautiful, but having that additional space has really opened up the rest of the store making it feel much more spacious and relaxing to browse and shop. ("And," Ann Christophersen told us, "It's much easier to expand into the storefront next door than it is to move!") W&CF has just added a new section, "Good Books People Are Talking About" for books by authors like Cornel West

Margie Adam, Mary Ellen Kavanaugh, and Chris Murphy at My Sisters' Words after a wonderful concert.

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and Michael Moore and titles like Arthur Golden's novel *Memoirs of a Geisha* that customers are special ordering on a regular basis. "It gives us a way to serve our customers more effectively while keeping our identity intact. W&CF, which has done events with male authors participating on a panel, will do its first event featuring a male author: Bernard Lefkowitz speaking about *Our Guys*, on the development of misogynist, violent teenagers.

A Woman's Prerogative (Ferndale/Detroit area) has added two new features to the store, a very photogenic bull terrier puppy (nicknamed "Chick-Magnet" for her ability to draw women into the store) who has already been featured in two newspaper stories in her short life, and a major rearrangement of the store. "I met a guy at the ABA Professional Booksellers School who spent two days at the store helping me redo the store layout and displays," Kelly told *FBN*. "It really changed the way people move around in the store. It feels like there's more floor space, it's more interesting to walk around and customers move from one interesting thing to another. We do more display now, and move the merchandise and display tables monthly. The idea is for the store to look fresh and different every time people come in. It's made a huge difference."

Herland (Santa Cruz) turned five in May. Their celebrations included a Disco Dance (and these girls do know how to throw a party!) and getting a new espresso machine (Francesca II: The Nerd Girl — don't ask!) Bookstore mainstay and co-founder Kayla Rose was honored by the Santa Cruz County Women's Commission with a special award for her extraordinary contribution to improving the status of women. The Herland gang always comes up with great programs and promotions. Their holiday focus this year was on December Silliness. Every weekend they celebrated a different theme and participating customers earned a 20% discount on anything in the bookstore or café. December 5–7 was Drag King/Queen Weekend. Formal attire (yes, tuxes and evening gowns) got the discount. Best Drag King and Best Drag Queen were crowned on Sunday night. December 12–14 was Disco Fever Weekend with "Shake your bootie in the 'Strut Your Stuff' contest" on Sunday night. Seventies attire got the discount. And during that last, scary, pre-Xmas weekend it was Pajama Party with Fuzzy Friends. Warm, fuzzy jammies got the discount. Fuzzy Friends lined up Sunday night for the Fuzzy Friend contest.

Two Sisters (Menlo Park) did a series of March Madness programs, showing all of the games on a television in their meeting room. The promo promised "comfortable seating and convivial company" — and lots of sportswomen traipsing through the store, too.

Going Online and Closing the Storefront

Two feminist bookstores, Womansline in London, Ontario and OUT/Once Upon a Time in Bloomington IL, have decided to shift their focus to being virtual stores on the Internet instead of staffing and hosting physical stores in storefronts.

Sharon Collingwood writes that no one will lose her job at Womansline — they'll all be working from their homes and will be doing more community outreach, tables, etc. Womansline's readings will take place in a local restaurant, the bulletin board will be their Web page, and their email newsletter will keep them in contact with everyone. It's a risk, yes, but one inspired, in part by the opening of two Chapters superstores in town and severe government cutbacks. Womansline previously reported that the community had supported their recent shift from print to email newsletters and that people who had access to computers, including women's shelters and schools, were printing out the newsletter and posting it locally, making it possible for the newsletter to reach women who would otherwise never see it in either the print or email version.

Tana Meldrum reports that OUT staff will focus their time on their catalogs and Internet sales but will also do "out of store" events including regular monthly visits to the community center to sell books and deliver orders. Inspiration for the shift in direction: declining sales following the opening of five superstores in the area: A B&N in Bloomington, new B&N stores in each of the three surrounding towns, and a Borders in Champaign.

With two out of three stores reporting in, the word is that the Margie Adam/Feminist Bookstore Week concerts went well. "It was a magical night and

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it was wonderful to have someone with that presence and reputation speaking about the importance of feminist bookstores from the stage.... To have all that *excitement* about the store reflected back to our community," Nancy Geary (A Room of One's Own) told *FBN*. Her final conclusion, despite it being an expensive concert to produce and a few nerve-wracking days before they knew that a quarter of the tickets would sell the day of the concert: "No regrets! I'm delighted that we did it."

The concert for My Sisters' Words also went extremely well: "It was an incredibly moving concert," Mary Ellen Kavanaugh told *FBN*. "People are still talking about it." The concert achieved Mary Ellen's goal of raising enough money to replace the store's ailing computer. But even more important, Mary Ellen said, was the tremendous amount of goodwill that the concert — and Margie's talks during the concert about what a gift it is to *have* a women's bookstore — generated. The after-concert party at the bookstore lasted until 1:00 am...and an extraordinarily good time was had by all.

Also on the concert circuit: The Full Circle Community Foundation raised $9,000 (!) with a concert + fundraiser featuring Holly Near, Teresa Trull, and Barbara Higbie. The concert aspect netted about $1,500, the rest came from selling refreshments (all donated) and an exceptionally effective fundraising spiel at intermission by an MCC clergywoman who "admonished people to dig deep" then passed the basket in that time-honored — and effective — tradition. Why so many performers? Several months into the planning, FC event organizers and another local production group discovered that they had both scheduled major concerts for the same night. Albuquerque isn't big enough to support both events, so the two groups merged their productions into one successful 700-ticket extravaganza. All of the musicians were very cooperative about making it work financially.

Full Circle's Feminist Bookstore Week events included a Mothers' Day Tea ("Bring your mother, bring your child") with tea and cookies for all, the annual XenaFest (Xena-merch prizes for the best costumes), and FC's 4th Annual Solidarity Party with friends, food, and an open mic for reading excerpts from favorite women writers.

Not enough time on the floor to do as much handselling as you'd like? Theresa Corrigan created a list titled "72 of My Favorite Books" and stacked copies on the sales counter creating renewed interest (and sales) on some otherwise slow-moving titles and increasing sales on more recent books, too.

Women & Children First staffers gave a glowing report on W&CF's sales meetings: Every staff member comes prepared to talk about two or three excellent books (including a children's book). A pre-meeting sign-up sheet prevents duplicates. And the results? "Very effective. Customers are very interested when you say 'Jeanine loved this....' Do it at least quarterly!"

"Small" victories can make a world of difference: New Words, after four years of filing regular complaints and an eight-month call-every-week campaign, finally succeeded at getting the city government to come out and trim the trees in front of the store. The trees, planted on the city-owned strip in front of the store, had totally obscured the store's signage and windows for the last four years. Newly trimmed the trees are intact, healthy, *and* New Words is visible again. Sheer determined, dogged persistence seemed to be the key: i.e., making it easier for the department to come out and trim the trees than to continue taking those ever-so-polite but very regular calls....

Easy birthday celebrations? New Words asked eight local restaurants for $24 gift certificates to raffle off to customers (one each hour) during their 24th Birthday Sale. "Everyone was pleased to do it," Gilda reported. "We thanked the restaurants in our birthday promotion and the winners were, of course, very pleased."

Several stores have reported increased attendance for events when they've launched major efforts

Booksellers Want to Know

How are you spending your Penguin settlement check?

Mary Ellen Kavanaugh writes that My Sisters' Words spent their settlement check on BookLog for Windows.

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to get local elists to post notices about the events — and the posts remind local folks of their existence, that they can order books by phone or email, etc. etc.... And an increasing number of stores are collecting customers' email addresses and creating their own elists to PR in-store events, announce new books, and otherwise promote the store. Too much work? Find a computer-savvy teenager who wants some spending money. They can set it up on your email server and show you how to use it and maintain it in less time than it takes to think of reasons not to do it. Or better yet, keep your young consultant on board for an hour every couple of weeks to maintain the list. Don't worry: if you don't know any computer-crazed teens, your customers do. Put a note on your counter and someone's mother will be thrilled to set up a job for their kid at the women's bookstore....

The Book Garden reports that sales are climbing again after a slump created, at least in part, by "grouchy staff." Book Garden's all-new staff have found that sidelines sales have declined significantly (a gay gift store opened across the street), but that sex-toy sales continue to be strong — so strong that the new staff is charting sales and full moons to confirm the correlation.

The Sidewalk Gallery in Memphis hosted a 30-year retrospective show by feminist bookseller Harriet Ann Buckley (Meristem). The show includes water color paintings, leather work, papier-mache, and storytelling quilts and featured street scenes, social protest form the 60s and 70s, banned works, erotica, the Caribbean series, storytellers, festivals, family and life cycles. One of Harriet's paintings was recently featured on the cover of *Flat-Footed Truths* (Holt).

Literacy Programs

Interested in running women's literacy programs in your bookstore? Mev Miller and Julie Thalhuber have created an entire how-to book based on Amazon's Women Leading Through Reading program. It outlines all the steps for setting up groups, recruiting and training volunteers, time lines, and more. It's an awesome resource. For copies email ⟨Mev@winternet.com⟩ or call Mev at Amazon 612-338-6560. ○

BEA Report, *continued from page 18.*

rate of decline is decreasing, indicating an increasing rate of survival among the remaining independent bookstores. These comments and others seemed to inspire statements elsewhere on the floor that "the stores that have survived this long will probably make it — despite the chains." While the rate of closures among independents is declining, chains are still opening stores, still surrounding stores in new territories, and there is still, as one long-term bookseller put it, "never a chance to coast and no margin for error" — all of which will continue to take a toll. But the point is well taken. The stores that have learned to survive and have survived this long have a much better chance for success.

Unlike ABA, which has seen declining numbers of bookstores for the past several years (for a total of 1,000 to 1,500 of approximately 5,000 member stores, according to newspaper reports), The Feminist Bookstore Network saw its first decline in the number of member stores this spring. Every year prior to this year, for the 15+ years we've been keeping track, membership has increased by two to seven stores every year, even during the last few years, when so many independents closed. This year, for the first time the total number of Feminist Bookstore Network stores declined by two, for a total closure rate of less than 2%, *way* below the industry closure rate. It looks like we will continue to lose a few stores each year for the next two or three years, although, thanks to our strong community support, the very high level of skill among Network members, and the strong support given by the Network, our closure rate will remain way below the industry norm.

Next Year?

Despite frustration at BEA's limited travel plans, the Feminist Bookstore Network decided to continue to hold our annual meetings wherever the ABA annual meetings are held as a gesture of support for ABA. We're sticking by that decision, while also talking — as per Barb Wieser's post-ABA suggestion — of holding a second strategic planning meeting at a non-BEA related location. Her suggestion is for October 1999 (after text book season) at a conference center outside of Minneapolis. Anyone interested? Have other dates or locations to suggest? ○

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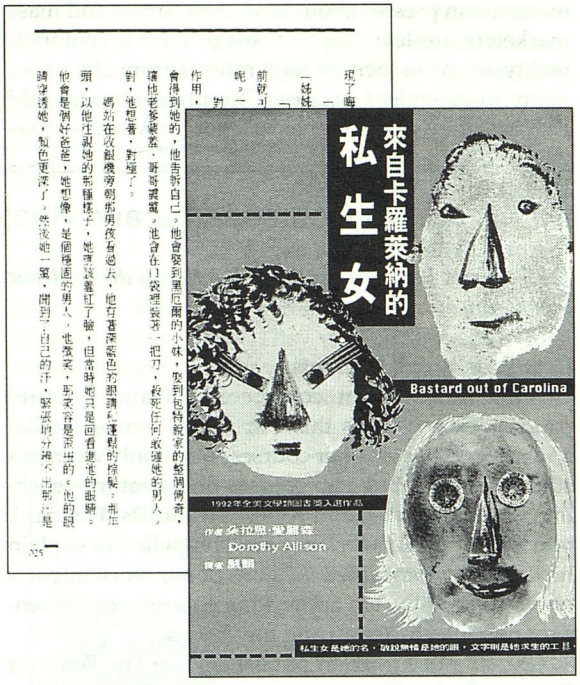
ON FEMINIST PUBLISHING

Compiled by Carol Seajay

Fembooks, the feminist bookstore and publishing company in Taiwan, has just released the Chinese edition of *Bastard Out of Carolina*. They have also published 14 other books including *Feminism Theorized*, the first book in Chinese that systematically introduces western feminist theories in their historical context; *Another Woman's World*, an anthropological work about lesbians, gender, family and community life in Taiwan; *Leaving Home*, which examines the social status of lesbians and gays in American society from a Taiwanese perspective; *Women, Caring and the State*, which sheds light on women's responsibility as the invisible caretakers of aging parents; *A Model Mother? No More!* which examines women's conflicts between being "a good mother" and being herself; *Eloquent Discourse*, a collection of articles on language and gender; *Reflections on Being a Woman; Chiu Yin and Her Traveling; When We Were Young*, a collection of 30 stories by Taiwanese feminists about their lives when they were teens; and Chinese-language editions of *Toward a New Psychology of Women, The Awakening, Herland & The Yellow Wallpaper* and sex-education materials from Sweden. Stores that are interested in stocking Fembooks titles can order from Ms. Lee Shi-hui, 2F, No 7, Hsin-sheng South Rd. Sec 3, Taipei, Taiwan. Tel: 011-886-2-23638244, fax 011-886-2-23631381, or email ⟨clsuchen@ms8.hinet.het⟩. Fembooks offers a 40% discount.

Sinister Wisdom is back in print! The new issue (Spring/Summer 1998) was at the printer while we were at BEA. Margo Rivera is the new editor.



Mother Courage Press is for sale: Owners Jeanne Arnold and Barbara Lindquist are looking forward to being retired, rather than semi-retired. Their list includes books on child sexual abuse and prevention (such as *Why Me?* which has 60,000 copies in print, and *Something Happened to Me* with 35,000 copies in print), lesbian fiction, two novels by Barbara Lindquest, and Lambda Literary Award-nominee *Amy Asks a Question: Grandma, What's a Lesbian?* (Rights to *And Then I Met This Woman* have been sold back to editors Barbee Cassingham and Sally O'Neil, who will republish the book under their new imprint, Soaring Eagle Press, PO Box 578, Freeland WA 98249.)

"All of our titles would sell well with more aggressive marketing and distribution," Barbara writes, "[But] as two women on a small pension and

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social security, we didn't want to take any more risk." If you're interested in buying the press, some or any of the titles, have questions or advice, call or write Barbara and Jeanne, 1533 Illinois St., Racine WI 53405; 414-634-1047 or email ⟨mocourage@aol.com⟩.

Returns, Reality & Fundraising

Despite all of the encouraging words from many mainstream presses about how chain stores and mass marketers are learning to manage their inventories, reality seems to include high returns from chains for many independent presses. One press recently told *FBN* that they'd just received a letter from their wholesaler advising them that damaged books would now be accepted as returns because these were the terms that Borders demanded. (Why am I not holding my breath waiting for a letter to all the independent bookstores from that same wholesaler advising them that they can now return damaged books for full credit? Am I so cynical that I think that some kind of double standard might be at work here?)

When asked at BEA how returns were shaping up, KIT publisher Sandy Brown rolled her eyes and replied, "I've just invented a new shape for the boomerang: books." — which just about sums it all up.

The Feminist Press' recent fundraising letter

How Coursepacks and Photocopying Affect Small Presses

The Feminist Press distributed this letter to the academic community at MLA:

Dear Faculty and Students:

We know from copy centers and custom coursepack providers that our works remain a vital and integral part of your courses — not only women's studies courses but also courses on literature, teaching, history, cultural and American studies. We thank you for using our work but feel compelled to explain how using photocopied versions of our work impacts on us financially. We are writing to urge you, whenever possible, to assign and buy books.

Small not-for-profit publishers like The Feminist Press struggle to make ends meet. The last decade has seen an industry-wide decline in sales of books for course use; among those who have been hit hardest by this decline have been the small presses. One of the factors that has contributed to declining book sales is the increased prevalence of coursepacks. Over the past two years we have seen a dramatic increase not only in photocopy permission requests but also in the amount of material that is being copied. We have had to rethink our permission and reprint policy to protect and to better serve the interests of the press and its authors. We cannot allow substantial or central parts of our texts to be copied. Such large grants of permission undercut sales of our books. In the end they also do not seem in the students' best interests. When copy charges are added to the royalty that publishers charge, purchasing the book is nearly as affordable — or even more affordable. Purchasing also gives students the added satisfaction of owning a nicely bound, durable book, with all the context material that Feminist Press editions typically include. We believe that if faculty members were to carefully consider these costs and other factors, they might more often choose to assign complete texts whenever possible.

What can you do to help?

Buy books! The best way to support and ensure the survival of small presses is to buy our books and assign them in your courses. Such support will enable presses like The Feminist Press to continue to publish less commercial books, and, over the years, will also enable us to keep these books available and affordable. The founding of The Feminist Press was inspired by the need for a wider range of important books by women for use as classroom texts. We can continue to survive and grow only as long as the market for our books endures.

Please share this news with your colleagues. If you're a teacher, impress upon your students that, by buying books, they are supporting a small press, and that the purchase of such books does have a direct effect on publishing — and the future of independent presses and what we can publish.

And stay in touch. Let us know how you teach and with what supplements. Let us know what materials might be added to help teach about our work. We welcome your input, and rely on your support.

With thanks.

The Staff of The Feminist Press ○

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reads, in part, "For the second time in our twenty-seven years — 1996 was the first — we did not see an increase in our annual sales of books, *not because we didn't sell as many as we did last year. In fact, the number of books we've sold has remained steady!* But the big chains have been unable to manage all the fine-tuning on ordering and selling small press books the way independents have in the past. *Increasingly the chains require "better" terms if we want them to represent us in their stores. In big bookstores, as in supermarkets, corner shelf space and eye-catching displays come at a price that has become far too expensive for small presses like ours.* This — coupled with the doubling of the number of books that come back in "hurt" condition, especially from the big chains — makes selling in the mall world very difficult for small presses."

> *"I've just invented a new shape for the boomerang: books."*
>
> *—KIT publisher Sandy Brown*

The letter launches The Feminist Press' Millennium Feminist Fund Drive — which has the modest goal of raising a million dollars by the year 2000. The Press has already raised $300,000 over the past three years and anticipates raising the rest over the next three years.

Distribution & Promotion, Celebrations & More...

Comments from the Women's Presses Library Project meeting at BEA: Two-thirds of the publishers in the Women's Presses Library Project no longer have exclusive distributors.

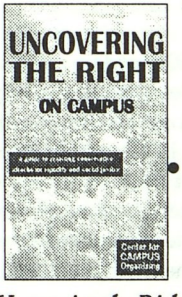
Going in on a PMA library mailing (which requires joining PMA), gets your books on the B&T database and waives B&T's usual fee for the listing, under special arrangement with PMA.

AWMAC, the Association of Women's Music and Culture, has officially dissolved. The final letter reads, "Thanks to everyone who participated over the years.... The organization served its purpose during a time of need." To which *FBN* would add: AWMAC was a strong and effective communication and support system for many years. Its contribution to women's music will be sorely missed.

Spinsters Ink has launched a Young Feminist Scholarship program in honor of the press' 20th anniversary. Beginning in 1999, Spinsters will sponsor an essay writing contest for young women in their last year of high school. The topic will be feminism and what it means to the student. The winner will receive a $1,000 scholarship and she and the three runners-up will be invited to a week long residency at Norcroft: A Writing Retreat for Women. The winning essay will be published in *HUES*.

And kudos to New Victoria Press which features a feminist bookstore in every issue of their newsletter with the note "[F]eminist bookstores have been selling lesbian/feminist books forever, and continue to offer the customer knowledgeable service in a lesbian-friendly environment. They may not be able to offer the deep discounts that you get at the chains, but they are an integral part of our communities and deserve your support." Thanks! ○

"The manual offers critical advice and strategies for fighting the Right and winning."
— Kerry Lobel, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force



Uncovering the Right describes common Right-wing tactics, lists key right-wing funders, organizations, and student papers, and explains how you can research and respond to the Right's local connections and actions.

$4.80 each
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for Feminist Bookstore News Readers

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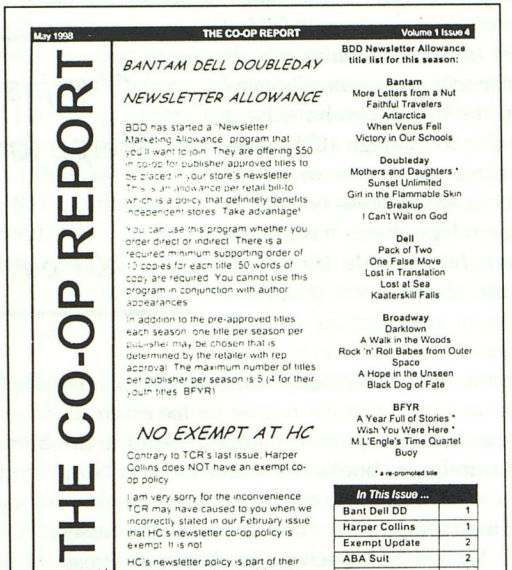
Writing Those Blurbs


May 1998 THE CO-OP REPORT Volume 1 Issue 4

THE CO-OP REPORT

BANTAM DELL DOUBLEDAY NEWSLETTER ALLOWANCE

BDD has started a "Newsletter Marketing Allowance" program that you'll want to join. They are offering $50 in co-op for publisher approved titles to be placed in your store's newsletter. The exact allowance per retail bill-to which is a policy that definitely benefits independent stores. Take advantage!

You can use this program whether you order direct or indirect. There is a required minimum supporting order of 10 copies for each title. 50 words of copy are required. You cannot use this program in conjunction with author appearances.

In addition to the pre-approved titles each season, one title per season per publisher may be chosen that is determined by the retailer with rep approval. The maximum number of titles per publisher per season is 5 (4 for their youth titles, BFYR).

NO EXEMPT AT HC

Contrary to TCR's last issue, Harper Collins does NOT have an exempt co-op policy.

I am very sorry for the inconvenience TCR may have caused to you when we incorrectly stated in our February issue that HC's newsletter co-op policy is exempt. It is not.

HC's newsletter policy is part of their pool policy - meaning any claims you submit for newsletter co-op advertising will be deducted from your annual pool amount. All co-op advertising with HC requires a contract and permission.

BDD Newsletter Allowance title list for this season:

Bantam
More Letters from a Nut
Faithful Travelers
Antarctica
When Venus Fell
Victory in Our Schools

Doubleday
Mothers and Daughters *
Sunset Unlimited
Girl in the Flammable Skin
Breakup
I Can't Wait on God

Dell
Pack of Two
One False Move
Lost in Translation
Lost at Sea
Kaaterskill Falls

Broadway
Darktown
A Walk in the Woods
Rock 'n' Roll Babes from Outer Space
A Hope in the Unseen
Black Dog of Fate

BFYR
A Year Full of Stories *
Wish You Were Here *
M L'Engle's Time Quartet
Buoy

* a re-promoted title

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I don't even do co-op (only bookstores are eligible, and FBN *is a magazine) but I love reading Dorothy Holland's* The Co-op Report. *Dorothy takes all the complicated details of co-op and turns it into something that's not only do-able, but something that's satisfying and even fun — not to mention profitable.*

The most recent issue of The Co-op Report *tackles getting co-op for newsletters. Among the many gems was the piece that (at last!) tells the truth about writing newsletter blurbs. We've reprinted it here, because it's useful for anyone who writes a newsletter whether you go for co-op or not. But why not? As Dorothy points out elsewhere in* The Co-op Report, *"The $50 you earn [for a newsletter blurb] is the equivalent of making $1,000 in sales. And that's if you are making a 5% profit — and most bookstores make less than 2% profit...." (So now you know where the chains are making all their money!)* —*CS*

By Dorothy Holland

The blurb (I just can't call 50 words a review!) is the center of your newsletter. Besides conveying the basic info about the book, the tone and flavor of the blurb say a lot about your store. Is your store intellectual, fun, light, intense...? Reflect this in your style.

I've found that the absolutely best blurbs come from an excited staff person or pleased customer writing a glowing review. These come from the heart, and it shows.

If the reader doesn't want to take the time to write it down, pick up a pencil and write as they tell you what they liked about the book. You can put these notes together later and paraphrase the speaker — generally ending up with a quick and easy blurb mentioning both the book and the reader.

If you end up writing your blurbs at two in the morning, here are some hints to keep in mind:

- If you are out of words (a common 2 AM experience!), use the catalog copy and remove most of the adjectives and adverbs — you'll probably end up with a good, straightforward blurb telling about the book!
- Quote a poem or passage from the book — after all, a lot of the time we buy a book because of some short passage that we've read.
- Check your length — you'll want at least 50 words of copy (at least, that's what most publishers want for co-op reimbursement). In a pinch, count the title and author info!
- Edit for grammar and punctuation — I depend heavily on the spell checker and my friends.
- Make sure the blurb is positive — there's no sense in spending your precious space and time to *not* sell a book!

If you think co-op is too hard, or if you're having a hard time keeping track of it all, subscribe to The Co-op Report. *If you collect on even one newsletter blurb, it will pay for itself. Originally published by Dorothy Holland, now published by Irene Potter, 21626 SE 271st Place, Maple Valley WA 98038; 425-413-2167, ⟨Minbari10@aol.com⟩.* ○

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Toronto Women's Bookstore — 25 Years and Growing

May Lui, Esther Vise, Anjula Gogia and Rachel Kalpana James (left to right) creating a special sort of publicity in front of the store.

By Jenn Tust

In 1973, the Toronto Women's Bookstore was a single shelf of books at A Woman's Place, the women's center in Toronto. Today, the 20,000-title store fills two floors and sells $500,000/ books a year. TWB has struggled through a variety of political changes and challenges, tried a number of management structures, and rolled with the blows and changes that confronted them in the past 25 years to remain a central part of Toronto's women's community.

In the Beginning...

In 1973, a five-woman collective incorporated that bookshelf into a nonprofit community organization and business and moved it into a home of its own. Three years later the collective structures gave way to a management-focused structure with a three-woman board of directors.

The store flourished until the early eighties when a well-meaning physician, deeply committed to making abortion safe and legal for Canadian women, decided to challenge Canadian law by opening an abortion clinic. Without consulting the bookstore he decided that the store would make a perfect "foil" for women coming and going from the clinic and rented the top floor of TWB's building and opened the clinic.

Canadian legal officials never harassed the clinic — the right wing did it instead: someone fire bombed the clinic and destroyed it — and the bookstore and everything in it.

The community responded with outrage and support — fund-raisers, money, and volunteer hours. The store moved, first to a temporary location, then within the year to its current location at 73 Harbord Street.

But even the tremendous outpouring of support couldn't cover the huge load of re-creating the bookstore from scratch — much of that work fell on the shoulders of the already underpaid, overworked bookstore staff. But rebuild the store they did.

But even in the best of times, community bookstores seem to outgrow management structures like teenagers outgrow clothes. By 1985, frustrated staff wanted to take on more decision-making and responsibility. The bookstore's two managers, who didn't want to return to a collective structure, left the store and the remaining staff created a five-woman collective of women who had little experience with collective decision making and running a bookstore. Everyone did buying, cashier/customer service,

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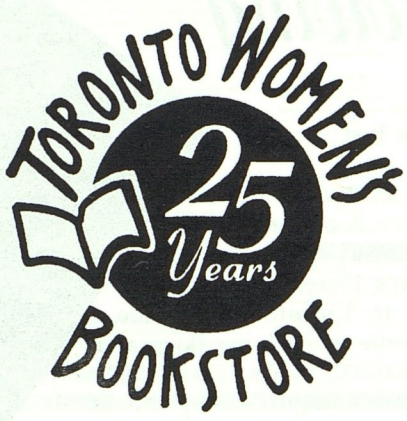
accounting, returns, and event organization. As most collectives do, this committed group worked through the variety of problems common to collective organizations. During this collective's heyday, TWB sent five women to the International Feminist Book Fair in Montreal in 1988 and to the Feminist Bookstore Conference in 1991.

In the early 90s, personal needs as well as collective struggles and issues started a wave of staff turnovers. Collective members came and went in rapid succession, and a tremendous amount of expertise, knowledge and training was lost. New staff did their best but they couldn't resolve the growing financial crisis on their own. In August 1993, the bookkeeper and the Board called an emergency meeting. A group of 14 women, committed to keeping TWB alive, gathered to find a way to get the store back on its feet and create financial stability. The entire staff was laid off. One woman volunteered full-time for a few months. A Canadian Youth Employment grant paid one woman minimum wage to learn about TWB as she worked there. Members of the Emergency Board spent a day a week at the store. They returned old books and put the dead stock on sale. The store was open 7 days a week. Supportive mainstream and alternative media took the story out to the community — TWB needed help — and community response was great.

TWB initiated a gift-certificate program that made a huge difference during this period of rebuilding the store. Customers bought "gift certificates" for themselves and agreed to wait three months to use them. The program gave the store cash to work with and customers received 10% off their gift certificate purchases. The transition was, ultimately, successful. By mid-1994 Toronto Women's Bookstore was paying three full-time staffers, and the staff and board rewrote the structure of the store creating very clear and distinct job descriptions. Today, the store runs with a manager and three staffers, each staff member with a certain area of responsibility in running the store. Decisions are made cooperatively, and now there is a strong focus on accountability and responsibility to customers and suppliers.

In 1996, TWB received a $150,000 Jobs Ontario Community Action Grant: $50,000 to computerize, $50,000 to make the store wheelchair accessible, and $50,000 for jobs creation. The store closed for a week for renovations. The staff rearranged the store — fiction moved downstairs to be more accessible and textbooks moved upstairs. They created a space for author readings. Staff quickly discovered that $50,000 was not enough to install an elevator and create accessibility in the workspace and bathroom, but did everything they could with the money available. These were exciting times and the extensive renovations created a new energy and vitality at a time when rejuvenation was sorely needed.



TWB Today

Today TWB fills the whole building. Most of the 20,000 titles are in the main floor where benches offer places to read and browse. A patio in back provides space for readings and tables for customers to hang out, read and relax. With the renovations there is also space for readings downstairs as well as room for workshops and groups upstairs. Special sections include video for sale and rental, large-print titles, and audio books.

The store is in downtown Toronto, readily accessible by the subway. Community-centered Harbord Street offers eight bookstores, three cafés, a clothing store, a children's store, and a woman's sex shop (a smaller version of San Francisco's Good Vibrations), all in a three-block radius.

Four full-time staff run the store. The comanagers are May Lui, the administrative manager, and buyer Anjula Gogia. Rachel Kalpana James handles publicity and marketing, Charmaine Daley oversees customer service and orders sidelines, and rounds out the crew. Although this is a relatively new staff (all

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started working at TWB within the last two years) these women bring new energy, ideas and direction to the store, bringing it up to a new and more competitive level. Each staffer works with customers and spends at least one day on the floor. The store is still open 7 days a week.

The three-woman Board of Directors continues to provide financial responsibility and supervisory support for the staff. TWB also benefits from input from an advisory group, Friends of Toronto Women's Bookstore, which includes 17 women from diverse communities. These women work with the staff and meet four times a year to evaluate how the store is doing and give feedback and concrete support for outreach to different communities. Friends of TWB has no legal or financial bearing on the store but rather provides feedback on day-to-day operations, and connection to many different communities.

Toronto Women's Bookstore launched their Web site in December 1997 to the excitement of staff and customers. Although the site hasn't yet generated significant visible sales, the site keeps the store current with changing times and technologies. Like most stores, TWB concentrates on in-store sales but plans to keep the site current.

A year-and-a-half ago TWB initiated its Community Venture Project and has donated $2,415 to 20 community groups including Native Women's Resource Centre, Coalition Against Racist Police Violence, Justice for Sri Lankan Women, Toronto Rape Crisis Centre, Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, and Sister Vision Press. The last Friday of every month (except textbook season and Christmas) the store donates 10% of sales to a community group. The project gives TWB a very effective way to do outreach into different communities, and a concrete way to support groups that have been affected by funding cuts in Ontario.

Another popular program of TWB is the newly created workshop series. The first was on feminist literacy and ESL teaching. These free workshops are cosponsored by community organizations who pay the instructor.

A Year of Celebration

1998 is filled with many exciting activities celebrating TWB's 25th Anniversary. Events and programs include a special 25th Anniversary Reading Series — including Dorothy Allison's successful reading in May and other large author events — two new "Hot Off the Press" reading groups, and a series of courses "to give women a structured forum to discuss particular bodies of writing, without having to go to university." The courses debuted with Caribbean Women's Writing, which met every other week for two months, and cost $40 (with two subsidized spaces). Future courses include First Nations Women's Writing, Arab Women's Writing and Lesbian Fiction.

An evening cabaret performance in December will round out the store's year of 25th anniversary activities.

For the past 25 years TWB has maintained a strong feminist presence while competing with superchains and combating widespread cynicism about feminism and the women's movements. As a store that has learned to change with the times and roll with the challenges, we can count on Toronto Women's Bookstore as a valuable resource for the Canadian women's community in the next quarter century.

Toronto Women's Bookstore, 73 Harbord Street, Toronto ON, M5S 1G4, Canada; 416-922-8744, 800-861-8233, fax 416-922-1417, ⟨twb@web.net⟩, Web ⟨www.web.net/~twb⟩. ○

An array of books and colorful announcements draw passersby into TWB.

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BACK TO PRESS
AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

Compiled by Jenn Tust

On the Big Screen

Filming for a movie version of Barbara Wilson's *Gaudi Afternoon* will begin this fall in Barcelona. Barbara will be on location....

Back to Press

Seal has also gone back to press with five titles: *Lesbian Parenting* for a total of 9,000 copies in print, *Lesbian Couples* for 48,000 copies in print, *Listen Up* for a total of 36,000 copies, *Working Parts* for a total of 7,000 copies in print, and *Gaudi Afternoon* for 14,000 copies in print.

Rights

Seal has also sold German rights for *Night Bites* to Orlanda, and also German rights for *We Know Where You Live* to Argument-Verlag. Both editions were recently released in Germany. Catalan language rights for *Where the Oceans Meet* went to Edicions de la Magrana in Barcelona.

Awards

Finalists for PEN Center West's 1998 Literary Awards include, for Creative Nonfiction: Barbara Wilson's *Blue Windows: A Christian Science Childhood* (Picador) and Ellen Ullman's *Close to the Machine: Technophilia and Its Discontents* (City Lights), and for Fiction: Nora Okja Keller's *Comfort Woman* (Viking).

Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia edited by Paula E. Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore (Routledge) received the Dartmouth Medal Award for a reference work of outstanding quality and significance.

The winners of the Athena Awards, presented to independent producers working in lesbian film and video making and sponsored by Northern Arts/Naiad Press, were: Outstanding Achievement in Experimental Film, *Impact Zone* (Sophie Constantinoy/Kadet Kuhne); Outstanding Achievement in Animation, *The Size Seven Social* (Judith Redding); Best Drama, *Sonia* (Raquel Cecilia Harrington); Best Short Film, *Junky Punky Girlz* (Nisha Ganatra); Best Full Length Documentary (tie), *It's Elementary* (Debra Chasnoff/Helen S. Cohen) and *Very Queer Kids* (Rachel Victor/Liz Reich); and Best Short Documentary, *Novices* (Heidi Mau/Melissa Thompson).

The National Book Critics Circle Award winners and nominees this year featured a strong showing of feminist writers. The annual prize for Fiction went to Penelope Fitzgerald for *The Blue Flower* (Mariner/Holt), and the General Nonfiction prize went to Anne Fadiman for *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* (FSG). Other nominees by category included, General Nonfiction: Pauline Maier, *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence* (Knopf); Biography and Autobiography: Doris Lessing, *Walking in the Shade: Volume Two of My Autobiography, 1949–1962* (HarperCollins) and Hermione Lee, *Virginia Woolf* (Knopf); Poetry: Brenda Hillman, *Loose Sugar* (Wesleyan) and Sonia Sanchez, *Does Your House Have Lions?* (FSG); and Criticism: Vivian Gornick, *The End of the Novel of Love* (Beacon). ○

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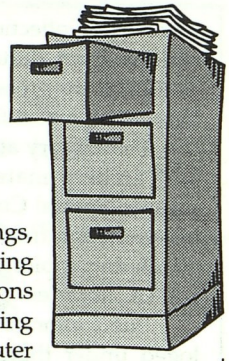
Archiving Our History



New Words Archives to the Schlesinger

By Jean MacRae
New Words/Cambridge

In November, we at New Words were thrilled to receive a letter from Anne Engelhart, Associate Curator of Manuscripts at the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, saying that the library's acquisitions committee considered our records to be of "considerable research value," and that the Schlesinger would be enthusiastic about acquiring them whenever we were ready to part with them. I had called Anne earlier in the year, prompted by a researcher friend of mine who gave me a "talking to" about taking care of our documents, and Anne, her colleague Susan von Salis, and I met to explore the dusty contents of New Words' storage room.

Records of women's bookstores are of potential interest to researchers for a number of reasons, as they offer insight into the history of women's publishing, the development of women's bookstores as organizations and as businesses, and the activities of the women's communities in which the bookstores are located. Looking through materials such as New Words' first invoice from Daughters Press listing copies of the first printing of *Rubyfruit Jungle*, posters and ads for birthdays, and events and notes from bookstore meetings, I did have a sense of history flowing through the bookstore.

While at New Words, Anne and Susan gave me some pointers on what to keep and what is OK to throw away, vindicating me for having tossed piles of Random House invoices. Among other things, they alerted me to the history being lost as a result of new communications methods and recommended making hard copy of any email or computer records of historic value, such as vendor files or correspondence. Information on disk may not be accessible in the distant future, because of technological changes. They also gave me a few pages of guidelines for maintaining our papers.

For those who may also be interested in donating records to a library, there now exists a directory of repositories of women's papers, and FBN has a copy provided by the Schlesinger. You can call FBN to find out which library is closest to you. There is also an as yet unpublished directory of repositories for LGBT material that was compiled by the Lesbian Gay Archives Roundtable. People can get information about repositories near them by calling Susan von Salis at the Schlesinger (617-495-8647).

There are several issues involved in donating papers such as access, copyrights, and timing which New Words is now considering. The process has been fun, and it's been a pleasure to have a new kind of relationship with our sister organization, the Schlesinger Library. New Words has participated in book parties at the Schlesinger at which researchers have talked about the discoveries they've made in the library's collections. Maybe 100 years from now at one of those parties, we'll be the subject, and an author will be talking about research she did all around the country on women's bookstores. ○

Archiving California Publishers & Booksellers

The California Feminist Presses Collection has been established by The University of California Women's Studies and U.S. History Consortia. The archiving project is designed to preserve both the output and the history of feminist presses in California.

The Collection will house both circulation and archive copies of the publications of 16 presses including Aunt Lute, Bluestocking/Odd Girls, Down There, Frog in the Well, HerBooks, Kelsey St., Papier-Mache, Post-Apollo, Third Woman, Trilogy, Volcano, Wildcat, Woman in the Moon, Women's Institute for Continuing Jewish Education, and *Feminist Bookstore*

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News. The Collection is also working to obtain publications from defunct presses and encourages the participating presses to donate their archives to the University of California.

The Library at UC Berkeley will collect, preserve and archive materials from Northern California presses. Special Collections at UC Santa Barbara will host materials from Southern California presses, while circulating copies will continue to be housed at various UC libraries.

Publications at all of the UC libraries will be cataloged under the added subject heading, California Feminist Presses Project, as a way of tying the collection together and to make them available for searching in the MELVYL catalog.

The Project would be pleased to accept donations from any publishers, writers, booksellers, librarians or book lovers, and/or information about ongoing or defunct feminist presses in California. For more information contact Jacquelyn Marie, Librarian, McHenry Library, University of California Santa Cruz CA 95064; 408-349-3255; ⟨jamarie@cats.ucsc.edu⟩. —*CS*

Documenting the Organizing

The Women and Organizing Documentation Project (WODP), concerned about the lack of documentation by women organizers in the modern civil rights movement, met in November 1997 to outline the next phase of the project. $33,000 has been raised over the past three years to launch the collection. For more information contact Jaime M. Grant, Director, Union Institute Center for Women, 1710 Rhode Island Ave. NW # 1100, Washington DC 20036. —*CS*

And *in* the Archives

Calyx, Inc., recently sold their archives to the University of Oregon Library System. An exhibit of materials from the Calyx archives and the Abigail Scott Duniway archives was on display from International Women's Day through the end of May at the Knight Library in Eugene. The exhibit opened with a reading by Ursula K. Le Guin of her poem "For Calyx" and a presentation by Margarita Donnelly on Calyx's history. —*CS* ○

Market Share, *continued from page 13.*

product mix that is profitable for them, or if consumers are becoming less enthralled with buying their reading material from stacks in warehouses and discount stores.

Among the factors that contributed to the very slow growth in total book sales were a decline in the number of books purchased as gifts as well as a falling off in the number of books purchased by the heaviest book buyers.

Children's Books

Children's book sales fared even worse than adult books, with total sales falling from 535 million units in 1996 to 519 million units in 1997. Paperback books' market share continued to decline, with 59% of sales in 1997, as opposed to 60% in 1996 and 63% in 1993. Hardcovers' market share increased by 1% to 38%. Boxed sets, interestingly enough, comprise 3% of the children's book market.

Good Economy/Poor Book Sales

This very slow rate of growth is particularly disturbing, given that the general economy is perceived to be very strong. Either book buyers are entertaining themselves with other media, such as the new, lower-priced computers with Internet access that flooded the market last fall, or the "improvements" in the economy are not necessarily affecting book buyers. Many of the "new" jobs pay less and offer less disposable income than jobs that book buyers held in years past. Unemployment reports don't include "discouraged" workers who, if they are still reading, may be hanging out at the library or borrowing books rather than purchasing them, etc.

Or, on the other hand, given the flood of $600 Internet-ready computers and America's fascination with the Internet and computer games, perhaps it's good news that book sales have held steady, rather than declining. What is remarkably clear is that the explosion in chain stores has not, the propaganda of certain chain stores to the contrary, generated new book sales and expanded the book market.

The Consumer Research Study on Book Publishing is sponsored by the ABA and the Book Industry Study Group. Copies of the report are $295 and can be ordered by calling 212-929-1393. ○

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SHORT RAVES

My favorite book of 1997 is **Strong Women Stay Young** by Miriam E. Nelson Ph.D. ($11.95 pb, 0-553-378-481, Bantam). This book gives results! An outstanding and simple free weights program for adult women, it improves energy levels, strength, balance, and one's sense of well-being. The author, a health scientist, has proven this program with women in their 40s on up to as old as 90. When I read that women who use walkers could do it, I knew this was for me! My personal testimonial, after 4 months: I can carry more groceries up stairs, I need less sleep, I have a happier outlook, I can impress girls with my (baby) biceps, *and* I can stop feeling guilty about how I should be doing something about my health. You can do it at home, 40 minutes twice a week; skip the skin-tight outfits and workout club fees. I strongly encourage every feminist bookseller to get exercise several times a week, minimum. This is one good way. The book also makes a great gift. —*Pokey Anderson*

When **Sweet Secrets: Stories of Menstruation** by Kathleen O'Grady and Paula Wansbrough arrived in the office, I got *sooo* excited. I'm one of those ladies who, for whatever reason, is just really into the whole menstruating thang and love talking about it, reading about it, doing it, the whole shebang. The book gets its title from Anne Frank, who referred to her period as her "sweet secret" in her famous diary. Like most other books about "Aunt Flo," **Sweet Secrets** lays down the facts in a clear, honest, down-to-earth, easy-to-understand way. What sets this book apart from the pack of period prose is its use of short stories and personal anecdotes from women of all ages. I think most girls are more interested in finding out what menstruation is really like than just learning about anatomy and paper products. Even better, the book presents non-traditional views of viewing and dealing with periods — as a positive experience to be celebrated as well as the "curse" — and recommends the use of cloth pads or the keeper over conventional paper products, even warning about the dangers of chemical bleaching and perfumes in tampons. One of my favorite parts of the book is the description of intercourse as "a woman guiding the man's penis into her vagina" — starting girls out young with a feeling of being in control of their own sexuality. Some of the explanations are a bit simplistic, but the emphasis on the girls' feelings and experiences are a positive and healthy change. While this book is geared toward girls who are just beginning their menstruating years, its stories and candor are just as great for any woman who has ever menstruated. C$9.95 pb, 0-929005-33-5. Second Story Press, 720 Bathurst St. #501, Toronto Canada M5S 2R4; 416-537-7850, fax 416-537-0588. —*Karen Mitchell*
FBN Intern

Sexing the Groove is the story of my life! As a feminist, musician, and active member of the local "indie rock" music scene, I often find myself frustrated with the extremely gendered nature of popular music and the culture that surrounds it. (That gender, in case you're wondering, is indubitably male.) This book, edited by Sheila Whiteley, is a collection of essays that analyze and deconstruct the rock'n'roll myth from a gender-conscious perspective. The ways in which masculinity and femininity are constructed and played out in rock are analyzed in terms of specific popular musicians such as Bruce Springsteen,

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Mick Jagger, Sinead O'Connor, and, hold on ladies, k.d. lang. Attention is also given to the technologies that bring us music, such as record labels and music videos, and the ways in which sexuality and gender manifest themselves therein. Another section details the "scene," the cultures and practices which surround popular music and insure its success. Two excellent essays cover the always controversial "riot grrrl" movement as it manifested itself musically, and do a pretty thorough, non-condescending job if this "riot grrrl" says so herself.

My favorite pieces, and those that I think would most appeal to other rockers, are Will Straw's "Sizing Up Record Collections" and Mavis Bayton's "Women and the Electric Guitar." Bayton, herself a guitarist, chronicles the hassles women have to go through to even get started playing the guitar, not to mention the lack of respect accomplished women guitarists face and that whole phallic thing. I'm glad she chose to focus on the electric guitar, as it is the basis for popular music today and the acoustic guitar is an entirely different animal — one that is more acceptable for women to play. Traditionally, feminist "women's music" has always been folk-based and played on acoustic guitars — and to split from that as well as to challenge the machismo of an electric "axe" is a steep mountain for women musicians to climb. Straw's article details the next obstacle for women musicians and women involved in popular music culture — the newest measure of manliness, record collecting. Now that women have learned to play the guitar, the "lines of exclusion" have been redrawn, and men must come up with a new thing to show off and talk shop about.

A few "buyer bewares"— the book was written and edited in the U.K., so many of the bands, scenes, and publications mentioned in the essays are British. However, the same gendered constructions and phenomenons are just as present here as across the Atlantic. Also, the book is pretty academic in some parts, but thankfully is never boring and is interspersed with less-scholarly pieces. Finally, the book is really, really, white. Of course, so is popular rock music today. Overall, this is an excellent, much-needed book and would make an excellent gift for any rock musician/women's studies students in your life. (No, really, that's not a hint.) $17.95 pb, 0-415-14671-2, Routledge. —*Karen Mitchell*
FBN Intern

WRITING WANTED

By Jenn Tust

IRIS: A Journal About Women is seeking contributions for its Fall/Winter 1998 issue, The Politics of the Body. Send essays, fiction and poetry on related topics, including beauty culture, politics of health, eating disorders, battered bodies, men's bodies, race/class, adolescence, and aging. Deadline September 10. Other upcoming issues include Women and Peace, deadline: December 10, and Women and Sports (Fall/Winter 1999). IRIS, Box 323 HSC, University of Virginia, Charlottesville VA 22908. Send SASE for a sample issue.

Girls' reflections on their lives and experiences (ás well as collaborative essays to provide a context for the girls' words) are wanted for an anthology, *Girls Around the World: Life in the Margins* by Sherrie A. Inness. Accompanying photographs welcome. For guidelines, write Professor Sherrie A. Inness, Department of English, 1601 Peck Boulevard, Miami University, Hamilton OH 45011, email ⟨inness@muohio.edu⟩. Deadline: November 1.

Short stories, essays, artwork and photos are needed for an anthology on women and friendship. Length: 3,500 words maximum. Deadline: September 1. Send with SASE and bio to: Merle Shapera and Lynn Hull, Pentheselia Unlimited, 1243 S. Clinton, Berwyn IL 60402.

Personal accounts sought for anthology, *Tricks and Treats: Sex Workers Write About Their Clients* edited by Matt Bernstein Sycamore, to be published by Haworth in 1999. Nonfiction accounts by male, female, and transgendered sex workers should take sex work as a given and look outward at tricks, the sex industry, and society as a whole. 5,000 words maximum. Deadline: September 1. Send SASE for guidelines to Matt Bernstein Sycamore, PO Box 402024, Brooklyn NY 11240, email ⟨tricksandtreats@hotmail.com⟩. ○

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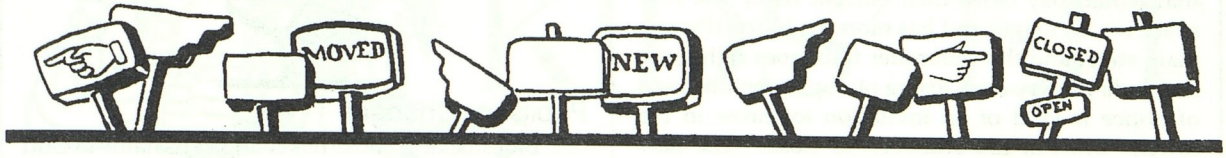
THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



By Jenn Tust

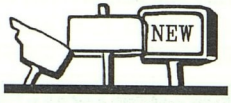
New Stores

Venus Envy, the new feminist bookstore in Halifax, Nova Scotia, opened in May! Owner, Shelley Taylor, describes the store as being comfortable, informative and fun, and the stock is half books and half sidelines — aromatherapy oils, candles, art, jewelry, menstrual products, sex toys, herbal remedies and more. A five minute walk from Halifax' downtown shopping area, Venus Envy also has a finished basement where lectures, workshops, art classes and other community events will be held. Shelley Taylor, Venus Envy, 5365 Inglis St., Halifax NS, B3H 1J4 Canada; 902-422-0004, email ⟨venus@dbis.ns.ca⟩.

Out Word Bound is a new lesbian and gay book and gift store in Indianapolis set to open in August. The 1750-square-foot store will be located downtown between two restored historic residential districts, and is near many G/L-owned or -operated establishments. Comfortable tables and chairs and a coffee bar will offer a relaxing area for casual conversation, book clubs, discussion groups, and special events. Business partners Tammara Tracy and Maury Plambeck worked together as Land Use Planners for the city before deciding to leave and open the store together. Out Word Bound, Inc., 623 North East Street, Indianapolis IN 46204; 317-261-6312, email ⟨owbindy@aol.com⟩.

New Name

Marigold's in Sudbury changed its name and location in March to Elm Tree Books & Things, 61 Elm Street, Sudbury ON P3C 1R6. The phone number remains the same.



New Owners

After eleven years in the gay and lesbian book business, Jane Troxell has decided to start a new career — in the Peace Corp. She'll be heading for South America in January. But, in the tradition of Lammas, she has passed the store to its next generation of caretakers, Denise Bump and Sylvia Colon. Denise, a special education teacher who has volunteered or worked in the store since she moved to DC four years ago, will be the hands-on, day-to-day manager. Sylvia will handle the bookkeeping and manage the Web site — and keep her full-time day job. "I loved the energy of the store from the moment I first walked in and wanted to be a part of it," Denise told *FBN*. "But I hadn't expected to be such a *huge* part of it!" Denise and Sylvia took possession of the store on May 30. Their plans include enhancing the membership program, increasing the number of in-store events and utilizing Lammas' rooftop deck, adding a dating/introductions service, adding more gifts and sidelines, running a monthly crafts fair, and selling books and sidelines at a women's dance club once a month.

Jane Brook ("British Jane"), after five years at Lammas, has taken a position with George Washington University Bookstore. She'll continue on at Lammas doing staff training. Denise anticipates hiring a new book buyer in the fall. —*Carol Seajay*

Stores Move

Prairie Moon moved to their new storefront on May 30. Their landlord gave them 60 days to find a

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new place and move...and they're doing it. (And knocking out a few walls and painting the place, too!) (The other option was to stay at the same place and pay double the rent — as he'd found a tenant that would pay twice their current rent.) The new space is a bit bigger and has more visibility: It's on a main street and the commuter train goes right by.... As Linda Mowry said, losing our space on this kind of notice is kind of an invitation to throw in the towel, "But I'm too stubborn to close!" The new place offers a good deal on rent for the first year, and good renewal options for the next two years.... 864 E. Northwest Highway, Mt. Prospect IL 60056; phone and fax stay the same. —*Carol Seajay*

Circlet Press

Distributed to the trade by InBook/LPC Group
Order toll-free (800) 626-4330

New For 1998

Things Invisible to See

Lesbian & Gay Tales of Magic Realism

edited by Lawrence Schimel
$12.95 Trade Paper ISBN 1-885865-22-8

Sarah Schulman, Lesléa Newman, Nancy Springer, Laura Antoniou, and eight other top writers in both the fantasy field and lesbian and gay letters come together in this anthology of contemporary fantasy and magic realism with lesbian and gay themes.

Shipping In May

Stars Inside Her

Lesbian Erotic Fantasy

edited by Cecilia Tan
$14.95 Trade Paper ISBN 1-885865-19-8

In the vein of "The New Worlds of Women," *Stars Inside Her* presents the magical and futuristic erotic fantasies of women who love women. Hot, fresh, and genuine, these women's voices will transport you to another world.

Shipping In November

Stores Close

Earlier this year, Page One Books By & For Women in Pasadena closed its doors. Page One was open for 20 years and its presence will be sorely missed. —*Dani*

Publisher Changes

Bluestocking Books has changed its name to Odd Girls Press to eliminate the confusion with another California press with the same name. Its new email address is ⟨publisher@OddGirlsPress.com⟩. Check out their Web site: ⟨www.OddGirlsPress.com⟩.

Burning Bush Publications' new address is PO Box 9636, Oakland CA 94613; phone 510-482-9996. Burning Bush titles are available from Baker & Taylor, Brodart and Small Press Distribution.

South End Press has moved! Their new address is 7 Brookline Street #1, Cambridge MA 02139; 617-547-4002, fax 617-547-1333, email ⟨southend@igc.org⟩.

Books Move

She's Always Liked the Girls Best (1-879427-11-7), lesbian plays by Claudia Allen, originally published by Third Side Press, is now available from Dramatic Publishing, 311 Washington St., Woodstock IL 60098; 815-338-7170.

Beginning June 1, Consortium Book Sales & Distribution will be the exclusive U.S. distributor for New Society Publishers. Returns will be accepted by LPC Group, the company's former distributor, through December 1.

Electronic News

A Room of One's Own has email: ⟨Room @itis.com⟩.

Brigit Books (St. Petersburg FL) has a new Web site at ⟨www.brigitbooks.com⟩.

Rainbow Bridge (Bellingham WA) has a new email address: ⟨rbridge@pacificrim.net⟩.

Silvermoon has email! Contact Sue Butterworth at ⟨sue@silvermoonbkshop.demon.co.uk⟩.

A&M Books has a new Web site, which they hope will help correct some of the misinformation about the availability of their books that has appeared on the Internet. Check it out at ⟨http://home.switchboard.com/SarahAldridge⟩. ○

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KIDS' LIT

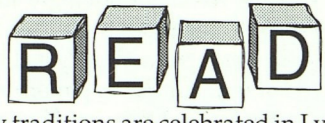
By Linda Bubon
Women & Children First/Chicago

Greetings from the Chicago lakefront. In the summer I try to stock up on paperbacks for the 7–12 crowd. They're off to camp and on vacations, and their parents want them to keep up their reading skills between grades. Both Simon & Schuster Junior and BDD have paperback Newbery winners in special dumps with special prices. We've found these work especially well in the summer and parents buy multiple books. Many of these titles will also show up on teachers' summer reading lists.

There were several publishers whose Spring/Summer lists I hadn't yet seen before my last column, so I'll try to catch up here. One title I missed from HarperCollins is a wonderfully original addition for Black History or Women's History Months, **I Have Heard of a Land** by Joyce Carol Thomas, illustrated by Floyd Cooper ($14.95 cl, 0-06-023477-6). Thomas and Cooper tell the story of an African American pioneer woman who, like many others, traveled West in the late 1800s to stake a claim for free land in the Oklahoma Territory. The text is in free verse and quite moving. In the author's explanatory note at the end, she explains that the Oklahoma Territory was one of the few places where a woman could own land in her own name. Thomas, a National Book Award Winner, was born in Oklahoma, and grew up hearing stories of her great-grandparents' journey West. Cooper was born and raised in Tulsa, and his family still lives on the Oklahoma farm his great-grandfather staked in a land run. Perhaps that accounts for this beautifully heartfelt and stirring book.

Graphic by Laura Irene Wayne, in *Journey to Feel* (Jora).

"Stirring" would also describe the African American writer Evelyn Coleman's fifth picture book, **To Be a Drum** ($16.95 cl, 08075-8006-6) from Albert Whitman. Coleman credits her father with teaching her to listen to "the earth's heartbeat," the genesis of this story, which incorporates African American history in a rhythmic text. Fabulous collage paintings by Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson are filled with the spirit of a people who are sustained by their own rhythms from Africa to a new world, through struggle, to create art, music, and freedom. Also from Albert Whitman this season is a boldly illustrated, sunny book about a big, happy gal, **Sunflower Sal** by Janet S. Anderson, illustrated by Elizabeth Johns ($15.95, 0-8075-7662-X). Sal longs to make beautiful quilts but feels she's too big and clumsy for fine stitchery. Pa and Gran encourage her to "think big," and before too many springs have passed, Sal has "quilted" the farmland by planting borders of giant sunflowers along the fields. This is a fresh companion to the Johnny Appleseed story.



Family traditions are celebrated in Lynn Reiser's new book with Greenwillow, **Cherry Pies and Lullabies** ($16, 0-688-13391-6, Morrow), in which four generations of mothers and daughters share pie making, quilting, and singing lullabies. Reiser has also created the Central American Companion, **Tortillas and Lullabies/Tortillas y cancioncitas** ($16, 0688-14628-7), in which four generations of mothers and daughters in a Costa Rican family share tortilla making and flower gathering. Extraordinary folk art paintings by "Corazones Valientes," an organization

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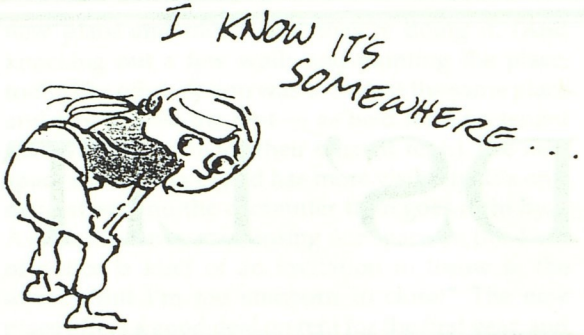


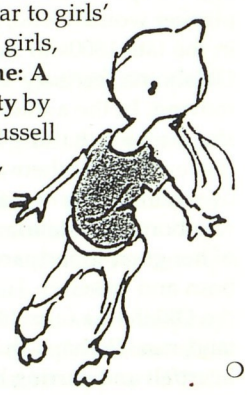
of women artists in Costa Rica, accompany this universal story of family love.

My favorite book from Morrow this season is the original, hilarious picture book for older kids (7 and up), **The Secret Knowledge of Grown-Ups** by David Wisniewski ($16, 0-688-15339-9). Wisniewski won the 1997 Caldecott for *Golem*, and this book couldn't be more different. It looks like a spy's manila folder with "Top Secret" and "Confidential" stamped on the cover. The text kept my 11-year-old laughing outloud while he read and re-read it. This is such a cool book; every hip uncle and aunt will want to give it to their favorite school-age pal.

Jules Feiffer's new book with Morrow, **I Lost My Bear** ($16, 0688-15147-7), is sure to get laughs from the 3–8 crowd. This one features a spunky heroine who is relentless in her quest for Bearsy, even when no one has time to help her look. Feiffer's zany, bold illustrations complement the simple text. The loss of one's favorite toy is compelling subject matter to most preschoolers, and another sweet story on this theme comes from North-South Books, **What's the Matter, Davy?** by Brigitte Weninger, lovingly illustrated by Eve Tharlet ($15.95, 1-55858-899-X). This is the fourth Davy book and perhaps the best yet. I wish North-South would bring them out in paperback so they'd get a wider audience, but they are beautifully made, jacketed, hardcovers. Davy, a little rabbit, is heartsick over the loss of his toy bunny, Nicky. After concerted efforts to cheer up the bereft Davy, Mother makes a new Nicky just like the old one. But, a new Nicky is *not* the same. Fortunately, the old Nicky is eventually discovered, and the new Nicky is just right for Davy's baby sister. While I don't usually buy plush toys, the plush Davy (with detachable hood that fits over his big bunny ears and toy rabbit, Nicky) is irresistible ($12.95, 1-55858-899-X).

Hyperion's books for children are increasing as fast as you can say "Disney." But sift through all those movie tie-ins and you'll find a couple of beauties and some good paperbacks for girls. *Mulan* is the next Disney extravaganza. They traveled to China for this story and it features a legendary woman warrior, Fa Mulan. The most beautiful and least commercial-looking Mulan title is **Fa Mulan: The Story of a Woman Warrior** by Robert D. San Souci, illustrated by Jean and Mou-Sien Tseng ($14.95, 0-7868-0346-0). In paperback from Hyperion is Wendy Wasserstein's **Pamela's First Musical** ($5.95, 07868-1292-3). Andrew Jackness, a set designer, illustrated this charming story of a girl's ninth birthday treat to a Broadway musical by her exciting Aunt Louise. For the same age group (7–10), are two chapter books with feminist themes, **The Lighthouse Mermaid** ($3.95, 0-7868-1232-X), by Kathleen Karr and illustrated by Karen Lee Schmidt, and **Third Grade Bullies** ($3.95, 0-7868-1214-1), by Elizabeth Levy and illustrated by Tim Barnes.

Three books worth stocking for older kids (9–14) are all new in paperback this season. For inspiration and for kids who love sports heroes, **Champions: Stories of Ten Remarkable Athletes** by Bill Littlefield, illustrated beautifully in full-color by Bernie Fuchs ($9.95, 0-316-55849-4, Little Brown), is a winner. Five women and five men are profiled in an unusually perceptive text. Littlefield makes the point that the best athletes raise our consciousness, challenge old prejudices, and give something back to their sport. From Avon, a paperback original by Carol Weston, **For Girls Only: Wise Words, Good Advice** ($5.99, 0-380-79538-8), is an insightful collection of affirmation and advice on subjects dear to girls' hearts. And for both boys and girls, from Morrow, is **The Safe Zone: A Kid's Guide to Personal Safety** by Donna Chalet and Francine Russell ($4.95 pb, 0688-15308-9; $15 cl, -15307-0). This is a book about self-defense without fighting, using common-sense in difficult situations. A snappy cover and bold print makes it kid-friendly. ○



Drawings by Jules Feiffer, in *I Lost My Bear* (Morrow).

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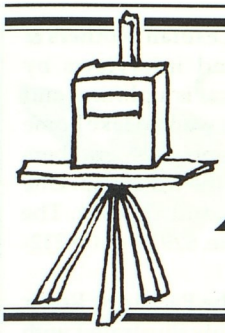


ART BOOKS

By Tee A. Corinne

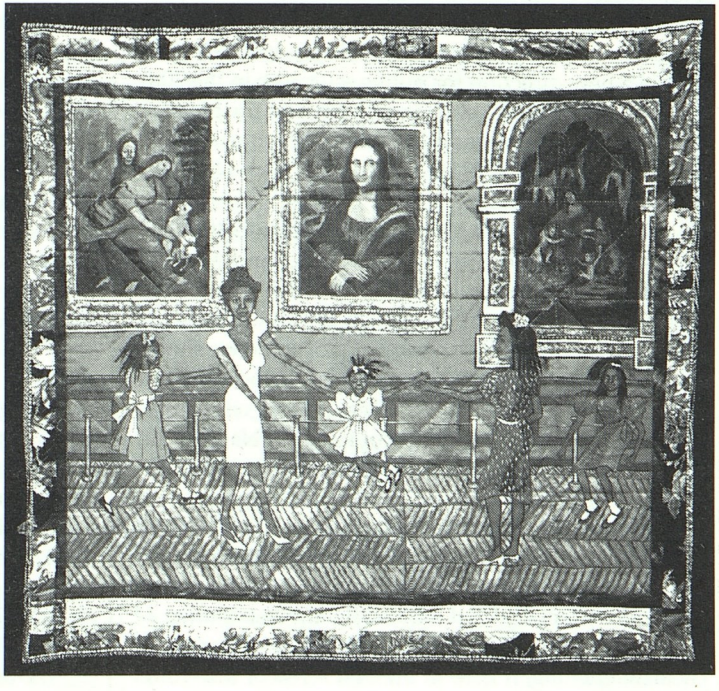
Some of the most visually exciting books I have seen in a long time have come across my desk recently and I think you will be as impressed with them as I am. We have also lost a young artist, Julie Hopp of Rainbow's End in Oregon, age 36, to a brain hemorrhage. Hopp's lively designs were published in *We'Moon Almanac*, on the cover of *Lesbian Connection*, as self-published postcards. I hope they reach a larger audience in the future.

Faith Ringgold (born in 1930) is one of the most brilliant, inventive, engaging artists working today. **Dancing at the Louvre: Faith Ringgold's French Collection and Other Story Quilts** edited by Dan Cameron is a complex evaluation of her use of quilts-as-format in the service of narrative painting. Ringgold, an African American, has consistently opened new art territory for herself, other women, and people of color. $29.95 pb, 0-520-21430-7; $45 cl, -21429-3, University of California Press.

The Indelible Alison Bechdel: Confessions, Comix, and Miscellaneous Dykes to Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel is an amazing and delightful collection of assorted drawings, essays, autobiography, and marginalia by the internationally-famous cartoonist. $16.95 pb, 1-56341-096-6; $26.95 cl, -097-4, Firebrand. Distributed by LPC/InBook and available from major wholesalers.

Chicano Art: Inside/Outside the Master's House: Cultural Politics and the Cara Exhibition by Alicia Gaspar de Alba, recounts the activities which led up to, surrounded, and evolved out of a groundbreaking Chicano art exhibit which toured the universities in the early 90s. Of special interest is her discussion of the politics around lesbian participation. $19.95 pb, 0-292-72805-0; $35 cl, -72801-8, University of Texas Press.

"....My Magic Pours Secret Libations," with essays by Monifa A. Love, Joanne M. Braxton, Diana Montané, Delia Poey, and Alvia J. Wardlaw, is an unusual exhibition catalog which reads more like a personal tour through a very special collection. The



Story quilt by Faith Ringgold from *Dancing at the Louvre*
(University of California Press)

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art is by a diverse group of contemporary women of color including some who are well known like Martha Jackson-Jarvis and Renée Stout. $19.95 pb, 1-889282-01-4, Florida State University Museum. Distributed by University of Washington Press.

The Fae Richards Photo Archive by Zoe Leonard and Cheryl Dunye comes out of the need to have a history that doesn't visually exist. It is a fictional creation of a Black lesbian actress from the 30s, originally made as a film titled *The Watermelon Woman*. This book is a charmer with evocative and sometimes humorous photos including a show-stopping image of poet Cheryl Clark as one of "Fae Richards'" lovers. $15 cl, 0-9631095-8-8, Artspace Books. Distributed by D.A.P., 155 Sixth Ave., Second Floor, NYC 10013.

A newly revised edition of **Barbara Hepworth** by A.M. Hammacher is an excellent introduction to Hepworth (1903–1975), a British abstract sculptor whose work varied in size from monumental to very intimate. Hepworth, along with Henry Moore, established a new direction for public sculpture in the 20th century. This book gives a lovely sense of the breadth of Hepworth's work and the forces which shaped it. $14.95 pb, 0-500-20218-4, Thames and Hudson. Distributed by Norton.

Nan Goldin: Ten Years After: Naples 1986–1996, texts by Nan Goldin, Guido Costa and Cookie Mueller, is like color stills from a movie in which large segments of the script have been left out. Drugs are alluded to and there are two photos of someone shooting up. There is a sense of angst and dislocation, but also images of beautiful landscapes and cityscapes, and moody sculpture. Other books about Nan Goldin are available from Scalo. $24.95 pb, 3-931141-79-9, Scalo. Distributed by D.A.P.

Our Grandmothers: Loving Portraits by 74 Granddaughters edited by Linda Sunshine is a remarkable collection of photographs and commentary by a racially and ethnically diverse group of photographers and other artists. Honest, beautiful, heartwrenching, it is — in the best sense of the words — a feminist coffee table book. $29.95 cl, 0-941897-13-4, Stewart, Tabori & Chang.

Women in Love: Portraits of Lesbian Mothers & Their Families, photographs and interviews by Barbara Seyda with Diana Herrera, is uplifting and inspiring, the kind of book that you want to take home to your biological family. The authors/photographers are identified as "life partners" on the cover flap. One has worked for *Sojourner*, *Essence*, and *Outweek*. The breadth of inclusiveness is awesome. $29.95 cl, 0-8212-2523-5, Bulfinch/Little Brown.

Traditional Tapa Textiles of the Pacific by Roger Neich and Mick Pendergrast is richly illustrated with compellingly structured fabric designs. There are photos of some of the artists and of people wearing tapa cloth clothing. $24.95 pb, 0-500-27989-6, Thames and Hudson. Distributed by Norton.

Just looking at the cover of **Mirror Images: Women, Surrealism and Self-Representation** edited by Whitney Chadwich makes me want to own it: shiny metallic silver with a self-portrait by lesbian artist Claude Cahun (1894–1954) looking out at you holding a reflective ball. Work discussed includes women active in the Surrealist movement (which began in the 1930s) and contemporary representations with surrealistic overtones or echoes. The images and essays are complex and fascinating. $35, 0-262-53157-7, The MIT Press.

A House of Her Own: Kay Sage, Solitary Surrealist by Judith D. Suther is the first full-scale biography of Sage (1898–1963), an artist and poet associated with the Surrealist movement. A wealthy American who painted dreamlike landscapes, Sage has often been overlooked with more attention going to her artist husband, also a Surrealist. Her work, though, is memorable and haunting. $45 cl, 0-8032-4234-4, University of Nebraska Press.

China Eggs by Kay Sage, with facing pages in English and French, is a lively autobiography about growing up privileged with an upright citizen father and a morphine-addicted mother. After initially doing what was expected of her, Sage moved to Paris around age 39, studied art, and encountered Surrealism. **China Eggs** covers the first 40 of Sage's 65 years and remained unpublished until 33 years after her death. The details are wonderful and vivid. $18 pb, 0-9645677-2-5. Starbooks/L'Etoile, 1030 Coddington Place, Charlotte NC 28211.

Dora Holzhandler by Philip Vann focuses on a contemporary painter born in Paris in 1928. The

See **Art Books**, *page 44.*

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SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

By Laura Quilter/The Exploratorium, CA and
Heather Whipple/Swarthmore College Library, PA

I (Heather) recently re-read Eleanor Arnason's wonderful **Ring of Swords** (Tor/Orb, $13.95 tp, 0-312-89016-8). One of my favorite novels in any category. Xenobiologist Anna Perez finds herself in the center of a diplomatic battle between humanity and the militaristic Hwarhath. A lone representative for humanity on the aliens' space station, her only human companion is a man who was captured by the Hwarhath 20 years before and is now the lover of a Hwarhath general — and considered to be a traitor by most humans. Hwarhath society is sex-segregated and heterophobic, but neither gender is subordinate to the other. Females and males have distinct areas of equally-valued power and responsibility. In their view, human arrangements of gender and power are obscene, and Anna Perez is called upon to argue why the Hwarhath should not simply exterminate such abomination. I can't say it any better than Ursula Le Guin's cover blurb: "At last, a non-predictable, thought-through, can't-stop-reading-it story, full of complicated and irresistible people, some of them human.... Enjoy! Enjoy!"

I am also eagerly awaiting my copy of Ursula Le Guin's new book on writing, **Steering the Craft: Exercises and Discussions on Story Writing for the Lone Navigator or the Mutinous Crew** (Eighth Mountain Press, $22.95 cl, 0-933377-47-9; $14.95 pb, -46-0). Although she is primarily known as a science fiction author, this guide is for writers of any genre.

Finally, congratulations to my co-columnist Laura, who is now on the ALA GLB Task Force Book Award committee. Consequently, she must excuse herself from reviewing GLB titles, which means I will cover them from now on — lucky for me!

Ace

At last! A new novel from Elizabeth A. Lynn (*A Different Light*, *The Dancers of Arun*, *Northern Girl*, *The Sardonyx Net*). **Dragon's Winter** ($21.95 cl, 0-441-00502-0) begins a new fantasy series that is sure to delight fans who have been hoping for more from her since the mid-1980s.

Avon Eos

Carolyn Ives Gilman's thoughtful, sometimes disturbing, and occasionally clunky **Halfway Human** ($5.99 pb, 0-380-79799-2) delves into gender and power relations as experienced by a person with no sex — a "bland" from a planet where children are sexless until puberty, at which time only some become male or female. Those whose bodies don't change are not considered fully human and face lives of drudgery and servitude. Likely to be compared to Le Guin's *The Left Hand of Darkness* and Melissa Scott's *Shadow Man*, but significantly different in that the "extra" gender is not a new sex but no sex at all.

Bantam Spectra

To Say Nothing of the Dog by Connie Willis ($23.95 cl, 0-553-09995-7) takes place in the same time-travelling world as her *Doomsday Book*. This time the travellers venture into Victorian England. The primary mission is the reconstruction of Coventry Cathedral in the 21st century, and the tone is much lighter (not difficult when compared to the Black Death in *Doomsday*); "deliciously screwball," as one reviewer noted. Bantam is also reprinting her first collection of short stories, **Fire Watch** ($6.50 pb, 0-553-26045-6), which includes two Nebula winners.

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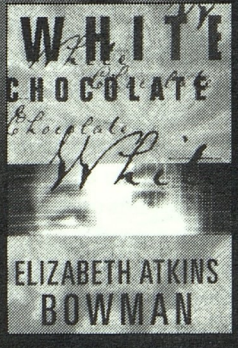
Circlet Press

A collection of short stories by Lawrence Schimel, **The Drag Queen of Elfland** (The Ultra Violet Library, $10.95 tp, 1-885865-17-1), is the first title in Circlet's new queer science fiction imprint. Schimel brings the fantastical into contemporary life with provocative, clever, "spry and sly" stories where the boundary between the ordinary and the extraordinary slips away. Lawrence can write from both a male and a female perspective (in fact he co-edited with Carol Queen *Switch Hitters: Lesbians Write Gay Male Erotica and Gay Men Write Lesbian Erotica*). It's worth noting that although this collection is from Circlet, works from The Ultra Violet Library are not necessarily erotic. There are light stories as well as more serious stories. Feminist bookstore owners, take note: at last, a story about you! You have to read SF and fantasy to find stories about lesbian werewolves running an all-night feminist bookstore.

Also watch out for **Things Invisible to See: Gay and Lesbian Tales of Magic Realism** edited by Lawrence Schimel (The Ultra Violet Library, $12.95 tp, 1-885865-22-8). The collection includes well-known SF writer Nancy Springer and popular S/M writer Laura Antoniou among a dozen or so writers from both the lesbian/gay and SF/F fields.

Circlet Press continues to publish wonderful erotic-SF collections, and I (Laura) am looking forward to the sequel to *Technosex* — Cecilia Tan, editor, **More Technosex: Erotica For the Cyberage** ($14.95 tp, 1-885865-20-1, August), and **Mind and Body** edited by Cecilia Tan ($14.95 tp, 1-885865-21-X), which includes more stories about telepaths and mental powers. The subtitle says it all for **Wired Hard 2: More Erotica for a Gay Universe** edited by Celia Tan ($14.95 tp, 1-885865-11-2). **Fetish Fantastic: Tales of Power and Lust from Futuristic to Surreal**, also edited by Cecilia Tan, includes straight and queer writers of S/M, B&D, and fetish ($14.95 tp, 1-885865-13-9). And finally, Circlet has reissued a number of their earlier stories, previously available only in chapbook form, in a new trade paperback edition: **Tales from the Erotic Edge: A Circlet Omnibus** edited by Cecilia Tan ($14.95 tp, 1-885865-16-3). The stories in this collection are very difficult to find in other formats, and readers who obsessively collect all of

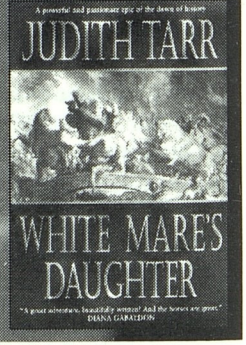
NEW IN HARDCOVER FROM FORGE BOOKS



WHITE CHOCOLATE
Elizabeth Atkins Bowman

"Solid writing, a good old-fashioned romance and steamy sex scenes . . . Bowman keeps you reading."—*The Detroit News*

TV journalist Taylor James is about to marry the head of Wolf Media Corporation. But will she survive until the wedding? Death threats from white supremacists hamper the biracial Taylor's ability to work as a journalist. And they strain her relationship with her fiancé, who wants to protect her. But not as much as the reappearance of the love of her life, who has come back after all these years.
0-312-86306-3 • $23.95



WHITE MARE'S DAUGHTER
Judith Tarr

"Judith Tarr is as confident in describing the battlefields of war as she is in exploring the conflicts of love."—*The Washington Post*

The gripping saga of Sarama, the headstrong priestess of a nomadic warrior band, whose majestic white horse is the incarnation of the Goddess Epona on Earth. Sarama's fateful odyssey to a great city where women still rule unleashes an epic and violent clash of cultures that changes the course of history.
0-312-86112-5 • $27.95

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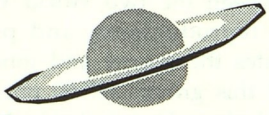
Circlet's material (like Laura!) will be very happy to find this anthology. Needless to say, SF/F is rich with opportunities to explore the purely sexual and erotic, and lovers of both erotica/porn and science fiction will welcome the opportunity to check out some of the cross-over. (Note: Laura reviewed these titles before joining the ALA GLBTF Book Award committee.)

Greenwillow

Rose Daughter by Robin McKinley ($16 cl, 0-688-15489-5) is another telling of "Beauty and the Beast" — McKinley's first novel, *Beauty*, is also a version of the fairy tale. This time, the pragmatic Beauty is an excellent gardener, bringing to life the roses that ultimately connect her to the Beast. Not as dark as her powerful *Deerskin*, **Rose Daughter** combines McKinley's skill with the fantasy, some playfulness with the genre, and her personal affinity for this story.



Pocket Books

The Moon and the Sun by Vonda McIntyre ($23 cl, 067-156765-9) was named one of *Publishers Weekly*'s Best Books of 1997. This alternate history in 17th-century France depicts a woman "natural philosopher" in the court of Louis XIV, assigned to a "monster" — a young girl from the sea. **The Moon and the Sun** is winning high praises from everyone who reads it.

Seal

Exit To Reality by Edith Forbes ($12 pb, 320 pps, 1-58005-003-4) is out in paperback. Forbes had already established herself with the small-town lesbian novel *Alma Rose* (excellent!), and **Exit To Reality** stretches her reach and discussion even further. This far-future novel plays with cyberspace, shape-shifting, motherhood, and the nature of sexuality and attraction. Another great new book to add to the canon of lesbian SF.

Simon & Schuster

Bending the Landscape: Original Gay and Lesbian Writing: Science Fiction (Overlook, $23.95 cl, 0-87951-856-1) edited by Nicola Griffith and Stephen Pagel. A collection of "bent" science fiction stories by gay and straight writers. The first anthology, **Bending the Landscape: Fantasy** (White Wolf, $21.99 cl, 1-56504-836-9) has a great collection of stories written by both mainstream and fantasy authors; expect greatness from the science fiction volume as well.

Tor

Black Wine by Candas Jane Dorsey ($13.95 tp, 0-312-86578-3). A 1997 Tiptree Award winner, it's out in paperback now; this was one of the finest books we read in 1997, exploring gender, sex, politics, and is incredibly well-written. This book can be one of those books to introduce science fiction to people who hate science fiction. (And Canadians, take heart: another award-winning fabulous novel from the land of Margaret Atwood and Elisabeth Vonarburg!)

North Wind ($13.95 tp, 0-312-86396-9) and **Phoenix Cafe** ($23.95 cl, 0-312-86534-1) by Gwyneth Jones complete the trilogy begun with the Tiptree-winning *The White Queen* (reviewed in *FBN* Nov./Dec. 1997). Following up 100 years after the arrival of extraterrestrials on Earth, Jones continues to explore what it means to be "alien."

Mississippi Blues by Kathleen Ann Goonan ($25.95 cl, 0-312-85917-1), a sequel to the future-America novel *Queen City Jazz*, leaves Cincinnati behind with a trip down river to the now mythical "Norleans." Although occasionally overburdened by dense language, Goonan's vision of American culture in a future where nanotechnology "memes" — virus-like ideas — control (or at least affect) public thought is worth the effort.

Lisa Goldstein is an increasingly popular and deservedly well-respected writer. **Walking the Labyrinth** ($12.95 tp, 0-312-85968-6) should attract lovers of contemporary magical realism as well as traditional SF fans. **Flesh and Gold** from Phyllis Gotlieb ($22.95 cl, 0-312-86523-6) looks great and lends further glory to the Canadian feminist SF community. Recently out from Tor is a new Melissa Scott novel, **The Shapes of Their Hearts** ($22.95 cl, 0-312-85877-9); and Midori Snyder's **The Innamorati** ($23.95 cl, 0-312-86197-4) — an alternate history of Renaissance Venice, which should appeal to people who loved Vonda McIntyre's recent *The Moon and the Sun*. (See Pocket Books, above.)

Look forward to the July issue of Anne Harris' second novel, **Accidental Creatures** ($22.95 cl, 0-312-86538-4). Her first novel, *The Nature of Smoke*, was a great future novel with memorable lesbian protagonists, and we have great hopes for Harris' second work, focusing

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on biotechnology (a new favorite theme for us). And finally, another work from Pamela Dean, **Juniper, Gentian, and Rosemary** ($23.95 cl, 0-312-86004-8) rounds out the usual excellent Tor offerings of fantasy.

Viking

Naomi and Deborah Baltuck's **The Keeper of the Crystal Spring** ($24.95 cl, 0-670-87963-0) follows in Marion Zimmer Bradley's footsteps with an historical fantasy set in eleventh-century England, amid the struggles between the Norman conquerors and the Saxon inhabitants. Aldyth, a young Saxon woman who has chosen to devote her life to the Goddess of the Crystal Spring, attracts the love of a companion in the resistance movement as well as the love of the new Norman lord, who has a mysterious past.

Villard

The Sparrow by Mary Doria Russell is still winning awards, ensuring the popularity of the sequel, **Children of God** ($23.95 cl, 0-679-45635-X). Father Emilio Sandoz has even more to learn in his search to understand what God wants from him. The sequel brings attention to Rakhat gender and power relations and to the literally revolutionary effects the human visitors have on that planet's two sentient races. ○

Art Books, *continued from page 40*

daughter of Polish Jewish refugees, Holzhandler studied art in London and Paris and has lived most of her adult life in Britain. Her involvement with Jewish storytelling and Buddhism are reflected and sometimes merged in her lively, colorful paintings. $40 cl, 0-87951-812-X, The Overlook Press. Distributed by Penguin Putnam.

Looking for Eulabee Dix: The Illustrated Biography of an American Miniaturist by Jo Ann Ridley features a flamboyant, talented, passionate artist (1878–1961), who persevered through a troubled marriage, abandonment with children, and struggles for support and professional recognition. $45 cl, 0-940979-36-5, National Museum of Women in the Arts. Distributed by University of Washington Press.

Expectations: Thirty Women Talk About Becoming a Mother, text by Laurie Wagner, photos by Anne Hamersky, is engaging, accessible, and inspiring with, as it states in the publicity materials, "a broad range of ages, cultures, economic levels, professions, cities, marital status, and sexual preferences." $22.95, 0-8118-1674-5, Chronicle Books.

A flyer describes **Girls' Night Out** by Chloe Atkins as a "completely joyful look at nightlife lesbians in all their diversity." I'm fascinated, but haven't yet seen a review copy. $13 cl, 0-312-18044-6, St. Martin's Press.

New in paper: **Three Artists (Three Women): Modernism and the Art of Hesse, Krasner, and O'Keeffe** by Anne Middleton Wagner is a highly literate examination of the work of three 20th-century abstract artists. $24.95 pb, 0-520-21433-1, University of California Press.

Bauhaus Textiles: Women Artists and the Weaving Workshop by Sigrid Wortmann Weltge examines work done in a progressive design school in Germany between the two World Wars. Through scholarship, reproductions, and period photos, Weltge recreates the energy and innovation which characterized this group. $27.50 pb, 0-500-28034-7, Thames and Hudson. Distributed by Norton.

Of special interest to librarians: **Latin American Women Artists, Kahlo and Look Who Else: A Selective, Annotated Bibliography** by Cecilia Puerto seeks "to raise awareness about the rich and extraordinarily diverse contributions which 20th century women artists in and from Latin America have made to the world of art." $75 cl, 0-313-28934-4, Greenwood Press.

Rebecca Horn: The Glance of Infinity edited by Carl Haenlein, with essays by Carsten Ahrens, Lynne Cooke, Doris von Drathen, Bruce W. Ferguson, Carl Haenlein, Katharina Schmidt, and Rebecca Horn, covers the complete work of a contemporary German feminist artist (born in 1944) who has worked in performance, sculpture, installation and film. $75 cl, 3-931141-66-7, Scalo. Distributed by D.A.P.

Mona Hatoum, with texts by Michael Archer, Guy Brett, and Catherine de Zegher, documents the performance, video, sculpture, and installation of a prize-winning Palestinian artist who has lived in London since the 70s. One of her best-known works is "a video installation...where the spectator enters a small pavilion and takes a visual journey through all the orifices of the artist's body." $29.95, 0-7148-3660-5, Phaidon. Distributed by Chronicle Books. ○

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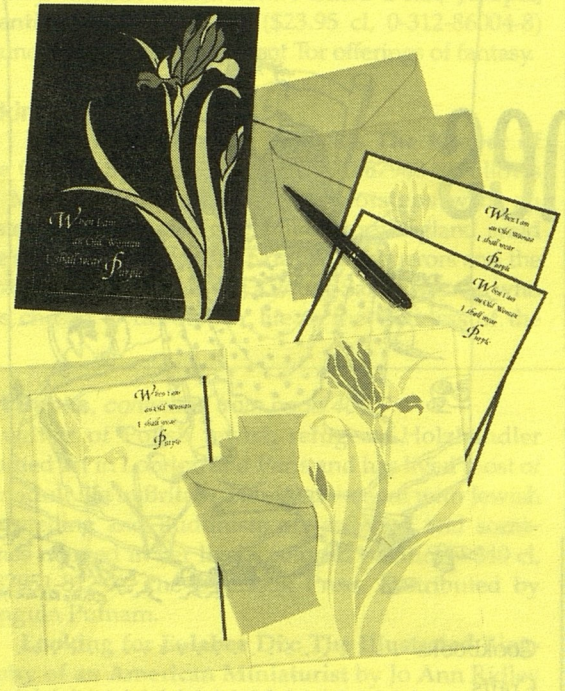

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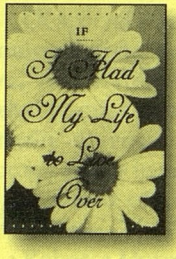

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Booksellers' Faves & Raves

Compiled by Jenn Tust

We have had a wonderful time this year with the Xena sidelines. Our favorite is the Hot Tub photo of Xena and Gabrielle. It retails for $12.95 (Goldenrod). (See ad page 52, listing page 94.) Speaking of heavy breathing, the adjustable harnesses by Stormy Leather have been a sensational hit! However, during the last year we haven't all given in to hedonistic whims!

Journaling is a great way to reconnect with yourself. Our most popular journal is a Leather Bound Journal with Celtic Design. These retail for $41.95 from Oberon. Another way to achieve balance and harmony is to meditate. I personally like to use the Just For Today medicine cards (Bear & Co.).

—Pilar Franklin
Book Garden/Denver CO

Sidelines favorites: Shadow & Light. These candles are excellent in quality! They are made with 100% pure essential oils, herbs, and flowers. For example, the "Anti-Stress" candles, a bestseller at New Realities, have lavender buds and bits of chamomile in the wax. They smell incredibly good and have a very natural, consistent look and feel. Often our customers get hooked and keep coming back for the candles, which of course gives us the opportunity to show them all of the other, wonderful merchandise and new titles that have come in since their last visit!

Other great sidelines:

Aura Cacia essential oils are the highest quality we have found in our eight years of retailing. Their selection is tremendous and their pricing is good. The packaging is beautiful and consistent. We have a book section dedicated to aromatherapy and Aura Cacia oils continue to be a strong add-on sale.

At New Realities we are always concerned with the purity of a product and Kneipp bath products are the purest we have found. Almost all of their products (oils, salts, shower gels, foot soaks, lotions and creams) have a single herbal scent and the purpose of each scent is printed on their labels. This is another sideline that inspires customer loyalty.

Kama Sutra. This line of bath and massage products is also very pure and beautifully presented. They are erotic and sophisticated and appeal to everyone. Our shelves of Kama Sutra beautifully complement

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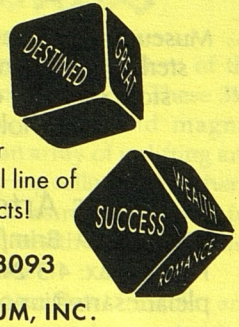

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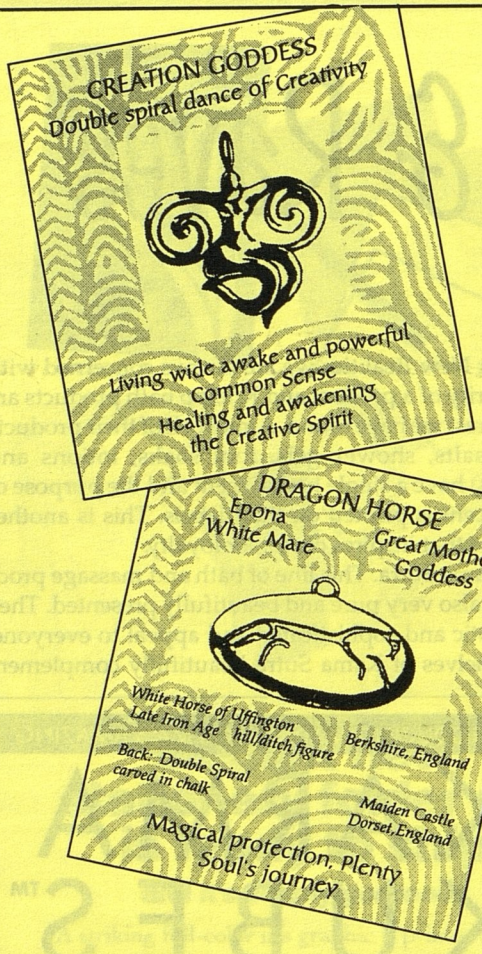

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our shelves of erotica books. Aside from their obvious sensual appeal, we sell a lot of their massage oils to therapists and customers who appreciate a finely made massage oil because Kama Sutra has a broad selection made with pure essential oils and quality carrier oils.

J.W. Stannard. This is the only line of chimes that we carry, and for a good reason. This company produces finely-tuned and beautifully crafted wind chimes. They have a lovely catalog and a very effective five-year warranty. Their customer service is consistently enthusiastic and amiable. Carrying this sideline adds the charming quality of fairy-like bell sounds constantly filling the store. (See ad back cover, listing page 89.)

—Catherine R. King
New Realities, Inc./Omaha NE

Notecards by Anna Price Oneglia including "Kitchen Goddess" and "Shoe Goddess" are bright, beautiful and of gorgeous quality. Seabright Press.

Notecards by Taxi's and Triumph — Whimsical watercolors for serious situations. One of my favorites has a woman on a ladder holding a string while a heart-shaped balloon floats away from her. The quote simply says, "Oh, well."

Milk & Honey carries a large assortment of goodies that complement my store. They carry both Coventry Candles (see ad page 51, listing page 83) and "Honor the Goddess" candles — tall votives with beautiful images of mermaids, Isis, Bast, Five Maidens, etc. They have inexpensive scarves that make great altar cloths, with gold and silver stars and moons, available in white, red, and purple. They also carry an assortment of goddess-shaped medicine bowls, and have the best price on "Medicine Cards" and "Medicine Cards Just for Today."

—Kayla Rose
Herland Book-Café/Santa Cruz CA

From the Karmatorium come both Karma Kubes ($4.95: roll the dice to discover your destiny) and the Magna Karma ($8.50: hang on the fridge and spin the dial). They do very well on the counter, especially with samples available to play with. (See ad page 47, listing page 90.)

Xena stuff continues to do well. We get posters from Goldenrod (see ad page 52, listing page 94) and

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Lighten Up!

The Tacky Texans are a colorful assemblage of humanity working together in Seattle, Washington. There are actually more than 3 people, most aren't from Texas, but they are definitely all tacky. And they design a product that is so hot it melts. Literally! Everyday Icons,® a line of satirical prayer candles that make fun, functional, and affordable gifts for co-workers, dysfunctional family members, or anyone who needs to 'lighten up.'

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the rest (photos, mugs, beer steins, T-shirts and chakram jewelry) from Creation Entertainment (see ad page C1, listing page 100).

We've recently discovered wonderful goddess statues — many different kinds — from a company called JBL. The ones we carry are mostly $20–40 and sell well.

Lastly, a company called Three Tacky Texans makes hilarious versions of prayer candles with designs like "Protection from Crisis Queens," "Powerful PMS Prayer," "Lucky Automobile Karma," etc. They sell for $9.95. (See ad page 49, listing page 83.)

—Kate Randall
Antigone Books/Tucson AZ

Here at Rainbow Bridge bookstore I have had three of the fastest-selling items I've ever had. One is Hematite Pride Jewelry from Jewelry Connection, a local company in Tacoma. The second company is called Leather Smith out of San Francisco. They make leather wallets, check book covers and ID cases, not to mention key fobs. An interesting marketing trend has developed because of the boycott from the Baptist churches towards Disneyland — the rainbow Mickey Mouse head (on anything, bumpersticker, key fob, you name it) has become a very popular item. The third is Rainbow Enterprises. They must have been the original makers of Pride products, the jewelry, key fobs etc., are very cheap wholesale and of good quality. Another really popular sideline.

—"D" Lovie
Rainbow Bridge/Bellingham WA

Probably our bestselling single gift item of the year has been the Inspirations collection. These 3½" square lucite frames (desk stands and magnet backed), each contain one of an array of uplifting and empowering statements. Very big sellers for Mother's Day and graduation gifts and as remembrances for those in the hospital or facing health challenges. Also a line of larger frameable prints.

The Inner Self Manifestation Bowl from Art and Soul is a vaguely androgynous seated figure holding or making a bowl in its lap. In a variety of colors and

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sizes they also come with a great little booklet to aid with manifesting hopes and desires.

For the holidays we introduced some beautiful eye pillows by Valerie. These are unscented flax seed-filled pillows for relieving various stresses and strains. They are available with matching washable covers for easier cleaning and come in very pretty "celestial" fabrics and soft new flannels. (See listing page 91.)

We have also had good luck with Magnetic Poetry kits, especially the romance kit and the foreign languages.

—Leigh Wall and Susan Graves
Sweet Violets/Marquette MI

Eye of the Day mini candles sell like hot cakes for us. Also, their incense sampler is a favorite.

—Elaine Hines
Renaissance Books & Gifts/Springfield MO

Some new greeting cards we have which are selling very well are the "Hall of Fame Award" series from Artists to Watch. These triangular-shaped cards fold into a pyramid shape and are awards for: truly extraordinary mothers and fathers, those who have the courage to grow and heal, those who have the strength to swim upstream, etc. The artwork is very colorful, depicting women of all colors. Retail is $2.95 and they come individually wrapped in cellophane. We have sold dozens since December!

—Patty Callaghan
Brigit Books/St. Petersberg FL

Hot Flashes: Firestarters for Women. "You don't need a man to light your fire." Made from recycled wood and candle wax, enough for 20 fires. A donation is made to the National Breast Cancer Coalition for each package sold. Only 5 bucks a package and customers love them! From Northern Sun. (See ad page 50, listing page 79.)

Talestones and Talistones by Alchemists. Talestones are large stones carved with a symbol on one side and a word on the other, and the smaller, tumbled, pocket-sized talistones have just a symbol.

—Julie Stein
New Words Bookstore/Cambridge MA

Our favorite and bestselling sidelines include products from Wolfe Video (see ad page 66, listing page 100), Goldenrod Distribution (see ad page 52, listing page 94), Ladyslipper (see ad page 74, listing page 94) and Lambda Gear as well as those from the following vendors.

10% Productions. Gay and lesbian cards, calendars, magnets.

Cloud 9, Karl Woerdeman/Rob Raaf. Miscellaneous Pride items and Pride jewelry.

David's. Tasteful line of Pride greeting cards

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designed by David Delay. He can also personalize his cards, through special arrangement and added fees.

Human, Benedetta Dalbesio. Pride clothing (t-shirts, caps, tank tops, ball jackets) with various Pride and Human logos in rainbow colors.

MikWright Ltd., Tim and Phyllis. Campy line of greeting cards (funny old b&w photos with campy messages on the inside of cards).

Out of the Closet, Fred Wolfe and Mike Burke. A large selection of Pride items, t-shirts, jewelry, towels, etc.

PHS, Jim Horne/Chuck Harnish. An extensive line of Pride items, jewelry, etc.

Spectrum Marketing, Joan Walkow. Good line of colorful Pride jewelry.

—Ron Grantz
The Open Book/Sacramento CA

Dryad Designs. Strong images of women made from durable hyrostone gypsumcement. Statues of Morrigan, Rhiannon. Wall plaque of Cerridwen was a good seller. Small Venus statue and wall plaque of a pentacle were good sellers also.

The Northern Sun Company. Cast iron cauldrons. Well designed and useable. (See ad page 50, listing page 79.)

Ephemera. Mentioned this one before, but they have new Xena Magnets that are way cool and new, very fun bumperstickers. (See ad page 81, listing page 100.)

Gay Daze Designs. Worth the effort and they make it easy. Very funny lesbian and gay greeting cards.

Tysis, Inc. Pride jewelry. Rings silver and gold. Good seller here.

Spectrum Marketing. Pride jewelry.

Probe, Dauryan Lab, Inc. Personal lubricant products. Probe silky and probe classic are made from grape seed oil.

Pink Zone. Girls Kick Ass. T-shirts, hat and stickers.

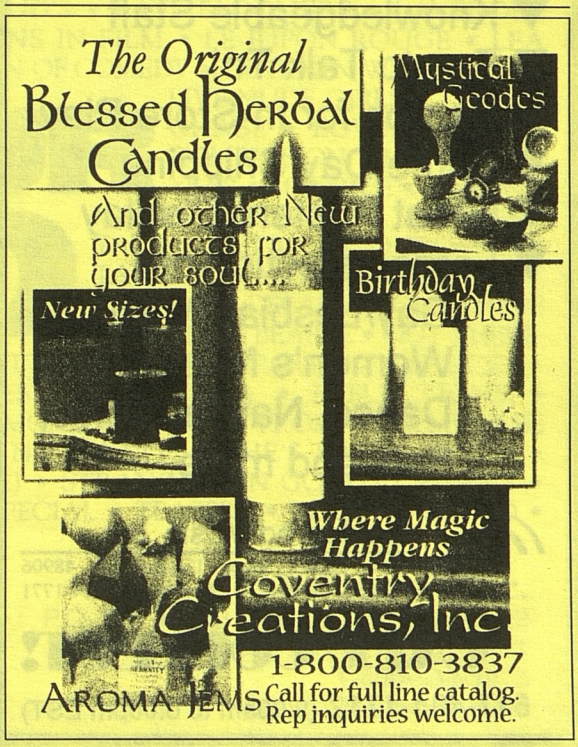
—Jo den Boer
Amazon Bookstore/Minneapolis MN

My bestselling sideline this past holiday season were purple floating bath candles from Luminart, a woman-owned candle company here in the Bay Area. Retailing at $1.99, these were perfect stocking stuffers that we featured in a basket right by the cash register. Other gift stores here on the street sell candles, so they're never a huge seller for us, but these floaters flew outta here. I must have sold several dozen in a few weeks. Of course, in January there was that one last candle hanging around that nobody would buy.... I had to take it home and enjoy it myself!

—Rachel Pepper/Bernal Books
San Francisco CA

My six raves:

1. The newest bestsellers this past holiday season were pewter candlestick holders from a Canadian woman named Brenda Newman. They retail at $14.95 and move quickly. She also has great pewter key-chains. Each is an image of a woman — one meditating, one keeping a fire, a couple hugging, etc. Also retail at $14.95. Different from anything else I've seen. Company name is Touch & Be Touched. Don't let the fact that she's in Canada daunt you. Shipping is easy.



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2. Amy Bartell's images are always a hit here in her own town. Amy and her partner Michelle have gone into business for themselves and are wildly successful after just one year in business. Amy has four or five new images that are out this year as cards/postcards/tees/tote bags. You can purchase directly from her at A.E. Originals. Michelle is the woman you'll work with and she's terrific. Amy designed the logo for My Sisters' Words. (See ad page 88, listing page 79.)

3. One of our fastest-selling sidelines for a few years now have been notebooks from Running Rhino. New this year are scrapbooks and a journal called *Love: A Field Notebook*, which is a beautiful red notebook with a wraparound snap cover. Baby Rhino journals are impossible to keep in stock and all Rhino cards move very quickly for us.

4. Like chocolate? Here's a very quick seller: delicious chocolate triangle "gay bars" in 5 or 6 flavors. Retail for around $3 each. We sell them at 5 for $12 and they fly. New in the line are "baby gay bars." We sell them for 93¢ (to come to $1 with tax) and they are quite the impulse item. This candy is so good that even people who don't do sugar occasionally indulge. Gay Goodies/Linda Grishman Chocolates. (See listing page 86.)

5. We *love* Tin Lizzies from the gals at Pleiades. They are whimsical tin mobiles in bright colors and designs. The dancing women sell best for us, but cats are a close second. I, myself, have one hanging from my rear view mirror and those dancing girls make me smile in the middle of a traffic jam! Lizzie and Lydia are great to work with. (See ad page 48, listing page 93.)

6. If you haven't picked up the wrapping paper done by the gals at Lavender Expressions, you're missing out on something different. There are three designs (woman symbols, men symbols, and triangles) and a pack of two sheets retails at $2.50. Call these women today! We keep a few packages at the front desk and offer free wrapping on those occasions when someone is in a panic about heading off to a gift-giving occasion — this is one easy way to impress customers.

—Mary Ellen Kavanaugh
My Sisters' Words/Syracuse NY ○

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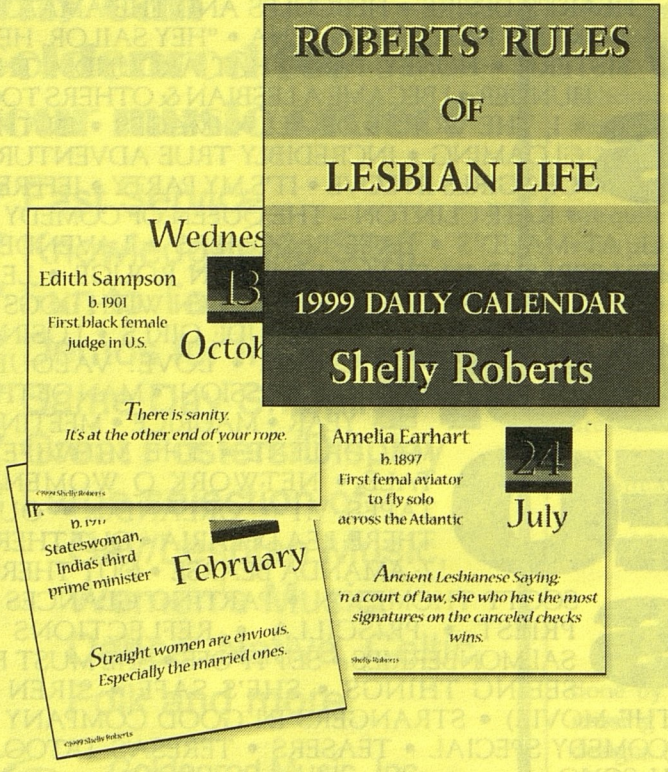
A calendar for the lesbian who wants to know how far she's come and how much further she has to go—WITH A SMILE!



At last—the wit, wisdom, and wonderfully skewed perspective of the irrepressible **Shelly Roberts,** internationally-syndicated humor columnist and author of the wildly popular Roberts' *Rules of Lesbian Living* series of life instruction books, can be enjoyed all 365 days of the year.

Pearls of wisdom from her inexhaustible repertoire of new and recycled one-liners on life, love, and the pursuit of lesbian happiness, along with snippets of women's history, fill the pages of this compact desk calendar.

4 1/2 x 4, $9.95, 1-883523-27-3

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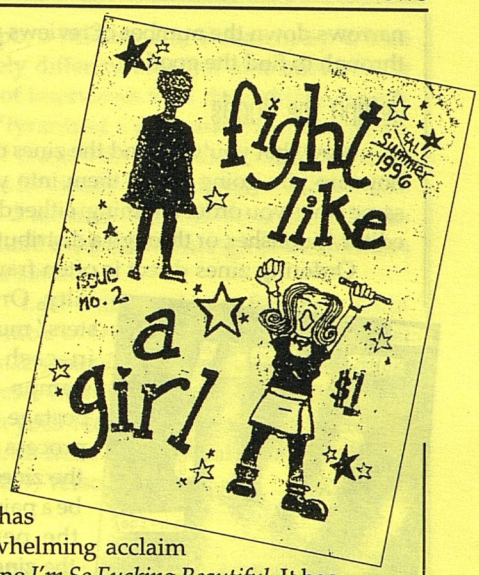
The Little Zine That Could



By Karen Mitchell
FBN Intern

Zines are everywhere. It's the word on everyone's lips, and books about the world of underground magazines are in every publisher's catalog. Hopefully, there are also a few zines of one persuasion or another lurking on the shelves of your store!

The word "zine" is generally used to describe a wide array of self-published publications from slick, full-size productions complete with advertising to smaller, humbler tomes hand-written and stapled by the editor. Unfortunately, most of the recent coverage of zines has focused on the larger publications, at the expense of the smaller, yet often more substantial, version.

While "big" zines such as *Bust* tend to be more accessible to the buying public, it's the smaller zines that have garnered kudos for their content. The best of the new zine books, at least from a feminist standpoint, is Karen Green and Tristan Taormino's *A Girl's Guide to Taking Over the World*. Instead of being a book *about* zines, it is a compendium of works from a variety of girl- and grrrl-oriented zines. The majority of works featured in this book comes from small zines. Nomy Lamm, one of *Ms.* magazine's Women of the Year for 1996, has received overwhelming acclaim for her small zine *I'm So Fucking Beautiful*. It has been said that the authors of these zines are the next generation of feminist theorists, and I am inclined to agree. Without the confines of advertising and often any sort of editorial policy, these zines are free to be as fiercely political and as unabashed!y feminist as they want to be.

> It is important to encourage this next generation of loud-mouthed, opinionated, amazing, and wonderful feminists while we're still young.

Finding The Titles

The main problem with these zines is that they can be quite a hassle to stock. First off, you have to find out about them! This is probably the hardest part. By the time a zine appears in a book like *A Girl's Guide*, chances are it's no longer being published. Zine editors are often students and other average Janes who can only put out new issues when their busy school/work schedules allow. Also, zines go under all the time — when the editor decides to move on to new projects, loses interest in the topic, or just runs out of free time or ideas. If you want to learn about zines, which are actually being produced right now, you need to use a resource guide that comes out periodically and is plugged into the zine underground. Of course, you can always turn to the venerable grandfather of this genre, *Factsheet Five*, or its bastard cousin, *Zine World*, but if your primary interest is in feminist/grrrl zines, you'd be better off reading *Riot Grrrl Review*. This little photocopied number reviews upwards of a hundred zines each issue. Kristy only reviews zines which are either by girls or women or are feminist in nature, so this

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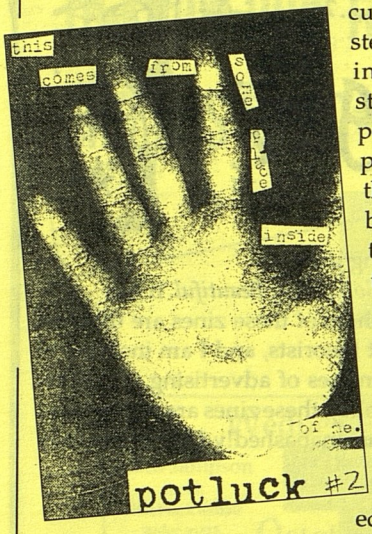
narrows down the number of reviews you have to sift through to find the goods.

Getting the Goods

Now that you've found the zines of your dreams, how are you going to get them into your store? The same ways you order anything: either directly from the editor/publisher, or through a distributor/wholesaler.

Ordering zines direct is often fraught with difficulty. Orders to "zinesters" must often be sent in cash, with actual stamps thrown in for postage. This makes the process very easy for the zine editor, but can be a pain in the neck for the person ordering the zines. Also, due to the aforementioned busy schedules, there is often an incredibly long lag time before you receive the zine. This isn't always true — some zine editors are very conscientious and will get your order out right away. Others are like my former roommate, who had a number of zine requests laying around the house that were four years old! An average wait can be between a couple of weeks and a couple of months — although you might get special treatment as a feminist bookstore. If you order direct you can also negotiate terms with the editor herself. Some booksellers and newsstands choose to sell zines on consignment — you might want to consider this option as there are usually no returns as far as zines are concerned. However, zines are really inexpensive and, if you only stock a few, you haven't got much to lose. The best thing to do is just contact the zines you want to carry and figure it out from there.



Ordering zines through distributors would seem to be the preferable choice. Many larger zines are carried by distributors like AK Press. But, there is also a unique distribution system developed by the smaller zines. Since many of these zines don't even have print runs to speak of, distribution works on a supply-on-demand basis. The editor who wants her zine distributed sends a sample copy to the distributor (or distro, as it's often called) in the form of a copy-machine-ready flat (an unstapled, high-quality, first generation copy of the zine — not the original). If the distributor decides to carry the zine, she'll keep the flat and add the zine to her catalog. As orders come in, the distributor takes the money and makes the requested number of copies and sends them out. Since zines and zine distros are usually no-budget operations, this system ensures that only those zines that are ordered are printed. It keeps cardboard boxes of old zines from filling the bedrooms of zinesters everywhere (not to mention saving money and trees). This method is ultimately beneficial to all involved. The person ordering the zines can order a number of different zines all at once, and can usually expect a quicker turnaround. Zine editors can put their efforts into producing new issues instead of running back and forth to the copyshop.

Ordering a zine from a distributor can also be cheaper, because the distros are likely to provide zines for the cost of the copies, rather than at the slightly higher prices charged by zine editors. Also, the distros often pay less to print the zines anyway, because of their volume discounts — many people go into the distro business because they can get a deal on copies. On the other hand, if you order direct, that's more money in the pockets of zine editors. Some of the complications involved with ordering zines direct still exist when ordering from distros — the biggest being that most will still want to be paid in cash or money order and stamps. Most zine distributors are no-budget operations run by young women who can't afford to front the money for your copies much less deal with bad checks and other financial problems. Plus you probably won't have the option of selling on consignment if you get your zines from distributors. Overall, though, distros make the job of ordering zines a much less daunting and time-consuming task.

Making the Sale

Now you've got the zines, it's time to sell them! Some mark-up is expected, of course — after all, you're in business and you've earned it doing all the legwork to get the zines. Keep in mind, though, that you want to keep the prices pretty low so the kids can afford them!

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Here are some ideas for moving your zines out the door:

- Stock some zine books and display featuring both the books and the zines. This is especially good if you carry some of the zines featured in the books. You gain street cred for carrying "the real thing," and the two products work to sell each other. Readers of the books will be pleased that they won't have to send away for all those zines.
- Pick a "zine-of-the-month" each month and display it with the zines or at the register. Post a staff-written review next to it.
- Chances are there are grrrls publishing zines in your very own hometown! Stock local zines and schedule a group reading.

Zines by young women are the latest, most exciting component of the women-in-print movement.

Why the Fuss?

If zines are a hassle, why stock them? As a young feminist myself, I can attest to the fact that feminist bookstores sometimes seem like a foreign land to teens. Carrying zines shows that you care about what is important to us and are open-minded enough to embrace our brand of feminism. Besides, zines by young women are the latest, most exciting component of the women-in-print movement. Feminist bookstores are the "keepers of the flame" of this movement, and it is important to encourage this next generation of loud-mouthed, opinionated, amazing, and wonderful feminists while we're still young. And we'll love you for it.

Books

A Girl's Guide to Taking Over the World edited by Karen Green and Tristan Taormino is the most awesome zine book around. Definitely *the* book I would recommend for feminist bookstores. It is a great big collection of writings from zines by girls and young women only. You *must* carry this book! $14.95 pb, 0-312-15535-2, St. Martin's/Griffin.

The Book of Zines: Readings from the Fringe edited by Chip Rowe is yet another compendium of zine writings from a variety of different zines. A little less political and a bit more outrageous. It's a lot of fun. $14.95 pb, 0805050833, Henry Holt.

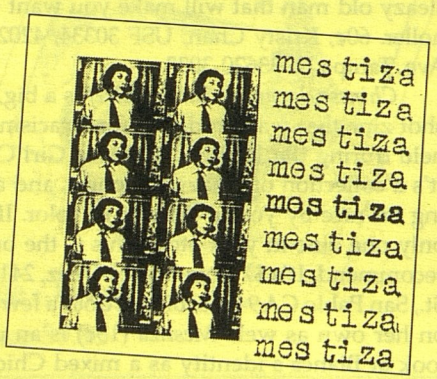
Zines! Vols. 1 ($18.99 pb, 0-9650469-0-7, V-Search) and 2 ($14.99 pb, 0-9650469-2-3, V-Search) by V. Vale are a completely different breed of zine book. These books consist of interviews with the publishers/editors/tyrants of a plethora of popular zines. *Vol. 1* chats with the ladies behind feminist zines *Housewife Turned Assassin* and *Fat Girl*. *Vol. 2* features *Slant*. Both of these books include exhaustive listings of distributors and zines.

Last but not least: Stephen Duncombe's *tres* academic *Notes from Underground: Zines and the Politics of Alternative Culture*. Great for the grad student in your life or anyone who is interested in studying zines from a theoretical perspective. $19 pb, 1-85984-158-9, Verso.

Resources

Riot Grrrl Review is a bit like an *FBN* for the zine world reviewing massive quantities of feminist and women/girl-oriented zines and providing contact information. Kristy is to be commended for undertaking this massive project...the issue she has in the works will feature between 150 and 200 zines! You can send for the print version, or check out Kristy's Web page at ⟨www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/9352/⟩. Use it to scope out new zines or if you want to order zines direct from the author. She also includes a big list of distros and places to find zines reviewed. Kristy Chan, USF 30334, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa FL 33620-3033.

Pander Zine Distro is one of the biggest and best of the DIY distros for zines by young women. Most of the zines reviewed in this article are available from Pander, which carries around 100 titles.



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Ericka's print catalog lists all the titles she distributes and is available from her for $1 and one stamp, or you can check out the abbreviated version, which features newer titles, on the Web at ⟨members.aol.com/xhecubusx/pander.html/⟩. This distro just became heaps easier to use, too, because now you can just add the cost of postage in with the rest of your order instead of having to send stamps! Yippee! Ericka also does the excellent zine *Power Candy*. Pander, PO Box 582142, Minneapolis MN 55458-2142.

Some Other Distros

For these you'll have to send for a catalog — $1 and a stamp should cover it.

Riot Grrrl Press, 120 NE State St. #1510, Olympia WA 98501.

Gerll, 656 W. Aldine Ave. #3, Chicago IL 60657.

Subway Sissy, Whitney, PO Box 12262, Berkeley CA 94712-2262.

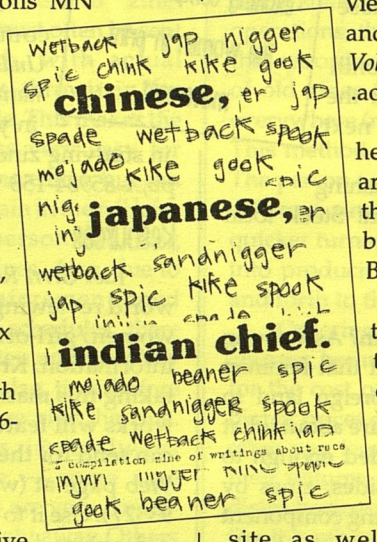
Left Bank Distribution, 1404 18th Ave., Seattle WA 98122; phone/fax 206-622-0195.

Zines

This is by no means an exhaustive listing — it's just a list of zines I would recommend to feminist bookstores. All zines are available from Pander unless otherwise noted.

Tennis & Violins is a great "personal" zine done by Kristy Chan, who also does *Riot Grrrl Review*. She talks about racism, class, her teeth, and "Saved by the Bell," does some interviews, and shares some mail from a sleazy old man that will make you want to spit and holler. 60¢, Kristy Chan, USF 30334, 4202 E. Fowler Ave, Tampa FL 33620-3033.

Chinese, Japanese, Indian Chief is a big, thick one-shot zine that was produced for a racism workshop held during the 1997 SF Bay Area Girl Convention. It's a collection of amazing, honest, and angry writing on race by young women of color. If you carry only one zine in your store, this is the one I would recommend. It's $2 from Bianca Ortiz, 2415 Fordham St., San Pablo CA 94806. Bianca does a few great zines on her own as well. *Mestiza* (15¢) is an unflinching look at Bianca's identity as a mixed Chicana/white woman and *Hey Mexican!* (30¢) stomps all over negative stereotypes of Mexicans. Bianca also does *Mamasita* (45¢). All of these are available from Pander or from Bianca herself.



Slant is another one of those awesome, "must-carry" zines. All the intensity you'd expect in a zine, with a master's degree to back it up. It's creator, Mimi Nguyen, is feisty *and* educated. A recent issue discussed cultural appropriation, zines by kids of color, Vietnamese warriors, and tons more. *Slant* and Mimi are featured in V-Search's *Zines! Vol.* 2. Check out her Web site at ⟨members.aol.com/Slantgirl/slant.html⟩. $1.40.

Alien focuses on mental illness and healing. The latest issue also has a great article on one of my personal favorite things to bitch about — pseudo-feminist boys. 75¢, Whitney, PO Box 12262, Berkeley CA 94712-2262.

I love *Bitch Dyke Whore!* Lisa is one tough survivor girl and a great writer at that! Much of the writing in her zines deals with the hard-to-handle topic of rape and generally fucked-up sexual experiences but, instead of bringing you down, you're left feeling angry but empowered. She has an excellent Web site as well at ⟨members.aol.com/xpeecheesx/intro.html⟩. 45¢, Whitney, PO Box 12262, Berkeley CA 94712-2262.

Fight Like A Girl is a fun Canadian zine. It's small in size but packs a punch! Order direct from them at 39 Lochinvar Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R2J 1R3. $1 Canadian, not available from Pander.

Potluck is a great zine straight outta Brooklyn dealing primarily with class issues and being Jewish. I had the privilege of talking with Danielle last summer and she totally rocks. $1, Dan-Yell, 4509 Bedford, Brooklyn NY 11235.

Also recommended: *Evolution of a Race Riot* ($1.80), *That Girl* (60¢, Kelli Williams, PO Box 170612, San Francisco CA 94117), *Velvet Grass* (60¢, Rebecca Dillon, 828 Brownwood Dr, Roanoke VA 24017), *Lucid Nation* ($1, 1015 N. Kings Road #313, Los Angeles CA 90069), *Suburbia* ($2, Ceci, 521 Golden Gate Ave, Point Richmond CA 94801), and *You Might As Well Live* (60¢, Lauren Martin, Bard College, Annandale NY 12504). O

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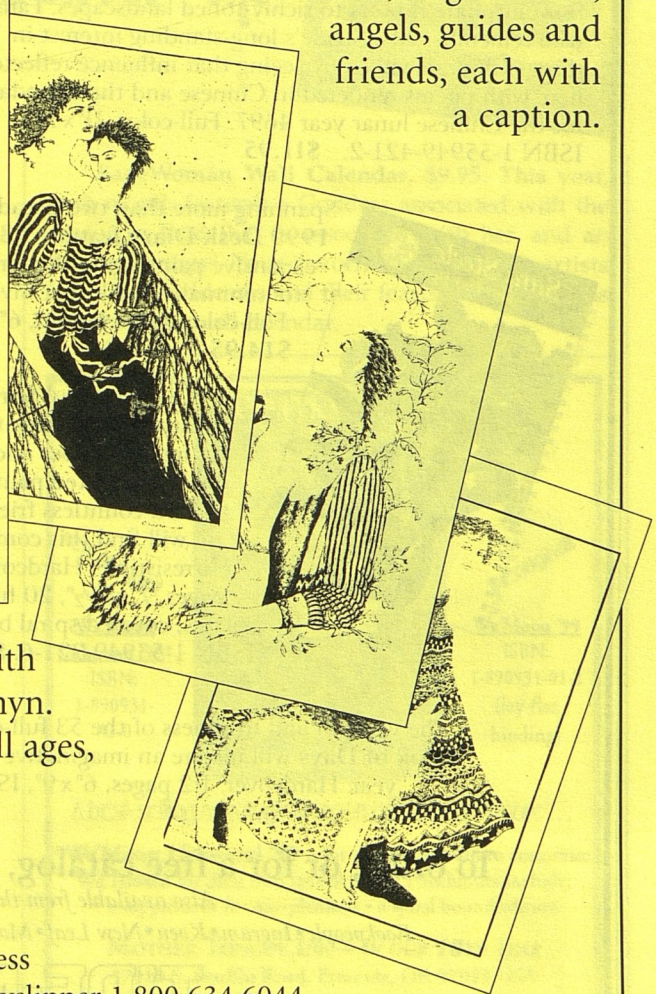
The Coloring Book for Big Girls

By Sudie Rakusin

28 pages 8½" x 11"
Full color front and back covers

25 detailed pen and ink drawings to color, of goddesses, angels, guides and friends, each with a caption.



This is a beautiful adult book filled with drawings of strong, high spirited womyn. Something to cherish for womyn of all ages, a special gift for all rites of passage.

Winged Willow Press
Distributed by Ladyslipper 1.800.634.6044
ISBN 0-9664805-0-3 Retail price $9.95

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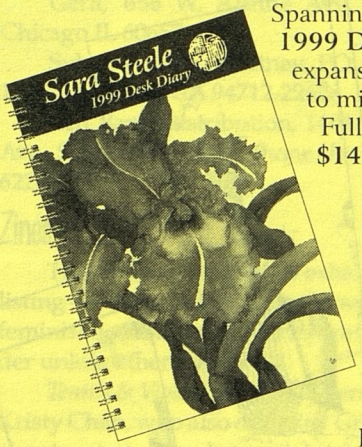
Beautiful Gifts from Sara Steele!

Sara Steele Originals 1999 features twelve new watercolors that explore many facets of the artist's imagination, from intimate flowers to richly-toned landscapes. Fans who remember Ms. Steele's long-standing interest in things Chinese will enjoy seeing that influence reflected here with poems rendered in Chinese and the calendar for the Chinese lunar year 4697. Full-color, 11"x14", ISBN 1-55949-421-2. **$11.95**



Spanning more than two decades of work, **Sara Steele 1999 Desk Diary** features 53 images that range from expansive paintings with gloriously overpowering color, to minimalist work that invites repeated exploration. Full-color, spiral bound, 6"x9", ISBN 1-55949-422-0. **$14.95**

A portion of the sales of these calendars will benefit The National Domestic Violence Hotline, which provides crisis intervention, information referrals and support to victims of domestic violence, their friends and families.

Our beautiful **Sara Steele Address Book** radiates color. The landscapes and flowers by this talented painter have won countless friends who will find this compilation irresistible. Hardcover, 162 pages, 7"x9½", 20 full-color plates, covered spiral binding, ISBN 1-55949-321-6. **$14.95**

The warmth and freshness of the 53 full-color paintings in **Sara Steele Book of Days** will inspire an imaginative look back at every day of the year. Hardcover, 112 pages, 6"x9", ISBN 1-55949-325-9. **$12.95**

To order, or for a free catalog, call 1-800-338-2508.

Also available from these fine distributors:

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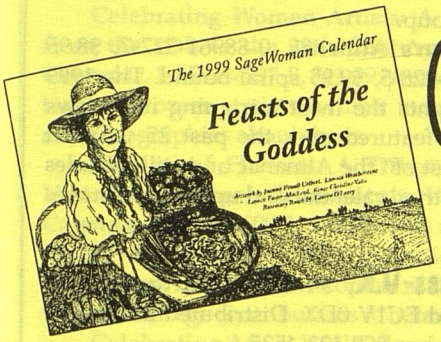
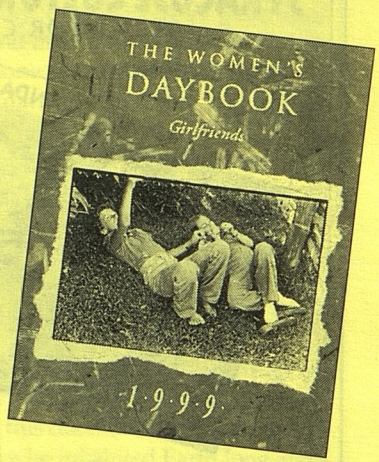


Calendar Round-up



By Liz Wermcrantz
Women & Children First/Chicago

Following is a list of calendars we should all take a look at in our ordering for 1999. Most of these companies have extensive calendar selections besides the ones I've listed.

Happy ordering!

New Moon Publishing, PO Box 3587, Duluth MN 55803; 800-381-4743.

New Moon Wall Calendar, 0-9652777-2-0, $10.95. This calendar from the publishers of *New Moon Magazine* includes artwork by 13 different girls ranging in age from 6 to 16. Each page is marked with events in women's history and the birthdays of famous girls and women.

Second Story Press, 720 Bathurst Street #301, Toronto ON, Canada M5S 2R4; 416-537-7850. Distributed by LPC Group.

Women's Daybook, 0-896764-03-7, $12.95. Combining the usefulness of a business planner with the elegance of an art calendar, this year's daybook revolves around the theme girlfriends. This desk calendar includes original contemporary photographs and does well each year.

SageWoman, PO Box 641, Point Arena CA 95468; 707-882-2052. Available direct and from New Leaf, Small Changes and BP.

SageWoman Wall Calendar, $9.95. This year, each month features a Goddess associated with the season, a food that is associated with her, and an original recipe! Your favorite SageWoman artists bring the Goddesses and their feasts to life with this ever-popular wall calendar.

new product!

We'Moon Unbound '99*
ISBN:
1-890931-02-0

the original!

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ISBN:
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A best-selling astrological moon calendar and more . . .

***We'Moon Unbound '99** is for those who want to customize **We'Moon** for their own special needs! Possibilities include:
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MOTHER TONGUE INK—*IN OUR 18TH YEAR*
37010 S. Snuffin Road, Estacada, OR 97023 USA
ph: 503-630-7848; e-mail: wemoon@teleport.com

both editions: $14.95 • 5¼" x 8" • 224 pp •

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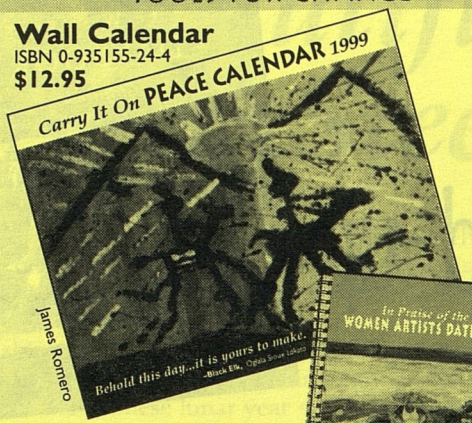
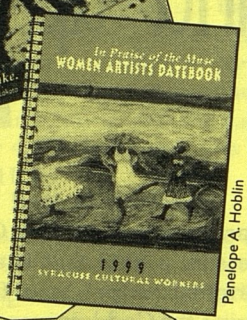
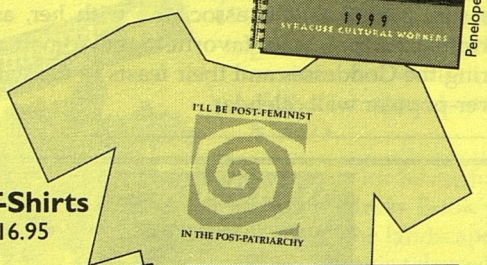
SYRACUSE CULTURAL WORKERS
TOOLS FOR CHANGE

Wall Calendar
ISBN 0-935155-24-4
$12.95





Women Artists Datebook
ISBN 0-935155-25-2 $12.95



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Calendars also available from Bookpeople, Koen, New Leaf, Small Changes, Don Olson.

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Women's Press-Canada, 517 College Street #233, Toronto ON, Canada M6G 4A2; 416-921-2425. Distributed by LPC Group.

Everywoman's Almanac, 0-88961-227-7, $8.95 perfect-bound; -228-5, $9.95 spiral-bound. The 1999 Almanac spotlights the most intriguing interviews that have been featured over the past 25 years. It features the "best of" the Almanac and still includes the handy menstrual calendar and updated resources lists for women.

Women's Press-U.K., 34 Great Sutton Street, London England EC1V 0DX. Distributed in the U.S. by Trafalgar Square; 800-423-4525.

The Women Artist's Diary, 0704345676. This beautiful and handy pocket diary is filled with images of contemporary women's art. It includes an A to Z address section, a menstrual calendar and full-page planners preceding every month.

Mother Tongue Ink, 37010 S. Snuffin Road, Estacada OR 97203; 503-630-7848. Available from BP.

We'Moon '99: Gaia Rhythms for Womyn, 1-890931-01-2, $14.95. **We'Moon '99 Unbound**, 1-890931-02-0, $14.95. With a 1999 theme of Lunar Power, this bestselling calendar is essential for our stores.

Tide-Mark, PO Box 280311, East Hartford CT 06128; 800-338-2508.

Sara Steele Originals Wall Calendar, 1-55949-421-2, $11.95. **Sara Steele Desk Diary**, 1-55949-422-0, $14.95. This year's calendars include new watercolors. Each month includes a poem in Chinese as well as the Chinese lunar calendar and its holidays. A portion of sales benefit The National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Golden Turtle Press, 3065 Richmond Parkway, Suite 112, Richmond CA 94806; 800-548-8785.

The Right Side of Forty: Celebrating Timeless Women Wall Calendar, 1-55811-599-4, $11.99. Based on the book by the same name, this calendar features photographs and profiles of many women beyond 40 years old.

On Our Own Terms: Portraits of Women Business Leaders Wall Calendar, 1-55811-598-6, $11.99. Based on the book by the same name, this

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calendar features portraits and profiles of leading businesswomen.

Celebrating Women Artists: A View from the 17th to the 20th Century Wall Calendar, 1-55811-597-8, $11.99. A celebration of women artists, which includes short biographies about them.

Women of Flowers: A Tribute to Victorian Women Illustrators Wall Calendar, 1-55811-600-1, $11.99. This calendar showcases the botanical illustrations of Victorian women artists who made huge contributions to botany.

Celebrating Africa Wall Calendar, 1-55811-603-6, $11.99. Artist Julia Cairns paints Africa's children, animals, women and warriors.

Morehouse Publishing, PO Box 1321, Harrisburg PA 17105; 800-877-0012.

The Year Round Women's Calendar for Wholeness, no ISBN, $12.95. This literally round spiral-bound calendar celebrates the unique cycles of a woman's body, mind, spirit and soul through poetic expression and full-color illustrations.

Ronnie Sellers Productions, Inc., PO Box 71, Kennebunk ME 04043; 800-MAKE-FUN.

Save the Children Wall Calendar, 1-56906-108-4, $11.95. Filled with charming photographs of children from all over the world, a portion of proceeds from the sale of this calendar go to assist the Save the Children organization.

The Tree-Free Wall Calendar, 1-56906-107-6, $13.95. Six highly acclaimed artists provided the nature-themed artwork for this calendar, which was made entirely from non-wood fibers.

The Power of Women Wall Calendar, 1-56906-098-3, $11.95. This perennial favorite with art exclusively done by Jane Evershed has the theme Revisiting Our Souls.

Pomegranate, Box 6099, Rohnert Park CA 94927; 800-227-1428.

365-Day Gay & Lesbian Calendar, 0-7649-0431-0, $9.95. This page-a-day calendar provides us with daily facts about the history and people of interest to today's lesbian and gay community.

A 365-Day History Calendar: What Women Have Done, 0-7649-0433-7, $9.95. A page-a-day calendar that provides insights and little-known stories of what we have done throughout history.

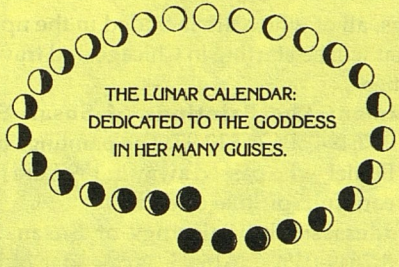
Calendario de la Raza: Images of the Mujer Wall Calendar, 0-7649-0447-7. These paintings and murals showcase women's many roles in Hispanic cultural society.

Gal Pals Wall Calendar, 0-7649-0454-X, $12.95. This calendar celebrates women's friendships with photos both hilarious and poignant.

Keepers of the Dream: The Paintings of Patricia Wyatt Wall Calendar, 0-7649-0462-0, $12.95. The paintings in this calendar evoke the spirit of the people and animals who inhabited Earth long ago.

Women Who Dare Wall Calendar, 0-7649-0478-7, $12.95. **Women Who Dare Engagement Calendar,** 0-7649-0552-X, $13.95. These calendars profile some of the very courageous women in our history.

Mary Cassatt: Modern Woman Wall Calendar, 0-7649-0488-4, $12.95. A collection of her finest



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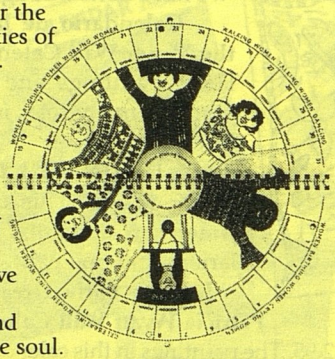

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paintings, all of which are included in the upcoming show that will be starting in Chicago and traveling to other cities.

Shaman: The Paintings of Susan Seddon Boulet, 0-7649-0506-6, $12.95. The paintings of Susan Seddon Boulet, who passed away in 1997, are featured in this beautiful, spiritual calendar.

Goddesses: The Paintings of Susan Seddon Boulet, 0-7649-0559-7, $16.95. A calendar of Boulet's gorgeous and lush paintings of the goddesses.

Georgia O'Keeffe Wall Calendar, 0-7649-0518-X, $12.95. Another collection of her beautiful paintings.

Women and Flight Wall Calendar, 0-7649-0522-8, $11.95. Carolyn Russo, staff photographer for the National Air and Space Museum, completed a project photographing women pilots working in various careers.

Women of the African Ark Wall Calendar, 0-7649-0562-7, $16.95. A fascinating journey through the rich diversity of African culture.

Amber Lotus, PO Box 31538, San Francisco CA 94131; 800-345-0096.

Call of the Goddess Wall Calendar, 1-56937-237-3, $12.95. Artist Helen Nelson-Reed gives us 13 of her images of the sacred feminine.

Universe Publishing, A Division of St. Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Ave., New York NY 10010; 800-221-7945.

A Room of Her Own Wall Calendar, 0-7893-0190-3, $13.95. Inspired by the book of the same name, this calendar features the personal spaces of many prominent women including Maya Angelou, Sally Quinn and others.

Mothers & Daughters Wall Calendar, 0-7893-0218-7, $12.95. Based on the book by the same name, this calendar provides us with 12 months of mother/daughter photos and essays.

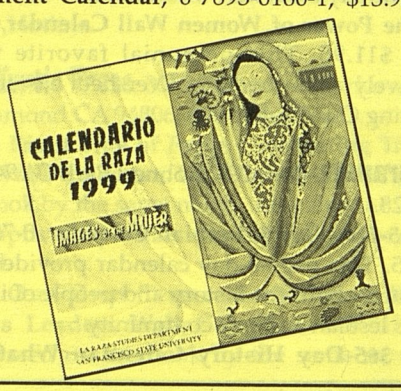
Sisters Wall Calendar, 0-7893-0193-8, $12.95. Also based on the book by the same name, this does for sisters what the previous listing does for mothers and daughters.

Olympic Women's Basketball Wall Calendar, 0-7893-0196-2, $13.95. A full-color calendar highlighting women basketball players like Rebecca Lobo, Sheryl Swoopes and others.

The Canyon Suite of Georgia O'Keeffe, 0-7893-0216-0, $12.95. Another collection of the recently found Canyon Suite series, this one features more of her brilliantly colored watercolors.

Simple Abundance: A Datebook of Comfort and Joy, 0-7893-0159-8, $13.95. Based on the book by Sarah Ban Breathnach, this datebook is about simplifying your life and comforting yourself. It sold well last year and will most likely do the same this year especially since Oprah talks about her on her show quite often.

A Woman's View: Celebrating Women Artists Engagement Calendar, 0-7893-0160-1, $13.95. This



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calendar includes the spectrum of media, all from The Art Institute of Chicago's collections.

Celebrating Women Writers Engagement Calendar, 0-7893-0153-9, $13.95. Includes photos, quotes and lists of each writer's works, this calendar includes Margaret Atwood, Toni Morrison, Amy Tan, Edwidge Danticat and many more.

Syracuse Cultural Workers, PO Box 6367, Syracuse NY 13217; 315-474-1132.

Carry It On Peace Wall Calendar, 0-935-155-244, $12.95. The 28th edition of this wonderful calendar continues the unique blending of art and political activism that makes it a perennial favorite.

In Praise of the Muse Women Artists Datebook, 0-935-155-25-2, $12.95. Includes a collection of over 30 works of art and poetry.

Luna Press, PO Box 15511, Kenmore Station, Boston MA 02215; 617-427-9846.

Lunar Wall Calendar, 1-877920-09-6, $20. This 23rd edition of this bestselling calendar features cover art by Jamie Hogan and new work from 23 other artists, poets and writers and includes full astronomical and astrological information.

Cedco Publishing Company, 100 Pelican Way, San Rafael CA 94901; 800-227-6162.

20th Century Women Wall Calendar, 0-7683-3205-9, $12.95. This calendar contains photographs of some of the most influential and inspirational women of this past century along with an accompanying biography of each.

Georgia O'Keeffe Wall Calendar, 0-7683-3138-2, $12.95. **Georgia O'Keeffe Easel Calendar**, 0-7683-3211-7, $11.95. Both these calendars contain her renditions of flowers, churches and landscapes.

Mary Cassatt Wall Calendar, 0-7683-3036-X, $12.95. A collection of this major figure of the Impressionist movement's portraits of mothers and their children.

Women Artists Wall Calendar, 0-7683-3204-4, $11.95. **Women Artists Datebook**, 0-7683-3255-9, $9.95. Well-known and emerging artists are showcased in this cool calendar. The pages include many different media and explore a wide variety of subjects.

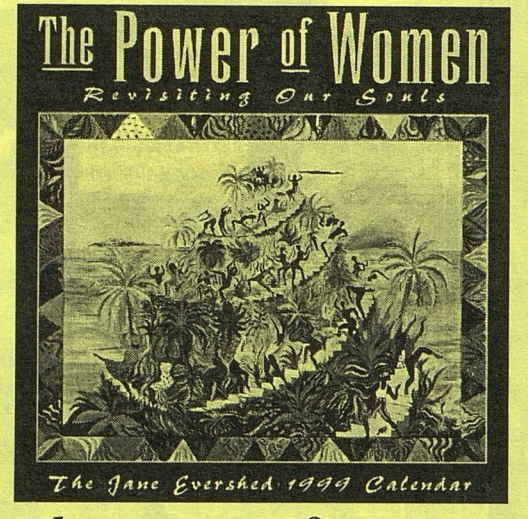
Live With Intention Wall Calendar, 0-7683-3119-9, $11.95. This Brush Dance Calendar features the expressive and vibrant watercolor art and calligraphied words of wisdom we've all come to know and love.

In Her Image Wall Calendar, 0-7683-3103-X, $12.95. This calendar of the Goddess takes images from Kris Waldherr's *The Book of Goddesses*, which celebrates goddesses from around the world.

Rawhide Heroines Wall Calendar, 0-7683-3156-0, $12.95. An entire 12 months of cowgirls!

Running Press, 125 S. 22nd St., Philadelphia PA 19103; 215-567-5080.

A Woman's Day-by-Day Engagement Calendar, 0-7624-0267-9. This calendar features floral art and includes quotes by and for women on each weekly spread. ○



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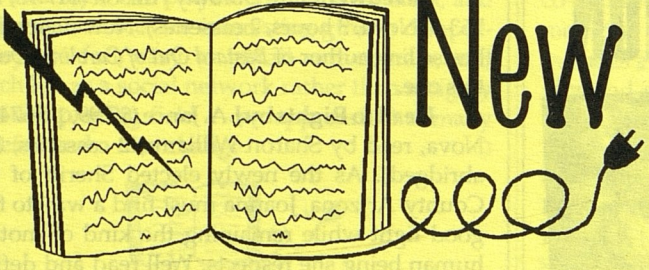


New Media

Audio and CD Books

By Dorothy Holland

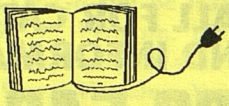
Girlfriends: Invisible Bonds, Enduring Ties by Carmen Renee Berry and Tamara Traeder ($17.95, 1-57453-209-X, Audio Literature, read by Cindy Williams, Katy Hickman and Amy Hill, 2 cassettes, 2½ hours, abridged). Women's friendships with other women are among the most important relationships in our lives. These inspiring and revealing tales tell, with honesty, humor and respect, of friends, soulmates, and confidantes exploring acceptance, forgiveness, loyalty, speech, silence, and many other aspects of women's friendships.

Herotica 3: A Collection of Women's Erotic Fiction edited by Susie Bright (price not available, 1-886238-18-9, Passion Press, 2 cassettes or CDs, 2½ hours, abridged). The third in the groundbreaking series of sensual stories written by, for, and about women. By helping women claim the erotic frontier, Bright explores a territory where sexuality is limited only by the imagination. This passionate mosaic of steamy stories will leave you breathless.

Singing in the Comeback Choir by Bebe Moore Campbell ($24.95, 1-55937-500-6, Audio Renaissance, read by the author, 4 cassettes, 6 hours, abridged). An unforgettable tale of hope, faith and commitment, and of making comebacks possible. Campbell is one of our most important novelists, and well worth listening to.

All My Relations: Traditional Legends and Wisdom by Nakota Elder Grandmother Kitty ($20, performed by the author, 72 minutes, 1 cassette, 0-9663401-1-6; CD, -401-0-8). Kitty is a wise, funny, and fierce storyteller who uses animal legends as teaching stories. Told with humor and wisdom and illuminated with remembrances of her childhood. Four Corners; 888-424-6663 or email ⟨HeronBrown@Taconic.net⟩. Also available from B&T.

My Brother by Jamaica Kincaid ($24.95, 0-14-086737-6, Penguin, read by the author, 4 cassettes, 6 hours, unabridged). Kincaid's unblinking chronicle of a life that ended too early, shared in this recording in her own voice, speaks volumes about the difficult truths at the heart of all families. I loved it.



A Virtuous Woman by Kaye Gibbons ($18, 0-671-88569-3, Simon & Schuster, read by the author with Terry Beaver, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, abridged). This is a really nice two-voice recording. Using two voices creates a multilayered and very convincing portrait of two seemingly ill-matched people who somehow miraculously make a marriage. I really

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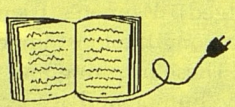
enjoyed listening to it. **Ellen Foster** by Kaye Gibbons ($18, 0-671-88567-7, S&S, read by the author, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, abridged). Another good Gibbons experience, although not a two-voices pleasure. Story of a girl who overcomes adversity with humor, spunk and determination.

Cavedweller by Dorothy Allison ($17.95, 1-56740-763-3, Nova, 3 hours, 2 cassettes). New fiction from the bestselling author of *Bastard Out of Carolina*. Don't miss this one.

Dead to Rights by J.A. Jance ($7.99, 1-56740-189-9, Nova, read by Sharon Williams, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, abridged). As the newly elected Sheriff of Cochise County, Arizona, Joanna must find a way to fight the good fight while remaining the kind of mother and human being she respects. Well read and definitely a strong woman character.

Nova Audio has just started this new line of audio books that are wonderfully priced and yet are still well produced — called Nova Paperback Audio Books. A couple other titles of interest to our feminist listeners are also available. **DragonsEye** by Anne McCaffrey ($7.99, 1-56740-230-5, read by Dick Hill, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, abridged) and **The Dark Room** by Minette Walters ($7.99, 1-56740-163-5, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, abridged), an engrossing and intense mystery.



Do They Hear You When You Cry? by Fauziya Kassindja, Layli Bashir and Gini Kopecky ($24.95, 0-553-47854-0, Bantam Audio, 4 cassettes, 6 hours, abridged). A true story of persecution, friendship, and ultimately triumph, **Do They Hear You When You Cry?** chronicles the struggles of Kassindja, a young woman who flees her African homeland to escape female genital mutilation only to be locked in American prisons for 16 months, and Layli Bashir the driven young law student who fights for Kassindja's freedom.

The Rest of Us: Dispatches from the Mother Ship by Jacqueline Mitchard ($16.95, 0-14-086684-1, Penguin Audio, read by author, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, abridged). Mitchard writes a Sunday morning newspaper column that's like having a chat with your best friend. Available from Ingram, B&T and BP.

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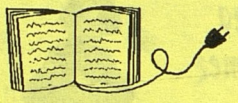
In *FBN* 20#4, I mentioned several CD-ROM programs from Purple Moon's Friendship Adventures for Girls series. Here are their ISBN numbers: **Rockett's New School** (1-890278-00-9), **Rockett's Tricky Decision** (1-890278-02-5), and **Secret Paths in the Forest** (1-890278-02-5). They are available from Ingram and B&T. I've played around with them, and they are great choices for interesting girls in computers. They are fun, easy to install and operate, and approach life as a social network rather than a highly competitive playing field — an approach that many girls prefer, and a nice change. ○



Available on Audio Book

By Donna Niles

Starting with the Spring 1998 list, Shambala Lion Editions Audio tapes are available from SoundsTrue. They are one of the most amiable and bookseller-friendly publishers you will ever deal with, and can be reached for ordering at: 800-333-9185.

Piercing the Veil: Crossing into the Mystical Realm by Sophy Burnham ($24.95, 4½ hours, 3 cassettes, 1-56455-589-5). Bestselling author of the *Book of Angels*, Burnham uncovers the roots of mystical experience, through sharing an experience of "an ecstatic merging with God" that she underwent at the ancient Peruvian sacred site of Machu Picchu, as a reporter in 1979. She shares prayers and meditations, has advice for contacting your own angels, and passes on wisdom from history's great mystics.

Three Levels of Power and How to Use Them by Caroline Myss, Ph.D. (2½ hours, 2 cassettes, 1-56455-591-7, $18.95). "With explosive insights into her newest work with symbolic or archetypal sight, this original audio production fast-forwards listeners to the future of healing, where energy, matter and spirituality intersect."

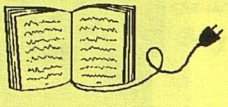
Vein of Gold II : The Kingdom of Sound by Julia Cameron and Tim Wheater (3 hours, 2 cassettes, 1-56455-583-6, $18.95). "Cameron and Wheater join to teach how the energy of sound connects with the energy of the human body — and the act of creation itself.... Taught passionately, with many exercises that will challenge and delight, this new audio work investigates a healing art that is as close as the sound of your own voice."

Animal Medicine: A Guide to Your Spirit Allies by Jaimie Sams ($24.95, 3 cassettes, 3½ hours, 1-56455-565-8). A wonderful audio adventure (by the co-author of *Medicine Cards*) into the realm of animal medicine as told by this Native American writer. It includes a comprehensive booklet explaining the origins and meanings of 200 animal symbols sacred to indigenous people worldwide.

Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching: A New English Version by Ursula K. Le Guin in performance with Todd Barton. ($10.95, Shambala Editions, 1 cassette, 85 minutes, 1-57062-374-0.) The beloved Ms. Le Guin has been working on her rendition of this ancient text for more than 40 years. This classic Chinese work comes utterly alive with the help of Todd Barton's Tibetan gongs and a myriad of other instruments, as read by Le Guin. Lovely.

The Energy of Money: A Spiritual Guide to Financial and Personal Fulfillment by Maria Nemeth, Ph.D. ($59.95, 6 cassettes and study guide, 9 hours, 1-56455-569-0). This amazing course really can take us down into and ultimately through lifelong obstacles that even those of us who have been reading books with titles like this forever didn't see. Anyone wishing to change her entire relationship to money should hear these. Not advisable to listen where tears and laughter are undesirable!

Selected Stories of Grace Paley by Grace Paley ($23.95, Penguin, 6 hours, 4 cassettes, 0-14-086786-4).



The Pleasure Zone: Why We Resist Good Feelings and How to Let Go and Be Happy by Stella Resnick, Ph.D. ($16.95, Penguin, 1-56511-257-1, 2 cassettes, 3 hours). The title says it all!

A Woman's Ways: Develop Your Intuition/ Women's Spirituality by Mary Hayes-Grieco ($16.95, Penguin, 1-56511-258-X, 2 cassettes, 3 hours). By the author of the *Kitchen Mystic* and *The Peaceful Heart*, this Minneapolis-based writer offers practical, humorous advice inviting us to perceive the Divine in ordinary things and to use spiritual principles in everything we do. ○

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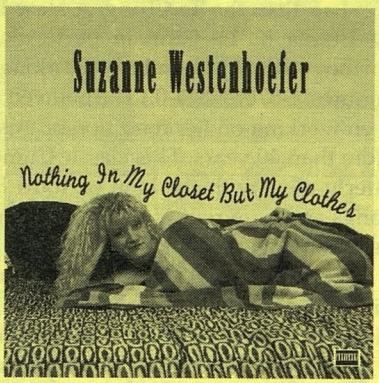

Marga Gomez

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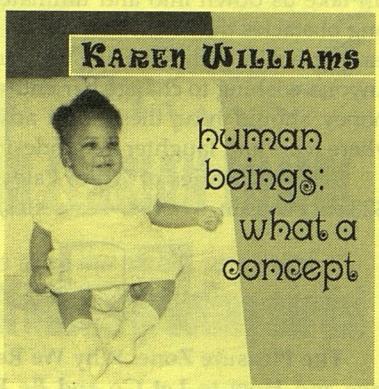

Karen Williams

"Human Beings: What A Concept"

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Music News

By Susan Frazier
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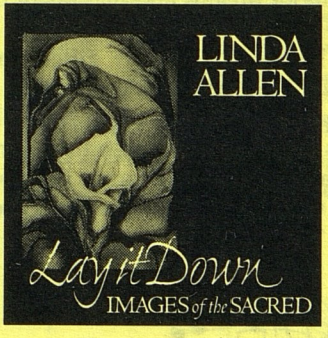
From singer-songwriters to soundtracks, ethereal pop to Delta blues, Latin jazz to Goddess chants, drumming to country music — there's something for everyone this summer in the music scene. And the trend toward stellar compilations doesn't seem to be abating...several new releases, including the long-awaited Lilith Fair double CD set are remaining strong sellers. Enjoy the music!

New Releases

Tracking of Time/Karen Almquist. When other artists say things like the following, it's definitely a disc worth checking out! "High quality. Her playing is impeccable, her singing and song writing are anchored in the deep soul of a wonderful human being." (Barbara Higbie) "Gutsy guitar playing and songs straight from the heart." (Alex Degrassi) "One hell of a guitar player." (Kristina Olsen) "The real thing...the kind of guitarist to die for." (Louise Taylor) "Rory Block gets political." (Barbara Higbie again!) Althia 1004.

From the Choirgirl Hotel/Tori Amos. With her open-diary lyrical approach and outspoken discussion of women's secrets, Amos has developed what is perhaps the most truly personal relationship between artist and audience this side of the Grateful Dead. Highlights include the hypnotic pop single, "Spark," and ballad gems like "Jackie's Strength," which looks at the J.F.K. assassination from the eyes of American women. Atlantic 83095.

Identidad/Mili Bermejo. "Where Jazz meets Latin with elegance and soul" is how the *Boston Globe* describes this music. Call it "Canto Nuevo," "Nueva Cancion" or "New Song," this movement that gave us Mercedes Sosa has given us another great singer in Mili Bermejo. In her own words, "We Latin Americans are one people united by feeling and culture and



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–Betsy Rose

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creative music ... creative women

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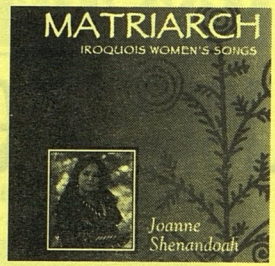

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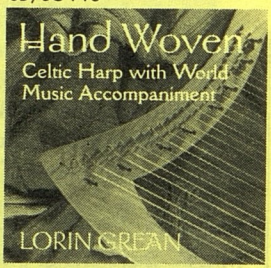

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The Offering ◆ Mary Youngblood
One of the first Native women to record the Native American flute. This album was recorded live in the Moaning Cavern of California.

Matriarch ◆ Joanne Shenandoah
Iroquois Women's Songs. Best Native American Album of the Year 1996.

Letter From the End of the Twentieth Century ◆ Joy Harjo & Poetic Justice
"Cool, very cool. It's beat, it's jazz, it's reggae, it's poetry you can dance to." NAPRA REVIEW

Hand Woven ◆ Lorin Grean
"You could call it Celtic Fusion or World Harp. I'd simply call it beautiful." ALBUM NETWORK REVIEW

SILVER WAVE Records

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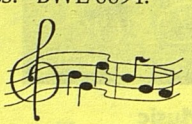
language, owners of our dreams and masters of our destiny." Xenophile 4020.

Threads/Joni Bishop. "A vocally gifted newcomer." —*Billboard*. This Milwaukee native is definitely beginning to make her mark in Nashville. The timeless songs of love and hope feature Joni's gifted guitar work and warm, clear vocals. Her voice has been compared to "Joan Baez or even a lower-register Alison Krauss." BWE 0094.



Goddess Chant/Shawna Carol. This album is definitely not your ordinary everyday album of chant! Rather than the simple circle rounds and chants, the tracks on this album are lush, elegant, harmonic, deeply layered and original extended choral chants. The musicianship is superb — perhaps the album to convince folks who don't like this type of music that they were wrong! Ladyslipper 117.

Songbird/Eva Cassidy. Prior to her death a few years ago from melanoma, Eva Cassidy was well known in the Washington DC area and on the edge of breaking through to mainstream popularity. This album, made from recorded tracks she left, shows the depth of her talent. Her clear voice shines — on both blues and jazz-tinged pop songs and traditional folk ballads. Great for in-store play! Blix Street 10045.

Turn the Heat Up/Shemekia Copeland. She's only 18 years old, but if this album is any indication, she's already an old soul in the world of blues. The daughter of the late, great Texas bluesman Johnny Copeland, Shemekia has been performing since the ripe old age of 12 when she played the famed Cotton Club in Harlem. A powerhouse of blues and R&B, her huge, dynamic vocals and incredible personality shine through as she builds a modern juke-joint style all her own. Alligator 4857.

Ten Days in November/Sue Foley. One of the best female blues-rockers to emerge during the past decade, this Austin-based artist has built a large fan base through non-stop touring and four albums with her energized, authentic guitar work and gritty original songs. Her sound has evolved into something

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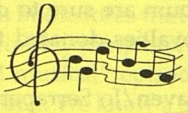
reminiscent of an early Bob Dylan with Rickie Lee Jones-style vocals. Shanachie 8031.

Courage My Love/Annie Gallup. The first thing everyone notices about Annie Gallup are the words. "Clever, folkie shows backbone, humor...Speak-singing songs, related in a confidential, person-to-person way." —*Guitar World Acoustic*. "Gallup writes incredible lyrics." —*Sing Out*. "Fully developed narratives...intently marrying scenes and emotions and brimming with delicious rhymes." —*Performing Songwriter*. Prime CD 38.



Dixie Kitchen/Mary Gauthier. New Orleans blues meets country — in Boston?? With strong lesbian, feminist lyrics?? Songs with titles like "Goddamn HIV" speak directly with honest, out-front emotion. The perfect album for all those closeted country music loving lesbians. MG 997.

Dance the Spiral Dance/Ubaka Hill. The wait is over...the tapes and discs are in and life is good. Dancers can dance, drummers can drum and singers can sing along with this great new album. For her second album, Ubaka has enlisted the help of master drummer Edwina Lee Tyler along with the Shapeshifters and 20 members of the Drumsong Orchestra. Ladyslipper 118.

Songs from the Great Depression/Deborah Holland. With her distinctive instrumentation, Deborah and her cohorts have created a sound that's reminiscent of other socialist-oriented music such as "Three Penny Opera" by Brecht and Weill. The music is indeed from the 30s and the use of "found instruments" like trash can lids, paint buckets and spoons, along with unusual instruments like the Jew's harp and the vermonica (a child's instrument) give the album a gritty street sound that is very appealing. Gadfly 231.

Patterns of the Heart/Helen Hooke & Red Boots. "I didn't know you could get a Hendrix solo out of a violin. For the record, the way violinist Helen Hooke does it, you can." —*Cashbox*. You won't find any Hendrix on this new album, but Hooke's violin will blow you away. With this release, the former member of Deadly Nightshade goes country with a jazz and blues edge. Hooke is backed by Rachelle Garniez on accordion, Dori Rhodes on bass and guitarist Jack Petroceli (from Joan Osborne's band). Montana Blake 1004.

The One That Got Away/Diana Jones. A major highlight on last year's AWMAC Sampler at the National Women's Music Festival, Diana will be returning to NWMF this year as a Showcase artist. With her smooth vocals and great guitar work, expect to hear more of this new performer! New Song Records 2.

Dear Enemy/Dana & Karen Kletter. This debut suite of songs tells the extraordinary life story of these identical twins. Recorded with several musician friends, including violinist Susan Volex of Poi Dog Pondering and producer Joe Boyd, the album features stunning sister harmonies above unique arrangements of piano, strings and sparse rock instrumentation. Real life has never sounded so good. Hannibal 1420.

Ophelia/Natalie Merchant. So how does one top oneself when your first post-10,000 Maniacs album goes triple platinum? With this album, a conceptually and musically adventurous cycle of songs that are

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lush, passionate, shimmering and softly soulful. Look for Natalie to headline this summer's Lilith Fair tour. Elektra 62196.

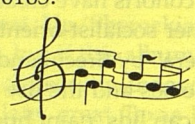
Fundamental/Bonnie Raitt. "As remarkable for its refreshingly unorthodox sounds as it is for its refined songcraft. As always, Raitt manifests an uncanny ability to articulate the joys, pains, and longings of love." —*Billboard*. Bonnie fans will not be disappointed in this new album, filled with her signature blues sound, along with a swamp rocker, a ballad, a reggae-tinged tune and the lead single, "One Belief Away." Rumor has it that Bonnie will be playing some of the Lilith Fair dates this year as well. Capitol 56397.

Subway Songstress Years/Ratsy. It's slightly unusual for a singer with only one album out to release an album of "oldies," but one should never accuse Ratsy of being a usual sort of person. Billed as a "Retro Ratsy CD," these are the songs that she indeed did sing in the subway in the late 80s when she arrived in Boston fresh out of beauty school in Ann Arbor. Highlights include her infamous "trilogy of stupid boy songs," an incredible version of Leonard Cohen's "One of Us Cannot Be Wrong" and "The Water Is Wide." Ratsy 1984.

Refuge/Gabrielle Roth. Perfect for meditation, massage, sacred dance and pure listening enjoyment, this magical music will make your Buddha soul smile. For her tenth album, Roth has rounded up a bevy of world-class musicians, including Grenbenshikov (known as Russia's Lennon for his position as the country's top underground pop performer). Taos drums, alto flute, viola, talking drum, trumpet, cello, atoke bell, congas, keyboards, rainsticks — the pure sounds of this album are sure to delight Gabrielle's fans. Note: All royalties donated to Tibetan causes. Raven 5982.

My Blue Heaven/Jo Serrapere. When you first see Jo Serrapere, you think...kind of punky, kind of folky, maybe Ani like.... And then she starts to sing and you wonder how the old soul of a Delta blues singer made its way into this young woman. Treat your staff and customers — play this in your store, put it in the disc player and the sales will take care of themselves. One Man Clapping 9.

Grand Design/Cosy Sheridan. A winner of music festival talent competitions from Kerrville to Telluride, Cosy has performed venues from the Cowgirl Hall of Fame to Carnegie Hall singing the stories of women's lives with a velvet punch of wit and pathos. Highlights on this new album include "Masterpiece" with harmony vocals by Diane Ziegler and "The Little Train that Could," which declares "I think I can slow down," a message often overlooked these days. BWE 0165.



More Than Once/Debi Smith. Playing guitar, piano and bodhran (Irish hand drum) in support of her pure, expressive vocals, Debi delivers a from-the-heart passion connecting in a very direct way with her audience. A longtime member of the Four Bitchin' Babes, this Nashville-recorded album is her second solo release and is likely to place her in the forefront of country-tinged singer-songwriters. Shanachie 8032.

Shamaneya/Shelley Snow. For those customers who love Enya and can't wait for her next release... this album is sure to fill the void and then some.

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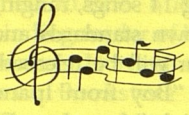
Gorgeous vocals and music that is sure to soothe the soul. Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of this release is the fact that all but two of the songs are sung in an original language. Shelley has created brand new words — sure to be classified under the "romance language" heading. This album is especially well suited for in-store play. Shamaneya 1.

Soundtracks

Xena — **Bitter Suite**. One can't escape from the *Xena* phenomenon. How much longer will it last? Who knows — but bookstores that aren't "riding the wave" should definitely jump on now. This music is from the first "all musical" episode of *Xena*, which aired early this year.... We knew a soundtrack to this episode couldn't be far behind. The CD includes all the songs and the score, from Callisto's enchanting "Song of Illusia" (performed by Michelle Nicastro) to Lucy Lawless' showstopping "Hearts are Hurting" and the soaring finale, "The Love of Your Love." A must have for every nutball (aka *Xena* fan). Varese 5918.



The Very Best Of.../Dusty Springfield. Well loved by gay and lesbian music afficionados for decades, the box set of her music released earlier this year was extremely popular. We expect this single disc of her hits to do even better! Tracks include "Son of a Preacher Man," "Wishin' and Hopin,'" "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me," "The Look of Love" and "I Only Want to Be With You." Mercury 558208.

Compilations

From the Heart of Studio A. Howard & Roz Larman's "Folk Scene" show on KPFK has been a radio institution for 28 years. And this album will make any folk music fan a happy girl. These live recordings capture some of the show's finest moments with artists including Iris Dement, John Gorka, Dar Williams, Bruce Cockburn, Mary Black, Maura O'Connell, Tish Hinojosa and Kate & Anna McGarrigle. Red House 109.

Fruit Cocktail. Lounge music at its best! Tangy Latin rhythms, sweet jazz and luscious late-night ballads are found in abundance on this first-ever

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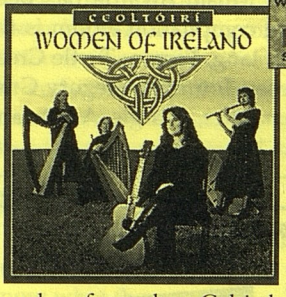
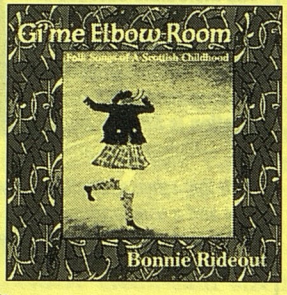


Women of Ireland
Ceoltoiri
MM218
The legends and lore of Celtic women sung and performed on Celtic harp, flute, hammered dulcimer, uilleann pipes and more.

Gi'me Elbow Room
Bonnie Rideout
MM219
A child's introduction to the music, songs and poetry of Scotland.



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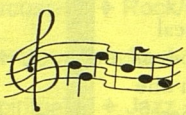
"rainbow" collection of cocktail music. From the label that brought us "A Love Worth Fighting For" and "Winter Moon," gay, lesbian and bisexual artists are highlighted once again on this album. Contributors include Britain's #1 male jazz singer, Ian Shaw, Steven Kowalczyk, hot off his sizzling Atlantic debut album, Venezuelan singer Irene Farerra and three gay music trailblazers, Michael Callen, Brit rocker Tom Robinson and Holly Near. As the press release for this album says, "a tasty experience for anyone with a thirst for musical cock-tails, albeit served not-so straight up." Streeter 1005.



GLAMA: One (1997). The music from the first annual Gay and Lesbian Music Awards has been documented and this fine compilation album is the result! Artists include k.d. lang, Ferron, Turtle Creek Chorale, Catie Curtis, Pussy Tourette, Gregory Gray, Tom Robinson, The Klezmatics, Margie Adam and Melissa Etheridge. Glama 1.

An elegant new voice for the evolving feminine spirit . . . stunning new music

"SHAMANEYA" by Shelley Snow

"The incredible success of Enya and Loreena McKennitt has opened doors for other talented female singers. One new artist well worth attention is Shelley Snow."
—Billboard Magazine

"With this release, Shelley Snow emerges as a distinctive voice and a truly original talent. Dreamy yet heart-breakingly honest and soaring vocals project ***an unmistakable aura of the Sacred.***" —NAPRA ReView

Shelley's poetic vocals are accompanied by flute, guitar, piano, strings, and percussion in a variety of richly-hued performances.

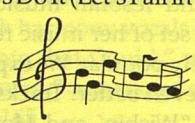
To order this exceptional album, contact: **Goldenrod** (517/484-1712), **Ladyslipper** (800/634-6044), or **Perfect Pitch** (510) 528-0860.

SHAMANEYA MUSIC

Honor Them All. This album was conceived to increase awareness of the devastating problem of drunk driving and to honor its victims and their families. Artists who donated their talents to this release include Carly Simon, Tuck & Patti, Janis Ian, Carole King, Yanni and Liz Story. Windham Hill will donate $1.25 from each disc sold directly to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). WH 1339.

Lesbian American Composers. The natural follow-up to this label's critically acclaimed Gay American Composers series, this album presents a thoughtful cross-section of musical styles and sensibilities with original liner notes by each of the composers on the controversial topic of music and sexuality. Highlights include Pauline Oliveros' politically-inspired "Poem of Change" and "I Want to Live" by Paula Kimper, a love duet for two women from the new opera "Patience & Sarah." Sure to be a big seller this summer. CRI 780.

Stage Three: True Colors. Once again, Dink Records offers an album of love songs, this time with tunes sung by men to men and also by women to women. Featuring 14 songs, ranging from classic pop tunes to well-known standards and Broadway show music, this album will be released on July 1. Songs include "Alfie," "Boy from Ipanema," "Michelle," "Everything's Alright" from *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and Cole Porter's "Let's Do It (Let's Fall in Love)." Dink 1998.



Lilith Fair '97. Subtitled "A Celebration of Women in Music," this is perhaps the most-awaited album of the year! Folks started to request this album halfway through last year's Lilith Tour and the demand has stayed strong. This two-disc set includes tracks by most of the Lilith Fair artists, including Sarah McLachlan, Joan Osborne, Shawn Colvin, Suzanne Vega, Paula Cole, Indigo Girls, Dar Williams and Victoria Williams. Arist 19007.

News flash: Uproar Entertainment (Suzanne Westenhoefer, Marga Gomez, Karen Williams) will release an album by Kate Clinton this Fall just in time to market with Kate's book *Don't Get Me Started*. Other upcoming Uproar Entertainment projects include Gay Comedy Jam, Elvira Kurt, Maggie Cassella and Robin Greenspan. ○

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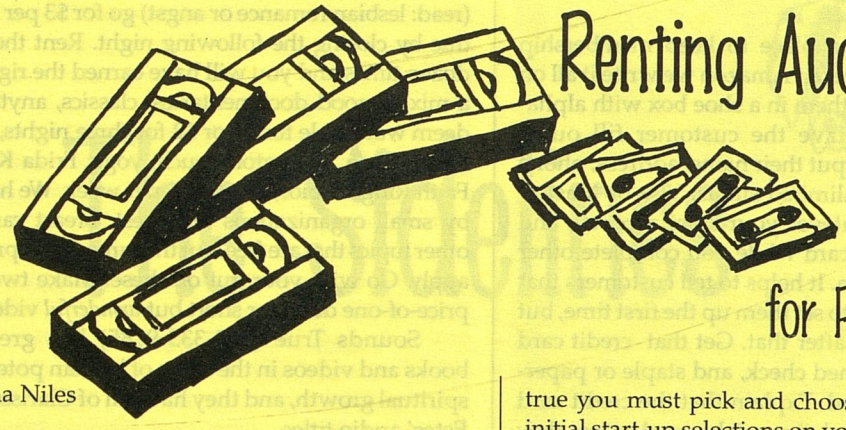

Renting Audio Books & Videos for Fun and Profit

By Donna Niles

Initially it seemed to many booksellers that books on tape were evidence of more depravity, more disintegration of our customers' attention span. Oh no, we thought (I certainly did!), more junk, more techno-, cyber-, video-crap that reduces both our attention span and interest in the beloved book.

Then, I listened to one. Luckily, it was Toni Morrison, a spellbinding reader of her own luminous work. An instant convert, I have since (in my previous employ at Amazon Bookstore in Minneapolis) converted many others.

At Amazon, we created a system of renting audio books and videos that has a regular following of customers who traipse in weekly to rent one, two, or up to five audio books or videos a week, as is now their habit. Here are the secrets:

Old Beliefs

Renting audio books will prevent sales of audio books. Wrong. Customers will often special order a tape we don't stock after renting it, often to give as a gift.

Customers will tape these at home and never order anything! Wrong. We have among our clientele some very honorable types. Maybe some have, but I've seen no evidence of it.

Our book sales of these titles will drop if customers can rent them for a pittance on tape. Wrong! If anything is true, it is that these loyalists are likely to buy the book after hearing it, as an addendum. (This is more likely with nonfiction.)

The cost of these audio books can be exorbitant; it's just too expensive to make the investment. Sometimes! It's true you must pick and choose carefully. Base your initial start-up selections on your bestselling areas. At Amazon, mysteries and fiction by known authors (Alice, Toni, etc.) are always surefire. Self-help titles, essays by Barbara Kingsolver and other well-known fiction writers, spirituality of all kinds, poetry read by the author, and meditation books (the Shakti Gawain, Joan Borysenko variety) are also extremely popular. Avoid day-at-a-time-books on tape. What's the point?

Start with the Display

First, organize a space in the store exclusively for audio book rentals. Mark it well, or customers won't know what they are seeing. Then do the same for the video rentals. Keep the tapes for sale separate — they are too expensive to walk. Amazon launched its initial campaign by creating a poster that showed "international symbols" for times and places to listen to audio books. These stick women were commuting in their cars, walking themselves and their dogs, soaking in the bathtub, cooking, laying in bed, etc. Many thought that if they didn't drive and have a car stereo, they were out of the loop. Showing a walkman is important. We kept this poster in the front window for a long time.

Create a Rental Tracking System

Next, create an inexpensive credit-card sized video/audio membership card for the customer to carry in her wallet. It should have a place for the customer's name, date the card was issued, and a box to denote the options of limited and unlimited. Customers who leave a credit card number on file can rent an unlimited number of tapes. Customers who leave a signed check on file can rent one tape

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for each $25.00. They get the check back when they return the tapes.

You'll also need a place to keep membership information in the store. At Amazon we write it all on index cards and keep them in a shoe box with alphabetical separators. Have the customer fill out a membership card and put their name, address, phone number, limited or unlimited status, Visa or MasterCard number (or whatever your store accepts), and the date on an index card while you complete other parts of the transaction. It helps to tell customers that it takes a few minutes to set them up the first time, but that it will be speedy after that. Get that credit card expiration date or signed check, and staple or paperclip it to the index card. Explain that the credit card info is only for collateral, it won't be used unless they skip town with your tape.

Sometimes rental customers come to the store without their membership card, so with this system, they can still check out tapes. Other customers will not want another membership card in their wallets and will opt to just keep a card on file at the store. Periodically, have these people give you a new check. Update the credit card info or get a new check at least every six months. In most places, checks older than six months are invalid.

Logging the Tapes In and Out

Get a three-hole ring-binder with alphabetized separators. Make columns on each page for customer's name, the name of the tape rented, a column for audio and one for video (to be checked), and columns for both the rental and return dates. When the tapes are returned draw a line through the whole horizontal story, end of that rental. It is clumsy and time-consuming at first, but it gets faster as you go along. Soon, you can turn to the letter of the alphabet for your customer's name, find their old rentals, cross them off and keep it going with their new titles.

Amazon charges a flat fee of $3 per week for all audio books. We stamp unused labels with the store stamp and keep them in the same binder. When customers check out tapes we add their name and the due date to a label and put it in a plastic video case. We keep the covers in the store so we can tell what's checked out. The audio books go out as is, with the stickers on the bottom corner of the box to protect them from tearing.

Videos are another pricing story. The hot new ones (read: lesbian romance or angst) go for $3 per 24 hours, due by closing the following night. Rent these a few dozen times and you will have earned the right to add a mix of good documentaries, classics, anything you deem watchable for $1 or $2 for three nights, and rent self-defense, Tellington Touch, yoga, Frida Kahlo and Faith Ringold bios, etc. for $1 per week. We have tapes by small organizations on incest, breast cancer, and other topics that are free, but the same rental procedures apply. Go with your gut on these. Make two-for-the-price-of-one deals for short but *wonderful* videos.

Sounds True (800-333-9185) has great audio books and videos in the areas of human potential and spiritual growth, and they have all of Clarissa Pinkola Estes' audio titles.

Wolfe Video is your girl-video specialist. Their toll-free number is 800-GET-WOLFE.

Naiad has a suprisingly terrific selection of lesbian videos, too. They also have a few lesbian audio books. Their toll-free number is 800-533-1973.

Ten Speed/Celestial Arts distributes a great line of audio books that includes Sark, Lynda Barry, and Ellen (be still my heart) Burstyn reading *I Send A Voice* by Evelyn Eaton.

Call any of distributors for a start-up kit. Those publishers who accept returns, large and small, will accept duds back just as they would a book, but don't unwrap any tapes until they are to be rented, or they're not returnable. Talk with your reps about placing small orders of backlist titles, and order one for rental and one for sale of surefire hits (Dorothy Allison, anything by Clarissa, etc.). Be conservative: only get rentals until you figure it out.

Do not buy unabridged audio books. They require a special little doohickey you must buy to listen to on a walkman. They are always lost. Believe me.

Finally, audio and video renters *do* buy books on their visits to rent and/or return their tapes. They are store supporters, grateful for the good price (the chains do this, too, but at a higher price, shorter-rental period, and with virtually no feminist selections).

Happy renting!

Donna Niles has a long history working in women's bookstores. She worked as one of the book buyers at Amazon Bookstore from 1991 to 1997 and was the book-buyer at Lammas from 1985 to 1991. ○

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The Sidelines

Compiled by Jenn Tust

Art & Design

A.E. Originals. For over a decade, you have seen Amy E. Bartell's artwork featured in national catalogs. Her distinctive style is unmistakable and tens of thousands of reproductions of her work are sold every year. Now, you can buy some of her most popular designs as well as a continually growing inventory of new, vibrant images in poster, notecard, postcard and t-shirt formats through her own business, A.E. Originals, Box 6002, Syracuse NY 13217; phone/fax 315-422-4406. See our ad page 88 for more information.

Bookmarks

Style Data is branching out again! New this year are luggage tags, headbands, and mugs. Along with bookmarks, buttons, magnets, keytags, etc., we continue to grow and provide an ever-increasing selection of affordable, quality products. All products can be customized to suit your needs. Call or fax for your free catalog and samples at 800-969-5993. Or see us on the Web at ⟨http://www.styledata.com⟩. See ad page 80.

Bumperstickers

Donnelly/Colt: Our 23rd year. We design, make and distribute hundreds of different progressive messages on buttons, bumperstickers, postcards, t-shirts, posters, labels and more. Plus we offer fast, quality custom printing of your design/messages at the lowest prices anywhere. Reach us 9-5 EST, Monday–Friday at 860-455-9621 or fax 24 hours a day at 800-553-0006. Write: Box 188-FBN, Hampton CT 06017; email ⟨donco@neca.com⟩. See ad page 80.

Northern Sun. The one-stop shopping choice preferred by retailers in search of quality feminist, political, GLBT, environmental, and multicultural products. We carry over 200 t-shirt designs, including the Jane Evershed and Tom Tomorrow lines. Our bumperstickers are in color, taking the guess work out of ordering. Choose from over 300 button designs and 75 posters. Imports include sarongs from Bali, pouches from Guatemala, hemp hats from Romania and clay flutes from Peru. Mugs, magnets, note cards, postcards, recycled stationery, calendars and much more. 2916 E. Lake St. Minneapolis MN 55406; 800-258-8579. See ad page 50.

Buttons

Ephemera has Xena, outrageous humor, lurid campy pulp fiction art, colorful goddesses on buttons, magnets, stickers and wall clocks. These sidelines are

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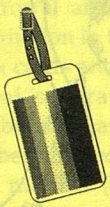

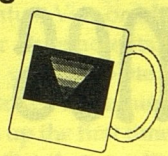

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Style Data is branching out again! New this year are luggage tags, headbands, and mugs. Along with bookmarks, buttons, magnets, keytags, etc., we continue to grow and provide an ever-increasing selection of affordable, quality products. All products can be customized to suit your needs. Call or fax for your free catalog and samples at 800-969-5993. Or see us on the Web at ⟨http://www.styledata.com⟩. See ad this page.

Calendars

We'Moon'99: Gaia Rhythms for Womyn is a best-selling Womyn-identified appointment book, astrological moon calendar, spiritual guide, and multicultural handbook in natural rhythm. Now available in two editions — *We'Moon'99* (1-890931-01-2), which is bound with a durable lay-flat binding and *We'Moon Unbound: '99* (an unbound edition, 1-890931-02-0). $14.95, August. **Mother Tongue Ink,** 37010 SE Snuffin Rd., Estacada OR 97023; 503-630-7848, email ⟨wemoon@teleport.com⟩ or from B&T, BP, Ingram, Koen, Ladyslipper, New Leaf, Samuel Weiser, Small Changes and Vision Works in the U.S. Available from Airlift (U.K.), Dempsey (Canada), and Neue Erde (Germany). See ad page 61.

Roberts' Rules of Lesbian Life: A Daily Calendar by Shelly Roberts. "Most of the time you will not see your life reflected accurately on TV, in the local paper,

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national magazines, or in the sermon at church," writes Roberts. "You're a woman. This does not surprise you." Lesbians will, however, see their lives reflected accurately and humorously in the funniest lesbian calendar on the market — a compact desk day-by-day filled with women's history and the syndicated columnists' witty observations. Spinsters Ink, boxed, 5½"x5½", $9.95, 1-883523-27-3. Distributed by **Words**; 800-593-WORD. See ad page 54.

The *1999 Year Round Women's Calendar*. Break out of the box of linear thinking, chart a new course for the new year with this harmoniously shaped 13-month lunar calendar. Designed to celebrate the unique cycles of a woman's body, mind, spirit and soul. Poetic expression throughout. Full-color, original illustrations, $12.95. **Morehouse Publishing**; 800-877-0012, ⟨www.morehousegroup.com⟩. See ad page 64.

The *'99 Lunar Calendar: Dedicated to the Goddess in Her Many Guises*. The 23rd annual edition features fresh work from 23 artists, poets, and writers; all the phases, definitive moon data, the lunar year-at-a-glance, complete instructions, and excellent bibliography. 32 pages, wall hanging 11"x17", printed on recycled paper in the USA. ISBN 1-877920-09-6, retail $20, Nancy FW Passmore, Editor. **Luna Press**, PO Box 15511, Kenmore Station, Boston MA 02215-0009; 617-427-9846. See ad page 63.

The Power of Women Calendar by Jane Evershed. Subtitled "Revisiting Our Souls," this calendar celebrates the power, wisdom and beauty of women. Sales of her calendar have increased significantly with each new edition, a testament to the growing popularity of her inspiring and vibrant work. **Ronnie Sellers Productions** publishes 35 calendar titles, in a variety of themes. For a free catalog call 1-800-MAKE-FUN or write to us at PO Box 71, Kennebunk ME 04043. See ad page 65.

1999 Carry It On Peace Calendar, the 28th edition, features vibrant children's art "Two Indian Travelers" as its cover. Other themes: Sojourner Truth, Cuba, disabilities activism, urban gardening, and more. People's history, lunar cycles, holidays (many faiths). *In Praise of*

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Full-color blank note cards by artist Dana Squires.

[SEE LISTING IN CARDS SECTION]

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the Muse Women Artists Datebook celebrates over 30 women artists and poets. Elizabeth Halfacre, Lee Lawson, Bonnie Acker, Elly Simmons, beautiful affirming art. Women's resources list, spiral binding, *real* recycled smudge-free paper. Union-printed. **Syracuse Cultural Workers —Tools for Change**. Call Donna 315-474-1132, x102; fax 315-475-1277. See ad page 62.

Sara Steele's 1999 Wall Calendar and *Desk Diary* as well as her *Address Book* and *Book of Days* feature a wide range of work by this highly-lauded Philadelphia artist, from intimate flowers to richly-toned landscapes, all in full-color. A portion of the calendar sales will benefit The National Domestic Violence Hotline, which provides crisis intervention, information referrals and support to victims of domestic violence, their friends and families. From **Tide-mark Press**, PO Box 280311, East Hartford CT 06128; 800-338-2508. See ad page 60.

In Good Company: A Woman's Journal for Spiritual Reflection, 1999, introduction by Joan D. Chittister. "Journaling enables us to trace the inner map that leads to that part of the self that is yet a work in progress," says Chittister in this award-winning journal. *In Good Company* features writing space for each day and inspiring words of wisdom from women writers — as well as weekly scripture selections and 52 spectacular black-and-white photographs of women. An index of sources, two-year calendar, and bookmark flap complete the journal. The perfect gift book. $16.95, 0-8298-1240-7, 344 pages/spiral. **The Pilgrim Press**; 800-654-5129. See ad page 84.

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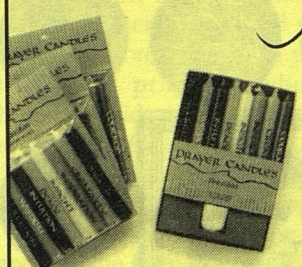

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1999 Tarot Calendar. Tarot cards have been in use since the 15th century, and each deck has its own rich history based in art, philosophy, and symbolism. Stunning art from 12 different tarot decks with writing space for each day make this an extraordinary visual wall calendar ($11.95). Also new, beautiful watercolor Zodiac Cards ($3 each). **U.S. Games Systems**; 800-544-2637 or email ⟨USGames@aol.com⟩. See ad this page.

Candles

Coventry Creations, Inc., where magic happens. We create products for your soul. Our candles, incense and pottery were appropriate for the Piscean Age and will hold strong for the Age of Aquarius. Call or write for a free catalog and see for yourself why candles and incense are so instrumental in supporting you on your spiritual path. Ask for a copy of "Candle Astrology" for your monthly guide to candle burning. 18739 14 Mile Road, Clinton Twp. MI 48035; 800-810-3837. See ad page 51.

Everyday Icons Devotional Candles. A master key to success! We have illuminating Everyday Icons for all 90s neuroses. Filled with heavy symbolism and enormously intriguing, our Icons allegedly work — although they are intended for entertainment purposes only! The perfect gift for co-workers, dysfunctional family members or anyone on your list who needs to "lighten' up!" Call us at 888-621-8599 for a free catalog. **Three Tacky Texans**, 1028 First Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134. See ad page 49.

Jane Iris Designs, Inc., known for goddess and nature jewelry for 16+ years, now offering two candle lines: Prayer Candles of Intention and Release, and Keepers of the Light (goddess candles and candle holders). Coming soon: Vital Signs Magnets. Wholesale information: 800-828-5687 or PO Box 608, Dept FBN98, Graton CA 95444. See ad page 82.

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magnets. Our very first order came from a feminist bookstore and since then our sales have increased dramatically. Our full-color catalog shows all of our colorful, whimsical designs, so call or fax us today to receive one! Call or fax 805-966-6933 and check out our Web site at ⟨www.silcom.com/~swirly⟩. See ad page 87.

Kenita'a blank note cards feature the colorful work of artist Dana Squires, whose drawings are inspired by her experiences living, working and travelling among the women of Africa, the Solomon Islands and Southeast Asia. The cards are printed in vegetable-based inks on recycled paper and come with color-coordinated envelopes. Contact our woman-owned company and ask for our free, full-color brochure. 20104 E. Buckeye, Otis Orchards WA 99027; phone/fax 509-922-7229, email ⟨Kenitaa @aol.com⟩. See ad page 82.

Radiance Productions offers a full collection of beautiful notecards, postcards and art prints that celebrate the feminine, the Goddess, the ancient, the metaphysical, and the vitality and beauty of nature. Now, you can order from many lines, all from *one* source, *one* shipment. Woman-owned/run business now in our 17th year! We distribute worldwide exclusively for Mayumi Oda, Ali Miner, Catherine Andrews, Julie Higgins, Evelyn De Buhr, Sue Halstenberg and more! For catalog and info call 415-721-2440 or fax 415-721-7202.

Culture Q Connection has a growing line of lesbian and gay movies and is the exclusive source for Gender Benders, a greeting card line with over 90 different lesbian and gay cards. Our video releases include *Significant Others*, which includes a Cheryl Dunye short, and *Different Strokes* starring Dana Plato from the 70s TV sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes." Call us toll-free at 888-542-5421 or 520-887-9299. See ad page 68.

Maid In The Shade is an outrageously humorous line of 185 postcards, many with a retro 50s/60s look. Real money-makers with a message, and very appealing to women, lesbians, gay men, the college crowd, and young professionals. You'll hear people laughing out loud around our rack, guaranteed. Racks available. See our online catalog at ⟨www.maidintheshade.com⟩, or call 201-659-1269, fax 715-669-3116, or write PO Box 341, Church St. Station, NY NY 10008-0341. See ad this page.

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The Coloring Book for Big Girls by **Sudie Rakusin** is a delightful adult book filled with drawings of strong, high-spirited womyn. There are goddesses, guides, angels and friends, many with animal companions. Each drawing has a descriptive caption. The experience of coloring in this book takes you away from the chaos of the outer world into a place of centered calm. With a box of colored pencils or crayons it makes a wonderful gift for all sorts of celebrations and rites of passage. Distributed by Ladyslipper; 800-634-6044. See ad page 59.

Color of Woman: A Journal and Coloring Book celebrating women! Includes 28 illustrations of women which are powerful, mystical, liberating and nurturing, portraying archetypal moments in our lives. *Color of Woman* is a creative sanctuary designed as a healing tool, and an invitation to explore the mystery and splendor of womanhood! $15 wholesale, 8½" x 11", spiral bound with full-color wrap around cover with side spine, 115 pages of 110 lb. recycled card stock. 10% of profits go to women's causes. Independently published, Shiloh McCloud, Artist. Paintings, prints, she-shirts and cards too! **Tribe of Diynah**, Shiloh McCloud; 888-385-6866. See ad page 90.

Goddesses of the Celts: A Coloring Book for anyone of any age! Fifteen Celtic Goddesses, elaborate borders, warrior lovers and healers, fascinating stories, adapted from Patricia Monaghan's *The New Book of Goddesses and Heroines*. Bright red glossy cover, very eye-catching, full-size. $4.95. Available from **Triple Spiral Publications**, PO Box 140959, Gainesville FL 32614; 888-377-8790. Wholesale: Net/30, we pay shipping. See ad page 87.

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Uproar Entertainment, the comedy CD and cassette company is very proud to announce that Kate Clinton's new CD will be released this fall. Our

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catalog also features Suzanne Westenhoefer, Marga Gomez, Karen Williams, The Mamitas, XXX-Treme Comedy...The Women (3778), Margaret Cho (3770), The Gay Comedy Jam (featuring Bob Smith — 3779), Gay from Las Vegas (3773), Richard Jeni (3771), Richard Belzer (3781), John Pinette (3785) and more! Ask Goldenrod or Ladyslipper. See ad page 70.

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Goddesses of the Celts

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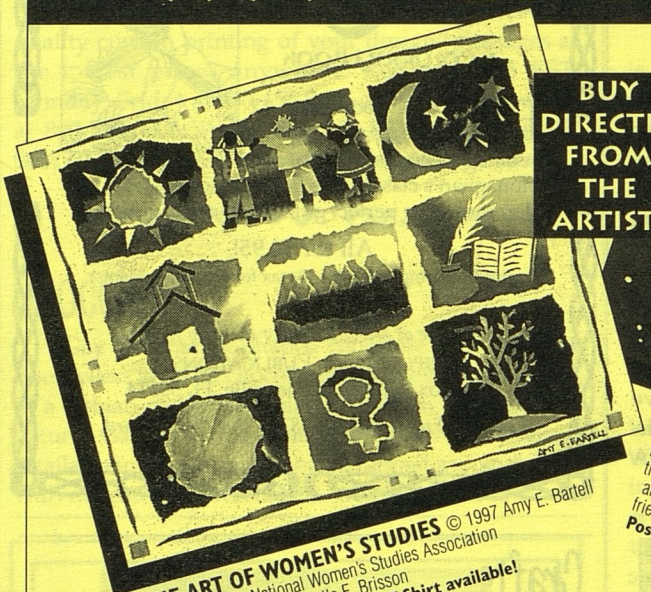

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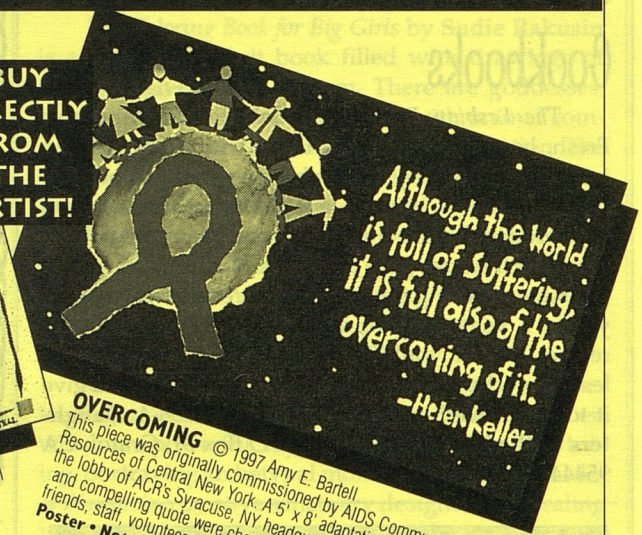

OVERCOMING © 1997 Amy E. Bartell
This piece was originally commissioned by AIDS Community Resources of Central New York. A 5' x 8' adaptation is installed in the lobby of ACR's Syracuse, NY headquarters. The powerful artwork and compelling quote were chosen to inspire ACR clients, family, friends, staff, volunteers, caregivers, and all people touched by AIDS.
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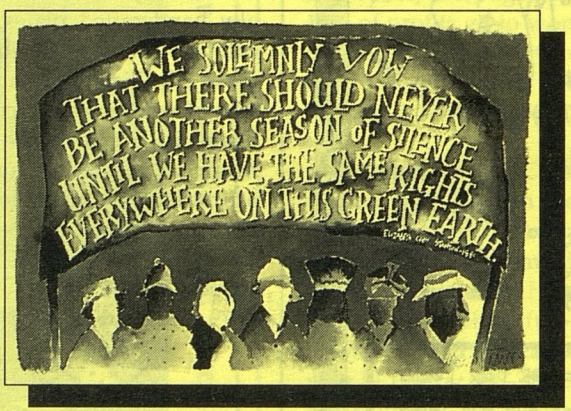

THIS GREEN EARTH © 1994 Amy E. Bartell
A reminder of where we've come from and where we need to go.
Re-issued to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY.
Poster • Notecard • Postcard available

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A.E. ORIGINALS - PARTNERSHIP FOR ART : AMY E. BARTELL & MICHELLE E. BRISSON
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and the family has a baby that is nestled between adoring parents. Our pieces are unique because they are all made by hand. Each sculpture is an affordable, original piece of art made with love. Bell Pine Art Farm, 82535 Weiss Road, Creswell OR 97426; 800-439-6556. See ad page 90.

Slitherings, shamanic art creates magical sacred space in homes, gardens and work spaces by providing beautiful, handmade goddess art. Goddess fountains for gardens as well as indoors, figurines, garden goddesses, bird feeders, bird baths, yoni rattles and much more! New indoor and garden goddess wall plaques! Sizes ranging from palm sized to 18" tall; prices start at $4.50. Free wholesale catalog. Custom work also available. Slitherings, 733 Ormewood Avenue, Atlanta GA 30312; 404-627-2328. See ad page 93.

Bits of Glass offers artistically unique stained glass lightcatchers, celebrating women, nature and empowerment through symbols. You won't be disappointed with the quality or price of these individually created treasures. For information, call 616-361-1970, or write: PO Box 3135, Grand Rapids MI 49501. See ad page 93.

Spiral Woman has lots of fabulous new original designs for women and girls. Great-selling designs include girl power, goddesses, political, cats and totem animals. Lesbian-owned business. T-shirts for adults and children: $7.50-$8.50. Magnets: $1.50. Colorful computer mouse pads: $9. Desk and wall clocks: $19-$25. For catalog: PO Box 14772, San Francisco CA 94114-0772 or call 415-626-7821, fax 415-863-1935. See ad this page.

Spiral Woman a feminist business

For a free catalog:
call: (415) 626-7821 ☆ fax: (415) 863-1935
write: Spiral Woman
P.O.Box 14772, San Francisco CA 94114-0772

The Power of A Girl and many other designs in full color
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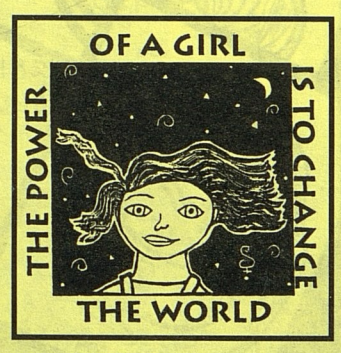

The J. W. Stannard Company of Largo, Florida has introduced the new Song of Life wind chime collection which features colored ribbons as the wind catchers on individual chimes. The entire collection is dedicated to raise money for various charities associated with nationally recognized ribbon campaigns. The red ribbon chimes benefit AIDS related charities, the pink benefit breast cancer organizations, the purple assist Alzheimer's groups, the blue aid child and spouse abuse groups, and the yellow give assistance to missing children's groups. Various organizations will receive $3 for each Song of Life wind chime sold by the company. These small hand tuned chimes are the same quality that has been associated with our chimes for over eighteen years. Special displays and packages have been created just for the Song of Life wind chime collection. The J. W. Stannard Company, 611 Commerce Dr., Largo FL 33770; 813-587-0900. See ad, back cover.

Decals

Signs of Pride began in 1991 when Susan and Nancy decorated their van with seasonal decals and dreamed of replacing them with pride symbol decals. That dream turned into a thriving business, and we now offer over 100 decal designs. All decal designs are now available as magnets and buttons. Nancy runs Signs of Pride from their home, with the "help" of their preschool-age daughter, Morgan. Contact Nancy for a free catalogue: 888-852-7833, email ⟨SignsPride@aol.com⟩. See ad page 94.

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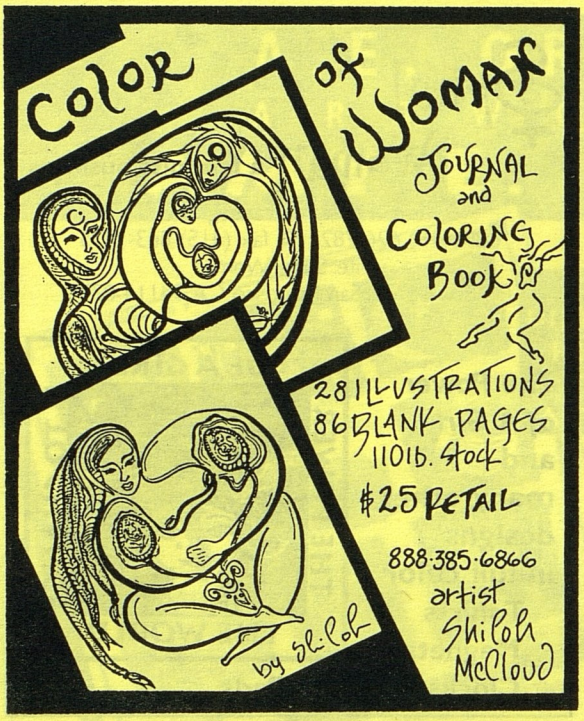

WOMEN'S IMAGERY IN CLAY

Choose from over 20 designs including Lesbian and Gay Couples and Families, Menstrual Goddess, Crone, Artemis Dreaming, Drumming Women and many more! Babies are removable. Soulful description cards included.

Featured in Feminist Bookstore News: Sidelines Faves, Raves and Bestsellers. Wholesale prices start at $9 ea.

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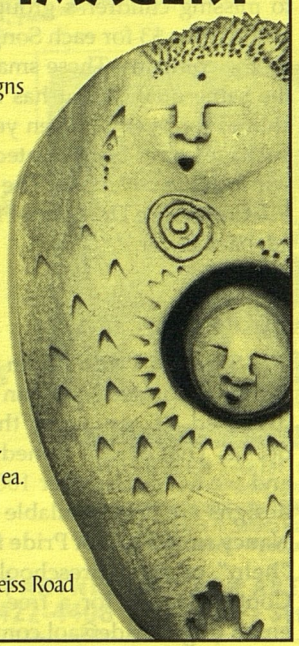

Displays

We make displays and merchandisers for books, greeting cards, audio and video media, and the best calendar display available. **Clear Solutions** are known for increasing sales by the beautiful way they present merchandise, without calling attention to themselves. And they are guaranteed against breakage for a year. Clear Solutions, PO Box 2460, West Brattleboro VT 05303; 800-257-4550. See ad page 95.

Distributors

BeProud! Corporation, a lesbian-owned business, carries the world's largest selection of lesbian and gay gift items. Our beautiful color catalog features over 1,200 products, including jewelry, leather items, buttons and magnets, flags, banners, windsocks, patches, wedding supplies, bath and scent products, mugs, t-shirts, clothing accessories, hats, pet products, and home and office products. Toll-free phone/fax 800-755-9976, email ⟨beproud@aol.com⟩. See ad page C2.

Divination

We are committed to using natural substances rather than synthetic or composite materials. The original runes were carved on pieces of oak, something natural and durable. The search for "just the right rune stone" became extremely important. We went to the source we knew best, our Mother, the ocean...and, there they were...natural beach stones washed up on shore just for us to pick up and use. Pure, ancient energy and a great gift to all women. **Earth Gypsy**; 303-322-8309 or New Leaf Distributing. See ad page 97.

The Karmatorium specializes in designing affordable, easy-to-understand revelatory tools for people on the go! Predicting the future has never been easier...or more fun! Our expanding product line is now sold in over 300 giftshops, galleries, and alternative and metaphysical bookstores nationwide. We love our products and think you will too! For a color flyer/wholesale price guide, call 1-800-321-3093 (9-5

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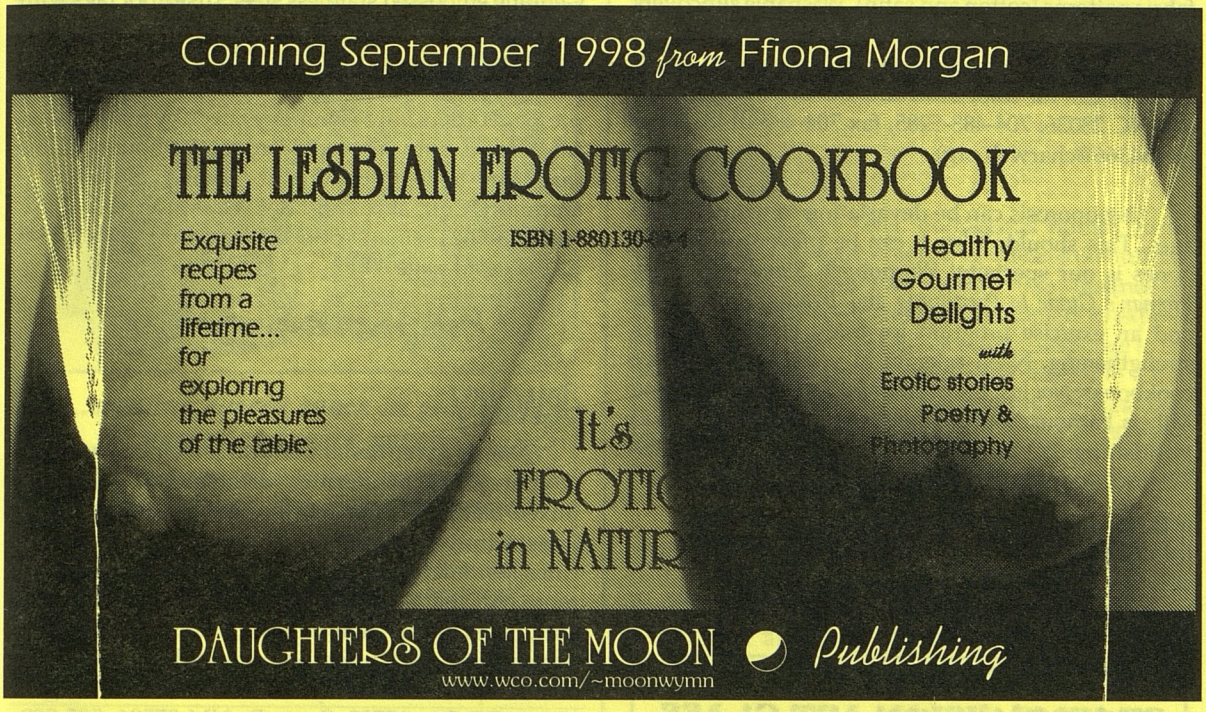

M-F), fax 319-338-3093, or write Karmatorium, Inc., 910 Third Avenue, Iowa City IA 52245. See ad page 47.

Flags

Donnelly/Colt: Our 23rd year. We design, make and distribute hundreds of different progressive messages on buttons, bumperstickers, postcards, t-shirts, posters, labels and more. Plus we offer fast, quality custom printing of your design/messages at the lowest prices anywhere. Reach us 9-5 EST, Monday–Friday at 860-455-9621 or fax 24 hours a day at 800-553-0006. Write: Box 188-FBN, Hampton CT 06017; email ⟨donco@neca.com⟩. See ad page 80.

Fun & Games

The Karmatorium specializes in designing affordable, easy-to-understand revelatory tools for people on the go! Predicting the future has never been easier...or more fun! Our expanding product line is now sold in over 300 giftshops, galleries, and alternative and metaphysical bookstores nationwide. We love our products and think you will too! For a color flyer/wholesale price guide, call 1-800-321-3093 (9-5 M-F), fax 319-338-3093, or write Karmatorium, Inc., 910 Third Avenue, Iowa City IA 52245. See ad page 47.

Hot Flash Productions. Menopause, a once taboo subject, is now the topic of everything from TV talk shows to serious feature articles — from stand-up comedian's acts to sexy sitcoms. This company's exciting new Hot Flash Cards game is the perfect gift item to help build your bottom line by selling more to this growing demographic market. Call Pat at 941-646-3701 or fax 941-646-8953 for wholesale price or more information. See ad page 97.

Health & Healing

Eye Pillows by Valerie. Gently weighted pillow creates darkness and allows eye muscles to relax. Great for napping! Our pillows are lovely, organic flax-filled, and handmade. Choice of five colors and

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fabric patterns (cotton and satin). Washable slipcovers available. Complimentary display pillow with first order. Packaged for gift giving. $15 suggested retail. Write or call for color brochure: PO Box 1978, Davidson NC 28036; 704-483-5285, fax 704-483-0148, email ⟨web4366@charweb.org⟩.

Osteoporosis can be devastating to women of all ages. This shouldn't be; it can be prevented. Saving bones is our specialty! We publish *Stand Tall! Every Woman's Guide to Preventing and Treating Osteoporosis* and an exercise program for body alignment/back strengthening. Need calcium in your diet? We have cookbooks: *Not Just Cheesecake* and *Save Your Bones*, and Mike's Famous Yogurt Cheese Maker. Contact **Triad Publishing**, PO Box 13355, Gainesville FL 32604; 800-525-6902 for more information. See ad page 8.

ID Tags

Personalized dog tags are not just for dogs, or G.I.'s. Offer our custom service to your customers. Genuine embossed stainless steel, rustproof tags with 24" nickel-plated ball-chain necklace or 4" keychain. Black rubber silencer available. Five lines, 15 spaces per line. $3.50 each postpaid wholesale (retail for $7) pre-paid orders only. Company check by mail; Visa or Mastercard only for faxed orders. 24-hour toll-free fax: 800-553-0006. Order forms, sample: - **Donnelly/Colt**, Box 188-FBN, Hampton CT 06017; 860-455-9621 email ⟨donco@neca.com⟩. (M–F, 9-5 EST.) See ad page 80.

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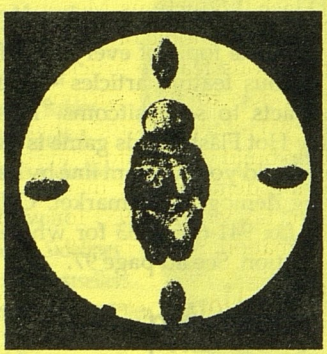

VENUS OF WILLENDORF PLATE
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Jewelry

Nomi. Exceptional cultural jewelry images for women made of sterling, bronze, 14k gold, and mixed media. Pins, pendants, and earrings. Pottery images from European goddess sites, goddess figurines, feminist Judaica, earth imagery, celestial, and more. All made in 3-dimensional form with a sensual weight to each piece. A descriptive card accompanies each piece. Some items have sculptural stands upon which they can be set. Free catalogue. Nomi, PO Box 15702, Santa Fe NM 87506; 505-989-3880. See ad page 96.

Jane Iris Designs, Inc., known for goddess and nature jewelry for 16+ years, now offering two candle lines: Prayer Candles of Intention and Release, and Keepers of the Light (goddess candles and candle holders). Coming soon: Vital Signs Magnets. Wholesale information: 800-828-5687 or PO Box 608, Dept FBN98, Graton CA 95444. See ad page 82.

"**Díon Manley's** popular tiny freedom rings are still the rage!" —*Curve*, Summer 98 catalog and Web site. Our mini Pride jewelry sells well nationwide, appealing equally to men and women...other jewelry also available. Stores are pleased with mini Pride jewelry's consistent sales, and appreciate the affordable rates and high quality. A variety of display options bring high volume of sales year-round! We look forward to any questions or inquiries! Díon Manley Custom Design, PO Box 14867, Berkeley CA 94712-5867; 510-540-5395, fax 510-540-5395-79. See ad page 96.

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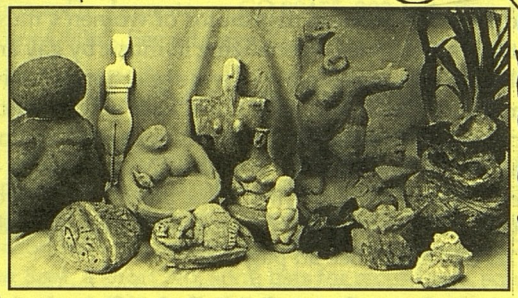
goddesses



...creating sacred space in gardens, homes and work spaces

• garden goddesses • fountains • • figurines • bird feeders and much more.

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Pleiades Arts. Gay and lesbian symbols are our specialty, and we have a growing line of goddesses with way cool sales support. Silver, 14k gold and bronze at low prices, quick turnover and turnaround. Send for your catalog! Pleiades Arts, PO Box 389, Brimfield MA 01010; ph/fax 413-245-9484, email ⟨pleiadesarts@juno.com⟩. See ad page 48.

Magazines

Circles is a national bimonthly magazine with in-depth features, fiction and nonfiction, edited from a lesbian-feminist perspective. Topics range from political/civil rights, new/classic lesbian literature, profiles of musicians/artists, gender and sexuality, and more. Recent features include interviews with Dorothy Allison, Kate Clinton and Jewelle Gomez; features on butch/femme and gender; lesbians and FTM partners, legal marriage; excerpts from new books by Jewelle Gomez and Kate Clinton. *Circles* is distributed nationally by DEYCO; 516-576-9400, and is available from most major magazine wholesalers. Circles, 1705 14th Street, Suite 326, Boulder CO 80302; 888-633-0055, email ⟨circles@circlesmagazine.com⟩. See ad page 14.

Magnets

Ephemera has Xena, outrageous humor, lurid, campy pulp fiction art, colorful goddesses on buttons, magnets, stickers and wall clocks. These sidelines are a very inexpensive way for your customers to express themselves. There's been an incredible response to the new line of Xena merchandise. She has quite a cult following. Call or write for the new full-color catalog. Ephemera, PO Box 490, Phoenix OR 97535; 800-537-7226 or 541-535-4195. See ad page 81.

Style Data is branching out again! New this year are luggage tags, headbands, and mugs. Along with bookmarks, buttons, magnets, keytags, etc., We continue to grow and provide an ever-increasing selection of affordable, quality products. All products can be customized to suit your needs. Call or fax

Bits of Glass

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DECALS We offer the widest selection of Gay/Lesbian static cling decals including:

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Great quality, good prices and super fast service. Free wholesale and retail catalogues.

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for your free catalog and samples at 800-969-5993. Or see us on the Web at ⟨www.styledata.com⟩. See ad page 80.

Mugs

The Mug Rack is proud to offer you nearly 400 different full-color lesbian, gay and general designs on a variety of products including mugs, coasters, and mouse pads. *Free* information pack #FBN98 available to stores and nonprofit groups. Visa, MC, check, money order accepted. We make everything we sell! Custom design work also available. The Mug Rack, PO Box 1231, Concord CA 94522; 800-248-MUGS(6847) or fax 925-686-6274. See ad page 99.

Music

Begun in 1975, **Goldenrod Music** is the oldest and largest wholesale distributor of women's music in the United States. Specializing in music by gay and lesbian artists, we also carry a wide selection of Native American, Celtic and folk titles. Fast service (most orders shipped same day), friendly sales staff, in-store play copies and display available. *New Accounts — Free shipping for your first three orders.* Goldenrod Music, 1310 Turner St., Lansing MI 48906; 517-484-1712. *Call collect*. See ad page 52.

Ladyslipper Music offers a vast selection of recordings by women in all categories — women's/feminist/lesbian music, women's spirituality, international, African heritage, Native American, Jewish, classical, alternative, singer/songwriter, holiday — plus gay men's music, songbooks, and more. Fast service, immediate stock status by phone. Request our fully annotated catalog: PO Box 3124, Durham NC 27715; 800-634-6044, fax 800-577-7892, email ⟨music@ladyslipper.org⟩. Our complete catalog is online! Visit us: ⟨www.ladyslipper.org⟩. See ad page 74.

Perfect Pitch offers highly-acclaimed new releases especially for feminist and metaphysical bookstores, including singer/songwriter and Lilith Fair Finalist Elizabeth Edwards' *Second Wind*, newcomer Shelley Snow's new age vocal masterpiece, *Shamaneya* and longtime folk music artist Betsy Rose's new *Motherlight*. You've seen our info in your mailbox, now sample these fine new releases and share them with your customers. Free in-store play copies upon request. Please order from Goldenrod 517-484-1712, Ladyslipper 800-634-6044, or Perfect Pitch 510-528-0860. See ad page 76.

Sound Circle: New CD release by women's a cappella ensemble in Boulder CO. Music by Barnwell, Bagby, Near, Williamson, more, plus originals. Free demo copy, ordering information available (see ad page 73). New release, not yet available through distributors. Most selections by women; strong appeal for feminist and lesbian communities, wide appeal to all audiences. "This circle of 22 women

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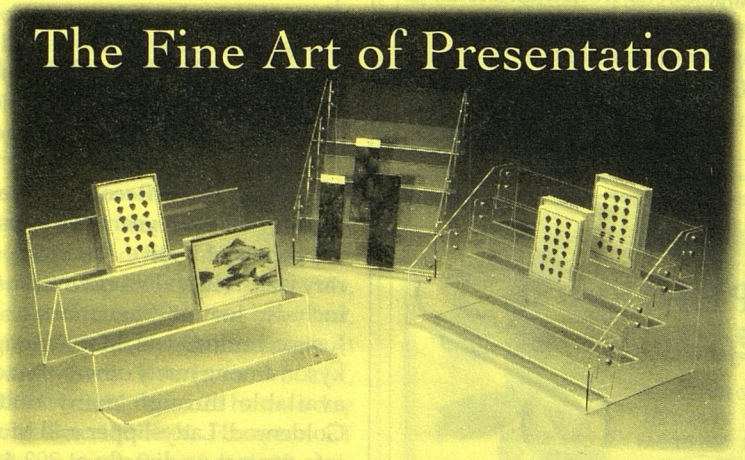
brings to singing, performance, musical innovation, and simply 'being' together an experience that is unique...." —*Circles*. Sound Circle, 7943 Lefthand Canyon Dr., Jamestown CO 80455; 303-664-9773, fax 303-664-9065. See ad page 73.

Sisters' Choice Recordings and Books announces Malvina on the Net! Home page of the composer of "We Don't Need the Men" and "Magic Penny" at ⟨www.sisterschoice.com⟩, includes *The Soul Book*, a short bio, song lists for recordings, songbooks for adults and children, and a revival of her newsletter, *Sporadic Times*, with quotes from the old *Sporadic* and news of benefit concerts to help produce a Malvina Reynolds biography. Also sound bites from award-winning environmental song tapes *All in This Together* and *Head First and Belly Down*, with songs by Malvina's daughter, Nancy Schimmel (distributed by Silo and Rounder). Updates of the annotated list "Folktales with Active Heroines" from Nancy's book on storytelling, *Just Enough to Make a Story*, and a new list of folktales relating to adoption issues. Not online? Write to Sisters' Choice at 704 Gilman St., Berkeley CA 94710, call 510-524-5804.

"The brainchild of one woman...**Maggie's Music** remains an organization that tries to put the music first." —CBS "Sunday Morning." Maggie's Music, the



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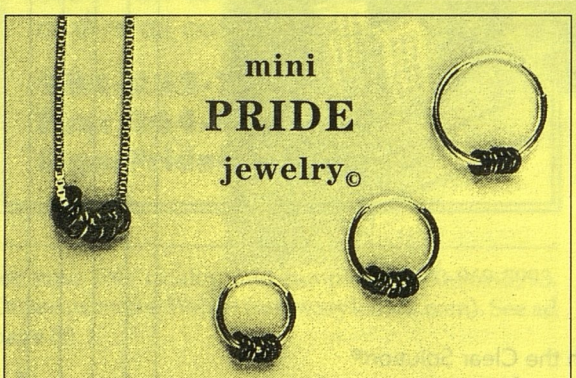

available in a variety of sizes and styles
sterling . gold-filled . 14k
with brilliant niobium rings

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woman-owned leader in the new Celtic Renaissance, features unique acoustic recordings of Celtic, New Age, Christmas and children's music. Artists include Bonnie Rideout, Ceoltoiri Celtic Ensemble, and Maggie Sansone. For distributors and other information and a free catalog, contact: Maggie's Music, PO Box 4144-FBN, Annapolis MD 21403; 410-268-3394, email ⟨mail@maggiesmusic.com⟩. See ad page 75.

Linda Allen/*Lay It Down: Images of the Sacred.* This recording, Linda Allen's sixth, explores spiritual issues from a Feminist-Christian perspective. To quote Catherine Groves, editor of the *Christian New Age Quarterly*: "*Lay It Down* sings of a deeply womanly spirituality — wholly Christian and wholly feminist, all with weavings of the Goddess and hints of pantheism. Linda's music comes from a woman strong in herself, who knows and loves God. She sings the songs of women in the ordinary moments — and in the extraordinary." Available from Ladyslipper Music; 800-634-6044. See ad page 71.

Silver Wave Records. Expanding musical horizons for over ten years, we boost 60+ titles spanning the genres of Native American, new age, contemporary jazz, folk and world music. Our recording artists include: Joanne Shenandoah, Joy Harjo & Poetic Justice, Lorin Grean, Mary Youngblood and Eliza Gilkyson among many others. Our cassettes and CDs are available through many distributors including Goldenrod, Ladyslipper and Music Design. For more info contact us directly at 303-443-5617, fax 303-443-0877, Web ⟨www.silverwave.com⟩. See ad page 72.

Posters

10 new posters including Sojourner Truth, How to Build Community, Iroquois Women/Early Feminists, The Courage to Heal (Ellen Bass) as well as favorites Audre Lorde, Dancers, Listen to Girls, Peace Signs — over 75 more! Shrink-wrapping available. 100% cotton t-shirts with over 18 popular images (children's sizes, too). New! pigment-dyed shirt "I'll Be Post-Feminist in the Post-Patriarchy." **Syracuse Cultural Workers-Tools for Change**. Call Donna 315-474-1132, x102, fax 315-475-1277. See ad page 62.

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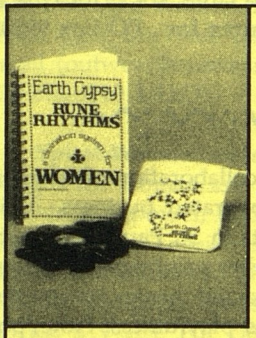

- An amazing new method of self revelation and daily path-working.
- Designed to tap into the sacred source of women's energy.
- All new self-empowering designs etched into 25 natural stones.
- Easy to use instruction booklet includes layout patterns.

KNOWLEDGE FOR THE SOUL

- An invaluable tool for developing your own personal power.
- Experience the excitement of opening your mind to yourself and others.
- Turn every-day endeavors into a magical explosion of possibilities.

$44 Retail

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Donnelly/Colt: Our 23rd year. We design, make and distribute hundreds of different progressive messages on buttons, bumperstickers, postcards, t-shirts, posters, labels and more. Plus we offer fast, quality custom printing of your design/messages at the lowest prices anywhere. Reach us 9-5 EST, Monday–Friday at 860-455-9621 or fax 24 hours a day at 800-553-0006. Write: Box 188-FBN, Hampton CT 06017; email ⟨donco@neca.com⟩. See ad page 80.

A.E. Originals. For over a decade, you have seen Amy E. Bartell's artwork featured in national catalogs. Her distinctive style is unmistakable and tens of thousands of reproductions of her work are sold every year. Now, you can buy some of her most popular designs as well as a continually growing inventory of new, vibrant images in poster, notecard, postcard and t-shirt formats through her own business, A.E. Originals, Box 6002, Syracuse NY 13217; phone/fax 315-422-4406. See our ad page 88 for more information.

Stationery

When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple — Stationery Folder Set (WHI-0270, $10.95). A gorgeous new addition to our bestselling "Old Woman" line, this full-color stationery folder set includes 15 sheets of stationery and ten matching envelopes tucked into a striking die-cut folder. It's an elegant and classy way to nurture the letter-writing trend that is sweeping the country. **Papier-Mache Press**, 627 Walker St., Watsonville CA 95076; 800-927-5913. See ad page 46.

Sara Steele's 1999 Wall Calendar and *Desk Diary* as well as her *Address Book* and *Book of Days* feature a wide range of work by this highly-lauded Philadelphia artist, from intimate flowers to richly-toned landscapes, all in full-color. A portion of the calendar sales will benefit The National Domestic Violence Hotline, which provides crisis intervention, information referrals and support to victims of domestic violence, their friends and families. From **Tide-mark Press**, PO Box 280311, East Hartford CT 06128; 800-338-2508. See ad page 60.

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HOT FLASH CARDS© GAME

- ✔ PERFECT FUN GIFT FOR WOMEN AGED 45-55
- ✔ PACKED WITH ENTERTAINING—YET FACTUAL—INFORMATION ABOUT MENOPAUSE, AN IMPORTANT WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUE
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- ✔ TARGETED TO LUCRATIVE BABY BOOMER MARKET—OVER NEXT 20 YEARS, 40 TO 50 MILLION WOMEN WILL EXPERIENCE MENOPAUSE

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marie louise & co., a collaboration of sisters in this woman-owned and operated business. Artist Patrice Avon Marvin paints in St. Paul, Minnesota. The motifs and gestures in her paintings reflect life's ineffable mysteries. Often sacred themes are counterbalanced with a humorous playfulness. Note/post cards, posters, magnets, short/long sleeved t-shirts, sweatshirts and tote bags. For a free catalog please call or write 800-707-7616, PO Box 102, Zumbrota MN 55992. See ad page 86.

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10 new posters including Sojourner Truth, How to Build Community, Iroquois Women/Early Feminists, The Courage to Heal (Ellen Bass) as well as favorites Audre Lorde, Dancers, Listen to Girls, Peace Signs — over 75 more! Shrink-wrapping available. 100% cotton t-shirts with over 18 popular images (children's sizes, too). New! pigment-dyed shirt "I'll Be Post-Feminist in the Post-Patriarchy." **Syracuse Cultural Workers—Tools for Change.** Call Donna 315-474-1132, x102, fax 315-475-1277. See ad page 62.

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then I met this woman. Many more styles to choose from, view our Web page at ⟨www.outwear.com⟩, email ⟨outwear@outwear.com⟩ or call for a catalog 630-894-3210. L.O.O.

Spiral Woman has lots of fabulous new original designs for women and girls. Great-selling designs include girl power, goddesses, political, cats and totem animals. Lesbian-owned business. T-shirts for adults and children: $7.50-$8.50. Magnets: $1.50. Colorful computer mouse pads: $9. Desk and wall clocks: $19-$25. For catalog: PO Box 14772, San Francisco CA 94114-0772 or call 415-626-7821, fax 415-863-1935. See ad page 89.

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Video

Culture Q Connection has a growing line of lesbian and gay movies and is the exclusive source for Gender Benders, a greeting card line with over 90 different lesbian and gay cards. Our video releases include *Significant Others*, which includes a Cheryl Dunye short, and *Different Strokes* starring Dana Plato from the 70s TV sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes." Call us toll-free at 888-542-5421 or 520-887-9299. See ad page 68.

Naiad Press continues to offer full service video product. Combine your book purchasing and your video orders into one easy transaction. We now stock over 200 titles at all times and promise same day turnaround for all products that have to be obtained by us before shipping. In response to demand we are carrying Comedy Central's "South Park" available on three tapes; $14.95 each. Call us at 800-533-1973. Visit us at ⟨www.naiadpress.com⟩. See ad page 53.

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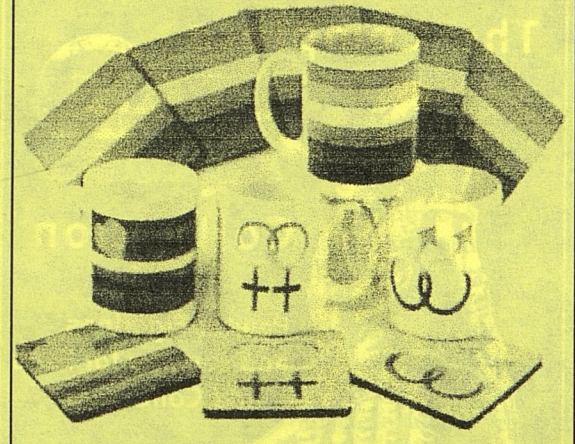
Perk up your sales with these great POS items: Mugs, Mouse Pads and Coasters. Nearly 400 designs to choose from!



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Wolfe Video takes pride in bringing you the most complete selection of lesbian, feminist, and gay home video entertainment available anywhere — including special features like Xena merchandise. We stock hundreds of titles and products — and our sales experts will make sure that you have the best-selling merchandise when you need it and at the best price! Call us today for the latest releases! 800-642-5247. See ad page 66.

Xena Merch

"Xena: Warrior Princess" Merchandise, exclusively from **Creation Entertainment**! Inspiring. Innovative. Daring. The many faces of Xena, captured in the highest-quality licensed products, ranging from photo-realistic Xena, Gabrielle and Callisto t-shirts to stunning chakram jewelry, brilliant glassware and more. The 1998 full-color Xena calendar, featuring 57 full-color photos and a 12"x24" color centerfold, was such a hit that the 1999 Xena calendar is already in the works. Creation Entertainment, 818-409-0960, x227 and 228. Call for catalog. See ad page C1.

Comstock Creations, Inc. based in Durango, Colorado, manufacturer of 100% leadfree pewter giftware, jewelry and collectibles. We launched the "Xena, Warrior Princess" line of collectible figurines and jewelry in January. To date, the Xena collection consists of 28 styles of jewelry and 8 Xena figurines. Xena's increasing popularity has contributed significantly to the demand for more Xena product. Joining our Xenaverse collection this month are Callisto, Gabrielle and Joxer action figures. Call 800-844-9000 to request our catalog. See ad this page.

Ephemera has Xena, outrageous humor, lurid campy pulp fiction art, colorful goddesses on buttons, magnets, stickers and wall clocks. These sidelines are a very inexpensive way for your customers to express themselves. We've had an incredible response to the new line of Xena merchandise. She has quite a cult following. Call or write for the new full-color catalog. Ephemera, PO Box 490, Phoenix OR 97535; 800-537-7226 or 541-535-4195. See ad page 81. ○

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MYSTERIES

By Nan Cinnater
Cape & Dagger/Provincetown MA

Death at Rainy Mountain by Mardi Oakley Medawar is the real deal: authentic, beautifully told historical fiction by a Native American woman concerned with both the traditions and the everyday experience of her ancestors. It is also a real mystery, with all the conventions of a whodunit, although suspense sometimes takes a back seat to the beautifully evoked atmosphere and a wonderful love story. A male healer named Tay-bodal, an eccentric who doesn't agree with either of the two schools of physicians in the Kiowa nation, suddenly becomes an important player in tribal politics when murder threatens the unity of the Kiowa bands in 1866. An awkward outsider, Tay-bodal is a great character, and so is his newly betrothed wife-to-be. Medawar's revisionist historical tale unfolds naturally, illuminating attitudes toward gender, sexuality, property, and spirituality; there is even an encounter with African American cavalry troops. Her preface reads in part: "I am only a storyteller. As such, it is not my responsibility to right a plethora of wrongs. But during the course of telling a story, I can give my people back their heroes. I can restore to these heroes their names." What more can a reader ask? ($5.99 pb, 0-425-16141-2, St. Martin's.) Medawar has also published a sequel, **The Witch of the Palo Duro**. ($21.95 cl, 0-312-17065-3, St. Martin's.)

I like Deborah Crombie's traditional but contemporary Scotland Yard procedurals (in spite of the fact that Crombie is a born and current Texan), and I think **Dreaming of the Bones** is destined to be her breakthrough novel. Comparisons to that other British wannabe Elizabeth George are inevitable, but I think Crombie is better, and certainly more feminist. Set in Cambridge, **Dreaming of the Bones** is about a woman professor writing the biography of a suicidal, Sylvia Plath-like poet who died a few years earlier. Any mystery enthusiast will be able to anticipate the plot, if not the solution, but there's a lot more than plot going on. The novel's epigraphs are from *Writing a Woman's Life* by Carolyn Heilbrun, and Crombie is clearly concerned with the ways a life can be a story, the various shapes the narrative can take depending on the teller. And that's all before Scotland Yard gets involved! This is sophisticated entertainment, with nicely observed psychology and likable, well-developed series characters (a male/female Scotland Yard team) to boot. ($22 cl, 0-684-80141-8, Scribner.) This is the fifth in a series comprising *A Share in Death*, *All Shall Be Well*, *Leave the Grave Green*, and *Mourn Not Your Dead*, all available in paper, for those who take their series seriously.

Illustrations by Yani Batteau from *The Dyke Detector*, Paradigm Publishing.

Once again, Patricia Cornwell will probably dominate the Summer bestseller list with her new Kay Scarpetta novel, **Point of Origin** ($25.95 cl, 0-399-14394-7, Putnam). Another strong series with good hardcover sales in our store is Sharyn McCrumb's Appalachian mysteries; the latest of these is **The Ballad of Frankie Silver** ($23.95 cl, 0-525-93969-5, Dutton).

Of the potential Summer blockbusters the first on my to-be-read list is definitely Janet Evanovich's **Four to Score**, which continues the saga of New Jersey

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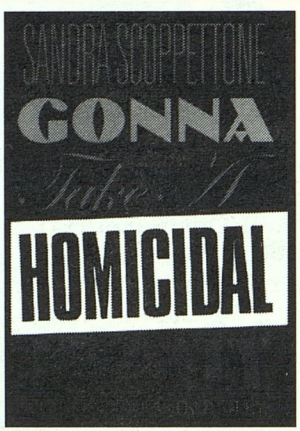
bounty hunter Stephanie Plum ($23.95 cl, 0-312-18568-3, St. Martin's). This follows her hilarious and fast-paced **Three to Get Deadly** (reviewed in the January '97 *FBN*), to be released simultaneously in paperback ($6.50 pb, 0-312-96609-1, St. Martin's). Evanovich has a gift for writing comic suspense that is both laugh-out-loud funny and truly suspenseful, sometimes downright scary. In addition, she gets down on paper the lives and *mores* of working-class Trenton denizens with surprising grit and authenticity. I hope feminist bookstores will carry all her books — including **One for the Money** ($6.50 pb, 0-06-100905-9, Harper) and **Two For the Dough** ($5.50 pb, 0-671-00179-5, Pocket) — lest anyone say that feminists have no sense of humor.

More hard/paper combinations: Ellen Hart has moved to St. Martin's Press with her new hardcover in the (lesbian) Jane Lawless series, **Wicked Games** ($24.95 cl, 0-312-18680-0, August). Hart's most recent Lambda winner, **Robber's Wine**, also a Jane Lawless mystery, will be published by Ballantine in paper in July ($5.99 pb, 0-345-40494-7).

Virginia Lanier has two new entries in her series about smart-mouthed New Southern woman Jo Beth Siddons and her beloved bloodhounds, who together track criminals, children, and lost or injured hikers in the great Okefenokee Swamp. The tracking part of these books is amazing — detailed, suspenseful, so immediate you can feel the heat and the mosquitoes. When she's not tracking, though, Jo Beth is a tad digressive and just plain ornery. Lanier's **Blind Bloodhound Justice** ($24 cl, 0-06-017547-8) and **A Brace of Bloodhounds** ($6.50 pb, 0-06-101087-1) will both be out in July from Harper. The series also includes **The House on Bloodhound Lane** ($5.99 pb, 0-06-101086-3, Harper) and **Death in Bloodhound Red** ($6.50 pb, 0-06-101025-1, Harper).

Customers asked us to carry Peri O'Shaughnessy, who writes intelligent thrillers about Lake Tahoe attorney Nina Reilly, and her books certainly sell. Her latest in paperback is **Obstruction of Justice** ($6.99 pb, 0-440-22472-1, Island/Dell). The new hardcover, about a palimony suit, is **Breach of Promise** ($23.95 cl, 0-385-31872-3, Delacorte/Dell). By the way, aren't you tired of these endless generic legal titles? How can anyone tell them apart?

MYSTERY'S MOST POPULAR LESBIAN DETECTIVE IS BACK!



Lauren Laurano is having enough trouble solving the problems in her relationship with her girlfriend, Kip. The last thing she needs is a murder case to solve . . .

GONNA TAKE A HOMICIDAL JOURNEY
BY SANDRA SCOPPETTONE

0-316-77665-3 • $22.95 • Fiction • July
Little, Brown

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Sarah Andrews has two new entries about geologist Em Hanson (who's rapidly becoming more of a private investigator as she remains unemployed in geology). About **Mother Nature**, the new paperback, *PW* wrote "Complex and engaging.... Snappy dialogue and fully realized characters, especially the immensely appealing Em, turn the field of geology into a fascinating background for a mystery." ($5.99 pb, 0-312-96616-4, St. Martin's.) In Andrews' new hardcover, **Only Flesh and Bones**, Em investigates the murder of an oil millionaire's wife; the only witness was her daughter, who has repressed the traumatic memory ($23.95 cl, 0-312-18642-8, St. Martin's). With *Tensleep* and *A Fall in Denver* already out in paper, Andrews may have hit critical mass, ripe for discovery by Nevada Barr fans.

If your customers aren't demanding Val McDermid's books yet, I predict they soon will be. McDermid struck gold when her compelling but grisly police procedural, *The Mermaids Singing*, won Britain's highest crime fiction award, the Golden Dagger. *The Mermaids Singing* is out in mass market paper from Harper and is winning McDermid lots of fans. And now Spinsters Ink has three books in McDermid's nifty Lindsay Gordon series in print. Lindsay Gordon is a self-described "cynical socialist lesbian feminist journalist," on assignment in **Report for Murder** at an upper-class girls' school replete with all the attitudes she despises. ($10.95 tp, 1-883523-24-9, distributed by Words.) **Report for Murder** is the first in the series, although the last to be reprinted by Spinsters Ink, for unknown reasons. The second and third are **Common Murder** ($10.95 tp, 1-883523-08-7) and **Deadline for Murder** ($10.95 tp, 1-883523-17-6). Note that McDermid also writes a lively non-lesbian series about private eye Kate Brannigan. Harper has two mass markets in print, *Clean Break* and *Crack Down*, and Scribners published the most recent hardcover, *Blue Genes*. McDermid's cross-over readership is enormous; if a customer reads one, chances are she will want them all.

Here are some of those unconventional novels that push the edge of the mystery genre — just the sort that one hopes to find in a feminist or specialty store, I think. In **Bombay Ice** by Leslie Forbes, an assimilated London TV producer returns to the India of her childhood to help her sister, who fears her husband is a murderer. The catalogue calls it "part thriller, part meditation on the nature of chaos." ($23 cl, 0-374-11530-3, Farrar Strauss.) **The Butterfly Effect** by Pernille Rygg, translated by Joan Tate, looks like "Smilla" with even more psycho-sexual elements — transvestitism, sadism, child abuse. In contemporary Oslo, the daughter of a private eye tries to reconstruct her father's last days, leading to another corpse and far-reaching corruption. ($11 tp, 1-86046-433-5, Harvill Press/Farrar Strauss.) Suzanne Berne's **A Crime in the Neighborhood** is a very literary novel with a murder in it, focusing on an adult's memories of her 70s childhood. When a twelve-year-old boy is molested and murdered in her suburban neighborhood, nine-year-old Marsha thinks she knows who did it. *The New York Times Book Review* called it "A remarkable first novel...that captures the history of child-parent relations for the last quarter of a century." ($11 tp, 0-8050-5580-0, Holt.) Then there's the paper edition of the jazzy, ambiguously *noir* **Rhode Island Red** by African American writer Charlotte Carter, reviewed in the November '97 *FBN*. ($12.99 tp, 1-85242-591-1, Serpent's Tail.) Also, somehow this column failed to note the paper publication of Edith Forbes' wonderful Vermont-family-farm mystery, **Nowle's Passing**, another fine literary novel that nevertheless fits in the genre ($12 tp, 1-878067-99-0, Seal).

Some of our favorite historical writers have new books this Summer. The irrepressible Fremont Jones is back in **Emperor Norton's Ghost** by Dianne Day, set in San Francisco ca. 1908 (two years after the earthquake). Here Fremont and her beau Michael Archer have become "partners in life and work," and opened a private investigation agency. Needless to say, Fremont is the model of a modern feminist. ($21.95 cl, 0-385-48608-1, Doubleday.) Another fun and feisty period feminist, Amelia Peabody, uncovers a murder while doing what she does best, excavating an ancient Egyptian tomb, in Elizabeth Peters' **Seeing a Large Cat**. ($6.99 pb, 0-446-60557-3, Warner.)

See **Mysteries**, *page 142.*

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HUMOR

By Roz Warren
Laugh Lines Press

The Indelible Alison Bechdel: Confessions, Comix and Miscellaneous Dykes To Watch Out For (Firebrand, 1-56341-096-6, $16.95) will be a strong seller. A collection of material not previously available in book form (including years of cartoons from Bechdel's popular wall calendars) along with in-depth commentary by the artist, **Indelible** provides a fascinating glimpse into the life and times (and artistic development) of an exceptional cartoonist.

Pacifists In Bomber Jackets (Laugh Lines Press, 1-889594-04-0, $8.95) collects cartoons about contemporary life by Isabella Bannerman, whose work has graced venues from *The New York Times* to *The Funny Times* (including, recently, *Ms.* magazine). Bannerman, editor of the feminist comic book anthology series Girl Talk, excels at mocking cell phones, rollerblades, videocams, the Internet, and the people who love them. There are wonderful cat cartoons in this book, as well as humor about coffee, lawyers, good books and comfy independent bookstores.

Drawing by Alison Bechdel, in *The Indelible Alison Bechdel* (Firebrand Books).

Just in time to catch the current wave of seventies nostalgia, **I Was Seven In '75**, the new collection of comic strips by Ellen Forney (whose memorable "My Date With Camille Paglia" was a highlight of *Dyke Strippers*) focuses on Forney's own seventies childhood. Included are stories about a family stay at a nudist colony, mom getting busted for pot, and the wild party Forney's folks threw to celebrate the redecoration of a new bathroom, as well as a strip about what actually happens when you put metal in the microwave. As the press release for the book puts it: "A humorous time capsule, **I Was Seven In '75** is sure to find a home next to many a hipster's toilet. I mean, on the coffee table." Tchotchke Productions, $6.95, 0-9660258-8-1. Available from Fantagraphics, BP, Koen, and Last Gasp.

Two new compact discs that showcase the humor of popular lesbian stand-ups are well worth checking out. **Georgia Ragsdale: Always Forward, Never Straight** (Rising Star Records) contains funny, insightful material about topics like growing up lesbian, Ellen Degeneres' sex life, shopping at the mall, lesbian erotica and Jodie Foster fantasies, while **Karen Williams: Human Beings: What A Concept** (Uproar Entertainment) has more acerbic, raucous riffs about lesbian sex, lesbian sex toys, middle-age, masturbation, motherhood, racism and the joy of butches.

Don't Get Me Started ($22 cl, 345-38887-9, Ballantine), lesbian comedian Kate Clinton's

See **Humor**, *page 142.*

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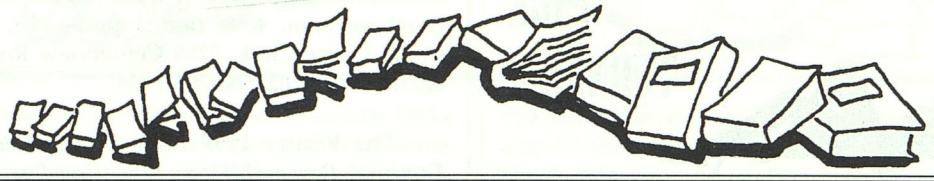
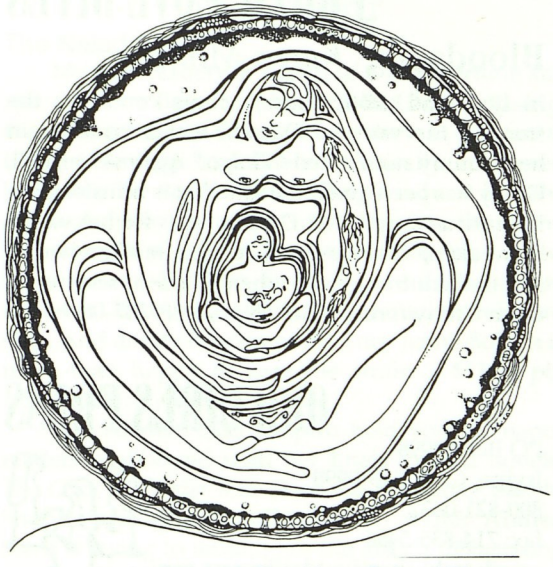


Compiled by Jenn Tust

On Our Backs: The Best of Lesbian Sex is back and it is hot! Congrats and thanks to H.A.F. Enterprises, publisher of *Girlfriends* and the *San Francisco Pride Guide*, and to the new staff of ***On Our Backs*** for their dedication to bringing this important magazine back into the hands of countless horny dykes. It's been three years since we've seen a new issue of ***On Our Backs***, which Nan Kinney and Debbie Sundahl began in 1984, and it's been way too long. The special re-launch issue (June/July, Volume 13, Issue 1) includes photos from LeeAnn McGuire of roofer Dawn Dixon and her tools, photography by Chloe Atkins of sexy showers, and Jamie Griffiths' photographs of *Sex at San Francisco's Lexington Club*. (I'm hoping next issue will include a more diverse spectrum of models.) This issue features an interview with Nina Hartley, feminist porn star and ***On Our Backs***'s advice columnist, the story behind the dildo revolution by Jill Nagle, and hot fiction from Dorothy Allison and Carol Queen. You'll also find book and video reviews, letters to the editor (some dating back to 1986), adventures, cheers and jeers, and how-tos (don't miss JoAnn Loulan's "Go Down on a Woman for the Advanced Student"). Glossy cover, newsprint pages, 8½"x11". $5.95 issue. Manuscripts, guidelines, letters to the editor: On Our Backs, 3415 César Chávez Street #101, San Francisco CA 94110; 415-648-9464, fax 415-648-4705, email ⟨staff@gfriends.com⟩, Web ⟨www.gfriends.com/onourbacks⟩. Distributed by Big Top Newstand Services: 415-974-1544.

Color of Woman: Coloring Book and Journal for Women by Shiloh McCloud is a wonderful creative sanctuary designed to inspire spiritual journey. It is filled with beautiful images, each of which holds the vision of Woman as Creator, to color in — and the pages are thick, so colored pencils, crayons, watercolor, pastels...almost any medium, can be used. And each image is followed by a blank page offering a space to play, dream, heal, pray, envision, and create in. I was so excited to see **Color of Woman** that I wanted to jump right in and color. A must carry! 8½"x11", spiral bound, $15 wholesale, no ISBN. Tribe of Diynah, Shiloh McCloud, Color of Woman Studio, PO Box 866, Port Townsend WA 98368; 888-385-6866, email ⟨shilohs@cafe-inet.com⟩.

I Am A Lesbian, written and illustrated by Molly Deane Clark, is a fun and affirming little gift and inspirational chapbook. Full of upbeat and affirming drawings of lesbians with pink triangles for bodies



Drawing by Shiloh McCloud from *Color of Woman: Coloring Book and Journal for Women* (Tribe of Diynah).

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HOT SUMMER READS! LESBIAN PAGE TURNERS!

LOVE ON THE LINKS

First Resort *Nanci Little*

Jordan Bryant, former LPGA star, maintains a clinical distance between herself and the people she meets at the grand resort on the coast of Maine where she is Director of Golf. Widowed and left wealthy by an abusive husband, Gillian Benson comes to Maine in search of peace. Bonds of affection, friendship and love grow between the two women. $11 pb, Aug 1998, 1-887237-01-1

EROTIC LOVE BITES

Bloodsong *Karen Minns*

In lyric and erotic prose, Minns continues the story of the vampire Darsen, first introduced in her Lammy nominated "Virago." Against her will, Ginny has been given the bite that is transforming her into a vampire. As Darsen waits for her victim to weaken, Ginny's lover Manila readies herself for the confrontation when Darsen returns to claim Ginny forever. $12.95 pb, 1-887237-08-9

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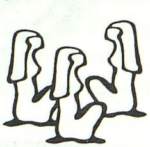

and sayings describing "L" types of lesbians — including the law abiding lesbian, the lipstick lesbian and the life-giving lesbian — readers will find themselves and their friends in these pages. Good point of purchase item. 40%, free shipping. $5, (no ISBN). Molly Deane Clark, 3789 Centerview Road, Lummi Island WA 98262; 360-758-9938.

The Winter 1997 issue of the ***Resources for Feminist Research/Documentation Sur La Recherche Feministe*** addresses Passionate Ethics/*Une éthique passionée* and is dedicated to Kathleen Martindale (1947–1995). "Gathered together here are a number of interrupted dialogues with Kathleen Martindale, readings of her work and related texts which the authors would like to be able to send off to her with a note asking 'What do you think?'" —from the introduction. 30%. $10, ISSN 0707-8412. RFR/DRF, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto ON, M5S 1V6 Canada; 800-387-2689, 416-923-6641, ext. 2277, email ⟨rfrdrf@oise.utoronto.ca⟩. Distributed by Canadian Magazine Publishers Association in Canada.

Womanist Theory and Research: A Journal of Womanist & Feminist-of-Color Scholarship & Art is a biannual, peer-reviewed journal published by the Institute for African American Studies at the University of Georgia. The Premier Double Issue includes "Anthropology and Womanist Theory: Claiming the Discourse on Gender, Race and Culture" by Cheryl Rodriguez, "Bridging the Gap Between So-Called Postcolonial and Minority Women of Color: A Comparative Methodology for Third World Feminist Literary Criticism" by Fawzia Afzal-Khan, and "A Tribute to Terri Lynn Jewell, 1954–1995" by the Crossing Press. The next issue is expected this summer. 20%. $4. Womanist Studies Consortium, Institute for African-American Studies, 164 Psychology Building, The University of Georgia, Athens GA 30602; 706-542-5197, fax 706-542-3071. —*JT*

Cleis Press

We are publishing four books in Spring: our lead title introduces a new series, Chasing the American Dyke Dream, in which lesbian writers look at the simple things in life — with inventiveness, creativity, and surprise....

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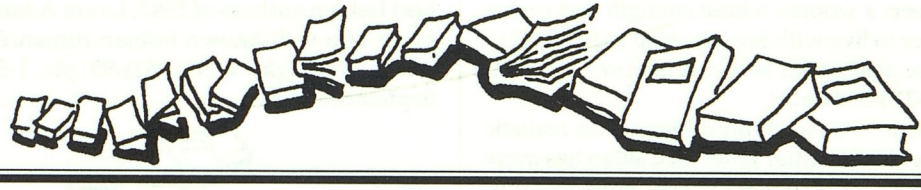

In **Homestretch: Chasing the American Dyke Dream,** 23 lesbian writers share their search for home. Traditional notions of a picket fence and two-car garage are not always a part of the lesbian fantasy...the authors in **Homestretch** "reach toward all that is inventive, new, wonderfully lesbian in perspective. And I know we're all in the homestretch, moving toward some place we can call home." —Susan Fox Rogers, from the introduction. Features Robin Becker, Valerie Miner, Louise Rafkin, Linda Smukler, tatiana de la tierra, Terry Wolverton, Elaine Beale. PGW New Title Launch (50% for orders of 3+ copies). $14.95 pb, 1-57344-036-1.

Published in time for National Poetry Month, We are pleased to offer **Marianne Faithfull's Cigarette**, a first collection of "sexy smoky poems" from Gerry Gomez Pearlberg (*Queer Dog: Homo Pup Poetry*). Pearlberg is a favorite of New York poetry audiences at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Biblio Cafe, and Dixon Place, as well as Lincoln Center, the Brooklyn Museum and WBAI radio. Her exquisite poems tell stories of longing and desire. "Watching her light up was like seeing the Messiah," she writes of Marianne Faithfull in the title poem. "Or Buddha's burning moment under leaves of cool desire." Filled with sharp, artful imagery, Pearlberg's poems are funny, poignant, and smart. $12.95 pb, 1-57344-034-5.

An erotic classic for our times, **The Leather Daddy and the Femme** is Carol Queen's long-awaited explicit novel of sexual adventuring in the tradition of John Preston's *Mr. Benson*, Pauline Réage's *Story of O*, and Anne Rice's Beauty series. "Serialized" in popular sex zines and erotic anthologies, including *Doing It For Daddy*, and *Best Lesbian Erotica 1997*. Special in-store gay pride promotions. Nine-city author tour: New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, Madison WI, Philadelphia, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, Boston. $14 pb, 1-57344-037-X.

We are proud to present **Annie Sprinkle: Post Porn Modernist — My 25 Years as a Multimedia Whore**, a completely revised and redesigned edition of a cult classic, including new writing and previously unpublished photographs. Funny, unorthdox, and shockingly erotic, **Post Porn Modernist** is Annie's scrapbook of her life as a pleasure activist, tracing her evolution from Ellen Steinberg, nice Jewish girl, to Annie Sprinkle, High Priestess of Porn. The most nakedly graphic memoir you will ever read, it is packed with personal mementos, before-and-after photos, diary entries and art projects. Originally published by Art Unlimited, Amsterdam, 1991. $19.95 pb, 1-57344-039-6.

Cleis Press, PO Box 1484, San Francisco CA 94114; 415-575-4700. Cleis Press books are distributed to the trade by PGW. Also available from BP, Ingram, Koen, Bookazine, B&T and other wholesalers. Best discounts are available from PGW. PGW frontlist orders ship from warehouses in *both* Hayward CA and Lebanon PA. —*Cleis Press*

The Naiad Press

Mystery readers in search of a summertime sizzler will love Barbara Johnson's **Bad Moon Rising**, the second Colleen Fitzgerald mystery. In this tantalizing follow-up to Johnson's critically acclaimed bestseller, *The Beach Affair*, Colleen's inquest into the death of a porn star plunges her deep into the seamy netherworld of the sex industry. In the heat of the investigation, Colleen's discovery of a dark secret in her lover Gillian's past seriously strains their relationship. And darkly handsome attorney Jenna Bolden is more than happy to ease the strain.... $11.95 pb, 1-56280-211-9, August.

The talented Lisa Shapiro held your romance readers spellbound with her finely crafted novels, *The Color of Winter* and *From Sea to Shining Sea*. In Shapiro's poignant **Endless Love**, writer Andrea Stern is trying to rebuild her life after a devastating tragedy. Grief-stricken and emotionally deadened, Andrea teeters dangerously on the edge of despair —

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until she meets a woman whose strength and caring will teach her to live with hope instead of fear and to believe, once again, that love can be forever. $11.95 pb, 1-56280-213-5, August.

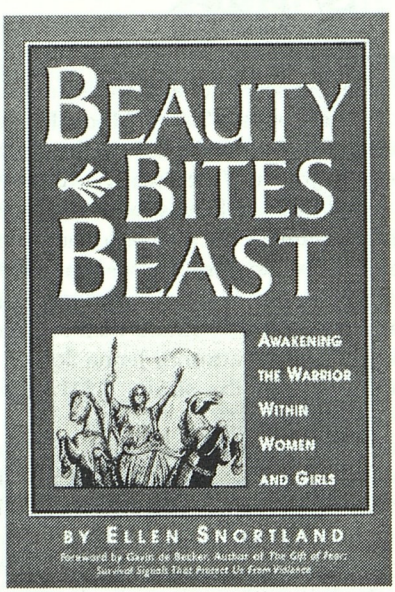
The reason Tru North mysteries are so realistic is that police chief/author Janet McClellan has more than 25 years experience in law enforcement. McClellan's gritty **River Quay** fulfills the promise of series openers *K.C. Bomber* and *Penn Valley Phoenix*. A deep-fried corpse is something no officer wants to deal with. But, when Kansas City Homicide Detective Tru North senses that her lover, Markie, is pushing for a commitment, Tru throws herself into the case — and into the arms of a sexy arson investigator. $11.95 pb, 1-56280-212-7, August.

Investment counselor Dina Rowland's life is strictly business — until she meets the exquisite new fashion model, **Christabel**. Intrigued and fascinated, Dina extends a friendly hand to the mysterious young woman never suspecting that Christabel's touch will rock the foundations of her carefully planned life — and leave her wanting more. Chosen by the *Bay Area Reporter* as one of the best lesbian authors of 1997, Laura Adams is the pen name of a well-known lesbian romance writer and author of *Night Vision*. $11.95 pb, 1-56280-214-3, September.

Laura DeHart Young's **Private Passions** is an unforgettable portrait of lesbian love from the popular author of *Family Secrets*, *There Will Be No Goodbyes*, and *Love On The Line*. To outside observers, Atlanta advertising executive Sara Gray is a pillar of strength, but her life is raging in secret turmoil. Though scores of women would love to give Sara the comfort she needs, how can she bring herself to trust them? For despite what her mind and body may tell her, Sara's wounded heart is still held prisoner by the devastating power of the past.... $11.95 pb, 1-56280-215-1, September.

—Naiad books are available from the publisher and from BP, Login/Inbook, Ingram, et al. The Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302; 800-533-1973. — *The Naiad Press*

NEW FROM TRILOGY BOOKS



Beauty Bites Beast

Awakening the Warrior Within Women and Girls

BY ELLEN SNORTLAND

Foreword by Gavin de Becker, Author of *The Gift of Fear: Survival Signals That Protect Us From Violence*

Beauty Bites Beast is a clarion call to "sleeping beauties" to wake up and take charge of their own self-protection. It is a valuable motivational tool for anyone who wants to raise girls to defend themselves, or to undo fear and intimidation that limit a woman's experience.

"Ellen Snortland takes on the politics of learned helplessness and clears a path back to natural female strength. Any woman who feels defenseless—physically or verbally—will be helped by Beauty Bites Beast."

—Gloria Steinem

ISBN 1-891290-00-2 Paper 198 pages $16.95
Distributed to the trade by LPC Group/Inbook

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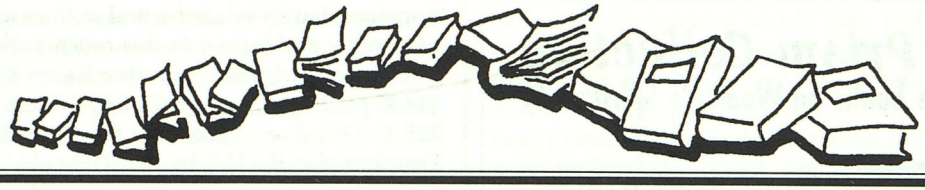

Naiad Video

Lavender Limelight: Lesbians In Film, $29.95, 57 min. From *Go Fish* to *Paris Is Burning* to *The Watermelon Woman*, **Lavender Limelight** goes behind the scenes with America's most successful lesbian directors. Talented moviemakers reveal their secrets and entertain while they enlighten.

French Twist, $19.95, 100 min. French/English subtitles. Golden Globe nominee. An hilarious story of a frustrated housewife and a van driving butch that will be sure to twist your face into a grin.

Hey Sailor, Hey Sister, $19.95, 23 min. Erotic video. A steamy film to melt your customers.

All Over Me, $19.95, 95 min. Heartrending trip into the lives of two teenage girls in love in New York City. Hot soundtrack featuring Ani Difranco, the Murmers and more.

Love! Valour! Compassion!, $19.95, 120 min. Based on Terrance McNally's play. Eight gay friends on vacation in the country.

In the Gloaming, $19.95, 70 min. Stars Glenn Close, Bridget Fonda, Whoopi Goldberg, Robert Sean Leonard and David Strathaim. Leonard plays a young man in his 20s with AIDS returning home to find comfort in his previously estranged family.

Total Eclipse, $19.95, 111 min. Leonardo Dicaprio stars as a gay poet in this story of seductive love set in 19th century France. A timeless tale of love and passion. (Nudity.)

Beautiful Thing, $19.95, 90 min. Set in London's southeast working-class neighborhood, this love story of two young gay men is a strikingly beautiful romantic drama that appeals to all, a tear jerker and smile maker.

Order direct from The Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302; 800-533-1973. —*The Naiad Press*

Papier-Mache Press

The million-copy bestseller by award-winning anthologist Sandra Haldeman Martz, *When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple*, is now available in an abridged purse-size version, **I Shall Wear Purple**. This inspiring collection of poetry, stories, and photographs includes the famous title poem by Jenny Joseph that started the purple craze. Millions of women have taken its message to heart: it's OK to grow older; in fact it's terrific! $6.95 papier-petite cl, 64 pages, 3" x 4½", 8 duotone photos, 1-57601-036-8, August.

If I Had My Life to Live Over is a powerful, insightful collection for readers of all ages and was inspired by Sandra Haldeman Martz's anthology, *If I Had My Life to Live Over I'd Pick More Daisies*. Focusing on the small private decisions women make that live vividly in our memories and including the title poem by Nadine Stair, this abridged purse-size version features a beautiful floral cover. $6.95 papier-petite cl, 64 pages, 3"x4½", 12 duotone photos, 1-57601-031-7, August.

Transforming our myths of aging into a real sense of delight, **The Best Is Yet to Be** (featuring best-loved excerpts form *Grow Old Along with Me — The Best Is Yet to Be* by Sandra Haldeman Martz) celebrates life, long-term love, and growing old together. This abridged purse-size version is designed as an ideal gift set with the other papier-petite books. $6.95 papier-petite cl, 64 pages, 3"x4½", 12 duotone photos, 1-57601-032-5, August.

Papier-Mache Press, PO Box 1304, Freedom CA 95019; 800-927-5913. Also available from B&T, Bookmen, BP, Ingram, Koen. —*Papier-Mache Press*

Press Gang Publishers

Love Ruins Everything, a novel by Karen X. Tulchinsky. "A stunning depiction of family relations.... Tulchinsky's first novel deserves a large readership." —*Booklist*. Fleeing heartbreak in San Francisco, Nomi Rabinovitch arrives home only to land herself in a tempestuous minefield of family weddings, CIA conspiracy, and the Jewish Mafia.

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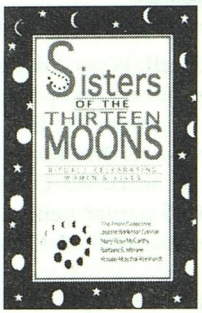
The Prism Collective
presents books on Women's Spirituality



Sisters of the Thirteen Moons: Rituals Celebrating Women's Lives

Thirteen rituals that celebrate ordinary events in women's lives which are often ignored or trivialized in the culture.
5 ½" x 8 ½", 140 pages,
$14.95 retail, ISBN 1-890662-03-8

Journey to the Divine Within: A Journal

This journal offers women an opportunity to reflect on their live and experiences by imagining themselves on a journey to the divine within them.
Spiral bound 5 ½" x 8 ½", 44 pages
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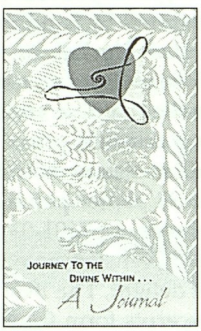

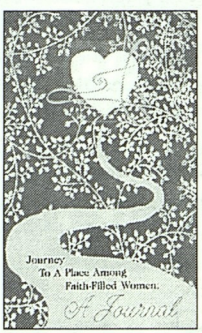

Journey to a Place Among Faith-Filled Women: A Journal

This journal is designed to help women journey toward self-discovery, especially toward a Spiritual Self. It gives them a map with which to travel.
Spiral bound 5 ½" x 8 ½", 46 pages,
$9.95 retail, ISBN 1890662-05-4

Available from New Leaf Distributing Co.
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WATS 1-800-326-2665
FAX 1-800-326-1066

Romance, family relations, and politics ignite a blaze of intrigue and humor in this much-anticipated first novel by award-winning author Karen X. Tulchinsky. $14.95 pb, 280 pages, 0-88974-082-8. Press Gang, #101-225 E. 17th Ave., Vancouver BC, Canada V5V 1A6. Distributed in the U.S. by LPC/Inbook.

—Press Gang Publishers

Third Woman Press

Living Chicana Theory edited by Carla Trujillo collects the most vital and pioneering voices of Chicana feminism in a landmark anthology that redefines the ways theory is written, talked about, and practiced. Covering a range of disciplines — psychology, art, religion, history, literature — these essays address topics such as sexuality, border issues, motherhood, spirituality, and class dynamics. What emerges is a new kind of theory: one that encompasses the everyday concerns of the women who create it. It is a language of survival, a bold and invigorating challenge to the conventions and systems that have long sought to silence or subvert. 40% for 5+. $24.95 pb, 0-943219-15-9. Third Woman Press, PO Box 11187, Berkeley CA 94712; 510-525-7935, fax 510-525-8236. Distributed by LPC, available from BP and SPD. *—JT*

Trilogy Books

"When violence against women is so commonplace, why do so many of us put off taking even the simplest steps to increase our safety and well-being?" asks Ellen Snortland. In **Beauty Bites Beast: Awakening the Warrior Within Women and Girls** she shares her experiences of self-defense training and how it changed her life. She also offers the stories of women who have successfully defended their bodies and dignity against attack, in a tool that can rekindle the fighting spirit, the most potent self-defense weapon of all. $16.95 pb, 1-891290-002. Trilogy Books, 50 S. DeLacey Avenue #201, Pasadena CA 91105; 818-440-0669. Available from BP. *—JT*

Wolfe Video

PRICE REDUCTIONS

French Twist. Saucy suburban housewife Loli is furious when she discovers that her husband has been cheating on her for years. But things take an unusu-

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ally funny turn when the van of a lovable butch named Marijo breaks down in front of Loli's house. From then on, expect the hilariously unexpected as Marijo and Loli's relationship develops into much more than just a friendship...and between the two of them they devise the perfect revenge. French language/English subtitles. 100 min, $19.95.

Beautiful Thing. "In a world of intolerance, you've got to make your own music...." Set in Southeast London, **Beautiful Thing** is a "Romeo & Romeo" for the 90s as a teenage gay romance blooms in a working class neighborhood. It's a contemporary romance/drama and an old-fashioned love story at the same time. 90 min, $19.95.

Love! Valor! Compassion! Eight friends leave the city behind for three simple weekends of rest and relaxation in the country. The extraordinary cast led by Jason Alexander and John Glover reprising his Tony Award-winning role as twin brothers, leaves us all with a reminder of how funny and heroic love is and how wondrous the human spirit can be. 90 min, $19.95.

All Over Me. A fresh story of young girls in love from the producers of *The Incredibly True Adventure of 2 Girls in Love*. If you've forgotten what it's like to be 15, it all comes crashing back in this wonderfully edgy look at the relationship between a sensitive, vulnerable young girl named Claude and her beautiful, quick-witted best friend, Ellen. Living on the edge in New York City, they discover there's only one thing they can rely on, each other. Includes a great soundtrack featuring Ani DiFranco, The Murmurs, Patti Smith and more. $19.95.

Thieves. Did you know that Catherine Deneuve made more than one lesbian film?! Deneuve plays a sophisticated professor who falls in love with a young thief — and falls into her world of murder and self-destruction.

FIRST TIME ON VIDEO

We Got Next: The Story of the WNBA's Inaugural Season. On-court highlights and stories from all eight teams of the inaugural season of the Women's National Basketball Association. Includes some great exclusive interviews. 40 min.

Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil. Shots rang out in Savannah's grandest mansion in the misty, early morning hours of May 2, 1981. Did the wealthy (and gay) protagonist shoot a young man in self defense or was it murder? This spectacular movie based on the bestselling novel by John Berendt has been touted as "One of the best American Films of the year" by the *Boston Herald*. A must see!

Ma Vie En Rose. Ludovic is waiting for a miracle. With six-year-old certainty, he believes he was meant to be a little girl — and that the mistake will soon be corrected. As suburban prejudices close around the family, their loves and loyalties are tested in the ever-escalating dramatic turns of Alain Berliner's critically acclaimed first feature. 89 min.

1998 Olympic Hockey Highlights. The U.S. brought home the gold, but it wasn't the men's team

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The first Sarah Aldridge novel was published more than 20 years ago. Since then it has been followed by 12 more:

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KEEP TO ME STRANGER	1989	$9.95
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MISFORTUNE'S FRIEND	1985	$8.95
MADAME AURORA	1983	$7.95
THE NESTING PLACE	1982	$7.95
ALL TRUE LOVERS	1978	$8.95
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TOTTIE	1975	$6.95
THE LATECOMER	1974	$6.95

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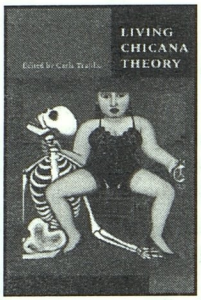
Series in Chicana/Latina Studies



Living Chicana Theory
edited by Carla Trujillo

The most vital and pioneering voices of Chicana feminism come together in this landmark anthology, a collection that redefines the ways that theory is written, talked about, and practiced. Covering a range of disciplines—from psychology to art, religion, history and literature—these essays address topics as diverse as sexuality, border issues, motherhood, spirituality, and class dynamics. What emerges is a new kind of theory: one that encompasses the everyday concerns of the women who create it. It is a language of survival, a bold and invigorating challenge to the conventions and systems that have long sought to silence or subvert.

448 pp., paper, ISBN 0-943219-15-9, $24.95

Máscaras
edited by Lucha Corpi

Máscaras (Masks) brings together the top fifteen Latina writers in the United States. These essays illuminate the ways life and craft are entwined. Autobiographical in nature, their work sheds light on the historical, economic, social, and linguistic realities that have shaped them as women and writers of color in the United States. Their lucid prose gives insight into the discipline and hard work necessary to reclaim, as Michelle Cliff might say, an identity they taught us to despise. They are a courageous testament to the odds Latina writers must overcome to clear the space and achieve a voice in our society.

204 pp., paper, ISBN 0-943219-14-0, $16.95

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publishing the literature of women of color since 1979

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that did it. For the first time in Olympic hockey, women competed, and it was the U.S. women who swept all of their games, including the gold-medal showdown against highly favored Canada. This video is 60 minutes of great highlights from the women (and the men), hosted by Cami Granato.

In the Life. This award-winning television series reflects the rich diversity and accomplishments of the gay community nationwide. Covering everything from politics to health to global issues to art to culture to current events and even the comics!

Wolfe Video, PO Box 64, New Almaden CA 95042; 408-268-6782, fax 408-268-9449, Web ⟨www.wolfevideo.com⟩. —*Wolfe Video*

Women's Press-U.K.

In **Women and Alcohol: A Private Pleasure or a Public Problem** Elizabeth Ettorre examines what constitutes problem drinking for women, looks at the double standards that exist for women and men who overdrink, and explores the possibilities for recovery and healing. This book is an excellent resource for the woman who is concerned about her relationship to alcohol; for concerned family, partners and friends; and for professionals in alcohol abuse and related fields. $15.95 pb, 0-7043-4437-8.

Chicken Run: A Letty Campbell Mystery by Alma Fritchley. When Letty Campbell warily agrees to let her land be used for a classic car auction, she has no idea what lies ahead. Why is her gorgeous ex, Julia, really so desperate for the auction to happen? Is the new love of Julia's life as suspicious as she seems? And why does Letty have a horrible feeling that she should never have got involved? $13.95 pb, 0-7043-4515-3.

Women's Press-U.K., 34 Great Sutton Street, London ECIV 0DX. Distributed in the U.S. by Trafalgar Square; 800-423-4525. —*Women's Press-U.K.*

Correction: FemSpec*'s correct address is Box 69, East Montpelier VT 05836, email ⟨Batyawein@aol.com⟩.* ○

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FROM THE SMALL PRESSES

By Jenn Tust

Sisters Helping Sisters by Madeleine Wright, Ph.D., is a guide to the philosophy, organization and management of a mentoring program for African American girls. This resource includes step-by-step curriculum guides for monthly programs on topics such as spirituality, African American History, careers, health, sexuality, Kwanzaa, African dance and budgeting. Looks great! $14.95 pb, 0-913543-53-5. African American Images, 1909 West 95th Street, Chicago IL 60643. Distributed by IPG; 313-337-0747.

For Black Writers...A Personal Account of How to Write, Publish and Market Your First Book by Aliona L. Gibson is just that — a first-person account of how she went from having nothing more than "letters to the editor" published to landing a hardcover book deal for her first book, *Nappy: Growing Up Black and Female in America*. Includes interviews with a literary agent, a publisher, novelists, self publishers and poets, samples of various promotional materials, references, writing retreats/workshops, helpful organizations, literary agents, distribution companies, and Internet services. Definitely worth the extra effort to stock. $14 pb, 0-9662654-0-8. 40%. ALG Publishing, 2625 Alcatraz Ave. #169, Berkeley CA 94705; 510-594-4393.

Behind Closed Doors, a novel by Kimberla Lawson Roby, presents the story of Regina Moore and Karen Jackson, best friends since they were six. At 30, they have obtained what they wanted in life: wonderful careers, gorgeous homes, and loving husbands. All is picture perfect until Regina realizes her husband has been working too much overtime, and Karen discovers her husband has been donating his paycheck to the local horse track on a regular basis. Roby provides a thought-provoking look at relationships in the nineties. $12 pb, 1-57478-005-0. Black Classic Press, PO Box 13414, Baltimore MD 21203; 410-358-0980. Distributed by PGW.

In **Her Other Mouths** by Lidia Yuknavitch "language shoots up and through the body in these fictions of desire in which women bleed, bruise and burn their way beyond culturally sanctioned girl-slots. Wicked love stories and the crack and split of new intellects emerge in the wake of a sea of 'isms.' Yuknavitch's stories leave questions like marks on the flesh of characters whose stories aren't pretty." $8.95 pb, 0-9656665-0-6. House of Bones Press, PO Box 55396, Portland OR 97238; 503-827-7070. Available from BP.

Clara Fraser addressing the 1988 Freedom Socialist Party Convention, in *Revolution, She Wrote* (Red Letter Press).

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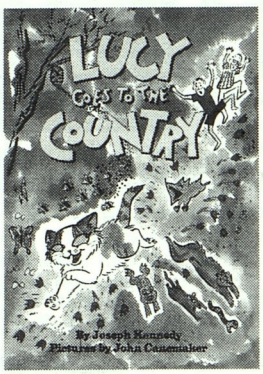
Lucy is a boisterous little cat



that really knows how to live! Join Lucy's adventures as she travels from New York to the countryside for a fun-filled weekend with her two Big Guys.

Entertainment Weekly's Winner of the Week

32 Pages
ISBN 1-55583-428-0
$15.95

Shame by Annie Ernaux, translated by Tanya Leslie, is the story of a twelve-year-old girl who sees her father attempt to kill her mother. The threatened act of violence is incomprehensible. It cuts through Tanya like an ax. Years later the cut is still there, but her whole being has grown around it like a tree that has been struck by lightning and survived. $16.95 cl, 1-888363-69-X. Seven Stories Press, 140 Watts Street, NY NY 10013. Distributed by PGW.

The Collected Stories of María Cristina Mena edited by Amy Doherty gathers the English-language writing of one of the first Mexican-American women published in major U.S. magazines. These stories, written between 1913 and 1931 for an Anglo American audience, confront issues of gender, race and nation, describe aspects of life in Mexico at the turn of the century and address political and social issues relevant 75 years later. $12.95 pb, 1-55885-211-5. Arte Público Press, University of Houston, Houston TX 77204; 713-743-2841. Available from BP.

The poems in Beatrix Gates' (*The Wild Good*) new collection, **In the Open**, take on Eros, AIDS, child abuse, friendship, homelessness and more in their lush sensuality and honesty. "These are some of the strongest poems I know — tough without meanness or complaint, new knowledge and the language to carry it." —Grace Paley. $12 pb, 0-9651-5587-0. Painted Leaf Press, PO Box 2480, Times Square Station, NY NY 10108; 212-594-4940. Distributed by InBook.

Viper Rum, Mary Karr's first book since her autobiography, *The Liars' Club*, presents a continuation of her story, recounting her bouts with alcoholism while trying to raise a son, her fierce attachment to family and friends, and her conversion to Catholicism. The poems are intense, personal, and rewarding. $19.95 cl, 0-8112-1382-X. New Directions, 80 Eighth Avenue, NY NY 10011. Available from BP.

The poems in **A Snake in Her Mouth: Poems 1974–1996** by nila northSun are gritty and understated, addressing topics that affect her life; competition pow-wows, suicide, poverty, relationships.... northSun, a Chippewa-Shoshone descendent, says about the title poem, "[It's] not only sexually suggestive, but alludes to the idea of a forked tongue liar or a gossip from which many of the other pieces derive." $8.95 pb, 0-931122-87-2. West End Press, PO Box 27334, Albuquerque NM 87125. Distributed by University of New Mexico Press.

Sandra Shamas: A Trilogy of Performances by Shamas traces the author/performer's first 30 years of life, nine years of a relationship, and the first seven years of her career, in three hilarious parts: *My Boyfriend's Back and There's Gonna Be Laundry*, *My Boyfriend's Back and There's Gonna Be Laundry II: The Cycle Continues*, and *Wedding Bell Hell*. $17.95 pb, 1-55128-044-2. Mercury Press, 2569 Dundas Street

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West, Toronto ON, Canada M6P 1X7; 416-767-4352. Distributed by LPC/InBook.

Swarm by lesbian author and performance artist Camille Roy collects short stories that combine a playwright's keen ear for speech with a poet's vivid eye and take an astringent view of America's sexual paradise. The tone is darkly comic as the young narrator stumbles from her tense inner city home through Lesbian Nation, a dyke-run massage parlor, the homes of the wealthy, and eccentric sexual lives of all kinds. $8.50, 0-9607630-3-1. Black Star Series, 1419 20th Street, San Francisco CA 94107. Distributed by SPD.

Climb into bed with **Pillow Talk: Lesbian Stories Between the Covers** edited by Lesléa Newman — it's full of well-crafted writing and sexy stories. Accustomed to skipping through anthologies, stopping only briefly to read one or two stories all the way through, I found myself hanging onto every word in almost all of the stories. Ranging from an erotic wager made over the results of a baseball game in "Play Ball!" by atara to a truckdriver's obsession with a kinky waitress in "Down at Shug's" by Catherine Lundoff, this collection is chock-full of tantalizing descriptions and diverse themes that will satisfy almost any erotic taste. I had a difficult time choosing which was my favorite! ("Disco Nights" by Mariana Romo-Carmona, in case anyone's wondering!) $12.95 pb, 1-55583-419-1. —*Dani*

Beginnings: Lesbians Talk About the First Time They Met Their Long-Term Partner edited by Lindsey Elder (*Early Embraces*) details initial adventures that range from the wild to the mundane, from hilarious comedy-of-errors encounters to near-spiritual minglings of the soul. $11.95 pb, 1-55583-427-2.

In **Mom: Candid Memoirs by Lesbian Writers About the First Woman in Their Life** edited by Nisa Donnelly, Lucy Jane Bledsoe searches the family tree for a lesbian role model as her mother will not and cannot be hers; Katherine V. Forrest tells about a coworker who becomes a "nurturing mother" for a young woman tortured by self-loathing and doubt; and Kitty Tsui tells of her Chinese grandmother who is her shining light. $12.95 pb, 1-55583-408-6.

Lucy Goes to the Country by Joseph Kennedy, illustrated by John Canemaker, is the newest title from Alyson Wonderland, Alyson's children's imprint. The story follows Lucy the cat when she travels from her city home to the countryside for an adventure-filled weekend with her two Big Guys. $15.95 cl, 8½" x 11", 1-55583-428-0.

Alyson Publications, 6922 Hollywood Blvd. #1000, Los Angeles CA 90028. Distributed by Consortium, available from Koen and Ingram.

The second edition of **Girls Are Equal Too: The Teenage Girls' How-to-Survive Book** by Dale Carlson and Hannah Carlson, M.Ed., CRC, illustrations by Carol Nicklaus, is a "forthright examination of...discrimination practiced against women...pressure to consider themselves adorable, inferior beings from their cradles...to their graves...supportive suggestions...for teenagers who want to change things." —*ALA Booklist*. $14.95, 1-884158-18-8. 40%. Bick Publishing House, 307 Neck Road, Madison CT 06443; 203-245-0073. Available from Ingram and B&T.

Sheroes: Bold, Brash (and Absolutely Unabashed) Superwomen, From Susan B. Anthony to Xena by Varla Ventura, foreword by Vicki Leon (*Uppity Women of Medieval Times*). Includes quotes, stories, descriptions and sidebars on all types of Sheroes. $14.95, 1-57324-128-8.

Coming Home to Myself: Daily Reflections for a Woman's Body and Soul by Marion Woodman (*Leaving My Father's House*), with Jill Mellick, offers readers teachings that touch on themes crucial to women as we progress in our psychospiritual journeys. $16.95 cl, 1-57324-100-8.

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The Seasons of Change: Using Nature's Wisdom to Grow Through Life's Inevitable Ups and Downs by Carol L. McClelland, Ph.D., foreword by Clarissa Pinkola Estes, offers a new way to approach change: as a naturally occurring process that can be a catalyst for success. Includes a questionnaire, myths, personal anecdotes, and advice for building a strong support network. $14.95 pb, 1-57324-078-8.

The Woman's Book of Soul: Meditations for Courage, Confidence & Spirit by Sue Patton Thoele, foreword by Jennifer Louden, is a special hardcover edition collecting daily meditations from Thoele's *The Woman's Book of Courage, The Woman's Book of Confidence* and *The Woman's Book of Spirit*. $16.95 cl, 1-57324-120-2.

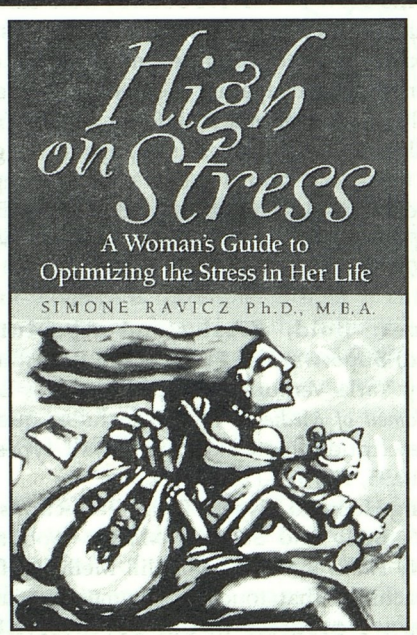
Wonderful Ways to Be a Family by Judy Ford celebrates the diversity of families today with advice on such topics as "be willing to be wrong," "ignoring the small stuff," and "staying connected while apart." $11.95 pb, 1-57324-124-5.

In **Loose Cannons: Devastating Dish from the World's Wildest Women**, compiled by Autumn Stephens (*Wild Women*), loquacious ladies of every stripe unleash their wicked wit in this humorous quote book. $11.95 pb, 1-57324-107-5.

Conari Press, 2550 Ninth Street #101, Berkeley CA 94710. Distributed by PGW, available from BP, Koen, B&T and Ingram.

Following its publication in 1902, *The Story of Mary MacLane* provoked outrage and debate as the 19-year-old author revealed her scorn for conformity and Puritanism, her refusal to accept what she regarded as the boredom and pettiness of middle-class life, and her insistence on sexual freedom, a life of adventure and excitement. **The Story of Mary MacLane and Other Writings** edited by Penelope Rosemenot features the complete text of the original as well as a selection of her other writings. $15 pb, 0-88286-233-2. 40% for 5+. Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company, 1740 West Greenleaf Ave., Chicago IL 60626; 773-465-7774. Distributed by Left Bank, AK and available from B&T.

The feminist and political essays in **Revolution, She Wrote** by Clara Fraser span 40 years and offer her



High on Stress is a contemporary approach to dealing with the pressures of day-to-day life that teaches women how they can transform negative stress into a positive, beneficial experience.

HIGH ON STRESS

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observations on war, racism, electoral politics, esbian/gay rights, labor battles and more. Fraser provides vignettes of her encounters with leaders such as Kate Millet and Jesse Jackson as well as a primer on Marxism called "Socialism for Skeptics." Introduction by Joanna Russ. $17.95 pb, 400 pages, 0-932323-04-9. 40%. Red Letter Press, 409 Maynard Ave. S. #201, Seattle WA 98104; 206-682-0990. Available from SPD, BP, Koen, Ingram and B&T.

Grace Lichtenstein (*New York Times'* first Rocky Mountain bureau chief), reviews former Colorado Congressperson — and current president of the AAP — Pat Schroeder's new book, **24 Years of House Work...and the Place Is Still a Mess: My Life in Politics** in the *Washington Post*: "Schroeder has written a wickedly funny yet meaningful memoir, a page-turner that the late Erma Bombeck might have penned had she served in the House of Representatives.... Schroeder is in print what she was in Congress: a women's-rights advocate who dares to stand for old-fashioned family values, such as reproductive choice, gender equity, pension sharing and more money for plowshares than swords. What's special is that you get her message while laughing out loud." $24.95 cl, 0-8362-3707-2. 30% for 2-4; 40% for 5-10; 46% for 11-25. Andrews McMeel, 4520 Main Street #700, Kansas City MO 64111; 800-826-4216.

In **Red Star Sister: Between Madness and Utopia** Leslie Brody portrays her odyssey from an awkward adolescence on Long Island to paramilitary training in Chicago, communal living in Ann Arbor, a violent run-in with police in San Francisco, and a journey via Amsterdam and London to meet with North Vietnamese leaders in Paris to end the war. $16 pb, 1-886913-15-3, August. Hungry Mind Press, 1648 Grand Avenue, St. Paul MN 55105; 612-699-7038. Distributed by Consortium, available from BP.

Riding the Wild Side of Denali: Alaska Adventures with Horses and Huskies by Miki and Julie Collins chronicles these twin sisters' adventures at their homestead in the interior Alaska wilderness north of Denali National Park. Reveling in the challenge of a subsistence lifestyle, they hunt moose for meat, catch fish, drive a sled dog team, build their own log cabin, chop cords of firewood for heat, and defend their home against wolves and grizzlies. ($14.95 pb, 38 b/w photos, 0-945397-64-X.) **Good Time Girls of the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush** by Lael Morgan portrays the early pioneer prostitutes and other "disreputable" women of the Far North, women who crossed both geographic and social frontiers to find freedom. Many of these women later became successful entrepreneurs and wealthy property-owners. ($24.95 cl, 0-945397-63-1.) Epicenter Press, Box 82368, Kenmore WA 98028. Distributed by Graphic Arts Center Publishing; 800-452-3032, and other major wholesalers.

The Shirley Letters: From the California Mines, 1851–1852, edited and introduced by Marlene Smith-Baranzini, collects the letters Louise Amelia Knapp Smith Clappe wrote to her sister in New England. These firsthand accounts of the gold rush paint an intimate portrait of life in the remote mining camps of the Sierra foothills. The first 23 letters were first published in the magazine, *The Pioneer*, between 1854 and 1855. $12.95 pb, 1-890771-00-7. 40% for 5-24. Heyday Books, PO Box 9145, Berkeley CA 94709; 510-549-3564. Available from BP, Ingram, B&T, Koen.

Forced to Grow is the second volume of Sindiwe Magona's memoir, succeeding *To My Children's Children*. It traces Magona's journey through the turbulent 70s in South Africa, the challenges and agonies of being a parent during the 1976 student revolt where she works with women's organizations for racial harmony, and to New York to attend Columbia University. $12.95 pb, 1-56656-265-1. 46% for 10+. Interlink Publishing Group, 46 Crosby Street, Northampton MA 01060; 800-238-LINK. Available from BP, B&T and Ingram.

Range of Light by Valerie Miner (*A Walking Fire, Winter's Edge*) follows two women reunited for a week's hiking in the High Sierra after an estrangement of 25 years. Adele is a professor of history, married with children; Kath is an unemployed community worker, a lesbian caring for her aging parents. As they journey through the mountains, the women journey through their friendship and learn more

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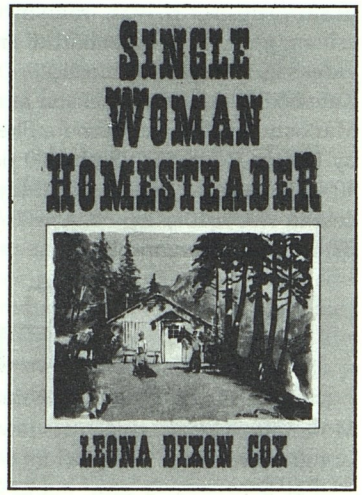
Single Woman Homesteader

by Leona Dixon Cox

Illustrated by David N. Giles

She survived the great depression with $5 plus grit, determination and knowledge of the wilderness.

"I knew what my father should have done," said the author. Having observed the failure of her family's hunting lodge, Leona Cox used a lariat to survey and claim her own 640 acre ranch.



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about themselves and each other in the process. $14 pb, 0-944072-86-0. Zoland Books, 384 Huron Avenue, Cambridge MA 02138. Distributed by Consortium, available from Ingram, B&T, BP.

In **Family Puzzles: A Private Life Made Public** award-winning *Boston Globe* columnist Linda Weltner explores the perplexities of her life — and many women's — as she struggles with her multiple roles. **Family Puzzles** collects Weltner's "Ever So Humble" column, personal accounts that reveal the joys and struggles of the author's family relationships. $13.95 pb, 1-880913-23-2. Innisfree Press, 136 Roumfort Road, Philadelphia PA 19119. Distributed by Consortium, available from BP, B&T, Ingram, Koen and New Leaf.

In **The Woman Who Took Power in the Park: Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, 1990–1997** Lorna Siggins chronicles Mary Robinson's historic and almost unexpected election to President of Ireland, a victory that bestowed influence without power, and explores how Robinson used her office to draw attention to global emergencies, including famine and economic exploitation in Africa. $29.95 cl, 1-85158-805-1, Mainstream Publishing. Distributed by Trafalgar Square; 800-423-4525.

Queen of the Negro Leagues: Effa Manley and the Newark Eagles by James Overmyer looks at the life of Effa Manley, a Black woman who owned a baseball team in the 1930s and 40s, and Black baseball before baseball was integrated. Effa Manley never shrank from going head to head with men who dominated the ranks of sports and succeeded in making the Newark Eagles an important part of a thriving Black community in Newark. $16.95 pb, 1-57886-001-6. Scarecrow Press, Inc., 4720 Boston Way, Lanham MD 20706. Distributed by National Book Network; 800-462-6420.

New from Garland's Studies in African American History and Culture Series, **Race and Gender in the Making of an African American Literary Tradition**

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by Aimable Twagilimana explores topics including "Fictions of (Cultural) Cannibalism," "Strategies of Writing by Black Women," and "Mules & Women: Hurston's Poetics of Gender and the Redemption of the Tragic Mulatta." ($51 cl, 0-8153-2993-8.) From Garland's Crosscurrents in African American History series comes **Writings on Black Women of the Diaspora: History, Language, and Identity** by Lean'tin L. Bracks examines "Literary Quilting" in *The History of Mary Prince: A West Indian Slave, Related by Herself, Beloved, The Color Purple* and *Praisesong for the Widow*. ($39 cl, 0-8153-2734-X.) Garland Publishing, 1000A Sherman Avenue, Hamden CT 06514; 800-627-6273. Distributed by Login, available from Ingram.

The Nawal El Saadawi Reader collects El Saadawi's nonfiction since the publication of *The Hidden Face of Eve*. She explores women's oppression at the hands of recent interpretations of Islam, the role of women in African literature, the sexual politics of development initiatives, tourism in a "post-colonial" age, the fight against female genital mutilation, and the problems facing the internationalization of the women's movement. $19.95 pb, 1-85649-514-0; $55 cl, -513-2.

In **Reinventing Africa: Matriarchy, Religion & Culture**, Ifi Amadiume (*Male Daughters, Female Husbands*) challenges Western anthropologists to recognize their own complicity in producing a version of Africa that is often little more than a reflection of their own class-based, patriarchal thought. Here, the author offers a new history of Africa, made and written by Africans. $19.95 pb, 1-85649-534-5; $55 cl, -533-7.

In **Ecofeminism as Politics: Nature, Marx, and the Postmodern** Ariel Salleh explores the philosophical challenge of ecofeminism, and shows how confusion over the implications of "difference" has held back radical change. $19.95 pb, 1-85649-400-4; $59.95 cl, -399-7.

Gender & Catastrophe edited by Ronit Lentin brings together a variety of feminist academics and activists to explore the ways in which women are targeted in wars, genocides, famines, slavery, the Holocaust, mass rape, and ethnic cleansing. $22.50 pb, 1-85649-446-2; $59.95 cl, -445-4.

Getting Institutions Right for Women in Development edited by Anne Marie Goetz argues that the persistent marginalization of gender-sensitive policy measures points to gendered patterns in administration of development, which makes tinkering with policies or projects futile in the absence of more fundamental institutional change. $22.50 pb, 1-85649-526-4; $62.50 cl, -525-6.

Negotiating Reproductive Rights: Women's Perspectives Across Countries and Cultures edited by Rosalind Petchesky and Karen Judd grew out of The International Reproductive Rights Research Action Group's four years of research and analysis from interviews with women concerning childbearing, work, marriage, fertility control and sexuality. $25 pb, 1-85649-536-1; $69.95 cl, -535-3, August.

Reproductive Rights in Practice: A Feminist Report on the Quality of Care edited by Anita Hardon and Elizabeth Hayes looks at family planning programs in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America exploring the extent to which these programs make women instruments of demographic population policy. ($22.50 pb, 1-85649-452-7; $59.95 cl, -451-9.) **Promoting Gender Equality At Work: Turning Vision Into Reality for the Twenty-First Century** edited by Eugenia Date-Bah offers a global portrait of equality in the workplace through exploring the impact of recession, globalization, structural adjustment programs and economic transition in Eastern Europe on women workers. ($25 pb, 1-85649-454-3; $65 cl, -453-5.) **The Women, Gender & Development Reader** edited by Nalini Visvanathan, Lynn Duggan, et al., examines the impact of industrialization, multinational companies, Free Trade Zones, single-parent

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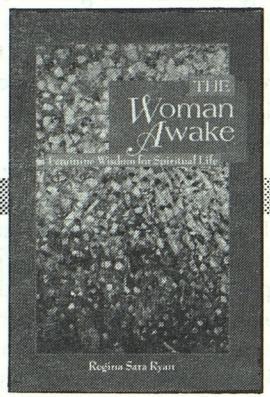
families, agricultural production, and the environment on women workers. ($25 pb, 1-85649-142-0; $65 cl, -141-2.) Linking the policies of international development with women's situations, and women's health theories and research with the lives of individual women, Jane Stein offers, in **Empowerment & Women's Health: Theory, Methods and Practice**, a cogent analysis of the factors relevant to women's health around the world. ($25 pb, 1-85649-464-0; $65 cl, -463-2.)

Zed Books, 7 Cynthia Street, London England N1 9JF. Distributed by St. Martin's.

From the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy come three books from its Women of the World series: **Women of the World: Laws and Policies Affecting Their Reproductive Lives — Anglophone Africa** ($25 pb, 1-890671-01-0) and **Mujeres del Mundo: Leyes y Políticas que Afectan sus Vidas Reproductivas — América Latina y el Caribe** (in Spanish, $25 pb, 1-890671-02-9) and **Women of the World: Laws and Policies Affecting Their Reproductive Lives — Latin America and the Carribean** ($25 pb, 1-890671-03-7). Each of these titles provide information about governmental health and population policies relating to women's status including contraception, abortion, sterilization, and HIV/AIDS and other STD's, marriage, property rights, labor rights, credit and education. 40% for 5+. The Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, 120 Wall Street, 18th Floor, NY NY 10005; 212-514-5534, fax 212-514-5538.



The Woman Awake:
Feminine Wisdom for Spiritual Life
by Regina Sara Ryan

"This is important work. Essential reading for any woman on a spiritual path."
- **China Galland**, best-selling author of *Longing for Darkness* and *The Bond Between Women.*

A former Catholic nun, Ryan searches for the feminine face of God and finds Divine Mother reflected in the work of 24 great women from different spiritual traditions - including Sufi master Irina Tweedie; Christian monk Tessa Bielecki; Zen teacher Joan Halifax; artist Meinrad Craighead, and many more. 35 photos. 520 pgs. $19.95.

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In **Arousal: Bodies & Pleasures** Martha Roth (*Transforming a Rape Culture*) explores American culture and its definition of sexuality and sexual arousal. She examines images of sex and violence, desire and fear, in media, literature and art, and weaves in personal experiences to portray how attitudes toward sexuality are defined in early childhood. Roth also searches for ways to change current attitudes about sexuality in the U.S. $18.95 cl, 1-57131-220-X. Milkweed Editions, 430 First Ave. N. #400, Minneapolis MN 55401. Distributed by PGW.

For **S/he: Changing Sex and Changing Clothes** Claudine Griggs, a transsexual herself, conducted interviews with transsexuals from many walks of life. Here, she highlights how the gender identity of transsexuals relates to hormonal and surgical changes in the body as well as to changes in dress. Griggs also investigates the pressures and motivations to conform to expected gender roles, and the ways in which these are affected by social, educational, and professional status. $19.50 pb, 1-85973-916-4; $45 cl, -911-3, Berg Publishers. Distributed by New York University Press.

Families of Value: Gay and Lesbian Parents and Their Children Speak Out shows how gay and lesbian parents successfully tackle and overcome numerous obstacles including childcare, financial and emotional issues, and homophobia on the part of both children and adults. Jane Drucker, Ph.D., also addresses challenges, opportunities, rewards, and

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issues of custody, adoption and reproduction. ($27.95 cl, 0-306-45863-2.) In **A Delicate Balance: Living Successfully with Chronic Illness** Susan Milstrey Wells offers hope for sufferers of a chronic illness including environmental illness and chronic fatigue syndrome. She discusses how to talk to your doctor, the pros and cons of antibiotics, steroids and surgery, and the effectiveness of changes in diet and exercise. Wells also provides advice on raising a family, holding a job and maintaining a relationship while in the grip of chronic illness. ($28.95 cl, 275 pages, 0-306-45798-9.) 40% for 5-24. Insight Books, 233 Spring St., NY NY 10013; 800-221-9369. Available from Ingram and B&T.

Women's Cancers: How to Prevent Them, How to Treat Them, How to Beat Them by Kerry A. McGinn, R.N., N.P., and Pamela J. Haylock, R.N., has been revised to cover both traditional and unconventional therapies. The 505-page tome provides information on the latest developments in treatment and self-help options for lung, colorectal, breast, pelvic, uterine, ovarian, vaginal, vulvar, and rare gynecological cancers. $19.95 pb, 0-89793-223-4. Hunter House Publishers, PO Box 2914, Alameda CA 94501; 510-865-5282. Distributed by PGW, available from Ingram and other wholesalers.

Endometriosis: A Natural Approach by Jo Mears details strategies for managing this distressing disease, explains how to obtain a proper diagnosis, how to develop coping strategies, alternative treatments including meditation, relaxation techniques, massage, exercises, and complementary therapies, and offers information on traditional solutions. $9.95 pb, 1-56975-088-2. Ulysses Press, PO Box 3440, Berkeley CA 94703; 510-601-8301. Distributed by PGW.

In **Endometriosis — One Woman's Journey: A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding and Coping with an Elusive Affliction** Jennifer Marie Lewis shares her medical and emotional story that began when she was 15. For a decade, Jennifer endured misdiagnoses and misconceptions about the condition that ultimately led to bouts of debilitating surgeries and poor health, lost wages, lost intimacy, and depression. Only when she became her own health advocate did she find appropriate medical treatment, learn the truth about her condition and begin to regain her dignity. $17.95 pb, 1-882180-91-7. Griffin Publishing, 544 W. Colorado St., Glendale CA 91204; 800-472-9741. Distributed by LPC.

Birthing from Within: An Extra-Ordinary Guide to Childbirth Preparation by Pam England CNM, MA and Rob Horowitz, Ph.D., "honors nature and helps a woman find her own way to go with nature and her body. This book will help women tap their resources so that their birthing will be life enhancing and empowering.... The discussion of non-pharmacological means of pain control is outstanding and should be required reading of every obstetrical anesthesiologist in the U.S." —Marsden Wagner, M.D. $19.95 pb, 0-9659873-0-2. Partera Press, PO Box 4528, Albuquerque NM 87106. Distributed by Independent Publishers Group.

Ten days following the birth of her second child, Fiona Shaw was hospitalized with severe depression. In **Composing Myself: A Journey Through Postpartum Depression**, Shaw describes the months in the hospital, the terrors of electric shock treatment and the memory loss that resulted, her isolation, her violence against herself, and the daily ordeal for her and those closest to her as she slowly recovered. As she searches for her lost year, Shaw delves into her adolescence and explores experiences of other women with postpartum depression to learn more about herself. $24 cl, 1-883642-97-3. Steerforth Press, PO Box 70, South Royalton VT 05068. Distributed by National Book Network.

For **Sharp Spear Crystal Mirror: Martial Arts in Women's Lives, Women Warriors on the Integration of Body, Mind, and Spirit**, Stephanie T. Hoppe (*Assimilation of Leah Wennover*) interviewed 24 women of diverse martial art disciplines, ages and backgrounds who discuss the physical and spiritual challenges of martial arts training and how it helps to bring meaning and purpose to their lives. **Sharp Spear** offers inspiration to women interested in enhancing the physical, spiritual, and social dimensions of their lives, as well as those interested in self-defense and physical safety. $19.95 pb, 0-89281-662-7. Park Street Press/Inner

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Traditions, One Park Street, Rochester VT 05767. Available from B&T, Ingram, Koen and New Leaf.

In **A Woman's Guide to Personal Safety** two veteran female police officers, Janeé Harteau and Holly Keegel, provide comprehensive, at-a-glance safety tips for women. Using information from extensive interviews with criminals — including research on how they choose their targets — and from women who were targets of crime, the authors compiled advice for women at home, at work, on campus, and in the car on what women should do if they are attacked. $9.95 pb, 1-57749-065-7. Fairview Press, 2450 Riverside Avenue South, Minneapolis MN 55454. Distributed by National Book Network, available from BP, B&T, Ingram and Koen.

Another novel in Morning Glory Press' excellent series for teen mothers: **Baby Help** by Marilyn Reynolds tells the story of Melissa, 17-year-old mother of Cheyenne, who looks for excuses as to why her boyfriend Rudy is abusing her. Only when Melissa sees the harm Rudy's anger inflicts upon Cheyenne does she decide to leave. At the shelter, Melissa misses Rudy and thinks things will be better if she goes back to him. And, things are — for a few days — then the violence progresses and Melissa has to make another decision, and quick.... $8.95 pb, 1-885356-27-7; $15.95 cl, -26-9. Morning Glory Press, 6595 San Haroldo Way, Buena Park CA 90620. Distributed by Independent Publishers Group, available from Ingram and B&T.

Worlds where women are safe and powerful! You'll wish they weren't merely fiction...

What would our lives be like if our desires and needs were not filtered through men's demands and restrictions?

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In **The Battered Wife: How Christians Confront Family Violence** Nancy Nason-Clark explores the relationship between violence and Christians' response to it from the perspectives of the victim, clergy, the congregation — and encourages a pastoral assistance that reduces violence in the world and helps victims find the inner strength to change their lives. $18 pb, 0-664-25692-9. Westminster John Knox Press, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville KY 40202; 800-227-2872. Distributed by Spring Arbor, available from B&T and Ingram.

In **Virtuous Magic: Women Saints and Their Meanings**, Sara Maitland and Wendy Mulford explore the lives of 40 women saints, arguing that these women are spiritual resources for contemporary women. ($29.95 cl, 0-8264-1074-X.) Also available: **Friends of God and Prophets: A Feminist Theological Reading of the Communion of the Saints** by Elizabeth Johnson provides a theology of the communion of saints by utilizing women's practices of memory. ($24.50 cl, 0-8264-1078-2.) Continuum Publishing Group, 370 Lexington Ave., NY NY 10017; 212-953-5858. Distributed by Publishers Resources, available from BP.

Embracing the Goddess Within: A Creative Guide for Women by Kris Waldherr (*The Book of Goddesses*) is divided into six sections that mirror the eternal feminine rites of passage: Beginnings, Love, Motherhood, Creativity, Strength, and Transformation. Each section contains a selection of goddesses for that particular stage, offers guidance and a simple ritual designed to invoke her spirit and power. $17.95 cl, 1-885223-49-8. 35% for 1-4; 40% for 5-24. Beyond Words Publishing, 20827 NW Cornell Road #500,

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Hillsboro OR 97124; 800-284-9673. Distributed by PGW, available from BP, B&T, New Leaf and Ingram.

Jeanne Shaw, Ph.D., has been presenting sexual enrichment workshops since 1976 from which she has developed three handbooks that offer verbal and written exercises focusing on intimacy, maturity, integrity and sexual enrichment beyond the early, intense stages of being in love, all for couples: **Journey Toward Intimacy: A Handbook for Lesbian Couples** also by Virginia Erhardt, Ph.D. (1-891257-01-3), **JTI: A Handbook for Gay Couples**, foreword by David Loftis, Ph.D. (1-891257-02-1) and **JTI: A Handbook for Couples** (heterosexual), (1-891257-00-5). $15 pb each, spiral bound. All postage paid: 47% for prepay; 30% for 30 days; 10% for 60 days. The Couples Enrichment Institute, PO Box 420114, Atlanta GA 30342; 404-255-3195, fax 404-255-7439.

In **Nevermore: The Hymen and the Loss of Virginity** Deanna Holtzman and Nancy Kulish analyze the hymen and concepts of virginity and defloration using myth, literature, psychoanalytic literature, anthropological writings, and fairy tales to illustrate the ubiquity and concurrence of certain themes and images. They also present clinical data demonstrating the meaning of defloration in the clinical process for both sexes. $37.50 cl, 0-7657-0037-9. 40 for 5+. Jason Aronson Publishers, 230 Livingston Street, Northvale NJ 07647; 800-782-0015. Available from Ingram.

Shapeshifter Tarot by D.J. Conway and Sirona Knight, illustrations by Lisa Hunt ($29.95, 1-56718-384-0). Lovely art in the tradition of many sci fi illustrators depicts traditional Celtic scenes of shamanic bridges between animals and humans. Includes book and deck. **The Mysterious, Magickal Cat** by D.J. Conway ($15.95 pb 1-56718-180-5). A collection of lore and legend from all over the world, as well as information on reading cat's verbal and non-verbal communication, feline deities, ancient history and spells for healing. **Everyday Magic: Spells and Rituals for Modern Living** by Dorothy Morrison ($9.95 pb, 1-156718-469-3). Over 300 spells for addiction, computers, childbirth, depression, legal matters, gambling and even traffic. **Faery Wicca Tarot** by Kisma K. Stepanich, illustrated by Renee Yates ($34.95, 1-56718-696-3). Based on the ancient Faery tradition of Ireland, this book and deck set, will appeal to the groundswell of the Celtically curious as well as new and long-time readers of tarot. **Llewellyn's 1999 Moon Sign Book and Gardening Almanac** ($6.95, 1-56718-941-5) and **Llewellyn's 1999 Sun Sign Book** ($6.95, 1-56718-942-3), both due August. Llewellyn Publications, Box 64383, St. Paul MN 55164. Available from BP, Koen, B&T, Ingram. —*Donna Niles* ○

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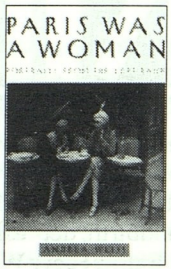

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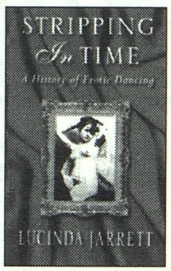

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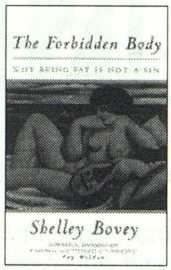

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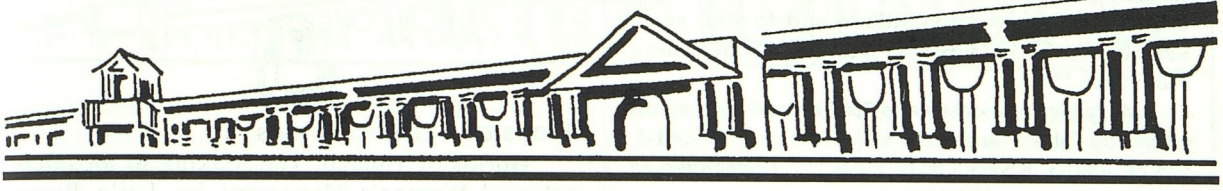

By Mev Miller

Ah. So many books — so little room! I want to make sure I mention the crucial books from the Spring 98 lists. Since I have limited space this issue, I will chat about the ones I think most feminist bookstores should have and only mention the ones that a smaller number of stores might consider.

Duke University Press

Dissing Elizabeth: Negative Representations of Gloriana, Julia Walker, editor. $17.95 pb, 0-8223-2074-6; $54.95 cl, -2060-6.***

Failing the Future: A Dean Looks at Higher Education by Annette Kolodny explores some of the most controversial issues in higher education and provides practical solutions and workable programs for change. Of most interest to feminists, though, is the chapter on paying the price of anti-feminist political harassment. This will be important for those interested in pedagogy and the relevance of higher education for the future. $24.95 cl, 0-8223-2186-6.***

Harrington Park Press

Fat — A Fate Worse Than Death? Women, Weight, and Appearance by Ruth Raymond Thone is a welcome addition to the growing number of books addressing the politics of fat oppression. Thone explores how appearance standards have built a prison for women and offers helpful advice and reading suggestions for more than 100 ways to fight looksism, sexism, ageism, and racism. $16.95 pb, 1-56023-908-5.** Distributed by Haworth.

Indiana University Press

Strange Fruit: Plays on Lynching by American Women edited by Kathy Perkins and Judith Stephens is the first anthology to address the impact of lynching on U.S. theater and culture. This collection of plays focuses on women's unique view of lynching and reveals a social history of interracial cooperation between Black and white women. These plays span the period from 1916 to 1964. $24.95 pb, 0-253-21163-8; $39.95 cl, -33356-3.*

New York University Press

Whether your ecofeminism section is small or extensive, **Feminism & Ecology** by Mary Mellor should be on the shelf. It provides a comprehensive introduction to the ecofeminist movement — its very first sentence offers a simple definition of ecofeminism — and a history of the ecofeminist movement. This book also offers extensive analysis of the main perspectives of ecofeminism and what appears to be a comprehensive bibliography. $17.50 *short discount* pb, 0-8147-5601-8; $50 cl, -5600-X.**

No Middle Ground: Women and Radical Protest edited by Kathleen M. Blee brings together a wide variety of contributors to uncover women's roles in radical and militant movements. These ain't no "ladies." Most interestingly, this volume details women's activism in the U.S. in both right-wing and left-wing movements — in feminist and anti-feminist groups. $18.95 pb, 0-8147-1280-0; $55 cl, -1279-7.***

"Bad" Mothers: The Politics of Blame in Twentieth-Century America edited by Molly

Ratings: One and two asterisks are more suited for general stores while three and four would do better in stores with a more academic audience. If a title is unrated, it means that I haven't seen the book in order to make an evaluation.

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Ladd-Taylor and Lauri Umansky. $19.95 pb, 0-8147-5120-2; $60 cl, -5119-9.***

Women and Bullfighting: Gender, Sex, and the Consumption of Tradition by Sarah Pink could be an unusual and provocative title to add to your shelf. $17.50 pb, 1-85973-961-X; $45 cl, -8956-3, Berg Publishers.***

Mary Wollstonecraft and 200 Years of Feminisms edited by Eileen Janes Yeo. $18.50 pb, 1-85489-061-1; $55 cl, -060-3, Rivers Oram Press.**** Distributed in North America by NYU Press.

Northeastern University Press

Louisa May Alcott: From Blood & Thunder to Hearth & Home, Madeleine Stern. $16.95 pb, 1-55553-348-5.***

On Stage, Off Stage: A Memoir by Régine Crepin, translated by G.S. Bourdain. $29.95, 1-55553-328-0.

Ohio University Press/Swallow Press

Now in paperback: **Ancient Sisterhood: The Lost Traditions of Hagar and Sarah**, Savina J. Teubal. $14.95, 0-8040-1001-3.****

Penn State University Press

In **Reconstructing Political Theory: Feminist Perspectives** editors Mary L. Shanley and Uma Narayan, along with leading feminist theorists, rethink the traditional concepts of political theory and expand the range of problems and concerns regarded as central to the analysis of political life. $17.95 pb, 0-271-01725-2.****

Princeton University Press

Worlds of Women: The Making of an International Women's Movement by Leile Rupp examines the histories and accomplishments of three major transnational women's organizations to tell the story of women's struggle to construct a feminist international collective identity. Rupp studies this "first wave" movement (late-19th century to WWII) using archives in the U.S., England, the Netherlands, Germany, and France. $19.95 pb, 0-691-01675-5; $55 cl, -01676-3.****

SUNY

While focusing on the mutuality of educational enterprises, **Common Ground: Feminist Collaboration in the Academy** edited by Elizabeth Peck and JoAnna Stephens Mink raises provocative questions about the dynamics of gender and cooperation at various levels of academia. It reveals the transformative power of collaboration by challenging traditional

Renditions Paperbacks

May Fourth Women Writers: Memoirs

ISBN 962-7255-17-3 US14.95

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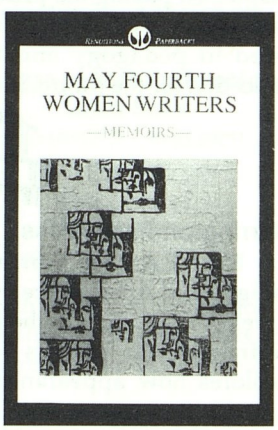

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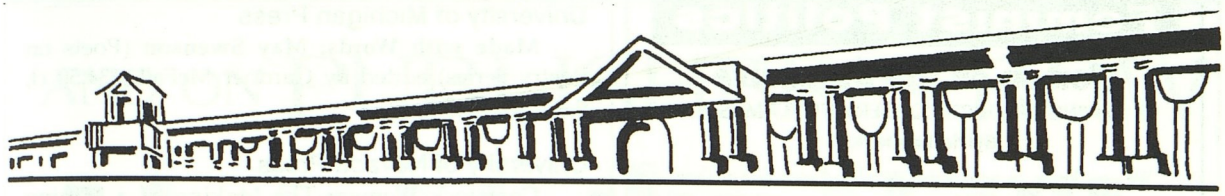

notions of single authorship and beliefs about knowledge as individually owned and acquired. $21.95 pb, 0-7914-3512-1.

Constructing Female Identities: Meaning Making in an Upper Middle Class Youth Culture, Amira Proweller. $19.95 pb, 0-7914-3772-8.***

Destined to Rule the Schools: Women and the Superintendency, 1873–1995, Jackie M. Blount. $21.95 pb, 0-7914-3730-2.***

University of California Press

Focusing on Sacramento, CA at the turn of the 20th century, Sharon Ulman chronicles the complex confusions and negotiations of public sexual discourse in **Sex Seen: The Emergence of Modern Sexuality in America**. She relates how laws against cross-dressing gained force at the same time that female impersonation became popular in vaudeville acts, how images of prostitutes were changed by the commercialization of the female body in advertising and film, and how visible expression of female desire was submerged in rape and divorce proceedings. These are, she argues, some of the seeds for our sexual present. $19.95 pb, 0-520-20955-9; $45 cl, -20954-0.***

I'm not sure what it's like in other parts of the country, but here in the Twin Cities there seems to be renewed interest in the early Christian women mystics — especially Hildegard von Bingen. **Sister of Wisdom: St. Hildegard's Theology of the Feminine** by Barbara Newman reintroduces to modern readers this 12th-century Renaissance woman — a mystic, writer, musician, preacher, abbess, and scientist. $14.95 pb, 0-520-21162-6.****

Abortion Wars: A Half Century of Struggle, 1950–2000 edited by Rickie Solinger. $16.95 pb, 0-520-20952-4.**

Now in paperback: **A Little Original Sin: The Life and Work of Jane Bowles**, Millicent Dillon ($17.95 pb, 0-520-21193-6). Originally published in 1981.***

University of Chicago Press

Women on the Defensive: Living Through Conservative Times by Sylvia Bashevkin follows the trajectories of women's movements in the U.S., Canada, and Britain through the conservative 80s. She looks not only at legal and governmental practices but also at the work of women activists who have their own stories to tell about feminism in the 1980s. $18 pb, 0-226-03885-8; $47.50 cl, -03883-1.***

Searching for Emma: Gustave Flaubert and Madame Bovary, Dacia Maraini. $22 cl, 0-226-50430-1.****

Now in paperback: **Maternal Justice: Miriam Van Waters and the Female Reform Tradition**, Estelle Freedman ($19, 0-226-26150-6). Miriam Van Waters was Superintendent of the Massachusetts Reformatory for Women at Framingham from 1932 to 1957, where as a feminist and reformer she combined spirituality, social service and maternal love in an effort to redeem incarcerated women. She also had a lifelong relationship with a woman and was removed from her position in the late 1940s with charges of "lax morals and sexual perversion among staff and inmates" — a ruling she appealed and was successful in overturning. A fascinating account of a remarkable activist. —*Rose S. Katz*

University of Illinois Press

Woman Between Two Worlds: Portrait of an Ethiopian Rural Leader by Judith Olmstead. Biography of Chimate Chumbalo. $19.95 pb, 0-252-06587-5.***

The Female Economy: The Millinery and Dressmaking Trades, 1860–1930, Wendy Gamber. $16.95 pb, 0-252-06601-4.****

Jump at the Sun: Zora Neale Hurston's Cosmic Comedy, John Lowe. $19.95 pb, 0-252-06637-5.

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Feminist Politics

Women on the Defensive

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Sylvia Bashevkin

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THE GROUNDS FOR FEMINISM AND GAY RIGHTS IN CULTURE AND LAW

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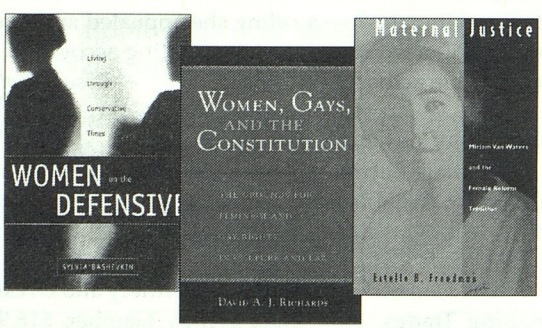
Estelle B. Freedman

"This finely crafted biography is both an engrossing read and a richly complicated account of a reformer whose work . . . bridged the eras of voluntarist charitable activism and professional social service."—Sherri Broder, *Women's Review of Books*

Paper $19.00



The University of Chicago Press

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University of Michigan Press

Made with Words: May Swenson (Poets on Poetry Series) edited by Gardner McFall. $34.50 cl, 0-472-09658-3.

University of Nevada Press

Comstock Women: The Making of a Mining Community edited by Ronald James and C. Elizabeth Raymond. $24.95 pb, 0-87417-297-7.****

The House on Breakaheart Road, Poems, Gailmarie Pahmeier. $10 pb, 0-87417-313-2.

University of New Mexico Press

Utopian Vistas: The Mabel Dodge Luhan House and the American Counterculture, Lois Palken Rudnick. More of general interest than necessarily women's interest. $17.95 pb, 0-8263-1926-2.**

University of North Carolina

We Mean to Be Counted: White Women and Politics in Antebellum Virginia, Elizabeth R. Varon. $16.95 pb, 0-8078-4696-1.***

University of Toronto Press

If you like reading letters — especially those of accomplished writers — you'll want to consider **Selected Letters of Margaret Laurence and Adele Wiseman** edited by John Lennox and Ruth Panofsky. These letters, spanning 40 years, are a testament to the ways in which female friendship sustained their commitments to writing and soothed their feelings and realities of isolation and exile. $24.95 pb, 0-8020-8090-1; $60 cl, -4247-3.*

University Press of Kentucky

Now in paperback: **Passing for Black: The Life and Careers of Mae Street Kidd,** Wade Hall. $14 pb, 0-8131-0948-5.*

University Press of New England

Publishing as Brandeis University Press: The prolific Marjorie Agosín has written a beautiful collection of poems in **Dear Anne Frank** — a lyrical tribute to Frank's courage and individualism. It's a bilingual (Spanish/English) collection, which makes the girl's humanity evident even amidst the inhumanity and

See **University Presses,** *page 142.*

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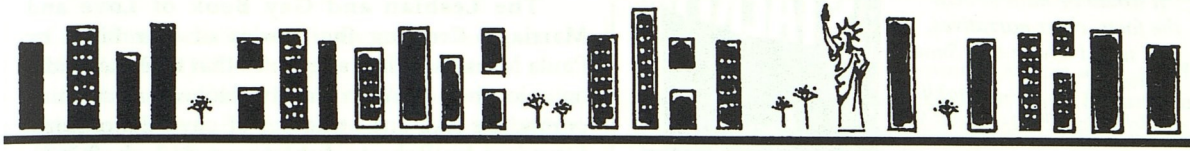

Compiled by Jenn Tust

Addison-Wesley

Mary Baker Eddy by Gillian Gill ($30 cl, 0-201-62613-6, August) is an in-depth look at the founder of the Christian Science Church.

In **Almost a Woman** ($24 cl, 0-201-48392-0, August) Esmeralda Santiago moves beyond her childhood story told in the widely praised *When I Was Puerto Rican* and recalls her extraordinary journey into womanhood. —*Trudy Mills*
Antigone Books/Tucson AZ

Algonquin Books

Herb's Pajamas by Abigail Thomas ($17.95 cl, 1-56512-189-9) tells the stories of four neighbors and the reader has the pleasure of watching their separate lives become connected. "Thomas's short stories have been called 'fictional Polaroids' because of her uncanny talent for catching the telling gesture, the defining moment." —*Dylan Besk*
Lioness/Sacramento CA

Avon

In **Soul Between the Lines: Freeing Your Creative Spirit Through Writing** Dorothy Randall Gray draws from meditation, mythology, Motown, Native American and African spirituality, the wisdom of Nelson Mandela, and other sources. She presents exercises, rituals and affirmations to guide women in opening up creativity. "Everything in this book works. We all need it because it connects our heads and our hearts to our powerful creativity. It is revealing, empowering, and consequently, healing." —Luisah Teish (*Jambalaya*) in the foreword. "Inspiring...." —*Essence*. $12 pb, 0-380-79142-0, Avon. —*JT*

The Blue Place by Nicola Griffith ($23.95 cl, 0-380-97446-0). Another tough, edgy heroine from Lambda Award-winner Griffith, author of *Ammonite* and *Slow River*, both excellent titles and sellers out of sci fi and lesbian sections. Billed by the publisher as "stylishly erotic and suspenseful."

What Doctors Don't Tell You by Lynne McTaggart ($12.50 pb, 0-380-79607-4). This author has run a newsletter of the same title for many years with over a hundred thousand subscribers. She exposes many methods and "cures" accepted in the medical establishment as standard, such as treatment for arthritis, asthma, cholesterol lowering, vaccines, heart surgery and more to be unsafe, unproven and sometimes harmful. There are many alternatives presented for diagnosing, preventing and treating illnesses.

Chicks on Film: Video Picks for Women and Other Intelligent Forms of Life by Gabrielle Cosgriff, Anne Reifenberg, and Cynthia Thomas ($12 pb, 0-380-79365-2). Each film reviewed at length by one of the authors, with such categories as Chicks in Charge, I Will Survive, Screw the Plot: Just Bring Me a Menu, this guide reviews everything from *Mary Poppins* to *Woman of the Year* and *The Nasty Girl* (one of my favorite films). My guts say this will be largely, if not entirely, heterosexual in focus, and will sell if not lost in a serious critique shelf.

Women and Their Moon Sign by Jacqueline Bigar ($14 pb, 0-380-79779-8, August.) A syndicated columnist helps women look to their moon sign (which is about our dreams, unconscious desires and heart/soul connections) for insight into their lives.

New in paper: **The Unique Voice of Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Portrait in Her Own Words** ed. by Claire G. Osbourne ($10 pb, 0-380-79008-4). **To the**

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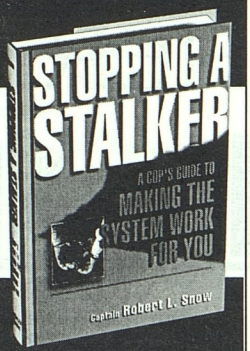
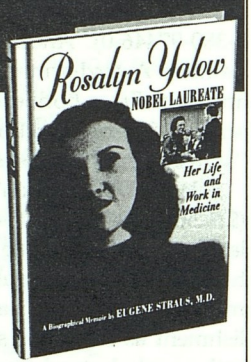
What Every Woman Needs To Know

"It would be hard to beat the facts, clear narratives, and sound advice that Snow provides."
— Booklist
0-306-45785-7/276 pp./1998/$26.95



The Remarkable Story of a Pioneering Scientist

"Reintroduces a remarkable figure, and in the process discusses gender bias that women in science and medicine continue to encounter."
— Publishers Weekly
0-306-45796-2/294 pp./ill./1998/$26.95



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Summit: A Woman's Journey Into the Mountains to Find Her Soul by Margo Chisholm and Ray Bruce ($12.50 pb 0-380-78884-5). **Read This and Tell Me What It Says** by A. Manette Amsay. A collection of 15 short stories exploring the rural Midwest. ($11 pb, 0-380-73077-4.) **The Kiss** by Kathryn Harrison ($11 pb, 0-380-73147-9). **Blu's Hanging** by Lois-Ann Yamanaka ($12 pb, 0-380-73139-8). **My Mother's Keeper: A Daughter's Memoir of Growing Up in the Shadow of Schizophrenia** by Tara Elgin Holley ($12.50 pb, 0-380-72302-6). *—Donna Niles*

Ballantine

Passing Remarks by Helen Hodgman provides "intimations of immortality as a 50-year-old Australian woman in love with a much younger woman are lightened by stylish writing and deft comedic touches in award-winning Hodgman's first U.S. appearance." —*Kirkus*. $11 pb, 0-345-41773-9. *—JT*

Bantam Doubleday Dell

The Lesbian and Gay Book of Love and Marriage: Creating the Stories of Our Lives by Paula Martinac offers anecdotes that take the reader on a journey through the milestones and turning points, the joys and struggles of gay relationships. Foreword by Roberta Achtenberg. $18 pb, 0-7679-0162-2, Broadway.

The title of **Hands of Life: An Energy Healer Reveals the Secrets of Using Your Body's Own Energy Medicine for Healing, Recovery, and Transformation** by Julie Motz says it all. $24.95 cl, 0-553-10714-3, August, Bantam.

Together Forever: The Gay Marriage by Eric Marcus takes the reader into the lives of 40 couples — half women, half men — who have been together for at least nine years and as many as fifty. Couples profiled include A&M publishers Anyda Marchant and Muriel Crawford. $23.95 cl, 0-385-48875-0, Anchor.

The Trials of Radclyffe Hall by Diana Souhami is a new biography of this amazing lesbian writer. Includes 16-page b/w photo insert. $27.95 cl, 0-385-48941-2, August.

I Sweep the Sun Off Rooftops: Stories by Hanan al-Shaykh, translated by Catherine Cobham, explores the shifting and ambiguous power relationships between different cultures and between women and men in stories set in the Middle East, Africa and London. $12 pb, 0-385-49127-1, August, Anchor.

Affirmative Acts: Political Essays by June Jordan is book number 25 in the career of this celebrated poet, essayist, activist and professor. "June Jordan is our premiere Black woman essayist." —Toni Morrison. $12.95 pb, 0-385-49225-1, August, Anchor.

1001 Things Everyone Should Know About Women's History by Constance Jones provides mini-history lessons via short essays and photographs. $24.95 cl, 0-385-47673-6, Doubleday.

A New Book of Inspiration by Star Jones, with Daniel Paisner, simultaneously releases with her television show "The View" this Fall. Jones says about her show, "Viewers are seeing an African American woman who is comfortable with herself.

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I'm comfortable with my body and who I am...." $22.95 cl, 0-553-10854-9, September, Bantam.

Beebe's By Golly Wow by Yolanda Joe is the follow-up to Joe's *He Say, She Say*. Here, Beebe has found the reason to end her self-imposed man sabbatical while her best friend, Sandy, clashes with the new owners of the radio station where she works and continues her search for true love. $22.95 cl, 0-385-49255-3, Doubleday.

The subtitle to **Managing Martians** is "The extraordinary story of a woman's lifelong quest to get to Mars — and the team behind the space robot that has captured the imagination of the world" by aerospace engineer Donna Shirley, with Danelle Morton. Donna Shirley is the Manager of the Jet Propulsion Labroratory's Mars Exploration Program. Includes two eight-page inserts of b/w photos. $25 cl, 0-7679-0240-8, Broadway.

Anchor is reissuing all of Margaret Atwood's fiction backlist in paper. Summer reissues are: **Surfacing** ($12, 0-385-49105-0), **The Edible Woman** ($12, 0-385-49106-9), **Lady Oracle** ($12, 0-385-49108-5, August) and **Bodily Harm** ($12, 0-385-49107-7, August).

Now in paper: Anne Lamott's **Crooked Little Heart** ($12.95 pb, 0-385-49180-8, Anchor). **Old Books, Rare Friends: Two Literary Sleuths and Their Shared Passion** by Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine Stern ($11.95 pb, 0-385-48515-8, Main Street/Doubleday). **Walking to Mercury** by Starhawk ($13.95 pb, 0-553-37839-2, Bantam). **Even the Stars Look Lonesome** by Maya Angelou ($10, 0-553-37972-0, Bantam). **The Mistress of Spices: A Novel** by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni ($12, 0-385-48238-8, Anchor). **Into the Forest** by Jean Hegland, originally published by Calyx Press, and an FB-Net Catalog 1997 title ($12.95 pb, 0-553-37961-5, August, Bantam), audio also available ($21.95, 4 cassettes, 0-553-47878-8, BDD Audio). —*JT*

Beacon

Beacon now has a Summer catalog and, good news, Beacon titles now combine with Ballantine Trade and Random House for a 47% discount for 24 books. That means more direct orders for us.

New in paper this season are:

Through the Kitchen Window, Arlene Voski Avakian, ed. ($14, 0-8070-6509-9). A collection of poems, essays and recipes in which women explore the intimate meanings of food and cooking.

Opening the Lotus, Sandy Boucher ($12, 0-8070-7309-1). A woman's guide to Buddhism, particularly for those new to the philosophy and practice.

Dark Sky Question, Larissa Szporluk ($12, 0-8070-6845-4). Winner of the 1997 Barnard New Women Poets Prize, Szporluk has been compared to Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath.

Sex and the Church, Kathy Rudy ($12.50, 0-8070-1035-9). About gender and homosexuality as it transforms Christian ethics.

Woman the Hunter, Mary Zeiss Stange ($14, 0-8070-4639-6). An exploration of the stereotypes and realities of women who hunt.

Heretic's Heart, Margot Adler's memoir of the 60s and beyond ($12.50, 0-8070-7099-8, August). This sold very well for us in hardback. She has a lot of fans here.

And new this summer:

Cubana, Mirta Yanez, ed. ($12.50 pb, 0-8070-8337-2; $24 cl, -8336-4). This is the first English-language collection of contemporary fiction by Cuban women. Many stories focus on social and economic conditions. The writers are new to me except for Achy Obejas and this is a very welcome book, especially here in Florida.

A Stranger in the Village, Farah Jasmine Griffin and Cheryl Fish, eds. ($24 cl, 0-8070-7120-X). Two centuries of African American travel writing includes Audre Lorde in the Soviet Union, June Jordan in the Bahamas, Ntozake Shange in Nigeria as well as male writers such as Langston Hughes. This collection includes letters and diary entries as well as autobiographical writing. I love books like this!

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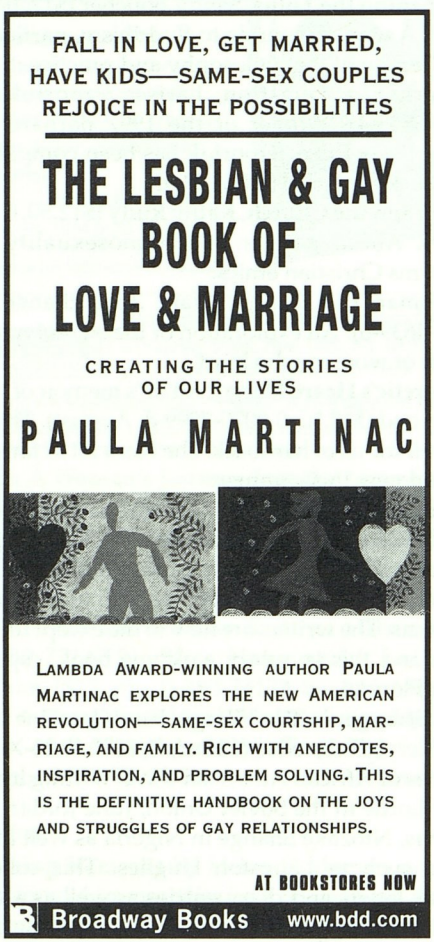
Improper Bostonians: Lesbian and Gay History from the Puritans to Playland, compiled by The History Project, a volunteer group dedicated to preserving the history of lesbian and gay Boston ($30 cl, 0-8070-7948-0). This includes 150 b/w illustrations and comes out in time for Pride month.

Girl in the Mirror, Natasha Tarpley ($22 cl, 0-8070-7202-8). Tarpley recalls her own trip to Africa and back, her mother's move to Boston and her grandparents' migration from Alabama to Chicago setting these memoirs in the context of a long line of African American migrations.

Angela, the Upside-Down Girl, Emily Hiestand ($23 cl, 0-8070-7128-5). The author of *The Very Rich Hours: Travels in Orkney, Belize, the Everglades and Greece* here writes of her travels in America contrasting the North and South and both the scarred and the enduring American landscape.

Some stores may want to stock **How We Want to Live**, edited by Susan Richards Shreve and Porter Shreve, a look by Annie Dillard, Rebecca Walker, Deborah Tannen, and some male contributors, at the meaning of progress in their lives. $23 cl, 0-8070-4510-1, August. —*Patty Callaghan*
Brigit Books/St. Petersburg FL



Berkley

In **Mending the Broken Bough**, Barbara Zax and Stephan Poulter offer advice to women wishing to strengthen their mother-daughter relationships. $13 trade, 0-425-16318-0, July.

Initiation, Elizabeth B. Jenkins' memoir of her unexpected journey on the Andean Path. This story is "filled with the compelling details of her own initiation in the beautiful but harsh setting of the high Andes — and how the voyage has changed her life." $13 trade, 0-425-16476-4, August. —*Dylan Besk*

Chronicle Books

Art.Rage.Us. Art and Writings by Women with Breast Cancer is both an exhibition and a book of stunningly powerful and inspiring works from 70 writers and artists. **Art.Rage.Us.** celebrates the spiritual and creative resilience of all women living with breast cancer. "The voices contained within **Art.Rage.Us.** are brave and powerful and beautiful. Most importantly these creative renderings, through story and imagery, set a collective healing in motion that transcends personal pain." —Terry Tempest Williams. The book and art exhibit are the result of a collaborative effort by The Breast Cancer Fund; The American Cancer Society, San Francisco Bay Area; and The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, San Francisco Chapter. Introduction by Jill Eikenberry. $24.95 pb, 0-8118-2130-7. —*JT*

Farrar, Straus & Giroux

From the author of the excellent gender-crisised *Sacred Country* and Booker Prize nominee, *Restoration*, comes **The Way I Found Her**, Rose Tremain's new novel built on a 13-year-old boy's exploration of a

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perilous adult world of passion and intrigue...and women. Not our usual book but intriguing given that it comes from Tremain's pen — and given that no stereotypes apply for her characters. $25 cl, 0-374-28666-3.

In **Ingratitude**, Ying Chen unearths the violence buried within our family lives. Strong, direct, and transparent, her writing identifies universal truths about the relationships between children and their parents. Translated from the French by Carol Volk. $20 cl, 0-374-17554-3.

In **Bombay Ice**, Leslie Forbes' first novel, Rosalind Bengal is a radio journalist and producer for true-crime TV in London. After receiving a letter from her sister, now married to a famous Bombay film director, saying, "People tell me he murdered his first wife," Roz returns to India. The murder of a transvestite leads to events that threaten the two sisters and Roz realizes that her best weapon is not a gun but her knowledge of chemistry and Shakespeare, storm and gene patterns. $23 cl, 0-374-11530-3.

In **Equal Justice Under Law: An Autobiography** Judge Constance Baker Motley tells about her extraordinary life and struggles, including her position as chief counsel for James Meredith in his tumultuous legal battle to be the first Black man to attend the University of Mississippi, and her position of being the first Black woman appointed to the federal bench, over a firestorm of opposition. $30 cl, 0-374-14865-1.

Moghul Buffet by Cheryl Benard is a dark-humored novel of business and murder as usual in Pakistan. It is also about women — Benard shows that sisterhood works in mysterious ways, most especially in the Islamic World. $21 cl, 0-374-21179-5.

Now in paper: **Reversals: A Personal Account of Victory over Dyslexia** by Eileen Simpson. $13, 0-374-52316-9, Noonday. —*JT*

Faber & Faber

One we missed in December, but have heard good things about is **Offseason: A Novel** by Naomi Holoch, "an earnest tale about a doomed lesbian love in a wonderfully rendered out-of-season Paris setting." —*Kirkus*. $23.95 cl, 0-571-19922-4. —*JT*

Grove

Shani Mootoo's **Cereus Blooms at Night**, a haunting and evocative debut novel, called "a story of magical power" by Alice Munro is being reissued by Grove. Originally published by Press Gang Publishers, this "swirling cauldron of cross-generational history filled with violence, romance, aching beauty, and heart-breaking mystery" (*Sojourner*) is a must carry. $23 cl, 0-8021-1633-7, September.

One I'm earnestly waiting to see is **O Solo Homo: The New Queer Performance** by Holly Hughes and David Roman. $12 pb, 0-8021-3570-6. —*JT*

Harcourt Brace

Like: A Novel by Ali Smith is a coming-of-age story of two girls, one in England, one in Scotland, whose parallel lives intersect briefly, then diverge. $24 cl, 0-15-100350-5, August.

The Answer Is Yes by Sara Lewis is an endearing novel about the power of affirmation, from an author noted for her "rare ability to capture the emotional lives of characters." —*PW*. $23 cl, 0-15-100326-2, July.

Now in paper: **Friends for Life: Enriching the Bond between Mothers and Their Adult Daughters** by Susan Jonas and Marilyn Nissenson. $14, 0-15-600591-3, Harvest. —*JT*

Harper*Audio*

Now in audio: **Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood** written and read by Rebecca Wells. $18, 2 cassettes, 180 minutes, 0-694-52008-X.

Harper*Perennial*

Cecilia Tan, Circlet Press publisher and founder (see Science Fiction) has a collection of her own short stories, **Black Feathers: Erotic Dreams**, coming from

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Harper. These stories interweave the supernatural and science fiction with magical realism and the fantasy of daydream, which blur the definition of sexuality. $13 pb, 0-06-098501-1.

HarperWestview

Without Apology: Andrea Dworkin's Art and Politics by Cindy Jenefsky with Ann Russo is a reinterpretation of Dworkin's politics and an analysis of the political nature of artistic practice for readers interested in literary and rhetorical criticism, feminist theory and activism, the volatile debates over pornography and civil rights, and the relationship between contemporary sexual practices and male power systems. $19.95 pb, 0-8133-1827-0; $60 cl, -1826-2.—*JT*

Health Communications

Girl Talk: Daily Reflections for Women of All Ages by Sharon Wegscheider-Cruse ($12.95 pb, 1-55874-551-3) is a daybook that offers advice on twelve major life topics such as relationships, humor, body image, money, etc. —*Trudy Mills*

Holt

Now in paper: **Legal Affairs: Essential Advice for Same Sex Couples** by Frederick Hertz and Frank Browning. $17.95, 0-8050-5224-0, Owl. —*JT*

Houghton Mifflin

In **Suits Me: The Double Life of Billy Tipton** Diane Wood Middlebrook follows the life of Dorothy Tipton who lived as a man from the time she was 19 until she died at the age of 74. Tipton's death was news not only because he was a celebrated musician but because he had married five women and had reared several adopted children. 60 photos. $25 cl, 0-395-65489-0. —*JT*

Hyperion

Dancing at the Edge of Life: A Memoir by Gale Warner, foreword by Bernie Siegel, M.D., provides a compelling testament to the power of the human spirit to experience passion, determination, and joy in both life and at the time of dying. $22.95 cl, 0-7868-6392-7.

"Phyllis Perry has accomplished something very difficult in her new novel; she weaves the past with the present and the future with skill while managing to convey both the horror and the affirmations of Black history in America. It's a good solid book." —Gloria Naylor. **Stigmata**. $21.95 cl, 0-7868-6408-7, August. —*JT*

Little, Brown

Talking to the Dead, Helen Dunmore's Orange Prize-winning novel about two sisters whose lives are bound by the hidden and surprising truth about the long-ago death of their infant brother, is now available in paper. ($12.95, 0-316-19645-2, Back Bay.) Dunmore's follow-up, **Your Blue-Eyed Boy**, is a haunting novel about a woman and her inescapable past. ($23.95 cl, 0-316-19738-6.)

This Body, an intriguing debut novel from Laurel Doud, offers an unforgettable story of reincarnation and redemption as a middle-aged woman relives her life in the body of a 22-year-old drug addict. $23.95 cl, 0-316-19675-4.

The Pilot's Wife by Anita Shreve tells of secrets within a marriage and the unstoppable consequences when the truth is at last revealed. ($23.95 cl, 0-316-78908-9.) Also available: Shreve's *The Weight of Water*. ($13.95, 0-316-78037-5, Back Bay.)

Now in paper: **Don't Tell the Grown-Ups: The Subversive Power of Children's Literature** by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Foreign Affairs*, Alison Lurie. ($13.95, 0-316-24625-5, July, Back Bay.) **The Estrogen Answer Book: 150 Most-Asked Questions About Hormone Replacement Therapy** by Ruth S. Jacobwitz. ($11.95, 0-316-45808-2, August.) —*JT*

William Morrow

The Tao of Womanhood: Ten Lessons to Power and Peace by Diane Dreher ($22 cl, 0-688-15114-0). A combination of the Tao Te Ching and straightforward advice, this self-help/spiritual title helps women achieve balance between their inner lives and outer worlds.

Amelia Earhart's Daughters: The Wild and Glorious Story of American Women Aviators from WW II to the Dawn of the Space Age by Leslie Haynsworth and David Toomey ($24 cl, 0-688-15233-3). With a fabulous b/w photo cover, this hefty, thorough tome (352 pgs.) has eight photo-insert pages.

Taming It Down by Kim McLarin ($24 cl, 0-688-15516-2). The debut novel of African American writer

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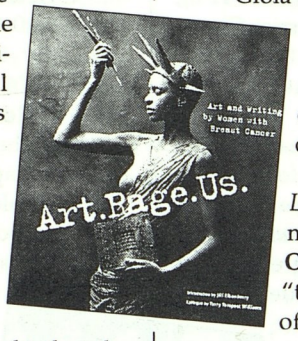
McLarin, centers on Hope Robinson, a young woman torn between white worlds of privilege to which she has had entrée and the struggle to stay connected to her roots. The pub copy promises the reader will feel "sympathetic, moved and uplifted."

Rosie: The Life and Humor of Rosie O'Donnell by Gloria Goodman ($22 cl, 0-688-15315-1, August). Sounds like an "authorized" bio, by a longtime fan of Rosie, chronicling her difficult youth, rise to stardom and professional life.

Proud Spirit: Lessons, Insights & Healing from "The Voice of the Spirit World" by Rosemary Altea ($10 pb, 0-688-16067-0). By the author of *The Eagle and the Rose*, this spiritual medium and healer offers anecdotal insight and wisdom to further her readers along their spiritual paths.



Heaven's Harlots: My Fifteen Years as a Sacred Prostitute in the Children of God by Miriam Williams ($23 cl, 0-688-15504-9). A first-person account by a woman who spent 15 years in a sex cult called the Children of God, which encouraged sacred prostitution and taught that the "The Lord is our Pimp." As a former sex industry worker, I can't wait to see what this is about! Current and former SI workers in your store will likely feel the same.

How Alcoholics Anonymous Failed Me: My Personal Journey to Sobriety Through Self-Empowerment by Marianne Gilliam ($22 cl, 0-688-15587-1, August). "A systemic, persuasive attack on AA, by a longtime drinker who found sobriety not by affirming her alcoholism, but by affirming herself." —*Donna Niles*

Even the *New York Times Review of Books* agrees that **Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendship and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present** by Lillian Faderman is "one of the most significant contributions yet made to feminist literature" — not to mention lesbian history. Repackaged with a new introduction. $12 pb, 0-688-13330-4, Quill.

Now in paper: **Trying to Get Some Dignity: Stories of Triumph over Childhood Abuse** by Ginger Rhodes and Richard Rhodes. $14, 0-688-16109-X, July, Quill.

Norton

The publicity for **Mrs. Einstein** by Anna McGrail says it's a new novel "of breathtaking audacity that imagines the fierce quest for revenge undertaken by Albert Einstein's real-life abandoned daughter." Norton also says it will appeal to readers of both *Sophie's Choice* and *I Was Amelia Earhart*. $24.95 cl, 0-393-04611-7.

Gioia Timpanelli's **Sometimes the Soul: Two Novellas of Sicily** tells of two women — one aristocratic, one impoverished — who find solitary spaces from which they can emerge as artists and shapers of their own destinies. $23 cl, 0-393-02744-9. —*JT*

Steven Levenkron, author of *The Best Little Girl in the World*, examines self-mutilation in **Cutting: Understanding and Overcoming Self-Mutilation**. This book "tells the reader where to turn for help and offers important skills the self-mutilator must learn in order to deal with the affliction." $25 cl, 0-393-02741-4, August.

Marianne Apostolides shares her first-person account of anorexia and bulimia in **Inner Hunger**, recreating the "years in which she felt she could control her life only by controlling her diet." $22 cl, 0-393-04590-0, August. —*Dylan Besk*

Penguin/Dutton/Putnam/Viking

Jewels by Belinda Rochelle ($15.99, 0-525-67502-7, Dutton/Lodestar). Great illustrations in this sweet book about a young Black girl who spends summers with her great-grandparents, who expose her to her history and examples of ways to be in the world. Nice.

Amazing Grace: Paper Dolls by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Binch ($6.99, 0-8037-2297-4, Dial Books for Young Readers). I would have loved to have these way back when. Based on the character in *Amazing Grace*, about a young Black girl who loves stories and acts out the most exciting parts of all sorts of tales from Joan of Arc to Peter Pan. Just enough detail to get the imagination going. —*Dorothy Holland*

Becoming Visible: An Illustrated History of Lesbian and Gay Life in Twentieth-Century America

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by Molly McGarry and Fred Wasserman contains 350 photographs, documents, and artifacts, 80 in full color. I can't wait to see it. I hope feminist and lesbian and gay bookstores are included. $34.95, 0-670-86401-3, August.

Floricanto Si! A Collection of U.S. Latina Poetry edited by Bryce Milligan, Mary Guerrero-Milligan, and Angela de Hoyos includes writings from 47 contributors — both well known and new voices. $14.95 pb, 0-14-058893-0.

Gertrude Stein: Writings 1903–1932 ($40 cl, 1-883011-40-X) and **Writings 1932–1946** ($40, -41-8), edited by Catharine R. Stimpson and Harriet Chessman, is a two volume set of Stein's best and most influential works. Library of America. Distributed by Penguin. —*JT*

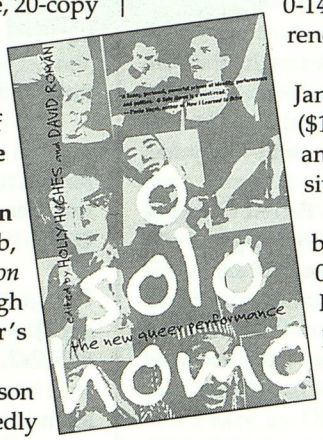
"The miracle of her story is in her heart's transformation" says the publicity material for **On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon** by Kaye Gibbons, author of *Ellen Foster* and *A Virtuous Woman*. ($22.95 cl, 0-399-14299-1.) This looks like another great one for our stores. Free sample reading group guide, 20-copy pre-pack (0-399-19408-8). Putnam.

En El Tiempo De Las Mariposas by Julia Alvarez ($12.95 pb, 0-452-27996-8, Plume) is the Spanish language edition of one of Julia Alvarez' bestselling novels, **In the Time of the Butterflies**.

Losing It: False Hopes and Fat Profits in the Diet Industry by Laura Fraser ($13.95 pb, 0-452-27291-2, Plume). Says the *Washington Post*, "A sound and informative tour through the darkest recesses of Dietland. Fraser's reportage is on target."

Health and Happiness by Diane Johnson ($12.95 pb, 0-452-15576-2, Plume). A wickedly funny author harpoons Western medicine in this novel concerning one Ivy Tarro, who is misdiagnosed, detained, over-medicated and neglected. It captures the fear, moral dilemmas, and life and death decisions we all face when we enter that scary terrain called the hospital. Also from Johnson, **Burning** ($12 pb, 0-452-27983-6, Plume).

Man Crazy by Joyce Carol Oates ($12.95 pb, 0-452-27724-8, Plume). "Lean, mean and satisfying, it may be her most powerful novel to date." —*Rocky Mountain News*. Also from Oates this summer, **My Heart Laid Bare** ($24.95 cl, 0-525-94442-7, Dutton).



Quiver: A Book of Erotic Tales by Tobsha Lerner ($12.95 pb, 0-452-27984-4, Plume). A collection of twelve short stories, by women and men, reflecting a range of interest — hetero, homo, bi and more.

Full Court Press: A Season in the Life of a Winning Basketball Team and the Women Who Made It Happen by Lauren Kessler ($13.95, 0-452-27487-7, August, Plume). "The first look inside a women's college basketball team that captures the passion of the game and the power of sports in the lives of young women."

Oficio de tinieblas by Rosario Castellanos ($13.95, 0-14-026833-2, August). This historical novel by the great Mexican writer Castellanos (1925–1974) transports the reader to the time of her own childhood, the conflict in 1930s Mexico between the white landowners and the Mestiza class in the Chiapas region. Her multilayered, multigenerational plot is sure to generate the mystical quality that her fiction, poetry and essays have. Also by Castellanos, **The Book of Lamentations** ($13.95 pb 0-14-118033-1, August), another of her renowned novels.

Twenty Years at Hull-House by Jane Adams, introduction by Ruth Sidel ($12.95 pb, 0-14-118099-4). A memoir of an important document of the progressive era.

New in paper: **Without a Doubt** by Marcia Clark ($13.95 pb, 0-14-025977-5). **Hatchepsut: The Female Pharaoh** by Joyce Tyldesley ($14.95 pb, 0-14-024464-6). **Sex on the Brain: The Biological Differences Between Men and Women** by Deborah Blum ($13.95 pb, 0-14-026348-9). **Look Up For Yes** by Julia Tavalaro ($12.95 pb, 0-14-027282-8, August).

The Woman Who Gave Birth: Tales of Women in Transformation by Kim Chernin ($23.95 cl, 0-670-88096-5, August, Viking). Another piece of original thought from the prolific Ms. Chernin, offering a new paradigm for women who want to break the cycle of blame and forgiveness among mothers and daughters.

Bridget Jones's Diary by Helen Fielding ($22.95 cl, 0-670-88072-8, August, Viking). A comic novel which charts the life of a single woman on a quest for

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self-improvement. Sort of the Elaine Benes diaries, me thinks. [*Note: Getting very hot reviews.*]

Icy Sparks by Gwyn Hyman Rubio ($24.95 cl, 0-670-87311-X, August, Viking). Orphaned as a baby in eastern Kentucky in 1956, Icy Sparks, raised by adoring grandparents, is exiled from class and community because she has undiagnosed Tourette's Syndrome. Seen as willful, she is sent to a children's asylum where she learns about being different, and teaches the doctors a thing or two. —*Donna Niles*

Random House/Modern Library

Katherine Anne Porter's superb collection of three short novels is re-introduced into the Modern Library as **Pale Horse, Pale Rider**. $14.50 pb, 0-679-60303-4.

New from Elinor Lipman, author of *The Way Men Act*, *Then She Found Me* and *Into Love and Out Again*, comes her much anticipated new novel, **The Inn at Lake Devine**. $23 cl, 0-679-45693-7.

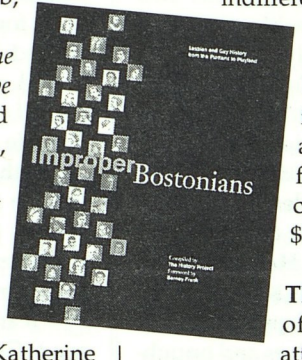
Sight Readings: American Fictions by Elizabeth Hardwick focuses on American writers, at home and abroad, and especially women — as writers and as characters: Edith Wharton, Gertrude Stein, Djuna Barnes, Margaret Fuller, Mary McCarthy, Katherine Anne Porter, and others. $25 cl, 0-375-50127-4, July.

From the author of *Ants on the Melon*, Virginia Hamilton Adair, comes **Beliefs and Blasphemies** a new collection of wide-ranging and highly readable poems about religion. $22 cl, 0-375-50017-0, August. —*JT*

In Slow Motion, Dani Shapiro's recounting of her life transformed by a tragedy, is a dramatic tale of a young woman who had strayed too far from her roots. When, as a 23-year-old college dropout, half-hearted actress, heavy drinker and the girlfriend of a powerful, married attorney, she is called home to help her critically injured parents, she is swept into an emotional journey. She retraces her past as an isolated child of Orthodox Jewish parents in an anti-Semitic suburb to her rebellion into a tortuous relationship with a seductive man who ushered her into a world totally different from her own. $25 cl, 0-679-45631-7.

Here But Not Here is the memoir of Lillian Ross and the passionate life she shared for 40 years with William Shawn, *The New Yorker* editor. Though Shawn was married, with his wife's acknowledgment, he and Ross created a home together a dozen blocks south of the Shawns' apartment, raised a child and lived with discretion. Their lives were intertwined from the 50s until Shawn's death in 1992. $25 cl, 0-375-50119-3.

Jamaica and Me by Linda Atkins is the true story of Atkin's friendship with Jamaica, a child with extreme problems, a lost family, homelessness, and an indifferent child-welfare system. Linda takes Jamaica on adventures away from the group facilities where she languishes, but Jamaica's past often disrupts their friendship. Linda struggles to find her a home and in the process she must face Jamaica's self-destructive tendencies and the limits of her own devotion. $23 cl, 0-375-50073-1.



Roxana Robinson's second novel, **This Is My Daughter**, offers a close view of a second marriage. It charts the attempts of two divorced parents who are struggling to form a new family with their two daughters. While the girls could not prevent either divorce, they can try to prevent the success of a marriage. The tensions and complexities of the situation grow more powerful as the story moves to an emotional climax. $25 cl, 0-679-43901-3. —*Sandi Torkildson*
A Room of One's Own/Madison WI

RH-Crown

After Silence: Rape and My Journey Back, Nancy Venable Raine ($32 cl, 0-517-70683-0, August). Raped at 39, Raine was burdened by the silence that

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surrounded her trauma as well as by the shock and pain of the rape. This is her account of that experience, her use of language to redeem that silence for herself and for others who have suffered such devastation.

—Linda Bryant
Charis Books and More/Atlanta GA

RH-Knopf

Before her death, Jessica Mitford had almost completed a revision of *The American Way of Death*, which had long been out of print. These revisions are found in **The American Way of Death Revisited**, brought up to date for a new generation. $25 cl, 0-679-45037-8. *—JT*

Havana Dreams by Wendy Gimbel is the story of four generations of Cuban women in the Revuelta family. At the center is Naty, born in 1925, American educated, a socialite who became intoxicated with Castro and his revolution. After her husband and daughter immigrate to the United States, Naty remained in Cuba to raise her second child, Castro's unacknowledged daughter. Naty's mother, her two daughters, one settled into American life, the other dealing with her father's denial of her and Naty's granddaughter, who she hopes against reason will return to Cuba, make up an extraordinary saga of familial obligation, illicit love, and a doomed romanticism of a revolution. $24 cl, 0-679-43053-9.

A new full-scale biography of Helen Keller looks at the young girl often portrayed as the pure and saintly handicapped person. In **Helen Keller**, Dorothy Herrmann shows how well Keller played that part, but also became an outspoken and radical political activist. Drawing on the archives and unpublished memoirs of an intimate of Keller and Annie Sullivan, Herrmann brings to life this magnificent woman. $30 cl, 0-679-44354-1, August.

The Murder of Helen Jewett by Patricia Cline Cohen is the true story of a young prostitute who was found murdered in New York City in 1836. This book looks behind the sensationalized news accounts of the day and reconstructs Jewett's story from her beginnings as a servant girl in Maine to her brief life as a highly paid courtesan. Cohen gives a stunning portrayal of Jewett's 19th-century world and a sexual morality with complexities, contradictions and concerns that resonate with those of our own time. $27.50 cl, 0-679-41291-3, August. *—Sandi Torkildson*

RH-Times

A revised edition of the classic guide to teen life and sexuality, **Changing Bodies, Changing Lives: A Book for Teens on Sex and Relationships** by Ruth Bell, is now available. $23 pb, 0-8129-2990-X. *—JT*

RH-Vintage

My Life, Starring Dara Falcon is a new novel by Ann Beattie. Dara Falcon is a charismatic and theatrical new arrival to a New England town. Soon she is playing footsie with one man, inveigling a diamond ring from another, and getting her new friend Jean to sell her a car for one dollar. Dara's chaotic progress through the lives of Jean and her family is a compassionate and funny journey full of life. ($13 pb, 0-679-78132-3.) Beattie also has a new and selected collection of short stories coming from Knopf called **Park City** ($25 cl, 0-679-45560-X).

The Puttermesser Papers by Cynthia Ozick tells the story of Ruth Puttermesser, a civil servant whose idealistic fantasies have a disconcerting tendency to burst forth into the real world. She longs for a daughter and creates a female golem from the earth of her potted plants, she dreams of civic reform and finds herself elected mayor and when she contemplates the afterlife, she is hurtled into it headlong only to discover that paradise found is also paradise lost. This literary *tour de force* may not be one the CEO of B&N wishes to read or stock at his stores, but it is an intelligent novel filled with ideas, wit and an endearing main character. $12 pb, 0-679-77739-3.

Jeanette Winterson's latest novel will be in paper soon. **Gut Symmetries** is a redrawing of the romantic triangle for the post-Einsteinian universe where gender is as elastic as matter. Two of the protagonists are Alice and Jove, theoretical physicists who are conducting a high-voltage adulterous love affair when they are not seeking a Grand Unified Theory of nature. When Alice confronts Jove's wife, Stella, she quickly falls in love with her, resulting in consequences that are both horrifying and comic. $12 pb, 0-679-77742-3, August.

Blanche McCrary Boyd's new novel **Terminal Velocity** is the story of a nice plantation-bred Southern girl who finds her destiny as a radical lesbian and

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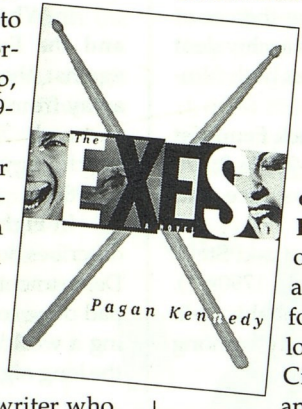
fugitive. Boyd follows Ellen Burns, the heroine from her novel *The Revolution of Little Girls*, through the 1970s from an apartment in Boston to a commune in California, from editing cookbooks to mixing psilocybin cocktails, from marriage to an incendiary affair with a woman terrorist. This novel has been called a sharp, spirited and funny comedy. $12 pb, 0-679-75032-0.



In Her Own Words by Jill Ker Conway is a collection of autobiographical writings by women from the British Commonwealth world she came from and the United States where she now lives. Included are Shirley Chisholm, the West Indian girl who became the first Black woman elected to Congress, and Janet Frame, the brilliant New Zealand writer who overcame involuntary treatment in a mental institution to write one of the archetypal analyses of the post-colonial experience. $16 pb, 0-679-78453-6.

—Sandi Torkildson

Now in paper: **Southern Selves: From Mark Twain and Eudora Welty to Maya Angelou and Kaye Gibbons, A Collection of Autobiographical Writing** edited by James H. Watkins includes works from 13 (out of 31 contributors) extraordinary women writers. ($14 pb, 0-679-78103-X.) Don't miss Alice Munro's **Dance of the Happy Shades and Other Stories**, which will be available in August. I can't wait to read it. ($12 pb, 0-679-78151-X.) **The Hundred Secret Senses: A Novel** by Amy Tan ($13, 0-375-70152-4). **Midwives: A Novel** by Chris Bohjalian ($13, 0-679-77146-8; 5-copy reading group guide, 0-676-54078-3; reading group recommendations poster, 0-676-54079-1). *—JT*

Routledge

MAY

Symptoms of Culture, Marjorie Garber. One of this season's lead titles, catalog notes, considerable publicity and advertising. If you're near a university with a cultural studies department, you'll want these. If you did well with Garber's *Vested Interest*, you'll also want some. $25 cl only, 0-415-91859-6.

Global Sex Workers: Rights, Resistance, and Redefinition, Kamala Kampadoo and Jo Doezema, eds. Combines scholarly essays with personal narratives, interviews and reports, to present the perspectives of sex workers from all over the globe. $19.99 pb, 0-415-91829-4; $70 cl, -91828-6.

Grassroots Warriors: Activist Mothering, Community Work, and the War on Poverty, Nancy Naples. Presents the voices of over 60 African American, Puerto Rican, and Euro American women who have fought for social and economic justice in the low income neighborhoods of New York City and Philadelphia, contributing vital and unpaid services to their communities. $18.99 pb, 0-415-91025-0; $65 cl, -91024-2.

Gendered Epidemic: Representations of Women in the Age of AIDS, Nancy Roth and Katie Hogan, eds. The individual essays describe conflicts and contradictions, and pose new theories and practices. Written by HIV-positive women, theorists, teachers, artists, policy makers, and activists, it offers insights necessary to stem the spread of HIV. $19.99 pb, 0-415-91785-9; $70 cl, -91784-0.

The Sacred and the Feminine in Ancient Greece, Sue Blundell and Margaret Williamson, eds. An exploration of the ways in which religion and ritual reveal women's importance in the Greek *polis*, showing how ideologies about female roles and behavior were both endorsed and challenged in the realm of the sacred. $20.99 pb, 0-415-12663-0; $75 cl, -12662-2.

Feminist Critique of Language: A Reader, Second Edition, Deborah Cameron, ed. Thoroughly updated and expanded to take account of the new developments in feminist thought about language. $22.99 pb, 0-415-16400-1; $75 cl, -16399-4.

JUNE

Simone de Beauvoir: A Critical Reader, Elizabeth Fallaize, ed. ($22.99 pb, 0-415-14703-4; $75

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cl, -14702-6). Catalog calls this the first collection of influential critical writings on de Beauvoir.

Black Women Film and Video Artists, Jacqueline Bobo, ed. ($18.99 pb, 0-415-92042-6; $70 cl, -92041-8). As the first comprehensive history and analysis of the genre, this collection includes noted scholars and critics offering insight into the work of unexplored artists.

Working Girls: Gender and Sexuality in Popular Cinema, Yvonne Tasker ($19.99 pb, 0-415-14005-6; $70 cl, -14004-8). Investigates the themes of contemporary Hollywood cinema and its ambivalent articulation of women. Looks at women as both filmmakers and actresses.

Not Just Race, Not Just Gender: Black Feminist Readings, Valerie Smith ($18.99 pb, 0-415-90326-2; $70 cl, -90326-2). Explores the myriad ways race and gender shape lives and social practices.

Places Through the Body, Heidi Nast and Steve Pile, eds. ($27.99 pb, 0-415-17905-X; $85 cl, -17904-1). If you're in a college town, this will probably sell. There seems to be a lot of talk about "body" among the academics in these parts.

AUGUST

Cyborg Babies: From Techno-Sex to Techno-Tots, Robbie Davis-Floyd and Joseph Dumit, eds. ($22.99 pb, 0-415-91604-6; $75 cl, -91603-8). This is an exploration of the increasingly pervasive role of technology in how children are brought into and raised in our society.

—Mary Ellen Kavanaugh
My Sisters' Words/Syracuse NY

St. Martin's

In **What Are We Fighting For? Sex, Race, Class, and the Future of Feminism** Joanna Russ argues against the shift in contemporary feminist theory away from the direct political struggle of the late 60s and early 70s to a de-politicized focus on women's psychology and personal relations. $27.95 cl, 0-312-15198-5.

In **Fighting Fire: A Personal Story** Caroline Paul describes her experience joining the San Francisco Fire Department at a time when only a few other women had done so. Paul tells of her reservations about entering a world overflowing with muscle and machismo, the long nights in the station house waiting for "the big

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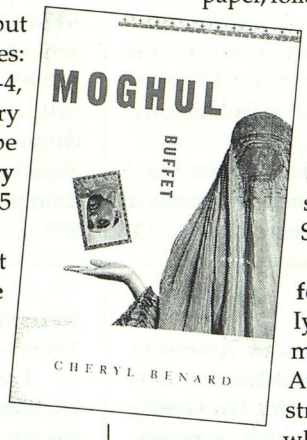
one," the addictive rush that occurs when running into a burning building, and the helplessness that comes with the realization that there is only so much that can be done. $23.95 cl, 0-312-18581-2. —*JT*

Though this has a bit too much emphasis on looks and weight loss for my taste, some customers may be interested in the encouragement to exercise in **Running and Walking for Women Over 40: The Road to Sanity and Vanity** by Kathrine Switzer ($14.95 pb, 0-312-18777-7). The author, now in her 50s, was the first woman to "officially" run in the Boston Marathon.

For physical activity of a different sort, there's **The Lady Mechanic's Total Car Care for the Clueless** by Ren Volpe. $13.95 pb, 0-312-18733-5.

Too late for Women's History Month, but still worth checking out are these biographies: **Pope Joan** by Stanford ($25 cl, 0-8050-3910-4, September) and **Simone de Beauvoir** by Terry Keefe ($35 cl, 0-312-21118-X). There may also be some interest in **Toni Morrison: Contemporary Critical Essays** edited by Linden Peach ($18.95 pb, 0-312-21123-6).

Finally, I haven't seen this yet, so I'm not sure what its angle is, but **Lost Fathers: The Politics of Fatherlessness** by Cynthia R. Daniels may be interesting. $24.95 cl, 0-312-21107-4. —*Suzanne Corson*



Simon & Schuster

The White Goddess Engagement Diary 1999 ed. by Peter Bogdanovich ($19.95, 0-87951-863-4, August, Overlook). This lunar calendar, derived from Robert Graves' "The White Goddess," is billed as "delighting goddess devotees. Based on the ancient Celtic Druid calendar of thirteen months," it just might. —*Donna Niles*

The classic women's health guide, **Our Bodies, Ourselves** by The Boston Women's Health Book Collective has been revised and updated for the new century. $24 pb, 0-684-84231-9, Touchstone.

Do stock **Breaking the Walls of Silence: AIDS and Women in a New York State Maximum Security Prison** written by The Members of the ACE Program (AIDS Counseling and Education) of the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. This astounding book includes staggering statistics and heartbreaking stories on a topic that has been neglected for way too long. Foreword by Whoopi Goldberg. $26.95 cl, 35 b/w illustrations and photos, 0-87951-500-7, Overlook.

Betty Shabazz: A Tribute in Words and Pictures edited by Jamie Foster Brown collects stories and memories from 30 African American women who commemorate their mentor, girlfriend, and "shero." Includes 20 photos. $20 cl, 0-684-85294-2.

Blessings, Sheneska Jackson's (*Caught Up in the Rapture*) third rich, well-plotted novel addresses the daily struggles of women. At the center of **Blessings** are four vibrant women who are searching for happiness as they grapple with issues including female bonding, infertility, adoption, abortion, and child discipline. ($23 cl, 0-684-85035-4.) Jackson's **Li'l Mama's Rules**, now in paper, follows Madison Maguire, a strong single woman who's playing the field and having fun. Madison's sticking to the rules she's learned through life's tough breaks and appears to have it all when her life turns upside-down and she is forced to learn a whole new set of rules. ($12 pb, 0-684-84613-6, Scribner.)

In **Faith in the Valley: Lessons for Women on the Journey to Peace**, Iyanla Vanzant, a spiritual leader and motivational speaker in the African American community, urges women to strive to understand what they do and why they do it and provides a program to cleanse the mind and promote a healthy foundation for living. $21 cl, 0-684-85048-6.

Pagan Kennedy's follow-up to her Orange Prize Literary Award-winning *Spinsters*, **The Exes: A Novel** tells the story of Hank and Lilly, who, after they break up, start a band, The Exes. To complete the foursome they recruit Shaz, a bisexual Pakistani bassist, and her former lover Walt, a drummer and science geek. **The Exes** is a fresh, funky novel of love lost and fame gained in today's cutting-edge music scene. $22 cl, 0-684-83481-2, July.

The Secret Lives of Alexandra David-Neel: A Biography of the Explorer of Tibet and Its Forbidden Practices by Barbara Foster and Michael Foster looks great! David-Neel is the author of 30 books including *My Journey to Lhasa*, which I really enjoyed. This story of her life will definitely be inspiring and amazing. $32.50 cl, 0-87951-774-3, Overlook. —*JT* ○

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Humor, *continued from page 104.*

long-awaited first humor book, is finally available. As Clinton notes in her introduction, "This book comes from the very rich, if recent, tradition of stand-up comics in publishing. It comes from the even rarer tradition of the comic, me, actually writing the book." And the book is a joy to read. An autobiographical introduction is followed by 26 humorous essays on a variety of topics from politics to Provincetown, all penned with Clinton's unique brand of wry, intelligent, observational humor. You will laugh out loud reading this book — I guarantee it! If you're already a fan, you'll find that reading **Don't Get Me Started** is the next best thing to attending one of Clinton's shows. If you aren't a fan, reading this book will make you one. Booksellers who stock Kate's book will also want to stock her latest comedy recording, **Comedy You Can Dance To** (Uproar Entertainment, $15.98 CD; $9.98 cassette; distributed by Ladyslipper and Goldenrod).

Bio: Roz Warren (RozWarren@aol.com) owns Laugh Lines Press, which publishes humor by women, with a special emphasis on lesbian humor and cartoon collections. ○

University Presses, *continued from page 128.*

destruction that ultimately took her life. $10.95 pb, 0-87451-857-1.*

Publishing as Wesleyan University Press: **The Precarious: The Art and Poetry of Cecilia Vicuña** edited by M. Catherine de Zegher. $30 cl, 0-8195-6324-2.**

Westminster John Knox

If you're located near a seminary or have an active feminist Christian community in your area, you'll want to stock **Dictionary of Feminist Theologies** edited by Letty M. Russell and J. Shannon Clarkson. Now I could be accused of bias since I know the editors and respect their work, but I do recommend this title. It's a pluralistic volume that includes contributions from 200 feminist theologians, pastors, academics, and activists. Even if you're not into Christian theology *per se* there are some interesting entries on topics not typically found in most traditional theology books: empowerment, colonization, womanist voices, feminization of poverty, Wicca, lesbian, goddess, shame, economics of class, heterosexism, ageism, and others. $39 cl, 0-664-22058-4.** ○

Mysteries, *continued from page 103.*

More paperbacks of note: African American writer Judith Smith-Levin introduced Massachusetts police lieutenant Star Duvall in **Do Not Go Gently** ($5.99 pb, 0-06-101109-6, Harper), which is recommended in our store, and now there is a sequel, **The Hoodoo Man** ($5.99 pb, 0-345-42065-9, Ballantine). Joanne Dobson's **Quieter Than Sleep**, reviewed in the March '98 *FBN*, was my favorite American academic mystery since early Amanda Cross ($5.99 pb, 0-553-57660-7, August, Bantam). Abigail Padgett continues her remarkable series about a manic-depressive investigator with **The Dollmaker's Daughter** ($6.50 pb, 0-446-40536-1, August, Warner). Sujata Massey's heroine Rei Shimura, a Japanese American antiques expert living in Tokyo, is back in **Zen Attitude** ($5.99, 0-06-104444-X, Harper). Massey's first novel, **The Salaryman's Wife**, was notable for its depiction of contemporary Japanese/Western culture clashes in a traditional, Christie-style whodunit ($5.99, 0-06-104443-1, Harper). Moving on to China, Lisa See's **Flower Net**, nominated for a Best First Novel Edgar Award, gives an inside glimpse of Chinese society in an action-packed international thriller ($6.99 pb, 0-06-109543-5, August, Harper).

For the biblio-files...**Silk Stalkings** by Victoria Nichols and Susan Thompson is a comprehensive survey of series characters created by women authors in crime fiction since 1867. Definitely a library or reference book at this price. ($49.95 cl, 0-8108-3393-X. Scarecrow Press, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham MD 20706; 800-462-6420.) Probably just as useful and certainly more affordable for the average reader is the recently updated **Detecting Women 2: A Reader's Guide and Checklist for Mystery Series Written by Women** by Willetta L. Heising. Some zealous mystery fans find this one indispensable. ($24.95 tp, 0-964-45931-0. Purple Moon Press, 3319 Greenfield Rd., Suite 317, Dearborn MI 48120.)

Finally, there's **Deadly Women**, a woman mystery reader's "companion," edited by Jan Grape, Dean James, and Ellen Nehr. This is full of the expected trivia, lists, and opinions, with a lot of buried gold — interviews with Patricia Cornwell, Elizabeth George, Minette Walters, Sara Paretsky, and Janet Evanovich, for instance. $19.95 tp, 0-7867-0468-3, Carrol & Graf. ○

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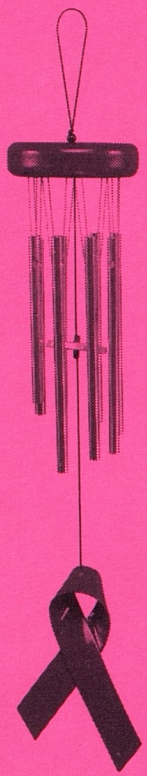

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